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Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka with Melanesian Spearhead Groups leaders- from left Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) of New Caledonia's Victor Tutugoro, Vanuatu Prime Minister Alatoi Ishmael Kalsakau, Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare and Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Melanesia's strategic value must be navigated carefully

By PRASHILA DEVI

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has told Melanesian Spearhead Group leaders that the ocean area under Melanesia adds strategic value in the world and they must navigate it very carefully through diplomatic maneuvering. Speaking at the MSG Leaders' Summit in Port Vila, Fiji's Head of Government said the meeting was happening at a time when the region "has assumed major international importance as the great powers of the world posture and move in for positions of influence into the region". PM Rabuka, in delivering the country statement after a welcome ceremony, said dialogue and diplomacy was the

Pacific way. "Diplomacy is part of our culture in Melanesia. In fact, the culture in the Pacific is that we must be intent on acting in the best interest of our country or our community, our people, our region. We need to remind ourselves that although we are small developing countries, we exercise sovereignty over a very large part of the globe." Prime Minister Rabuka said the summit was happening as the great powers of China and the United States compete for Pacific influence. "Let us also not lose sight of the truth that at this momentous stage in history, our unity as a region is of paramount importance. Acting together, with common purpose and aims, puts us in a better position to achieve our goals for

Melanesia and Oceania as a whole," he said. "Together we can achieve so much if we support each other in our journey to economic recovery, especially through strengthening economic cooperation and trade within our bloc," PM Rabuka said. He said said there was need to build on the solid foundation laid by the predecessors, strengthening ties, shared vision and responsibility for the welfare of the Melanesian people. He also reiterated Fiji's stance on keeping the climate change issue on the front burner including meeting targets of limiting global warming. "The threat of natural disasters will continue to be a persistent issue for the region, I am committed to work-

ing closely with you, my fellow leaders in advocating for climate emergency financing and building a more resilient Melanesia." Meanwhile, the Pacific Leaders also attended the official unveiling of totems at the MSG Secretariat. The five totems, representing the MSG Members were worked on by the region's carvers during the recent 7th Melanesian Arts & Culture Festival (MACFEST). At a special ceremony, the Leaders unveiled their respective country totems. The other MSG countries, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea also delivered their country statements outlining challenges encountered by the Melanesian bloc.

Govt working towards clearing records who have served their time



Attorney-General Siromi Turaga with judicial officers on Taveuni Island. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSAIA RALAGO

THE Government is exploring avenues to expunge records of reformed inmates who have served their time, to allow them to move on in life.

This was shared by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga, in an interview during his visit to the Taveuni Correction Facility, said that the law has been restricting a good number of people from pursuing employment overseas because of their criminal record.

The A-G said the issue of criminal record even years after serving their

time has banned former inmates from travelling overseas especially with the trade they have learn whilst in the care of the Fiji Corrections Service (FCS).

He said with this they would be considering individuals with minor misdemeanours who have been fined, drunk and disorderly charges, bound overs and so forth, who have been banned from travelling overseas under the law.

“This needs to be addressed, given the mobility of people, labour schemes even for asked for the National Employment Centre (NEC) overseas intakes – where everything has been approved except for their criminal records,” the A-G said.

“Some of them think that although they were fined, that it is the end of for them, so that’s something that I have discussed in detail with the solicitor-general and my staff.”

He added that the Government wanted to provide equal opportunity for everyone, and this was one of them.

“Time spent that’s it, you should not be ostracised,” the A-G said.

“So, my team at the A-G’s office have started discussions, and I want to go to Cabinet, get endorsement for consultations, and it will have to go this year, definitely because I can see thousands of people that are going to benefit from this.”

Care for people who work under your leadership: A-G

By JOSAIA RALAGO

“WHEN you are a leader, you must care for the people who work under your leadership.”

This was shared by the Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga following visits to certain Government Departments based on Taveuni, in his first official tour of the island this week.

The A-G said it was important that department heads are aware of what the situation was on the ground, especially for civil servants deployed to districts, in rural and maritime areas.

He explained that it was because of the lack of awareness that requests and needs of officers serving in these areas are not prioritised.

“Officers in charge should come and visit their offices in districts, so they know first-hand what the situation is on the ground, you cannot be sitting in your offices in Suva knowing what it is like in Taveuni if you have not been to Taveuni,” the A-G said.

“There is the issue of transport, need for more staff etc., now when they make a budget submission next year, I am in a much better position because I am aware of what the situation is.”

“We should support our staff that are working in the districts, it can be lonely, some of them are away from their families – so whatever deal we have, we should provide for them.”

Upon visiting some of the offices, it was discovered that some officers have not received the maritime allowances due to them over the years.

“What concerns me is that some of these civil servants have not been receiving their rural and maritime allowance and this is something we will have to discuss when we get back,” the A-G said.

“We all know when a civil servant is being posted to maritime areas, there is a small incentive.

“I do not know why it is not being addressed, they have been asked to follow the channels, to make the submissions but I do not know where the submissions have landed.”

He applauded the civil servants on the island for the services being rendered to the people despite the challenges.

DPM Prasad tours Koronivia Research Station

BY AZARIA FAREEN

THE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad recently made a tour of the Koronivia Research Station as part of efforts to ensure that the budgetary provisions are implemented effectively.

Speaking to the staff at the research station, DPM Prasad noted that the Ministry of Finance informed them of the plan to strengthen and re-establish the National Planning Office to be more engaged with all the different ministries to ensure that it is able to drive the agenda for the Fiji Government.

“The agriculture research extension and training are absolutely vital and integral to ensuring that we not only increase production but productivity in the agriculture sector,” he said.

“The Fiji Government is pleased that we have been able to increase the budget for agriculture and we want to make sure that the budgetary provisions are implemented in an efficient and effective manner, one that will



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad during a tour of the Koronivia Research Station Photo: SUPPLIED

drive value for money,” DPM Prasad added.

“We also want to encourage the ministry’s research and extension training arm that we are focused as a Government to ensure that the agriculture sector grows as that is part of our diversification

program and there is a huge potential to make agriculture one of the significant contributors to the economy.”

“We have very good staff but we need to build on them and provide them with proper resources and environment so that they can

work proficiently,” he added.

DPM Prasad added that support will be provided with links to institutions, researchers, collaborators and donors for specific areas.

“I would encourage the research division to work very closely with

the planning office so that we can develop short to medium term and also a long-term agenda so that we can drive the agriculture sector in a way that is going to be a significant contributor to the economy,” he added.

Relocation of Suva Port on the cards



Assistant Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, Esrom Immanuel speaks at the Suva Port Strategic Review-Site Selection Workshop. **Photo: SHEENAL CHARAN**

By PRASHILA DEVI

PORTS are catalysts for economic development or considered as “funnels” to economic development as they enable trade and support supply chains.

Assistant Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, Esrom Immanuel, speaking at the Suva Port Strategic Review-Site Selection Workshop, said the impact of port infrastructure investments are expected to positively influence through effects on local economic development.

Having said that, Asst Minister Immanuel highlighted that the Suva Port was becoming too small for the number of activities happening and thus the need for the relocation to a new site.

“If these issues remain unaddressed, this may limit the potential for growth and economic development in Fiji.”

He noted that some of the key issues facing Suva Port are: structural condition/capacity and cost to maintain, capacity limitations, and location which contributes to congestion, encroachment, and limited options for expansion.

Another issue affecting the relocation was finalising the site as there were a few options available which includes the existing Suva Port, Rokobili, Draunibota, Navua, Lautoka and Momi Bay.

Asst Minister Immanuel explained that the use of multicriteria analysis for the shortlisting of sites shows that the site that will be selected will be based

on certain factors and reasons rather than anybody’s preference.

“The Multi-Criteria Analysis is used to identify and compare different policy options by assessing their effects, performance, impacts, and trade-offs and provides a systematic approach for supporting complex decisions according to pre-determined criteria and objectives.”

Asst Minister Immanuel said the Government was looking at a port that may be a one stop shop which will accommodate all container ships, fishing vessels and also ship building while the existing Suva Port can be essentially used for cruise liners.

He said the new port will also allow Fiji Ports Corporation Limited to receive larger vessels with higher volumes.

“Some of the key issues facing Suva Port are structural condition and cost to maintain, capacity limitations, and location which contributes to congestion, encroachment, and limited options for expansion,” Asst Minister Immanuel said.

He commended the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for coming on board to assist the Fiji Government, as it has done since 1979 when it began assisting the Government in the maritime sector after the first loan was approved for the port rehabilitation for containerised cargo.

“In the 1990s, the Government anticipated the future capacity constraints at the existing Suva port location and completed several studies during the late 1990s and 2000s analysing various options and plans for its relocation,” Asst Minister Immanuel said.

PM welcomed at MSG Summit



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka being accorded a guard of honour during his arrival in Port Vila, Vanuatu for the Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders Summit held this week. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka arrived in the Republic of Vanuatu to attend the 22nd Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Leaders’ Summit that was held this week.

Upon arrival at the Port Vila International Airport, Prime Minister Rabuka was received by Vanuatu’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade, Matai Nawalu Seremaiah after which he reviewed a guard of honour by the Vanuatu Mobile Force.

The MSG was established with a focus to promote socio economic growth in Melanesian countries through strengthening inter membership trade, the exchange of Melanesian cultures, recognising sovereign equality and fostering economic and technical cooperation between members.

Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka led the Government delegation comprising of Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lenora Qereqeretabua, Assistant Minister for the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Isikeli Tuiwailevu, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji to Papua New Guinea, Moses Tikoitoga and other senior government officials.

The MSG is an intergovernmental organisation, composed of the four Melanesian states of Solomon Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, and the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front of New Caledonia.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Fiji’s Film and television industry sets record-breaking year



Deputy Prime Minister, Manoa Kamikamica with the Executives of Love Island, Peacock TV (NBCUniversal), Local Line Producer and Film Fiji officials. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

THE Net Fiji Spend attracted by Fiji’s Film and TV sector up to August 2023 has already doubled all of 2022 and is 2.3 times higher than the pre-pandemic’s best net spend attracted in 2019.

This was announced by Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica.

“Fiji’s audio-visual sector has been recovering steadily from the pandemic, and in 2023 it has reached an all-time best within the first eight months of the year”.

Film Fiji (statutory body in charge of the promotion and development of the Audio-Visual sector in Fiji) has recorded for the first time a Net Fiji Spend of \$71.3 million in 2023 and within the first eight months of the year, attracting shows to Fiji with a total local spend of \$86 million and a total production budget of over \$236 million.

“This is an important accomplishment. It means that, despite spending a lot less attracting these major productions to Fiji, a lot more investment is now staying within our economy. The attention and commitment to the AV sector by Fiji’s Government is creating cascading positive economic impacts across the Fijian economy.”

“We have heard firsthand from landowners, service providers, and hoteliers how this industry benefits them, which is why this is an important sector for the Government and we will continue to support its development,” DPM Kamikamica said.

Fiji continues to cement itself as one of the best tropical

locations in the world for film production

President of ITV Entertainment and Head of International Programming, Simon Thomas, said, “Finding the right location and local partner is crucial for a series such as ‘Love Island,’ and we couldn’t be more pleased with our ongoing collaboration with the Fiji Government, particularly DPM Kamikamica and Film Fiji”.

“The film friendly environment they’ve created, including immediate and substantial resources and support throughout, has been key to the production of another successful season, and we look forward to our continued work together,” Mr Thomas said.

Film Fiji chief executive officer, Ramiro Tenorio added that the continued efforts to create a reliable, robust and sustainable ecosystem for the film industry is being very well received in the market.

“We are seeing a steady return of productions and an influx of enquiries from producers that value Fiji’s pristine locations, English speaking crew, connectivity and developed infrastructure,” Mr Tenorio said.

Fiji was home to some of the most watched TV shows in the US, with the likes of Survivor, Bachelorette and Love Island.

The size and distribution of these shows puts them amongst the most significant TV brands in the world.

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

Rishav gains a new lease of life



Mrs Shareen Lata with her 8-year-old son Rishav Lal who battled cancer. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

By NANISE NEIMILA

RISHAV Lal has gained a new lease of life after completing his last round of chemotherapy in April last year.

The 8-year-old, Year 2 student of Indira Gandhi Memorial Primary School is now a happy and healthy boy after being diagnosed in 2016 of cancer at the tender age of one year and eleven months.

As his mother Shareen Lata recalls those dark days, she shares how she overcame being a mother and wife while dealing with a cancer-stricken son- an experience she had never imagined for herself.

“When my Rishav continuously got sick, I told my husband that we needed to take him to hospital. The fever would come and go which was not normal. When the doctors advised us that they needed to carry out more tests for my Rishav I was scared because I knew there was something wrong with him.”

Mrs Lata explained that after various tests, the doctors finally sat them down to reveal the news that Rishav had cancer.

“I was told that it would be treatable but Rishav had to be hospitalised so he could undergo chemotherapy. It was hard seeing my son in pain and always weak after every chemotherapy.”

“My Rishav is a strong boy at a young age. He endured so much pain but we overcame all of this.”

Lata said her life mostly revolved around Rishav’s trips to the hospital and home to her family. Despite how tired she was, she always made sure she was there for her sick son.

“I was there almost every day feeding him, clothing him and making sure he was comfortable at the hospital. I did all that because I am his mother and it was really hard for me to see him in such a weak state. The hospital was our second home and my Rishav wouldn’t have made it out if it wasn’t for the friendly nurses and doctors that work there.”

She said while nursing Rishav at the hospital, she would often give advice to new mothers in the ward.

“I would see the new mothers struggling to feed or cope with their children so since I was experienced, I would help them and answer their questions.

“We are all trying to keep our children safe so I always made sure to help the mothers in the ward.”

Rishav’s family received good news in May last year when doctors told them he was 99 percent cancer-free.

“My husband, eldest son and I were so happy when the doctors told us the news. It was like a huge weight, been lifted off our shoulders.

“We have seen a huge change with him. He enjoys school and is running around — something he could not do before.”

She thanked the Walk on Walk Strong (WOWS) Kids Fiji staff, Dr Savenaca and the nurses for their help while Rishav was admitted at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital.

“We were blessed by so many people and thanks to them Rishav was able to get the necessary medical treatment he needed.”

Mrs Lata has encouraged and urged all parents to get their children checked.

“Taking care of our children’s health should be a priority for every parent and guardian since we never know when our children will be ill. Our children are the future, we must protect them.”

Fiji-USA target child exploitation



Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga with the United States Ambassador to Fiji, Marie Damour and staff during a meeting. Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE

By AZARIA FAREEN

FIJI will be further strengthening its ties with the United States of America through training in curbing online child sexual exploitation – which is a worldwide problem.

This follows a discussion between the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Siromi Turaga and the US Ambassador to Fiji, Marie Damour while discussing matters pertaining to child sexual abuse and cyber material

in the country.

It was highlighted that the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) institution based in Washington, D.C, recorded over 8000 cyber tips to Fiji in 2021, which decreased in 2022 but was still over 6000.

NCMEC is the USA’s key and leading child protection organisation which works closely with the law enforcement across the Federal Government and local and State Government.

Under the US laws, US online service providers like

Google and big tech companies’ websites are required to report images and videos that they find online together with other evidence of child sexual abuse regardless of where those images come from to NCMEC, which works closely with the Homeland Security investigations.

The US Government is assisting with a team from Homeland Security to conduct ongoing training in conjunction with the Fiji Government and NCMEC.

Ambassador Damour said that a conference is being organised with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime later in September which will discuss online child sexual exploitation and technical training on how to empower law enforcement officers and investigators with digital tools.

“This will support the police officers and experts who are directly involved in this work as looking at these images can be very psychologically traumatising for the law enforcement officers, attorneys and prosecutors who have to deal with this,” she said.

“A part of this conference will be to establish an information sharing agreement which will be an ongoing relationship through technical training which will continue to help the Fiji Police Force to improve their investigative abilities and techniques when it comes to these particular cyber tips,” Ambassador Damour added.

Meanwhile, the US Government has a Summer Work Travel Visa program and will now pay the travel fee for the chosen tertiary student selected under this where they can work for three months and travel before they head back home and resume their studies.

Fostering prosperity and cultural heritage



Minister for iTaukei Affairs Ifereimi Vasu during the opening of the Naitasiri Provincial Council meeting. **Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA**

By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

IN order for Fiji to thrive and prosper, it is imperative that we lead with humility and sincerity, says the Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Ifereimi Vasu.

In opening of the Naitasiri Provincial Council meeting held recently at Lutu Village in the Muaira district, Naitasiri Minister Vasu emphasised that the primary role of the government was to serve the people.

He highlighted the crucial importance of establishing a strong foundation based on meeting the needs of the citizens.

Minister Vasu acknowledged Lutu Village's esteemed reputation for producing exceptional leaders and commended the past leaders for their contributions and positive impact on the community.

Furthermore, he acknowledged the graduation of 20 young leaders from the province, known as the Sausavou Programme within the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs leadership training framework.

He reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to educating and preparing young chiefs for future leadership roles.

"I am informed that out of the 23 chiefly positions in the province, 16 have been filled. I would like to reiterate that

effective leadership plays a pivotal role in ensuring smooth development for our community," Minister Vasu said.

He also shared various government programmes as announced in the 2023-2024 Budget and explained how they were designed to enhance the Government's revenue-generating capabilities, which would consequently benefit the people.

Taking a thought-provoking and introspective approach, Minister Vasu encouraged council members to contemplate ways in which they can actively contribute to the betterment of the nation rather than relying solely on what the Government can provide.

"The Government's approach has shifted from providing handouts to reintroducing an assistance model based on a one third – two third ratio," he explained.

"The aim is to cultivate a sense of ownership and responsibility among recipients."

"The Government has also reintroduced the Village Improvement Scheme and the Rural and Outer Island Projects. These strategies align with the Government's objectives of fostering rural economic growth and raising the standard of living."

The meeting also learned about the Ministry's commitment to completing the construction of four roads in the province that it was funding.

"We are optimistic about the timely completion of these construction projects, and we envision that the 11 villages set to benefit from these new roads will soon begin to experience economic advantages."

In conclusion, Minister Vasu reiterated the Government's unwavering dedication to serving the people and the immense significance of preserving and nurturing Fiji's rich cultural heritage.

PM Rabuka opens Macuata Provincial Council Meeting



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka addresses participants during the opening of the Macuata Provincial Council meeting in Labasa. **Photo: JOSIA RALAGO**

THE issue of love and respect, healthy living, and climate change adaptation needs to be discussed at the provincial level.

This was the message from Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, while opening the Macuata Provincial Council Meeting at the Friendly North Inn in Labasa.

The meeting was attended by District representatives, traditional leaders, and Government last week.

PM Rabuka said it was imperative that vacant traditional positions in villages are

filled as this would make way for thriving communities.

The Head of Government added that this could only be achieved if there was unity.

Furthermore, he emphasised the importance of healthy living, particularly the consumption of locally grown vegetables and crops.

Additionally, PM Rabuka highlighted that Fijians should be aware of events taking place around them which are triggered by climate change because adaptation needed to be a topic of discussion at provincial level as seen with the recent fire in Hawaii.



PM Rabuka stresses development and unity at Cakaudrove Provincial Council

By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has emphasised the need for authentic leadership and collaborative efforts for community growth.

Speaking at the opening of the Cakaudrove Provincial Council in Yaroi Village, Savusavu, the Head of Government said sincere leadership fosters prosperity within the vanua

Prime Minister Rabuka urged the people of Cakaudrove to fulfil their obligations diligently and foster unity among regions, in reference to the council meetings ceremonies of Macuata and Bua provinces.

On Savusavu, Prime Minister Rabuka stressed the importance of aligned, long-term planning for development, emphasising its vision as a "Blue Town."

"When Savusavu is declared a Blue Town, it will usher in substantial development," he said.

Prime Minister Rabuka emphasised that meticulous planning and collaboration with the Government would make this transformation possible.

Addressing climate change, Prime

Minister Rabuka encouraged embracing initiatives like Blue Carbon through mangrove planting and advocating collective responsibility.

He underscored the potential economic benefits of reducing Fiji's carbon footprint and mentioned Israel's interest in training Fijian youths in agriculture, particularly utilising untapped grasslands.

Reflecting on successful international partnerships, the PM Rabuka said the re-establishment of a Fiji Embassy in Israel will bolster national development.

Prime Minister Rabuka also called on Fijian youths to explore local opportunities and harness abundant resources, emphasising family unity and a departure from a "duri ga me oto" mentality for collective progress.

He affirmed his commitment to upholding Government promises, supporting small businesses through the Fiji Development Bank and ensuring financial aid for provinces, exemplified by annual allocations of \$100,000 per province and the removal of provincial levies.

Acknowledging the eight-month duration of the Coalition Government, Prime



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka meets participants at the opening of the Cakaudrove Provincial Council meeting in Labasa. **Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA**

Minister Rabuka expressed contentment with the support received and noted ongoing and upcoming changes, despite challenges.

He also extended his gratitude to the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and recognised its role in driving positive changes within the Vanua.

Revitalising iTaukei Administration- Minister calls for active engagement



Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Ifereimi Vasu speaks at the Naitasiri Provincial Council Meeting. Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

THE Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Ifereimi Vasu, has urged the Naitasiri Province to make complete use of the forthcoming Strategic Review of the iTaukei Administration once the Review Committee is established.

Addressing villagers from Lutu Village in Wainimala during the commencement of the Naitasiri Provincial Council Meeting this week, Minister Vasu emphasised that the assessment of the iTaukei administration has been significantly delayed, given that the Act was put into effect in 1940.

“Hence, it is essential to conduct this assessment at this moment to assist the iTaukei community in progressing within the context of the contemporary era we find ourselves in.”

“These reviews will focus on the structure and functions of the iTaukei Administration, the iTaukei Lands and

Fisheries Commission, iTaukei Land Trust Board. These three institutions come under the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and are crucial to the iTaukei people,” Minister Vasu said.

“Firstly, the concept of sustainability will take centre stage, with a strong emphasis on all institutions, projects, or programmes delivering tangible and measurable returns, be they financial or social in nature. Secondly, a robust sense of accountability will be upheld, necessitating meticulous governance practices and clearly defined qualifications for trustees and other designated roles.”

“Inclusiveness will also be a key theme, advocating for the active involvement of women and youth in the realm of development and lastly, the principle of future preservation will be prioritised, aiming to safeguard certain benefits for the well-being of generations to come, a facet that encompasses the responsible creation and management of wealth.”

The Minister emphasised, “I encourage everyone in the 16 Districts of Naitasiri and its 91 Villages to diligently prepare their submissions and deliver them to the committee once the consultation commences later this year. Rest assured, all your opinions, recommendations, and ideas will be taken into careful consideration during the crafting of an updated Act governing the iTaukei Administration.”

Cabinet in July of this year endorsed the strategic review of the three institutions.

The strategic review will be coordinated by the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs.

Exhibition brings craftwork to life



Ms Tokasa Sekitoga with fellow artisan with their crafts at the National Craft Exhibition in Nausori. Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE

By ILISAPECI TUIVALE

FOR Tokasa Sekitoga, craftwork is not just an inherited skill but a hobby that she shares with her family.

Ms Sekitoga was part of the National Craft Exhibition in Nausori that was opened by the First Lady, Madam Filomena Katonivere earlier this month where crafters from around the country flocked at the old market space to display the craftwork and products.

Before receiving training on quilt work and patchwork, Ms Sekitoga was a full-time stay at home mother who was managing the duties of the home.

However, she had always had the interest to perfect her craft and the opportunity to do so rose when a woman from Australia was providing training for sewing.

“I love sewing and crafting and seeing the end result of what I picture in my mind come to life. I was staying at home when the ladies of the Lautoka Women’s Forum kept encouraging me to join them. From there I realised that this is a good source of income for women who are formally employed. Since then, I’ve progressed in making bed sheets, matching pillowcases, wind chimes and so many other things.”

“Women who know they can use readily available resources should take the

initiative to participate in handicraft. It’s a rewarding skill. My children help me with my business that I market on Facebook and they have been part of this journey for four years now,” she said.

Apenisa Bainivalu, 64, has maternal links to Nasilai, Rewa, where pottery making as well as clay jewellery has been an ancient practice that was still being practiced even today.

Mr Bainivalu learnt the art of pottery making from his mother and has passed on the knowledge to his children and grandchild who carry on the legacy with pride.

At the exhibition, Mr Bainivalu displayed some saqa ni wai (water canister), moirua (jug), saqa lili and kuro vakaviti (pot).

Nasilai Village is well known for its saqa ni wai (water containers) that is featured in the \$1 coin.

“My wife and I market our work during the Fiji Arts Council craft shows. Last year a gallery from Queensland, Australia bought some of the clay pots that we had displayed at one of the craft shows.”

“Exhibitions like these revive our traditional crafts and the work our forefathers did. This is where the younger generations are able to see the different skills that each province in Fiji is known for and it is a delight to see them realise that these are some of the things our elders used in their homes,” he said.

YES grant recipient aspires to give back to Fiji

By AZARIA FAREEN

WITH the help of the Fiji Government, Christopher Vanualailai was able to start his business venture in introducing environmental monitoring to Fiji and the Pacific – a first for the country.

The Young Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) provided a grant of \$30,000 to Mr Vanualailai who was able to develop his innovative business idea to what is now called Envirotech Solutions Pacific.

“I started working with my dad who is a registered Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consultant with the Department of Environment and this is how I gained knowledge in the environmental field for 10-years,” he said.

“This is when I noticed that there was a gap in environmental data collecting in Fiji so I had the idea of setting up a small business and sought help from the Government to finance this venture,” Mr Vanualailai said.

“We specialise in collecting air quality data, water quality data, sound testing, soil testing and ultraviolet light detection in the tourism sector and we have the technical capacity to employ five staff on an ad-hoc

basis,” he added.

Mr Vanualailai is closely working with the Department of Environment, experts from the University of the South Pacific and consultants and has seen a lot of progress in terms of acceptance of data collected.

“We have invested a lot of time, effort and finance into getting our state-of-the-art equipment which is ISO and IENZ calibrated, which is reliable, trustworthy and accepted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency,” he said.

“We are a Fijian owned company and one of our main objectives is to help local businesses meet their environmental compliance matters. The cost we are currently offering in the market is more than 500 per cent cheaper than engaging in overseas consultants.”

“I strongly believe that in Fiji we have the people, capability and the mindset to take up these roles especially with all these new graduates looking for jobs,” Mr Vanualailai said.

“So, if we can make this kind of opportunity for our people in Fiji, I believe we don’t need expats and Fiji will be a stronger nation tomorrow,” he added.



Christopher Vanualailai with Minister for SME Manoa Kamikamica Photo: SUPPLIED

Apart from working in the industrial sector, the business founder said he works a lot with EIA consultants to do dust and noise and air monitoring and being part of projects such as the Naboro Landfill,

Dayals Steels, Bluelight Scope, Rewa Provincial Holding Company Limited and Fiji Sugar Corporation’s Labasa, Rarawai and Lautoka Sugar Mill.

We have to be more self-reliant PM Rabuka



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka with Pacific leaders during the Pacific Small Islands Developing States High Level Dialogue on Climate Change. **Photo: NANISE NEIMILA**

By NANISE NEIMILA

FIJI is urging world leaders again on the need for investment funds to assist in protecting food systems, agricultural productivity and water supplies.

This was highlighted by the Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka while delivering his opening statement at the Pacific Small Islands Developing States High Level Dialogue on Climate Change held at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva recently.

“We need support as well to build infrastructure to withstand the intensifying effects of rising sea levels, extreme weather and the shifting dynamics of the ocean.”

“I go further and call for a special fund dedicated to assisting our Island nations. It would enable us to act swiftly to adjust to and protect against the creeping climate menace. Early warning systems must be set up along with evacuation plans and community adaptation training.”

“This crisis relentlessly eats away at our shores and coastal areas. Six Fijian villages have already been relocated. Forty-two (42) are earmarked to be

removed in the next five to 10 years.”

“I make the point that in many ways we have to be more self-reliant. We can’t blame others for problems that we have caused ourselves.”

“Drainage problems that lead to flooding must be fixed by us. We are doing more to preserve and enlarge our mangrove forests that provide natural coastal protection. Volunteers regularly clean up shorelines littered with rubbish. The littering has spread widely, converting parts of our landscape into shameful eyesores.”

As Pacific leaders gathered in Suva to discuss climate change, a real threat to the islands, their people, and their way of life, PM Rabuka stressed that “we in the region are motivated by the need for alternative solutions”.

He thanked the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and regional partners for supporting and helping Fiji co-host this High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change.

COP (Conference of Parties) 28 director-general and Special Representative, Ambassador Majid Al Suwaidi reaffirmed the unwavering

commitment to Fiji to the Pacific Island community and to the vulnerable countries at large.

Mr Suwaidi highlighted that communities here, on the frontlines of climate change, are facing sea level rise, salination of drinking water, coastal erosion, and the increasing severity of storms.

He further added that UAE’s Presidential Action Agenda includes four priorities that will define the approach to COP28.

· Priority one focuses on fast-tracking a just energy transition, and it includes the hallmark goal of tripling global renewable energy capacity.

· Priority two is focused on fixing climate finance and ensuring that those most vulnerable are able to access and afford the resources needed to deliver results.

· Priority three is about putting people and communities back at the heart of climate action, and it includes refocusing efforts on adaptation, loss and damage. It also elevates issues around health, food, nature, and water, which are all sorely impacted by climate change.

Need for balance on mitigation and adaptation: DPM Prasad

By PRASHILA DEVI

THE balance between mitigation and adaptation measures in tackling the impact of climate in the Pacific is a question that needs to be addressed.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad, explained that he was not taking away the importance of mitigation efforts as Fiji already meets more than its 50 per cent energy needs through renewable sources.

“However, the real need for the Pacific countries is to source adaptation funding and this is something we will be pushing for.”

DPM Prasad made these points while providing a brief to the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana during her recent visit to Fiji.

“We will be pushing for this during COP (Conference of Parties) 28 but beyond that we know that a lot of the pledges that have been made have not materialised- 70 per cent of the funding of whatever is provided goes towards mitigation and to an extent there is a romanticisation of mitigation projects solar or wind energy.”

“This is fine but when you have countries being inundated with floods, lack of drainage, seawalls which has damaged a lot of economic infrastructure, we obviously cannot achieve SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) if all these sectors are affected,” DPM Prasad highlighted.

He added that Fiji, alongside other Pacific Island countries was highly vulnerable to climate change and weather-related shocks and disasters.

“We need to greater collaboration and improved partnership in the region for climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, build climate and economic resilience and support the affected/disadvantaged citizens,” DPM Prasad said.

Under-Secretary-General Alisjahbana said this year was the mid-way mark to achieving the SDGs so the ESCAP office, both the headquarters and the Fiji office, stands ready to support countries.

“On climate induced weather disasters, we also stand ready to support further on several issues- on climate mobility and are working with the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) in the area of Loss and Damage Fund,” she said.

Govt of Fiji is committed to development of green skills among youth

YOUNG people play a crucial role in our society and it is essential to involve them in addressing environmental challenges.

This sentiment was emphasised by the Minister for Youth and Sports, Jese Saukuru, during the commemoration of the 2023 International Youth Day held in Suva recently.

Minister Saukuru emphasised the importance of empowering the youth with the necessary knowledge, tools and skills to become change-makers, driving sustainable development and championing environmental

conservation.

“The Government of Fiji is fully committed to promoting the development of green skills among our young people,” he stated.

This year’s theme for International Youth Day is ‘Green Skills for Youth - Towards a Sustainable World.’

The youth-led event in Suva also commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and highlights the significance of green skills for youth in building a sustainable world.

Minister

Saukuru

acknowledged that the youth of today carry the torch of progress and change.

“As we celebrate International Youth Day, let us recognise the instrumental role of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a catalyst for environmental human rights action. Let us emphasise the fundamental right of every individual to live in a healthy environment that supports their physical, mental, and social well-being.”

(Source: Ministry of Youth and Sports)



Minister for Youth and Sports, Jese Saukuru at the commemoration of the 2023 International Youth Day. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

20 New model town houses for Koroipita

We are also cutting through barriers that have long hindered access to safe and dignified living spaces of our residents.”

These were the words of the Minister for Housing & Local Government Hon. Maciu Nalumisa Katamotu while opening 20 new Model Town Houses in Koroipita, Lautoka recently. The inauguration ceremony marked a momentous occasion, underscoring the commitment of the government to providing modern, affordable housing solutions while fostering a sense of belonging and unity among residents. The Minister for Local Government addressed the gathering, emphasising the government’s dedication to creating thriving, inclusive communities where citizens can flourish and lead fulfilling lives.

Photos: Dipesh Kumar



Film sends powerful call for action against child trafficking



The Ministry for Women, Children and Social Protection hosted a screening of the highly anticipated “Sound of Freedom” movie, in its efforts to create awareness on human trafficking and the exploitation of children.

In the lead up to the event, the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Lynda Tabuya stated that, “this film sends a powerful call to action and exposes the global activity on this illegal and severe form of child sexual abuse which includes the kidnapping and transfer of a child for the purpose of forced labour and exploitation”.

Photos: SUPPLIED



President Katonivere encourages students of Suvavou to read more books

STUDENTS, teachers and parents of Suvavou Kindergarten visited the State House today.

In welcoming the students, His Excellency, President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere encouraged them to read and listen to their parents.

“Reading increases your knowledge. As you learn more, you will be able to travel to more places.”

President Katonivere also encouraged parents to spend more time with their children.

Photos: Nanise Neimila



Kadavu Provincial School students encouraged to be diligent in their studies and make wise decisions

“Learn to make wise decisions”. This was the sound advice

from the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere to the students of Kadavu Provincial School that visited the State House recently.

Students of Year 9 to Year 13 were on a school excursion and had the opportunity to learn about the duties conducted by the President and his Office.

The Head of State reminded the students of the importance of valuing education and being focused in their studies.

Photos: Ilisapeci Tuivale



New A350 increases 40 per cent more passenger capacity



The new Airbus A350-900XWB – Island of Beqa – acquired by Fiji Airways boasts a 334-passenger seating while reducing CO2 emissions by 50 per cent. **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE new addition of Airbus A350-900XWB (A350), named the Island of Beqa, puts the national carrier, Fiji Airways, in a stronger position to explore new destinations.

The brand-new aircraft was the third of its kind to be added to the fleet while another A350 is scheduled to arrive in the country later this month.

Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka said that this “marks a critical step in the most ambitious expansion plan in the history of the airline”.

“It seeks a bigger fleet; more routes to markets for tourism and trade; substantially increased passenger and cargo capacity; and a larger involvement in Oceania, which has new importance in world affairs,” PM Rabuka said.

“With the addition of the Island of Beqa, Fiji Airways is also sending a signal that our nation is moving forward into an era of renewal, revitalisation and growth.”

“The airline has won an international reputation by winning the Skytrax Award for Best Airline in Australia and the Pacific and has retained for the third year in succession the Skytrax Award for Best Airline Staff in Australia and the Pacific,” he added.

The Head of Government adds that the magnificent aircraft is the most technically and environmentally sophisticated in the market and offers 334 passengers unparalleled comfort and convenience,

while fuel burn and CO2 emissions are reduced by 25 per cent per seat.

“Nitrogen oxide emissions are lower, and it’s the quietest aircraft in its class and the noise level is down 50 per cent, compared to earlier generation aircraft,” he highlighted.

“The experts at Fiji Airways calculate that, compared to 2019, the airline may now have up to 40 per cent more passenger capacity, depending on route schedules.”

“Till July this year, the airline had carried 978,000 return trip passengers which equates to some 489,000 visitors, including from the Fijian diaspora and the full target for 2023 is more than two million return passengers,” PM Rabuka added.

Fiji Airways chief executive officer, Andre Viljoen said the “A350 with its superior cabin, significant fuel savings and substantial cargo capacity has fast become the pride of our airline and the joy of our passengers”.

“Fiji Airways brings in 70 percent of all visitors to Fiji. We are crucial to the long-term sustainable growth of the tourism industry which is 45 percent of our Gross Domestic Product and the largest employer in the country.”

“As the National Airline we recognise our role is not just to be the bridge to and from the world but to support the growth of tourism, one of the ways we can do this is by introducing new destinations with potential for high tourism opportunities,” he added.

No Hidden Agenda in Denarau Act in 1992: PM



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka with Ratu Josefa Samutu Turaga Ni Yavusa Tui Nadi, DPM Viliame Gavoka and DPM Manoa Kamikamica at the event. **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

By DIPESH KUMAR

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has reiterated that there was no hidden agenda behind his approval of the Denarau Island Land Exchange Act in 1992.

This was shared by him during the ground-breaking ceremony of Sofitel Fiji’s new \$200 million Vatu Talei development in Denarau.

He said the 1992 Act was put in place to ensure that the traditional landowners benefitted the most.

Speaking at the ceremony, he said ‘The Denarau Island Land Exchange Act’ laid the foundations for numerous hotel developments on the island.

“I am proud to say that some 30 years on from that decisive step, the landowners and the people of Fiji are reaping the enormous economic and social benefits from the various developments now in place here on Denarau.”

“At first Denarau just had two hotels and there were some small iTaukei or freehold islands dotted among the 600-plus acres of state-owned swampy tiri (mangrove) land. We took special steps to assist with the orderly progress of Denarau development.”

“While some have acclaimed that Act, some are still blaming us for that Act. The approval of the Act meant that the swamp surrounding iTaukei islands could be reconstituted as prime hotel sites.”

“As a result, there was an increased investment opportunity for the then developer and the traditional landowners.”

“It was a win-win achievement. The process of conversion was undertaken in full consultation and concurrence of the respective landowners and the qoliqoli landowners.”

“There was no hidden agenda in the approval of the Act. It was the interest of those affected that we had taken fully on board and listened to them and what their concerns were. We made sure they were protected.”

The Prime Minister stressed that reflecting on the decisions made in the past and officiating at Sofitel’s new project has assured him that he took a step in the right direction.

“Today’s ground-breaking ceremony is yet another success story which is more classic in close association with the tourism industry and the conveyors of tourists to our land.”

PM Rabuka shared that the new project also known as ‘The Jewel’ will include 190 luxury resort rooms increasing economic activity through its construction phase.

“To be completed in about three years from today, the jewel will create more jobs as I said earlier in its construction phase, and approximately 350 permanent positions on completion.”

He emphasised the importance of responsible development, noting that the resort’s construction would respect and contribute to sustainable practices.

The PM emphasised the role of the resort as a gateway to showcasing Fiji’s warm hospitality, vibrant heritage and breathtaking landscapes to the world.

Fiji’s role is critical in the Meteorological Sector

By DIPESH KUMAR

THE Minister for Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services, Ro Filipe Tuisawau has assured of Government’s commitment to playing an effective role in providing people-centred early warning information from the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) in Nadi.

Speaking at the Third Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology, Minister Tuisawau emphasised the critical importance of meteorological services in shaping the nation’s resilience, safety, and sustainable development and shared that the nations must stand in solidarity.

He highlighted at the meeting that the Coalition Government was committed to strengthening meteorological services in the region.

“We stand ready to work with you all in sustaining our end-to-end early warning system, strengthen the infrastructure, capacity and resources needed in our

region.”

Minister Tuisawau stressed that the region’s experiences show a reason to become more resilient and move forward together as a Pacific family.

“In this regard, the need to improve disaster risk reduction and responses cannot be overstated. We cannot be complacent due to the many challenges we face today,” he said.

Minister Tuisawau emphasised that there are three key factors to look at in order to achieve resilience, safety and sustainable development.

“The responsiveness of government systems is a key issue that we continue to face. There is a need for proper needs analysis in terms of the government programmes, budget and processes in order to respond effectively to the challenges before us in terms of meteorological services.”

“Secondly, climate financing which is to ensure that our government system respond and are geared to take advantage

of opportunities provided through it. This is a critical area for us as leaders to look into this and work with our officials to maximise the benefits.”

He added that, “There is also a need for us to relook at what economic development and growth constitutes as we move forward. We are all aware that industrialisation is a major contributing factor to climate change”.

Sharing similar sentiments, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) director-general, Sefanaia Nawadra, has reaffirmed that the Pacific leaders should build resilience and continue to face the longstanding threat of climate change.

“Weather Ready Pacific has been accorded utmost priority as it embodies the shared aspirations of our region in order to strengthen the region’s resilience to the impacts of severe weather events – tropical cyclones, tsunamis, droughts, storm surges, flash floods. Support economies, protect communities,” he said.



Minister for Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Service, Ro Filipe Tuisawau at the Third Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology in Nadi. **Photo: DIPESH KUMAR**

He said that both traditional and new donors have also worked alongside the Pacific Met Council to show their support.

Mr Nawadra has assured the Ministers that SPREP also stands ready to serve all members in the work ahead.

The meeting was attended by delegations from Pacific Island nations, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Bible school integrates agriculture in learning



Nasuva Villagers during the commissioning of their evacuation centre extension.
Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

By JOSAIA RALAGO

A BIBLE school in Macuata set up to accommodate school dropouts, has its eyes set on being self-sufficient while simultaneously training commercial farmers.

The Macuata Bible School in Naduri which focuses on Bible studies for youths in the Macuata Province has also been integrating agriculture training for its students, which apart from vegetables and root crops, has recently included rice cultivation.

The Government's role in supporting this venture was in the form of a portable rice mill.

School principal, Reverend Eliko Vasu, said the students were engaged in learning about agriculture after school from Monday to Thursday with Friday dedicated to farming.

"We are training them in such a way that when they go out into their communities and into the world, they are equipped with agricultural knowledge as it is very useful for everyday life," Rev. Vasu said.

"Agriculture has become an important component of our activities because we want them to develop holistically

and to also be able to give back to the community when they complete training from here."

The institution has been working towards attaining Fiji Higher Education Commission recognition as it plans to groom commercial farmers.

School board member, Joe Ratuvo, said while introducing other vocational studies would be beneficial to the students, as agriculture was their focus because the majority of students were from farming communities.

"We want to move them away from the mentality that agriculture was only for home consumption, but to accept that farming is a source of income," Mr Ratuvo said.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Tomasi Tunabuna, who handed over the portable rice mill, encouraged the youths to give their all when involved in agriculture because it could provide life-long security for them.

Asst Minister Tunabuna said passion and commitment towards agriculture was very rewarding.

He added that agriculture was often a back-up plan for youths, when instead it should be a main income earner for the country.

Be wise with what you eat



A farmer in his vegetable farm in Bua. PM Rabuka is calling on Fijians to eat healthy.
Photo JOSAIA RALAGO

"Be wise with what you eat"

By JOSAIA RALAGO

This was the word of advice from the Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, while opening the recent Macuata Provincial Meeting, said individuals nowadays are turning away from traditional food and opting to consume processed goods, and food that is foreign to us.

PM Rabuka said this has given way to issues that affect "our health and our finances" as it was costly compared to fresh crops and vegetables.

He added that the food we consume plays a huge part in our individual productivity as well, thus it is important to wisely choose what we consume.

Similar sentiments were shared by 71-year-old, Tarusila Tunatewa, of Welagi in Taveuni, a member of the Nasaqalau Farmers' Cooperative who

recently received a grog pounder from the Government through the one third two third program.

Ms Tunatewa said apart from yaqona, the group also encourages vegetable and crop farming for subsistence and commercial purposes.

"It is about time we reconsider returning to the consumption of fresh food, and farming is a way to ensure this," she said.

"At this age, I want to strongly urge our youths, children and women to engage in agriculture, at least for subsistence use, as this ensures we eat healthy. I have witnessed people much younger than me that are dying from non-communicable-diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, cardiac arrests and others."

"This clearly points out that as individuals, we need to be more responsible in deciding what to consume," Ms Tunatewa said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health has disclosed that annually 80 per cent of deaths in the country are caused by NCDs, most of which are premature deaths.

The statement highlighted that; "In recent decades, NCD's have become the biggest killer in Fiji, causing thousands of deaths every year – many of those deaths are premature – and affecting the lives of many more".

Ray of Hope for the Uluisori Women's Club in Macuata

By JOSAIA RALAGO

FOR the Uluisori Women's Club in Korotubu Village on the coast of Macuata, receiving a sewing machine on the eve of World Humanitarian Day last week was a ray of hope for the members.

The assistance, among other income generating projects that was being funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with the Fiji Government, has provided a new source of income for the 30 women.

Club president, Salome Dicova said this assistance together with the other assistance would provide an alternative source of income for the women, who rely heavily on the sea for survival.

"Life in the village is not easy, as women we have roles to play in our families and the communal roles that we have to play contributing to the vanua, the church and for the education of our children," Ms Dicova said.

"As such, we need to have cash on us and having the sea as our main source of income, bad weather affects our earnings."

"These sewing machines will enable the

women to stable income from another avenue, as it is an area that is high on demand in our local community."

Ms Dicova said this installed a drive for the women to learn how to sew and pursue other avenues that they have received assistance in which also includes screen printing.

"We would like to thank the UNFPA for providing such an assistance and to the Government for looking for avenues to ensure that our cries are heard," she said.

"World Humanitarian Day now has a special meaning to us, and this assistance has embodied the commemoration of this day."

UNFPA Pacific Island director and representative, Iori Kato, highlighted UNFPA's commitment towards ensuring



Korotubu Villagers elated with the assistance given by United Nations Population Fund in collaboration with the Government. Photo: JOSAIA RALAGO

the resilience of communities.

"The provision of this assistance was in consultation with the Commissioner Northern's office and the community on what they need to ensure their resilience," Mr Kato said.

"This island is prone to natural disasters

and we are all prone to health pandemic and sometimes the access to health facilities is affected."

"I hope you can use this equipment and kits to stay prepared especially for emergencies," he added.

US stands ready to support Govt



Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, is presented with a token of appreciation from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Samantha Power, during a courtesy call. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

THE United States has reaffirmed support for the Government's development priorities to enhance democracy, boost economic growth, improve food security, empower women and youth and enhance access to water, health and education.

This was conveyed to Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, during a courtesy call from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) administrator Samantha Power, during her first official visit to Fiji and the Pacific.

In appreciation of Fiji and the USA renewed cooperation and strong friendship, Ms Power had presented a Hawaiian Koa paddle to PM Rabuka.

Inscribed on the paddle was the Hawaiian proverb - Ho'okahi ka 'ilau like ana ('wield the paddles together').

PM Rabuka thanked the US for their timely support in establishing the new USAID Pacific Islands Mission in Fiji, which will strengthen USAID's ability to deliver results on bilateral and regional development priorities.

He welcomed the renewed commitment by the United States to increase its presence in the region to further advance ongoing cooperation.

Prime Minister Rabuka also conveyed the best wishes of the Government and the people of Fiji to President Biden and the American people.

Administrator Power said the United States recognises Fiji as a leader and important partner in advancing a free and open Pacific emphasising that "presence matters" which was the primary reason for USAID opening the new regional Office in Fiji.

"We aim to strengthen the message of the United States Government's long-term commitment to the Pacific. We will continue to listen to our Pacific partners on how to use our presence effectively. We will continue to deliver on Pacific priorities together."

"Our relationship is based on mutual respect; shared history; and common values of strength through diversity, fairness, and freedom," Ms Power said.

Administrator Power reaffirmed the United States commitment to strengthen cooperation with Fiji at all levels of development.

"The United States and Fiji enjoy a long, shared history and close relationship that is being strengthened by the opening of the USAID/Pacific Islands regional Office. Today, USAID and Fiji are working toward shared development goals across a variety of sectors."

While in Fiji, Ms Power announced additional investments as part of the US commitment to deepening its relationship with the Pacific Island countries and to help Pacific Islanders build resilience against the climate crisis, economic shocks, and health challenges

The new USAID/Pacific Islands Office will employ 31 staff by August 2024, 24 in Fiji and seven from neighbouring Pacific Island countries.

Based in Suva, Fiji, USAID/Pacific Islands will manage USAID programs in nine Pacific Island countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

PM Rabuka opens the new German Embassy in Fiji

THE opening of new German Embassy in Fiji, symbolises a historic achievement in the advancement of Fiji and Germany's cooperation and diplomatic relations.

Fiji's Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka was joined by the Special Envoy for Germany to the Pacific Island States, Ambassador Beate Grzeski and the German Ambassador to Fiji, Dr Andreas Prothmann, at the official opening of Germany's first and only Embassy established in the Pacific, with an ambassador accredited directly to and resident in Fiji.

The inauguration of the German Embassy coincides with the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Germany and Fiji which began on August 1, 1973.

Prime Minister Rabuka said it's a historic moment to have one of the world's great powers setting up its Embassy here in Fiji, a great opportunity to expand cooperation in critical areas of development such as economy, trade and investment, climate change, science and engineering. On the same note, Prime Minister acknowledged Germany's crucial leadership role in the European Union (EU) and their ongoing support for Fiji's development through initiatives aimed at improving the livelihood of our local communities. Germany's Special Envoy, Ambassador Grzeski thanked Prime Minister Rabuka and the People's Coalition Government for their tremendous support which has led to the successful opening of the new embassy.

She reaffirmed the German Government's commitment to align its support with Fiji's national development priorities and aspirations led by the People's Coalition Government in Fiji.

Ambassador Grzeski said with Fiji's exemplary leadership ably demonstrated at the regional and global arena, it was timely for Germany to open a new embassy in Fiji.

German Ambassador Mr. Prothmann said they are honoured to have Prime Minister Rabuka inaugurate their new Embassy, and Germany looks forward to strengthening cooperation on matters of mutual interest.



Special Envoy for Germany to the Pacific Island States, Ambassador Beate Grzeski, Fiji's Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, with the German Ambassador to Fiji, Dr Andreas Prothmann, at the official opening of the German Embassy in Suva. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Following the opening program, Prime Minister Rabuka also had discussions with Ambassador Grzeski on the prospects to expand development cooperation in areas of economy, trade, tourism and investment, climate change, science and engineering, health, education, gender and human rights.

Fiji has also expressed gratitude for Germany's commitment to help communities in Fiji who are affected by the impacts of climate change, through new financing mechanisms.

Located at Lot 14, Banuve Street in Nasese, Suva, the German Embassy currently employs three German diplomats with four local staff with the potential to employ more local staff from Fiji as they expand their partnership in areas including economy, culture, and combatting the impacts of the climate crisis.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

USAID opens new regional office

The inauguration of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) new Regional Mission in Fiji, signifies a landmark achievement in the advancement of Fiji and the United States cooperation.

USAID Administrator Samantha Power during her first official visit to Fiji was joined by the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lenora Qereqeretabua, to officially launch the USAID Regional Mission at the United States Embassy in Suva.

Administrator Ms Power was joined by Ambassador, Marie Damour and new USAID Pacific Mission Director, Zema Semunegus, and members of the diplomatic corps, Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies, non-government and civil society organisations.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Fiji, Asst Minister Qereqeretabua congratulated and thanked the Government of the United States for their unwavering commitment in establishing the new Mission in Fiji, which will advance our development cooperation to new levels.

She said the new Mission was a testament of how far the two countries have come in reaffirming our partnership in regional cooperation.

Asst Minister Qereqeretabua said Fiji looks forward to working closely with the Government of the United States in advancing our economic growth and common priorities.

Ms Power said the opening of the new USAID Mission in Fiji demonstrates the United States' commitment to partnering with our Pacific Island neighbours and fulfilling the commitment made by President Biden last year at the historic Summit with Pacific Islands Leaders.

She spoke on the important role of the USAID/Pacific Islands Mission to implement the five-year USAID Strategic Framework for the Pacific Islands, which aligns with the priorities of the Pacific Island nations in the 2050



USAID Pacific Mission Director Ms. Zema Semunegus, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lenora Qereqeretabua with USAID Administrator Samantha Power. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, to advance a more democratic, prosperous, and resilient Pacific Island region.

Ms Power said the increased presence will enhance USAID's partnership with individual Pacific Island governments, build stronger people-to-people ties, and implement more tailored programs at the community level.

She also announced that USAID will provide \$600,000 in technical assistance and training to the government to conduct electoral reform to strengthen the inclusiveness, fairness, credibility, and integrity of local elections.

The assistance will support Fiji's vision for increasing inclusive, peaceful, and participatory democracy, whereby USAID will work with the Government of Fiji as it holds its first municipal elections since 2005.

The new mission will strengthen USAID's ability to deliver sustainable results on priorities set by Pacific Islanders, including resilience against future pandemics, economic shocks and the impacts of the climate crisis.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Health Minister visits Beqa healthcare infrastructure

By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

IN A proactive move to address the state of healthcare infrastructure, the Minister for Health, Doctor Atonio Lalabalavu, conducted an insightful visit to Beqa Island recently.

The purpose of this visit was to closely examine the medical facilities and services available on the island, underlining the Government's commitment to delivering quality healthcare to all citizens.

Minister Lalabalavu conducted tours of the Health Centre in Dakuibeqa and the Nursing Station in Raviravi as part of the visit.

These vital facilities serve as lifelines for the people of Beqa, providing essential medical care.

The Minister expressed keen interest in assessing their current condition and the challenges faced by both healthcare providers and patients

Since assuming office, Minister Lalabalavu has undertaken a series of visits to various medical facilities across the nation.

He emphasised the importance of these assessments, stating, "Our priority is to ensure that every Fijian has access to proper

healthcare services".

"By personally visiting these facilities, we can identify areas that need urgent attention and formulate effective strategies for improvement."

One of the significant developments during the visit was the announcement of a generous donation from the Bank of the South Pacific (BSP) earmarked for the maintenance of the Colonial War Memorial Hospital.

This contribution from the private sector was particularly significant as the government grapples with financial constraints resulting from accumulated national debt.

Minister Lalabalavu, lauded this gesture, stating, "We are grateful for the support of organisations like BSP".

"Their commitment to the well-being of our citizens is truly commendable and underscores the spirit of collaboration that is essential in addressing our healthcare challenges."

He acknowledged the contributions from local businesses, individuals, and overseas entities.

Minister Lalabalavu emphasised the need for collective efforts to address the pressing



Minister for Health, Doctor Atonio Lalabalavu with women from Beqa Island during his visit to health infrastructure on the island. PHOTO: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

healthcare infrastructure issues.

As part of the visit, the Minister also handed over a fiberglass boat fitted with a 40HP outboard motor to the Raviravi Nursing Station.

This addition aims to enhance accessibility to healthcare services, particularly in remote areas, demonstrating the government's commitment to bridging gaps in healthcare delivery.

The Beqa Medical area was currently

served by a doctor and two nurses stationed at the Beqa Health Centre in Dakuibeqa, with an additional Nursing Practitioner based at the Raviravi Nursing Station.

Collectively, they cater to the medical needs of 1,789 individuals, displaying the crucial role these healthcare professionals play in safeguarding community health.

Minister Lalabalavu's visit to Beqa Island marked a pivotal step towards fortifying Fiji's healthcare infrastructure.

Minister Lalabalavu inaugurates Sauva Community Water Project

By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

MINISTER for Health, Doctor Atonio Lalabalavu, recently commissioned the water infrastructure project in Sauva settlement in Tailevu.

This initiative that cost around \$7,000 was facilitated by the Ministry of Health and has ushered in a new era of improved water accessibility and public health for the region.

In his address, Minister Lalabalavu highlighted the significance of the occasion, not only for the Sauva community but also for the overarching mission of the Ministry of Health.

"Our gathering today marks the realisation of a fundamental need – access to clean and safe water. This is not just an infrastructure project; it is a beacon of our unwavering dedication to the well-being of our citizens," Minister Lalabalavu said.

With 23 households and a total population of 91, Sauva settlement will now have access to safe drinking water, a fundamental need and human right.

The first phase of a comprehensive plan, which includes seven standpipes are set to alleviate water-related burdens and enhance sanitation facilities within the community.

Minister Lalabalavu expressed his optimism about subsequent phases, which includes the implementation of indoor flush toilets and showers, contributing to a healthier and more hygienic environment.

Beyond the immediate conveniences, the significance of this initiative is deeply intertwined with the battle against communicable diseases.

The Minister also acknowledged the historical prevalence of waterborne illnesses, particularly typhoid, within the region.

"By mitigating water-related issues, the

Ministry anticipates a substantial reduction in health concerns, ultimately fostering a healthier and more resilient community," the Minister said.

The social impact of such initiatives cannot be quantified but for the 87-year-old pioneer resident Sera Lomolomo, it was enough to bring tears of joy.

"I've seen the settlement change and grow in ways I could never have imagined. But nothing could have prepared me for the overwhelming joy and gratitude I felt as I stood before the new water project, a testament to progress and a lifeline for our community," Ms Lomolomo said.

"As I looked at the flowing water, my mind travelled back to the days when clean water was a luxury we could only dream

of. We used to trek long distances, carrying heavy buckets, just to secure water for our daily needs. The toll it took on our bodies and the illnesses that plagued us seemed like an inevitable part of life."

"I felt a sense of joy that's hard to put into words. The kind of joy that bubbles up from within, tinged with a hint of disbelief – the disbelief that something we had wished for, something that would benefit generations beyond mine, was finally here."

Meanwhile, Minister Lalabalavu extended his gratitude to the Ministry of Health personnel and the community members who have played pivotal roles in realising this milestone.

"The tears of joy from within your community are a testament to the

effectiveness of unity and shared purpose. Together, we are creating a legacy of positive change," acknowledged Minister Lalabalavu.

He also emphasised the universal right to safe drinking water, transcending settlement types and geographic locations.

He articulated the Government's responsibility to safeguard the health and well-being of all citizens, highlighting the intrinsic connection between safe water and public health.

The inauguration of the Sauva community water project stands as a testament to the Ministry of Health's commitment to fostering healthier lives and building resilient communities.



Minister for Health, Doctor Atonio Lalabalavu joined the members of Sauva settlement to commemorate the delivery of a water project which will ensure clean and safe drinking water to the community. Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

Yanuyanu a hit for Taveuni

AZARIA FAREEN

INVESTMENT Fiji has been actively assisting entrepreneurs on behalf of the Fiji Government by guaranteeing sustainable levels of investment and exports are amplified.

As such, Lucilla Chiericati and her husband Robert Glowatzki were able to start their business “Yanuyanu Taveuni” in the year 2016, which is situated Somosomo.

“We started with our organic farm where we mostly plant fruit trees, moved rocks and did landscaping of the place, slowly started to harvest the fruits of our labour and in 2017 we were ready with our professional kitchen,” Mrs Chiericati said.

“The idea was to build this in loco where we could process the fruits, spices, herbs and anything else that we grow together with having a cold storage facility to keep our stock,” she added.

“One of our main products is the organic sorbet made out of the pulp of the fruits mixed with water and sugar. We have various flavours such as soursop, lemongrass, guava, mango and passionfruit.”

The Italian born also grows their own cocoa besides acquiring cocoa from the local farmers that have cocoa trees, and makes different products from the cocoa as well including mixing different flavours to it for sorbets.

“We have a lot of different fruits that work well when you dry them so we have a dehydration machine that processes the fruit into dry fruit and we also do herbal teas, tonic, and kura shots which is sold in the shop in Matei area and Naqara in Taveuni town,” Mrs Chiericati said.

“To build the consistency in the ice-cream, I use a variety of fruits as its pulpiness differs. For example, soursop on its own makes a beautiful sorbet while passion fruits are more liquid in texture so I mix it with banana, mango, guava and soursop to keep up with the consistency.”

“We use granulated sugar as it keeps the ice cream crystallized when you store them in the fridge,” she revealed.

“I am from Italy, so ice-creams, gelatos and sorbets are very popular back home. I came here as a vulagi (visitor) to explore the beautiful ocean and forests but the island

conquered my heart,” she said proudly.

Mrs Chiericati added that the slow pace of life in Fiji prompted her to come back and start up this small business as Taveuni can deliver all these tropical fruits.

“When you think of expanding a business, it’s always good to keep a size you can manage and since our main idea is to provide healthy options to the locals, we decided to just concentrate on Taveuni for people to get used to the organic tonics and products,” she said.

“We are in contact with other farms which have organic produce and have certifications as well who also ensure that there are no chemicals used and we keep up with that commitment.”

“As we are foreigners, we have been liaising with Investment Fiji and they have been very helpful in providing us advice and the processes of pointing us in the right direction,” Mrs Chiericati said.

“We have always received good responses from the Government and we are thankful for their contribution in the setting up of our business,” she further added.



Italian national Lucilla Chiericati preparing a batch of berry sorbet at her premises in Taveuni **Photo: SUPPLIED**

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications

The Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Communications invites Expressions of Interest from registered businesses for the 2023/2024 financial year enterprise development programmes, i.e., Integrated Human Resources Development Programme (IHRDP), National Export Strategy (NES), Northern Development Programme (NDP) and Trade Enhancement Programme (TEP). These programmes are designed to:

- empower communities and create jobs through public-private partnership;
- support export-related projects that achieve sustainable economic growth in export competitiveness, value addition and diversification;
- promote economic development of the Northern Division; and
- developing of our skills based entrepreneurs and businesses.

APPLY NOW!
EOI Closes 06 Oct 23!

WHO CAN APPLY?

IHRDP

- New and existing registered businesses operating from rural and peri-urban, rural and remote areas; and
- Existing groups and community-based enterprises (with over 10 members) operating informally.

NES

- Export-oriented businesses or those on the verge of exporting;
- Business ownership of at least 51% Fijian owned; and
- Must be in operation for at least 2 years and supply to the domestic market.

NDP

- Applicants must be Fiji citizen between the ages of 18 - 60 years;
- Operating in the Northern Division of Fiji; and
- Available to existing and newly registered business.

TEP

- Proposal must showcase capabilities of Trade or skill;
- Business annual sales turnover must be less than \$50,000; and
- Proposal must display the commercial viability of the business venture.

SHAHEEN ALI
PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR TRADE, CO-OPERATIVES, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND COMMUNICATIONS



Scan me!

Call or Viber our MSME Fiji Helpline on 9986 014 or scan the QR code more info!

Enterprise Development Programmes EOI

The Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives and Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications was allocated \$1.4 million in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Enterprise Development Programmes in 2022/2023 financial year that supported the following objectives:

- promotion of young entrepreneurial spirit;
- propel export competitiveness;
- amplify innovation of our skills-based businesses;
- enhanced employment opportunities and economic vibrancy within communities in the area of eco-tourism and agri-business; and
- drive economic advancement in the Northern Division.

These programmes pave the way for positive impacts throughout the entire supply chain. The Fiji Government recognises the impact of the programmes and their ability to support and nurture our MSMEs.

As a result, the Ministry was fortunate to be allocated an increased budget of \$2.6 million allocated from the 2023/2024 National Budget.

Given this consideration the Ministry is delighted to announce the release of the Expression of Interest (‘EOI’) for the Programmes:

- (1) Integrated Human Resource Development Programme (‘IHRDP’)
- (2) National Export Strategy
- (3) Northern Development Programme
- (4) Trade Enhancement Programme (‘TEP’)

The Government focuses on fostering economic growth, diversification and innovation, these Programmes are set to invigorate Fiji’s business landscape.

With an eye on the future, the Ministry has reviewed its policies with the aim for a New and United Fiji – that embraces the Circular and Digital Economy and works towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Additionally, the Ministry has increased the grant threshold for IHRDP from \$100,000 to \$150,000 and TEP from \$500 to \$1,000.

The increase in the limit of the assistance will enable the Ministry to adequately fund the capital items intended to increase the productivity of the trade-skill based micro businesses and advance the development of peri-urban, rural and maritime areas.

By strategically fostering employment opportunities, the programmes generate a ripple effect that translates to increased economic activities, promotion of economic diversification and driving sustainable socio-economic growth.

During the first ever workshop for the Income Generating Programme for MSMEs on Tuesday 15 August 2023, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica stated that “the Grant programmes are not merely just a financial support system, it symbolises a powerful assurance to empower, uplift and strengthen a key element of Fiji’s road to economic growth and development”.

The Ministry’s EOI extends an invitation to all interested MSMEs including co-operatives businesses to step forward and seize this remarkable opportunity.

The EOI is now open and the deadline for submissions is 6 October 2023.

For more information and to apply, please visit our website on www.mcttt.gov.fj or call/viber us on MSME Fiji helpline 9986 014

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

A boost to the Pacific's internet connectivity

By ILISAPECI TUIVALE

IN a bid to improve connectivity and invest in modern and resilient ICT infrastructure, the Government has commenced on 5G testing, says the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Communications, Manoa Kamikamica

DPM Kamikamica said they were aware of the criticality of 5G networks and its importance for emerging technologies across Fiji's economies.

He was speaking at the launch of the United State Agency for International Development's (USAID) new Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership (DCCP) at the University of the South Pacific last week.

USAID hosted the launch in partnership with USP, with the presence of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFs) Secretary-General, Henry Puna, USP Vice Chancellor, Professor Pal Ahluwalia and USAID Assistant Administrator, Michael Schiffer.

Fiji already has 95 percent internet connectivity through 3G, 4G and 4G+ networks and the Government continues to work closely with telecommunication operators and stakeholders to identify the remaining five percent of the population who are yet to be connected to the online world.

Rotuma has also been identified as the pilot island for the UN Smart Island Programme that Fiji is a part of.

"The goal is to address socio-



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Communications, Manoa Kamikamica speaking during the 5G testing event.

Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE

economic challenges and improve livelihoods by connecting our people in Rotuma to a suite of digitally enabled services through the use of new and emerging technology and digital transformation."

"A scoping exercise has been completed. Once the Smart Island Programme is successfully rolled out in Rotuma, we can use those insights as we deploy to other unconnected and underserved areas," DPM Kamikamica added.

The DCCP-Pacific is directly engaged in 12 Pacific Island countries, including Fiji.

Mr Schiffer added that "through DCCP-Pacific, we will facilitate investments in broadband connectivity and digital government transformation; promote community-level solutions; and leverage traditional and non-traditional technologies, such as low-earth orbit satellites access, to enhance digital connectivity so that more Pacific Islanders can access secure internet and participate in the digital economy".

Former citizens and descendants given the all clear



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad opens Oceania Fiberglass Pte Ltd in Nausori.

Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE

By ILISAPECI TUIVALE

All former Fiji citizens and descendants who are passport holders of other countries will not be facing any immigration issues when entering Fiji.

This was highlighted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Biman Prasad when he officiated at the opening of Oceania Fiberglass Pte Ltd in Nausori recently.

"Our people who are living outside of Fiji have Fiji in their hearts and minds all the time. We are encouraged to see that many of them are coming back and investing and making sure that they contribute with their finances, newfound skills, knowledge, and wisdom," DPM Prasad said.

"As a Government, we are determined to encourage that. We want to provide all the support, remove all the barriers and the bottlenecks that

might have existed before."

"The Government has already changed that Immigration Law, and soon with the new regulations, all former Fiji citizens and their descendants who left Fiji and are holding other passports, will not need a permit anymore when they come to Fiji. That includes anyone – descendants of any Fiji citizen," he said.

DPM Prasad shared that it was always an auspicious occasion when local businesses open and provide services in the local and international markets.

Employment opportunities are created contribution to the country's GDP increases.

Oceania Fiberglass Pte Ltd are the sole manufacturers of fiberglass products in Fiji and was established last year. Its shareholders are all former residents of Fiji now living in British Columbia and the United States of America.

Tourism Fiji launches first-ever fleet of electric vehicles

IN a move towards sustainability and environmental consciousness, Tourism Fiji unveiled its inaugural fleet of electric vehicles (EVs).

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, while officiating at the event, emphasised that these electric vehicles mark progress towards our sustainability goals and reflect global trends towards more environmentally friendly vehicles.

"Through this initiative, Tourism Fiji is taking leadership in sustainable practices in the tourism sector and increasing public awareness of sustainable transportation. When procuring the electric vehicles, Tourism Fiji demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental consciousness."

DPM Gavoka also drew attention to Build Your Dream's (BYD) Blade Battery technology, which not only optimises space utilisation by over 50 percent, but it also excels in stringent safety tests, guaranteeing both longevity and remarkable performance.

Tourism Fiji chief executive officer, Brent Hill, said, "This is an important step in our commitment to our sustainability roadmap. Even our approach to acquiring the vehicles has been sustainable - utilising sponsorships and partnerships to help bring the vision to life and deliver long term cost savings as well as reduced environmental impact".

"After comprehensive research, we reached out to EV Direct, recognising the alignment between our sustainable transportation vision and their offerings," Mr Hill noted.

"The newly launched EVs are fully electric, leaving zero emissions, and are not hybrid vehicles. Furthermore, they come equipped with portable chargers and utilise solar chargers, ensuring these EVs present longterm savings potential and significantly reduce reliance on fossil fuels."

The introduction of these electric vehicles is made possible through strategic partnerships and sponsorships.

EV Direct played a pivotal role in

subsidising Tourism Fiji's journey towards eco-friendliness.

Additionally, Fiji Care, the first insurance company to offer coverage for electric vehicles in Fiji, has also shown strong commitment to this green endeavor.

Solar Hub Fiji also partnered with Tourism Fiji, fully sponsoring the installation of solar chargers.

By introducing electric vehicles, Tourism Fiji aims to encourage the tourism community to adopt similar practices and continue working towards a more sustainable future.

(Source: Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation)



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka, unveiled the Tourism Fiji inaugural fleet of electric vehicles.



The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere with cancer survivors attending the launch of the Self-Care Retreat-Fiji logo launch at the British Legion in Suva. **Photo: FELIX LESINAIVALU**

Retreat empowering cancer survivors

By PRASHILA DEVI

THE Self Care Retreat is a platform that caters as a safe haven and support group for women cancer survivors that encourages sharing, healing and recuperation through high-standard for its participants. This was the view of the President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere while launching the Self Care Retreat-Fiji logo at the British Legion, as he reflected on the role of the retreat which was to support and create hope for those recovering from cancer, particularly women. “All this goes beyond the comforts of hotels and resort facilities. And I personally believe that as Pacific women, as Fijian women, going out of the home and meeting fellow women brings about deeper connections in discussions, sharing experiences and fellowship,” the Head of State said. Elaborating further, President Katonivere said the retreat embraces a holistic approach towards patient and family

care. “While the programme offers a recess for three days, this is substituted with a roster of guest speakers ranging from counsellors, psychologist, medical practitioners who speak on a variety of topics such as nutrition, diet, and therapy among other thematic areas of focus. The most important aspect is spiritual guidance and continued sessions to empower women in their forum on a daily basis,” he said. President Katonivere said the sad reality of the socio-economic issues that the women in Fiji and their families are faced with dictates that many times the quality of care given particularly to health, and for that matter to women in gets compromised. “It is an unfortunate reality, and I am greatly pleased that the National Women’s Machinery, an obligatory arm of Government is committed to fulfilling all possible requirements under Fiji’s national and international policies and treaties focussed on achieving the holistic empowerment and wellbeing of our women.”

Therefore, President Katonivere said the support by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection towards the retreat’s function was the kind of collaboration between the Government and the civil society that was necessary for nation building. Sharing his personal experience, he said last year when Pinktober was commemorated at State House with Fiji Cancer Society, they heard the experiences of survivors. “It is in hearing the testaments of survivors that we realise the hardships that they encounter and that they only need the family first and foremost to support and be an encouragement to them.” To the individuals and organisations collaborating and donating for the worthy cause, President Katonivere acknowledged them for their selfless contribution “as it goes towards empowering and driving the holistic healing of our mothers, grandmother’s, sister’s, aunts and friends who have been diagnosed with cancer”.

Noda Viti

Siga Tabu Okosita 27, 2023. 8 na Drauniveva. Ka 9 ni Tabana - Ka14 ni ivola | www.fiji.gov.fj @FijianGovt Fijian Government

Bose ni Yasana o Cakaudrove

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BOSE NI YASANA KO RA

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“Vakabulabulataki na vutuniyau kei na iyau ni itovo vakavanua”

5

TAURI VOLA NA ISAUSAUVOU KEI NAITASIRI

6

VULAGI DOKAI ENA SIGA NI TAUKEINIVANUA E VURAVURA

7



E uqeti ira na iliuliu ni matanitu ena vuravura ko Viti mera vora-ta na leqa ni draki veisau



PACIFIC SIDS HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Suva, Fiji 21 – 22 August 2023

KO Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka ena nodra vosa tiko vei ira na iliuliu ni matanitu lalai ena Pasivika. Era taba tale tikoga oqori kei ira na lewenibose mai na Pasivika.

E vakauqeti ira tale na iliuliu ni matanitu kei vuravura o Viti me baleta na kena gadrevi na ilavo me vukea na kena taqomaki na ivakaraautaki ni kakana, na vua ni teitei kei na vurevure ni wai.

A vakamatatataka oqo na Matanitu o Viti mai vua na kena Liuliu, Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka, ena gauna era vosa tiko kina vei ira na liuliu ni matanitu lalai ena Pasivika ena nodra boseka ena Pacific Small Islands Developing Level Dialogue on Climate Change a vakayacori ena Grand Pacific Hotel e Suva ena macawa oqo.

“Eda gadreva talega na veitokoni me da tara cake na iyaya ni cakacaka me vorata rawa kina na revurevu levu ni kena tubu cake na ivakatagedegede ni wasawasa, na draki kaukauwa kei na kena toso na wasawasa.”

“Au via kaciva me dua na ivota ni ilavo vakaraautaki me baleta na vukei ni matanitu ena veiyanyanu lalai. E na rawa ni vukea vakatotolo na veika e dodonu me vakavinakataki ka me rawa ni taqomaki keda mai na revurevu se rerevaki ni draki veisau. Na ivakarau ni ivakasala ni veivakasalataki taumada e dodonu me tuvanaki vata kei na ituvatuva ni veivakasavi kei na veituberi ni veivakamatautaki vakaitikotiko.”

“Na leqa oqo e kana vakayawa sara ena noda vei baravi. E ono na koro i Viti era sa tokitaki oti. E vasagavulu karua na koro vakaviti esa tiko na tuvatuva me ra toki tani ena lima ki na tini na yabaki ka tarava.”

Gadrevi me dikevi tale ka vakabulabulataki na yavunilewa taumada ni tamata: Minisita Singh



Ko Minisita ni Veivakacakacataki e Viti, Agni Deo Singh kei ira na lewenibose ena boseka era a lewena ka laki vulagi dokai kina ko kaya.

S A vakadreta na Minisita ni Veivakacakacataki, Agni Deo Singh na kena yaga se gadrevi me dikevi tale na yavu ni lewa taumada vakatamata.

Vakaraitaka na tikina oqo na Minisita, ena dua na vuli ka vakayacori ena Pacific Conference of Churches me baleta na nodra qaravi vinaka na lewenivanua era sa biuta na noda vanua ena bula ni vakasaqara cakacaka ena veivanua tani.

Sa gadrevi kina vei keda kece me ra dikeva tale ka vakabulabulataki na noda yavunibula taumada

vakatamata.

Na veika yaga era vakavulica vei keda na noda qase kei na tubuda me vaka na loloma, yalovinaka, veidokai, yalodina, cakacaka vakaukauwa, kei na duavata.

Oqori na nodra vosa ena dua na vuli me baleta na iVakasala ni iVakatawa kei na Veiqaravi Yaga me baleti ira na Tamata Cakacaka Mai Na Biuvanua.

A vakamatatataka o Minisita Singh na nona vosa ni tiki ni parokaramu oqo e dua na ka e voleka sara ki yalona na nodra tiko vinaka na daukakacaka kece era biuvanua mai Viti.



Bose ni Yasana o Cakaudrove



KO Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka ena nodra bouse na yasana vakaturaga ko Cakaudrove ka vakayacori mai ena koro ko Yaroi.

Ea tauca nona vosa ni vakavinavinaka na iLiliuli ni noda Matanitu o Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka vei ira na liganiwau ni noda vanua ka ra vakaitavi taki ira tiko ena kena tara tiko na valenivolavola ni Yasana e Cakaudrove.

E a vosa tiko o Rabuka ena kena dolavi na Bose ni Yasana o Cakaudrove ka vakayacori ena koro o Yaroi e Savusavu ena siga, Vakaraubuka 18.8.2023.

“Au vakavinavinaka taki ira na noda cauravou lewe ni mataivalu ka ra qarava tiko na kena tara vou tale na vale ni Yasana,” e kaya o Rabuka.

E kaya o Rabuka ni veitalanoa kei iratou na veiqaravi ka ra sa marautaka sara tiko na veiwekani vinaka kei na vanua ratou mai qaravi tavi voli kina.

“Ni ra qaravi vinaka ga na ivakalesilesi, se ra vakailesilesi lelevu se lalai era na yalovinaka ena qarava tu na itavi.

“ Ni da veiqaravi talega vakavinaka na turaga ni vanua kei keda na veiliutaki ena veivanua, esa na rawarawa sara na cakacaka,ka sa faele sara tiko na matau ni noda veivanua.

“Kevaka esega eda na oca walega,” e kaya o Rabuka.

Era vakavinavinaka taki talega na valenivolavola ni Talai Veivuke ena Vualiku ena veiqaravi era sa vakayacora tiko mai.

E kaya o Rabuka ni sa tekivu me vakilai na veiveisau sa yaco tiko ena loma ni yasana me vaka eratou vakaraitaka ena nodratou vosa ni tubetube na Yasana o Cakaudrove.

Ea kidavaki vaka vanua o Rabuka ni bera ni qai teki-vu na Bose ni Yasana.

E sa dodonu meda yadra na iTaukei.

Oqo na mala ni vosa ni veivakayadrati kei na veivakananumi ka a vakaitavi kina na iVukevuke ni Vunilewa ni Tabacakaka iTaukei Josefa Toganivalu ena Bose ni Yasana o Ra ka vakayacori e Dadamu, Nanukuloa mai Ra. E vakaraitaka o Toganivalu ni na takiveiyaga wale na ilavo levu e solia mai na Matanitu ke sega ni yadra na veiliutaki ena noda veiyasana.

“Ke mani solia sara mai e 10milioni se 100 na milioni ka da sega tiko ni yadra kei na cakacaka ena maumauwale sara,” ekaya o Toganivalu. “Na ki ni noda toso kei na vakatoroicaketaki e tiko saka ga vei keda ena kena teivaki ka cakacakataki na noda qele. “Kevaka eda sega ni yadra ena dravusakulukulu se takiveiyaga saka na veika esova tiko mai na Matanitu. “E sa dodonu mena veisau

noda rai kei na vakasama,” e kaya o Toganivalu. E tomana ka kaya ni levu sara na veitalanoa e sa dau vakayacori ka sa da dau guilecava tiko na yavu oya na - Solesolevaki. Veilomani. Gugumatua. Yalovinaka. E veivakananumi talega me tarai cake tale na Bose vanua ka me qai sirova sobu na Yavusa, Koro,Mataqali kei na iToka-

toka ka yaco sara ki na Mata-vuvale. E veivakadreti talega ena bibi ni bula vakaituvatuva, ena nodra kila na noda lewenikoro na veika e dodonu me qaravi ena dua na siga. E tomana nona vosa ka kaya ni dua na ivakatatao levu tiko ni toso kei yadrayadravaki sa ikoya na kena vakasabusabutaki ni gunuvi ni yaqona. Oqo e dua na tikina me na laurai sara vakayalomatua ena

noda veivanua. E vakaraitaka ni sa dodonu talega vei keda meda veisemati vinaka ena noda bula vakavanua kei na bula vakayalo kei na I tuvatuva ni Matanitu. E kuria ka kaya ni sega ni naki vakalou me da dravudravua. E cava ena siga enanoa (Tusiti 15.8.23) na Bose ni Yasana o Ra.

Na valuti ni nodra vakalolomataki na gone edua na lutua ni matanitu o Viti kei Amerika

Na matanitu cokovata ena valuta na cakaca-ka vakaloa se itovo lolovira edau vakayacori vei ira na gone lalai. Sa sasaga talega na matanitu cokovata me taqomaka na nodra bula na gone lalai.

Vakaraitaka na tikina oqo na Vunilawa ka Minisita ni Lewadodonu Siromi Turaga ena nodra sotava na Mata ni Matanitu ko Amerika kina noda vanua, HE Marie Damour

Era a visiko yani na marama mata ni matanitu ko Amerika, HE Damour kivua na Minisita ka rau laki veitalanoa taka saraga na kauwai ni nodra dau vakalolomataki na gone ena itovo lolovira ni veivakasagai ka yaco sara ena kucu. Oqo e kauwai talega kina na matanitu erua baleta na veika esa yaco tu oqo ena vuravura baleta na kena vakayagataki na monalivaliva me dau vakaraitaki kina ka veikauyaki kina na kedra itaba na gone lalai ena inaki vakailoa koya. Na leqa oqo esa tauvi vuravura ka sa tete sara tikoga vakatotolo ena veiyasai vuravura lalai vaka taka na Pasivika.

Kuria ko HE Damour ni matanitu ko Amerika esa tuvakarau mena vukea na matanitu ko Viti ena kena valuti na leqa oqo ka vakakina ena nodra taqomaki na lewenivanua e Viti vakabibi na gone lalai.

Erau veitalanoataka talega na ulutaga ni vuli kei na national security.



Vunilawa Siromi Turaga kei na Mata ni matanitu ko Amerika kina noda vanua, Marie Damour ena nodrau sota ena nona valenivolavola.

Bose ni yasana ko Ra

“Nai tabagone mera uto ni tosotoso oqo, ena nodra vakayagataki, ena nodra tuberi mera tutaka na veika ena toso kina vakavinaka na noda vanua.”

Oqo na veika e cauraka na Turaga na iliuliu ni Matanitu o Sitiveni Rabuka ena nona a dolava na bose ni Yasana o Ra ka vakayacori mai Dadamu, Nanukuloa, mai Ra. “E dodonu me vakabibitaki na nodra kacivi na itabagone, mera uto ni tosotoso oqo,” ekaya o Rabuka

E salavata na nodra itukutuku kei na veiqaravi vakalotu a vakaitavi taki koya kina na iliuliu ni Lotu Wesele e Viti kei Rotuma o Talatala Ili Vunisuwai ka vakayagataka na i vunau me baleti Tevita kei na nona vakadavori Koliaci ena vuku ni nona vakabauta.

E tomana o Rabuka ka vaka-

vinavinakataki na Tabacakacaka iTaukei ena kena tutaki tiko na nodra i tavi era qarava tiko mai Suva kei na valenivolavola ni Yasana e Ra. E kaya ni sa tuvani oti tu na uto ni vakasama ni nodra veiqaravi na vakailesilesi ena noda vanua.

E vakaraitaka ni a wilika ena Bose ni Yasana o Rewa na veika oqo, ka yavu ni nodra veiqaravi na vakailesilesi.

E tomana o Rabuka ka kaya ni marautaka na kena sa tabaki na veitukutuku vuku kei na kilaka vakavanua (traditional knowledge and culture data-



ERA laki vulagi dokai na liuliu ni Matanitu ena bose ni yasana ko Ra ka laki vosa talega veiira na mata ni tikina ka vakakina na ivakalesilesi kei ira na mata ni tikina.

base) ka sa tavoci ena macawa sa oti, ena siga ni Taukei ni Vanua ka vakayacori e Suva. E veivakadreti talega ena bibi ni noda kilai keda tiko ena vakarawarawataka na noda toso vata ena itosotoso vou oqo. Ea kidavaki vakavanua o Rabuka mai vei ira na lewe ni Yasana ni bera ni ra qai veit-

alanoa na lewe ni bose kei iratou na vakailesilesi era sala muria tiko yani na i lakolako vakamatanitu. E ratou oka ena ilakolako oqo na Vunilewa ni Matabose ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei ka Vunivola Tudei talega, Pita Tagicakirewa, Vunivola Tudei ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena

Taudaku ni veikorolelevu, Isoa Talemaibua, Vunilewa ni Tabacakacaka ni Qele Maroroi, Solomoni Nata, Vunilewa ni Lavo Musuki ni iTaukei, Aisake Ta-ito, Vukevuke ni Vunilewa ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei, Josefa Toganivalu kei Apimeleki Tola ka taura vakatawa ni na iliuliu ni Veitarogi Vanua.

Bose ni yasana ko Naitasiri



E vakaraitaka nona nuiqawaqawa na Minisita ni Veikavakaitaukei, Tovo kei na I Yau mareqeti, Hon Ifereimi Vasu ena kena sa tubu sara tiko na iwiliwili ni mate na HIV/AIDS ena noda vanua.

Ea vosa tiko o Vasu ena Bose ni Yasana o Naitasiri ka vakayacori ena koro o Lutu ena Tikina o Muaira e Naitasiri.

E vakaraitaka o Vasu ni sa dodonu meda kauwai kina wiliwili ka sa vakaraitaka na tabana ni bula.

“Oqo e dua na ka e boleki keda vakalevu, e levu na gauna eda sega ni dau veitalanoataka “Esa kerekere levu ni Matanitu meda sa tau-ra na gauna oqo, kevaka eda nanumi ira na noda vei kawa ena veisiga ni mataka meda sa dabe vata ka veitalanoataka nai wali ni

mate na HIV/AIDS koya sa tubu totolo sara tiko qo,” e kaya o Vasu.

“E vinakati meda veitalanoa ni kena na qaravi, ka da vakavinavinaka ni sa tiko na kena iwali, sa tiko vei ratou na tabana ni bula.

“Sa vo ga mera vakauqeti na noda mera gole yani ki valenibula meda lai laurai, “ e tomana o Vasu.

E tomana ka kaya ni se lailai na mate se rawarawa na kena wali.

E vakaraitaka talega mera laurai vinaka tiko na noda isolisoli ka ni ra noda isakisaki ena veisiga ni mataka.

“Oqo e kauwai sara tiko kina na Tabacacaka iTaukei kei na Matanitu,” ekaya o Vasu. E tomani ena, Tusiti 22.8.23 na Bose ni Yasana o Naitasiri.



Na bosa ni yasana vakaturaga ko Naitasiri ka vakayacori ena koro o Lutu Wainimala ka vulagi dokai kina ko Minisita ni veika Vaka Itaukei, Ifereimi Vasu kei ira na ivakalesilesi ni nona tabacacaka.



Sikovi na gaunisala e colo kei Naitasiri



E ra sikova na Minisita ni Veikavakaitaukei, i Tovo kei na i Yau Mareqeti, Hon. Ifereimi Vasu na vanua sa yaco tiko kina na ta gaunisala ka na semata yani na koro o Nakurukuruvakatini kei ratou na veikoro ena loma ni tikina o Noemalu ena Colo kei Naitasiri.

Esa vakadeitaki talega ni sa na toso tale na kena ta yani na gaunisala oqo.

E ono kece tiko na Koro ena Tikina o Noemalu ka wili kina o Korovou, Matawailevu, Narokorokoyawa, Nasava, Nasauvere kei Tubaru.

“Vakabulabulataka na vutuniyau kei na iyau ni itovo vakavanua”

Vakaraitaka na Minisita Veiqaravi ena Veika Vaka Itaukei, Ifereimi Vasu, ena gauna a dolavi kina na Matabose ni Yasana o Naitasiri ena koro o Lutu e Wainimala na nodra vakabibitaka na kena gadrevi na yalomalumumu kei na yalodina me baleta na bula sautu nei Viti.

A vakamatatataka ko Minisita Vasu, na itavi taumada ni matanitu ena nodra qaravi na lewenivanua ka tara cake e dua na yavu kaukauwa me sotava na nodra gagadre.

Era a vakavinavinakataka na tiko ena veivanua e dina ga ni vei-saqasaqa, a raica o Minisita Vasu ni o Naitasiri na ikarua ni yasana levu duadua e Viti, ka vakaraitaka na vakavinavinaka ena kena cau ki na toso ni matanitu.

E vakabibitaka o Minisita Vasu na veika a yaco ena dua na gauna lekaleka sa oti me vakabibitaka na kena maroroi na itovo vakavanua ka vakabibitaka na bibi ni kena vakatikori na yavun-ibula vakavanua vei ira na gone.

A vakacaucautaka na nodra taurivola na ililiu itabagone ena porokaramu ni Sausauvou, ka kena inaki me ra vakavulici ira na ililiu ni yasana.

E wasea o Hon. Vasu na parokaramu ni matanitu mai na iL-avovakarau ni 2023-2024, ka caka me vakavinakataka cake na ilavo tubu ka yaga vei ira na tamata. Ni veisau mai na ivolatara, a vakatakilai mai e dua na ivakaraitaki ni veivuke me susugi kina na itavi.



Era a bau laki sikova talega na Minisita na gaunisalaena colo kei Naitasiri.



Tauri vola na isausauvou kei Naitasiri

Era a mai tauri vola nikua na iSausauvou ni Yasana o Naitasiri ena rara e Draiba e Suva. Na lewenivuli qo, era mai vulica, kara mai vakacokotaki ena ivakarau ni veiliutaki vakabibi nira sucukaya mai ena itutu vakaveiliutaki.

E rauta ni ono na macawa na vuli qo, e yavutaki na lewenivuli ena veika e nanumi ni rawa ni vinaka kina na vanua.

Ra osota mai na rara e Draiba na mataveiwekani, na luvudra, makubudra kei Ira na lewenivale mera vakadinadinataka na cavuisausau sa rawati mai Nadave.

A vulagi dokai na Minisita ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei, iTovo kei na i Yau mareqeti Hon. Ifereimi Vasu.

Sa vakanuinui vinaka vei kemuni na lewenivuli ena Yasana o Naitasiri nina lai cakacakatàki e vanua na veika oni vulica, eda na veivuke ena kena vueti na noda vanua.



Era vulagi dokai na Minisita ni Veika Vakaitaukei Ifereimi Vasu ena soqo ni tauri vola na isausauvou kei Naitasiri.



Vulagi dokai ena siga ni taukeinivanua e vuravura



Era vulagi dokai na noda iLiuliu ni matanitu ena kena marautaki na Siga ni Taukeinivanua e Vuravura.

Na soqo qo era mai sevutaki talega kina na sovanitukutuku ni Vuku kei na Kilaka vakavanua ka vakatokai vakavalagi na Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expression Database.

A navuci na veiqaravi ni vakasomuni itukutuku ena Bose Levu Vakaturaga (BLV) ka vakayacori mai Somosomo, Taveuni ena yabaki 1986.

Qo ena nodra kauwai ni sega ni vakaivolataki tu na noda itovo kei na ivakarau. E dewaigusutaki tu ga ka tiko na ririko ni na rawa ni yali se guilecavi kina.

Sa qaravi oti na cakacaka ni vakasokumuni itukutuku ka sevutaki ena vula oqo na kena sova. Na sova qo ena maroroya na vuku kei na kilaka era kilai tani kina na noda qase ena loma ni 1,171 na koro ena noda Viti.

Ni qai oti na vakacuru itukutuku sa na rawa vei keda meda mai wilika, sarava na veika e maroroi tu me baleti keda.

Ke tiko na nomuni vakatataro ena rawa ni oni veitaratara kei ratou na Tabana ni Vosa kei na iTovo Vakaviti ena noda Tabacakacaka.



Sa kabi saka yani qori eso na itaba ena vuku ni soqo enanoa - Marautaki ni Siga ni Taukeinivanua e Vuravura kei na kena Sevutaki na Sovanitukutuku ni Vuku kei na Kilaka vakavanua.

Noda Viti

Siga Tabu Okosita 27, 2023. 8 na Drauniveva. Ka 9 ni Tabana - Ka14 ni ivola | www.fiji.gov.fj @FijianGovt Fijian Government

Bose ni Yasana ko Bua



Bose ni Yasana ko Bua ka ratou lewena talega na lakolako na iliuliu ni Matanitu na Minisita ni Qele kei na iYau Bula,Filimoni Vosarogo, Minisita ni Veikavakaitaukei, iTovo kei na iYau Mareqeti, Ifereimi Vasu, nona ivukevuke, Rt Isikeli Tuiwailevu kei na iVukevuke ni Minisita ni Curuvana, Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure.

E ra sa kerei na lewe ni Bose ni Yasana o Bua me ra tuvana vaka maqosa na nodra ituvatuva ni veivakatorocaketaki ena gauna ni Bose ni Yasana. A vosa tiko na Turaga na iliuliu ni Matanitu, Sitiveni Rabuka ena Bose ni yasana o Bua ka vakayacori ena vale Na Ulumatua e Nabouwalu. E vakaraitaka o Rabuka na bibi ni kena tuvai na ituvatuva ni yasana me dusia

vei ira na veiliutaki ena matanitu na veika e gadrevi. “Sa rui bibi dina na veiqaravi vakavanua e vakayacori nikua, ka sa vakaraitaka na vakabauta ni vânuva, kei na tagi ni vanua ki na Matanitu. “Sa dodonu meda veitauriliga taka vata na noda vanua kei na noda Matanitu,” ekaya o Rabuka. E vakaraitaka talega o Rabuka na kena toso cake tiko na iwiliwili ni tamata ena

loma ni yasana me vakatautauvatani kei rau na yasana o Cakaudrove kei Macuata. E tomana ka kaya oqo na vuna ena dodonu kina vua na Matanitu veiqaravi me vakatorocaketaka tiko na vei gacagaca era dau qaravi kina na lewenivanua. Oqo era wili kina na koronivuli, valenibula kei valenivolavola ni Matanitu.

E tomana ka kaya ni Bose ni Yasana e bibi baleta ni dau semata vata na Vanua,Lotu kei na Matanitu. E ratou lewe talega ni lakolako na iliuliu ni Matanitu na Minisita ni Qele kei na iYau Bula,Filimoni Vosarogo, Minisita ni Veikavakaitaukei, iTovo kei na iYau Mareqeti, Ifereimi Vasu, nona ivukevuke, Rt Isikeli Tuiwailevu kei na iVukevuke ni Minisita ni Curuvana, Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure.



Gadrevi Na Nomuni Tokona Na Kena Talevi Na Veiqaravi Ni Matanitu Taukei

E sa gadrevi vakalevu na nomuni soli vakasama na lewe ni vanua iTaukei ena gauna e sa na qaravi kina na cakacaka ni kena talevi lesu na veiqaravi ni Matanitu iTaukei, na Veitarogi Vanua kei na Matabose ni Qele Maroroi. Vakaraitaka na veika oqori na Minisita ni Veika Vakaitaukei o Hon Ifereimi Vasu ena koro o Lutu e Wainimala e

na siga Moniti na ika 21 ni siga ni vula ko Okosita. E ra lai dolava na bose ni Yasana ko Naitasiri na Turaga Minisita ka vakauqeti ira na vei mata e ra tiko mera na lesu kina nodra koro ni oti na bose ka ra vasokumuna na nodra rai se vakanananu na lewe ni nodra tikina kei na koro me baleta na ituvatuva vou ni veiqaravi e ra gadreva me virikotori e na veiqaravi ni matanitu iTaukei.

“Qo e dua na tiki bibi ni veiqaravi ena Yabaki qo ni se vakayagataki tiko ga qo na lawa ka se bucini sara e na yabaki 1940,” ekaya na Minisita. “Sa dodonu kina me da na taleva lesu ka me veisau taki e so na iwalewale ni veiqaravi me veisotari kei na gauna eda bula voli kina qo.” “E usutu ni cakacaka qori na kena raici me dau marororya se taqomaka na noda yaubula, na veivakatorocaketaki,

na noda bula vakailavo kei na kei na veiliutaki Vinaka.” “Dua tale sai koya na nodra okati mai na marama kei ira na tabagone e na vakatulewa taki ni noda itosotoso vou oqo,” e tomana ko Minisita Vasu. Na vakatulewa ni kena talevi lesu na veiqaravi ni Matanitu Taukei e vakayacori e na noda Bose Yaco e na vula ko Jiulai ka ratou na qarava na Tabacakacaka iTaukei.



बीस नए मोडल टाउन
के घर के उद्घाटन हुए
2

प्रधान मंत्री ने टूरिज़्म की
भूमिका की सराहना की
3

व्यापार मंत्रालय से मदद की
रुची दिखाने वालों से अर्जियाँ
स्वीकार की जा रही हैं
6

जर्मनी के सहयोग से कई
क्षेत्रों में प्रगति हुई
7

युवा समाज में
महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं
7

अमेरिका, फीजी के समर्थन के लिए तैयार



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका हाल ही में क्षेत्र के कुछ नेताओं के साथ चित्र : प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

अमेरिका ने प्रजातंत्र को बढ़ाने, आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देने, खाद्य सुरक्षा में सुधार, महिलाओं और युवकों को सशक्त बनाने के लिए पीपल्स गठबंधन सरकार की विकास प्राथमिकताओं के लिए समर्थन की पुष्टि की है; साथ ही स्वास्थ्य और शिक्षा तक पहुँच बढ़ाने के लिए तैयार है।

यू एस अइड एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर सेमन्था पावा ने हाल में प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका से मुलाकात के दौरान ये बातें आम की। फीजी और अमेरिका की सराहना में सहयोग तथा मजबूत दोस्ती को देखते हुए सुश्री पावा ने प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका को हवाईयन कोआ चप्पू प्रदान किया। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने अमेरिका

को अपना यू एस अईड पेंसिफिक आएलेण्ड मिशन का दफ्तर फीजी में खोलने में मदद करने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया जो द्वीपक्षीय और क्षेत्रीय विकास प्राथमिकताओं पर परिणाम देने की यू एस ए अइड की क्षमता को मजबूत करेगा। उन्होंने चल रहे सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए क्षेत्र में अपनी उपस्थिति बढ़ाने के लिए अमेरिका की नई प्रतिबद्धता का भी स्वागत किया। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने सरकार तथा फीजी निवासियों की तरफ से अमरिकी राष्ट्रपति जो बाएडन तथा अमरिकी नागरिकों को अपनी शुभकामनाएं दी है।

यू एस अइड एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर सेमन्था पावा ने आगे कहा कि अमेरिका फीजी को एक स्वतंत्र और खुले प्रशान्त क्षेत्र को आगे बढ़ाने में एक नेता और महत्वपूर्ण

भागीदार के रूप में मान्यता देता है और इस बात पर भी जोर दिया कि 'उपस्थिति मायने रखती है' जो कि मुख्य कारण था कि क्यों यू एस ए अईड का नया क्षेत्रीय दफ्तर यहाँ फीजी में खोला गया है। 'हमारा लक्ष्य है प्रशान्त क्षेत्र के लिए अमेरिकी सरकार के प्रतिबद्धता के सं देश को मजबूत करना। हम अपनी उपस्थिति का प्रभावी ढंग से उपयोग करने के तरीके के बारे में अपने प्रशान्त साझेदारी की बात सुनना जारी रखेंगे। हम प्रशान्त प्राथमिकताओं पर एक साथ काम करना जारी रखेंगे। 'हमारा रिश्ता आपसी सम्मान पर आधारित है; तथा बिना किसी का पक्ष लिए स्वतंत्रता के माध्यम से ताकत के सामान्य मूल्य भी है,' यू एस अईड एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर पावा ने कहा।

एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर पावा ने विकास के सभी स्तरों पर फीजी के साथ सहयोग को मजबूत करने की अमेरिका की प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि की। अमेरिका और फीजी का एक लम्बा, साझा इतिहास और घनिष्ठ संबंध है जो यू एस ए अईड तथा प्रशान्तीय द्वीप समूह का क्षेत्रीय दफ्तर के फीजी में खुलने से मजबूत हो रहा है। आज यू एस ए अइड तथा फीजी विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में विकास लक्ष्यों की दिशा में काम कर रहे हैं। नया यू एस ए अईड तथा प्रशान्तीय द्वीप समूह के क्षेत्रीय दफ्तर में अगले साल अगस्त तक इकतीस (31) कर्मचारियों को नौकरी दी जाएगी, जिनमें से चौबीस फीजी के होंगे तथा बाकी सात लोग, पड़ोसी प्रशान्तीय द्वीप देशों के होंगे।

लौतोका में बीस नए मोडल टाउन घर बनाए गए

रोनल देव

हाउजिंग तथा लोकल गर्वमन्ट मंत्री माननीय मादिउ नालुमिसा कातामोतू ने हाल में कोरोईपिता लौतोका में बीस नए मोडल टाउन घरों का उद्घाटन किया। हाउजिंग मंत्री ने कहा कि इन घरों के उद्घाटन से हम उन बाधाओं को भी दूर कर रहे हैं जो लम्बे समय से हमारे निवासियों की सुरक्षित और सम्मानजनक रहने की जगहों तक पहुँच में बाधा बनी हुई है। लोकल गर्वमन्ट मंत्री ने संपन्न समाज बनाने के लिए सरकार के समर्पण पर जोर दिया, जहाँ नागरिक सफल जीवन जी सकें। इन घरों को न केवल शरण लेने की बुनियादी ज़रूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए बनाया गया है बल्कि एक ऐसा वातावरण प्रदान करने के लिए सावधानीपूर्वक निर्माण किया गया है जहाँ परिवार वास्तव में विकसित हो सकें। हर एक घर उचित जीवन के प्रति हमारी प्रतिबद्धता का प्रमाण है। यह बीस मोडल टाउन घर शहरी नियोजन के उदाहरण के रूप में खड़े होकर, अपने निवासियों के लिए जीवन की गुणवत्ता बढ़ाने के लिए वातावरण-अनुकूल सुविधाओं और आधुनिक सुविधाओं को शामिल करते हुए बनाए गए हैं। हर एक युनिट को स्थान, प्रकाश, पर्याप्त हवा को देखते हुए सावधानीपूर्वक बनाया गया है।



कोरोईपिता लौतोका में बीस नए मोडल टाउन घरों का उद्घाटन किया गया चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

प्रायवट सेक्टर की भूमिका सर्वोपरि है



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद, टोटल एनेजीस बा सेर्विस स्टेशन का उद्घाटन करते हुए

रोनल देव

उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद का कहना है कि आर्थिक सुधार, रोजगार तथा विकास के लिए प्रायवट सेक्टर की भूमिका सर्वोपरि है। हाल में बा स्थित टोटल एनेजीस बा सेर्विस स्टेशन का औपचारिक उद्घाटन करते हुए मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि उनका मानना है कि एक सरकार के रूप में हमें विश्वास निर्माण, चीजों को आसान बनाने के लिए व्यवसाय प्रक्रिया को फिर से व्यवस्थित करने, सार्वजनिक बुनियादी ढाँचे में पूँजी लगाने, कौशल विकास, कानून का शासन सुनिश्चित करने और प्रदान करने के माध्यम से हमारे प्रायवट सेक्टर को आगे बढ़ने के लिए अधिक सक्षम वातावरण बनाने और सुनने की ज़रूरत है ताकि ध्यान में रखा जाए कि कानून का शासन तथा स्थिरता हो। उन्होंने प्रकाश डाला कि यह

आयोजन टिकाउ उर्जा समाधान और आर्थिक प्रगति की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति है और उन्होंने पुँजी लगाने तथा साफ उर्जा पहल के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता के लिए टोटल एनेजीसकी सराहना की। मंत्री प्रसाद ने कहा कि उनका मानना है कि यह टोटल एनेजीस का तैतीसवाँ सेर्विस स्टेशन है तथा उन्होंने इस सफलता तथा सुखद सफर के लिए कम्पनी को बधाई दी। इस सेर्विस स्टेशन में आधुनिक सेवा सुविधाएँ हैं जिनमें एक बोनजोर दुकान, केफे कोनर के साथ गाड़ियाँ धोने की सुविधा शुरू करने की योजना शामिल है। प्रायवट सेक्टर तथा सरकार के बीच सहयोग पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, मंत्री प्रसाद ने व्यवसायों को फलने-फूलने के लिए अनुकूल वातावरण प्रदान करने के लिए फीजी के समर्पण पर जोर दिया। उन्हें भरोसा है कि टोटल एनेजीस बा सेर्विस स्टेशन, क्षेत्र में रोजगार उपलब्ध करने और आर्थिक विकास में योगदान ज़रूर देगा।

प्रधान मंत्री विकास और एकता पर जोर दिया



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने हाल ही में दकाउन्ड्रोवे प्राँतिफ काउन्सल की सभा का उद्घाटन किया, चित्र:प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने हाल ही में दकाउन्ड्रोवे प्राँतिफ काउन्सल की सभा के उद्घाटन में भाषण देते हुए सामुदायिक विकास के लिए प्रामाणिक नेतृत्व और एकता पर जोर दिया। उन्होंने सकारात्मक बदलावों में और प्रत्येक प्राँत के समृद्ध रीति-रिवाजों को स्वीकार करते हुए ई-तउकेई मंत्रालय की भूमिका की सराहना की। गठबंधन सरकार की आठ महीने की अवधि में चुनौतियों के बावजूद, प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने चल रहे परिवर्तनों और समर्थन पर संतोष व्यक्त किया। उन्होंने दकाउन्ड्रोवे के निवासियों से माँग

की कि वे एकजुट होकर अपने दायित्वों को पूरा करें जबकि बाकी काउन्सल वाली सभाएँ काफी सफल रही हैं। उन्होंने सावूसावू में लम्बे समय की योजनाओं पर प्रकाश डाला तथा मौसम में हो रहे बदलाव के खिलाफ सुविधाएँ लागू करने की माँग की ताकि प्रदूषण कम हो जिससे आर्थिक फायदे हो। प्रधान मंत्री ने स्थानीय अवसरों, पारिवारिक एकता और सामूहिक प्रगति पर प्रकाश डाला, सरकारी वादों के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि की, छोटे व्यवसायों के लिए समर्थन और प्राँतों के लिए आर्थिक सहायता, जिनमें एक लाख डोलर अलग किया गया तथा प्राँतिफ लेविस हटाई गई है।

प्रधान मंत्री ने टूरिज़्म की भूमिका की सराहना की

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था में टूरिज़्म व्यवसाय की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका और सोफिटेल फीजी की नई योजना से विकास रोजगार और सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान के अवसरों की सराहना की है। यह नई योजना 'वातु तालेई' है, जिसका मतलब है गहना, के नीचे डालने वाले एक समारोह में प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने कहा कि उन्हें स्थानीय समाज पर रिसोर्ट के सकारात्मक प्रभाव की उम्मीद है विशेष रूप से रोजगार में वृद्धि तथा आर्थिक विकास में बढ़न्ती। 'इस योजना को पूरी होने में तीन साल लग सकते हैं, जिसके निर्माण के लिए लोगों को काम पर लिया जाएगा जबकि योजना पूरी होने के बाद तीन सौ पचास लोगों को नौकरियाँ मिलेंगी।'



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका सोफिटेल फीजी की एक नई योजना का नींव डालते हुए

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

उन्होंने जिम्मेदार विकास के महत्व पर ज़ोर दिया, यह देखते हुए कि रिसोर्ट का निर्माण टिकाऊ प्रथाओं का सम्मान करने के साथ-साथ इसमें योगदान भी देगा। प्रधान मंत्री ने फीजी के गर्मजोशी भरे आतिथ्य स्वागत तथा सेवा और मन-मोहक परिदृश्यों को दुनिया के सामने प्रदर्शित करने के प्रवेश द्वार के रूप में रिसोर्ट की भूमिका पर ज़ोर दिया। रिचमण्ड लिमिटेड बोर्ड इस योजना में दो सौ मिलियन डोलर की पूँजी लगा रहा है।

विश्व नेताओं से द्वीप राज्यों की सहायता करने की माँग की गई

रोनल देव

प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने विश्व नेताओं से जलवायु संकट से निपटने के लिए द्वीप देशों की सहायता करने की माँग की है। फीजी ने फिर से विश्व नेताओं से माँग की है कि वे खाद्य प्रणालियों, कृषि उत्पादकता और पानी की सुरक्षा में सहायता के लिए पैसे लगाने की ज़रूरत समझें। ग्रेण्ड पेसिफिक होटल सूवा में आयोजित जलवायु परिवर्तन पर प्रशान्त के छोटे द्वीप विकासशील राज्यों की उच्चस्तरीय वार्ता में प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने प्रकाश डाला कि हमें समुद्र के बढ़ते स्तर, खराब मौसम और समुद्र की बदलती गतिशीलता के बुरे प्रभाव का सामना करने के लिए बुनियादी ढाँचे के निर्माण के लिए भी समर्थन की ज़रूरत है। 'मैं अपने द्वीप राष्ट्रों की सहायता के लिए एक विशेष आर्थिक सहायता की माँग कर रहा हूँ। यह हमें बढ़ते जलवायु संकट से निपटने और सुरक्षा के लिए तेजी से कार्य करने में सक्षम बनाएगा। राहतकार्य की योजनाओं, राहत केन्द्र के साथ-

साथ प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणालियाँ स्थापित की जानी चाहिए।' यह संकट लगातार हमारे समुद्री तटीय क्षेत्रों को खत्म कर रहा है। अभी तक फीजी के छः कोरो को सुरक्षित जगह खिसकाया गया है। अगले पाँच से दस सालों में ब्यालिस (42) और कोरो को खिसकाने की योजना है। इस साल नवम्बर में युनाईटेड अरब एमिरेट्स में COP28 वाली सभा होने की है, जहाँ दुनिया भर के नेताओं को उन समस्याओं पर फिर से गौर करने का अवसर होगा जिनपर हमने प्रकाश डाला है। निश्चित रूप से यह दुनिया के लिए सुधार वाली कार्यवाई करने का समय होना चाहिए जिसकी तत्काल ज़रूरत है। निश्चित रूप से चैप वाली यह सभा काफी अलग होगी। प्रधान मंत्री ने कोप के नए अध्यक्ष सेल्तान अल जाबेर की हाल में दी गई टिप्पणियों का स्वागत किया जहाँ उन्होंने कहा था कि हमें पूरी तरह से ईमानदार होना चाहिए, आज ही उन कमियों को भरने की ज़रूरत है तथा मूल कारण है कि हम इस जगह तक कैसे पहुँचे।



प्रधानमंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका विश्व नेताओं से छोटे राज्यों की सहायता का आग्रह करते हुए

फर्जी एजेंट तथा एजेंसियों से सावधान

रोनल देव

आम जनता को चेतावनी दी गई है कि वे ऐसे रोजगार भर्ती एजेंट तथा एजेंसियों को कोई पैसा न दें जिनके पास यह काम करने का कोई अधिकार नहीं है और वे गैर-कानूनी तरीके से काम करके लोगों को धोखा देने वाली गतिविधियों से बच सकें। रोजगार मंत्रालय के पेरमानेंट सेक्रेटरी मारितिनो नेमानी का कहना है कि विदेश में काम करने वाली सुविधा दोनों देशों की सरकारों की व्यवस्था से होती है जैसे कि ओस्ट्रेलिया और फीजी के बीच वूवाले साझेदारी के नीचे पेसिफिक ओस्ट्रेलिया लेबर मोबिलिटी स्कीम के नीचे लोगों को भर्ती किया जा रहा है। "रोजगार मंत्रालय के नीचे सिर्फ नेशनल एम्प्लोएमेंट सेन्टर को ही अधिकार दिया गया है कि वे ओस्ट्रेलिया में पाम स्कीम के नीचे तथा न्यू जीलेण्ड में रिकोगनाईस सीजनल एम्पलोया वर्क



स्कीम के नौकरी करने वाले फीजीवासियों को तैयार करें," श्री नेमानी ने कहा। दोनों स्कीम के नीचे सिर्फ स्वीकृत प्राप्त मजदूर मालिकों को ही सेन्टर के द्वारा फीजी से लोगों को भर्ती करने का अधिकार दिया गया है। सेन्टर को लेबर सेडिंग युनिट माना जाता है। दोनों स्कीमों को अंतर सरकारी व्यवस्था के बाहर सुविधा प्रदान नहीं की जाती है।

फीजी, भारत का गहरा मित्र है-भारतीय राजदूत



भारत, बहुत गर्व महसूस करता है कि वो फीजी में सामाजिक आर्थिक विकास में एक विश्वसनीय भागीदार के रूप में भूमिका निभाता है। फीजी के लिए भारतीय राजदूत महामहिम पालानिस्वामी सुब्रमनियम कार्थिजेयन ने भारत के सतहत्तरवे 77 स्वतंत्रता दिवस के स्वागत समारोह में प्रकाश डाला कि फीजी के साथ भारत का स्वतंत्रता दिवस मनाना एक बड़ा सौभाग्य है जबकि फीजी एक ऐसा राष्ट्र है जिनके साथ उनका एक स्थायी बंधन है। इस समारोह में प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका,मंतीमण्डल के सदस्य तथा कूटनीतिज्ञ सदस्य भी शामिल हुए थे। महामारी की चुनौतियों के बावजूद फीजी के साथ भारत के घनिष्ठ संबंध, आपसी सम्मान तथा लोगों के बीच संबंध लगातार बढ़ रहे हैं।



फीजी एयरवेज के नए विमान A350 का स्वागत



फीजी एयरवेज उस श्रेष्ठता का प्रतीक है जहाँ फीजी पहुँच सकता है। यह प्रगति के लिए हमारा वर्तमान मोडल है, राष्ट्रीय गौरव का स्तोत है और इस बात का सकारात्मक प्रमाण है कि हमारा छोटा सा देश दुनिया के सर्वश्रेष्ठ देशों के साथ व्यावसायिक रूप से मुकाबला कर सकते हैं। फीजी एयरवेज के नए विमान A350 जिसका नाम आपलेण्ड ओफ वेगा रखा गया है, के आगमन वाले स्वागत समारोह में प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका मुख्य मेहमान थे जिन्होंने इस मौके पर कहा कि यह एक महत्वपूर्ण अवसर है जो राष्ट्रीय गौरव को एक साथ लाया है। उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि नए A350 का फीजी के टूरिज्म, व्यापार और आर्थिक विकास पर गहरा प्रभाव पड़ेगा। फीजी एयरवेज के जहाजों के फ्लीट में आपलेण्ड ओफ वेगा के शामिल होने से, फीजी एर्रावैस यह संकेत दे रहा है कि हमारा देश विकास के युग में आगे बढ़ रहा है। फीजी एयरवेज के विशेषज्ञों ने गणना की है कि 2019 की तुलना में मार्ग और समय के आधार पर एयरलाइन के पास अब चालिस प्रतिशत ज्यादा यात्री की क्षमता हो सकती है। यह यहीं नहीं रुकता है, फीजी एयरवेज और भी विमान लाने के अलावा कुछ वर्तमान रास्तों पर क्षमता बढ़ाने पर सावधानीपूर्वक विचार कर रहा है।



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एन्टरप्राइस के विकास कार्यक्रम पर रूची दिखाने वालों से अर्जियाँ स्वीकार की जा रही हैं

ट्रैड, कोऑपरेटिव्स तथा छोटे और मध्य वर्ग के व्यापार और कोम्युनिकेशन मंत्रालय को 2022/2023 राष्ट्रीय बजट में पिछले साल छोटे, माएको तथा मध्य वर्ग के व्यापारों की सहायता वाले कार्यक्रम ('MSMEs') के लिए 1.4 मिलियन डोलर दिया गया था जिसने इन उद्येश्यों का समर्थन किया:

- युवा व्यावसायियों की भावना को बढ़ाया;
- निर्यात होड़बाजी को बढ़ाया;
- हमारे कौशल आधारित व्यवसायों के नए विचार को बढ़ाया
- पर्यावरण-टूरिज़म और कृषि व्यवसाय के क्षेत्र में समाज के अन्दर रोजगार के अवसर और आर्थिक फुर्ती में वृद्धि की ; और
- उत्तरी विभाग में आर्थिक उन्नति को बढ़ावा दिया।

ये कार्यक्रम पूरे सप्लाई चैन पर सकारात्मक प्रभाव के रास्ते खोलते हैं।

फीजी सरकार कार्यक्रमों के प्रभाव और हमारे एम एस एम ई को समर्थन और पोषण देने की उनकी क्षमता को पहचानती है। परिणामस्वरूप, मंत्रालय भाग्यशाली रहा कि उन्हें 2023/2024 राष्ट्रीय बजट की घोषणा के दौरान बजट बढ़ाकर 2.6 मिलियन डोलर दिया गया। इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए मंत्रालय को नीचे लिखे कार्यक्रमों के लिए रूची दिखाने वालों से अर्जी स्वीकार करने की घोषणा करते हुए खुशी हो रही है: इन कार्यक्रमों में शामिल है:

(1) इंटाग्रेटेड हियुमन रिसोस डिवेलोपमन्ट प्रोग्राम ('IHRDP')

(2) नेशनल एक्सपोर्ट स्ट्राटेजी

(3) नोर्दन डिवेलोपमन्ट प्रोग्राम

(4) ट्रैड एंहांसमन्ट प्रोग्राम ('TEP')

फीजी सरकार आर्थिक विकास और नए विचार को बढ़ावा देने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करती है, ये कार्यक्रम फीजी के व्यापार को मजबूत करने के लिए तैयार है।

भविष्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए, मंत्रालय ने नई और संयुक्त फीजी के लक्ष्य के साथ अपनी नीतियों की समीक्षा की है जो नए युग की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को अपनाती है और विकास लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने की दिशा में काम करती है।

इसके अलावा मंत्रालय ने इंटाग्रेटेड हियुमन रिसोस डिवेलोपमन्ट प्रोग्राम ('IHRDP') का ग्रांट एक लाख \$100,000 से बढ़ाकर एक लाख पचास हजार डोलर \$150,000 कर दिया है और **ट्रैड एंहांसमन्ट प्रोग्राम ('TEP')** का ग्रांट पाँच सौ डोलर से बढ़ाकर एक हजार डोलर कर दिया है। सहायता की सीमा में वृद्धि से मंत्रालय व्यापार-कौशल आधारित सूक्ष्म व्यवसायों की उत्पादकता बढ़ाने और शहर के दायरे, ग्रामीण और समुद्री क्षेत्रों के विकास को आगे बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से उचित सहायता देने में सक्षम होगा। रोजगार के अवसरों को रणनीतिक रूप से बढ़ावा देकर, कार्यक्रम एक प्रभावशाली प्रथा उत्पन्न करते हैं जो आर्थिक गतिविधियों में वृद्धि, आर्थिक बढ़ावा देने और स्थायी सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देता है।

छोटे, मध्य और सूक्ष्म व्यापारियों के लिए आमदनी कमाने वाले कार्यक्रमों पर पहली बार आयोजित एक कार्यशाला में उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा व्यवसाय और कोऑपरेटिव मंत्री माननीय मानोआ कमिकमिदा ने प्रकाश डाला कि ग्रांट वाले ये कार्यक्रम केवल एक आर्थिक सहायता प्रणाली नहीं है, बल्कि यह फीजी की आर्थिक वृद्धि और विकास के मार्ग के एक प्रमुख तत्व को सशक्त बनाने तथा मजबूत करने के एक शक्तिशाली आश्वासन का प्रतीक है। मंत्रालय ने रूची दिखाने वाले सभी लोग जो छोटे, मध्य और सूक्ष्म व्यापार चलाते हैं, जिनमें कोऑपरेटिव्स वाले व्यापार भी शामिल हैं से माँग की गई है कि वे आगे बढ़ें और इस सुनहरे अवसर से लाभ उठाएं। अर्जी लगाने की आखिरी तारीख इस साल **छ: अक्टूबर** है।

और जानकारी तथा अर्जी लगाने के लिए हमारे वेबसाइट www.mcttt.gov.fj पर जाएं या एम एस एम ई फीजी हेल्पलाइन 9986 014 पर हमें कोल या वायबा करें।

युवा समाज में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं



खेलकूद मंत्री माननीय चेसे सउकुरु हालही सूवा में आयोजित अंतर्राष्ट्रीय युवा दिवस के मौके पर एक युवती से मुलाकात करते हुए चित्र : प्रदान किया गया

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हमारे युवा हमारे समाज में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं, और वातावरण चुनौतियों से निपटने में उन्हें शामिल करना ज़रूरी है। सूवा में हाल ही आयोजित युवा दिवस समारोह के मौके पर खेलकूद मंत्री माननीय चेसे सउकुरु ने जोर दिया कि परिवर्तन-निर्माता बनने, झेलने वाला विकास को आगे बढ़ाने और वातावरण संरक्षण में अग्रणी बनने के लिए युवकों को ज़रूरी ज्ञान, उपकरण और कौशल के साथ सशक्त बनाने के महत्व पर जोर दिया गया है।

“फीजी सरकार हमारे युवकों के बीच कौशल के विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए पूरी तरह से प्रतिबद्ध है,” उन्होंने कहा। इस साल अंतर्राष्ट्रीय युवा दिवस का मुख्य विषय है ‘युवकों के लिए

कौशल एक झेलने वाले विश्व की ओर’ सूवा में युवकों की अगुवाई वाला कार्यक्रम मानवाधिकारों की सार्वभौम घोषणा की पचहत्तरवी 75वीं वर्षगांठ का भी जश्न मनाता है। माननीय सउकुरु ने स्वीकार किया कि आज के युवा प्रगति और परिवर्तन की मशाल लेकर चलते हैं।

“जबकि हम अंतर्राष्ट्रीय यूवा दिवस मना रहे हैं तो ऐसे में आइए हम, वातावरण मानवाधिकार कार्यवाई के मुख्य स्तों के रूप में मानवाधिकारों की सार्वभौम घोषणा की सहायक भूमिका को पहचानें। आइए हम हर एक व्यक्ति के स्वस्थ वातावरण में रहने के मौलिक अधिकार पर जोर दें जो उनके शारीरिक मानसिक और सामाजिक कल्याण का समर्थन करता हो।”

जर्मनी के सहयोग से कई क्षेत्रों में प्रगति हुई



सूवा में जर्मनी का नया दूतावास खुलने के मौके पर प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर के सहायक मंत्री माननीय सकियूसा तुनाबूना हाल में जर्मनी के राजदूत महामहीम बीट ग्रेज़ेस्की तथा अन्य अधिकारियों के साथ चित्र : प्रदान किया गया

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यूरोपियन युनियन के मार्फत हमने जर्मनी के सहयोग से कई क्षेत्रों में भारी प्रगति की है। इसे जर्मन डिवलपमेंट ग्राम, जी आई ज़ेड द्वारा समर्थन किए हुए वर्तमान के कई कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से बढ़ाया गया है। सूवा में जर्मन का नया दूतावास खुलने के मौके पर प्रधान मंत्री दफ्तर के सहायक मंत्री माननीय सकियूसा तुनाबूना ने अपने बयान में कहा कि जर्मनी की 2022 इंडो-पेसिफिक नीति, ब्लू पेसिफिक और द्वीप राज्यों पर अधिक ध्यान केंद्रित करती है और सूवा में एक दूतावास का उद्घाटन उस प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि करता है और हमारे रिश्ते को सहयोग और बात-चीत को दूसरे स्तर पर ले जाता है।

‘जैसे- जैसे हम बातचीत करते हैं और एक साथ मिलकर काम करेंगे, हमें कई नए क्षेत्र मिलेंगे जिनमें हम सहयोग कर सकते

हैं, जलवायु परिवर्तन और हमारी समुद्री और तटीय जीव जन्तुओं की रक्षा कैसे की जाए जैसे वैश्विक विषयों पर द्विपक्षीय और वैश्विक विषयों का पता लगाने के मौके मिलेंगे।’ अपने बयान में राजदूत महामहीम बीट ग्रेज़ेस्की जो कि प्रशान्त द्वीप राज्यों के लिए जर्मनी की विशेष दूत भी हैं ने कहा कि जर्मनी फीजी और अन्य प्रशान्त द्वीप देशों के साथ संबंध सुधारने पर अड़ा हुआ है। उन्होंने जलवायु संकट में जर्मनी के समर्थन की पुष्टि की और उन्होंने फीजी और क्षेत्र के लिए महत्वपूर्ण विषयों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए वैश्विक क्षेत्र में फीजी सरकार के प्रयासों की भी सराहना की है। जर्मनी ने वर्षों से फीजी के राष्ट्रीय विकास में योगदान दिया है।

प्रधान मंत्री ने नए जर्मन दूतावास का उद्घाटन किया



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका जर्मनी के विशेष दूत महामहीम बीट ग्रेज़ेस्की तथा फीजी में जर्मनी राजदूत महामहीम एन्ड्रियेस प्रोथमनों के साथ चित्र : प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

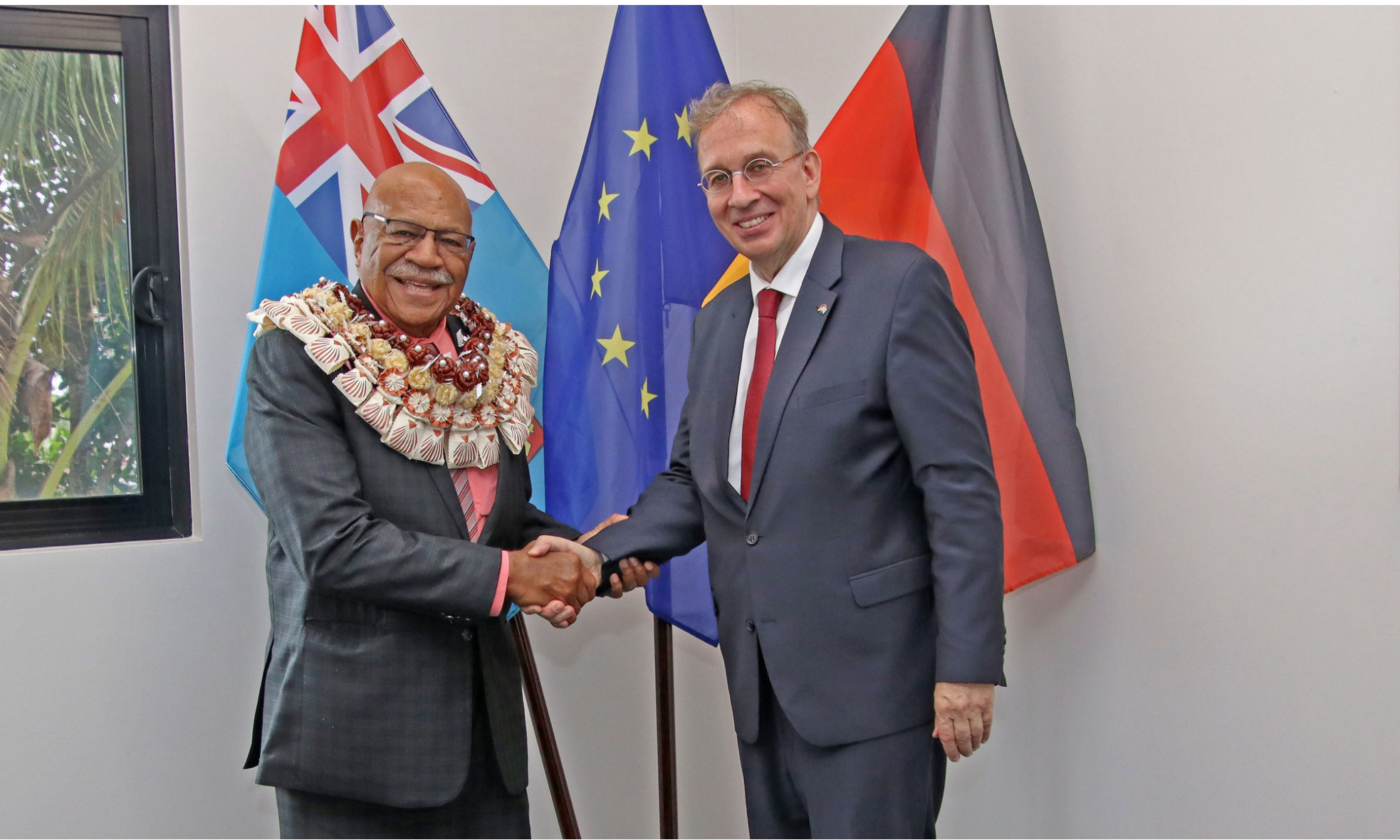
जर्मनी सरकार ने फीजी के साथ अपने राजनयिक संबंध की पचासवीं वर्षगांठ जो पहली अगस्त 1973 को शुरू हुआ को मजबूत करने की अपनी प्रतिबद्धता प्रदर्शित करते हुए, सूवा में अपना नया दूतावास खोला। इस उद्घाटन समारोह में प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका के साथ जर्मनी के विशेष दूत महामहीम बीट ग्रेज़ेस्की तथा फीजी में जर्मनी राजदूत महामहीम एन्ड्रियेस प्रोथमन भी शामिल हुए। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने कहा कि यह एक ऐतिहासिक क्षण है कि सबसे बड़ी शक्तियों में से एक देश ने फीजी में एक राजनयिक मिशन स्थापित किया है। उनके अनुसार इस नए दूतावास से अवसरों को बढ़ावा मिलेगा जैसे कि अर्थ-व्यवस्था, व्यापार, टूरिज़म, पूंजी, जलवायु परिवर्तन, विज्ञान और इंजीनियरिंग।

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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प्रधानमंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका हाल में जर्मनी के विशेष दूत महामहीम बीट ग्रेज़ेस्की से मुलाकात करते हुए

चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

जर्मनी के विशेष दूत का फ़ीजी दौरा

रोनल देव

जर्मनी का लक्ष्य है फ़ीजी के साथ अर्थ-व्यवस्था, व्यापार, टूरिज़्म, पूँजी, जलवायु परिवर्तन, विज्ञान और इंजीनियरिंग, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, लिंग और मानवाधिकार जैसे क्षेत्रों में विकास सहयोग का विस्तार करना।

जर्मनी के विशेष दूत महामहीम बीट ग्रेज़ेस्की ने हाल में फ़ीजी के प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका के साथ मुलाकात में यह बात कही। दोनों नेताओं ने उन तरीकों पर चर्चा

की कि जर्मनी, कैसे फ़ीजी के विकास ज़रूरतों का समर्थन करने के लिए अपनी आधिकारिक विकास सहायता को सर्वोत्तम तरीके से पुनः व्यवस्थित कर सकता है।

प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने पिछले कई सालों से फ़ीजी का समर्थन करने के लिए जर्मनी की सराहना की और सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास में आगे की सम्भावनाओं का स्वागत किया।

अपने समर्थन की पुष्टि करते हुए, जर्मनी की विदेश मंत्री एनालेना बाबोक् ने कहा कि जर्मनी एक उज्ज्वल भविष्य

बनाने के प्रयास में फ़ीजी के साथ खड़ा है। उन्होंने कहा कि जर्मनी अपने आर्थिक तंत्र के नए माध्यम से फ़ीजी में उन सामाज्यों की मदद करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है जो जलवायु परिवर्तन के असर के कारण पीड़ित हैं।

ईजिप्ट में हाल में हुई कोप वाली सभा में हम हानि और क्षति के लिए नए तंत्र स्थापित करने पर सहमत हुए। यह मेरे लिए व्यक्तिगत तौर से बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण रहा है। अब हम वर्तमान के तंत्रों का बेहतर उपयोग करने और नई संरचनाएं स्थापित करने के लिए कड़ी

मेहनत कर रहे हैं।

‘सूवा में हमारे नए दूतावास में हमारे सहयोगियों की यही प्रमुख प्रतिबद्धता है। यह आपके प्रति हमारी प्रतिबद्धता है, यह फ़ीजी सरकार के प्रति हमारी प्रतिबद्धता है।

मैं आपको विश्वास दिलाता हूँ कि अधिक महत्वकांक्षाओं को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए आप दुबई में कोप सभा में फिर से हमारे समर्थन पर भरोसा कर सकते हैं। जलवायु कार्यवाई का मतलब ज़मीनी स्तर पर तत्काल कार्यवाई भी है।