

Fiji, heart of the Pacific region: NZ PM



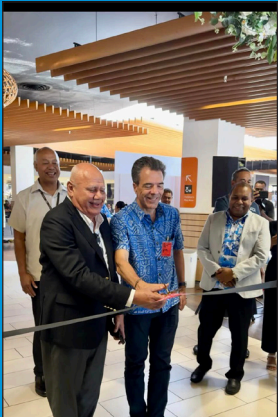
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Innovation and entrepreneurship in the North



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Fiji has 27 bilateral air services agreement

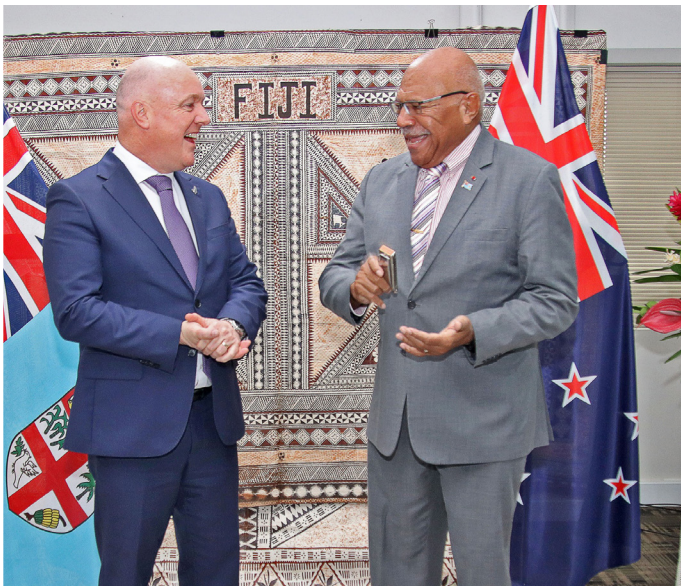


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Fiji-New Zealand to build enduring partnership



New Zealand's Prime Minister, Christopher Luxon, presents a token of appreciation to Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka.
Photo: SUPPLIED



FIJI and New Zealand have reaffirmed the commitment of the two nations to build an enduring partnership for sustainable socioeconomic development and prosperity. This was highlighted after a bilateral meeting between the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sitiveni Rabuka and New Zealand's Prime Minister, Christopher Luxon during a three-day State visit. Fiji and New Zealand set ambitious goal for future cooperation and their joint aspiration to grow the trade and investment opportunities. PM Rabuka welcomed the announcement that the New

Zealand Government will remove the requirement for transit visas for Fijian nationals travelling through New Zealand, saying that will bolster economic activities and enable Fijian nationals to travel through New Zealand, with relative ease. On the same note, he commended New Zealand's comprehensive partnership approach to provide additional labour mobility support to Fiji over the next five years through the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme. Fiji's Head of Government further welcomed the expanded support from New Zealand towards strengthening Fiji's economic resilience, including support for micro, small, and medium

enterprises development, the private sector enabling framework, the digital economy, and fisheries. PM Rabuka acknowledged with gratitude PM Luxon's commitment to the Duavata Partnership and affirmed their belief in the importance of the fundamental shared values that underpin the Duavata Partnership. The partnership will be reviewed later this year in alignment with priorities of the two Governments. He thanked PM Luxon for his timely visit to Fiji which signifies New Zealand's commitment to revitalise cooperation with Fiji in the priority areas including: economy, trade and investment, climate change and disaster resilience, labour

mobility, security and defence, fisheries, agriculture and health, amongst others. On regional cooperation, PM Rabuka outlined his vision for an Ocean of Peace across our Blue Pacific Continent, which both Prime Ministers look forward to discussing further alongside other regional leaders at the upcoming Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders Meeting in Tonga, in August this year. PM Luxon said, "Fiji is a critical partner for New Zealand and we look to Fiji for its leadership in the Pacific. We share values and interests, and we work closely together on the challenges confronting our region."

DPM Gavoka encourages iTaukei business owners to build relations with industry owners



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, during the Fiji Indigenous Business Council Workshop. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA.

by NANISE NEIMILA.

“THE success story of the Fiji Indigenous Business Council serves as a powerful example of the transformative power of institutions. By offering crucial tools, resources, and mentorship opportunities, the council has empowered countless iTaukei firms to expand and thrive.”

This was highlighted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, while speaking at the Bridging the Commercial Gap: Institutional role at the Fiji Indigenous Business Council held in Suva recently.

DPM Gavoka highlighted that in Fiji’s rich cultural heritage and the unique products and services offered by indigenous Fijians, less than five per cent of the country’s companies are owned by indigenous companies.

“This discrepancy transcends mere business; it’s a complex issue with sociological, economic, and cultural roots. Institutions are vital pillars in empowering indigenous Fijian businesses and bridging the commercial gap.”

These institutions, such as Fiji National University, can help foster innovation; banks and other financial institutions can be the conduit to unlocking financial resources; Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, for instance, can play a crucial role in

developing programs specifically targeted at Indigenous Fijian entrepreneurs; and to leverage tradition and culture, institutions can play a vital role by helping indigenous Fijian businesses leverage their unique cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

DPM Gavoka also added building stronger relationships with industry players, the public sector, and other businesses is crucial for indigenous businesses. Collaboration on projects, sharing resources, and fostering mentorship opportunities can be instrumental for exponential growth and success.

“Education remains paramount. Indigenous entrepreneurs require not just basic literacy and numeracy, but also a strong foundation in business acumen, financial literacy, and industry-specific knowledge. These skills equip them to make informed decisions, navigate competitive landscapes, and develop strategic business plans.”

“Let us seize this opportunity. Let us support our indigenous businesses, bridge the commercial gap, and build a stronger, more prosperous, and truly inclusive Fiji. Together, we can create a future where Fijian ingenuity and entrepreneurship flourish – a future that celebrates the richness of Fijian culture and empowers all Fijians to reach their full potential.”

Fiji And USA witness collaboration on the expansion of the Pacific Connect Initiative



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica with the Secretary of the U.S Department of Commerce, Gina Raimondo, and permanent secretary Shaheen Ali. Photo: SUPPLIED

THE Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) has inked on its partnership with Google on the expansion of the Pacific Connect Initiative.

This was witnessed by Fiji’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica and the Secretary of the U.S Department of Commerce, Gina Raimondo.

In congratulating the two parties’ collaboration, DPM Kamikamica stated that “this is a shining example of what private-public partnership can deliver, which will support our nation’s progress towards a well-connected digital economy.”

Google was represented by Brian Quigley, vice president, Global Network Solutions and FNPF was represented by Naibuka Saune, the chief investment officer.

The two parties have plans to collaborate on the following key areas:

i. Pacific Connectivity: Together with its global partners, Google is investing in the Pacific Connect initiative, a series of submarine cables that aim to expand the reach, resilience and reliability of the internet for countries around the Pacific.

ii. Green ICT Capabilities in Fiji: Google and FNPF will collaborate to expand the Pacific Connect initiative by establishing a green ICT park in Fiji, which will house the FinTel Pacific Connect Internet Exchange, termination of submarine cables connecting Japan, Australia, Chile and the United States and data center capacity.

iii. Fostering a Data-Driven Ecosystem: Google and FNPF affirm the value of data as a strategic asset for driving economic growth and innovation and commit to collaborate to support access to data center capabilities for Fijians and the citizens of other Pacific Island nations, working with the governments of these nations.

In the signed joint statement, Google and FNPF, affirmed that they remain committed to working together to unlock the transformative potential of data and data-driven technologies.

The two Parties reiterated that through this collaborative effort, they can create a thriving and secure digital ecosystem that empowers individuals and fosters innovation In Fiji.

Moving forward, the Parties will engage further to realise their shared goals and objectives.

(Source: Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications)

Indigenous businesses must stand firm and thrive: PM Rabuka



Newly-elected FIBC board members with Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Ifereimi Vasu. Photo: SUPPLIED

“NA bisinisi vaka kawa iTaukei me duri, me dei. We must change the slogan to one where indigenous owned businesses stand firm and are resilient, not just to survive but to thrive.”

These were the sentiments shared by the Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, while

opening the two-day Fiji Indigenous Business Council workshop in Lami recently.

With the theme, Regroup, Rethink, Refocus: Creating Our Future in Business, the workshop marked a significant revival of an association dedicated to supporting and promoting the participation of indigenous Fijians and Rotumans in business.

“This workshop is a testament to the enduring spirit of our people and reaffirms our commitment to building a better future,” PM Rabuka said.

“Despite the challenges throughout the past decade, indigenous businesses have persevered, showing resilience and determination.”

The Fiji Indigenous Business Council has been revived after a lapse of 10 years.

“Congratulations to the Fiji Indigenous Business Council, the chairman, Ulai Taoi, and his team for reviving the FIBC,” PM Rabuka added.

“Throughout the two days of this workshop, I encourage you all to rethink your strategies, vision, and solutions.

“You must adopt new approaches and leverage modern technologies to enhance your business operations.”

The PM urged the indigenous business council to create tailored business education programs focusing on the communities,

including entrepreneurship training and financial literacy.

“You must also involve your communities in decision-making processes related to economic development and business support initiatives,” he said.

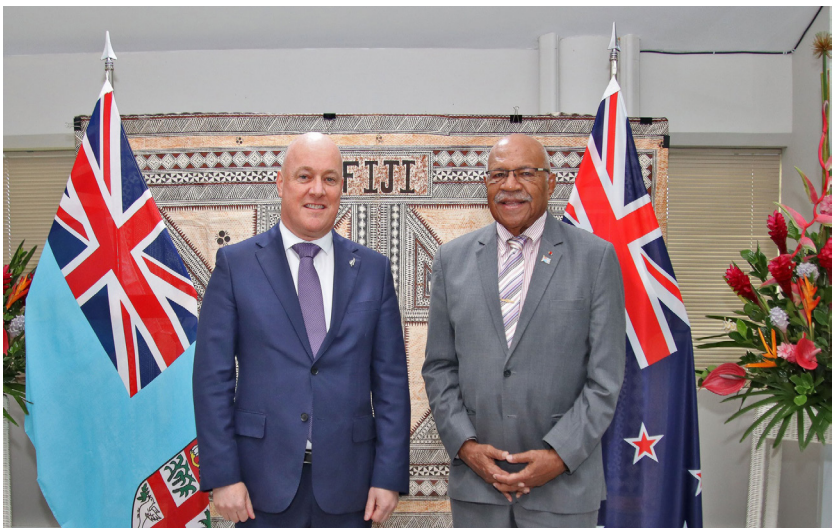
“I encourage the FIBC to carry out consultations in indigenous communities on how best they can be supported and encouraged to innovate and take part in business,” he added.

“I also acknowledge the FIBC for supporting indigenous businesses because successful indigenous businesses can reinvest in their communities, leading to improved infrastructure, education, health services, and overall quality of life.”

The two-day workshop brought together about 200 entrepreneurs, relevant stakeholders, government officials and distinguished participants.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Fiji-New Zealand to build enduring partnership



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, with New Zealand's Prime Minister, Christopher Luxon, during the bilateral meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fiji. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

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“I share Prime Minister Rabuka’s aspiration for two-way trade between our countries to reach \$2 billion by 2030,” he said. On the removal of the requirement for transit visas for Fijian nationals traveling through NZ, PM Luxon said, “many Fijian nationals travel through New Zealand to reach other destinations in the Pacific and around the world – we expect this will have a positive economic impact for the region.” “This change will mean that Fijian nationals will be able to transit New Zealand with a New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZETA), similar to many other Pacific countries,” he added. Prime Minister Luxon also announced funding for several other initiatives in Fiji through New Zealand’s International Development Cooperation programme:

- A further NZ\$3.6 million (FJ\$5.025m) to Fiji’s Climate

Relocation of Communities Trust Fund.

- Funding of NZ\$572,000 (FJ\$798,510) for an upgrade to the High Temperature Forced Air (HTFA) Facility at Nadi International Airport alongside Australia, to help Fijian horticultural exporters meet New Zealand’s strict biosecurity requirements.
- NZ\$15.3 million (FJ\$21.36m) for a New Zealand Plant and Food Research-led programme to support farmers in five Pacific countries, including Fiji, to adapt to the impacts of climate change on production.
- NZ\$7.5 million (FJ\$10.47m) for the Government of Fiji’s economic reform programme, which is focused on improving fiscal management and sustainability, and economic resilience.

(Source: Joint Statement-Government of Fiji and New Zealand Government)

Fiji, heart of the Pacific region: NZ PM



Left-Right- New Zealand Prime Minister, Christopher Luxon, Fiji’s Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, and the former President and Speaker, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau share a light moment on Friday. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

By PRASHILA DEVI

“Fiji is your best bet for a guaranteed return on investment under the watchful eyes of the Coalition Government.”

This was the message by Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, speaking at the Fiji-New Zealand, New Zealand-Fiji Business Council in the presence of his New Zealand counterpart, Christopher Luxon at Sofitel Resort in Denarau, Nadi this week.

“I hope your meetings this week in Fiji have been productive because I assure you the Coalition Government is serious about making your investment in Fiji worthwhile by cutting through the bureaucracy and red tape,” PM Rabuka said to the members of the councils.

He impressed upon the entrepreneurs the volume of trade between the two nations which has increased over the years and rose up by 38 percent in the past year, to NZ\$1.36 billion (FJ\$1.9b).

The Fiji Head of Government said that both he and his New Zealand counterpart have agreed that the target for business between the two countries to grow to \$2b by 2030.

“New Zealand’s exports to Fiji have grown by more than 34 percent to NZ\$838 million (FJ\$1.17b). However, Fiji’s exports to New Zealand have grown even more impressively, by 45 percent, to NZ\$516 million (FJ\$720.5m),” PM Rabuka said.

On tourism, he said New Zealand has the second largest market share of all tourists visiting Fiji and in 2023 alone, Fiji welcomed 220,963 visitors from New Zealand, exceeding 2019 levels by seven percent.

“From January – April this year (2024), Fiji has welcomed 53,331 visitors from New Zealand. This is 12 per cent higher than the same period in 2023 and the highest ever on record,” PM Rabuka said.

He also acknowledged the opening of New Zealand’s Pacific Trade Commission in Suva which affirms Fiji’s role as a major trade and economic hub for the region.

PM Luxon told the entrepreneurs that he believes that there are three actors in any society, the Government, businesses and the community and they are three independent actors that have different roles and responsibilities but these were complementary to each other.

“Businesses are driving the success of our economy and without the economy growing and thriving, Governments cannot invest in the public services and infrastructure that our countries really need,” he said.

“All of you are making a difference in varied ways, whether as employer of others, as entrepreneurs, as innovators and service providers.”

PM Luxon said, “Fiji was the very heart of the Pacific region, not just geographically or economically” and is a country full of immense potential and fantastic future.

PM Luxon aware of narcotics challenges faced by Fiji

By FELIX LESINAIVALU

NEW Zealand’s Prime Minister, Christopher Luxon, visited the Fiji Police Dog Unit Facility in Nasova, Nasese during his three day visit to Fiji this week.

Prime Minister, Luxon, while expressing his appreciation said he was aware of the challenges faced by Fiji and the region when dealing with narcotics.

The New Zealand PM also thanked the Fiji Police Force for their hard work in looking after and training the dogs to assist them to address the current narcotic situation.

Prime Minister, Luxon, was accompanied by Minister for Home Affairs & Immigration, Pio Tikoduadua, and Acting Commissioner of Police, Juki Fong Chew, as he toured the facility.

The new Fiji Police Dog Unit facility was opened by Minister Tikoduadua in April 2023 marking a new chapter for the specialised unit that has grown since its humble beginnings on the 27th April, 1961.

Cabinet recently discussed the Narcotics Strategy 2023-2028 during its

ninth meeting of 2024 on Tuesday this week.

Key focus areas under the strategy include reducing demand for narcotics, reducing supply, reducing harm, legislative reform, data collection, analysis and information sharing, establishment of a drug addiction treatment center, and partnership, coordination and international cooperation.

The strategy will be implemented through close collaboration between Government agencies, representatives from the private sector, civil society organisations including faith-based organisations, Non-Governmental Organizations, the media, and academic institutions.

Cabinet also approved the establishment of a Fiji Counter Narcotics Bureau.

The Bureau will be an independent institution under the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, with the following functions: law enforcement; investigations; prosecution; intelligence gathering; and conducting awareness in collaboration with key agencies.



New Zealand’s Prime Minister, Christopher Luxon, visited the Fiji Police Dog Unit Facility in Nasova, Nasese. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Education and Culture Symposium attracts robust participation

By AZARIA FAREEN

of Fijis' cultures, fostering mutual understanding, cultivate creativity, and build the social cohesion necessary to address Fiji's shared challenges".

“Fiji needs future leaders who can see beyond the immediate horizon – leaders with the courage to make the right decisions, leaders with great courage and foresight to steer a course for a better Fiji,” the chairman said.

“There are two outcomes of this education symposium - the first is to gather ideas from our students on how to integrate culture more effectively into our curriculum: how culture can strengthen leadership at all levels.”

“The second is to help influence our education system on the pressing issues Fiji is facing today under “indigenous identity”, “culture and education”, and bravery in battle,” he added.

In highlighting and commending the achievements of the late Ratu Lala Sukuna, Ratu Seruvakula said that even though the great statesman passed away 66 years ago, his legacy endures.

“We want our young generation of today and tomorrow to learn about famous historical figures who helped shape Fiji’s development - and Ratu Sukuna was the best equipped iTaukei leader of the twentieth century,” he said.

“By celebrating and embracing lessons and values learnt from Ratu Sukuna, we promote the diversity of Fijis’ cultures, fostering mutual understanding, cultivate

creativity, and build the social cohesion necessary to address Fiji's shared challenges."

“One of the cornerstones of Good Leadership is courage; physical and moral courage and Ratu Sukuna had lots of both of them,” he added.

Ratu Seruvakula urged the students to tap and explore how visionary leadership can leverage the transformative power of education and culture to shape Fiji's future.

Schools participating in the symposium included Nasinu Secondary School, Ratu Sukuna Memorial School, Suva Grammar School, Suva Muslim College, Queen Victoria School, DAV Girls College, Yat Sen School, Gospel High School, Lelean Memorial School, Marist Brothers High School, Adi Cakobau School, Mahatma Gandhi Memorial School, Marist Brothers High School, Ballantine Memorial School, Suva Adventist High School and Ratu Kadavulevu School.



Students participate in group discussions during the Education and Culture Symposium as part of the three-day Ratu Sukun celebrations. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Students turn up in numbers at Ratu Sukuna Day celebration

By AZARIA FAREEN

in nation and peace building of Fiji,” Mr Caniogo added.

He adds that the main take from the celebration was the students participating and trying to incorporate culture into the education system.

Mr Caniogo noted the great turn-out despite the rainy weather where people visited the Vola ni Kawa Bula (VKB) booths. The VKB is the official Fijian register of native landowners.

“Students were given slips to note down their tokatoka and mataqali because the VKB registrar needs all this information before the final details are printed out,” he explained.

“Students were also challenging us on how the Ministry of Education and iTaukei Affairs can promote culture in education. They are trying to encourage their peers to take up vernacular language and learn about their own culture and integrate it into the education system.”

“If we incorporate culture and traditional values in our curriculum, it will help people recognise the importance of different cultures in Fiji since we have a multicultural nation,” he added.

Mr Caniogo said that they were targeting participation from all schools and assumed that the iTaukei dominated schools would be more involved, however, most of the other school students came to partake in the celebration.

“I was pleasantly surprised and satisfied

that we can do peacebuilding united through our culture,” he said.

“Students were given about two weeks to prepare themselves and they came out brilliantly in their research and articulated it in their discussion, which amazed all of us.”

“We received more than a thousand students who graced the occasion which shows their interest in the celebration,” he added.

Mr Caniogo added that this has proven that even though there are people from

different backgrounds, they can come together in harmony.

He said we can appreciate the different cultures and have love in promoting each other's uniqueness while recognising each other's importance in our society.

“We are really grateful to the Government for bringing back the celebration in order for us to embrace our identity, and even though we have different cultures, we are embracing the variety of cultures that we have,” Mr Caniogo praised.



Members of the public and students turned up in numbers to check for their details in the VKB register during the Ratu Sukuna Day Celebrations in Albert Park. **Photo: AZARIA FAREEN.**



PM Rabuka urges Fijians to learn more of Ratu Sukuna's legacy

By NANISE NEIMILA

MEMBERS of the public were joined by Fiji's disciplined forces and civil servants as they braved the rainy and cold weather to participate at the Ratu Sukuna Day celebrations on May 31, 2024 held in Albert Park Suva.

Also, part of the celebration were students from Adi Cakobau School, Queen Victoria School and Ballantine Memorial School.

The students also performed traditional dances during the celebrations.

Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, speaking at the celebration, highlighted how it was imperative that the youth of Fiji absorb knowledge about Ratu Sukuna as they make the gradual transition into citizenship which transforms them into patriots of Fiji.

"These last few days have again highlighted the deeds of Ratu Sukuna and the extent and diversity of the service he gave to his country when it was a member of the mighty British Empire," PM Rabuka said.

"He was the first Fijian to go to university gaining degrees in arts and law. He won honours as a soldier and was an AideDe-Camp to the Governor. A first-rate administrator, he was Chairman of the Native Lands Commission, District and Provincial Commissioner, and Chief Reserves Commissioner. He was also secretary for Fijian Affairs, a position Dr Scarr described as only a couple of rungs

below God!"

PM Rabuka added Ratu Sukuna was a member of the Council of Chiefs and the Legislative Council, the Colony's parliament.

"He rose to become the Council's Speaker. With the outbreak of the first World War, one of the bloodiest conflicts in history, the then 27-year-old chief was determined to do his bit for the King, Empire and homeland."

"Recruitment procedures made it difficult for him to join the British Army, so instead he signed up for the French Foreign Legion."

"As his career back in Fiji began to take shape, Ratu Sukuna found himself deeply immersed in education; from 1909 he acted as Assistant Master at Lau Provincial School and later was in charge of it. He served on an Education Commission, established to review and make recommendations on the Colony's evolving system of learning. A period as a member of the Education Board gave him additional perspectives and experience in this key area of national governance and advancement."

Another of Ratu Sukuna's achievements was a unique land reform initiative which provided a framework for the people of a plural nation to live and work together.

This internationally acclaimed work resulted in the formation of what is now known as the iTaukei Land Trust Board.

"Change was urgently needed because the existing lease system was often chaotic, corrupt and haphazard. It was an obstacle



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, speaks at the Ratu Sukuna Day celebrations at Albert Park in Suva.
Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

to development, not a catalyst."

Prime Minister Rabuka further stated that Ratu Sukuna also appreciated the virtues of modern technology - such as electricity - brought to Fiji by the Colonisers and other Europeans. He captured this beautifully in a May 1949 letter from Suva.

"Dawn is just breaking," he wrote, "and after Navua and benzene and kerosene lamps, it is very pleasant to get up and be able to turn the light on and write, or even

read files..."

PM Rabuka remembered Ratu Sukuna as a Fijian chief who was deeply committed to his calling for the welfare of the indigenous and he recognised that the descendants of the Girmitiya settlers also had legitimate rights and needs.

Also present at the celebrations were Cabinet Minister, senior civil servants and members of the diplomatic corp.

Students encouraged to learn history of Ratu Sukuna

By AZARIA FAREEN

ALARGE number of students and adults alike flocked the display booths set-up by the National Archives of Fiji (NAF) to commemorate the life of Ratu Sukuna at Albert Park in Suva recently.

The Archives Assistant at NAF, Amelia Waqa, in commending the celebration said that, "Ratu Sukuna was very instrumental during his time in helping

set-up the "colony" before we formed the Government of Fiji".

"He also helped set-up the education system, the formation of the iTaukei Lands Trust Board and he was the first Fijian to study at Oxford University and Join the French Foreign Legion," she highlighted.

"The purpose of our display is to create awareness to students who have been coming in large numbers because we have all the information on Ratu Sukuna such as photos and some footage in the office



Staff of National Archives of Fiji during the Ratu Sukuna Day celebration at Albert Park pavilion.
Photo: AZARIA FAREEN



Students from various schools with the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Filimoni Vosarogo, and Minister for Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services, Ro Filipe Tuisawau. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

which can be accessed for free."

"In 1914, Ratu Sukuna joined the French Foreign Legion and part of the uniform he wore then is with the National Archives of Fiji and displayed in a glass cabinet here," she added.

Ms Waqa said that the most common questions asked by students in viewing the display was details of Ratu Sukuna's birth and if he had two wives.

"We answered them and showed them the pictures of both his wives," she said.

"They also asked if he played rugby when he was in Wanganui in New Zealand and we showed them the record which confirmed that he did play the sport," she added.

"We had pamphlets to give away to students which showed all the important events and dates in the life of Ratu Sukuna."

"I would like to encourage all the students to make use of their holidays and visit the National Archives of Fiji as we have a wide variety of information on topics that they cover in schools such as the Independence Day, Deed of Cession, records on Indentured Labourers and much more," she encouraged.

Members of the public can also visit the NAF library which is open from Monday to Friday.

Child Justice Bill 2024 introduced in Parliament



Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya, delivers her speech in Parliament
Photo: SUPPLIED.

By AZARIA FAREEN

RESEARCH from some of our nearest neighbours shows that children who have experienced psychological damage of child abuse trauma, or who have an intellectual disability make up about 90 per cent of the children incarcerated. And that the crimes they commit are

largely crimes committed in order to survive or to self-medicate their trauma.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya, while introducing the Child Justice Bill 2024 in the last Parliament session.

She stated that children who offend have escaped unsafe homes or have no homes at all.

“This Bill offers a generational change where children in conflict with the law don’t go on to re-offend, but instead go on to become contributing members of society,” she highlighted.

“If our interventions don’t get to the heart of why children offend – and instead criminalise, and re-criminalise them, then we are only perpetuating a cycle of reoffending for those children.”

“Over the past decade, studies conducted have consistently demonstrated that diversion programs are far more effective in preventing child crime compared to charging or incarcerating a child,” Minister Tabuya added.

“Research indicates that with appropriate diversion measures, three-quarters of children do not reoffend within six months and over half do not engage in further criminal behaviour within two years.”

She said that many children have also shared how these interventions have helped them regain control of their lives.

“Never before have we had laws in this country that recognise the life factors that give rise to children coming into conflict with the law, and put clear responsibility on a welfare department to intervene and address it; to change the life of that child; thereby making a safer Fijian society.”

“As our practices and approach to child welfare have moved to be world-leading with our proposed Child Care and Protection Bill, the Juveniles Act 1973 is completely out of step with our Fijian approach to child protection and care,” she added.

Minister Tabuya said that the Bill does not propose to leave children under the age of

14 out on the streets to ‘offend again’.

“Extensive research across the world clearly shows that the younger a child is at their first arrest, the greater their chances of future offending,” she said.

“A study of incarcerated youth found that children arrested before the age of 14 are three times more likely to reoffend as adults, compared to children arrested when they are over the age of 14 years.”

“Therefore, diverting younger children increases the chances greatly that they will not offend again,” she added.

“This means that our community will be safer; precious police resources, precious court resources and precious DPP resources will all be saved. Not only will they not be dealing with children under 14, but there will be less recidivism, and less crime over time.”

In highlighting this, Minister Tabuya stated that doctors all over the world have come out in numbers to protest holding 10-year-old children criminally responsible because it was completely against medical consensus regarding brain development.

“Children under the age of 14 years have not yet developed the social, emotional and intellectual maturity necessary for criminal responsibility and this is why we treat children differently in other parts of our legal system,” she emphasised.

The Minister relayed that a significant number of countries in Africa have raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14, including countries like Korea, China, Cambodia, Kuwait, Laos, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the Philippines and Timor Leste.

Early intervention crucial: Minister Tabuya

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection has reached a milestone with the introduction of the Child Care and Protection Bill 2024 in Parliament recently.

In thanking her predecessors, line Minister Lynda Tabuya, acknowledged the hard work that was rendered to this historic bill.

“The Child Care and Protection Bill has waited years for us to reach this point in our human rights evolution and it embodies our commitment to the protection of our children under the Convention on the Rights of the Child; a Convention that Fiji signed all the way back in 1993,” Minister Tabuya highlighted.

“This Bill commits us to protecting and supporting all Fijian children but especially those deprived of parental care and those who cannot remain with their families because of abuse or neglect,” she said.

“It is a vital plank in our government’s overall vision and strategy to free the children of this country from abuse and neglect, and in addressing why people perpetrate abuse in the first place.”

“This Bill heralds a new beginning for our children, and for generations of Fijian families to come - it is our most significant step in this vision,” she added.

Minister Tabuya stressed on the importance of this Bill and noted that five out of every six children in Fiji face some form of abuse or are neglected by their

family.

“The thought of being one of those children is truly unimaginable and this shocking statistic illustrates the extent of child abuse and neglect in Fiji,” she stressed.

“Every one of these children carry a story of lasting hurt and trauma that will impact their adult lives. If we don’t act urgently, we risk a deeply traumatised generation, where cycles of abuse will continue across their offspring, and their offspring’s offspring.”

“Children are precious gifts from God and it is our duty as people and as a government to protect them and support them to thrive, especially our most vulnerable children,” Minister Tabuya added.

The United Nations Committee that monitors the Child Rights Convention has pointed out that the number of residential homes and children coming into residential care in Fiji has been increasing over the years.

“Most children find themselves in residential care because they have been neglected or abused by their families,” the Minister revealed.

“These children spend very long periods of time in residential care with no love of



Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya, with students and school representatives on the margins of the last Parliament sitting. Photo: SUPPLIED

family or their community - and we cannot let this continue.”

“The Child Care and Protection Bill prioritises family preservation and family-based forms of care,” she added.

Minister Tabuya states that the Bill explicitly acknowledges and reinforces the key role of parents, families and communities in raising children and protecting them from harm.

“Success only comes when you can prevent or intervene early and this new Bill encompasses prevention, early intervention and response services,” she said.

“Options for voluntary care plans can be negotiated with the child’s parents where court orders are used as a last resort when agreements cannot be reached.”

“The child, parents, extended families and traditional community leaders can be actively involved with care planning; however, priority is given to kinship and family-based care,” Minister Tabuya added.

Meanwhile, the world’s largest study on childhood adversity shows that adults who have experienced abuse, neglect and trauma as children – were far more likely to suffer long-term intellectual, behavioural, physical and mental health problems.

Minister Tabuya added that this Bill sits at the forefront of child protection law making around the world.

The two Bills will be brought back to Parliament once consultations are completed.

Sereima shares her journey with lupus



Sereima Lomaloma with her family during the World Lupus event held last month. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

"I reached a stage where it became too painful to move, my feet and fingers were numb, everything ached. I had severe migraines, my eyes hurt because of the light so I had to be in a pitch-black room."

Sereima's life was not the same anymore, most of what she had done independently required the help of her husband and kids.

"My husband carried me everywhere in the house, he fed me, bathed me and cleaned up after me when I used the toilet. I couldn't believe that this was my life now, my new normal. That I was once an independent woman, was dependent on others to survive," she said.

"I started to spiral mentally and fell into depression, there were days when I was in so much pain, I would hide it from my family and I would cry in the room and beg the Lord just make it all stop."

"Looking at my kids gave me perseverance, gave me the desire to push and fight. My mother would call and check on me with relatives and pray over me which pushed me to fight each day knowing that God still had a purpose in my life," she added.

Fast forward, Sereima shared that she was then referred to Colonial War Memorial Hospital and still her results had not come through after eight weeks.

After numerous follow-ups done by her doctor later found out that her tests still hadn't been sent overseas.

Praying and hoping for a miracle, Sereima asked if it could be done in another hospital and eventually with the support she received from her extended family, an aunt from overseas paid for her tests so she could at least know of her status.

"Everything happens on God's timing, we went to Pacific Specialist Healthcare in Walu Bay and it just happened that they were able to provide the results on the same day. So, by the end of April 2023, I was officially diagnosed with Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) a systemic autoimmune disease with multisystemic involvement. The condition has several phenotypes, with varying clinical presentations from mild mucocutaneous manifestations to multiorgan and severe central nervous system involvement.

"I was prescribed medications, my kids were on their school break for two weeks so they were with me while their dad worked. Even though my husband was the only one working, we didn't have to worry about food or finances as the good Lord sent families and friends to pray over me and supported us financially," she added.

Sereima, despite the numerous trials and experiences, shared that her life has started to improve although she still has to endure hospital visits, constant numbness in her feet, and frequent flare-ups, she was gradually understanding her disease.

With the unwavering support of her family, she is learning to live each day to the fullest.

persevere despite being diagnosed with a life-threatening disease.

"I started to get crippling joint pains, body pains and migraines. I had difficulty sleeping even though I slept with the fan on, I would often wake up sweating and my clothes and beddings would be all soaked," she said.

"Since it was summer, the heat wasn't helping and I started to develop rashes and sores on my face, ears, mouth and legs. I was barely eating as I had mouth ulcers that made it difficult to eat or swallow. Numerous visits to the doctors didn't change anything."

Sereima shared that this continued for at least three months and after numerous visits to the doctors nothing worked so she tried a different approach.

She turned to traditional means of healing and visited a woman who only had to massage someone for four nights and the ailment would be healed but even this did not work.

"I was in and out of work, trying to live a somewhat normal life then someone suggested I visit Twomey hospital because of all the rashes and sores. That was where I met Dr Lusi and after explaining to her what I had gone through in the last four months, she told me I could possibly have Lupus."

"She then suggested I get a biopsy done so I could get the treatment needed but I refused. I mean Lupus, really! HELL NO!

While Sereima was awaiting the test results, she shared that her health began to deteriorate.

"I had hair loss and lost over 30 kilograms because I was not able to eat. I was surviving on two pieces of breakfast crackers. One day I was lying in bed and talking to my husband and kids and I couldn't breathe as I was struggling to take a breathe, I thought to myself this is it."

"Then something told me nope, not today! I thought to myself is this what I am going through, almost dying and coming back?

By NANISE NEIMILA

"IN November 2022, I started to get joint pains and I was told it could be arthritis. With the medications I was prescribed, the pains went away for a while but what I didn't realise was that it was the beginning of something worse."

These were the sentiments of 37-year-old Sereima Lomaloma who was diagnosed with Lupus over a year ago.

Lupus occurs when a person's own immune system attacks its tissues, which normally helps protect the body from infection and disease.

This attack causes inflammation and, in some cases, permanent tissue damage, which can be widespread – affecting the skin, joints, heart, lungs, kidneys, circulating blood cells, and the brain.

Sereima or Ima as she is fondly known as works for the Department of Information as the receptionist and office clerk. Married with three children, Sereima continues to



Minister Saukuru commends Macuata youth for environmental conservation efforts

The Minister for Youth and Sports, Jese Saukuru, wrapped up his northern division tour recently by joining the Macuata Youth Provincial Council Members for a tree planting activity at Lions Park. Minister Saukuru expressed his gratitude to the Macuata Youth Provincial Council for their dedication to environmental conservation and their enthusiasm for making a positive impact in their community. He commended their efforts and encouraged other youth groups to follow their example.

Photo: SUPPLIED



PM Rabuka opens 2024 Oceania Athletics Championships



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, opened the 2024 Oceania Athletics Championships at Suva's HFC Stadium, reaffirming our commitment to nurturing sports, camaraderie and excellence within our sea of islands recently.

Whilst addressing those in attendance, PM Rabuka said today's opening ceremony embodies the spirit of excellence which athletes strive for every day.

Photo: SUPPLIED



Arrival of the New Zealand Prime Minister, Christopher Luxon at the Nausori International Airport



Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration, Pio Tikoduadua, welcomed the New Zealand Prime Minister, Christopher Luxon, at the Nausori International Airport recently.

Minister Tikoduadua was joined by Acting Commissioner of Police, Juki Fong Chew, and Republic Fiji Military Force (RFMF) Commander Land Forces, Brigadier-General Onisivoro Covunisaqa.

Photo: NANISE NEIMILA



Head of State receives courtesy call from New Zealand Prime Minister

The President of Fiji, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, received a courtesy call from the New Zealand Prime Minister, Christopher Luxon, at the State House recently. The Head of State extended a warm welcome to the NZ Prime Minister, Christopher Luxon, and his delegation to Fiji during the visit.

Photo: NANISE NEIMILA



Stop relying on Govt: Minister Nalumisa urges council

By MEREANI GONEDUA

MUNICIPAL councils around the country have been encouraged to stop its heavy reliance on Government.

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development, Maciu Nalumisa, while speaking to ratepayers and business owners in his first ratepayers meeting in Ba recently, highlighted that councils need to look at ways to generate income within their municipality.

“What we are trying to encourage councils to do is to look at ways on how they can broaden their income basket so they would be able to serve their ratepayers well.

"What we have been encouraging our newly appointed administrators around the country is to be innovative in the way they do business."

Minister Nalumisa emphasised to ratepayers in Ba town during their first meeting this year, that if they need to move Ba Town forward than they need to

work together with their municipal council to address issues and look at ways of improving further.

He spoke about the various projects that needed to be attended to in Ba Town and spoke about the various challenges faced.

“This is your town and in order to move, you all need to come forward and work together.”

Meanwhile, the Minister during his visit to Ba Town also signed a contract for Phase 2 of the redevelopment of the Govind Park Project.

The contract which was awarded to Western Builders Limited and Heritage Fiji will see the construction of modern amenities, especially the turf, enhanced seating arrangements, improved accessibility, and advanced safety features.

"These upgrades are designed to provide a superior experience for all users, whether they are athletes, spectators, or community members attending various events," he said.

“The contractors were selected through Government Tender Board. This was after



Rate payers and business owners in attendance at the first ratepayers meeting in Ba. Photo: SUPPLIED

recommendation by the Council Cross-Ministerial Project Working Committee and pursuant to Government and Council Procurement Policies.”

He also urged all stakeholders to remain committed to the highest standards of quality and safety.

PM Rabuka highlights importance of private sector



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica and other VIPs take a tour of the \$13m upgraded facility. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

By MEREANI GONEDUA

THE People's Coalition Government acknowledges that the private sector is the engine of growth and has an ambition to turbo-charge the economy.

The Government is committed to playing its part in creating the right enabling environment, whilst ensuring compliance with regulatory frameworks.

These were the sentiments made by Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, while officiating at the launch of rooster poultry's upgraded processing plant facility in Ba recently.

“To support such initiatives, we have focused on several key areas. We have streamlined processes and reduced bureaucratic red tape for businesses to invest in Fiji. Whilst I acknowledge there is more to do, I can assure local and foreign investors that the winds of change are here.

“Collaboration between some of our best minds in the private and public sector will steer improvements with demonstrated outcomes in the near future.”

The PM highlighted that significant investments are being made to improve Fiji's infrastructure, including transportation networks, utilities, and digital connectivity, which are essential for businesses to operate efficiently and compete on the global stage.

“An enabling, simplified and consistent tax framework, including maintaining critical incentives to support investments and focusing on prudent fiscal management remain key focus areas for Government.”

He stated that the launch at the Rooster facility was a testament to the confidence that businesses have in the Fijian economy and the enabling policies of the People's Coalition Government.

“Our administration has worked tirelessly to create a conducive environment for businesses to thrive. We have implemented policies aimed at eliminating barriers to investment, improving infrastructure, and ensuring a stable economic climate,” PM Rabuka said.

“These efforts have fostered a business-friendly environment that encourages both local and foreign investment, contributing to economic growth.”

Strive to be authentic leaders: Minister Singh



Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Agni Deo Singh, officiated at the 2024 Fiji Human Resources Institute Convention (FHRI) in Nadi recently. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

By MEREANI GONEDUA

HUMAN resource professionals have been challenged to strive to be authentic future leaders, to work with integrity and empathy because they carry the balance in the workplace.

Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Agni Deo Singh, while officiating at the 2024 Fiji Human Resources Institute Convention (FHRI) in Nadi recently, emphasised on the evolving world of work and the responsibility they have as stewards of the workforce.

Minister Singh pointed out the need for authentic leaders in Fiji's workforce while speaking on the critical theme of 'Future Proof Your Workforce'.

“Fiji’s workforce must be equipped with the skills and knowledge by cultivating a culture of adaptability, creativity and lifelong learning as well as empowering our people to embrace change rather than fearing it.”

“To embrace change and adaptation, leaders must foster change that encourages innovation, experimentation and learning to empower our workers.”

“Your role as human resources professionals has a huge responsibility handed to you as you hold the balance in the workforce.”

Minister Singh called on participants to promote policies and incentives that address inclusivity and equality.

Minister Singh also emphasised the importance of being prepared for future challenges as the world keeps revolving.

By JOSAIA RALAGO

This comes in light following major investments being poured into the North which includes the

The Labasa Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Vinesh Dayal said it was important that businesses and stakeholders take advantage of the opportunity, further thanking the Government for prioritising the North.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, National Development, Strategic Planning and Statistics, Biman Prasad, speaks at the summit in Labasa. **Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO**



Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, Sakiasi Ditoka, during commissions Nasawana evacuation centre.
Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSIA RALAGO

“Our old evacuation centre was also destroyed during TC Winston, so when TC Yasa ravaged through our communities in Vanua Levu, our

The Government contributed \$28,000 towards the project which would benefit the 200 villagers of Nasawana.



Villagers of Nasawana, in Bua with the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development Sakiasi Ditoka, during the commissioning of their new evacuation centre. **Photo: JOSIA RALAGO**

Staff Nurse, Semesa Taukena, conducting outreach services at Onolevu District School in the Lau Group. **Photo: JOSIA RALAGO**

By JOSAIA RALAGO

One of the main issues identified during the consultations was the quality of health service, particularly

“The three year and five-year plan embodies the will and aspirations of our people,” he said.

Greening industrial and financial policy for economic transformation workshop

THE workshop on Greening Industrial and Financial Policy for Economic Transformation was conducted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Bandung, Indonesia recently.

UNCTAD has been conducting research and policy analysis on the theme of industrial and financial policies for the shift to a greener, more inclusive economy.

In this, the two-day workshop aimed to share research findings and country practitioner experiences and knowledge about financial and industrial policies for economic transformation and development, to be more equitable and sustainable in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The workshop also commemorated UNCTAD's 60th Anniversary.

Fiji was represented at the Workshop by Amenatave Yauvoli, Ambassador of Fiji to Indonesia; Ateca Rounds, Director of Economics at the Ministry of Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises; Mere Bainimarama, Senior Environment Officer at the Ministry of

Environment; Solomoni Vunitokalau, Senior Scientific Officer at the Department of Energy; and Vasiti Cirikiyasawa, Second Secretary at Fiji's Embassy in Indonesia.

With the theme "Greening Industrial and Financial Policy for Economic Transformation", Ambassador Yauvoli, acknowledged the role that UNCTAD, other UN systems and development partners can leverage for small island developing states, like Fiji, to attain some of our related SDGs and ultimately our climate goals.

Ambassador Yauvoli added that the SDGs were not merely global commitments for Fiji or have not just been embedded as Fiji's own development goals but have also served as a guiding framework for its national development and planning systems.

The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss the role of public development banks and finance institutions (DFIs) in catalysing the process of transition and transformation to a cleaner, greener and more equitable economy.

An additional element to the discussion focused on the inter-linking role of industrial policy as the essential partner to



Fiji delegation at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Bandung, Indonesia. [L - R] Leone Bainivanua, (FEJ Staff), Second Secretary, Vasiti Cirikiyasawa, Solomoni Vunitokalau (Department of Energy), Ambassador Yauvoli, Ateca Rounds (Ministry of Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises), Mere Bainimarama (Ministry of Environment). **Photo: SUPPLIED**

help create and guide demand and to give direction to finance, whether public or private.

Fiji's participants at the workshop provided an update on the Fiji Government's progress on the work undertaken on climate action, in support of Fiji's implementation of its Climate Change Act and the achievement of Fiji's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Underpinning this, Fiji reiterated its

commitment to achieve the global climate goals and the SDGs.

On the greening of Fiji's industrial structures, the issue of funding for the development of renewable energy was also raised, contributing to the challenge of attaining expertise, innovation and significant financial resources to adequately support Fiji's path towards a more sustainable and greener economy.

Fiji represented at the 3rd Singapore-Pacific High-Level visit



(In front row) Non-Resident High Commissioner of Fiji to Singapore and Fiji's Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr Amenatave Yauvoli at the 3rd Singapore-Pacific High-Level Visit held in Singapore. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

THE 3rd Singapore-Pacific High-Level Visit (HLV) in Singapore was hosted by the Singaporean Government recently and attended by representatives from Pacific Island countries.

Fiji was represented by non-resident High Commissioner of Fiji to Singapore, Amenatave Yauvoli, and Second Secretary, Vasiti Cirikiyasawa, both at Fiji's Embassy in Indonesia.

The 3rd High-Level Visit was a valuable opportunity for Singapore and the Pacific to build a platform to exchange views and learn from each other in our sustainable development experiences, through meetings with Singapore's leaders and senior policy makers, ministerial briefings and onsite visits.

It was also envisioned that these interactions would open even more opportunities for cooperation, particularly in tackling the challenges of our time, learning from each other, sharing of technical capabilities in the areas of smart technologies and knowledge between Singapore and the Pacific.

The underlying theme during the dialogues conducted was that Singapore's socio-economic development was environmentally sustainable and inclusive, undergirded by long term planning (50 years) and master plans (5-10 years).

The HLV also afforded an opportunity for the Pacific representatives to have a joint call on the newly appointed Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, Lawrence Wong.

The High-Level Visit was Prime Minister Wong's first international engagement since recently being appointed Prime Minister of Singapore on 14 May.

He reaffirmed Singapore's commitment to the Pacific

and reiterated the importance of sustainability on all aspects of development. Prime Minister Wong also emphasised the common interests and challenges shared by the Small Island Developing States in the Pacific and Singapore, particularly the existential threat of climate change.

Ambassador Yauvoli, whilst congratulating the Prime Minister Wong on his accession to the leadership helm of Singapore, highlighted a few issues pertinent to Fiji's post-COVID development.

In this, he reaffirmed Fiji's commitment to its bilateral partnership with Singapore and the need to elevate our engagements in adaptation and mitigation efforts for Climate Action, learning from the prowess of Singapore's adaptative capacity and capability to climate change; asserted the need for Fiji to acquire smart technology for its Water and Waste Management facilities; reiterated Fiji's aim to effectively and efficiently deliver its public and business services through digital platforms, an area where Singapore was currently providing technical assistance on; and informed of the need to address the nation's Debt Overhang, through identifying new investments to diversify and strengthen national income and government's revenue base.

In response, Prime Minister Wong reiterated that digitalisation and sustainability was a priority for Singapore and that his government can provide development assistance in the areas specified, through the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) or through a customised solution.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Fiji Govt acknowledges Australia's support in the repatriation of Fiji nationals



Fijian citizens prior to boarding the Australian Military Aircraft bound for Australia from New Caledonia. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

THE Fiji Government acknowledged the outstanding support provided by the Australian Government in the repatriation of Fijian nationals that were stranded in New Caledonia.

This swift assistance was yet another demonstration of Australia's deep commitment to the renewed and elevated Vuvale Partnership.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs worked closely with our Australian counterparts to repatriate Fijian nationals from New Caledonia.

Two Australian Military C17 Aircraft are bound for Brisbane.

In coordination with the Australian High Commissioner, Ewen McDonald, and his team, efforts continued as Fijian nationals were flown out of New Caledonia.

Fiji's High Commissioner to Australia, Ajay Amrit, was in Brisbane to receive the Fiji nationals arriving from New

Caledonia and facilitated the arrangements for their onward flight to Fiji.

Further, the Ministry extends appreciation to Fiji Airways for their timely support in the provision of seats for the nationals as they switched to departing from Brisbane instead of Noumea.

The Ministry has also expressed gratitude also to the Pacific Community (SPC) Team for the coordination and arrangements made to assist the Fiji nationals on the ground in Noumea.

"We are grateful to all our partners for their goodwill and efforts that enabled the safety and successful repatriation of our nationals as they reunite with their families."

The Ministry continued to work with the Australian Government counterparts in the repatriation efforts to ensure the Fijians safely return to their homes.

(Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



Fiji has 27 bilateral air services agreement

By NANISE NEIMILA

FIJI has 27 traditional bilateral air services agreements with supportive nations as our current ASA with the United States permits Fiji Airways to fly to only three US destinations, Hawaii, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

This was highlighted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, while speaking in Parliament recently.

Minister Gavoka shared that the aviation industry's access to markets worldwide relies heavily on the Air Services Agreement (ASA).

Also known as air transport agreements or bilateral and multilateral air agreements, these contracts between countries set the terms and regulations for international air transport services.

They provide the framework for airlines from the participating countries to offer passenger and cargo services.

"Expanding to additional U.S. destinations would require further negotiations between

the Fijian and U.S. Governments. Efforts over the past few years to amend this agreement with the United States have been unsuccessful."

"The United States is a leader in open skies air services agreements and has always viewed Fiji Aviation Policy as restrictive. Traditional ASAs govern several critical areas, including airline designation, ownership and control, routes and capacity, tariffs and pricing, safety and security, customs and immigration, as well as code-sharing and alliances."

Minister Gavoka shared aspects of traditional bilateral air services agreements often involved reciprocal benefits, where each country secured advantages for their carriers, sometimes neglecting consumer interests.

"Increasing international market access for air service providers is crucial for maximising the air transport sector's economic contribution."

"Liberalisation, as seen in open-skies agreements, reduces regulations on capacity and frequency, fostering competition, promoting travel and trade,



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, in Parliament recently. Photo: SUPPLIED

and boosting productivity."

Minister Gavoka added that Open Skies Agreements allow unlimited commercial services by designated airlines without needing explicit ministerial approval for

routes, capacity, frequency, and pricing.

"Sovereignty is preserved, with interventions limited to safety and security. These agreements liberalise and deregulate the international aviation market."

Increase market access for higher contribution

By NANISE NEIMILA

"INCREASING international market access for air service providers is crucial for maximising the air transport sector's economic contribution."

"Liberalisation, as seen in open-skies agreements, reduces regulations on capacity and frequency, fostering competition, promoting travel and trade, and boosting productivity."

This was highlighted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, while speaking in Parliament recently as he shared how the agreement allows unlimited commercial services by designated airlines without needing explicit ministerial approval for routes, capacity, frequency, and pricing.

"Sovereignty is preserved, with interventions limited to safety and security. These agreements liberalise and deregulate the international aviation market."

Minister Gavoka added the degree of "sky openness" was determined by the nine "freedoms of the air" outlined in the 1944 Convention on International Civil Aviation.

These freedoms include: fly across a country without landing; land for non-traffic purposes; drop off passengers from the airline's home country; pick up passengers to take to the airline's home country; carry passengers between two foreign countries during flights that also touch the airline's home country.

Beyond these, the International Civil Aviation the organisation considers the additional freedoms "so-called" as they are not widely recognised by treaty such as the freedom to carry passengers between two foreign countries via the airline's home country, operate flights between two foreign countries without touching the airline's home country and so on.

Minister Gavoka added that Open Skies Agreements have driven the continuous growth of air traffic.

These measures enhance market and capital access, leading to better connectivity, sustainable economic development and stronger, more passenger-friendly carriers and airports.

Opening the air transport market results in more efficient airspace utilisation, competitive fares and more travel choices.

"The push for regulatory convergence on liberalisation and competition at bilateral and regional levels underscores its importance."

"However, its open-skies policy has eliminated isolation issues, ensuring good connections to labour and markets. In 2023, the Maldives welcomed 1,878,537 visitors, a 12.1 per cent increase from 2022, showing the benefits of open skies."

"Our neighbours Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea have adopted open-skies policies, reaping benefits such as increased travel and trade, enhanced productivity, and high-quality job creation."

Minister Gavoka has envisioned a future without constraints while Fiji previously believed open skies were unsuitable for small economies, this hasn't been tested.

Open skies agreement to significantly enhance Fiji's tourism industry



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad with Fiji Airways chief executive officer, Andre Viljoen and Fiji Airways chairperson, Nalin Patel during the announcement of the staggering \$131.81 million profit before income tax and \$1.8 billion in operating revenue for 2023. Photo: SUPPLIED

By NANISE NEIMILA

"FIJI commits to evaluating open skies agreements individually, considering economic, strategic, and operational factors. We support this transition to open skies, working with stakeholders to ensure it aligns with national objectives."

This was highlighted by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, while speaking in Parliament recently.

DPM Gavoka highlighted that the Coalition Government believes that open skies agreements will enable airlines to operate commercially, allocate capital efficiently, and adapt to changes.

"This policy will help our national airline expand, optimise capacity and ownership, and improve return on investment."

"We are closely monitoring global open skies trends to ensure no negative impact on our national airline. We have taken a balanced approach to liberalisation, providing flexibility and freedom while ensuring local air transport remains profitable and continuous."

DPM Gavoka further added that such

policy balances global open skies trends with Fiji's unique context, emphasising flexibility, pragmatism, and national interests.

Fiji achieved a significant milestone by welcoming a record 929,740 visitors in 2023.

"This surge in tourism contributed over \$3.3 billion in revenue, exceeding our financial goals a year ahead of schedule."

"Looking forward into 2024, we expect a steady growth in visitor arrivals, projected to increase by two per cent to five per cent, compared to the previous year. With improved airline capacity, we anticipate better accessibility to our islands and an eight per cent to 12 per cent increase in flights."

He added the thriving investment environment in Fiji, marked by the opening of new resorts and the launch of significant developments, signals a strong investment scene, promising a bright future for the tourism sector.

"The Open Skies Policy is expected to significantly enhance Fiji's tourism industry, a major source of revenue and employment. This policy change is set to create new opportunities for Fiji's tourism and aviation industries, improve connectivity, and potentially increase visitor numbers, which are crucial for the island nation's economy."

Logging supports economy and communities: Minister Ravu

By FELIX LESINAIVALU

“**L**OGGING operation in the Maritime Islands is a vital project that contributes to our economy and supports our local communities.” This was highlighted by Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Kalaveti Ravu, while providing an update on the progress of our logging operation in the Maritime Islands in the recent Parliament sitting. “A project where Government has also re-strategised and invested heavily since this financial year, recognising and addressing the plight of resource owners on these islands.” The total area of pine to be harvested in

Muani, Kadavu for this project amounts to 83 hectares, a significant undertaking that requires careful planning, considerable logistics and interagency coordination, before execution. Minister Ravu announced that \$600,000 was released from the Ministry of Finance to meet the barge costs for Muani. “Groundwork costs, including field verification for stocktaking as a requirement for Harvesting License and Muani jetty scoping works, come to a total of \$13,500. The barge grant of \$600k will cover the transportation of 6 barge loads, each carrying 2000 tonnes, from Muani to Lautoka port.” “The same initiative has been projected for Lakeba whereby another \$250,000 has

been released as an additional grant to Fiji Pine Trust from the Ministry of Finance.” Minister Ravu added that the funds released will be for the construction of a port in Wainiyabia, Lakeba in consultation with the Fiji Roads Authority. Forest Power House, a company that will be contracted to construct the Lakeba Port, was expected to start before the end of May. Minister Ravu said that there are various measurable outputs and outcomes from these maritime project support and beneficiaries, including the communities, private sector and the nation as a whole. “For the communities, there are firstly, financial benefits. This includes the payment of \$60 per tonne to landowners, resulting in a total pay-out of \$0.8 million. This direct financial support will enhance the livelihoods of the local landowners and their families.” “Secondly, there are employment opportunities for communities. The project will create numerous job opportunities in logging, transportation, and port operations, leading to increased employment in the local communities.” “Thirdly, as for infrastructure development, the construction and

upgrading of port facilities, guided by the Fiji Roads Authority, will improve local infrastructure, providing long-term benefits to the communities.”



Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Kalaveti Ravu, providing an update in the recent Parliament sitting. Photo: SUPPLIED

Road access to boost production



Thirty seven (37) farmers in Vanua Balavu, Lau will now be able to expand their farms and increase their livelihoods after the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways ongoing farm road construction is fully completed. Photo: SUPPLIED

By FELIX LESINAIVALU

“**F**OR the first time, the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways deployed machinery to the Lau islands for the construction of new farm access roads and land preparation, with careful consideration on its sustainability towards the environment.” Minister for Agriculture and Waterways, Vaitimi Rayalu, while speaking in Parliament recently, highlighted that the Ministry constructs farm roads to access farm land to boost production in the agriculture sector. “The Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways has upgraded 141 existing farm roads with a total length of 242.7 km and constructed four new roads with a total length of 5.7 kilometres in this financial year,” he said. “The program for farm access roads supports the Ministry of Agriculture’s Strategic Development Plan of diversifying production and improving market opportunities for farmers.” In the Lau Group, 248 agricultural households have benefited from the completion of four new farm access

roads and the upgrading of four existing farm access roads, which have a total length of 24.7kms. Minister Rayalu added the roads now provide accessibility to prime farmland allowing farmers to expand the size of their farms and facilitate the easy sending of produce after harvesting to the markets. “The total number of agriculture households that benefited from this program around Fiji is 3080 as presented in Annex 1.” “Infrastructure development plays a critical role in advancing the Ministry’s collective objectives to grow the agriculture sector.” Minister Rayalu added the program was aligned to the Ministry’s mission of creating an enabling environment that accelerates economic opportunities for food and nutrition security for all Fijians. He also said that the Ministry will continue to assist farmers to construct new and upgrade existing farm roads. “The Ministry is streamlining internal processes and procedures to ensure financial and procurement requirements are met in a timely manner,” Minister Rayalu said.

Minister explains Fiji’s tuna supply and export prospects

By JAMIL SULEMAN

MINISTER for Fisheries and Forestry, Kalaveti Ravu, has addressed the pressing issue of Fiji’s tuna supply centered on whether Fiji has sufficient tuna to support the Government’s recent announcement regarding increased international tuna sales. Minister Ravu, speaking in Parliament during the May sitting, emphasised the complexities of Fiji’s tuna supply chain and the need to understand the different categories of fishing fleets that Fiji uses to source its tuna. He outlined three main categories which include: Fiji fishing fleets, foreign fishing fleets based in Fiji, and foreign fleets based in foreign ports. “Tuna knows no boundaries and they move around a lot. Tuna that we catch in our waters today is likely to be in Tonga or the high seas tomorrow. This migratory behaviour leads to competition among fishing nations and contributes to periodic shortages of raw materials.” Minister Ravu assured, the Parliament that despite these challenges, there has been a steady increase in raw materials which relates to the increase in catch sourced from Fijian fleets and foreign fleets calling into Fiji ports. He also acknowledged the need for policies, legislation, partnership agreements, and infrastructure investments to support the tuna sector. “The Government is working towards policies and legislation that supports and increases the number of vessels calling into Fiji ports to land its catch for our processing facilities.” While optimistic about future increases in market and export shares, he noted that such developments take time. On questions about the decline in foreign fleet arrivals, Minister Ravu cited the cost of visiting Fiji’s ports as a key factor. On maintaining a steady supply of fish to the Pacific Fishing Company (PAFCO), Minister Ravu highlighted the importance of partnerships. “The Ministry of Fisheries has strengthened



Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Kalaveti Ravu, while providing an update on in the recently. Parliament sitting. Photo: SUPPLIED

its partnership agreement with Fong Chung Formosa Company Limited (FCF),” he said. This partnership, along with bilateral support from Taiwan, has ensured a consistent supply of raw materials to Pacific Fishing Company (PAFCO), benefiting the communities in the Lomaiviti group. Furthermore, on technological advancements, Minister Ravu detailed recent initiatives. “The use of advanced innovative technology and e-platforms is critical,” he stated, mentioning the support secured from the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) in the Solomon Islands. This collaboration has led to trials of electronic platforms for Port State Measures, catch documentation, and boarding and inspection. The trial phase has been completed, with a launch scheduled soon, promising streamlined operations for the tuna sector. Minister Ravu expressed optimism for Fiji’s tuna industry, highlighting the Government’s commitment to sustainable and profitable fisheries management. “With the right approach and the right people, we will increase our market and export shares,” he affirmed.

A milestone achieved during Rotuma Day celebration

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE Rotuma day celebration did not come about just recently as it started during the time of my ancestors on May 13, 1881 - when the Island was officially ceded to the Great Britain.

This was highlighted by the Fiji Rotuma Association (FRA) chairperson, Victor Fatiaki, who noted the day to be very special for the Rotuman community all over the world.

“The celebration this year is one-week long which is different from other years as we were blessed to have secured a grant from the African, Caribbean, and Pacific-European Union ACP-EU funding scheme for special projects like this,” Mr Fatiaki said.

“We had workshops for men, women and youths, and a backyard farming competition where youngsters were taught the art and techniques of planting big yams and taro.”

“We have reached a milestone as we launched our website and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Council of Rotuma (CoR),” he

added.

Mr Fatiaki noted the importance of the occasion stating that the FRA will work under the umbrella of the CoR while the MoU acts as a guideline on working together for the improvement and the betterment of the Rotuman people.

“The FRA is a registered organisation under the Charitable Trust of Fiji and we have over 3,000 members while this year we are registering everyone by their name, date of birth and district so that we have an idea of how many people attended this,” Mr Fatiaki said.

“With the MoU in place, we are able to work more and do more for the Rotuman people and also Rotuma. The MoU will be translated in the Rotuman language and uploaded on our website so that every Rotuman can access it,” he added.

“Our next dream is to secure a land in Fiji so we can build a Rotuma Cultural hub so that we can practice our culture, dances, meetings and socialise while also calling this place our home.”

“We are a minority race and if we are not careful with our language - which UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

has deemed endangered – then we will lose our identity because you cannot be called a Rotuman if you can’t speak the language,” he emphasised.

Mr Fatiaki highlighted the importance of workshops for youngsters so that when they grow up, they know how to speak the language, dance and continue with the legacy.

“Due to the size of Rotuma, we want to unite every Rotuman all over Fiji so that we have one voice and it is possible through the FRA which has been able to pull all the 7 districts together,” he said.

“The farming competition saw the biggest size of a yam standing at 135 kilogram which was planted in a backyard in Fiji. It’s about food security and teaches

the youngsters the technique of planting big root crops where families can eat for a month or so.”

“We want the Government of Fiji to recognise the FRA because we work together with the CoR which has given us its blessing for us to work in Fiji and that’s something we will continue to do,” he added.

The week-long celebration had the theme “Honour and Cherish Rotuma in her spirituality, land, culture and language”.

Participants attending the Rotuma Day celebration also showcased talents through fashion shows, farming, and cultural performances representing a total of 7 districts.



Performers during the recently held Rotuma Day celebrations Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

Nasinu Town Council to reclaim waste management

By JAMIL SULEMAN

THE Nasinu Town Council is set to regain control of its waste management operations from the Suva Municipal Council by this August 2024.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa, in Parliament recently.

“I would like to remind that waste collection and disposal remain an essential service which the Councils are mandated to provide to the ratepayers and respective communities, as per the Local Government Act 1972,” Minister Nalumisa said.

He noted that Nasinu with a population of approximately 65,000 and 12,569 properties require garbage services, has faced significant challenges in managing its solid waste.

Minister Nalumisa added the the town produces around 20,000 tonnes of waste annually, which equates to an average of 1.5 tonnes per household each year.

Despite these challenges, the Minister has remained positive about Nasinu’s capability to handle waste management independently.

“Nasinu Town Council had faced major constraints in managing solid waste, as such, the Ministry supported the Council through grant funding and technical assistance via the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on Waste Management.

The current arrangement with Suva City Council, initiated in 2020, has involved the use of shared resources, including five garbage trucks and three open trucks.

Minister Nalumisa pointed out that this partnership, while beneficial, has been costly, with Nasinu Town Council paying Suva City Council \$2,481,632 per year for waste collection services.

“There are discussions underway between the Suva City Council and Nasinu Town Council regarding Nasinu Town taking back the waste management services within their boundary.”



Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa in Parliament. Photo: SUPPLIED

“The comprehensive transition plan which includes purchasing new equipment, recruiting and training staff, and constructing facilities necessary for the effective management of waste.”

The Minister also provided a detailed financial outlook, estimating an initial cost of \$4.2 million with an annual recurring cost of \$2 million to establish and maintain the new waste management system.

This includes the construction of a depot and parking space for garbage trucks, purchase or hire of additional trucks for green waste and white goods collection, and the recruitment and training of officers responsible for solid waste management.

Minister Nalumisa also called on the residents of Fiji to take pride in their nation and manage waste responsibly.

FSC promotes the use of mechanisation as element to improve the sugar industry

By NANISE NEIMILA

IN efforts to revitalise the sugar industry, the Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) is engaging more with younger farmers and promoting the use of mechanisation as these elements are crucial for the future of the industry.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry, Charan Jeath-Singh, while responding to the motion on two motions;

(a) to increase the Government guarantee for Fiji Sugar Corporation Limited’s (FSC) domestic borrowings of \$75 million for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 May 2028 (Guarantee Period) by \$20 million; and

(b) that the FSC be exempted from paying the guarantee fee.

Minister Singh said the rationale behind the motion was embedded in the unwavering confidence that the sugar industry was on the right trajectory towards a robust and sustainable future.

“This confidence is based on several strategic initiatives and notable positive developments within the industry.”

“We have significantly expanded our support programs for the sugar industry. The number of programs has increased from six to 13 in the current financial year, demonstrating



Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar, Charan Jeath Singh speaks in Parliament during the May sitting. Photo: SUPPLIED

our commitment to comprehensive support for all aspects of the industry.”

“We are actively addressing the longstanding issue of land leases by providing subsidies on premium payments. This initiative is designed to alleviate financial burdens on farmers and ensure that land remains accessible and affordable for cane cultivation.”

Furthermore, Minister Singh adds that FSC has achieved a remarkable milestone by making the highest cane payment for the 2022 crop at the rate of \$91.38 per ton.

Graham Leung is Fiji's new Attorney-General



The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, congratulates the new Attorney-General, Graham Leung. **Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU**

By FELIX LESINAIVALU

FIJI has a new Attorney-General after Suva lawyer, Graham Leung, took oath of office before the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere. Siromi Turaga will continue as Minister for Justice. Mr Leung, who becomes the chief legal advisor of the Government, has had a very illustrious legal career with over 30 years' experience in constitutional law, administrative law, international law, diplomacy and justice at national, regional and international levels, with a strong background in governance and human rights. He has extensive experience in strategic planning, policy and programming and advice delivery. Mr Leung was also a former Chairman of the Fiji Electoral Commission and

former President of the Fiji Law Society. He has also held the role of Secretary for Justice and Immigration of the Republic of Nauru. Prior to that, Mr Leung was Director of the Center for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers (CIJL) at the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in Switzerland. Recently in 2023, Mr Leung was appointed as a member of the team undertaking a review and public consultations on the Bose Levu Vakaturaga (Great Council of Chiefs). Mr Leung started his legal career as a State Law Officer at the Attorney General's Chambers in Suva where he rose to the position of Deputy Solicitor General. He was also Counsellor/Deputy PRUN at Fiji's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York before he joined private practice as partner at a

prominent Suva law firm. Mr Leung read law at the University of Adelaide where he attained his Bachelor of Laws degree (LL.B) (Hons.) and holds a Master of Laws degree (LL.M) from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law. The Attorney-General is appointed pursuant to Section 96 of the 2013 Constitution which states that the person should have more than 15 year's experience in legal practice after admission and must not be found guilty of any disciplinary proceeding involving legal practitioners whether in Fiji or abroad, including any proceeding by the Independent Legal Services Commission or any proceeding under the law governing legal practitioners, barristers and solicitors prior to the establishment of the Independent Legal Services Commission. Furthermore, the Constitution under

Section 96 sub-section 3 states: If the Prime Minister considers that there are no members of Parliament who— (a) belong to the Prime Minister's political party; (b) belong to any political party in coalition with the Prime Minister's political party; or (c) are independent candidates who support the Prime Minister, who are qualified, suitable or available to be appointed as the Attorney-General, then the Prime Minister may appoint a person who is not a member of Parliament as the Attorney-General if that person— (i) is a legal practitioner who is qualified to be appointed as the Attorney-General under subsection (2); and (ii) is qualified to be a candidate for election to Parliament under section 56.

Noda Viti

Sigatabu, 9 ni Jiune, 2024 | 8 Drauniveva, 8 Tabana 15 ni Lavelave ni Ivola

**DOLAVI NA
NODRA AKAUDE NI
VAKATUBUILAVO
NODRA NA ITAUKEI
NI YAUBULA**

iTalanoa ena Drauniveva 3



**VAKAMATATATAKI NA
KENA VAKAU NA TUNA
ENA BOSE LAWA.**

iTalanoa ena Drauniveva 6



KIDAVAKI VAKAVANUA NA PARAIMINISITA NI MATANITU O NIUSILADI



Era mai kidavaki vakavanua na Paraiminisita ni Matanitu o Niusiladi o Rt Hon. Christopher Luxon ena yakavi nikua ena vuku saka tiko ga ni sevu ni gauna nodra butuka mai kina na noda delanisoso.

E ketekete ni bici tu na Lomalagi ka laki dre vakamalua tu o Malolo ena nodra sobu mai ena rara ni waqavuka mai Luvuluvu ni bera nira tadu mai kina Koroturaga e Suva.

E vakavinavinakataka o Mr Luxon ena vuku ni vei qaravi cecehia e mai vakayacori vei rau kei ira na nona Mata Timi ena vuku ni kena sikovi tiko mai na noda vanua ena loma ni 3 na siga. Oqo e dua na gaunisala vinaka ni kena raici lesu tale na vei qaravi esa vakayacori tu mai ena ruku ni Duavata Partnership Agreement.

“Au sa tu vakarau ena vuku ni siga sa tu qo , mena veitalanoataki na

veigaunisala e rawa nina tarai cake kina na vei qaravi ka mena tarai cake tale na veiwekani mai na Matanitu e rua”.

“E sa dua na veiwekani vinaka ka sa dede sara tiko mai , ka keimami sa mai dokadoka, ka vakaraitaka talega na kena laurai mena tomani tiko ga na I sema oqo.”

E na laki sikova talega o Mr Luxon nai tikotiko e Naiqasiqasi na nodra I tikotikjo na Turaga Peresitedi o

Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, ka vaka kina na veitalanoa kei na Turaga na Paraiminisita o Hon Sitiveni Rabuka.

Era a laki tiko talega na soqo me baleta na veika vakabisinisi(New Zealand-Fiji Business Council Conference) e dua nai vatavata e qarava vakatabakidua na kena tokoni na veibisinisi, veivoli ka vaka kina na vakayagataki lavo ena noda vanua.

TUDEI NA MATANITU COKOVATA - PM RABUKA



Nai Vukevuke ni Paiminisita Ka Minisita ni Saravanua o Hon Gavoka, Na Turaga Paraiminisita o Hon Sitiveni Rabuka kei na Minisita ni Tabana Ni Lavo o Hon Biman Prasad.

E vakadeitaka na noda Liuliu ni Matanitu o Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka ni dei vinaka tiko na nodratou veiwekani vaka politiki n 3 na soqosoqo ka lewena tiko na Matanitu Cokovata.

A cavuta na itukutuku oqo ni oti na nona sotavi rau na rua na Paraiminisita Veivuke o Hon. Biman Prasad mai na soqosoqo va politiki na National

Federation Party kei Hon. Viliame Gavoka mai na soqosoqo va politiki SODELPA.

“E kaya na Liuliu ni Matanitu ni ra vakadinadinataka ni a oti sa vakatovolei na nodratou vakatulewa vaka matanitu cokovata, ka yavutaki mai na vakatulewa ni Bose Lawa me baleta na kedra isau na noda Mata ni na Bose Lawa ka vakatututaki ena ika24

ni ni vula ko Me 2024.”

Era kere veivosoti ka ra kaya ni a rawa ni qaravi vakavinaka cake ka vakamatau na veika ka oya, me vaka e namaki vei ira na mata digitaki.

Ena vukudra na Matanitu Cokovata, era sa kere veivosoti kina ki vei keda kece sara na lewei Viti, ka ra kaya ni dua dina na nodratou malumalumu.

“Keimami vinakata me keimami

vakadeitaka ki vei kemuni ni keimami vakarorogo tiko vei kemuni ka cakacaka vata me wali na leqa era laveti cake mai. Au na vosa tiko kina ena dua na gauna lekaleka mai qo.”

“Ni oti e dua na veivosaki ena mataka nikua vata kei ira na noda iLiuliu ni iTokani ni Coalition, keitou sa duavata me keitou vaqacacotaka na neitou yalayala me tutaki na veidinadinati matanitu cokovata ni Tiseba 2022.”

E kaya na Liuliu ni Matanitu ni oqo e dua na gauna e gadrevi me vakasamataki kina vakatitobu nan veivakatulewa eso ka dua tale ga na gauna ni veiliutaki gumatua me rawati kina na veika era nanamaki kina na daudigidigi se o kemuni na lewe ni vanua.

“Me vaka ni’u dua tale ga na tukani gone ka’u tama tale ga, au kila ni ena loma ni matavuvale yadua, na veivakacalai kei na duidui ni vakasama ena basika mai, ia ni cava edua na siga, eda na lewe kece tiko ga ni dua na matavuvale. E sega ni duatani kina na matanitu Cokovata, na ka ga e dodonu meda cakava oya na kena vakavinaka taki cake na veiqaravi ka da vakatulewa matau ena leqa eda dau sotava.

E dua na kena iwali levu sai koya na noda dau vakasaqara na gauna me da veivosaki vinaka kina ka me da dau veiciqomi ena veivakanananu eso.

CIBITAKI NA NODRA BULA NA TURAGA TALAI SA BALE



“CIBITAKI NI VEILIUTAKI RAIYAWA E VITI, ENA MAROROI NI VULI KEI NA ITOVO”.

Era mai duavata na lewenivanua e Viti ena kena mai vakananumi na nodra bula na Turaga Talai sa bale o Ratu Sir Joseva Lalabalavu Vanayaliyali Sukuna ena rara na Alivate ena Koroturaga Levu e Suva. E cibi na veikoronivuli na vuku ni nodra sureti ena vuku ni cibi taki ni nodra bula na Turaga sa Bale. E a sucu na Turaga Talai Sa Bale enai ka 22 ni Evereli 1888 ena Yanuyan Vakaturaga e Bau. E nodra I tubutubu Turaga o Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi mai na Mataqali Tui Kaba mai na loma ni vuvale vakaturaga na Roko Tui Bau .Na Marama na Tinadra o Adi

vola ni vakatutu na Turaga Ni Lewa ni Yasana o Ra o Adolft Brewester.

E na kena mai vakacavari nai ka 3 ni siga ni nodra vakananumi e mai vulagi dokai kina nai liuliu ni Matanitu o Hon Sitiveni Rabuka. E ra veitokoni talega tiko na vei Minisita ka vaka kina na veitabana ni veimatanitu ena vuku ninekna mai tokoni na siga ni nodra vakananaumi na gone Talai sa Bale/.

E na nodra mala ni vosa na Iliuliu ni Matanitu era vakaraitaka kina ni ka dokai vua na nodra mai vulagi dokai ena siga bibi oqo me vaka esa mai bokoci ena veiliutaki ni matanitu sa oti. Ena vuku ni cavu isausau ni veiliutaki ni matanitu ioqi esa mai cegavi tale kina

Litiana Maopa mai na Mataqali na Vuanirewa ena loma ni vuvale turaga na Vuanirewa.

E vakatokayacataki na Josefa Lalabalavu vua na Tui Cakau na vo ni yacadra na Vanayaliyali Sukuna e vakayaca taumada kina nodra waqa laca dau veisiriyaki na Tukadra o Ratu Mara Kapaiwai. E totolo sara na kena liaci mai vei ira na vulagi na makare ni nodra vakasama na Turaga Lailai. . E na Seviteba ena yabaki 1901

ea tabaka kina e dua nai

e dua na drauniveva vou.

“Au vakavinavinaka ena vakatulewa e mai vakayacori ena vuku ni soqo mena sala vata kei na Cibitaki Ni Veiliutaki Raiyawa E Viti ena Maroroi Ni Vuli kei na Itovo, esa dua na vakatulewa vinaka me ra liutaka nai Tabagone , ka vaka kina nai walewale eso kei na veicakacaka eso e salavata kei na nodra kila ka na Turaga sa Bale”.

E tomana o Hon Rabuka ai sevu ni Gone ni iTaukei o Ratu Sukuna me laki rawata mai na Koroi Ni Lawa. E ra rawata nai cocovi cecere ena Mataivalu. E mai tara talega nai tutu vaka Jiameni ni Native Lands Commission, era vunivola talega ni Tabana Itaukei(Fijian Affairs). E ra lewena talega na Bose Levu Vakaturaga ka vaka kina na Legislative Council, na E ra kuria ni nodra cakacaka vakaukauwa na Turaga Talai e ra sa bau moica vinaka saraga kina na vanua o Viti, era tokona vakabibi na vuli , mai ja n1909 e ra mai Taura Vakatawa tu na iVukevuke Ni Qasenivuli ena koronivuli na Lau Provincial School me yacova na gauna esa mai liutaka kina.

Era sa mai bale na Turaga Talai ka sa mai divi tu na nodra i vakarau ni veiqaravi ena noda vanua. Era I sevu ni Turaga mera daramaka nai sulu vakataga ka ra taqomaka na noda Qele na Itaukei ka ra tauyavu taka na Native Land Trust Board.

Era mai tinia na Turaga Paraiminisita ni sa dodonu vei keda na lewenivanua mera nanuma ka muria na veika era sa vakayacora mai na Turaga sa Bale ena vuku ni Noda vanua kei ira nai sausauvou ni vanua o Viti.

DOLAVI NA NODRA AKAUDE NI VAKATUBUILAVO NODRA NA ITAUKEI NI YAUBULA



Nai Vukevuke ni Minisita ni Itaukei, Tovo kei na Iyau Vakamareqeti Hon Isikeli Tuwailevu me baleta na ulutaga ni Yaubula

Era veitataunaki voli nai Vukevuke Ni Minisita Ni Itaukei , Tovo kei Na Iyau Vakamareqeti o Hon Isikeli Tuwailevu me baleta na nodra vukei vakailavo na Taukeni Yabula ena noda vanua.

Nai matai ni ulutaga era vosa tiko kina sai koya na veibolebole era sotava na taukeni Yaubula sai koya na kena vakailavotaki na sasaga mera vakavure Bisinisi ena nodra Iyaubula ka tarai cake kina na Bula ni Kawa Itaukei.Me yacova mai ena gauna oqo sera sega tiko ga ni dodoliga vakailavo na veibaqe kei na veitabana vakailavo eso ena vuku ni ririko e tiko ena kena soli nai lavo. Na ririko saka oqori e vakavuna tiko na kena sega ni yacovi saka tiko na tuvuka ni veivakatoroicaketaki kei na rawa ka vei keda na Kawa Itaukei.

E ra kuria ni gauna e mai tekivu veiqaravi

kina na Matanitu Cokovata esa tuvani talega kina eso nai walewale matau mena vakamuri mena rawa ni vakavotukana kina na vei sasaga oqo. E mai kacivi ena yabaki sa oti (2023) nai sevu ni gauna mera bose vata kina na Mata Ni Yaubula ena noda vanua ka sa mani duvata ne sana dolavi e dua na nodra akaude na Itaukei ni Yaubula.

E sa mani laki veitalanoataki ena National Economic Summit ka vakadonua na Bose Levu Vakaturaga ka qaravi ena yanuyanu o Bau. Esa mai vakadonuya talega na Bose Yaco me sana vakayacori na Vakadidike ni na rawa ni vakavotukanataki na vakatutu me dua na nodra baqe na taukei ni iyaubula.

“Na Tabacakacaka Itaukei esa vakadadamuria na nodra I walewale ni nodra veiqaravi na noda qase , oya na cakacaka ni solesolevaki ka vakatokai tiko na Solesolevaki Framework.”

“Na nodra vukei na Taukeni Qoligoli e veitomani mai kina na Tabacaka iTaukei, Na Matabose ni Qele Maroroi,(ITLTB), Matabose ni Lavo Maroroi(TTFB), Tabana Ni Vakaturaga ni Itaukei(FHL), Koronivuli ni Veivakarautaki mai Nadave(CATD) ka vaka kina na Valenivolavola ni Veitarogivanua, Wai kei na Iqoligoli.”

E tomana o Hon Tuiwailevu ni votavota vakailavo e \$1000,00 ina Tabacakacaka Itaukei ka mani vagolei sara kina Tabana Ni Vakaturaga ni Kawa Itaukei(FHL) me qarava na vakadidike.Sa qarava vinaka na FHL na vakadidike me baleta na kena vakaduri na Baqe ni Itaukei ni Yaubula kei na Vakaduri ni Bisinisi lalai se MSME.

“E ratou qarava talega na vakadidike na Invox Business Solutions ka vakadeitaki rawa ni na vakaduri e dua na baqe me

tagava na nodra gagadre vakailavo na iTaukei ni Iyaubula kei na vakaduri Bisinisi lalai tale eso.”

Na vakatutu ena ripote ena qai laveti kina Bose Yaco me veitalanoataki ka vakatulewataka na ituvatuva me cakacakataki.E tiko talega na vakatutu me na tuvai koya kina vakamatau na matanitu me vaka na kena vakarautaki e dua na tobu ni veivuke vakailavo se credit-enhancement scheme kei na vanua me bucini kina na vakaduri bisinisi se Incubator/accelerator training facilities.

E mai tinia o Hon Tuiwailevu sai koya na kena tuvani ka vakamuri na tuvatuva ni veivakatoroicaketaki kana veisautaka vakadua na buturara ni cicivaki bisinisi ka na vueta na rawaka vakailavo ni Itaukei e Viti.



VAKACAUCAUTAKI E 10 NA GONE MAI NA DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS



Na Turaga Na Peresitedi ko Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere kei ira na 10 na Gonevuli ka ra a mai ciqoma na metali ni Duke of Edinburgh

E mai cereki e dua na drauniveva vou ena kena mai vakayacori nai sevu ni gauna e Naiqasiqasi na nodra itikoitko na Turaga na Peresitedi ni Noda Vanua ka Turaga na Tui Macuata o Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere ena kena mai vakayacori na soqo ni soli na nodra metali e 10 na gone ena vuku ni veiqaravi ka ra sa mai cakava voli.

E na nodra isevu ni vosa na Turaga Peresitedi era vakaraitaka kina na kena mai ciqomi na metali koula e sai vakaraitaki ni nodra cakacaka vakagumatua kei na gugumatua ena kena gadrevi na veisau ena nodra dui bula ka vaka kina na nodra dui tikotiko.

“Au vakavinavinakataki ratou talega na itubutubu , dauniveiqaravi, kei ira na lewe ni vuvale, Vinaka Vakalevu na soli tiko na gauna , ka kena ilutua na kena yalo ni veitokoni ena nodra i lakolako”.

“Na kena mai vakayacori na 2024 Duke of Edinburgh International Awards e sa kena isevu talega ,me mai vayacori ena Naiqasiqasi ,kau marautaka vakalevu na kena raici tiko na kena mai vakayacori na soqo oqo, ka dua naka au raica na kena vakayacori na vakavinavinaka ena kena mai caka e Naiqasiqasi.

Kemuni na Turaga kei na Marama oira na 10 na itabagone oqo e tiko na nodra yabaki ni bula mai na 16-kina 23 ka ra lewe ni soqosoqo ni Tabagone ena Wasewase e Loma (Central Division) ka ra vola yaca ena ruku ni Tabana ni Tabagone kei na Qito. E oka kina na soqosoqo ni Tabagone e Vanuadina, Wakanisila, Tokatoka Nabaramai

ka vaka kina na Holy Spiritual Congregation.

Na gone era mai taura na nodra metali e oka kina o Amali Kauyaca ,Lote Daulakeba, Taito Dakunivos, Tevita Geka, Savaira Lebamaiwasa kei na tacina o Emele Saufaasi, Adi Saitoro, Josivini Loaniceva kei Alumita Gunatawamudu Saitoro e ratou sa cakacaka sara vakaukauwa na kena mai vakacavari na metali varasa kei na siliva ka mai rawati nikua na metali koula.

Na porokaramu ni Duke of Edinburgh International Awards esa dau vakayacori balavu tu mai kai vakatakilakila vinaka ena kena vakatoroicaketaki na nodra bula na tabagone, nodra vakaitavi taki ira ena veitikotiko ka vakarabailevutaka na raivotu ni Matanitu ena kena vakaukauwataki nai Tabagone me ra na rawa ni ra tamata nuitaki ena nodra gauna ni veiqaravi.

Esa tomana tiko ga na Matanitu ena kena veiweisei taki yani na porokaramu ni kena raici na nodra bula nai Tabagone . Ena kena veitokoni mai na Tabana ni Qito kei na Tabagone ena kena liutaki na Porokaramu oqo vakabibi na Duke of Edinburgh ka sa dua na cavu ikalawa levu ka sa mua tale tiko ga kina dua na vanua donu.

“Au via vakacaucautaki ira talega na vakarautaka nai cocovi oqo , His Royal Highness na Duke of Edinburgh vata na Minisita Ni Vuli mai Jamani o Kurt Hahn ,koa mai raica na kena gadrevi na kena bucinu na sore ni kau ni kena vuli ka kei na veivakatoroicaketaki vei ira na

gone kei nai Tabagone.”

E mai vayacori e Viti na soli ni cocovi oqo ena 1960 ka vakayacori ena Derek Institute e Suva ka sa mai Fiji National University of Fiji ena gauna qo.

Na soli ni metali oqo ena rawa ni veibolei vei ira na gone mai na yabaki 14-kina 24 ka salamuria na kena qaravi nai tavi duidui ena so na vanua. Na kena mai soli na metali oqo esa vakilai na nodra rawa ka na itabagone , e sega ni vulici kece ga na ka ena loma ni valenivuli.

Nai naki ni vuli e sega ni vakatabakidua enai cocovi , e tokona talega na veika e sotavi ena vuli, ka cinavi kina na nodra bula nai Tabagone ena kena tarai cake na nodra yalodei, na nodra kila vakacakacakaca , na kena maroroi na tiko bulabula ni yago kei na vakasama ,vakavinakataki na veitikotiko ka vaka kina na kena ciqomi nai vei nakinaki eso.



Au vakabauta ni nodra vakavulici na itabagone ka sa dua nai dusidusi levu vei ira ena kena raici na veiveisau ka vakausivi na kena gadrevi na duavata ena veitikotiko.

E kuria na Turaga na Peresitedi ni veidredre kece sara era sotava ena kena rawati na metali e sa na solia sara e levu na kila vei ira ka vaka kina na bula vakayalo.E vakavinavinavinakataki ira na qasenivuli kei ira nai vakalesilesi ena vuku ni nodra solia na nodra gauna ena nodra raici nai Tabagone ena nodra vakaitavi taki ira ena kena rawati na Metali Koula.

E sa vakasalataki ira na mai taura na Metali Koula na Turaga Peresitedi ni matanitu, na vanua o Viti vaka kina na n na vuvale e ratou sa vakanuinui vinaka ka nuitaka nina tokoni tale tiko ga na sasaga me baleta na Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

TAWANI TALE NAI TUTU NI TUI LEVUKA NI OTI E 16 NA YABAKI



O Ratu Etonia Seru na Turaga Na Tui Levuka

Era sa buli ka vakatikori o Ratu Etonia Seru Rokotuinaceva ki nai tutu Vakaturaga na Tui Levuka. E soqo na Vanua, Lotu kei na Matanitu ena nodra mai Duavata kei na dela ni vanua o Nabukebuke ena nodra buli na Turaga na Tui Levuka.

Era a buli taumada na Turaga na Tui Levuka enai ka 5 ni Okotova, 1993 o Ratu Kolinio Rokotunaceva ni se bera nira qai mai vakacegu ena yabaki 2008,ia sa mai nona na lagilagi o Ratu Etonia Seru Rokotunaceva ka nisa mai oti e 31 na yabaki na kena mai vakayacori tale na veiqaravi cecere vaka oqo.

A laki vakasavui nai tukutuku ni veibuli kina vei delaniyavu era sema vakadra kina vanua , oqo e oka kina o Ratu mai Verata, Turaga na Tui Namosi, Turaga na Buli Solevu, Turaga na Tui Navatu mai Bua, Tui Kade mai Koro, oka talega kina na Turaga ni vanua ena Yanuyanu o Gau , Na Turaga na Tui Nuku kei na Turaga na Tui Vatu,era bau mai veitomani tale tiko ga na Turaga na Takalaigau mai Sawaieke kei na Turaga na Tui Wailevu e Lovoni.

E totoka nida sarava na kena dei tu na veisema ni veiwekani kece sara ena vuku ni nodra sega ni tiko dei na veiwekani nira nanuma na vanua ena nodra via laki vakadinadinataka na veivagunuvi vakaturaga ena vanua o Nabukebuke. Era vakarautaka na nodra isulu ka vaka kina na kena ukutaki ni Bure na Vuvale mai na Vanua o Bau ka veitokoni talega kina na Vanua o Nadawa na vanua e drodro mai kina na medra wainisucu na Turaga Na Tui Levuka.

Era laki vakaitavi talega na Minisita ni Tabacakakaca Itaukei, Tovo kei Na Iyau Vakamareqeti o Hon Ifereimi Vasu ka vaka kina na Tabana ni Veitarogivanua ena kena mai soli nai vola ni vakadeitaki vaka Matanitu ki vua na Turaga Na Tui Levuka.

Ni mai cadra cake na Siga Vakarauwai e ra colata na vatavata na Batileka mai na koro o Vagadaci na nodra I itikotiko na Turaga na Tui Vagadaci , ka ra yadrava nai lakolako na bati balavu mai na koro ko Vuma na nodra itikotiko na Turaga na Tui Vuma. E ra mai Tawana tu na nodra bure ena loma ni bogi 4 ni bera nira laki sili ka akayacori talega na soqo ni vakamamaca kei na solevu ena itavi bibi vakavanua.

Era sa mai tawana na nodra itikotiko o Ratu Etonia Seru Rokotuinaceva ena nodra itikotiko ka ra na qai laki sili tale ena tobu ka vakatokai me o Naivitabua ena koro ko Nukuloa, Gau. Oqo na sema ni veiwekani vakavanua ena vanua o Nabukebuke na nodra ni tikoitiko na Turaga na Tui Vatu kei na Tui Nuku. E na qai laki vakayacori na sili vakavanua oqo enai ka 2 ni macawa ni vula o Seviteba, 2024.

VAKAMATATATAKI NA KENA VAKAU NA TUNA ENA BOSE LAWAWA



Na Minisita ni Qoliqoli kei na Veikau o Hon Kalaveti Ravu ena saumi lesu na taro me baleta na Tuna ena Bose Lawa.

E mai vakamacalataka ena Bose Lawa na Minisita ni Qoliqoli kei na Veikau o Hon Kalaveti Ravu na veitalanoa me baleta na kena vakau(Export) nai voli ena noda

vanua na Tuna, ka sauma lesu kina na taro e tarogi mai vei ratou na To ni Veisaqa ena vuku ni kena gadrevi mena vakamatatataki ni Tuna esa rawa. Ni tokona na veika me baleta na Matanitu me vaka ni toso cake

sara tiko nai wiliwili ni kena voli ena veivanuatani.

E nai sevu ni nodra vosa era vakaraitaka kina na bibi ni kena dodonu mena kilai na duidui ni vakatagedegede ni ika e dau vakayagataki mena rawa ni dau rawa kina nai voli ni Tuna. E era vakaraitaka ni 3 nai wasewase na kena I matai sai koya na Waqa ni qoli e Viti, na waqa ni qoli mai vanua tani ka vaka kina na waqa mai vanua tani era dau tu ena vei wavu eso.

“Na Tuna e sega ni dua na kena iyalayala , me vaka nira dau veitosoyaki tuga , dua na kena ivakaraitaki kevaka eda rawata e ena noda qoliqoli nikua , ena rawa talega ni tiko mai Tonga se na wasawasa levu ni mataka”.

E ra kuria ni veidredre e dau sotavi e sega ni dau vakalailaitaka na kena rawati na takete ka toso cake talega kina na kena dau rawati na Tuna mai vei ira na Waqa ni qoli ena noda vanua ka vaka kina na waqa ni qoli mai vanua tani kara dau kele mai ena noda vanua.

E vakavinavinakataka talega o Hon Ravu ena vuku ni lawa e virikotori, ka vaka kina na veidinadinati, me

baleta vakatabakidua na Tuna ena noda vanua.

“Na Matanitu oqo esa cakacaka vakavoleka sara kei na kena muri na lawa me na tokona na kena tubu nai wiliwili ni waqa ni qoli ena toba o Suva, me baleta vakatabakidua na veiqaravi”.

Na Matanitu sa oti e mai biuta talega na kena dau saumi na waqa era dau siko mai ka sa vakalutuma talega kina nai wiliwili, e mai kau laivi. Na Tabana ni Qoliqoli esa tomama tiko ga na nodrau veidinadinati(Agreement) kei na kabani na Fong Chung Formosa Company Limited (FCF).

Na veidinadinati oqo e oka talega kina na Matanitu o Taiwan ena kena soli mai eso nai yaya kina kabani na PAFCO ka veivuke sara vakalevu ena Yasana o Lomaiviti.

E mai tinia na nodra vosa o Hon Ravu e vakaraitaka kina na kena tokoni tiko na kabani ni Tuna ena noda vanua , ka vaka kina na veiqaravi sena veivuke mai na Matanitu ena kena tokoni tiko na Tabana ni Qoliqoli ka mena tubu sara vakalevu na kena veiqaravi.

VUKEI OIRA NA LEWE NI YANUYANU E VANUABALAVU ENA GAUNISALA NI TEITEI



E ra lewe 37 na Dauteitei ena Yanuyan o Vanuabalavu ena yasana o Lau e ra sa marau ena vuku ni kena sa mai vakavinakataki na nodra gaunisala ka vakaitavi kina na Tabacakacaka ni Teitei kei na Salasala ni Wai ka sa mai vakacavari sara ena dua na delana cecere.

E vakarautaka na Tabacakacaka ni Teitei na misini kina na loma ni

yanuyan ka laki veiqaravi kina ena loma ni 3 na macawa.

“Oira na Dauteitei oqo e sega ni rawa ni ra tosoya na nodra teitei ena vuku ni kena sotavi tiko na dredre, ena vuku ni vakadidike e ratou qarava na Tabacakacaka ni Teitei, esa soli kina na Misini ena Yanuyan o Vanuabalavu, e ra tekivu mera sa cakava na nodra gaunisala ki nai teitei, ka sa dua na veivuke levu sara

vei ira.”

E kuria o Hon Rayalu ni ratou raica tale tiko ga na Yanuyan o Lakeba kei Moala ena vuku ni kena mai ciqomi talega na nodra gagadre ena.

“E na gauna sana vakacavari kina na Yanuyan o Vanuabalavu , keitou sana cakacaka vakaveivolekati kei na veitabana kece ni Matanitu ka vaka kina na mata mai na veikorokoro ena vuku ni kena vakavinakataki se ta na gaunisala kina vei vanua ni teitei ka vaka kina na kena vakarautaki na vanua mena teivaki.”

Era mai vosa talega na Principal Agriculture Officer ena Tokalau o Nimilote Waqabaca ena vuku ni kena sa vakacagau tiko na cakacaka ka sa tekivu talega na nodra cakacakataki ira ena kena tuvani ka muri na porokaramu ni Teitei.

“E tiko talega na katavila ena vuku

ni kena vakarautaki na qele , ka rauta ni 6 na eka na qele esa vakarautaki me vakatabakidua ena kena teivaki na tavioka ka ratou lewena e 8 na dauteitei mai na koro ko Malaka, Urone, Boitaci kei Narocivo.”

“Keimami sa marau vakalevu kina matanitu ka vaka kina na Tabacakacaka ni Teitei kei na Salasalanwai ena vuku ni veivuke. E ra tagica tu mai na veivakatoroicaketaki ena vica na yabaki sa sivi ka lutu dina ena dela ni vatu , e na gauna e liu keimami dau vakayagataka ga na ose se taubale.”

E sa vakaraitaka talega o Hon Rayalu ni sa tu vakarau na Tabacakacaka ni Teitei ena vuku ni nodra vukei na lewenivanua ena veigaunisala me rawa nira vukei ira kina na nodra vuvale ka vaka kina na sala ni nodra rawa i lavo kei na veivakatorocaketaki eso.

VEIVAKADEITAKI NA MINISITA NI SUKA ME BALETA NA QAQI NI SUKA E RAKIRAKI



Na Minisita ni Suka o Charan Jeeth Singh ena Bose Lawa ka vakamacalataka tiko na veika me baleta na Qaqi ni Suka e Rakiraki.

“E tiko na gagadre ni kena vakalevutaki na suka ena vanua o Rakiraki me vaka ni dau yaco tu mai ena veigauna sa sivi me yacova mai na 2016. Kevaka mena tubu na kena tamusuki na dovuni kina 60% ena rawa nida yacova na 250,000 na tani na suka, ka dau rawati tu mai ena veiyabaki sa oti.”

Oqori na veika e mai vakaraitaka ena Bose Yaco na Minisita ni suka o Hon Charan Jeeth Singh. E ra kaya kina ni ena kena sagai me tubu vakalevu na kena rawati na suka esa tiko nai tuvatuva na kena raici na vanua ni

tei dovuni e Ellington 1 kei na Ellington 2 ka laurai ni 20% na tiki ni qele.

“Keitou sa biuta e so na porokaramu ena nodra vakauqeti mai na dauteidovu me ra na tomana tale nai walewale ni nodra musu dovuni mena rawa ni siwati ira na dau teidovu vou.”

“Na porokaramu oqo e salavata mai kei na veivuke vakailavo (Grant), na kena soli na wainimate (Fertilizer) ena soli tale tiko ga na \$5 dua na tani ena kena toosi cake na veika e rawa, soli tale tiko ga na porokaramu me baleti

ira na daucakacaka ena loga ni veidovu, vakarautaki na nodra I yaya ni cakacaka, ka vakavinakataki na veimataqali tei kece ni dovuni ka na rawa nina rawati mai kina e levu na suka.”

E vakaraitaka talega o Hon Singh nina gadrevi na gaunisala vivinaka vei ira na Dautei Dovuni, ka sa tuvani tiko kina na kena caka vakavunaka na gaunisala, sasala ni wai mena rawa ni tarova na drake veisau. Na kena tokoni na porokaramu oqo ena rawa ni vukei ira na Dauteitei na kena tamusuki e levu na suka.

E tomama na Turaga Minisita ni ratou sa raica talega na nodra na vakararamataki na Dau Tei Dovuni ena gaunisala mera na rawa kina e levu sara na tani ka vaka kina na kena rawati e levu sara nai lavo. Oqo e oka kina na kena vulici na vakayagataki ni misini, na vakayagataki na wainimate kei na duiudi ni qele.

Na porokaramu oqo e liutaka na Tabana Ni Vakadidike ni Suka (Sugar Research Institute of Fiji) ka vaka kina na Tabana ni Suka (Fiji Sugar Corporation) ka sa tu na veivakabauti nina tosoya cake na kena rawati e levu sara na suka ka vaka kina na nodra rawa ka valavu na Dauteitei.

E sa veivakasalataki talega na Turaga Minisita ki vei ira na i Tabagone m era cuqena na kena teivaki na dovuni, ni oqo ena vukei ira sraa vakalevu ena kena tamusuki na rawati talega mai kina e dua nai lavo vinaka, ka na laveta cake tale na I vakarau ni nodra teitei kina dua tale nai tagede.

RAWATI NA TATADRA ENA VUKU NI SASAGA NI TEI DOVUNI

“O ira kece na Dauteidovu e na dodonu mena tiko na nodra katavila mena veisautaka na veika era sa vakayacora oti mai na Noda Qase.”

Oqori na nona mala ni vosa o Salacieli Navau Romulo na turaga yabaki 54 ka cavutu mai na koro ko Nabalabala ena Tikina ko Tokaimalo ena loman ni yasana o Ra. O Navau e dua vei ira na Dauteidovu mai na Mua ira ka mai ciqoma talega na nona Katavila ena siga Moniti (3.6.24) ka veivuke mai kina na Sugarcane Growers Fund.

Na koro ko Nabalabala e tiko ena Colo ni vanua ena loma ni yasana o Ra ka dua nai vurevure ni lavo levu ena loma ni tikotiko sai koya na kena teivaki na dovuni. E na nona isevu ni vakamacala nei Navau sai koya na kena dau tu na veivuke e vagolei vakatabakidua ki vei ira na Dauteidovu. E

na nona mai ciqoma na veika e gadreva voli tu mai ena dua na gauna balavu e vakaraitaka nisa saumi na nona masu ka sa vakacegu talega kina na yalona.

Na veivuke oqo e vakarautaka na Sugar Cane Growers Fund, ka usutu levu ni sasaga oqo me na tarai cake kina na nodra rawaka na Dauteitei.

Kevaka edua e gadreva mena okati ena veivuke oqo ena dodonu mena tiko ena 200 ka lako cake na tani ni dovuni ka sana tadola saraga vei iko na katuba ni veivuke.

E \$45,000 nai sau vakailavo ni Katavila, ia na veivuke e solia mai na Business Link Pacific, na kabani ka vakarurugi ena Sugarcane Growers Fund.

“Vei keimami na dauteidovu ena dodonu me keimami na solia e \$9000 mena deposit ka vaka kina mena 200 na tani na dovuni, ya sana tadola saraga na katuba

ni veivuke.”

Na kabani na Business Link Pacific e dua na kabani mai na Matanitu o Ositerelia ka veivuke sara vakalevu ena kena dau vakailavotaki na veivuke ka solia kina e \$36,000 me vukea na kena voli na Katavila. Sa I tavi ga ni Dauteitei na kena vakayagataki kei na kena saumi lesu nai

votavota era taura mai vakadinai (Loan).

E mai tinia o Navau nisa dodonu me ra sana veisau na nodra vakarau ni rai na Dauteidovu, me vaka ni ra dau vakayagataki Bulumakau tug a e liu ena kena dau vakarautaki na nodra qele ni teitei.



E taba toka oqori o Romulo Navau kei Amelia Rokoira ena vuku ni kena mai ciqomi na Katavila ka veivuke kina na Sugarcane Growers Fund.

Noda Viti

Sigatabu, 9 ni Jiune, 2024, 8 Drauniveva, 8 ni Tabana, 15 ni Lavelave ni Ivola | www.fiji.gov.fj @FijiGovt Fiji Government

TOKONI NA KUMUNI LAVO ME BALETA NA KENA TAQOMAKI NA MATA.

BLACK & WHITE CHARITY BALL 2024



“Meu tekivu mada ena kena tokoni se vakaraitaka na kena tokoni na taqomaki na mata ena noda vanua vakabibi vei ira na marama , e kauta lesu na vakanananu ena gauna au raica na vugoqu o Nau Viwa, ka tauvimate ni suka ka laki buwawa sara kina na matana. Na vakadidike e tiko ni mata e dua na ka bibi kina noda bula ena veisiga ena noqu bula kei na noqu vuvale, e bibi kina na noda karon e dua.”
Na nodra mala ni vosa na marama na First Lady o Vilomena Katonivere ena

soqo ni Black and White Charity Ball me baleta vakatabakidua na tabana ni Mata (Pacific Eye Institute) ka vakayacori ena nodra itikotiko na Turaga Na Peresitedi ni noda vanua.
E na dua na porokaramu ni kumui lavo e biuta vata o Madama Vilomena, Mrs Emily Lalabalavu, ka vaka kina o Mrs Suluweti Rabuka, ka vakadinadinataka e drau na lewenivanua ena nodra laki veitokoni yani ena sasaga oqo. E kune votu na yalo ni loloma, veikawaitaki ka oqo e dua na gaunisala ni kena rawatio na nodra takete na se na vakavinakataki na maroroi ni matadra na lewenvanua

e Viti.
“Keimami marau ena vuku ni veivuke mai na Tabana ni Pacific Eye Institute ena vuku ni kena vakarautaki nai yaya ni veiqaravi ka vaka talega kina na kena veiwaseitaki na veivakasala eso me vaka na mate ni suka, kei na mate sureti ka na rawa ni laki vakavuna sara na buwawa ni mata.”
E vakavinavinakataka talega na marama na First Lady na tabana ni veiqaravi mai Niusiladi me vaka na Fred Hollows ena vuku ni veivuke me baleta na matanitu o Viti ka vaka kina na Wasa Pasivika.
E vakaraitaka na iliuliu ni Tabana ni

veiqaravi na Fred Hollows o Dr Audrey ni vakayacori e vica na vakadidike ena noda vanu ka vaka kina na Wasa Pasivika ni tubu cake sara tiko nai wiliwili ni mataboko ka rauta ni 90%.
E ra mai tinia ena nodra vakavinavinaka ena vuku ni kena tokoni na sasaga yaga oqo mena rawa ni dua na Viti vinaka ena veigaunsa sa tu e matada. E rauta ni \$17-,000 na levu ni lavo e kumuni rawa ka ra tiko talega kina na Paraiminisita ni noda vanua, Na Sivika ni Boselawa ka vaka kina na vulagi sureti.

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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वाईदामूदामू नउसोरी के निवासी इसी महीने ज़मीन के लोट के लिए अर्ज़ी लगा सकेंगे जहाँ उन्हें 99 सालों की लीस मिल सकती है



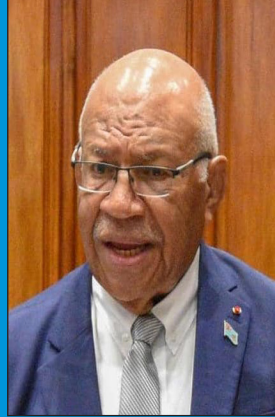
पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 3 पर

वाईलेवू लम्बासा में नए मेडिकल सेन्टर का उद्घाटन होने से वहाँ के निवासियों को मिल रही सेवाओं में भारी सुधार हो गया है



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 6 पर

मंत्रीमण्डल तथा संसद सदस्यों के वेतन में वृद्धि अभी नहीं हुई है तथा इससे पहले कई प्रक्रियाओं से होकर गुज़रने की ज़रूरत है



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 7 पर

न्यू जीलैन्ड से मिलेगी नई सहायता



न्यू जीलैन्ड के प्रधान मंत्री माननीय किस्टफा लक्सन अपने तीन दिनों के फीजी दौर पर प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका से मुलाकात करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

फीजी के प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका और न्यू जीलैन्ड के प्रधान मंत्री माननीय किस्टफा लक्सन ने अपनी द्विपक्षीय बातचीत में सामाजिक आर्थिक विकाश और समृद्धि के लिए एक स्थायी साझेदारी बनाने के लिए दोनों देशों की प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि की गई। दोनों नेताओं ने एक जुड़े हुए बयान में उन क्षेत्रों पर प्रकाश डाला जहाँ फीजी और न्यू जीलैन्ड के विश्व विचारों में समानता है और भविष्य के सहयोग के लिए महत्वकांक्षी लक्ष्य और न्यू जीलैन्ड और फीजी के बीच व्यापार और पूंजी लगाने के अवसरों को बढ़ाने की उनकी संयुक्त आकांक्षा निर्धारित की। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने न्यू जीलैन्ड सरकार की उस घोषणा का स्वागत किया जहाँ फीजी नागरिकों को न्यू जीलैन्ड के मार्फित किसी और देश तक

सफर करने के लिए ट्रान्सीट विज़ा की ज़रूरत नहीं होगी, और आगे कहा कि इससे आर्थिक गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा मिलेगा और फीजी के नागरिक आसानी से न्यूजीलैन्ड के माध्यम से सफर करने में कामयाब होंगे। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने न्यूजीलैन्ड की सराहना की कि वे मान्यता प्राप्त सीज़नल एम्प्लोया स्कीम के नीचे अगले पाँच सालों तक फीजी के मजदूरों को वहाँ नौकरी प्रदान करके सहायता प्रदान करेंगे। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने छोटे तथा मध्यम व्यापारों के विकास, प्रायवट सेक्टर को सक्षम करने वाले ढाँचे, डिजिटल अर्थ-व्यवस्था और मछली पालन सहित फीजी की आर्थिक स्थिति मजबूत करने की दिशा में न्यूजीलैन्ड से विस्तारित समर्थन का स्वागत किया है। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने दुवावाता साझेदारी के प्रति प्रधान मंत्री लक्सन की प्रतिबद्धता को कृतज्ञतापूर्वक स्वीकार किया तथा

इस साझेदारी को रेखांकित करने वाले समान मूल्यों के महत्व में उनके विश्वास की पुष्टि की। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने कहा कि दोनों सरकारों की प्राथमिकताओं के अनुरूप इस साल बाद में साझेदारी पर फिर से विचार किया जाएगा। इसके अतिरिक्त, प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने फीजी को समर्थन देने के लिए न्यू जीलैन्ड सरकार और लोगों की हार्दिक सराहना की। उन्होंने प्रधान मंत्री लक्सन को सही समय पर फीजी का दौरा करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया जो अर्थव्यवस्था, व्यापार और पूंजी लगाने, मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव, प्राकृतिक विपत्तियों के लिए तैयार होने, मजदूरों को सहायता, देश की सुरक्षा, मछली पालन, कृषि, स्वास्थ्य और प्राथमिकता वाले क्षेत्रों में फीजी के साथ सहयोग को फिर से जीवित करने की न्यू जीलैन्ड की प्रतिबद्धता का प्रतीक है। दोनों नेताओं ने इस साल अगस्त में

तोन्गा में होने जा रहे प्रशान्तीय द्वीपों के सम्मेलन पर भी बातें की।

जवाब में प्रधान मंत्री लक्सन ने कहा कि फीजी न्यूजीलैन्ड का महत्वपूर्ण भागीदार है और व प्रशान्त में फीजी की नेतृत्व को देखते हैं, वे मूल्यों और हितों तथा अपने क्षेत्र के सामने आने वाली चुनौतियों पर मिलकर काम करते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि वो प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका की तमन्ना से सहमत है कि टज़्टड तक दोनों देशों के बीच व्यापार दो बिलियन डोलर तक पहुँचे।

फीजी नागरिकों के लिए न्यू जीलैन्ड के ट्रान्सिट विज़ा की ज़रूरत हटाने से कई फीजीवासी आसानी से न्यूजीलैन्ड से होते हुए दुनिया से अन्य कोने तक पहुँचेंगे तथा उम्मीद है कि इससे यह क्षेत्र पर सकारात्मक आर्थिक प्रभाव पड़ेगा।

प्रधान मंत्री लक्सन ने न्यूजीलैन्ड के अंतरराष्ट्रीय विकास सहयोग कार्यक्रम के नीचे कई अन्य पहल की घोषणा की है जिनमें शामिल है:

- मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव के कारण लोगों को सुरक्षित जगह खिस्काने वाले ट्रस्ट फन्ड में ड.ध मिलियन न्यूजीलैन्ड डोलर और देना।

- नान्दी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर ओस्ट्रेलिया के साथ मिलकर हाए ट्रेम्पेचा फोस एयर सुविधा पर सुधार के लिए पाँच लाख बहत्तर हजार डोलर (NZ\$572,000) देना जिससे फीजी के पेड़-पौधे निर्यात करने वालों को न्यू जीलैन्ड की सत जैव सुरक्षा ज़रूरतें पूरी करने में मदद करेगा।

- एक न्यूजीलैड प्लान्ट और भोजन रिसेच की अगुवाई वाले कार्यक्रम के लिए 15.3 मिलियन न्यूजीलैन्ड डोलर की सहायता जो फीजी के अलावा चार अन्य प्रशान्तीय देशों को मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव के कारण उत्पादन पर असर से बचने के लिए होगा।

- 7.5 मिलियन न्यूजीलैन्ड डोलर फीजी सरकार का आर्थिक सुधार कार्यक्रम, जो राजकोषीय प्रबंधन और स्थिरता और आर्थिक तौर पर मजबूत होने में सुधार पर केन्द्रित है।



न्यू जीलैन्ड के प्रधान मंत्री का फीजी दौरा सफल रहा

रोनल देव

न्यू जीलैन्ड के प्रधान मंत्री माननीय क्रिस्टफा लक्सन इसी हफ्ते फीजी के दौर पर आए थे। माननीय लक्सन बुधवार पाँच जून से सात जून तक फीजी में थे। उनका फीजी दौरा, व्यापार और आर्थिक सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाने पर ध्यान देने के साथ दोनों देशों के पुनर्जीवित और व्यापक साझेदारी का प्रतीक है। प्रधान मंत्री लक्सन ने राष्ट्रपति रातू

विलियामे कातोनिवेरे से मुलाकात की तथा फीजी के प्रधान मंत्री तथा विदेश मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका के साथ भी द्विपक्षीय बातचीत की। दोनों प्रधान मंत्रियों ने आर्थिक स्थिरता और विकास, मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव, मजदूरों की गतिशीलता, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, रक्षा और सुरक्षा, लोगों से लोगों के बीच संबंधों पर जोर देने के साथ द्विपक्षीय प्राथमिकताओं पर हमारे दोनों देशों के बीच सहयोग को और मजबूत करने की सम्भावनाओं पर चर्चा की। क्षेतिर शान्ति और समृद्धि, हमारे राष्ट्र के लिए महत्-

वपूर्ण प्रमुख मुद्दों में से एक है। दोनों प्रधान मंत्रियों ने न्यू जीलैन्ड-फीजी तथा फीजी न्यू जीलैन्ड विज़नस काउन्सिल सम्मेलन में हिस्सा लिया जो एक मंच है अर्थ-व्यवस्था, व्यापार और पुँजी लगाने के अवसरों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए। फीजी के अपने दौर के महत्व पर बोलते हुए, प्रधान मंत्री क्रिस्टफा लक्सन ने कहा कि फीजी-न्यू जीलैन्ड के लिए महत्वपूर्ण भागीदार है। हमारे दोनों देशों के बीच साझेदारी न्यू जीलैन्ड के अधिकाँश लोगों की जानकारी

से कहीं अधिक बड़ी है, हमारे घनिष्ठ सुरक्षा सहयोग से लेकर हमारे व्यापारिक संबंधों तक और निश्चित रूप से रम्बी के प्रति हमारा एक जैसा प्रेम। फीजी के इस दौर पर व्यापार और आर्थिक महत्वपूर्ण ध्यान के केन्द्र था। प्रशान्तीय द्वीप देशों में फीजी हमारा सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक भागीदार है और न्यू जीलैन्ड तथा फीजी के व्यवसायों के लिए और भी अधिक आर्थिक अवसरों का लाभ उठाने की आशा है।

रूस्टा पौलट्री ने भारी पुँजी लगाई



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका, रूस्टा पौलट्री के नए प्रोसेसिंग प्लांट का उद्घाटन करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

रूस्टा पौलट्री ने हाल में भारी उपलब्धि हासिल की जब कम्पनी ने नवातू बा में तेरह मिलियन डोलर लागत उच्च कोटी के प्रोसेसिंग प्लांट सुविधा बिठाई है। प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने इस योजना का उद्घाटन करते हुए कहा कि इस दौरान केवल रूस्टा पौलट्री की उपलब्धियों पर ध्यान देना काफी नहीं है बल्कि हमारे राष्ट्र की खाद्य सुरक्षा तथा आर्थिक समृद्धि की यात्रा पर भी गौर करना चाहिए। रूस्टा पौलट्री का संचालन फिउचा फाम्स लिमिटेड कर रहा है जबकि कम्पनी ने लगातार विश्व स्तरीय खाद्य सुरक्षा और योग्य स्तर हासिल करके अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर मान्यता प्राप्त करके पिछले कुछ दशकों में भारी प्रगति की है। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने कहा कि रूस्टा अब एक धरेलू ब्रांड है, जो पूरे देश में प्रमुख सुपरमार्केट, रेस्तरां और हमारे टूरिज़्म व्यवसाय तक सप्लाई करते हैं। समाज के प्रति उनका योगदान चार सौ पचास कर्मचारियों के रोजगार से प्रमाणित होती है जो बा के अर्थव्यवस्था में अभिन्न भूमिका निभाते हैं। उनकी प्रगति से देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था पर भी सकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ा जबकि उन्होंने अपने व्यापार को बढ़ाने के लिए स्थानीय सप्लायर का

उपयोग किया था। रूस्टा पौलट्री जो एक स्थानीय कम्पनी है तथा स्थानीय तौर पर संचालित हो रही है ने विभिन्न समाजिक योजनाओं का समर्थन किया है और विशेष रूप से खेलकूद में हमारी युवकों के हुनर को विकसित करने, तथा राष्ट्रीय गौरव को बढ़ावा देने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण प्रायोजन में पुँजी लगाई। प्रधान मंत्री ने इस अवसर पर बी एस पी लाईव की सराहना की जो कि फिउचा फाम्स लिमिटेड के एकमात्र हिस्सेदार है। हमारे देश के भविष्य में महत्वपूर्ण पुँजी लगाना, रणनीतिक निगरानी, मजबूत प्रशासन और विश्वास के साथ इस व्यवसाय को बढ़ावा देने की उनकी प्रतिबद्धता को गहराई से स्वीकार किया गया है। यह समारोह इस बात को साबित करता है कि व्यापारियों का फीजी की अर्थ-व्यवस्था तथा गठबंधन सरकार की नीतियों पर भरोसा है। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने आगे कहा कि सरकार ने कड़ी मेहनत करके ऐसा वातावरण तैयार किया है जिसमें वे फल-फूल सकें। उन्होंने कहा कि रूस्टा पौलट्री ने अपने संसाधनों में सुधार लाकर यह साबित किया है कि उनका देश के भविष्य पर कितना भरोसा है। गठबंधन सरकार मानती है कि प्रायवट क्षेत्र प्रगति का मुख्य आधार है।

हमारे राष्ट्र पिता रातु सुकुना के जीवन की सीख



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका, स्वर्गीय रातु सुकुना की जीविनी पर प्रकाश डालते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

फीजी ने एक बार फिर अपने राजनेता रातु से चोसेफा लाला-म्बालावू वाना-याली-याली सुकुना की उपलब्धियों तथा योगदान के लिए समारोह मनाया। ई-तउकई मंत्रालय का कहना है कि 1995 में स्वर्गीय उच्च सामन्त रातु से एतुवाते दकोम्बाउ ने एक बयान निकाला था जहाँ उन्होंने कहा था कि हमें रातु सुकुना के जीवन को याद रखना चाहिए क्यों कि वो एक ऐसे व्यक्ति थे जिन्होंने देश में विभिन्न जाति के लोगों को एक साथ लाकर एकता की सूत्र में बाँधा था। रातु सुकुना का देहान्त हुए सड़सठ (67) साल हो चुके हैं लेकिन उन्होंने ई-तउकई लोगों तथा सामन्तों को प्रोत्साहित किया कि वे उँचे पद सम्भालें। रातु सुकुना की दूर दृष्टि से ई-तउकई नेता शिक्षित हुए ताकि जब बड़े बुजुर्गों का देहान्त हो तो वे उँची पदवी पर उनकी जगह ले सकें। रातु सुकुना के काम और उपलब्धियों के फल ने ई-तउकई समाज को आज़ादी के बाद आगे बढ़ने की नींव रखी है जबकि पहले वे जहाँ थे अब काफी आगे निकल चुके हैं। प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने कहा था कि हमें कभी भी स्वर्गीय रातु सुकुना को भूलना नहीं चाहिए जिन्होंने फीजी की बेहतरी के लिए भारी योगदान दिया। यही मुख्य कारण है कि क्यों गठबंधन सरकार, रातु सुकुना दिवस की सार्वजनिक छुट्टी वापस लाई है। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि इस समारोह से हमारे बच्चे देश के इतिहास के बारे में जानेंगे तथा उन्हें यह भी जानकारी होगी कि किन-किन लोगों ने इसमें अहम भूमिका निभाई थी। उनके अनुसार रातु सु-

कुना एक राजनेता थे जिन्होंने उन्नीस सौ सत्तर (1970) में फीजी की आज़ादी से पहले मंच स्थापित करने के लिए अपना सबकुछ न्योछावर कर दिया था। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने कहा कि रातु सुकुना दिवस वापस इसलिए लाया गया है ताकि हम एक परिवार, एक कोरो, एक समाज तथा एक स्कूल की तरह साथ आकर इस दिवस को मना सकें। “यह जानना बहुत ज़रूरी है कि रातु सुकुना ने एक राजनेता तथा एक बहादुर फीजीवासी होने के नाते इस देश के लिए क्या किया। एक बेहतर फीजी के लिए उन्होंने युवा अवस्था से अपना सबकुछ न्योछावर किया था। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि रातु सुकुना देश के इतिहास का हिस्सा इसलिए है क्यों कि उन्होंने ई-तउकई ज़मीनों के कानून, ई-तउकई अफेयस, ई-तउकई लेन्ड ट्रस्ट बोर्ड तथा फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडन्ड फन्ड की स्थापना की थी। “रातु सुकुना दुसरे विश्व महायुद्ध (world war two) का हिस्सा थे जहाँ उन्होंने अलग-अलग कोरो से युद्ध में हिस्सा लेने के लिए सैनिकों को भर्ती किया जिन्होंने उस वक्त ब्रिटिश राज की ओर से युद्ध किया था। जबसे वो युद्ध से लौटे तबसे वो फीजी सरकार का हिस्सा थे। रातु सुकुना के समारोह के दौरान शोधकर्ताओं (researchers), प्रोफेसरों को उनकी उपलब्धियों के बारे में बातें करना ज़रूरी है ताकि हमारे बच्चे, नाती-पोते उन लोगों के इतिहास के बारे में जाने जिन्होंने फीजी के विकास में मदद की है तथा हमें इस जगह पर पहुँचाया जहाँ हम आज खड़े हैं।

वईदामुदामु के निवासी इस महीने ज़मीन के लोट की अर्जी लगा सकते हैं

शीलता सिंह

हाउसिंग मंत्रालय ने नौसोरी स्थित वईदामुदामु के लिए लोट प्रदान करने की घोषणा की। इस योजना से वहाँ के रहने वालों को ज़मीन सुरक्षा और कम से कम 99 सालों की लीस प्रदान की जाएगी प्रक्रिया कि समयरेखा:

- शनिवार 8 जून से जानकारी के पत्र बाँटें जाएंगे।

- 14 जून से 17 जून तक अधिकारी अर्जी वाले फॉर्म बाँटेंगे। मंत्रालय के

अधिकारी कुछ समय के लिए वईदामुदामु में स्थित रहेगा ताकि लोगों को सहायता प्रदान की जासके। मंत्रालय के अधिकारी समय समय आपकी मदद करेंगे तथा आपको सही जानकारी देते रहेंगे और सवालों के जवाब लिखने में आपकी सहायता भी करेंगे। रेजिस्ट्रेशन करने के बाद अर्जी लगाने वालों को एक रेफरेंस नम्बर भी दिया जाएगा।

- 28 जून 8 जुलाई तक अर्जी का फॉर्म बटोरा जाएगा। मंत्रालय प्रक्रिया को बिना किसी छेड़खानी और शुद्धता के साथ

पूरी करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। अर्जी की प्रक्रिया खत्म होने के बाद एक जाँच की जाएगी ताकि यह अटल हो सके की किसी भी तरह की छेड़खानी नहीं हुई है। अर्जी लगाने वाले सफल लोगों को एक जाँच के बाद अधिकारियों द्वारा एक प्रस्ताव पत्र दिया जाएगा। यह योजना हाउसिंग नीति को मज़बूत करने कि फीजी सरकार की एक योजना है। वईदामुदामु के लोगो के लिए लीज़ की समस्या को सुलझा कर सरकार ना केवल अपनी प्रतिबद्धता दर्शाती है

बल्कि ज़मीन सुरक्षा के माध्यम से लोगो के जीवन में उजाला लाने कि कोशिश भी कर रही है।

और भी जानकारी के लिए आप संपर्क करें:

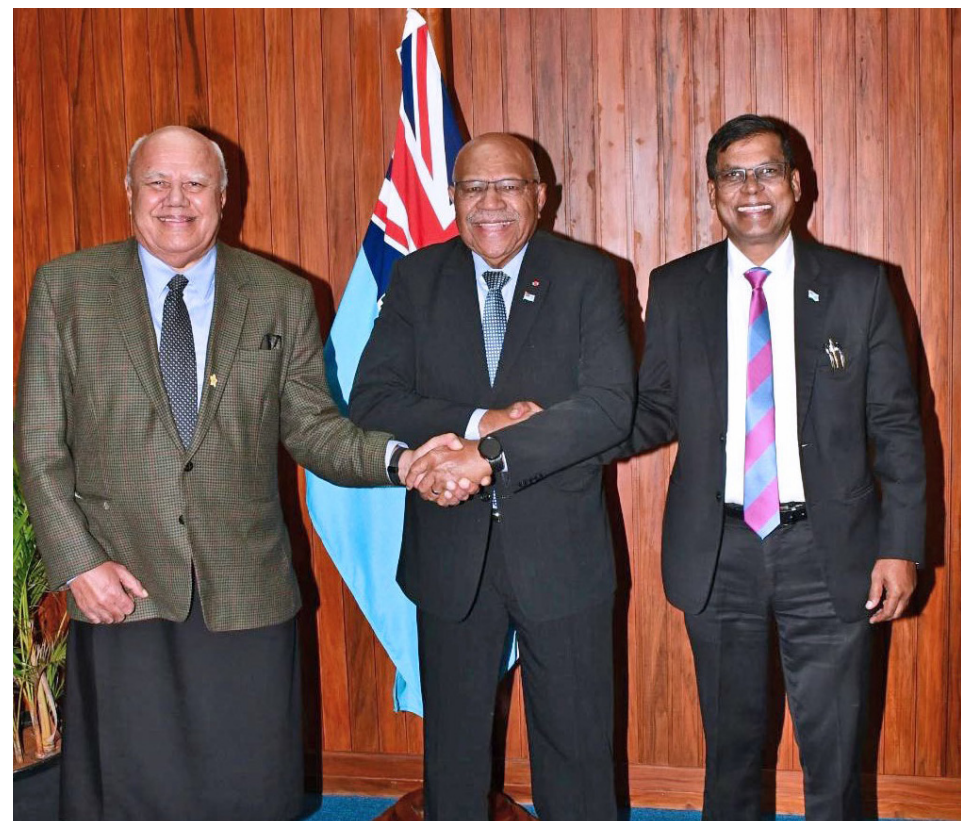
मनासा लेसुमा

परमानेंट सेक्रेटरी

हाउसिंग मंत्रालय

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गठबंधन सरकार अखंड है प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने रातू सुकुना की जीवनी पर प्रकाश डाला



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका, उप प्रधान मंत्री माननीय विलियामे गवोका तथा उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद एक ज़रूरी सभा के बाद

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका का कहना है कि गठबंधन सरकार मजबूत, अखंड और राष्ट्र सेवा के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। दो उप प्रधान मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद और माननीय विलियामे गवोका के साथ सभा करने के बाद प्रधान मंत्री ने ऐसा बयान निकाला।

उन्होंने स्वीकार किया कि चौबीस मई को संसद में वेतन बढ़ाने वाला बिल पेश करने के बाद पिछले कुछ सप्ताह से गठबंधन के लिए परीक्षा की घड़ी जैसी स्थिति सामने आ गई थी।

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने विनम्रतापूर्वक स्वीकार किया कि इस मामले को और अधिक समझदारी के साथ बेहतर ढंग से सम्भाला जा सकता था, जैसा कि चुने हुए प्रतिनिधियों से अपेक्षा की जाती है। गठबंधन सरकार की ओर से उन्होंने आम जनता से गहराई से माँफी माँगी कि यहाँ पर वे चूक गए।

उन्होंने राष्ट्र को विश्वास दिलाया है कि वे सबकी चिन्ताएं सुनते हैं तथा साथ मिलकर उन्हें सुलझाते हैं। निकट

भविष्य में राष्ट्र के नाम एक बयान में प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका उठाए गए विषयों के समाधान में आगे बढ़ने के सबसे अच्छे तरीकों को आम करेंगे।

अपने गठबंधन साझेदार के नेताओं से बातचीत करने के बाद, हम सहमत हुए कि हम इसकी पूरी ज़िम्मेदारी लेते हैं कि दिसम्बर 2022 के गठबंधन समझौते को बनाए रखने की हमारी प्रतिज्ञा अटल रहेगी। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि यह चारों ओर चिंतन का एक ज़रूरी क्षण है, और मतदाताओं ने उन्हें जो करने के लिए संसद में भेजा है उसे हासिल करने के लिए पुनर्जीवित नेतृत्व और जोश का समय है।

उन्होंने कहा कि एक पिता और दादा होने के नाते हमें पता है कि हर एक परिवार में गलतफहमियाँ तथा मतभेद पैदा हो सकते हैं, लेकिन दिन के अंत में परिवार, परिवार ही रहता है। गठबंधन सरकार भी अलग नहीं है, और हमें बस बेहतर करने की ज़रूरत है तथा बेहतर बातचीत और समझ, समझौते के लिए जगह तलाशने और समय निकालने की ज़रूरत है। फीजी के लोगों को इससे कम की उम्मीद नहीं है।

रोनल देव

यह ज़रूरी है कि फीजी के युवा, स्वर्गीय रातू सर लाला सुकुना के बारे में और शिक्षा हासिल करें क्योंकि वे नागरिकता में परिवर्तन करते हैं जो उन्हें फीजी के देशभक्तों में बदल देता है।

एलबर्ट पार्क सूवा में रातू सुकुना दिवस समारोह में मुख्य मेहमान के तौर पर अपना भाषण देते हुए प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने कहा कि पिछले कुछ दिनों में रातू सुकुना के कार्यों और देश की सेवा को फिर से उजागर किया गया जब वो शक्तिशाली ब्रिटिश साम्राज्य के सदस्य थे।

वो पहले फीजीवासी थे जिन्होंने युनिवर्सिटी में पढ़ाई की तथा कला और कानून में डिग्री हासिल की। एक सैनिक के रूप में उन्होंने सम्मान हासिल किया तथा गवर्नर के सहायक शिविर भी थे। स्वर्गीय रातू सुकुना, नईटिव लेंड्स कमिशन के चेयरमैन, डिस्ट्रिक्ट तथा प्रोविंशल कमिशनर तथा चीफ रिज़ेव कमिशनर थे। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि रातू सुकुना, काउन्सिल ऑफ चीफ्स, विधान परिषद तथा कोलोनी की संसद के सदस्य थे। फिर वो काउन्सिल के स्पीकर भी बने।

पहला विश्व महा युद्ध जो इतिहास का सबसे खूनी संघर्षों में से एक था के फैलने के साथ तुरन्त सत्ताईस वर्षिए सामन्त ने उस वक्त के ब्रिटन के महाराजा, साम्राज्य तथा मातृभूमि के लिए अपना योगदान देने की ठानी। ब्रिटिश सेना में भर्ती होने की प्रक्रिया बहुत कठिन था इसलिए वो ब्रिटिश सेना में भर्ती नहीं हो सके लेकिन इसके बजाय रातू सुकुना ने फ्रांसीसी विदेश सेना में भर्ती होने के लिए हस्ताक्षर किया।

रातू सुकुना का करियर शुरू होते ही उन्होंने खुद को शिक्षा की गहराई में डूबा हुआ पाया; 1909 से उन्होंने लाउ प्राँतिए स्कूल में सहायक मास्टर के रूप में कार्य किया और बाद में इसकी अगुवाई करने लगे। उन्होंने एक

शिक्षा कमिशन में काम किया। शिक्षा बोर्ड के सदस्य के रूप में रातू सुकुना को राष्ट्रीय शासन और उन्नति के इस प्रमुख क्षेत्र में अतिरिक्त दृष्टिकोण और अनुभव दिया।

रातू सुकुना की एक और उपलब्धि थी एक ज़मीन सुधार पहल जिसने देश के लोगों को एक साथ रहने और काम करने के लिए एक रूपरेखा प्रदान की। अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर प्रशंसित इस कार्य के परिणामस्वरूप अब इ-तउकेई लेन्ड ट्रस्ट बोर्ड का गठन हुआ। परिवर्तन की तत्काल ज़रूरत थी क्योंकि उस समय की पट्टा प्रणाली अक्सर भ्रष्ट और व्यवस्थित नहीं थी जो कि विकास में बाधा पहुँचा रहे थे।

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने आगे कहा कि रातू सुकुना ने अंग्रेज और अन्य यूरोपीय लोगों द्वारा फीजी में लाई गई आधुनिक तकनीक जैसे बिजली के गुणों की भी सराहना की। मई घणश में सूवा से लिखे एक पत्र में उन्होंने इस बात को खूबसूरती से कैद किया।

रातू सुकुना ने लिखा था कि सवेरा होने वाला है, और बिंजन तथा केरोसीन की बत्तियों के बाद, उठना और रोशनी करना और लिखना-पढ़ना बहुत सुखद है। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने रातू सुकुना को एक फीजी प्रमुख के रूप में याद किया जो मूल निवासियों के कल्याण के लिए गहराई से कार्य किया। लेकिन उन्होंने यह भी माना कि गिरमिटिया निवासियों के वंशजों के पास भी अधिकार और ज़रूरतें हैं।

अल्बर्ट पार्क सूवा में आयोजित रातू सुकुना दिवस समारोह में कुटनैतिज्ञ तथा मंत्रीमण्डल के सदस्य भी शामिल हुए थे। आम जनता के अलावा सेना, पुलिस ने भी इसमें हिस्सा लेने के लिए बारिश और ठंड के मौसम का सामना किया। समारोह के दौरान आँदी दकोम्बाउ स्कूल, क्वीन विकटोरिया स्कूल तथा बेलनटाईन मेमोरियल स्कूल के बच्चों ने भी पारंपरिक नृत्य पेश किया।

वनुआ लेवू आर्य समाज सम्मेलन धूमधाम से मनाया गया



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद ने अभी हाल में वनुआ लेवू आर्य समाज सम्मेलन का औपचारिक उद्घाटन किया जो एक दशक से ज्यादा समय बाद नन्दूना लम्बासा में आयोजित किया गया था। मंत्री प्रसाद ने देश में शिक्षा तथा महिलाओं को बढ़ावा देकर देश के योगदान में अपनी भूमिका निभाने के लिए संस्था को धन्यवाद दिया। अन्य धार्मिक संस्थाओं की तरह इस संस्था ने भी उत्तरी विभाग में विभिन्न शिक्षा संस्थाओं की स्थापना की थी तथा

उनका संचालन कर रहे है। इसलिए एक सरकार होने के नाते हम इस बात को ध्यान में रखना चाहते है कि विद्यार्थियों तथा स्कूल मैनेजमन्ट को ज़रूरी सहायता मिले। संस्था के जेनरल सकेटरी विज्ञा सागर का कहना है कि इस सम्मेलन के द्वारा संस्था में एकता को बढ़ावा दिया गया है तथा भविष्य की योजनाओं पर गौर करने का अवसर मिला है।

लम्बासा में डिजिसेल फीजी फेक्ट 2024



सरकार देश में सभी खेलकूद को मान्यता देती है। हालही में लम्बासा के सुबैरल पार्क में आयोजित डिजिसेल फीजी फेक्ट 2024 का औपचारिक उद्घाटन करते हुए उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद ने कहा कि खेलकूद देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था के लिए महत्वपूर्ण चालक है, जिससे कई पुँजी लगाई जाती है, देश में कई आर्थिक गतिविधियाँ होती है, नौकरियाँ पैदा होती है तथा लोगों की आमदनी का ज़रिया है। फुटबोल एक खेल से कई बढ़कर है जिससे लोग साथ आते है जिससे एकता की सूत में बँधते है।



सरकारी भवन में रातु सुकुना दिवस समारोह का जश्न



राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे तथा उनकी पत्नी विलोमेना कातोनिवरे ने रातू सुकुना दिवस के मौके पर सरकारी भवन पर आयोजित एक जश्न की मेज़बानी की। प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका तथा उनकी पत्नी सुलुएती रम्बूका के अलावा, मंत्रीमण्डल के सदस्य, संसद सदस्य, कूटनैतिज्ञ तथा आमंत्रित मेहमान भी इस जश्न में शामिल हुए थे। भुतपुर्व राष्ट्रपति तथा संसदीय स्पीकर रातू इपेले नईलातिकाउ ने भी जश्न में हिस्सा लिया था।



उप प्रधान मंत्री माननीय प्रसाद ने वाइलेवु, मटुआता में नए मेडिकल सेन्टर का उद्घाटन किया।

शीलता सिंह

उत्तरी विभाग के लोग अब सभी चिकित्सा सेवाओं से लाभ उठा सकेंगे जबकि लम्बासा शहर के बाहर वाइलेवु डायग्नोस्टिक और स्पेशलिस्ट मेडिकल सेन्टर (डीएसएम) को उद्घाटन किया गया। यह चिकित्सा केंद्र न केवल सामान्य चिकित्सा सेवाएं प्रदान करता है, बल्कि लैब टेस्ट, अल्ट्रासाउंड स्कैन

के साथ साथ एक्स-रे सेवाएं और फार्मसी भी बाद में खोला जाएगा। उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय बिमन प्रसाद ने उद्घाटन करते समय सभी फीजीवासियों को यह आश्वासन दिया की सरकार स्वास्थ्य सेवा में सुधार लाने को महत्व देती है। “इस तरह के डायग्नोस्टिक सेन्टर के खुलने से स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में सुधार तथा ग्रामीण इलाकों में बेहतर स्वास्थ्य

सेवा पहुँचाना सरकार का लक्ष्य है। उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि सरकार पब्लिक प्राइवट पार्टनरशिप (पीपीपी) के साथ मिल कर सभी फीजीवासियों तक स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदान करने की अपनी मजबूती को दर्शाता है। “इसमें मुफ्त स्वास्थ्य योजना शामिल है जिसके तहत लोग अब जनरल प्रैक्टिशनर्स, डेंटल प्रैक्टिशनर्स और अन्य मेडिकल सेवाएं से लाभ उठा

सकते हैं। उप प्रधान मंत्री माननीय प्रसाद ने डाक्टर राम राजु को वनुआ लेवु के लोगों के लिए स्वास्थ्य देखभाल की पहुंच में सुधार, डायग्नोस्टिक और स्पेशलिस्ट मेडिकल सेन्टर बनाने की प्रतिबद्धता के लिए बधाई दी है। यह क्लिनिक वेनमेड लैब के साथ साझेदारी में चल रहा है जिनके मालिक डाक्टर अरवीन चंद्रा हैं।

उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सड़क की मरम्मत



शीलता सिंह

“पहली बार कृषि और वोटोवेस मंत्रालय ने लाउ द्वीप में सड़कों के निर्माण और ज़मीन की तैयारी में सुधार लाने के लिए मशीनरी तैनात की है।” हाल ही में संसद के दौरान कृषि और वोटोवेस के मंत्री माननीय वतिमि रयालु ने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि मंत्रालय कृषि क्षेत्र के उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए खेतों तक पहुँचने वाले सड़कों का निर्माण करेगी। कृषि और वोटोवेस मंत्रालय ने इस साल कुल मिला कर 141 सड़कों पर काम किया है जिसकी लंबाई 242.7 किलोमीटर और चार नए रास्तों का निर्माण किया जिसकी लंबाई 5.7 किलोमीटर की थी। यह योजना किसानों की मुसीबतों को ध्यान में रखकर बनाई गई है। लाउ द्वीप में रहने वाले लगभग 248 लोगों को खेतों की सड़क सुधार

योजना से लाभ होगा तथा मंत्री रयालु ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि सड़क सुधार योजना अब किसानों के खेती करने के तरीकों को असान बनाएगा और किसानों को अपने सब्जियाँ बाज़ार तक पहुँचाने में असानी होगी। कुल मिला कर 3080 लोग इस योजना से लाभ उठाएंगे। “कृषि मंत्रालय विकास योजनाओं को प्रोत्साहित करता है तथा यह हमारे मंत्रालय का मुख्य उद्देश्य भी है।” मंत्री ने कहा। मंत्री रयालु ने यह भी कहा कि मंत्रालय सभी फीजीवासियों के लिए आर्थिक अवसर और भोजन की सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए अटल है। “मंत्रालय किसानों को सहायता प्रदान करने और रास्तों की हालत में सुधार लाने की योजनाओं को जारी रखेगा।” मंत्री रयालु ने कहा। “मंत्रालय इस बात पर ध्यान देगा कि वे अपने सभी आर्थिक प्रक्रियाओं को समय पर पुरा करें”

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बुका ने संसद को वनुआ लेवु के सड़क सुधार योजना के बारे में जानकारी दी



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बुका हाल में वनुआ लेवु के दौर पर सड़क सुधार वाली योजना पर गौर करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बुका के वनुआ लेवु में हो रहे सड़क सुधार योजना के बारे में संसद को जानकारी दी जिसके लिए चाईना इन्टानेशनल डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन एजन्सी ने आर्थिक सहायता दी है। यह योजना 2025 में शुरू होने की उम्मीद की जा रही है तथा दो से तीन सालों में खत्म होने की उम्मीद की जा रही है। प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बुका ने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि यह योजना टूरिज़म क्षेत्र में विकास और लोगों को वित्त लेवु जाने की सुविधा को सुखद बनाएगा। “एक चाईना नीति” के अनुसार फीजी और चाईना का संबंध लगभग उनचास सालों से है जिस के तहत यह योजना चाईना के बेल्ट और रोड इनिशिएटिव (बीआरआई) का हिस्सा है। “बीआरआई को आर्थिक, सहयोग, व्यापार और सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान को बढ़ावा देने के लिए बनाया गया है। यह हमारे राष्ट्र

विकास से मेल खाता है तथा यह हमारे देश का मुख्य उद्देश्य भी है”। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा। प्रधान मंत्री ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि फीजी, चीन के साथ सहयोग बढ़ाना जारी रखेगा तथा बीआरआई के नीचे कृषि जैसी क्षेत्रों में विकास लाया जाएगा। चाईना सहयोग योजना वनुआ लेवु में निचे लिखे गए सड़कों में सुधार करेगा: 1) बुआ में नम्बुउवालू- माकोलेई रोड बुआ। 2) नतेवा-दकाउड्रोवे के पश्चिमी कोस्ट 3) नाबालेबाले-दकाउड्रोवे में नाविआविआ/द्वारा रोड यह योजना चाईना के बेल्ट और रोड इनिशिएटिव योजना का एक हिस्सा है तथा अनुमान लगाया जा रहा है कि इसका खर्च \$300m तक होगा। यह योजना हमारे आर्थिक विकास और समाजिक स्थितियों में सुधार लाने के उद्देश्य को बढ़ावा देता है। “यह योजना वातुरोवा, कोरोआलाउ, वाईलेवु, सोलेवु, और वुया जिले में रहने वाले लोगों के स्वास्थ्य सेवा में सुधार भी लाएगा। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बुका ने चीनी सरकार को इस सहायता हार्दिक धन्यवाद दिया।

संसद सदस्यों तथा मंत्रीमण्डल के सदस्यों के वेतन में अभी वृद्धि नहीं हुई है

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने एक बयान में आम जनता को भरोसा दिलाया है कि संसद सदस्यों तथा मंत्रीमण्डल के सदस्यों के वेतन तथा अलावन्स में वृद्धि अभी नहीं हुई है। वृद्धि की स्वीकृति से पहले कुछ प्रक्रियाओं का पालन करना ज़रूरी है जैसे कि टज़घण

के संसदीय एक्ट में बदलाव करना। प्रधान मंत्री ने राष्ट्र को आश्वासन दिया है कि संसद में बिल आने के बाद वो सभी के विचारों को सुनते हैं। 2014 के संसदीय एक्ट में बदलाव करने के लिए सोलिसिटा जेनरल के दफ्तर द्वारा एक बिल तैयार किया जाएगा, जिसके बाद इसपर आम जनता के विचार लिए जाएंगे और इसकी स्वतंत्र समीक्षा की

जाएगी और तब जाकर इसपर संसद और मंत्रीमण्डल की बैठक में विचार किया जाएगा। जैसे ही बिल आम किया जाएगा, आम जनता इसपर अपना विचार दे सकेंगे। इसलिए उन्होंने जनता को प्रोत्साहित किया है कि वे अपना मूल्यांकन अच्छी तरह करें। इस स्तर पर कमिटी के प्रस्तावों पर टिप्पणी करना जल्दबाजी

होगी। लेकिन लोग इसपर आज़ादी से अपना विचार प्रकट कर रहे हैं जो कि उनका मानवधिकार है। समाचार माध्यम के पास भी लोगों के विचार छापने या प्रसारण करने का अधिकार है। यह लोकतंत्र है जहाँ आम जनता को अपनी बात कहने का अधिकार है और समाचार माध्यम स्वतंत्र रूप से रिपोर्ट करता है।

नए अटेनी जेनरल को शपथ राकीराकी में गन्ने की पैदाईश बढ़ाने की ज़रूरत है



एक प्रसिद्ध वकील तथा निपुण कानूनी अधिकारी ग्रेहम लियोन्ग नए अटेनी जेनरल के पद पर शपथ लेते हुए

रोनल देव

सूवा के वकील ग्रेहम एवारेट लियोन्ग देश के नए अटेनी जेनरल नियुक्त किए गए हैं। माननीय सिरोमी तुरांगा न्याय मंत्री का पद सम्भालना जारी रखेंगे। इसी सप्ताह पूर्व श्री लियोन्ग को सरकारी भवन में राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवेरे के समक्ष शपथ दिलाई गई। श्री लियोन्ग एक निपुण और उच्च योग्य वकील तथा सोलिसिटर हैं, जिनके पास संवैधानिक कानून, प्रशासनिक कानून, अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून, कूटनीति और न्याय में राष्ट्रीय, क्षेत्रीय और अंतराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर तीस वर्षों से अधिक की विशेषज्ञता है, साथ ही शासन और मानवधिकारों में एक मजबूत पृष्ठभूमि है। श्री लियोन्ग फीजी एलेक्ट्रल कमिशन के भुतपूर्व चेयरमैन तथा फीजी लौ सोसाएटी के भुतपूर्व प्रधान भी रह चुके हैं। वो नउरू के सकेटरी फोर जस्टिस एन्ट इमिग्रेशन रह चुके हैं तथा उससे पहले श्री लियोन्ग स्वीटज़ैलैंड में इंटरनेशनल

कमिशन ऑफ जुरिस्ट में स्वतंत्र जजस और वकीलों के डायरेक्टर ऑफ दी सेन्टर का पद भी संभाल चुके हैं। श्री लियोन्ग की करियर की शुरुआत सूवा स्थित अटेनी जेनरल के चेम्बर्स में एक स्टेट लौ अफ्सर के पद से शुरू हुई थी जहाँ काम करते हु एवो डेप्टी सोलिसिटा जेनरल के पद तक पहुँचे। वो न्यू योक अमेरिका स्थित फीजी के स्थाई प्रतिनिधि के दफ्तर में काउन्सला तथा उप स्थायी प्रतिनिधि भी रह चुके हैं जिसके बाद वह एक प्रमुख सूवा लौ फर्म में भागीदार के रूप में प्रायवट प्रैक्टिस में शामिल हुए। श्री लियोन्ग ने युनिवर्सिटी ऑफ एडलैड से बेचला ऑफ लौ डिग्री हासिल की तथा लोस एंजलीस अमेरिका स्थित कैलिफोर्निया स्कूल ऑफ लौ से मास्टक ऑफ लौ डिग्री की पढ़ाई की। स्वयं सेवक के रूप में श्री लियोन्ग ग्रीनपीस पैसिफिक के भुतपूर्व डायरेक्टर थे तथा फीजी रग्बी यूनियन बोर्ड के भुतपूर्व सदस्य भी रह चुके हैं।



शीलता सिंह

राकीराकी में गन्ने के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है जैसा 2016 से पहले था। अगर हम खेती करने के जगह को बढ़ाए तो खेती करने के लिए कम से कम साठ प्रतिशत जगह उपलब्ध हो सकती है। “हम लगभग 250,000 टन गन्ना बो सकते हैं तथा यह पिछले कुछ सालों में हासिल किया गया था। ” बहु-जातीय मामले और शुगर क्षेत्र के मंत्री माननीय चरण जीथ सिंह ने संसद में इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला। मंत्री सिंह ने जोर दिया कि गन्ने की पैदाईश को बढ़ाने के लिए हमें केवल एलिंगटन 1 और एलिंगटन 2 सेक्टर पर ध्यान देना चाहिए जहाँ बीस प्रतिशत से कम ज़मीन, खेती करने के नीचे दर्ज कराई गई है। हमने किसानों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए कई सारी योजनाओं को अमल में लाया है ताकि किसान अपने खेती को आगे बढ़ाए और साथ ही साथ नए किसान भी आकर्षित होंगे। इन योजनाओं में गन्ने को बोने के लिए \$5 टन की सब्सिडी शामिल है जिससे हम गन्ने के उत्पादन को बढ़ा सकते हैं। कुशल खेती के लिए यह बहुत ज़रूरी है

कि हम गन्ने के खेतों वाले रास्तों और खेतों के नालों में सुधार ला सकें ताकि खराब मौसम में फसलों को क्षति ना पहुँचे। इस सहायता से किसानों को खेती करने में आसानी होगी। शुगर मंत्रालय कृषि सेवाओं को बढ़ाने के लिए किसानों को नवीनतम शिक्षा प्रदान करती रहती। इनमें नई कृषि योजनाएं, कीड़े, रोग प्रबंध और मिट्टी की देखभाल शामिल हैं। यह सेवाएं शुगर रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ फीजी (एस आर आए एफ) और फीजी शुगर काँपेरेशन (एफ एस सी) द्वारा आयोजित किया गया है ताकि गन्ने के उत्पादन में वृद्धि हो। इसके साथ, छोटे कोपरेटिव्स के माध्यम से हम उत्पादन को बढ़ाने की योजना बना रहे हैं जिसमें युवाएं भी शामिल हैं। शुगर रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ फीजी खास कर के युवा किसानों को प्रशिक्षित करेंगे जो अच्छी प्रबंध और यह सुनिश्चित करें कि खेती के लिए सभी सुविधाएं उपलब्ध हों। सरकार शुगरकैन गोवस फंड (एफ एस जी एफ) के साथ मिल कर काम कर रही है ताकि किसानों को कर्ज़ मिलने में आसानी हो।



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद हालही सूवा स्थित होलिडय इन में फीजी कोमेर्स एन्ड एम्प्लोयस फेडरईशन के एक समारोह में भाषण देते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

पूँजीपतियों के भरोसे को बढ़ाना सरकार का लक्ष्य है

रोनल देव

फीजी में व्यापार करना और आसान बनाने वाले पहल के प्रोत्साहन के लिए इस साल सरकार ने नौ मिलियन डोलर निकाला था। होलिडय इन सूवा में उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय बिमान प्रसाद ने फीजी कोमेर्स एन्ड एम्प्लोयस फेडरईशन के एक समारोह के दौरान ऐसा कहा। देश की आर्थिक बढ़न्ती पर जोर देते हुए मंत्री प्रसाद ने फीजी कोमेर्स एन्ड एम्प्लोयस फेडरईशन की भूमिका की सराहना की। उप

प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने कोविड-19 महामारी की वजह से देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था काफी गिर गई थी लेकिन 2022 के बाद से इसमें भारी बढ़न्ती देखी गई है। कोविड तथा इससे जुड़े क्षेत्रों में अनुमान से ज़्यादा सुधार देखा गया तथा मंत्री प्रसाद ने फीजी के व्यापारिक समाज की सराहना की है जिन्होंने फीजी को कोविड से पहले वाली स्थिति तक पहुँचाने में भारी योगदान दिया। सरकार की प्राथमिकताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने जोर दिया कि गठबंधन

सरकार ने आर्थिक बढ़न्ती के लिए आर्थिक नितियाँ लागू करने का लक्ष्य बनाया है। सात सौ सोलह (716) मिलियन डोलर लागत उनचास (49) योजनाएं शुरू हो चुकी है या पूरी हो गई है जबकि एक दशमलौ तीन (1.3) बिलियन डोलर लागत उनचालीस योजनाओं पर काम चल रहा है। मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि उन्हें चुनौतियों के बारे में मालूम है तथा सरकार ध्यान में रखेगी कि आर्थिक स्थिरता बनी रहे तथा इसमें बढ़न्ती होती रहे।

इसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि आगे के रास्ते चुनौतीपूर्ण, बाधाओं तथा अनिश्चितताओं से भरा होगा लेकिन विकास की स्थिरता को सुरक्षित रखने के लिए और देश को पीछे खींच रही बाधाओं को दूर करने के लिए गठबंधन सरकार फिर से विचार करेगी तथा फिर से रणनीति बनाएगी। इसी महीने बाद में होने वाली राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा में हमारे उद्देश्य हमारे प्यारे राष्ट्र की भलाई के लिए होगी।