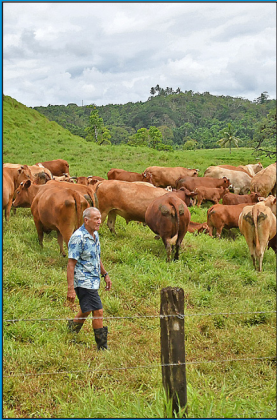


PM Rabuka opens new processing facility



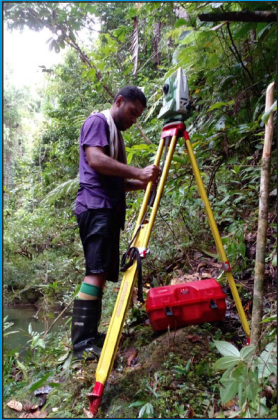
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Govt assistance supports farm business



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Lines in the landscape – a surveyor's tale



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Infrastructure a conduit to better life



Women of Muana, Vunisei and Navatuyaba of Toga after the commissioning of the \$4million bridge, an investment into sustainable road infrastructure development in rural areas. PHOTO: NANISE NEIMILA

By PRASHILA DEVI

INFRASTRUCTURE development- new roads, bridges or even short walkways- have an immediate impact on the lives of the people. This is evident in the elated faces of villagers when such projects are delivered right at their doorstep and it was with this in mind that Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, welcomed the formalisation of the exchange of notes for the road upgrade project in parts of Vanua Levu to the tune of \$300 million. As a part of the Peoples’ Coalition Government’s plans to boost infrastructure development and promote rural development with the assistance from the People’s Republic of China, it will attend to the maintenance and upgrade of 82 kilometres of rural roads in Vanua Levu. Prime Minister Rabuka said, “The upgrade of these roads will provide better services and access to remote villages and communities, particularly access to markets, education, healthcare, public services and associated economic activities as well as effective construction and management of sealed and unsealed roads”. “This project is envisaged to provide the enabling environment to the private sector and the business community to invest in Vanua Levu.”

The project, which will be under the China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), will focus on the maintenance and upgrade rural roads, including parts of the Natewa-West Coast and the Nabalebale-Naviavia/ Dawara Roads in Cakaudrove and part of the Nabouwalu-Makolei Road in Bua. It will involve 22 bridges being constructed that will benefit 61 villages and 15 schools and improve access to hospitals and medical facilities as well as to the USP and FNU Campuses in Labasa. “I wish to commend China’s ongoing cooperation in advancing issues of mutual priorities at the regional and global arena. The “One China Policy”, has been the firm foundation of Fiji-China diplomatic relations, founded some 49 years ago.” “I thank Chinese Ambassador Zhou Jian for our continuing discussions on the prospects for future cooperation in the areas of socio-economic development.” Meanwhile, the testament of the impact of such developments was evident in the hearty reaction to the \$4 million Toga Bridge.

Putting all the hardships of decades behind her was 79-year-old Ro Litiana Divavesi from Vunisei village who described Toga Bridge’s completion as a historic event, one that will improve life in her village and ensure the safety of her grandchildren. The bridge will serve three villages—Muana, Vunisei, and Navatuyaba—as well as nearby settlements, a primary school, and two pre-schools.



Minister for Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services, Ro Filipe Tuisawau and Naitasiri high chief Ratu Inoke Takiveikata at the commissioning of the new bridge in Toga, Rewa. Photo: NANISE NEIMILA

Mom thanks government for fulfilling children's back to school needs

By AZARIA FAREEN

The Fiji Governments 'Back to School Support' initiative has assisted a total of 208,431 students from early childhood to Year 13 of high school, with the number having the potential to increase.

The payment of \$200 per child from the Ministry of Finance has eased the burden of the majority of low-income earners in being able to purchase school supplies for their children.

In acknowledging the initiative, Saniana Rogo, a recipient of the program thanked the Government for the timely assistance that helped parents in sending their children

to school in a proper way.

"I am an unemployed mother of four kids and two of my children attend the Assemblies of God Primary School while two are

attending Assemblies of God High School," Mrs Rogo relayed.

"I found out about the back-to-school grant from my children's school at the end of the school term and decided to take up on this opportunity."

"The application method was easy as I received assistance from the school on filling out the form and after the process, I received \$800 in grant," she added.

The mother of four said that she bought two pairs of uniforms each for her four children, school sandals, sports uniforms with running shoes and school bags.

"Apart from the stationaries, I bought them supplies that would last a long time and it was expensive but it was worth it,"

Mrs Rogo said.

"I would advise parents to use the back-to-school grant funds well and for the purpose it was given for as I dislike seeing some children being deprived of proper school attire and school supplies."

"My husband is a mechanic who isn't employed full time therefore, this monetary assistance is a huge help to us and where we have been able to fulfil our children's school needs," she added.

Mrs Rogo adds that "education is the key to a better tomorrow and with proper education and support from parents, children can achieve greater things in life and make a difference wherever they go".

Ministry of Education's permanent secretary, Selina Kuruleca, in acknowledging the overwhelming response from parents noted that "there have been some manual entries done as parents visited our office".



Mrs Saniana Rogo's children ready for their first day of school (From L to R) Zynal Khan attending Year 9, Khalisah Khan attending Year 5, Zara Khan attending Year 1 and Alia Khan attending Year 10.

Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

"So, there are a total of around 2401 students left to receive the assistance," Ms Kuruleca highlighted.

"Some parents are still coming to our office regarding issues with payment, so the number of applications that were not updated by the schools will increase," she added.

To be eligible for this initiative, the combined household income was set below \$50,000 per annum.

Coalition Govt reinforces commitment to address climate change and reduce carbon emissions



Assistant Minister at the Office of the Prime Minister, Sakiusa Tubuna, with stakeholders after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Carbon Credits between the First Nation (Fiji) Resources Foundation and the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation (AbCF) from Australia. Photo: SUPPLIED

THE Assistant Minister at the Office of the Prime Minister, Sakiusa Tubuna has affirmed the Coalition Government's dedication to tackling climate change and reducing carbon emissions in the forest and land-use sectors.

The commitment was reiterated at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Carbon Credits between the First Nation (Fiji) Resources Foundation and the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation (AbCF) from Australia.

Asst Minister Tubuna highlighted Fiji's leading role in the Pacific region's climate change arena, both in the carbon compliance market and the Carbon Voluntary market.

He emphasised that Fiji's forests, which encompasses 60 per cent of the landmass, are communally owned by indigenous Fijians and hold vast potential for poverty alleviation through monetisation in the Carbon Voluntary Market – a rapidly growing billion-dollar industry.

"The active participation of the private sector and civil society in engaging forest owners in the Carbon Voluntary Market is a proactive stance that aligns with the Fiji Government's Sustainable Development Goals on Poverty Alleviation," Asst Minister Tubuna stated.

He emphasised that the newly launched agreement would support the government's commitment to reducing carbon emissions from the forestry sector through the voluntary carbon

market, utilising internally approved voluntary standards.

The MoU was signed recently by First Nation (Fiji) Resources Foundation chairperson, Dr Akanisi Kedrayate and the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation (AbCF) chief executive officer, Rowan Foley from Australia.

By leveraging the potential of Fii's forests, the partnership aims to advance the country's ambitions of reducing carbon emissions while promoting economic opportunities for indigenous communities.

Dr Kedrayate stated, "We are pleased to with AbCF on this MoU to accelerate climate action".

"This agreement is an important milestone for both our countries in working together to meet our respective climate targets."

"We hope that it will spur climate investments, enable innovation but most importantly for the First Nation (Resources) Foundation ensure that all our AbCF dealings are beneficial, equitable and just to our natural resource owners," she said.

Asst Minister Tubuna further added that the Coalition Government remains determined in its pursuit of a sustainable future and stands committed to addressing climate change and promoting environmental stewardship.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

DPM Prasad attends India Energy Week in Goa India



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Professor Biman Prasad, at the India Energy Week in Goa, India. Photo: SUPPLIED

F IJI will walk the talk when it comes to climate action such as transitioning towards 100 per cent renewable energy.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Professor Biman Prasad, while speaking at the India Energy Week, Ministerial Panel: Powering tomorrow- the future outlook for energy markets, said this transition will take place despite the financial and economic imperatives.

DPM Prasad emphasised that despite Fiji being a very small contributor of carbon dioxide, the national priority was to move towards 100 percent renewable energy.

He emphasised that transition can only succeed with adequate financing, strong commitment from government, state actors and private institutions.

DPM also highlighted that in Fiji, around 50 percent of the electricity was currently generated through renewable sources whilst the other 50 percent was sourced from fossil fuels which has a significant import cost and a major drain on foreign exchange reserves every year.

It was also vulnerable to global price fluctuations, inflation and cost of production, impact on socio-economic conditions, which have a major bearing for the overall economy.

DPM further elaborated that apart from these financial imperatives for energy transition, Fiji was a fierce proponent of decarbonisation and energy transition as it was one of those countries that are feeling the brunt of climate change and from a moral perspective the world needs to move faster with transition to clean energy.

He also strongly voiced out Pacific and small islands unique challenges surrounding decarbonisation, economic growth, collaboration and energy transition including access and cost of financing, challenges associated with geographically dispersion of our islands and transition and vulnerabilities of the decarbonisation in the transport and aviation sector.

Tajikistan's Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources and Netherland's Energy Special Envoy of the Ministry of Economic Affairs were also part of the panel.

(Source: Ministry of Finance)



Geopolitics and security challenges top discussion

OUR nations can achieve greater impact through a united front in the face of evolving geopolitics and security challenges.

This was the message delivered by the Prime Minister, Sitiveni Rabuka while participating in a plenary discussion in Brussels last week, focusing on the geopolitical landscape and emerging security challenges across the globe.

The plenary session at the 3rd EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum provided a platform for collaborative dialogue and strategic cooperation among member nations.

In his contribution, Prime Minister Rabuka drew attention to the recent drug bust incident in Fiji where the police seized about five tonnes of methamphetamine in Nadi, labelling it a serious concern for the country.

In this regard, he highlighted the need for the power houses of the world to commit to fostering regional stability and security.

“By working closely with regional and international power houses, we can implement comprehensive measures to promote security and stability,” Prime Minister Rabuka said.

He also highlighted that the Pacific aims to be a region free from militarisation and conflict.

Discussions during the session also focused on security challenges, ranging from cyber threats to maritime security issues and geopolitical shifts impacting the Indo-Pacific.

The participants reaffirmed their commitment to upholding international norms, promoting the rule of law, and ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka at the plenary discussions at the 3rd EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Brussels. Photo: SUPPLIED

Collective action is critical to ensure a sustainable future: PM Rabuka

PRIME Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has called for better collaboration in order to transcend geographical boundaries and build partnerships founded on mutual respect and understanding

Fiji’s Head of Government, while delivering the country statement at the European Union Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Brussels recently, highlighted the issue of the ongoing crises and geopolitical challenges that must be addressed.

“We stand at a crossroad, confronted by a world of interconnected complex crises and geopolitical tensions. Our collective well-being hinges on our ability to forge a new path towards a more sustainable, equitable, and peaceful future,” he said.

On the regional front, Prime Minister Rabuka acknowledged the impact of geopolitical tensions and the escalating climate crisis on the Pacific region.

In this regard, he welcomed the EU Indo-Pacific Strategy and Global Gateway initiative.

“Recognising our limited capacity to address global challenges individually, we must work together as a collective. Therefore, we welcome the EU Indo-Pacific Strategy and Global Gateway initiative, in promoting geostrategic cooperation to achieve common goals,” he added.

He also commended the recent endorsement of the Samoa Agreement, marking an important milestone in strengthening bilateral ties between the EU and OACP member States.

Prime Minister Rabuka, at the same time, welcomed the EU’s commitment to environmental stewardship.

Additionally, he urged a collective commitment to making the Blue Pacific a Zone of Peace.

“The Blue Pacific envisages becoming a Zone of Peace. This is a call that I have made at regional and global forums last year. It is a call that I now have the opportunity to make to you dear friends, at this Forum.”

“We want to be a region free of militarisation and conflict, in line with the United Nations Charter and the values of multilateralism and collective action.

“Guided by the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, we want to work together with partners in the Indo-Pacific and the EU to protect our vast ocean space,” Prime Minister Rabuka said.

“The EU is a key partner in our pursuit of a peaceful and secure Pacific region.”

He expressed optimism that the EU’s commitment to fostering free and fair trade, sustainable supply chains and digital innovation would inspire economic growth in the Pacific region, addressing poverty and supporting key economic policies.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka delivering his keynote address at the 3rd EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Brussels. Photo: SUPPLIED

PM Rabuka opens new processing facility, achievement of young entrepreneur in Taveuni

ONCE surviving on a mere \$100 some nine years ago, 28-year-old Atish Prasad has now become a successful entrepreneur in Taveuni, owning a thriving business that employs more than 60 locals.

Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka recently opened a cutting-edge agro-marketing facility, owned by Mr Prasad in Nalele, which will be used to store dalo supply, ensuring freshness and quality while increasing income for local farmers.

Attended by hundreds of residents, relatives, friends, stakeholders and government officials, the opening of the Road King Farm Fresh Produce Processing Facility is a testament to Mr Prasad’s innovation, resilience and commitment to the prosperity of the Taveuni community.

PM Rabuka congratulated Mr Prasad’s dedication to enhancing dalo sales on the island and contributing to Fiji’s export earnings.

“I congratulate young Atish for his innovation and resilient discovery to be able to market our produce to the world,” he said.

“This facility holds a lot of promise in reshaping the agricultural landscape of Taveuni. There’s no reason why Fiji cannot feed its own self as projects like this, allows us to venture into feeding the world.”

The Head of Government added that the newly-opened

facility stands as a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit and ‘veilomani’ (love) demonstrated by Mr Prasad.

Acknowledging international support, PM Rabuka highlighted the active pursuit of partnerships with global organisations, research institutions, and donor agencies to advance Fiji’s agricultural sector.

“I convey my sincerest gratitude to the Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Plus Program (PHAMA Plus), supported by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, for their assistance in establishing the processing facility.”

Prime Minister Rabuka, at the same time, highlighted that the project was aligned with the People’s Coalition Government’s commitment to fostering inclusivity and equity.

“To the farmers, workers, and residents of Taveuni, the Fiji Government is committed to supporting your endeavours towards a more prosperous and sustainable future.”

Mr Prasad acknowledged the tremendous support of his family, the Fiji Government, Australia and New Zealand Governments, stakeholders, farmers and well-wishers.

Despite many setbacks and challenges, he said that, “this was my dream for my home island and I chose this business to help the farmers here in Taveuni”.

“We export fresh and frozen produce overseas on a



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka while officiating at the opening of the Road King Farm Fresh Produce Processing facility in Taveuni. Photo: SUPPLIED

weekly basis and this arrangement has been sustainable for more than a year now.

“This facility demonstrates our unwavering commitment towards the agricultural sector and it embodies our collective determination to contribute to the prosperity of our nation.”

The new processing facility features cold storage rooms, a rest house and biogas system that produces 3,800 litres of biofertiliser a week for Taveuni farmers.

(Source: Office of the Prime Minister)

Recipient acknowledges Government grant

By NANISE NEIMILA

IN the vibrant town of Nausori, Kalesi Baleula, a skilled artisan renowned for her ability to craft exquisite freshwater pearl necklaces, earrings, and bracelets, has successfully translated her passion into a thriving enterprise.

What started as a simple hobby has blossomed into a prosperous venture.

With the support of her loving family, Ms Baleula not only excels as an artist but also serves as an inspiration for women who wish to turn their passions into a successful business.

Initially engaged in crafting items like pillowcases, crochet bedspreads and table covers she extended her skills to fulfilling orders on a personalised scale.

However, upon discovering the art of pearl jewellery-making, she decided to shift her focus entirely.

“I used to cater to orders for crafted items, but after venturing into pearl jewellery, I had to let go of my previous business and concentrate more on this one. Whilst the business does have its slow periods, passion makes overcoming challenges possible.”

“I have custom-made orders and the response from my customers has been overwhelming and to see your handiwork being worn by prominent people is so satisfying. Thesev wins a little for us because indirectly we are contributing to their appearance.”

“Deliveries are done within Nausori and Suva area but normally I post their orders. It can be challenging at times but I’m thankful that with what I earn I’m able to support my family.”

Ms Baleula encourages women to pursue their chosen business paths, expressing her plans to secure a dedicated space in Nausori for her enterprise. Despite being 65 years old, she emphasises that age should not deter anyone from pursuing their dreams.

Dealing with specific design requests from customers, she navigates challenges in the supply chain by suggesting alternative designs when necessary.

Ms Baleula acknowledges occasional supply chain hurdles but emphasises the importance of seizing opportunities as and when it presents itself.

Some MSMEs were assisted by the Government under the Trade Enhancement Programme, including Kalesi.

This initiative supports businesses in the micro category that need capital injection to grow their businesses.

The entire TEP process is digital, meaning applying and uploading their documents on the application portal.



An elated Kalesi Baleula with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Small, Medium, and Business Enterprises, Manoa Kamikamica and permanent secretary, Shaheen Ali, after receiving the grant. PHOTO: NANISE NEIMILA

Since inception in 2022, the TEP portal has received 4,170 applications online out of which 71 per cent were women applicants.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Small, Medium, and Business Enterprises, Manoa Kamikamica, highlighted the Government’s commitment to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), citing an investment of over \$100 million.

This commitment has resulted in documented success across three key programs, providing both economic growth and employment opportunities.

DPM Kamikamica acknowledges existing achievements while expressing the ongoing commitment to enhance the MSME landscape.

Government initiatives include integrating MSME networks and ecosystems, streamlining business processes, improving regulations, enhancing access to information, reducing financing gaps, and fortifying business development services.

Looking ahead, the Government aims to formulate a comprehensive national MSME Strategic Plan, focusing on strengthening various aspects of the sector.

In a show of continued support, the Government has allocated nearly \$280,000 in grants to a group of entrepreneurs, reinforcing its commitment to nurturing innovative concepts and transforming them into sustainable businesses.

Govt grant to help entrepreneur expand

By AZARIA FAREEN

IN recognition of the strength of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector as the key to economic diversification and growth, the Government remains committed to giving a leg-up to budding entrepreneurs.

As such, the National Export Strategy under the Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, recently awarded the director of Qito Sportswear, Asaeli Lemaki, with a \$100,000 grant to expand his venture.

“I am 44-years-old and my business mostly does sublimation printing for sportswear, bula shirts, jerseys, tees, vests, shorts and bula wears,” Mr Lemaki highlighted.

“I started the business online in 2018 and officially launched it in October, 2022 and we operate from Walu Bay.”

“I was encouraged to apply for this grant as the machines I currently have can’t cater for the orders we receive,” Mr Lemaki relayed.

He said that there was a good demand in the local market and he also exports to three Pacific Island countries - Vanuatu, Nauru and the Solomon Islands while he recently

has started exporting to Samoa as well.

There are a total of 15 employees in the company and out of which five are adults while the rest are teenagers.

“We have demands from schools, the Republic of Fiji Navy and the National Fire Authority of Fiji amongst other institutions,” he said.

“In the sublimation process, you have to print papers from a printer which is then baked together with a polyester material onto an oven where the ink transfers from the paper to the fabric. Then we take the material and cut it followed by sewing – it is all done in our factory,” Mr Lemaki said while explaining the process.

“The machines that we have cannot meet the demand of the market as most of the time we have to employ staff to work overtime which incurs more expenses especially since the process of the machines is slow,” he added.

Mr Lemaki said that he needs extra machines to make the process faster whereby he will be able to cater to the demand and meet the timeframe of the customers and also set a standard for their services.

“I want to thank the Government for



National Export Strategy grant recipient and director of Qito Sportswear, Asaeli Lemaki with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica and permanent secretary, Shaheen Ali, at the event. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

trusting me and assisting my business so that we can produce more and employ more people which will generate money to put food on their table,” he said.

“Working at a Government factory doing the sublimation process for 25-years paved the way for me, particularly as back in my village in Lau, our forefathers were very talented and did wood carving and other designs so I used that creativity to run my business.”

“I don’t have any qualification yet I have this factory just through my experience and my future plan is to not only do printing but for my factory to be one of the leading companies in Fiji,” he shared.

“The only advice I would impart to the younger generation is not to be a copycat but just work on your talent with passion and it will take you far enough to even be an employer,” Mr Lemaki added.

Recipient acknowledges Government grant

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE timely contribution from the Fiji Government to support my business has been crucial in my success of being a small business owner.

This was relayed by the recipient of an egg grading machine by the Ministry of Agriculture, Ratish Chandra, of Wainisasa in Baulevu, Naitasiri, who continues to yield the benefits of the grant.

“I have been managing a poultry farm layer egg business for the past 18 years and my dad used to do it before me as it is a family business which we continued to grow,” Mr Chandra highlighted.

“We used to have between 400 to 500 chickens and during my school days, I used to collect the eggs by hand and sort it in three grades – large, medium and small; and sell it from our stall in the Nausori market.”

“Gradually, the amount of layer birds increased to 5000 and it was getting difficult to grade the eggs by hand, therefore, I am grateful to the Fiji Government for providing me with an egg grading machine in 2016 which has really reduced my workload,” he added.

Mr Chandra said that ever since receiving the egg grading machine, his customers have been provided with the actual and real size of the egg.

“We used to think that there used to be only three size of



Ratish Chandra, who has been assisted by the Ministry of Agriculture, at his poultry farm in Wainisasa, Baulevu, in Naitasiri.

Photo: RONAL DEO

eggs but in reality, there are seven different grading sizes which this machine does.

“The size of the egg is small when the chicken starts laying for the first time and the size gradually increases,” he said.

“We raise the chickens up to 18 weeks where they are ready to lay the first egg and we keep them for another 72 to 90 weeks and monitor them and then sell them.”

“I was in class one when I started doing this and it is something which we have managed to continue and progress in,” he said.

“My wife and three children help me during their schools break and I have three permanent staff,” he added.

The 50-year-old said maintaining an egg business was not easy as there was a lot of competition in the market and the markup was very high.

“I order the chicks from New Zealand which is not easy as we pay for the import, transportation and its vaccination cost, which is high, however, if there is a market demand for our produce then we will definitely expand the business further.”

Delving into his background, Mr Chandra said, “I completed Form Six (Year 12) and started working at the Fiji Sugar Corporation in Lautoka for four years and when my dad passed away, I came home to look after the business as my seven brothers were living overseas”.

He believes that if he was still working for someone then he would not have come this far in life and be able to send his three children to universities through the business.

“You need to fully commit yourself in making a business a success and seek advice from the Ministry of Agriculture as I have learnt a lot from them which has led my business to succeed,” he said.

“Also, the major challenge a farmer faces are shortage of labour as it is hard to find reliable people particularly minimum wage earners, therefore, I brought in labourers from Ono-i-Lau,” he added.

“I received the Layer Farmer of the Year Award in 2017 under the Small Farmers Award and I thank the Ministry for greatly assisting me while monitoring the progress and advising me on the proper way of doing things.”

“I also make extra income through vegetable, dalo and ginger farming and I use the manure from the chicken,” Mr Chandra added.

He adds that time is a major factor in farming noting that “if you are not timely in your work then you won’t go far.”



Poultry farmer, Mr Ratish Chandra, shows the seven different egg grading sizes he is able to get from the egg grading machine from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Photo: RONAL DEO

Women have the drive to progress: grant recipient

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications have assisted five women entrepreneurs under its Trade Enhancement Programme (TEP) recently.

Among them was a beaming 48-year-old, Elizabeth Sawaki, who runs a catering business NaMatavuvale Catering, a business she operates from home on order basis.

Originally from Lau but raised in Ba, Mrs Sawaki is a pastry chef by trade and has worked in the hotel industry for over 10 years.

“I thought of being an entrepreneur because I had the drive to do so and applied for the (TEP) to assist me with my business,” she relayed.

“I am grateful to the Ministry of Trade for providing me with a \$1,000 grant to assist me in my venture.”

“Since this is a family business, the only people employed are my husband, my son and I,” Mrs Sawaki added.

She said they are more inclined to cooking fresh authentic Fijian food and preparing

seafood toss and Asian food as lunch packs.

“We cook for our customers to give them what they actually crave for and are always open to their feedback,” she said.

“We have varieties and don’t cook the same meals everyday so on Monday to Wednesdays we have simple meals like roti curry packs, sandwiches, stuffed babakau with minced filling, curry eggplants with potato and stir-fries but on Thursday and Friday we have the seafood toss and fish.”

“We do free deliveries in the Suva area and are mostly based in the Toorak and Government buildings side and the areas majority of the food orders are from,” she added.

She highlights that they started off as a cake business in 2021 which was a side hustle as she used to be employed in the tourism sector then.

“My husband and son used to do the baking and I would just decorate and the customers would come and pick it up and since this was going well, it gave me an idea to pursue this full time,” she said.

“We started with only \$50 and launched the catering business in May last year – which is slowly growing.”



Trade Enhancement Programme recipient Elizabeth Sawaki with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, and Ministry's permanent secretary, Shaheen Ali, at the event. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN

“We have been advised by the ministry that someone can assist us in doing our bookkeeping and we are very grateful for that,” she added.

Mrs Sawaki shared her three-year plan to buy a piece of land between Suva and Navua so that she could have a good set up for a restaurant and a car wash on the side.

“The ladies at home can definitely make money this way if they stand up for themselves and push for a better standard of living,” she advised.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, speaking at the handover ceremony, said that this initiative supports businesses in the micro category that need capital injection to grow their businesses.

“Since inception in 2022, the TEP portal has received 4,170 applications online out of which 71 per cent were women applicants,” DPM Kamikamica said.

Work hard and smart: farmer

By AZARIA FAREEN

“I AM a fourth-generation business owner thanks to my great grandfather who started Prasad’s Dairy during the Girit days.

This was relayed by a Government grant recipient, Vijen Maharaj, who explained that his great grandfather was a Brahman Pandit (priest) and he used to get cattle in return for doing prayer for people.

“It continued this way and my grandfather started milking the cows to supply it to people,” he relayed.

“I joined my father in this business in the year 1990 when we decided to expand the business and we have come so far,” he said.

“Situated in Nabilo, Namalata in Tailevu, we have a land mass of 100



Government grant recipient, Vijen Maharaj, at his 100-acre farm in Nabilo, Namalata in Tailevu. Photo: AZARIA FAREEN



acres, therefore, we don’t have much cattle and can only have about 250 in the herd.”

“The advantage of our farm is that our average milk is very high and we use the milking machine and chill the milk at the farm before it goes to Fiji Dairy Limited (FDL),” he added.

Mr Maharaj was assisted in 2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) through the Ministry’s Dairy Industry Support program with a farm shed, feed for the cattle and tuberculosis vaccination for the herd.

He shared that there are only two farms which directly supply milk to FDL and one of them was his farm.

“We have the Fiji breed cattle “Friesian” and our dairy shed is in the centre of the land which is flat so the cattle don’t exert themselves while out on the field in comparison to moving around on rocky terrain,” he said.

“There are four of us working full time at the farm and my family also assists me. Through this farm I started a digger

company in 2009 which is operating from Tailevu and in 2018 I made a complex centre near Tailevu town called Northland Plaza where 11 types of business operate from.”

“I get 12-litres of milk from each cow and altogether 1000-litres of milk from milking 80 cows every day,” Mr Maharaj added.

He states that his only rule in life is “to work hard and work smart” where he can have less expenses and generate more income from his middle-class farm.

“The major challenge faced by farmers usually is land and labour issues and even though we work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, they don’t have enough materials to be able to help farmers expand their farms,” he highlighted.

“Fiji will have to make a long journey to be fully self-sufficient in the dairy sector as we have a huge market for milk and whoever comes on board this business will not run a loss,” he added.

Govt assistance supports farm business

By AZARIA FAREEN

THE Government continues to offer assistance to farmers so that they can take lead in building and growing their farm, and one such recipient, Albert Eastgate, was able to kick off his venture through this.

“I am known as Tiko because I was raised in Gau Island and attended Suva Grammar School,” Mr Eastgate said.

“After graduation, I went to New Zealand to study for a year and returned to Fiji to join the hotel industry.”

The 76-year-old relayed that his employer then, the Fijian Hotel sent him to San Francisco to study in the field of Hotel, Restaurant and Management.

“I did that for five years and later ended up working in all the hotels throughout Fiji – I have been working in the tourism industry for 30 years,” he said.

“I started Tiko’s Floating restaurant and the Hot Bread Kitchen with (late) Mere Samisoni. This was part of my venture but I wanted to get back on land and that is how I found this beautiful 262-acre land in

Naitasiri in 1994.”

“I came here to start cattle farming and it was fitting that this place was originally a dairy farm with a very run-down farmhouse but I manned it with a herd of hundred Fijian cows,” he added.

Mr Eastgate recounted that he got heavily involved into cattle farming in 2001 and he was grateful to have received the assistance of stock supply from the Government.

“I am thankful to the Government for giving me 15 heifers to start me off in the cattle industry and I got some beautiful cows out of it,” he said.

“I really enjoyed the genetics so along the way I bought a bull from Yaqara and crossed that with my existing herd and got some beautiful beef cows out of that and additionally, I got another bull from Sigatoka from the Government and crossed bred that with my existing herd which is now a mixture of all those breeds.”

“The Ministry of Agriculture has been very helpful with providing the stock and fencing materials to get me going and I am happy to be supported with technical information on cattle genetics and other things too,” Mr Eastgate added.



Albert Eastgate, 76, oversees his herds at his 262-acre farm in Naitasiri. Photo: RONAL DEO

He reflected on being involved in sheep farming and having 500 herds at one stage while being fortunate to send a 100-breeding stock to Samoa – one of the first livestock exports out of Fiji.

“I am very fortunate that the Government assisted me with my first sheep shed worth \$21,000 in 2022 and I bought livestock at Government rate which started off my herd,” Mr Eastgate acknowledged.

“I’m still involved with genetics and recently purchased a pure-bred bull from the Ministry and put it across my core herd which now stands at 58.”

“I just want to see this industry grow and I am always working on my farm and with the ministry while also available for the young farmers who want to learn,” he said.

Being in the beef farming industry for 30 years, Mr Eastgate notes that Fiji’s soil is fertile enough to grow anything and advises young farmers to work hard to reap the benefits.

Currently, he does only beef farming and sells it to the butchers at \$7 per kilogram and has one staff to help him two times per week.

Perseverance is the key for vanilla farmer

MANASA Waqa, 62, of Vunisea Village in the District of Tokaimalo in the Ra Province is the true epitome of perseverance.

After winning the Vanilla Farmer of the Year award at the 2023 National Agriculture Show held last October in Suva, Mr Waqa said that he has tripled his efforts in growing his vanilla farm.

The award boosted his morale further and he was still on the farm even during this festive season to continuously check on his prized plants.

“I have 6.4 hectares of land which I have divided for farming. I am an integrated farmer and have a cocoa farm and I am also engaged in bee-farming,” Mr Waqa explained.

“Vanilla farming is not new to the family as I grew up working on my father’s vanilla farm,” he said.

“Anyone who knows vanilla farming can say that it is quite challenging and is certainly not for the impatient. Once the plants flower, they must be hand pollinated. The curing process for vanilla pods takes another few months to complete.”

“I would watch my late father working on the vanilla farm and would follow whatever he taught me while growing up,” Mr Waqa said.

He closely followed his father’s advice and after completing his high school studies, he went straight back to the village and ventured into dalo, yaqona and cassava farming.

“The idea of going back into vanilla farming came about after I attended a training provided in 1993 by the Ministry of Agriculture at Naiserelagi.”

“I was convinced to restart vanilla farming as this wasn’t a new thing for me as I knew and understood the tricks and trade of vanilla farming through my late father,” Mr Waqa relayed.

“I didn’t waste a single moment after that training and started with 15 vanilla vines.”

He got the hang of it and expanded his farm by planting another 30 vines and after three years he finally harvested and sold his vanilla to the then Spices of Fiji Ltd at \$40 per kilogramme.

The prices gradually moved up to \$150 per kilogramme.

Mr Waqa knew that he had been spending a lot of time on his vanilla farm and the money he earned was not enough so he



Manasa Waqa (left) with Agriculture Technical Officer Ra Veniana Nabitu showing the vanilla plant on his farm. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

kept pushing on because he knew that all his sacrifices would not be in vain.

His perseverance is now paying huge dividends as he is currently supplying vanilla to a New Zealand buyer for \$500 per kilogramme.

“Initially I was selling to a buyer in Japan and then to Spices of Fiji Ltd starting at \$40 per kilogramme. Now, I am a happy man because all the efforts I put into vanilla farming is paying off,” Mr Waqa added with a smile.

Not only has the hardworking farmer been vigilant on his farm but has also offered his 30 years of expertise in vanilla farming to tertiary students and interested farmers from the planting to the pollination stages of vanilla.

Hard earned money from vanilla farming has helped put his children through school, built and furnished his house in the village and rebuilt his house after it was damaged by Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016.

The plants start producing vanilla beans after three years so he has been planting them in phases to ensure that he has vanilla to harvest at most times throughout the

year and currently pollinates 800 vanilla flowers daily.

“Vanilla needs a lot of patience it may look easy but it is a very fragile process and attention is really necessary to carry out effective pollination. The flowers are all hand-pollinated and only stay open for one day therefore you will have to be careful to pollinate it within its blooming time,” Mr Waqa said.

“Hard work is needed for the first three years and when the plant flowers and produces beans that take nine months to mature and a few more months for curing, you then give it all your attention and it will give you good quality vanilla and revenue,” he said.

Like any other farmer, his future plans include purchasing a vehicle and putting his youngest daughter through tertiary education as a private student.

Mr Waqa also has a total of 406 cocoa trees on his land and eight double super honey bee boxes. Last month, he harvested a total of 35 litres of honey which he supplied to his two major markets.

Under the 2019/2020 Vanilla Farming

Program of the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways, he was assisted with a vanilla drying shed and vanilla curing equipment to assist him on his farm.

Mr Waqa has extended his gratitude for the assistance that has been rendered to him by the Ministry of Agriculture and says that he will continue to expand his vanilla farm.

“My family has been helping me on the farm and hopefully one day they will be able to expand our farm to a bigger and better one.”

He hopes that more farmers in his province will have the courage and determination to venture into vanilla farming.

“Yes, I admit it is not easy but look at me, I am still going despite my old age. Please talk to the agriculture officials about any plans that you wish to make regarding agriculture and always heed their advice.”

There are currently 25 established vanilla farmers in the Ra Province.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways)

Inter-agency cooperation a must: Minister Ravu



Minister for Fisheries and Forests, Kalivati Ravu following discussions with civil servants on Kadavu Island. **Photo: MEREANI GONEDUA**

By MEREANI GONEDUA

MINISTER for Fisheries and Forests, Kalivati Ravu has emphasised the importance of collaboration among government agencies to enhance the well-being of the entire population.

During a discussion with civil servants on Kadavu Island recently, Minister Ravu emphasised that delivering services efficiently across all government sectors should always be a top priority.

“It is crucial for us to collaborate as inter-agencies in order to address emerging issues and concerns raised by

the public, particularly those residing in maritime islands who may not have full access to certain government services.”

Minister Ravu underscored that such cooperation among different government agencies would result in a more streamlined workload and expedited service delivery.

“We must ensure that we are all working towards a common objective, which is to ensure that everyone receives the highest quality of services that we offer.”

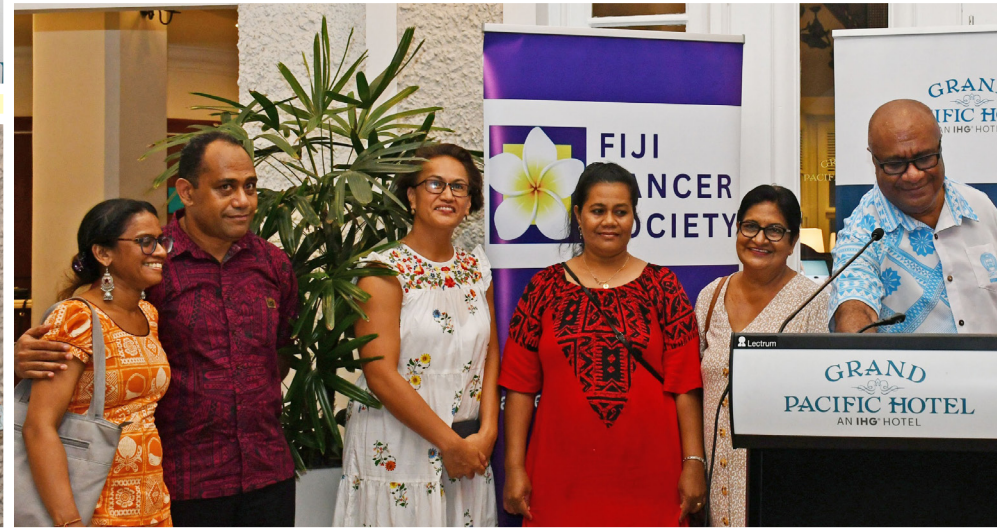
He also called on civil servants working on Kadavu Island to ensure that best services are provided to those on the island.

Cancer has no barriers, early detection and treatment urgent – DPM Kamikamica

"Cancer as you all know has no boundaries – it remits race, gender, socio-economic status, and geography, however, what we can do to address this first-hand, is having access to timely and quality care."

This was highlighted by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, while marking World Cancer Day 2024 during a landmark lighting ceremony at the Grand Pacific Hotel recently.

Photo: NANISE NEIMILA



Minister Ditoka advocates holistic disaster risk finance approach at Pacific Region Workshop

"Natural disasters pose an existential threat to the Pacific Island Countries, therefore, resilience building and adaptation is imperative to deal with this front and center issue".

These were the sentiments shared by the Minister for Rural, Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Sakiasi Ditoka, while delivering his keynote address at the Pacific Region Disaster Risk Finance Workshop at the University of the South Pacific FBE Postgraduate Lecture Theater earlier this week.

Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN



President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere honours Waitangi Day



The President, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, graced the Waitangi Day reception at the New Zealand Official Residence earlier this week with various ambassadors and government ministers, reflecting on the importance of the occasion.

Waitangi Day, celebrated annually on February 6th, holds great significance in New Zealand as it commemorates the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, a pivotal moment in the nation's history.

Photo: JAMIL SULEMAN.



President Katonivere acknowledges contribution



President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere attended the Chinese New Year celebrations recently which marks the Year of the "loong" in Chinese, with festivities commencing on February 10, 2024.

The Head of State acknowledged the event as an opportunity to recognise the achievements and contributions of the Chinese community, reflecting on the enduring relationship between Fiji and China.

President Katonivere emphasised the significance of Chinese New Year in fostering closer bonds within families and communities.

Photo: NANISE NEIMILA



Settlement formalised resident await title



Residents of Tavela, an informal settlement along the coast of Cuvu, Sigatoka, with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Professor Biman Prasad.

PHOTO: DIPESH KUMAR

By DIPESH KUMAR

AROUND 115 households among the coast of Cuvu Sigatoka await the title to their land leases following the transformation of their settlement into formal housing.

As part of a broader strategy to address housing challenges and improve living conditions for marginalised communities, the initiative by the Government has gained appreciation from the local residents who now have access to proper infrastructure and essential services.

Khaiyum Dean, a long-time resident of Cuvu, shared that residents have been eagerly waiting for their land leases since 1978.

“We are thankful to the Government for improving the facilities. In the past we have had flooding due to improper drainage and other problems. Now thanks to the Government, we have proper roads, clean drinking water and proper drainage.”

“The installation of sewer lines and drainage systems has significantly reduced the occurrence of flooding, addressing a major concern that has impacted the community for years.”

“We never imagined that our homes would become proper houses with

running water and electricity. This is a dream come true for us. We are grateful to the Government for recognising our needs and taking action.”

Another resident, Mohammed Janiff expressed similar sentiments and highlighted that the new infrastructure has made a huge difference.

“We no longer have to worry about flooding, and our homes are now connected to proper sewage systems. It’s a positive change that benefits everyone.”

“This change means a lot to us. We now have a sense of security and pride in our homes. Our children can study better with proper lighting, and we have access to clean water. It’s a new beginning for our community,” he said.

Mr Janiff shared that the residents have faced the challenges associated with living an informal settlement for years and the absence of legal recognition and basic infrastructure had been a source of concern for its residents.

However, with the successful transformation of Cuvu Sigatoka into a formal settlement the residents are now looking forward to a future filled with stability.



Tavela, an informal settlement along the coast Cuvu, Sigatoka.

PHOTO: DIPESH KUMAR

Lovu residents happy with Govt’s action on termite crisis

By DIPESH KUMAR

RESIDENTS of Lovu Lautoka have expressed their appreciation to the Coalition Government for their immediate action in addressing the termite crisis affecting their community. The Government’s recent allocation of funds to assist those impacted by termite infestations has gathered widespread appreciation from these residents as the termite infestation has left homes damaged and families distressed.

In response to the crisis, the Coalition Government has allocated \$3 million to implement targeted solutions.

Lovu resident Nandita Chand said this has not only reassured the affected residents but has also become a beacon of hope for the community.

“We are immensely grateful to the Coalition Government for their help. The help demonstrates a genuine commitment to the well-being of our community and it will provide us with much-needed relief during these challenging times.”

“After COVID our income has also been unstable so this will be a great help. This area is also prone to flooding therefore we also have to set our income aside for other repairs.”

“The baiting programme will also be of great help because it is costly when we do it on our own.”

Another resident, Meenal Kumar also shared that many families have been dealing with the destruction caused by termites and that the structural integrity of their homes has been compromised.

She shared that the many residents have had



Residents of Lovu have been dealing with termites for years.

PHOTO: DIPESH KUMAR

to rebuild their homes, which have also been affected by termites.

“Some people have had to leave their homes because it is unsafe to live in. Our homes are also built on pillars so the floorboards crack and go in.”

Ms Kumar shared that while they continue to face problems, they are thankful to the Government in taking a decisive step to help the citizens.

Affected residents have been urged to register with their district officers for efficient subsidised bait provision and financial assistance for repairs.

The targeted relief is designed to address the varying needs of the affected residents whereby \$5,000 will be allocated for individuals with an income below \$30,000 and \$2,000 for those with an income ranging from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Individuals below the poverty line will be prioritised and financial assistance will be provided to help repair damages, focusing particularly on soft timber components such as doors, ceilings, and walls.



Residents of Lovu have welcomed the assistance from Government to help address the termite crisis affecting the community.

PHOTO: DIPESH KUMAR

Have confidence in our economy: Minister Gavoka

By MEREANI GONEDUA

Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Education, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Viliame Gavoka has called on businesses in Nadi to have confidence on the Fijian economy.

As DPM Gavoka succinctly put it- “Fiji’s economy is doing well and we should have confidence in it”.

Speaking at the recently held 2024 Business Forum where he addressed members of the Nadi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he assured them that Fiji’s economy had recovered quite dramatically.

“As it turned out in 2019 in terms of GDP (gross domestic product), as the Asian Development

Bank projects seeks GDP to be at 3.4 percent in terms of growth in 2024.”

DPM Gavoka stated that recovery over the last two years has been supported by the strong recovery of Fiji’s tourism industry.

He highlighted that tourism numbers have drastically increased over the years and this year they expect to see one million visitors arriving on our shores.

DPM Gavoka called on stakeholders to continue to have confidence in the country’s economy and to go out and continue their business as usual as the economy has drastically improved.

A question and answer session was also held with the DPM Gavoka, the Assistant Minister for Finance, Esrom Emmanuel and members of the chamber.

Water is life



Assistant Minister for Rural and Maritime Development Jovesa Vocea with residents of Droca in Bua during the commissioning of their water project before Christmas last year. **Photo JOSIA RALAGO**

By JOSIA RALAGO

“WATER is a necessity and when we are without it, we will do whatever is needed to attain it.”

These were the words of 31-year-old Suhika Devi of Droca, a farming community in Bua, who for decades have struggled with water issues on a regular basis.

This life-long problem was solved following Government’s investment of \$26,500 into a water project which has brought a sense of relief and has made life easier for the 60 Fijians in the area.

The statement “desperate situations call for desperate measures” was an adage this mother of three and fellow community members lived by, who at the height of water woes would fetch water from the nearby ditch, where overflow from the irrigation system surged.

“When wells run dry, and there is no other option – the ditch is where we go to with our buckets to fetch water for our household needs,” Ms Devi said.

“The commissioning of our water project allowing us to access quality drinking water in our homes by the Government gives us assurance that we are not forgotten, and for this, we are grateful.”

About 100 kilometres away from Droca, and a month later, residents of Korotari outside Labasa Town were in a celebratory mood, as they too witnessed the commissioning of their water project by the Assistant Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, and Disaster Management, Jovesa Vocea.

Maca Wainiqolo, 64, a beneficiary of the project, said “water is life” and to be deprived of this had its repercussions on their livelihood, particularly their health.

“Today marks one of the happiest days for our community, and all those that would benefit from this project because now we can access safe and clean drinking water right in our own homes,” Ms Wainiqolo said.

“Prior to this we would go down to the river and use it for cooking, bathing and cleaning, and at times this would affect our health.

“We are grateful to the Government and its officials who ensured that we too can access quality drinking water like the rest of the people in the country.”

Asst Minister Vocea, while delivering his address, said this commitment was in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number six which places water and sanitation at the core of sustainable development and critical to the survival of people and the planet.

New site for Nabavatu villagers in Dreketi, Macuata



Displaced Villagers of Nabavatu were all smiles following the groundbreaking of their new village relocation site. **Photo JOSIA RALAGO**

By JOSIA RALAGO

“PRAISE the Lord” were the first words uttered by 84-year-old Viniana Tobu when asked to describe how she felt following the groundbreaking of the new Nabavatu Village site in Dreketi, Macuata.

Ms Tobu was one of the many displaced Nabavatu villagers who have been living in tents for the past three years, following a major landslide in 2021, forcing people to relocate.

“We have spent three years in tents, celebrating birthdays, special holidays and marking other special functions under our temporary tarpaulin homes, which at times fail to protect us from elements of nature,” the mother of three said.

“Living under the tents is not easy – there is lack of privacy, we often get wet during the rain, and when it’s hot, the heat can become unbearable but we never lost hope, we kept on living our lives and praying to God above for his provision.

“It has materialised and we are grateful to God for not abandoning us, and for giving us a better hope for the future, and also the Government and its officials for working tirelessly to secure

a piece of land for our relocation.”
The Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, and Natural Disaster Management, Sakiasi Ditoka, while officiating at the event, commended the resilience and strength of the people of Nabavatu who, in the face of adversity, have shown remarkable courage and adaptability.

Minister Ditoka highlighted that the project was the first relocation initiative to be funded by the Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund, made possible through the new Standard Operating Procedures for Planned Relocation launched recently.

“The trust fund receives public financing through a portion of the Environment Climate Adaptation Levy which is a tax on luxury services and utilities and direct bilateral grants from our development partners to financially assist in Fiji’s relocation ambitions,” he said.

A sum of \$577, 058 was released through the Trust Fund administered by the Climate Change Unit to assist in the preparatory works at this new site.

The new site at Nadoiviri, Dreketi would be able to accommodate 85 homes, with the 37 families still living in tents deemed as priority.

Nabouwalu town development underway after five decades wait

By JOSIA RALAGO

THE preparatory works for the development of Nabouwalu into a new town is in motion

Almost five decades on and the people of Bua are filled with gratitude and hope as the Nabouwalu new town development has finally been set in motion and construction has begun.

The project which has been in the plan since the 1970’s has started to take shape, beginning with the ground-breaking of its Passenger Terminal by the Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa, last month.

Bua Provincial Council chairman and former Roko Tui Bua, Sitiveni Lalibuli, said this heralded a new dawn for the 16,000 Fijians in the province who have been waiting for this to eventuate since the 1970’s.

“I started work at the Bua Provincial office in January 1976, and as soon as I entered, I saw the plan for the new town, which is an indication that this project has been much awaited and anticipated for Fijians in the province,” Mr Lalibuli said.

“This is the answer to years of cries and struggles of the people, who once dreamt for a better future, and for this, we are truly grateful to the Coalition

Government.”

Turaga na Tui Vuya, Ratu Semisi Ramatai, shared similar sentiments saying the people were excited for the change that it would bring as it would mean not having to travel to Labasa to access services.

“The distance between Nabouwalu to Labasa is about 150 kilometres, and we have people living much further than that – today’s ground-breaking is a new beginning, bringing so much hope for the future,” Ratu Semisi said.

While officiating at the ground breaking, Minister Nalumisa said that Nabouwalu will be one of the first towns where town planners will ensure that all urban planning principles are applied.

“This commitment speaks to our dedication to create a model town, where every aspect is carefully designed to enhance the quality of life for its residents and visitors,” Minister Nalumisa said.

“For years, the people of Nabouwalu have yearned for a promise of development, a promise to transform their lives and elevate their community.

“Today is the first step towards realising that dream, a dream born out of patience, hope, and unwavering belief in a brighter future.”



Turaga na Tui Bua Ratu Ramakutu Nagagavoka at the opening of the TLTB Nabouwalu Office. **Photo JOSIA RALAGO**

Young lad takes Fijian pride to India



The Minister for Youth and Sports Jese Saukuru and the High Commissioner of India to Fiji Palaniswamy Karthigeyan flanked by participants leaving for the Youth Exchange programme in India. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

Etonia Saukuru, a 20-year-old lad from Sabeto village in Nadi, was one of many young Fijians who showcased Fiji's rich culture at the 2024 Youth Exchange Programme (YEP) in India.

This annual event, which was organised by the Indian Defense Ministry to celebrate India's independence anniversary, brought together young participants from various countries, fostering cultural understanding and collaboration.

The group visited places of historical and cultural interest and interacted with top dignitaries of India.

Mr Saukuru, who was in India from January 15-30, 2024 viewed this opportunity as a chance to dive into a world of knowledge, learn about the histories of different countries and unite with people from diverse cultures.

His goal was to enhance the understanding and strengthen the bond between Fiji and India.

"My expectations for this Youth Exchange Program were to meet other participants from various countries and learn their stories, their cultures and historic backgrounds," Mr Saukuru said.

During the pre-departure briefing and farewell held at the Indian High Commission in Suva, the Minister for Youth and Sports, Jese Saukuru, encouraged the participants to embrace the diversity, culture, and traditions they will encounter in India.

"This Youth Exchange Programme is not merely an opportunity to travel, but rather a chance to immerse yourselves in a rich tapestry of knowledge, intercultural dialogue,

and personal development. Embrace the challenges that lie ahead, as they will shape you into fearless global citizens who have the capacity to ignite change and make a lasting impact," Minister Saukuru had told the youth delegates.

"As you embark on this journey, remember that you are not only representing yourselves but also our great nation Fiji," he said.

In 2022, Etonia Saukuru completed a training on Job Search Skills organised by the Ministry.

It was through this programme he was able to hone his CV writing skills and gained valuable insights from guest speakers with backgrounds in Human Resources.

As a result, he successfully secured a job as a Food and Beverage Attendant at Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa in Denerau, Nadi.

With his experience from the Job Search Skills programme and now the Youth Exchange Programme, he hopes to gain a wealth of knowledge and a renewed determination to shape a brighter future for himself and his beloved country.

As an ambassador of goodwill and friendship, Mr Saukuru understood the importance of forming lasting bonds and making a lasting impact.

His journey to India not only represented his personal growth but also symbolised the aspirations of Fijians.

Minister Saukuru acknowledged the leadership of the Indian High Commissioner P. S. Karthigeyan for the opportunity given to Fiji's youth.

(Source: Ministry of Youth and Sports)

CIDCA aims to enhance support for Fiji



(L-R) Chinese Ambassador to Fiji, Zhou Jian, CIDCA Chairman, Luo Zhaohui, Ministry of Foreign Affairs permanent secretary, Dr Lesikimacuata Korovavala, with CIDCA officials following a meeting held at the Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

CHINA International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) aims to increase support for Fiji's socioeconomic development priorities in vital sectors such as health, education, agriculture and fisheries, trade and investment.

The CIDCA, which is the major foreign aid and international development implementation agency of the People's Republic of China, support was reaffirmed recently at a courtesy call paid by the CIDCA chairman, Luo Zhaohui to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs permanent secretary, Dr Lesikimacuata Korovavala.

The Chinese Ambassador to Fiji, Zhou Jian was also part of the discussions held at Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters.

The visit by the Chairman of CIDCA aimed to implement the important consensus reached between the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping and the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sitiveni Rabuka during their historic meeting in San Francisco, and to exchange ideas on deepening development cooperation between China and Fiji.

Mr Korovavala acknowledged the new level of cooperation and commitment by CIDCA to support Fiji's development priorities.

He underscored the focus on development and poverty alleviation within Fiji's priorities whereby he referenced to China's own journey in these areas as a reference for poverty alleviation initiatives.

There was general consensus on the priority areas, scope of assistance and due processes through the UN system to access the development assistance.

He said the Fiji-China cooperation underscored through the cooperation framework, provides opportunities for Fiji's economic and social development and to improve the livelihood of our local communities.

As part of the elevated cooperation, the Meeting Minutes on Strengthening Development Cooperation and a Memorandum of Understanding on Promoting Cooperation in Agriculture and Juncao Technology will be signed between the CIDCA and the Government of Fiji.

CIDCA and Fiji had last year signed an Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation of RMB 50 million yen (approx. FJ\$16million) and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Strengthening Development Cooperation and Promoting Implementation of the Global Development Initiative.

In his response, Mr Luo stressed that China will continue to provide development assistance to Fiji according to the needs of the Government of Fiji and its people.

He said the CIDCA visit was the latest effort by China to build a community with a shared future and practical cooperation for China and Fiji, and Pacific Island Countries.

Fiji and the PRC established diplomatic relations in 1975 and continue to share an enduring relationship, with mutual cooperation through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Global Development Initiative (GDI) which has paved the way for cultural and people to people exchanges, empowerment of communities, socio-economic development, trade and connectivity.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Fiji-Switzerland aim to strengthen development cooperation



(L TO R) Swiss Special Envoy for the Pacific Region, Emmanuel Bichet, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lenora Qereqeretabua, non-resident Ambassador of Switzerland to Fiji Viktor Vavricka, following a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **Photo: SUPPLIED**

SWITZERLAND aims to strengthen cooperation with Fiji and the Pacific region at both bilateral and multilateral platforms through increased engagements in climate change, regional peace and security, and provision of capacity building training programs.

The was discussed at a courtesy call paid to the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lenora Qereqeretabua from the non-resident Ambassador of Switzerland to Fiji, Viktor Vavricka and Swiss Special Envoy for the Pacific Region, Emmanuel Bichet.

A meeting held recently at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters was an opportunity for both sides to deliberate on the prospects for strengthened relations.

Asst Minister Qereqeretabua acknowledged the ongoing cooperation and shared commitment between the two nations on important issues such as climate change and oceans, peace and prosperity.

On the same note, the Assistant Minister thanked Ambassador and Special Envoy for the discussions and combined efforts undertaken to strengthen Fiji-Switzerland relations, at both bilateral and regional level.

Ambassador Vavricka reasserted Switzerland's commitment to further advance bilateral relations with Fiji as being the hub of the Pacific region.

He spoke on the prospects to collaborate with Fiji through provision of vocational and educational training scholarships, with new innovation and research programs tailored to the needs of Fiji particularly in climate adaptation and disaster risk

resilience.

Ambassador Vavricka acknowledged Fiji's strong leadership in the region and opportunities to collaborate on initiatives aimed at improving people's livelihood and sustainable development.

The two nations established diplomatic relations in 1989.

Fiji benefits indirectly from funding provided by the Swiss Government to regional and international organisations such as South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), Asian Development Bank and the Green Climate Fund, significantly in the area of climate change.

The Swiss Embassy in New Zealand is accredited to Fiji.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Lines in the landscape – a surveyor's tale

“MARK well our land, for it is our most valuable asset.”

These words of George Washington, a professional land surveyor and first President of the United States, underscored the pivotal role of surveying in land administration.

President Washington's recognition of the significance of land surveying resonates as a timeless reminder of the foundational importance of understanding, delineating, and preserving our land – a sentiment that continues to reverberate through the annals of history.

The work of land surveyors is one of the most essential yet underrated professions in Fiji as not a lot of people understand what land surveyors do.

The origins of surveying in Fiji can be traced back to February 6, 1643, a pivotal moment marked by the arrival of Abel Tasman, a renowned Dutch explorer.

Tasman, while navigating the waters, spotted a low island near the Nanuku Passage.

As fate would have it, Tasman encountered a complex coral maze but he successfully steered clear of potential obstacles.

During this expedition, Tasman achieved a remarkable feat by likely establishing the first position fix of the Fiji Group in reference to the “known world”.

Prior to the arrival of early explorers, the Fijian land-owning units had a clear idea of the location of their boundaries as every land-owning unit knew that its land

a lease involves the meticulous surveying of the land. Land surveyors play a pivotal role in this process, undertaking the essential task of thoroughly surveying the land and subsequently creating a detailed survey plan.”

In addition, this plan is then submitted to the Surveyor General's office for examination and approval.

Upon receiving approval, the survey plan becomes a foundational document for the subsequent preparation of the lease and title, emphasising the indispensable contribution of land surveyors in facilitating the systematic and accurate administration of land-related processes.

“Without an approved survey plan, it is impossible to register a lease. Therefore, the role of the land surveyor is important in lease and title registration processes,” Mr Tabua added.

The process of surveying involves these few basic steps;



Surveyors working well into the night. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

extended from a certain ridge down to the seacoast and that its land lay between two streams.

This important information was passed down generations and these boundaries remained unaltered except through conquest.

When European settlers first took up land from the natives, they introduced a complication into this very simple state of affairs as they wanted security and since then, land surveying works in Fiji has grown in leaps and bounds, benchmarking on international best practices.

In Fiji, the work of land surveyor's is regulated under the Surveyors Act 1969 and Surveyors Regulations 2021.

Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources' surveyor general, Asakaia Tabua, said, “The significance of a surveyor's role within the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources cannot be overstated”.

“The crucial first step in the registration of

- i. Project Planning
 - Define the purpose of the survey
 - Identify specific survey requirements and goals
 - Gather relevant information about the area, including historical data and existing property records
- ii. Research and Preliminary Investigation
 - Conduct a thorough review of existing survey records and land documents
 - Investigate property boundaries, easements, and any potential encumbrances
 - Explore relevant legal and historical aspects affecting the land
- iii. Field Reconnaissance
 - Visit the site to assess its physical characteristics
 - Identify natural and artificial landmarks that can be used for surveying
 - Evaluate potential challenges or obstacles that may affect the survey
- iv. Establish Control Points



Surveyors clearing the way to carry out surveys in inaccessible parts of Fiji. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

- Set up control points with known coordinates to provide a reference framework
- Use advanced surveying instruments, such as GPS or total stations, to ensure accuracy in measurements
- v. Data Collection
 - Measure distances, angles, and elevations using surveying equipment
 - Collect field data on topography, features, and relevant land characteristics
 - Record detailed notes and observations during the survey
- vi. Data Processing
 - Input collected data into computer software for further analysis
 - Verify and adjust measurements to ensure accuracy
 - Generate maps, plans, or digital models based on the processed data
- vii. Boundary Determination
 - Analyse collected data to establish accurate property boundaries
 - Resolve any discrepancies or conflicting information discovered during the survey
- viii. Drafting Survey Plans
 - Prepare detailed survey plans showing survey measurements and boundary information
 - Include necessary annotations, labels, and symbols to convey relevant data
- ix. Review and Approval
 - Submit survey plans to relevant authorities, such as City and Town Councils, Department of Town and Country Planning, Registrar of Titles, iTaukei Land Trust Board, Lands Department for examination and approval
 - Address any feedback or requisitions required by the approving authority
- x. Documentation and Archiving

- Compile the approved survey plans with the documents for future reference
- Archive survey records and plans for future reference or legal purposes
- xi. Final Deliverables
 - Issuance of an approved survey plan

One has to be a land surveyor to understand the challenge of the profession especially for a country like Fiji where a lot of places are still yet to be explored let alone developed. However, these are just some of the terrains and conditions being operated in.

The surveyors scale the mountains, traverse the contours of valleys, swim through rivers and streams and crawl through rock crevices in order to mark those valuable lines and markings.

“Land surveyors are mathematicians, historians, project managers, advocates, engineers, draughtsman, and even chainsaw operators. It's no surprise that their multifaceted expertise has transcended into the highest echelons of leadership, with three notable USA presidents—Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln—having begun their illustrious careers as land surveyors. This remarkable convergence of professions underscores the profound impact and versatility of land surveyors in shaping not only the physical landscape but also the corridors of power,” Mr Tabua added.

“It's important to know that land surveyors put the public interest first. That means we're not biased by our client - this means that the property line will be drawn in the most equitable position, regardless of which neighbour is paying the bill.”

(Source: Lote Raboila is a Senior Public Relations Officer of the Ministry of Lands & Mineral Resources)



Rivers pose a challenge to this surveyor but does not stop him from the task ahead. PHOTO: SUPPLIED



(From Left to Right) Special Advisor Climate Change, Daniel Lund, with Fiji's Climate Champion and Ambassador, Amenatave Yauvoli, Director NDMO, Vasiti Soko and Permanent Secretary for Environment, Dr Sivendra Michael at the COP28 meeting held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

COP28 sets unprecedented commitments for nature and livelihoods

By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

THE recently concluded COP28 marked a historic moment as policymakers and financial leaders from both public and private sectors joined forces to place nature, lives and livelihoods at the forefront of the global climate agenda.

This collective effort aimed to humanise and strengthen the response to the Global Sustainability Transition (GST).

In a ground-breaking move, food security took centre stage as a top priority at COP28.

A total of 159 heads of state and governments endorsed the COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action.

This declaration addresses the vulnerability of food to climate impacts and its role in emissions.

Notably, companies and philanthropies pledged substantial support, backed by \$3.2 billion in financing, for regenerative agriculture and climate-food innovation initiatives aligned with the declaration.

Under the guidance of the High-Level Champions, over 200 stakeholders, including farmers, cities, businesses, financial institutions, and civil society, rallied behind the Call to Action for Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature, and Climate.

The commitment involved 10 priority actions to revolutionise food systems, urging the establishment of time-bound, holistic, and global targets by COP29.

This initiative aims to support farmers, frontline food system actors, and other affected groups while recognising and valuing the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples.

Water security played a significant role during the summit, with the announcement

of a US\$150 million (FJ\$339.41million) investment in new financing for innovations tackling water scarcity.

Additionally, there is a commitment to doubling the portfolios of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) within three years, an event that has occurred only twice during the history of COP.

Two new topics were also introduced to the global climate agenda: Health and Relief, Recovery, and Peace.

In a significant development, 144 countries, with support from the World Health Organization, endorsed the COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health with the initiative mobilising an initial tranche of

\$2.9 billion for climate and health solutions.

COP28 furthermore witnessed the first-ever climate-health ministerial with ministers and senior representatives from over 110 health ministries outlining plans to address various health issues, such as air pollution, infectious diseases and mental health.

Frontline communities, particularly in the least-developed countries and small island developing states, gained high political visibility at COP28.

The COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace, endorsed by 80 governments and 43 organisations, brought nations and entities together to narrow the gap in these contexts.

Moreover, the Charter on Finance for Managing Risk: Getting Ahead of Disasters was signed by 39 countries and partner agencies, aiming to release resources before, rather than after, a climate disaster.

The Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda introduced new goals and targets to increase resilience in the health sector.

The Race to Resilience initiatives mobilised hundreds of companies, cities, and regions across 164 countries, collectively pledging to enhance the resilience of 3.17 billion people and conserve 5.48 million hectares of nature by 2030.

These efforts have attracted substantial financial resources, totalling nearly \$40 billion.



Climate activists rallying on key issues pertaining to climate change during the COP28 meeting in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Photo: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

COP28: Unveiling a new era of collaboration

By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

THE United Arab Emirates hosted 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) served as a testament to the unparalleled global collaboration that has been achieved in the fight against climate change.

In the first week of the conference, the Presidency's call for unity was heard loud and clear, emphasising the crucial role of inclusivity and solidarity.

This was highlighted by the pivotal contributions made by civil society, women, youth, local leaders, faith-based communities, indigenous peoples, companies and those on the frontline of climate change.

Children and youth took centre stage at COP28, with the World Climate Action Summit amplifying their voices through YOUNGO's Global Youth Statement and the Dubai Youth Climate Dialogue (YOUTH + NGO = YOUNGO).

The graduation of the first cohort of the 100 COP28 International Youth Climate Delegates marked a milestone and plans for a second iteration in 2024 were announced by the UAE Federal Youth Authority.

A significant stride in education transformation was made with the launch of the Global Education Solutions Accelerator, aiming to benefit 2.1 billion people.

Additionally, a \$70 million investment to construct climate-resilient schools in vulnerable countries was announced by the Green Climate Fund, the Global Partnership for Education and Save the Children. The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Greening Education Partnership, Declaration on the common agenda for education and climate change, signed by 38 countries, committed to incorporating climate education into their Nationally Determined Commitments and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

The COP28 Gender-Responsive Just Transitions & Climate Action Partnership, endorsed by 78 countries, accentuated the critical importance of advancing gender equality in the transition to a low-carbon economy.

The conference also witnessed the issuance of a Global Call to Action urging world leaders, policy-makers and key actors to utilise gender-environment data to drive progress on gender-responsive climate and environment commitments.

Recognising the vital role of indigenous peoples, COP28 had dedicated a day to better recognition and increased finance flows to support their stewardship of nature, biodiversity and planetary health.

Events such as the COP28 Indigenous Peoples Dialogue on Just Transitions and the International Indigenous Youth Forum helped bring together indigenous peoples and youth across socio-cultural regions to discuss their instrumental role in environmental conservation, biodiversity maintenance, green job creation, resilience enhancement and climate change mitigation.

Subnational leaders also made historic strides at COP28 while participating in the Local Climate Action Summit.

The Coalition of High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) Pledge, endorsed by 71 countries, signifies a commitment to partner with subnational governments on the next round of NDCs and other climate plans and strategies, mobilising nearly \$500 million toward urban climate action.

The Business and Philanthropy Climate Forum witnessed the participation of over 1300 businesses and philanthropies, underscoring the critical role of the private sector in accelerating climate and nature action.

The COP28 UAE Presidency launched the Net Zero Mobilisation Charter, encouraging the private sector to set and update net-zero emissions targets.

The inaugural CEO-level forum, held alongside the COP28 Action Agenda, emphasised the importance of private sector collaboration with governments to unlock solutions at the scale required for net-zero and nature-positive targets.

The COP28 Accountability Day focused on accelerating private sector transition planning, including NDC contributions.

Small and medium enterprises were also spotlighted through the MENA SME Climate Hub, backed by COP28, enabling them to make globally recognised climate commitments and be part of the United Nations-backed Race to Zero campaign through access to capacity-building tools.

The UAECOP28 not only set ambitious targets but also laid the groundwork for diverse stakeholders to contribute meaningfully to a sustainable and resilient future.

Natural resource owners' rep at COP28 highlights challenges



National Resources Owners Committee Tailevu Province representative, Sanaila Rokotuivuna, who is also the Mata ni Tikina Dawasamu, was nominated to be the voice of the indigenous and resource owners at COP28 held in Dubai in December. **PHOTO: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA**

By JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA

THE district of Dawasamu is approximately 14,086 kilometres away from the United Arab Emirates, and that is the distance Sanaila Rokotuivuna travelled to be at the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) that was held in Dubai.

As the lone representative of the National Resources Owners Committee (NROC) and the Tailevu Province's representative in the NROC, Mr Rokotuivuna is also the Mata ni Tikina Dawasamu.

He was chosen by consensus at the last NROC meeting held at the Centre for Appropriate Training and Development Centre (CATD) in Nadave in November last year.

Mr Rokotuivuna was no stranger to overseas travel, having visited South Korea multiple times as part of the Saemaul Undong program but this journey was significantly longer.

"I travelled alone from Fiji to Singapore, where I transited for a few hours. At first, I was a bit overwhelmed having to travel to Dubai alone," he explained.

"At the airport in Singapore, I met a couple of other Fijians travelling to Dubai, and that instilled a bit of confidence in me."

"At Dubai Airport, however, it was a different affair as we met an even larger group of Fijians representing non-

government organisations, Government officials, and media teams from Fiji, and I knew straight away that all was well," Mr Rokotuivuna smiled as he described his travel jitters.

Being an indigenous resource owner, he spent most of his time at COP28 at the Indigenous Pavilion, attending side events and hearing the plight of other indigenous people worldwide facing the challenges of climate change and, most importantly, man-made challenges.

"These communities grapple with the formidable consequences of climate change and, notably, the adversities brought about by human activities, with many of them facing extreme poverty. I found myself deeply astonished by the myriad presentations," he said.

"I count myself blessed to have been chosen to be here, and one of the major takeaways from COP28 is the proper management of our resources in Fiji, and I shall be highlighting all of these when I present my report at the next NROC meeting."

"Climate Change is real, and so is over-exploitation. If you harbour any doubt, I encourage you to engage in conversations with the coastal villagers who reside along our shores."

"They can provide first-hand accounts of the increasing distances they must venture into the sea to secure a meaningful catch. Similarly, converse with the communities situated along our riverbanks, and you will hear accounts of persistent flooding and the abnormal intensity of rainfall we are experiencing," Mr Rokotuivuna said.

He highlighted the plight of those living in the smaller islands in the Pacific such as the people of Kiribati who face the imminent danger of the rising sea levels.

"Talk to the resource owners who have had their natural resources exploited with little or no benefit at all for them."

"All of these occurrences and more are the consequences of adverse weather conditions induced by climate change and ultimately the over-exploitation of our natural resources," Mr Rokotuivuna said.



One of the many demonstrations that were held during COP28 in Dubai in December last year. **PHOTO: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA**

Moreover, the 58-year-old from Silana Village expressed that his discoveries also pose a personal challenge for him.

"As the district rep for Dawasamu, one of my first duties is to step up awareness of the importance of resource management and taking steps to minimise the effect of climate change," he said.

"Conservation is imperative and I am pleased that my village, Silana, has been involved in the Saemaul Undong program. This initiative champions the causes of conservation, enhanced community well-being, rural communal empowerment and regeneration," Mr Rokotuivuna stated.

He expressed his deepest appreciation to the NROC and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs for the opportunity to be at the UAE COP28.

Mr Rokotuivuna said he had learned a lot and faced many challenges during his participation at the international conference.

"However, I believe that it would be beneficial for more resource owners to attend such conferences and learn about the difficulties that resource owners face around the world as it can help us in managing our resources better through proper negotiations and management."

"We all have a part to play in our efforts to limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius, and ideally no more than 1.5 degrees. Everyone needs to understand the impacts of 1.5°C global warming above pre-industrial levels and how it relates to

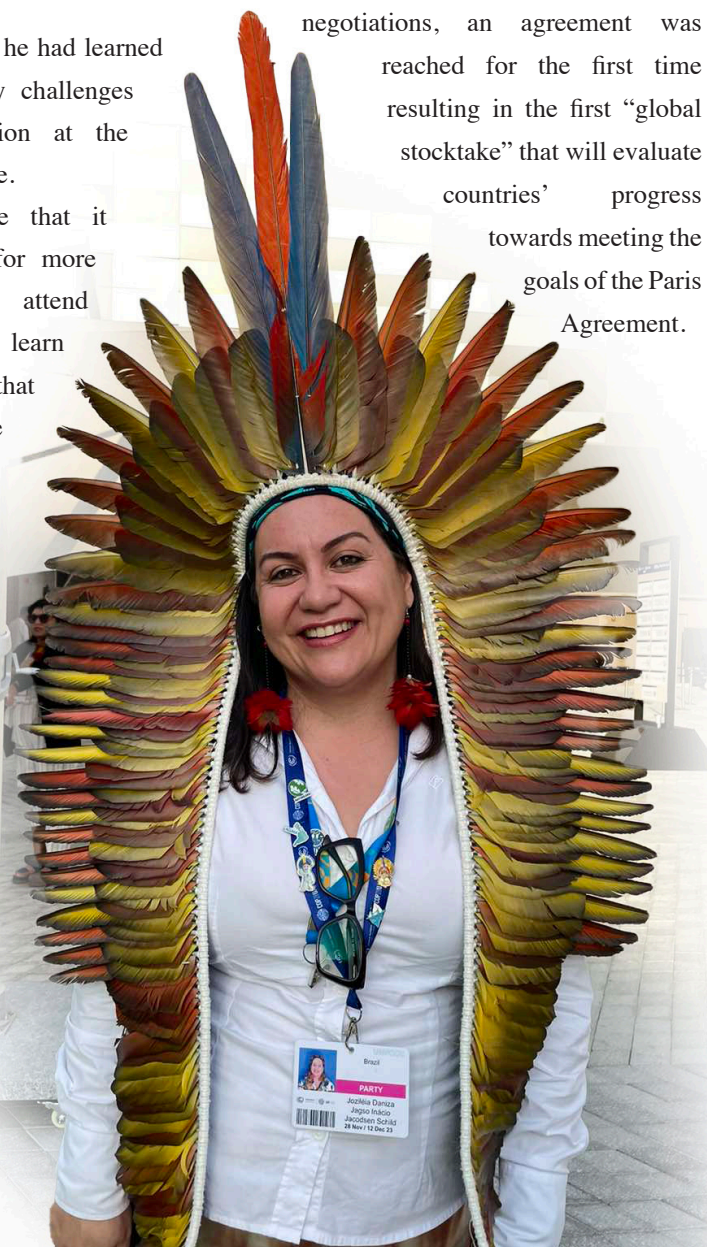
strengthening our response to the threat of climate change, promoting sustainable development, and fighting poverty."

Mr Rokotuivuna notes that everyone has a role to play in educating themselves and others about the necessary global emission pathways to achieve these goals.

At the conclusion of the COP28 summit in Dubai, nearly every country in the world had pledged to phase out fossil fuels, the main contributor to climate change.

The conference also generated new global pledges spanning emissions from fossil fuel firms, renewable energy targets, food systems, and coordinated action on climate change and biodiversity loss.

The summit also created history when after 28 years of international climate negotiations, an agreement was reached for the first time resulting in the first "global stocktake" that will evaluate countries' progress towards meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement.



An indigenous representative from Brazil during COP28 in Dubai in December. **PHOTO: JOSEFA ULUILAKEBA**

Breaking business barriers



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica while opening the Goodness Investment Bakery in Galoa Village in Kadavu. Photo: ILISAPECI TUIVALE

By ILISAPECI TUIVALE

ALUMITA Tuila and her husband, Navitalai Veitala are living testaments of the adage “anything is possible in the islands”. They are the proud owners of the Goodness Investment Bakery in Galoa Village, Kadavu that was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Manoa Kamikamica, this week. What started with producing nine loaves of bread in one batch in a small oven, Mrs Veitala, through the assistance of the Coalition Government’s Human Resource Development Programme under the Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, SMEs, received \$10,000 in funding for her project, and a further \$5,000 was secured through the Fiji Development Bank’s Women Entrepreneurs Loan Package. Now, she produces close to 40 loaves in one batch where three batches are baked in a day, feeding 150 households with freshly baked bread. Mrs Veitala explained that in four months of operation, they were able to earn more than \$7,000, allowing them to pay off their \$5,000 loan with FDB. They have also become employers for the villagers, having three staff on hand that contribute to the run-

ning of the business. “The grant was indeed a great blessing and has greatly improved the quality and quantity of services, contributing to the improvement in the status of our island village community,” she said. DPM Kamikamica acknowledged the perseverance put in the establishment of Goodness Investment Bakery and commended the couple for breaking business barriers in the maritime islands, especially for a village like Galoa, that was located far from the centralised Vunisea area. “Since the purchase of the bakery equipment and implements, I am pleased to hear that Mrs Veitala has been able to increase her supply of bread to the people of Kadavu.” “She is an inspiration to many women entrepreneurs in the Eastern Division, proving that if you are determined, then there is no obstacle too difficult to overcome,” DPM Kamikamica said. He also encouraged budding entrepreneurs to explore the possible assistance that they can receive from

Government to help build their businesses. “Please reach out to us with your business proposals to see if it meets the requirements of our grant programmes - there is also available financing with our stakeholders such as the FDB that offers loan packages for MSME ventures. The ministry also offers various business training programmes to help turn your ideas into profitable business ventures.”



Noda Viti

Siga Tabu, Feverueli 11, 2024 | 8 Drauniveva; 1 ni Tabana; 15 ni lavelave ni ivola

Sikova na Koroturaga Makawa ko Minisita



Story on page 3

Laveta Na Bula Ni Lewenivanua Na Cakacaka Ni Wai E Korotari



Story on page 6

Bolebole ena Muanivatu



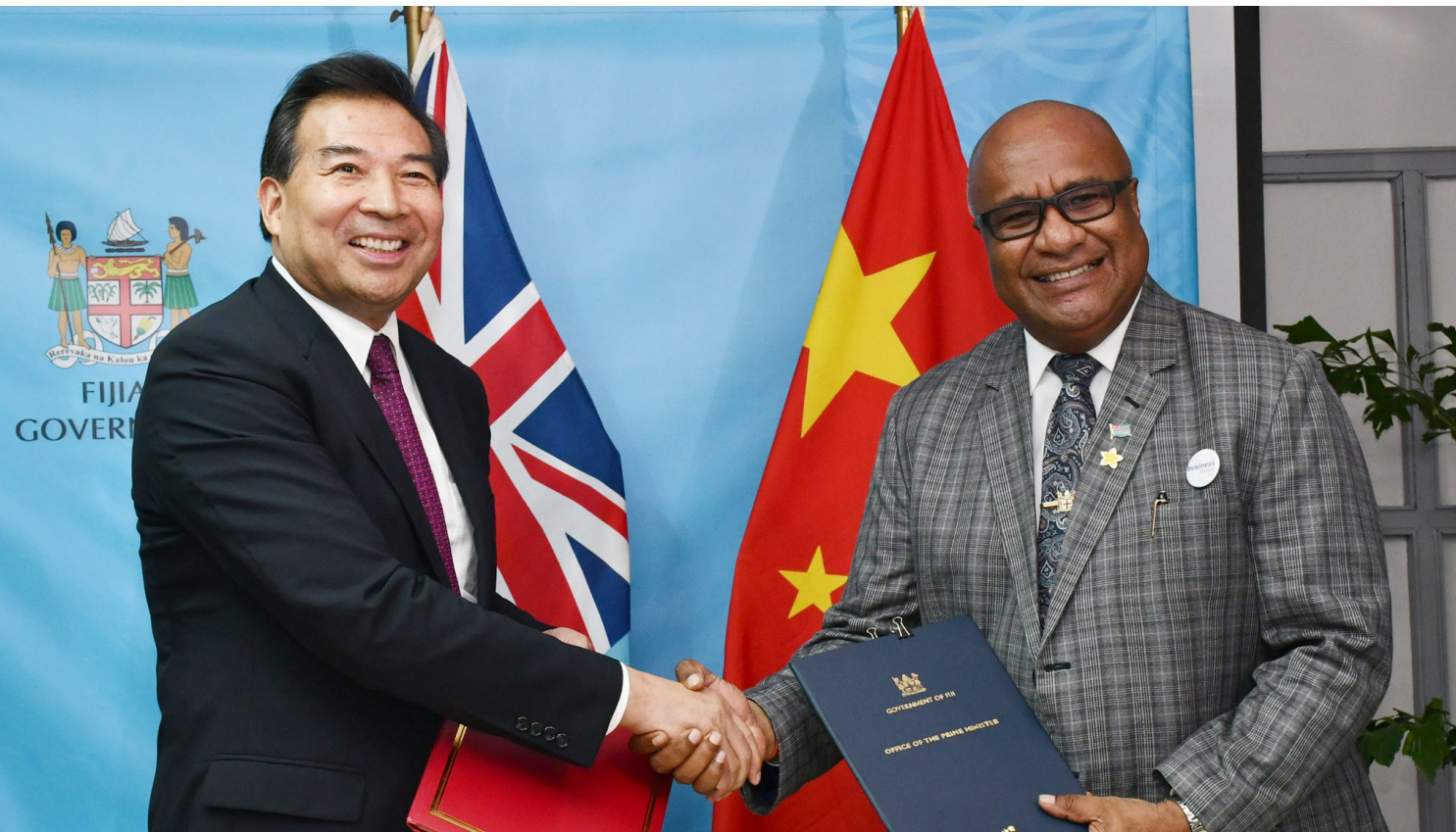
Story on page 7

SAINITAKI NI MOU E VAQAQACOTAKA TALE NA VEITARATARA E VITI KEI JAINA

Vakacaucautaki na itavi levu nei Jaina ki Viti ena kena kawa bula era sa mai lewena tu na nona vanua.



ERA vulagi dokai na noda Peresitedi ni Vanua ko Viti, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere ena soqo ni vakananumi ni Yabaki Vou kei Jaina ena noda vanua. Vakayacori na soqo oqori ena Nausori Plaza ena macawa sa oti. Era tiko kina na Minisita ni Veika Vaka iTaukei Hon. Ifereimi Vasu, vakalesilesi liu ni matanitu, kei ira na lewe ni itikotiko ni Jaina. Na soqo ni marau oqo e vakatakilakilataka na yabaki vou ni Jaina ni “loong” ena vosa vaka-Jaina, ka tekivu na soqo ni marau ena ika 10 ni Feperueri, 2024. E vakabibitaka o Peresitedi Katonivere na bibi ni Yabaki Vou ni Jaina ena kena vakabulabulataki na ivau voleka ena loma ni matavuvale kei na itikotiko. E vakadinadinataka na iliuliu ni matanitu na soqo oqo me dua na madigi me da kila kina na veika sa rawata kei na nodra cau na itikotiko ni Jaina, ka vakananuma lesu na nodrau veimaliwai tudei o Viti kei Jaina.



Nikua, era sainitaka o Minisita ni Veivoli, Honorable Manoa Kamikamica e dua na iVakatakilakila ni Kila Ka (MOU) vata kei na Nona Excellency Luo Zhaohui, na Jeameni ni Tabana ni Veivukei e Jaina.

E vakadeitaka na MOU na

veidinadinati ni Viti kei Jaina ka oka kina na Veivakatorocaketaki ni Veivuke mai Jaina oka kina na veitokoni ni teitei, kei na kena maroroi kei na kena vakavinakataki cake na gaunisala e Levu Vanua ena ruku ni Global Development Initiative of the People's Re-

public of China. “E vakadeitaka na MOU na veidinadinati nei Viti kei Jaina me baleta na tomani tiko ni veivuke ena ruku ni Global Development Initiative a tavoca o Peresitedi Xi1 ena Sepiteba 2021 ena iTikotiko Liu ni Matabose kei Vuravu-

ra mai Ni'u Ioka, ena Soqoni Raraba ni Matabose kei Vuravura. Na inaki ni GDI me vakatotelotaka na kena vakayagataki na Lewe ni Bose ni 2030 ka sa vakadeitaka me tarai cake e dua na itikotiko raraba ni veivakatorocaketaki.

Sikovi ira mai Brussels ko PM Rabuka



A sotavi ira na lewenivanua e Viti era vakaitikotiko mai Iurope ko Paraiminisita Honorable Sitiveni Rabuka. Eratou a lako mai Parisi, Necaladi kei Geneva me ratou lai sota kei na Matanitu mai keya. E vakaraitaka na liuliu ni matanitu na vakavinavinaka ena vuku ni veivuke lomasoli ka tomana tikoga na kena drodro mai na vakotori ka na veivuke ki na bula sautu kei na vakatorocaketaki ni nodra vanua. A vakadinadinataka o koya na itavi bibi era vakayacora ena nodra tokona na tubu kei navakatorocaketaki nei Viti mai na vanua vakayawa. Vakaraitaka ko PM Rabuka ni oqo ena rawa ni yaco ena nodra cakacaka vakaukauwa, rawaka kei na tiko sautu ena nodra veivale vakubeci e wasawasa.



Volitaki itei e Nausori

Ke dredre vi iko na bucibucini nomui tei kakana draudrau kei na vuata , Suejoe Nursery , Nausori.

Sivi ga yani o Verata Wailevu Koro rauta ni 0.5 kilomita ni biute mai na otioiti ni vale lomani koro nio gole i Nausori, yasana mawi. E na ota Taki rawa nomui Tei, dua na tray, tiko kina 50 na vuna. Baigani, Rokete (kena mataqali kece), quwawa, capsicum, etc. Tabaka mai qoka ko Filimoni Naiqumu na Manidia ni Commerce ena tabacakacaka ni Veika Vakaitaukei.

“Qo edua na Nursery e ravita tokaga i ena nona compound ni vale, ka da sarava kina nona vakayagataka vakavinaka na nona loma ni bai,” kaya ko Naiqumu.

“Ena mataka nikua e samaki tikoga na nona vei quwawa ka volitaka talega eso ena batini gaunisala.

“Kalougata ni bau donuya talega ena mataka nikua ni sa gole yani edua na order ni itei ..

“Tokaga mai ena nodra vale, e cicivi koya yani ena loma ni nodra vale na \$1800.00..”

“Qo eso na gaunisala ni vakasaqarai lavo rawa2 ka na gadrevi ga kina na daucakacaka.

“Sa baci line up tale tu qo edua na \$7500.00 ena loma ni 4 ga na macawa. .. Sega ni wili.kina na ilavo ni volitaki Quwawa ka qarava toka ga ena mata ni nodra vale..

Quwawa ni Malabi, Wainibuka, ia qele mai Yaroi, Savusavu. ..

Kevaka ni gadreva mo ni volia eso na itei ni kakana drau2, se tovolea madaga edua na quwawa, ni qai gade yani ena Sujose Farm ka voleka tokaga ena Koro o Verata Wailevu.

Kevaka e tu nomuni vakatataro ni qai veitaratara ga ena 9432661

Wananavu.”



Marautaki na tatamusuki levu

Keitou marautaka me keitou kacivaka e dua na tatamusuki levu ni sa lako tiko mai Vanua Levu! Oqori na nodra qaqa ni vosa na marama ni itaukei era veiqaravi ena bisinisi ni sasalu ena noda Viti.

“Keitou sa sega ni waraka me keitou raica na veika vakasakiti o ni sa rawata kece ena nomuni co co!

“Mo ni qarauna tiko eso tale na vakavoui, ka raica mo ni wasea vei keimami na nomuni italanoa kei na itaba,” kaya nodra ivola mata

“Eda vakauta tiko e dua na *vinaka vakalevu * Vakalevu ki na liga vakasakiti kece ka vukea na tea, susugi, ka tamusuka na ilavo oqo mai na wasawasa.

“Mai vei ira na dauteitei ki na daucakacaka ni sinucodo, vakaillesilesi ni Matabose ni Fisheries, Wasawasa kei na Qele, na ikalawa kece sara ni ilakolako a rawa ena nomu yalodina kei na cakacaka vakaukauwa.

**Vakalougatataki ira era wasea na vua ni nodra qoloqoli ki na nodra itikotiko! Keimami vakavinavinaka vakalevu vei ira na

noda lewenilotu mai muri, ka ra sa vakarau tekivutaka vata kei keimami na ilakolako veivakalougatataki oqo:

* Mikaele - 948 kg

* Vilise - 666 kg

* Semesa Mokua - 424 kg

* Unaisi Bogidrau - 209 kg

* John Hops Simpson - 752 kg

* Cathy - 224 kg

* Apisai - 200 kg

* Kirisitiana - 301 kg

* Sako - 424 kg

* Filipe - 526 kg

* Ropate - 395 kg

* Surai - 949.16 kg

* Rolioni - 325 kg

* Loraini - 471 kg

* Mereamo - 450 kg

E 7,246.16 na kilokaramu!

Oqori e levu sara na seaweed se lumi, ka matataka na yalodina, kei na gagadre. Keimami sa dokai kemuni yadua sara!



Visiko e Kadavu ko Minisita Ravu



ERA yaco yani ki na yanuyanu bulabula ko Kadavu nikua na Minisita ni Qoliqoli kei na Veikau Hon. Kalivati Ravu.

Oqo era gole ena dua na veiqaravi ni veivakaramataki ka vakamacalataki taumada kina na veiqaravi lelevu kei na veivakatorocaketaki tale eso e yaco tiko ena yanuyanu.

Eratou sikova na koro o Tavuki kei Solodamu na Honorable Minisita kei na nona imatalawalawa ka ra kidavaki kina ka vakayacori e dua na soqoni ni talanoa.

Ni vosa tiko ena veisoqoni ni talanoa, a vakamatatataka kina na veiqaravi o Honorable Minisita Ravu, na ituvatua ni Veiqaravi ena Qoliqoli kei na Veikau ena yanuyanu, wai kei na veiyasa ni vanua.

A vakayaloqagataka na veikoro me ra vakayagataka na veimataqali veiqaravi ni Matanitu era tu vei ira ka kila na veika era rawa ni rawata me vaka ni ra itaukei ni ivurevure.

A vakadinadinataki ira na lewe ni koro o Honoble Minisita Ravu ena nodra veikauaitaki ka vakadeitaka vei ira na veivuke tomani tiko ni matanitu. Era a vakananumi talega na vakaillesilesi ni matanitu me ra vakayacora na nodra itavi ena kena vinaka duadua era rawata me rawa ni ra curuma na itaukei ni ivurevure na veiqaravi vinaka duadua e vakarautaki vei ira.

A solia tale ga na Honorable Minisita e 1000 na sore ni kau lime kei na 400 na sore ni luve ni luve ni coco ki na veikoro ruarua.

SIKOVA NA KOROTURAGA IMATAI KO MINISITA

Oqo e dua na madigi me da vakadikeva vata kei na matanitu na sala eda qarava kina na bolebole kei na madigi e yaco mai ena kena vakaraici e dua na ivakatakilakila vakaoqo, ia e dau veisau tikoga, na vanua me yaga vei ira kece era na marautaka na vanua digitaki oqo ka raica taumada na ituvaki ni Levuka Heritage Buildings kei na veivanua.

Oqo a wasea o i Minisita ni iTaukei Affairs Heritage Ifereimi Vasu ena gauna ni veivakasarasarataki kei na soqoni ni talanoa mai Levuka ena Tusiti 09 ni Janueri 2024.

A sikova o Minisita Vasu na Levuka Community Centre, New Market, Levuka Port, kei na Deed of Cession vata kei ira na mata mai na veisoqosoqo bibi era vakaitavi ena levuka World Heritage rehabilitation.

A sota talega kei na dua/ivakalesilesi iliu e Levuka tauni me veivosakitaki kina na madigi kei na bolebole e sotava.

E kaya na Minisita ni “Na Historical Port Town of Levuka World Heritage sa icavacava ni veiyabaki ni yalodina ka vinakata me raica na nodra cakacaka vata tiko na tamata, bisinisi kei na matanitu me vakayagataki na rawa ka oqo ka laveta cake na itukutuku ni Levuka e vuravura raraba.”



Na veiqaravi e vakabulabulataka na itikotiko raraba.

Ia eda kila ni oqo na dra ni bula ni iTaukei.

Ni sa veilecayaki na veiqaravi, sa na veilecayaki na noda itikotiko; ni sa bulabula, ena bulabula na noda itikotiko.

Na revurevu oya e bibi ka yawa sara, ka tara na veitikina kece sara ni noda bula-mai na veiqaravi nei Vola Ni Kawa Bula ki na veisiko vakaitikotiko, mai na tiko vinaka ki na veilitaki vinaka, mai na maroroi ki na

veivoli.

Oqo na uto ni itukutuku a tukuna na Minisita ni iTaukei Affairs, Culture and Heritage, o Honorable Mr Ifereimi Vasu ena kena dolavi na nodra boseka na Roko Tui ka a vakayacori ena Pacific Theological College e Nasese nikua ena Moniti, 22/01/24. A vakauqeti ira na vakaisilesi ni yasana o Mr. Vasu mera kua ni vakasamataka na iyaloyalo ni yaluma.

“Ia, meda sa qai vakadreta na bole-

bole oqo me ivakasariariba ni veisau. Nanuma tiko, na ilakolako cecere kece e tekivu ena dua ga na ikalawa. Me noda na ikalawa oqori me da tau-ra, eke ka vakakina ena gauna oqo.” E dodonu me da tucake me vaka e dua na mata cokovata, ka vakadeitaka me da rokova na lutu oqo, “e kaya o Mr Vasu.



Tekivu tara vou na ValeniBose



Na imatai ni cakacaka ni veiqaravi ena kena tara vou tale na ValeniBose esa mai vakayacori ena macawa oqo Tusiti ika 23 ni Tusiti Janueri 2024. Sa vakayacori tiko e dua na cakacaka levu me vakarautaki kina na mata me baleta na

tara.

Ni oti e dua na iwalewale malumu ni iWali ni Taravale ni Pasifika, sa digitaki me soli kina na parokaramu ni cakacaka.

Era sa toki na konitaraki ena vanua me baleta na cakacaka ni vakacacani ni vale, oka kina na kena kau laivi na iotioti ni yavu kei na ivakarau ni tara ni Vale ni Bose e liu. Na imatai ni cakacaka ni simede e namaki me tekivu ena June 2024. Sa vakarautaki tu me na vakacavari na cakacaka ena 2025.

CURU NA TABANA NI ITAUKEI ENA UNIT TRUST SCHEME

Esota tale na itukutuku mai na noda MOA sainitaka taumada nikua ena noda kidavaki ena papa ni Matabose ni Veika ni I-Taukeis me ika 111 ni itaukei ni cakacaka ena ruku ni iTuvatuva ni Vakavureilavo ni Tamata Cakacaka.





BOSE KEI IRA NA BAQE KEI VURAVURA KO DPM PRASAD



Eratou a sota o ivukevuke ni Matanitu ni Veiqaravi kei na Veiqaravi Ni Veika Vakailavo i Hon Biman Prasad kei na dua na mata mai vei ira na Dairekita Liu ni iLawalawa ni Baqe ni Vuravura nikua.

Na inaki taumada ni soqoni ogo me susugi cake na cakacaka vata ka veimaliwai kei ira na vakaitutu bibi, oka kina na vakaitutu ni Matanitu o Viti, itokani ni veivakatorocaketaki, kei na tabana vakaitaukei.

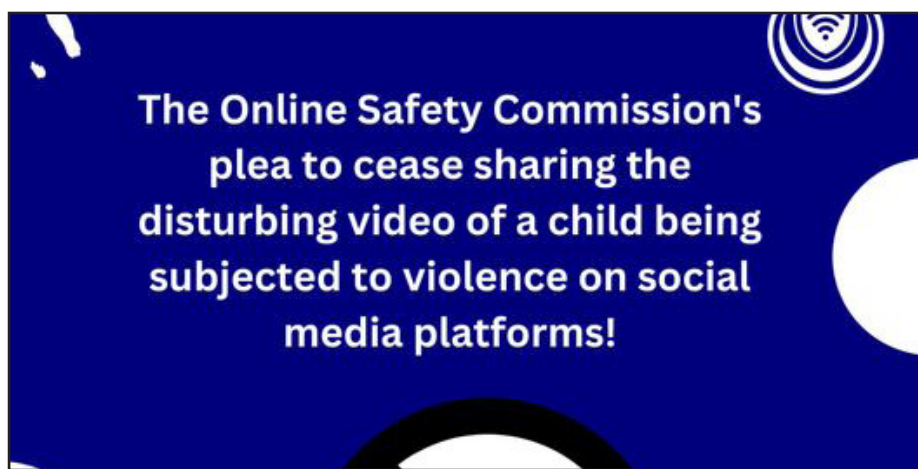
Ena gauna ni bose, a vosa kina o DPM Prasad e vica na ulutaga bibi, ka vakabibitaka na yalayala ni Matanitu o Viti me wali kina na bolebole ni veivakatorocaketaki.

A solia e dua na vakavou ni ituvatuva vou ni Veivakatorocaketaki ni Matanitu, ka tuvanaka kina na rai ni Matanitu me baleta na tubu tudei kei na veivakatorocaketaki oka.

Kena ikuri, a vakarautaka o ivukevuke ni Matanitu ni Veiqaravi o Prasad e dua na itukutuku vakavou taucoko me baleta na toso ni veivakatorocaketaki ni world Bank.



ONLINE SAFETY COMMISSION



E ratou mai vakaraitaka tiko na tabana ni Online Safety Commission na nodratou kawai ena vuku ni yaloyalo esa veiwaseitaki tiko ena mona livaliva me baleta na gone e a vakasaurarataki mai vua e dua na turaga. Sa ratou vakaraitaka talega na nodratou vakamamasu vei keda na lewenivanua meda na yalana na kena veiwaseitaki nai yaloyalo oya.

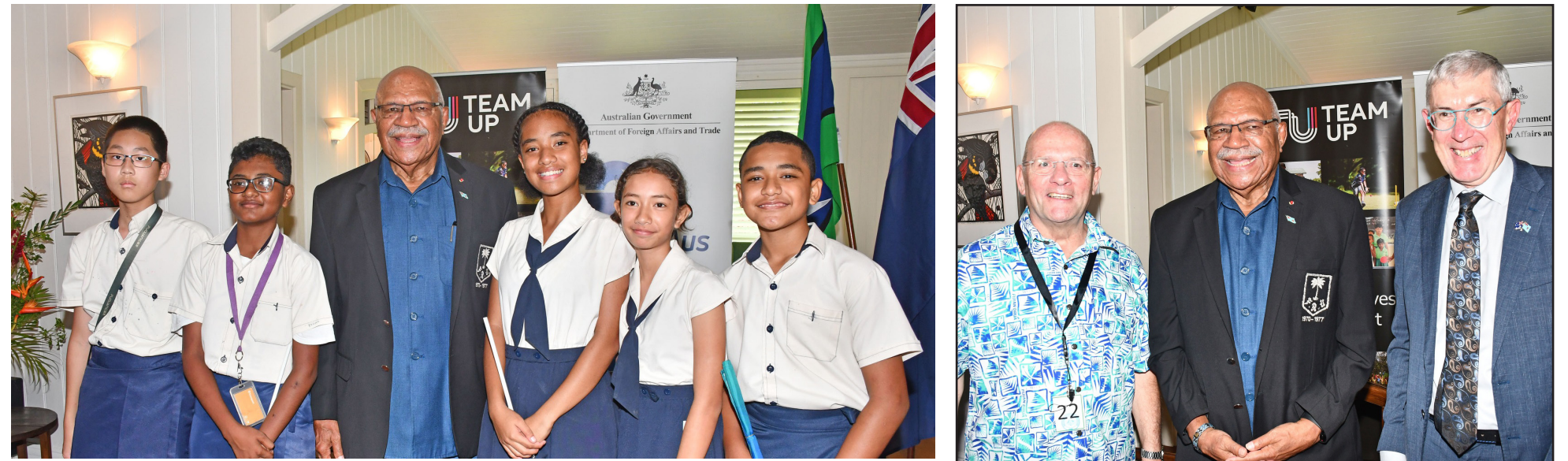
Ena kena veiwaseitaki nai yaloyalo vaka oya ena qai tosoya cake ga na nodra vakasaurarataki na gone. E na via dredre toka meda na

matanataka na vakavakayagataki vinaka ni mona livaliva ia ena bibi sara vei ira era okati ena veika oya.

E sana rawa moni na biuta na nomuni rivote kina dua na tabana ni vakaitututuku se vakadodonu saraga vei ratou na Online Safety Commission.

Meda veiwaseitaka yani na noda I tavi ka meda na cakacakavata ena kena bucini e dua na vanua vinaka ena kena vakayagataki na mona livaliva ka vakabibi vei ira na luveda.

E MARAUTAKA O VITI KEI OSITERELIA NA GAGADRE NI QITO



Na gagadre ni qito vei Viti kei Ositerelia a marautaki ena yakavi nikua ena dua na soqo digitaki a vakayacora na Mata levu ni Matanitu o Ositerelia e Suva.

Eratou a vakayacora na Mata levu ni Ositerelia na timi ni DRUA kei Vitiana DRUA.

Erau sa tekivuna ruarua na timi ni DRUA na nodrau draki 2024 ena veisisi Super W kei na Super Rugby Pacific, ena dua na cakacaka vou ni veitokoni ka vakavou ena parokaramu ni PacificAus Sports ni Matanitu o Ositerelia.

O ira na gonevuli ni LDS College ka ra tiki ni TeamUp_Program “Lako ki na rugby PLUS initiative,” ka tokoni talega mai na Matanitu o Ositerelia, era a tiki talega ni soqo ogo.

A vulagi talei ena soqo oya na Paraiminisita Honorable Sitiveni Rabuka.



Bolebole ni politiki ni veiyasai vuravura kei na veitaqomaki



ERA laki veitalanoa na liuliu ni matanitu, Paraiminisita Sitiveni Rabuka ena boseka ni EU-INDO-PACIFIC forum, ka wilikina na matanitu era qali ki soqosoqo ni veimatanitu ena vanua vaka Urope kei na Pasivika Vakaraitaka ko PM Rabuka ni rawa ni ra vakayaco-ka vakalevu na noda veimatanitu ena duavata nira sotava na veika vakapolitiki kei na bolebole ni veitaqomaki.

Vakaitavi tiko ena boseka na PM ena veivosaki ka sa vakanamata sara talega ena kina veimatanitu ena loma ni soqosoqo vakamanitu e 3 ena vukei na veimatanitu vaka Viti ena bolebole levu ni tataqomaki mai na cakacaka vakailoa ena vuravura raraba.

Era a vakaraitaka ko PM Rabuka na veika emai donuia o Viti ena kena mai tauri vakavesu na wainimate gaga ni veivakamateni taki e Nadi ka sa dua na kauwai bibi talega ni matanitu.

Ena vuku ni ka ogo, a vakamatatataka kina na kena gadrevi na veivale kaukauwa e vuravura me yalataka me vakabulabulataki na tudei kei na veitaqomaki ni yasana.

“Ni da cakacaka vakavoleka vata kei na veivale kaukauwa ni iwasese kei na veimatanitu, e rawa ni da vakayagataka na ivakarau taucoko me tokona na veitaqomaki kei na tudei,” e kaya o liu ni veiqaravi Vukelulu.



Tavoci na veiqaravi ni mita livaliva



Na minisita veiqaravi ni veivakavaletaki, matanitu ni vanua kei na veivakatorocaketaki vakaitikotiko raraba Hon. Maciu Nalumisa e a tavoca nikua e \$630,000 na kena isau e 45 na mita vakalivaliva me tiki ni cakacaka ni Digitalization.

A tiko na veiqaravi mai Lautoka me baleta na tavoci ni ikelekele ni motoka vakalivaliva kei na kena dolavi vakadonui na Namoli Green ni makete ni kakana.

A wasea o koya ni sa rawata na Matabose e rua na mataqali mita ni ikelekele ni motoka vakalivaliva, o ya na mita ni sausaumi kei na ivakatakilakila, kei na mita ni sausaumi e veleti.

“Na veleti vou e saumi vou sai koya na tekinolaji vou ena iwali ni ikelekele ni motoka livaliva, ka sa dau taipataki kina na iwiliwili ni veleti ni motoka, ka lutu na ilavo siliva ena dua na gauna digitaki. Na peleti ni naba kei na itukutuku ni saumi ena qai vakaraitaki ena tebeleti ni City Rangers. Oqo e veisautaka na kena gadrevi me tabaki e dua na risiti me vakaraitaki, ia sa vakarautaki tu na digidigi me caka vakakina.”

Vakadikeva na Minisita na qito saravanua



Minisita ni iTabagone kei na Qito, Jese Saukuru, a sotava e dua na mata mai na kabana na Worx Limited ena valenivolavola ni Matabose ni Qito ni Viti nikua.

Na inaki ni soqoni oya me veivosakitaki na cakacaka vata ena kena susugi na ivakatagedegede ni qito ka vakauqeti kina na saravanua ni qito.

Ena gauna ni soqoni, a vakamacalataki vakalekaleka o Minisita Saukuru ena mataqali cakacaka e vakayacora ena kabani ka vakadikeva na sala ni cakacaka vata me laveta cake na iyau qaqa ni qito i na ivakatagedegede ni veimatanitu.

A tiko talega ena gauna ni soqoni na vakalesilesi iliu ni Matabose ni Qito ni Viti, o Mr Gilbert Vakalalabure, ka vakabibitaka na bibi ni cakacaka vata oqo ena kena tosoi cake na raivotu ni Matabose ni iTabagone kei na Qito me baleta na saravanua ni qito.

LAVETA NA BULA NI LEWENIVANUA NA CAKACAKA NI WAI E KOROTARI



Era sega ni taubale yani ki na uciwai voleka me baleta na nodra gagadre wai, ia sa rawa vei ira na lewenivanua e Korotari ena tauni o Labasa me semati yani nodra veivale na cakacaka ni vakadrodrolu ni wai savasava.

Era laki tavoca na veiqaravi ni matanotu oqo na Vukevuke ni Minista ni Veivakatorocaketaki ena vei koro kei na yanuyanu, kei na Leqa tubukoso Hon. Jovesa Vocea nikua (01.02.24).

O Maca Wainiqolo e sa onosagavulu kava na yabaki, e dua e vakayagataka na veiqaravi oqo, e kaya “na wai na bula” ka me vakuwai mai na ka oqo e revurevu ni nodra bula, vakabibi na nodra bula.

“Nikua e dua na siga mamarau duadua ki na noda itikotiko raraba, kei ira kece era na yaga mai na cakacaka oqo, baleta oqo sa rawa ni da



curuma na wai taqomaki ka savasava ena noda dui vale,” e kaya o Ms Wainiqolo.

“Ni bera oqo keitou na lako sobu ki na uciwai, ka vakayagataka me vakasaqa, sili ka samaki, ka na tara na noda bula ena so na gauna.

“Keimami vakavinavinaka ki na matanitu, kei ira na kena vakalesilesi era vakadeitaka ni rawa talega ni keimami curuma na wai ni gunu vinaka me vakataki ira na vo ni tamata ena vanua.”

SOLIA EDUA NA INUINUI VOU NA TATAKOSO VOU E BUCA, SAVUSAVU



A vakaiyalayala ni kena rawati kei na vakatorocaketaki sa na dua na ka sa oti vei ira na itikotiko e Nasavusavu Public School kei na Buca Settlement voleka e Savusavu, ena kena vakayacori na nodra takosova nikua (01.02.23).

Na vale oqo, ka sosomitaka e dua na tatakoso kau yabaki 88 ka tiko kina na kena iyalayala ni lima na tani na kena bibi, ena yaga vei ira e 439 na gonevuli kei na vakalesilesi ni koronivuli, kei na 457 na lewenivanua.

Kaya na iVukevuke ni Minisita veiqaravi ena Veivakatorocaketaki ni Vakakoro kei na Wai, kei na Lewai ni Leqa Tubukoso Hon. Jovesa Vocea ena nodra dolava na veiqaravi oqo ni dua na tiki ni nona yalayala na Matanitu me vakatorocaketaki kina na nodra bula na tamata, vakabibi o ira era vakaitikotiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu.

Na cakacaka oqo ena dua talega na matamata ki na madigi vinaka cake, ka vakuria ni sa tu na takosova sa tu, ena dolava na kena rawa ni vakayagataka na basi me baleti ira na gonevuli ka sa dodonu me ra taubale mai na gaunisala levu ki na koronivuli.

E kaya na Manidia ni koronivuli o Melvin Prasad ni ra vakavinavinakataka na matanitu ena nodra vakarorogo ki na nodra kerekere.

Bolebole ena Muaniatu

Era vakaraitaka na Tabana ni Bureau of Statistics ni 75 na pasede na iTaukei era bula dravudravua. E dua na bolebole levu ena Tabacacaka iTaukei ena kena laurai na iwali eso me rawa ni laveti kina noda bula ni rawa ka na kawa iTaukei.

Era biuta vata e dua na ituvatuva matau (solesolevaki framework) na Vuvale Levu ni Tabacacaka iTaukei (MTA, TTFB, TLTB, TAB, Fijan Holdings, CATD) ena noda vukei na kawa iTaukei.

E na ika 23 ni Tiseba era vakaraitaka na Matabose ni Qele Maroroi ena dua na ituvatuva (iTaukei Wealth Fund) ena nodra vakatorocaketaki na itaukei ni qele ena kena sagai na bula sautu (wealth creation).

Sa tekivu na vakasosolo ena kena gadrevi me veisau na bula ni kawa itaukei me valuti na dravudravua. Ena koro e Vuadomo ena Tikina o Wailevu sa tekivu e dua na kalawa vou ena kena tuvai e dua

na tuvatuva (Yavusa Muaniatu Strategic Development Plan) ka veivuke kina na Matabose ni Lavo Maroroi.

Na tatadra ni Matabose ni Lavo kei na Yavusa Muaniatu me ra vakatorocaketaki nodra qele kei na yaubula ena nodra solevaka na ituvatuva sa ra tuvana vata me rawa na tiko vinaka kei na bula sautu. Na kabani na Vuadomo Company PTE Fiji Ltd e mai tavoca ena ika 23 ni Seviteba 2023 na Muaniatu trails ka vakatabakidua ena kena qaravi na saravanua (eco – tourism).

Era vakaraitaka o Epeli Asaro ni sa tiko na tuvatuva tale eso me na vakaraibailevu taki nodratou vei qaravi me na valuuti kina na dravudravua.

Era vakavinavinataka na lewe ni Yavusa e Muaniatu na ituvatuva ni Tabacacaka iTaukei ena kena sagai me valuti kina na dravudravua.



SOLESOLEVAKI E VUYA



“Ni da tu vata ena vuvu na wai.....ni da solesolevaki ena ni da walia na leqa..”

E da bolelei sara vakalevu na kawa iTaukei na kena laurai ni 75% eda dravudravua.

Sa cavui kalawa na Vuvale Levu ni Taba wai iTaukei ena kena sagai au na pasede kei na valuti na dravudravua.

Sa rabailevu sara na matanivola ni Taba vale iTaukei ka dua na tiki ni nona qaravi au ra vakacokotaki na tabagone.

E na siga ni kuati Tusiti na ika 2 ni Janueri 2023

era sakiti voli na vunivola Vunivola Kei Na Vunilewa ni Matabose ni Lavo Sali ena Koro oya vuku ni ni ni koro ena kena duri dua na ra a rena vakalevu kina na Tabagone.

Na ituvatuva oqo era veivuke kina na Matabose ni LavoNini nodra vuli na tabagone cicivaki ni b vale cokovata (cooperative) ka sa mai vakavotukana ena kena tauyavutaki ena dua vale ni madrai ka sa vakacagau tiko nodra iteitei.

Valuti ni Draki Veisau -Teivaki ni Dogo



E dua na sasaga ka sa cavukalawa tiko kina na Tabacacaka iTaukei sa ikoya na kena maroroi na noda iYaubula ena kena teivaki na dogo me sasabai ni draki veisau.

Ena siga edaidai, Vukelulu na ika 27 ni Tiseba e mai qaravi ena koro e Korotasere, ena Tikina o Vaturova edua na vuli ni veivakararamataki ni teivaki na dogo. Era tiko rawa na vuli oqo na lewenivanua mai na veikoro vakatekivu mai Naboutini, Sese, Korotasere, Vuinadi, Korolevu kei Nasinu.

A mai qarava na vuli ni veivakararamataki oqo e dua na kena dau(botanist)Isaac Rounds mai na iSoqosoqo na Conservation International, nodra vakararamataki na lewenivanua na iwalewale ni kena tei vaki na dogo kei na veika e kauta mai na kena maroroi vinaka dogo.

Era vakavinavinakataka na Vanua na kena kau yani vakavoleka na vuli oqo me rawa ni bula kina na vanua vakauasivi nodra maroroi na iYaubula me baleti ira na nodra kawa era muri mai.

Era marautaka sara vakalevu na lewenivanua na kena qaravi na veivakararamataki ka levu sara na ka era vulica rawa.

Sa ituvatuva tiko ni Tabacacaka iTaukei ni na vakaraibailevutaki na sasaga ni kena valuti na draki veisau.



Noda Viti

Siga Tabu, Feverueli 11, 2024; 8 Drauniveva; 1 ni Tabana; 15 ni lavelave ni ivola | www.fiji.gov.fj @FijiGovt Fiji Government

Nuidei tiko ena bula vakailavo e Viti



Sa vinaka tiko na bula vakailavo e Viti ka dodonu me da nuidei kina. Ni vosa tiko ko Minisita ni Saravanua kei na Vuli, Hon. Viliame Gavoka vei ira na lewe ni Nadi Chamber of Commerce ena nodra bose vakadeitaka ni sa bula vakavinaka sara na bula ni Viti. “Me vaka a yaco ena 2019 ena ivakaraute ni GDP, me vaka na Asian Development Bank ni cakacaka e vakasaqara na GDP me tiko ena 3.4% ena ivakarau ni tubu ena 2024.” E kaya o koya ni sa tokoni na kena vakalesui mai ena rua na yabaki sa oti ena kena vakalesui mai vakaukauwa na tabana ni saravanua e Viti. E vakamatatataka o Hon Gavoka ni sa tubu cake sara vakalevu na iwiliwili ni saravanua ena veiyabaki kei na yabaki oqo era namaka me ra raica e dua na milioni na vulagi ni ra yaco mai ena neimami baravi.

VEIVAKAUQETI NA TUKUTUKU NI TEI DALO

ERA wasea tiko na Manidia ni Commercial se bisinisi ena tabana ni veika vakaiTaukei, Filimoni Naiqumu edua na italoa din aka veivakauqeti baleti ira na dautei dalo kei na veika era rawaka kina ena veiyabaki ena kena qaravi vakamatau ka vakayagataki na gele. “Au mata wasea tu na dua na Tei dalo se vakayacori Sara i Dravuni e na 2020,”kaya ko Naiqumu ena nona ivolamata. “Qo na kena vakayagataki na misini. Levu ni sauni misini na kena mai vakayagataki na yabaki ya \$3500. “Qo raute ni 2 na macawa vinaka sara nona mai cakacaka. Tabaki kina e 6000 na matani uro ni vonu, were va ka rua , ka 7 ni vula sa cavu tale kina na uro vonu. 3500 kg na levu ni bi ni dalo ko cavu kece na yabaki ya. “Se volivoli kina o Qaselevu Peni Moi Navua e na \$3.50. \$12500 cash on hand mai sole sara o Qaselevu Peni Moi warai tale ni dua na ka musu. “Qo warai wili na rawa kina na voli matani dalo 100 na sulina \$25. Voleka Sara na \$20000 na lavo e rawa kece e na teitei qo.

Keo nanuma mo vakayacora na teitei dalo eso na veika erawa niko vakamura sa tiko sobu qori. Na VEITARATARAVI KECE NI KA E QARAVI SA TOKA QO. 1. Kavuru kece na gele vana misini sa Bala mai na Pure Denitao. 2.waraki tu me raute ni 2 na macawa, sa tekivu na laulau. 3. Tei kece na dalo raute toka ni oti na 2 vimama na vula sa qai na matai ni kena were. 4. Sa were oti sa qai mai na kena UREA. 5.Ka 5 ni vula karua ni kena were. 6.Ka 7 ni vula 2 na macawa sa cavu. Levu ni ilavo vakayagataki Digger -\$3500 Sulini Dalo -\$1500 Labour- \$2500 Taucoko - \$7500 Oqori edua walega na italoa se tukutuku ni veivakararamataki vei keda.



फ़ीजी दर्पण

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बूआ स्थित नम्बउवालू शहर पर विकास का काम हो रहा है तथा उम्मीद है कि नया शहर तत्कालित ज़रूरतों को पूरा करेगा



वनीला की खेती चुनौतीपूर्ण है लेकिन रा का एक किसान खुशहाल है क्यों कि इस खेती में उनके द्वारा किए गए प्रयास सफल रहे



फीजी हार्डवुड कौपेरेशन ने सरकार को आठ लाख डोलर लागत का एक चेक प्रदान किया जो उनके मुनाफे का हिस्सा है



पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 3 पर

पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 6 पर

पूरी कहानी पृष्ठ 7 पर

ताव्यूनी में उत्पादनों को ताज़ा रखने वाली व्यवस्था का उद्घाटन हुआ



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका हाल में नालेले ताय्यूनी स्थित रोड किंग फार्म फ़ेश प्रोडयूस सुविधा का उद्घाटन करते हुए कम्पनी के मालिक अतिश प्रसाद के साथ

चित्र: चोसईया रलॉगो

रेनल देव

ताव्यूनी भर के किसान, हाल में नालेले ताय्यूनी स्थित रोड किंग फार्म फ़ेश प्रोडयूस सुविधा पर इक्ठठा हुए जहाँ प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने इस सुविधा का उद्घाटन किया।

रोड किंग पी.टी.ई लिमिटेड के मालिक तथा संचालक अट्ठाईस वर्षीय अतिश प्रसाद कर रहे हैं जो आपलेन्ड के एकमात्र निर्यातकर्ता है तथा जो सुविधा वो चला रहे हैं वो द्वीप पर किसानों के लिए उम्मीद की किरण की तरह है जो उन्हें आधुनिक सुविधा प्रदान करने के साथ-साथ उनके उत्पादनों के लिए अच्छा दाम प्रदान करता है। अपने लोगों की मदद करने का सपना पूरा करने के लिए प्रसाद पिछले दो सालों से किसानों से डालो खरीदने का दाम एक डोलर पचास सेन्ट्स से बढ़ाकर चार डोलर प्रति किलो (\$1.50 से \$4.00 per kg) कर दिया है। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि इस सुविधा से न केवल ताय्यूनी बल्कि पूरे फीजी के लोगों को लाभ होगा।

“कम्पनी के प्रयास से ताय्यूनी के कई उत्पादन दुनिया भर में लोगों के खाने के मेज़ तक पहुँचने पर ताज़ा ही रहेंगे।”

‘इसका कोई कारण नहीं दिखता है कि क्यों भोजन के मामले में फीजी आत्मनिर्भर नहीं हो सकता जबकि हम दुनिया का पेट भरने में लगे हैं।’

प्रधान मंत्री ने प्रसाद की सराहना की है कि उन्होंने एक ऐसा मंच प्रदान करने में नए विचार को कार्यरूप दिया जो न केवल स्थानीय उपज को सीधे दुनिया में बेचता है, बल्कि एक ऐसा मंच है जो ताय्यूनी और देश के कृषि व्यवसाय को फिर से आकार देने की बहुत सम्भावनाएं रखता है।

इस नई सुविधा में कोल्ड स्टोरेज रूम, आराम करने का घर, किसानों को ओगेनिक खाद सप्लाई करने के लिए एक बायोगैस प्रणाली की सुविधा भी है।

नौ साल पहले प्रसाद मुश्किल से सौ डोलर में गुज़ारा करते थे लेकिन अब वो ताय्यूनी में एक सफल व्यापारी है, जो एक कामयाब व्यापार के मालिक है जिनके लिए साठ से ज़्यादा स्थानीय लोग काम करते हैं।

इस नई सुविधा से ध्यान में रखा जाएगा कि डालो की सप्लाई ताज़ा रहे तथा किसानों की आमदनी में भी वृद्धि हो।

इस सुविधा की स्थापना करने में सहायता देने के लिए मैं पॅसिफिक होटीकल्चरल एंड अग्रीकल्चरल मार्केट एक्सेस प्लस प्रोग्राम का आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ जिन्हें ओस्ट्रेलिया और न्यू ज़ीलैन्ड सरकार भी समर्थन दे रही हैं। ताय्यूनी के किसानों, कर्मचारियों तथा निवासियों के लिए फीजी सरकार अधिक समृद्ध और टिकाऊ भविष्य की दिशा में आपके प्रयासों का समर्थन करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। रोड किंग पी.टी.ई लिमिटेड के मालिक तथा संचालक अट्ठाईस वर्षीय अतिश प्रसाद ने अपने परिवार, फीजी सरकार, ओस्ट्रेलिया तथा न्यू ज़ीलैन्ड, साझेदारों, किसानों तथा शुभचिंतकों की ओर से समर्थन पर आभार व्यक्त किया है।

“कई असफलताओं के चुनौतियों के बावजूद, यह योजना उस स्थान के लिए मेरा सपना था जहाँ मेरी पैदाईश हुई तथा ताय्यूनी के किसानों की मदद करने के लिए मैंने यह व्यापार करने का चुनाव किया।”

नई लीस के लिए सरकारी सहायता

रोनल देव

पीपल्स कोआलीशन सरकार के मंत्रीमण्डल ने दो सौ अट्ठारह (218) किसानों का लीस पैमन्ट चुकाने के लिए एक मिलियन डोलर से ज़्यादा (\$1,220,893.36) निकालने को मंजूरी दी है जो बचा हुआ है या भरे नहीं गए हैं।

इससे अब इन किसानों को पचास सालों तक की लम्बी लीस मिलेगी जिससे वे लगातार खेती करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित भी होंगे। यह सहायता चीनी तथा अन्य क्षेत्रों की खेती की स्थिरता को बढ़ावा देगी। यह किसानों को खेती जारी रखने के लिए भी प्रोत्साहित करेगा और इसके अलावा किसान ग्रामीण इलाकों को छोड़कर शहर में बसने नहीं जाएंगे।

तकनीकी प्रगति और नवीन कृषि तरीकों को प्रोत्साहित करने से गन्नों की खेती की क्षमता में वृद्धि होगी।

गन्ना तथा अन्य कृषि उत्पादनों की ज़मीन वाली लीस, लीस नया करने तथा लेन्ड प्रिमियम वाले विषयों से निपटने के लिए एक टास्क फोर्स की स्थापना पिछले साल सितम्बर में की गई थी। टास्कफोर्स द्वारा



मंत्रीमण्डल के फैसले से किसान अपनी प्रतिक्रिया दर्शाते हुए

चित्र :प्रदान किया गया

विचार-विमर्श करने से पता चला कि कृषि ज़मीन की दो हजार एक सौ अस्सी (2,180) लीसों की अवधि पिछले साल और 2030 के बीच खत्म होगी जिनमें दो सौ अट्ठारह किसानों की ज़मीन का

किराया शामिल है जो भरे नहीं गए हैं। मंत्रीमण्डल ने फायनेन्स मंत्रालय को यह भी आदेश दिया है कि वो टी एल टी बी के एक हजार सात सौ अस्सी लीसों को नया करने पर ध्यान दें जिनकी अवधि 2023

तथा दो हजार तीस के बीच खत्म हो रही है, और 2024-2025 राष्ट्रीय बजट में ज़रूरी लीस प्रिमियम पहल का प्रस्ताव रखें।

उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने वोल्ड बैंक के अधिकारियों से मुलाकात की



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद तथा सहायक मंत्री इस्सोम इमेनुएल, वोल्ड बैंक ग्रुप एक्ज़ेक्टिव डायरेक्टर्स के प्रतिनिधिमण्डल के साथ सभा करने के दौरान

चित्र :प्रदान किया गया

रोनल देव

उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फायनेन्स मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद ने वोल्ड बैंक ग्रुप एक्ज़ेक्टिव डायरेक्टर्स के प्रतिनिधिमण्डल से मुलाकात की।

इस बैठक का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य था फीजी सरकार के अधिकारियों, विकास भागीदारों और निजी क्षेत्र सहित प्रमुख हितधारकों के साथ सहयोग को बढ़ावा देना और जोड़ना। सभा के दौरान उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने महत्वपूर्ण विकास चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए फीजी सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता पर जोर देते हुए कई महत्वपूर्ण विषयों को संबोधित किया। उन्होंने सतत विकास और समावेशी

विकास के लिए सरकार की रणनीतिक दृष्टि को रेखांकित करते हुए, नई राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना पर नई जानकारीयों प्रदान की।

इसके अलावा उप प्रधान मंत्री प्रसाद ने वोल्ड बैंक की चल रही योजनाओं की प्रगति पर एक व्यापक जानकारी भी प्रदान की। इन योजनाओं में परिवहन संसाधन पुँजी वाली योजना, सामाजिक सुरक्षा कोविड-19 आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रिया और सिस्टम विकास जैसे प्रमुख क्षेत्र शामिल हैं। चर्चा में राष्ट्रीय के समग्र सामाजिक आर्थिक विकास में योगदान देने वाली इन योजनाओं के सफलता पूर्वक लागू करने को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार के समर्पण पर प्रकाश डाला गया।

इन पहलुओं पर बातें करते हुए, उप प्रधान मंत्री ने जोर दिया कि हमारी राष्ट्रीय विकास योजना फीजी के लिए लचीला और टिकाऊ भविष्य बनाने की हमारी प्रतिबद्धता का प्रमाण है।

‘वोल्ड बैंक की चल रही योजनाएं हमारे विकास लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने, तात्कालिक चुनौतियों का समाधान करने और हमारे समाज पर स्थायी सकारात्मक प्रभाव पैदा करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है।’ जवाब में, एमआएजीए की डायरेक्टर तथा वोल्ड बैंक की अल्टानैटिव एक्ज़ेक्टिव डायरेक्टर सुश्री नथाली फेंकेन ने फीजी सरकार की व्यापक प्रस्तुति के लिए सराहना व्यक्त की।

उन्होंने योजनाओं के प्रति समर्पण के लिए

सरकार को धन्यवाद दिया और फीजी में सतत विकास को बढ़ावा देने में वोल्ड बैंक समूह से निरंतर समर्थन का आश्वासन दिया। फीजी सरकार द्वारा दिखाई गई प्रतिबद्धता सराहनीय है।

‘हम, वोल्ड बैंक समूह में, फीजी के विकास उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए उसके साथ काम करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं, और हम हमारे बीच मौजूद सहयोगात्मक भावना की सराहना करते हैं,’ सुश्री फेंकेन ने कहा। इस बैठक ने फीजियन अधिकारियों और वोल्ड बैंक समूह के एक्ज़ेक्टिव डायरेक्टर्स के बीच खुली बातचीत के लिए एक मंच प्रदान किया जिससे फीजियन सरकार की ज़रूरतों, प्राथमिकताओं और पहलुओं की गहरी समझ को बढ़ावा मिला।

मोडल नम्बउवाल् शहर का विकास



हाउसिंग तथा लोकल गर्वमेन्ट मंत्री माननीय मादितु निलुमिसा, ग्रामीण और समुद्री विकास मंत्री सकियासी दितोका, लेन्ड्स मंत्री, माननीय फिलिमोनी वोसारोंगो, ई-तौकेई मामलों के मंत्री इफेरेमी वासू, और कृषि और जलमार्ग सहायक मंत्री माननीय तोमासी तुनाबुना नम्बउवाल् में नया शहर बनाने वाली एक मोडल योजना के उद्घाटन के दौरान अन्य अधिकारियों के साथ चित्र :प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

यात्री बस टर्मिनल के नींव रखने वाला समारोह बुआ नम्बउवाल् में नए शहर के विकास का पहला चरण है। इस समारोह में औपचारिक भाषण देते हुए हाउसिंग और लोकल गर्वमेन्ट मंत्री, माननीय मदिथू निलुमिसा ने कहा कि नम्बउवाल् उन पहले शहरों में से एक होगा जहां नगर योजनाकार यह सुनिश्चित करेंगे कि सभी शहरी नियोजन सिद्धांत लागू होंगे। मंत्री निलुमिसा ने कहा कि “यह प्रतिबद्धता एक मोडल शहर बनाने की हमारी एक समर्पण दर्शाती है,

जहाँ हर पहलु को इसके निवासियों और वहाँ घूमने जाने वालों के लिए जीवन की गुणवत्ता बढ़ाने के लिए सावधानिपूर्वक बनाया गया है। जबकि हम सब जलवायु परिवर्तन के गंभीर असर का सामना कर रहे हैं, हम बुआ की प्राकृतिक सुंदरता और जैव विविधता के प्रति सचेत भी हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारा नया शहर न केवल तात्कालिक जरूरतों को पूरा करेगा, बल्कि बदलते मौसम का सामना भी करेगा। मंत्री निलुमिसा ने बताया कि शहर में हरे-भरे स्थानों को कार्बन सिंक के रूप में दिखाया

जाएगा, नवीकरणीय उर्जा पर भरोसा किया जाएगा, जो पर्यावरण के अनुकूल शहरी नियोजन के लिए एक सतह स्थापित करेगा। इस कार्यक्रम में ग्रामीण और समुद्री विकास के मंत्री सकियासी दितोका, लेन्ड्स तथा मिनरल रिसोर्स मंत्री, माननीय फिलिमोनी वोसारोंगो, ई-तौकेई मामलों के मंत्री इफेरेमी वासू, और कृषि तथा जलमार्ग सहायक मंत्री माननीय तोमासी तुनाबुना भी उपस्थित थे।

पशुओं की बिक्री वाले दाम में बदलाव

रोनल देव

मंत्रीमण्डल ने गाय के दाम में वृद्धि तथा जनन विज्ञान में सुधार करने के कृषि मंत्रालय के प्रस्ताव को स्वीकृति दे दी है। आनुवंशिकी में सुधार करने और फीजी में उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले गोमांस और डयरी नस्लों को विकसित करने के प्रयास में कृषि मंत्रालय ने 2017 से उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले गोमांस के पालन और विकास के लिए एक कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत की है। ‘सेनेपोल’, ‘वागयू’ तथा ‘ड्राउटमास्टर’ नस्ल के गोमांस तथा ‘ब्राउन स्वीस’ नस्ल के डयरी गाय, फीजी सरकार के मेजर टेंडर्स बोर्ड द्वारा स्वीकृति दी गई कम्पनी, ओस्ट्रेलियन रिप्रोडक्टिव टेक्नोलॉजी कम्पनी के द्वारा ओस्ट्रेलिया से मंगाए गए हैं। इस योजना को एम्ब्रियो ट्रांसफर टेक्नोलॉजी के माध्यम से सुविधाजनक बनाई गई है। 2018 से पिछले साल के बीच कृषि मंत्रालय के स्टेशन पर आयात किए गए भ्रणों को चार चरणों में स्थानीय सेरोगेट माताओं में

दाखिल किया जाता है। गर्मी के तनाव, वृद्धि और विकास, मांस की गुणवत्ता, बाजार की जरूरत को देखते हुए, गाय की चार नस्ल (सेनेपोल, ब्राउन स्वीस, वागयू तथा ड्राउटमास्टर) का चुनाव किया गया है। पिछले कई सालों से पशुओं के दाम पर विचार नहीं किया गया था। अभी का दाम बाजार के साथ मेल नहीं खाता न ही यह वर्तमान बाजार के लिए वास्तविक और टिकाऊ है। इसके अलावा वर्तमान का दाम उत्पादन खर्च से भी बहुत कम है। कृषि मंत्रालय द्वारा किसानों को बेची गई गायों की एक बड़ी संख्या का उपयोग गायों की कम संख्या के कारण किया गया है या खेतों में बच्छड़ों को पैदा करने की अनुमति दिए बिना गायों को समय से पहले मारा जा रहा है। ऐसा इसलिए है क्योंकि नई नस्लें कम कीमत पर बेची गईं। चूंकि उन्हें कम महत्व दिया गया था, वे अपने प्राथमिक उद्देश्य को पूरा करने में सफल नहीं रहे, जो कि खेतों में गायों की संख्या में सुधार करना था। सरकार, कृषि मंत्रालय के मार्फत, गोमांस क्षेत्र को कई तरह से सहायता पहुंचा रही है।

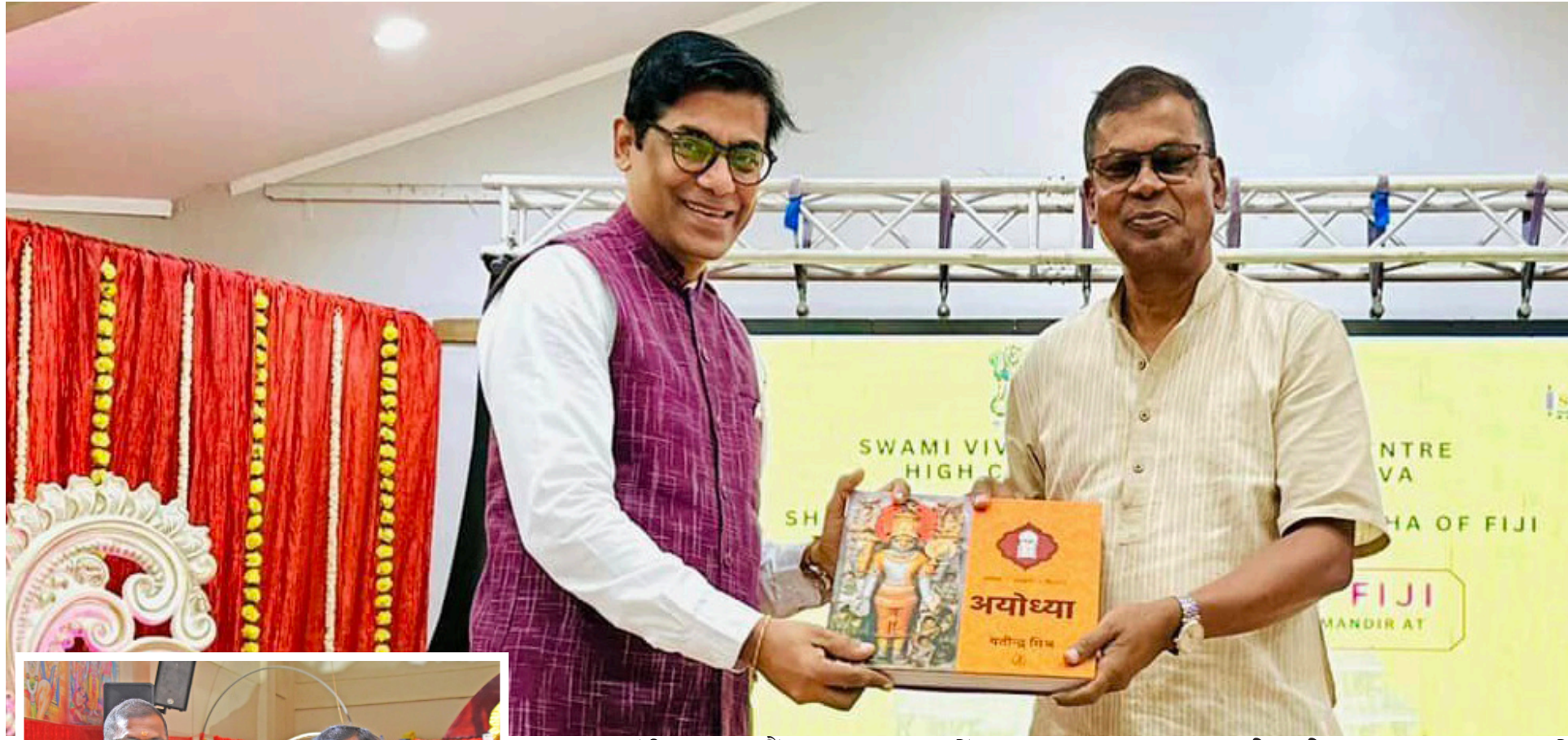
एफ.एन.पी.एफ पेंशन योजना

शीलता सिंह

2023-2024 के राष्ट्रीय बजट में, गठबंधन सरकार ने घोषणा की थी कि एफ एन पी एफ पेंशनस जिनकी पेंशन 2011 में पिछले शासन द्वारा घटाया गया था, वे पिछले साल अगस्त से प्रभावी सरकार की सोशल पेंशन स्कीम के तहत सहायता हासिल कर सकते हैं। औसतम एक हजार पाँच सौ एफ.एन.पी.एफ पेंशनस प्रभावित हुए हैं, और उनकी सामाजिक पेंशन योजना के माध्यम से भुगतान की सुविधा महिला, बच्चों और समाजिक सुरक्षा मंत्रालय ने की। अगस्त 2023 से, मंत्रालय ने एक हजार पाँच सौ प्रभावित एफ एन पी एफ पेंशनस में से लगभग दो सौ लोगों की अर्जियों पर गौर करना शुरू कर दिया था। पिछले साल दिसंबर तक सरकार ने इस प्रक्रिया की समीक्षा की और निर्णय लिया कि एफ.एन.पी.एफ ही इन पेंशनस को सही तरह से सेवा प्रदान कर सकता है क्योंकि उनकी सारी जानकारी फंड

के पास है। इस पुनः विचार की वजह से जैसा वादा किया गया था, विमन, चिल्ड्रन एन्ड सोशल प्रोटेक्शन मंत्रालय असर पड़े पेंशनस को सलाह देना चाहता है कि सरकार ने दिसंबर 2023 में फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडेंट फंड को अगस्त 2023 से प्रभावी बढ़े हुए अलावन्स का भुगतान कर दिया है। अब से फंड ही असर पड़े पेंशनस के खाते में अलावन्स का भुगतान होगा। इसलिए, ये एफ.एन.पी.एफ पेंशनस फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडेंट फंड के साथ बने रहेंगे और उन्हें अब अपना पेंशन हासिल करने के लिए विमन, चिल्ड्रन एन्ड सोशल प्रोटेक्शन मंत्रालय के पास जाने की जरूरत नहीं है। किसी भी सवाल तथा और जानकारी के लिए, आप अपने नज़दीकी सोशल वेलफेयर विभाग या फीजी नेशनल प्रोविडेंट फंड को सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं।

श्री राम लला उत्सव धूमधाम से मनाया गया



उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा फाइनेंस मंत्री माननीय विमान प्रसाद ने हालही बा में वाईलाई कुटि मंदिर में आयोजित राम लला उत्सव में भाग लिया। यह उत्सव एक विशेष महत्व रखता है क्योंकि यह वाईस जनवरी 2024 को भारत के अयोध्या में श्री राम मंदिर के उद्घाटन के साथ जुड़ा था। अपने

भाषण में, उप प्रधान मंत्री ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि फीजी, भारतीय समुदाय से अभी भी गहरी सांस्कृतिक भावना रखता है। साथ ही साथ, उप प्रधान मंत्री ने नकासी में भांस इवेंट हायर सेंटर में भी राम लला उत्सव में भाग लिया। नकासी में अपने भाषण में मंत्री ने इस बात पर जोर

दिया कि यह उत्सव उद्घाटन के साथ मेल खाता है, जिसका दुनिया भर के कई लोग इंतज़ार कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने प्रकाश डाला कि फीजी भारतीय समुदाय इस उत्सव का उपयोग युवा पीढ़ी को शुद्ध भारतीय भाषा बोलना सीखने के अवसर के रूप में कर सकता है जिसे देश में धीरे-धीरे भुला दिया जा रहा है।



प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने यूरोप में फीजीवासियों से मुलाकात की



प्रधान मंत्री माननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने हाल ही यूरोप में बसे फीजी नागरिकों से मुलाकात की। ये लोग प्रधान मंत्री से मिलने के लिए पेरिस, नेदालेन्ड्स तथा जनिवा तक से पहुँचे थे। प्रधान मंत्री ने इन नागरिकों को पीपल्स कोआलिशन सरकार की विकास योजना तथा प्रगति पर नवीनतम जानकारीयों प्रदान की। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने फीजी के नागरिकों की ओर से उन नागरिकों का आभार व्यक्त किया जिनकी ओर से लगातार उदार सहायता मिल रही है जो उनकी मातृभूमि की समृद्धि और विकास में योगदान देता है। उन्होंने दूर से फीजी के विकास का समर्थन करने में उनकी बहुमूल्य भूमिका के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने कहा कि विदेश में बसने के बावजूद कड़ी मेहनत, सफलता और समृद्धि से यह सम्भव हुआ है। प्रधान मंत्री ने इन नागरिकों से अपने परिवार वालों से जुड़े रहने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया तथा परिवार और दोस्तों के साथ मजबूत संबंध बनाए रखने के महत्व पर जोर दिया। प्रधान मंत्री ने इन नागरिकों को फीजी में पूँजी लगाने के लिए भी प्रोत्साहित किया तथा जोर दिया कि पिछले साल पीपल्स कोआलिशन सरकार ने इमिग्रेशन कानून में बदलाव किया है जिससे अब फीजी के भूतपूर्व नागरिकों के बच्चे और वंशज अब बिना पेमिट के फीजी में प्रवेश करने और निवास करने के हकदार हैं।

चीनी समाज के योगदान की प्रशंसा

राष्ट्रपति महामहीम रातू विलियामे कातोनिवरे ने नौसोरी प्लाज़ा में आयोजित चीन के नए साल के समारोह में भाग लिया। राष्ट्रपति के अलावा ई तउकई मंत्री माननीय इफैरमी वासू, उच्च सरकारी कर्मचारियों के साथ चीनी समाज के लोग भी शामिल हुए थे। फरवरी दस तारीख से उत्सव शुरू

हो गए थे। राष्ट्रपति ने चीनी नए वर्ष के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा कि इससे परिवारों तथा समाजों के बीच घनिष्ठ संबंधों को बढ़ावा मिलता है। राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि यह आयोजन एक ऐसा अवसर है जो फीजी और चीन के बीच स्थायी संबंधों को दर्शाते हुए चीनी

समुदाय की उपलब्धियों और योगदान को पहचान दिया जाता है। इस उत्सव में माता ड्रान्स ग्रुप के बच्चों तथा चीनी कल्चरल सेंटर के बच्चों ने अपने-अपने प्रदर्शन भी पेश किए। राष्ट्रपति ने 2024 इया ओफ दी लूग स्टैम्प का भी विमोचन किया जो पोस्ट फीजी की सभी शाखाओं बेचे जा रहे हैं।



नागरिक सेवा श्रेष्ठता के लिए सरकार ने सिविल सेवा दिवस रखने का फैसला किया

शीलता सिंह

सरकार ने औपचारिक तौर पर प्रत्येक जून के अंतिम शुक्रवार को सरकारी सेवा दिवस रखने का फैसला किया है तथा इस साल अट्ठाईस जून को इसका उद्घाटन समारोह होगा। यह पहल संयुक्त राष्ट्र लोक सेवा दिवस के लक्ष्यों और उद्देश्य के साथ निकटता से मेल खाती है, जिसे हर साल जून में भी मनाया जाता है। सरकारी सेवा के प्रमुख के रूप में प्रधान मंत्री मननीय सितिवेनी रम्बूका ने इस दिन को महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा, “सरकारी सेवा दिवस एक राष्ट्र के निर्माण में मदद करने के लिए सरकारी कर्मचारियों के अटूट

समर्पण और कड़ी मेहनत को पहचानने का एक अवसर है। यह फीजी में हमारे लोगों की बेहतर सेवा देने की हमारी प्रतिबद्धता को नवीनीकृत करने का एक क्षण है। यह बेहतरी के लिए बदलाव लाने के पीपल्स गठबंधन सरकार के दृष्टिकोण के अनुरूप है। इस दिन कोई छुट्टी नहीं रहेगी तथा काम करने का सामान्य दिन होगा। हालाँकि, उपलब्धियों का जश्न मनाने और इक्कीसवीं सदी में आधुनिक सरकारी सेवा के विकास के बारे में बातचीत को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए कार्यक्रमों की आयोजना की जाएगी। व्यापक और प्रभावशाली उत्सव सुनिश्चित करने के लिए, प्रत्येक मंत्रालय विभाग और एजेंसी को मौजूदा

फंडिंग और संसाधनों का उपयोग करके सहमत गतिविधियों और कार्यक्रमों को आयोजित करने का काम सौंपा गया है। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि जिम्मेदार आर्थिक प्रबंधन के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता को रेखांकित करते हुए कोई अतिरिक्त फंडिंग नहीं की जाएगी। सरकारी सेवा मंत्रालय की अध्यक्षता में एक अंतर-मंत्रालय और विभागीय समिति, एक सामंजस्यपूर्ण और सहयोगात्मक प्रयास सुनिश्चित करते हुए, दिन भर की गतिविधियों के संगठन और समन्वय की निगरानी करेगी।

इस दिन के स्मरणोत्सव में प्रतिष्ठित पुरस्कार, सम्मेलन, सेमिनार, कार्यशाला,

सांस्कृतिक और खेल आयोजनों सहित कई गतिविधियाँ शामिल रहेंगी। इस समारोह का महत्व है कि सरकारी सेवकों को नए जोश और समर्पण के साथ सहयोगात्मक रूप से काम करने, राष्ट्रीय एकता को बढ़ावा देने और सुशासन तथा लोक कल्याण के सिद्धांतों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए प्रेरित करना है। प्रधान मंत्री रम्बूका कहते हैं कि सरकारी सेवा दिवस, सरकारी सेवकों के अमूल्य योगदान के लिए सरकार की सराहना के प्रमाण के रूप में खड़ा है और सामूहिक रूप से एक प्रगतिशाली और सेवा-उन्मुख भविष्य की कल्पना करने के लिए एक मंच के रूप में कार्य करता है।

वनीला, किसान के लिए दृढ़ता ही कुँजी



रिपोर्ट : ऋतेष्णी सिंह, कृषि मंत्रालय

रा प्रांत के तोकाईमालो जिले के वूनिंसिया गाँव के बासठ (62) वर्षीय मनासा वाका दृढ़ता के सच्चे प्रतीक हैं।

सूवा में 2023 नेशनल एग्रीकल्चर शो में वनीला फार्मर ओफ द ईयर का पुरस्कार जीतने के बाद, वाका ने कहा कि उन्होंने अपने वनीला फार्म को बढ़ाने में अपने प्रयासों को तीन गुणा बढ़ा दिया है। इस पुरस्कार से उनका मनोबल और बढ़ गया है और वे इस त्योहारी सीजन के दौरान भी अपने वेशकीमती पौधों की लगातार जाँच करने के लिए फार्म पर हैं।

“मेरे पास 6.4 हेक्टेयर ज़मीन है जिसे मैंने खेती के लिए बाँट दिया है। मेरे पास कोको फार्म है और मैं मधुमक्खी पालन में भी लगा हुआ हूँ, वाका ने कहा।

“वनीला की खेती मेरे परिवार के लिए कोई नई बात नहीं है क्योंकि मैं अपने पिता के वनीला फार्म पर काम करते हुए बड़ा हुआ हूँ।” वाका ने प्रकाश डाला।

“जो कोई भी वनीला की खेती जानता है, वह कह सकता है कि यह काफी चुनौतीपूर्ण है। एक बार जब पौधों में फूल आ जाए तो उन्हें हाथ से परागित करना चाहिए। वनीला फली के इलाज की प्रक्रिया को पूरा होने

उसका पालन करता था।

उन्होंने अपने पिता की सलाह का बारीकी से पालन किया और हाई स्कूल की पढ़ाई पूरी करने के बाद, वाका सीधे गाँव वापस चले गए और डालो, यंगोना तथा कसेरा की खेती में जुट गए।

“वेनिला की खेती में वापस जाने का विचार मेरे मन में 1993 में नैसरेलांगी में कृषि मंत्रालय द्वारा एक प्रशिक्षण में भाग लेने के बाद आया।” मैं वेनिला की खेती फिर से शुरू करने के लिए आश्वस्त था क्योंकि यह मेरे के लिए कोई नई बात नहीं थी जबकि मैं अपने दिवंगत पिता के माध्यम से वनीला की खेती के गुण और व्यापार को जानता और समझता था।

“उस प्रशिक्षण के बाद मैंने एक क्षण बरबाद नहीं किया और पंद्रह वेनिला बेलों के साथ शुरूआत की।”

उन्हें इसकी समझ आ गई और उन्होंने अन्य तीस बेलें लगाकर अपने खेत का विस्तार किया और तीन साल बाद आखिरकार उन्होंने कटाई की और अपनी वेनिला को तत्कालीन स्पाइसेस ओफ फीजी लिमिटेड को चालिस डोलर प्रति किलोग्राम में बेच दिया। इसकी कीमत धीरे-धीरे एक सौ पचास डोलर प्रति किलोग्राम तक पहुँच

में कुछ और महीने लगते हैं,” उन्होंने समझाया।

वाका ने कहा कि बड़े होने के दौरान उन्होंने अपने दिवंगत पिता को वनीला फार्म पर काम करते हुए देखता था और वह जो कुछ भी उन्हें सिखाते थे, वह

गई।

वाका को पता था कि वह अपने वनीला फार्म पर बहुत समय बिता रहा था और उसने जो पैसा कमाया वह पर्याप्त नहीं था।

इसलिए वह आगे बढ़ता रहा क्योंकि वह जानता था कि उनके सभी बलिदान व्यर्थ नहीं जाएंगे।

उनकी दृढ़ता अब भारी लाभ दे रही है क्योंकि वे वर्तमान में न्यूजीलैंड के एक खरीददार को पाँच सौ डोलर प्रति किलोग्राम के हिसाब से वनीला बेच रहे हैं।

“शुरुआत में मैं जापान में एक खरीदार को और फिर फीजी लिमिटेड के स्पाइसेस को चालिस डोलर प्रति किलोग्राम से शुरू करके बेच रहा था। उन्होंने मुस्कुराते हुए कहा कि वो एक खुशहाल किसान हैं क्योंकि वनीला की खेती में किए गए सभी प्रयास सफल रहें हैं,”

कड़ी मेहनत से वनीला की खेती से जो कमाई होती है से उससे अपने बच्चों को स्कूल भेजने, गाँव में अपना घर बनाने तथा सुसज्जित करने में मदद की है, और 2016 में समुद्री आँधी विंस्टन द्वारा क्षतिग्रस्त होने के बाद अपने घर का निर्माण फिर से किया।

तीन साल के बाद वनीला के पौधे फलियाँ पैदा करना शुरू कर देते हैं, इसलिए वे उन्हें चरणों में लगा रहे हैं ताकि यह सुनिश्चित हो सके कि साल भर में अधिकांश समय वनीला की कटाई होती रहे, वे वर्तमान में प्रतिदिन आठ सौ वनीला फूलों का परागण करते हैं।

“वनीला को बहुत धैर्य की ज़रूरत है, यह आसान लग सकता है लेकिन यह एक बहुत ही नाजुक प्रक्रिया है तथा प्रभावी परागण करने के लिए ध्यान देना वास्तव में ज़रूरी है। सभी फूल हाथ से तोड़ने होते हैं और केवल एक दिन के लिए खुले रहते हैं इसलिए आपको इसके खिलने के समय परागण करने के लिए सावधान

रहना होगा,” उन्होंने कहा।

“पहले तीन वर्षों में कड़ी मेहनत की ज़रूरत है और जब पौधे में फूल आते हैं और फलियाँ आती हैं जिन्हें पकने में नौ महीने लगते हैं और ठीक होने में कुछ और महीने लगते हैं, तब आप अपना सारा ध्यान इस पर देते हैं और यह आपको गुणवत्ता वाली वनीला और राजस्व देगा,” उन्होंने कहा।

किसी भी अन्य किसान की तरह, उनकी भविष्य की योजनाओं में एक गाड़ी खरीदना और अपनी सबसे छोटी बेटी को एक छात्र के रूप में उच्च शिक्षा देना शामिल है। वाका की ज़मीन पर कोको के कुल चार सौ छः पेड़ हैं और आठ डबल सूपर हनी मधुमक्खी बक्से भी हैं। उन्होंने पिछले महीने कुल पैतीस लीटर शहद तैयार किया, जिसे उन्होंने अपने दो प्रमुख बाज़ारों तक भेजा।

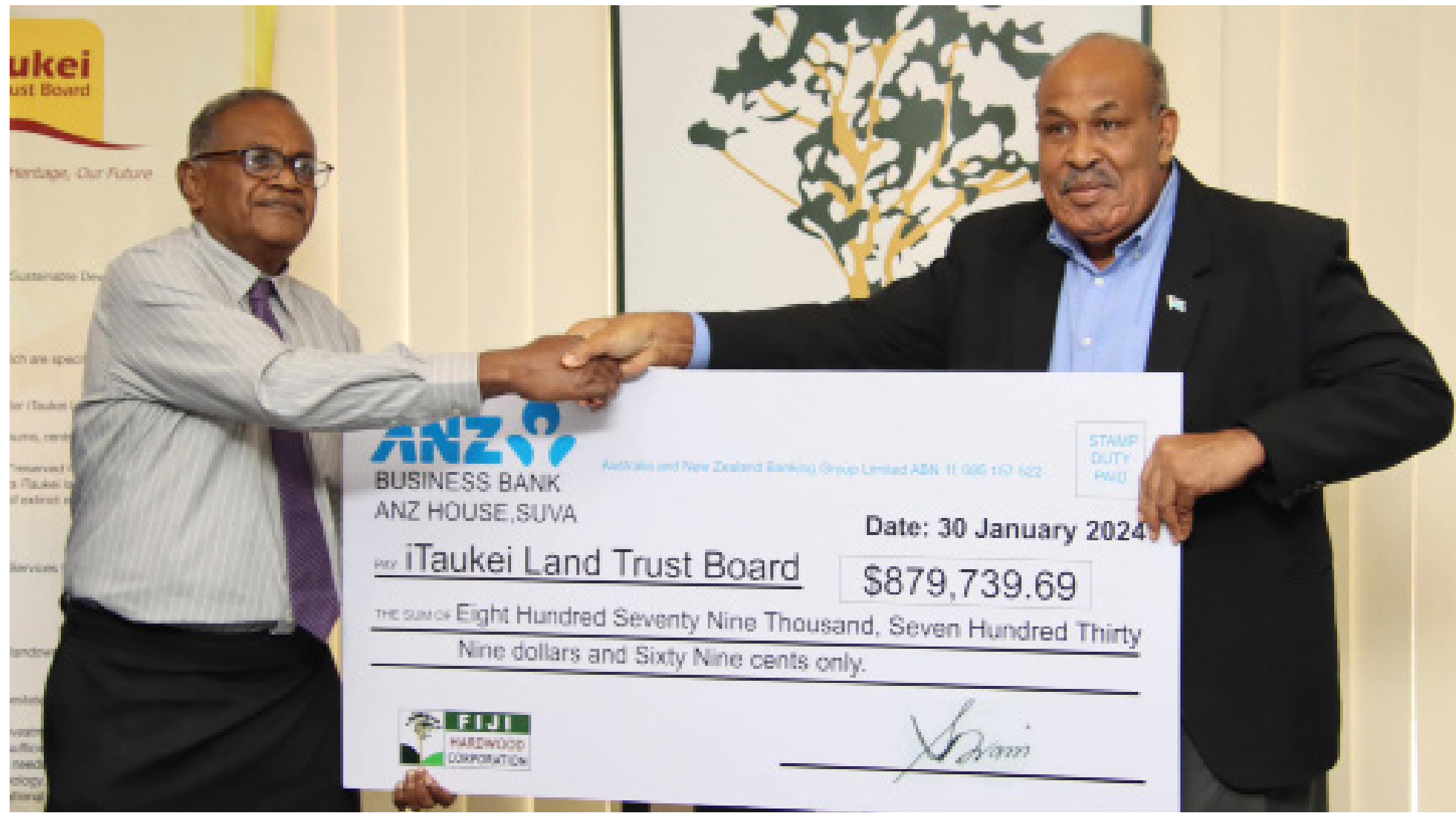
कृषि तथा जलमार्ग मंत्रालय के 2019/2020 वनीला खेती कार्यक्रम के तहत, उन्हें अपने खेत में सहायता के लिए वनीला सुखाने वाले शेड और वनीला इलाज उपकरण से सहायता मिली है।

वाका, कृषि मंत्रालय द्वारा उन्हें प्रदान की गई सहायता के लिए बेहद आभारी हैं और कहते हैं कि वह अपने वनीला फार्म को बढ़ाना जारी रखेंगे।

“मेरा परिवार खेत में मेरी मदद कर रहा है और उम्मीद है कि एक दिन वे हमारे खेत को बड़े और बेहतर रूप में विस्तारित करने में सक्षम होंगे।

उन्हें उम्मीद है कि उनके प्रांत के ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा किसानों में वनीला की खेती करने का साहस और दृढ़ संकल्प होगा। “हाँ मैं जानता हूँ कि यह आसान नहीं है, लेकिन मुझे देखो, मैं बुढ़ापे के बावजूद अभी भी जी रहा हूँ। कृषि के संबंध में आप जो भी योजना बनाना चाहते हैं, उसके बारे में कृपया कृषि अधिकारियों से बातें करें और हमेशा उनकी सलाह पर ध्यान दें।

फीजी हार्डवुड कोर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड को प्रदर्शन के लिए मान्यता मिली।



ई-तउकेई मंत्री मननीय इफेरेमी वासु, फीजी हार्डवुड कोर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (एफ.एच.सी.एल) के अध्यक्ष, श्री इओवेन नैवेली से चेक स्वीकार करते हुए

चित्र :प्रदान किया गया

शीलता सिंह

ज़मीन मालिकों के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण विकास में, ई-तउकेई मामले, संस्कृति, विरासत और कला मंत्री माननीय इफेरेमी वासु ने फीजी हार्डवुड कोर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (एफ.एच.सी.एल) के अध्यक्ष, श्री इओवाने नैवेली से \$879,730.69 का चेक स्वीकार किया। यह पेमेंट 2024 के लिए किराये की पहली छमाही और 2023 के 75,223 हेक्टर वृक्षारोपण संपत्ति से स्टंपेज शुल्क के लिए था, जिसमें 41,325 हेक्टर में महोगनी शामिल हैं। चेक स्वीकार करते समय,

मंत्री ने एफ.एच.सी.एल को उनके प्रेरक प्रदर्शन के लिए धन्यवाद दिया है और कंपनी को ज़मीन मालिकों के साथ और अधिक जुड़ने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। संसाधन मालिकों के लिए आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण और बढ़ी हुई वन्यस्थिति पर जोर देने के साथ, मंत्री ने एफ.एच.सी.एल से ज़मीन मालिकों की बेहतरी के लिए नवीन साझेदारियों तक पहुँचने और तलाशने का आग्रह किया। मंत्री वासु ने कहा, “आज का हैंडओवर समारोह ज़मीन मालिकों की यूनिट को सशक्त बनाने की दिशा में हम जो दृष्टिकोण अपना रहे हैं उसका समर्थन करता है।” उन्हें विश्वास है कि यह ई-तउकेई के

लिए गठबंधन सरकार की रणनीतिक दिशा के तहत जारी होगा, और वह ई-तउकेई की आर्थिक स्थिति में सुधार की दिशा में काम करना जारी रखेंगे। लीस रेंटल अगले छ महीनों के लिए पहले से भरे गए हैं और पाँच वर्षों में पहली बार एफ.एच.सी.एल ने ज़मीन मालिकों के लिए स्टंपेज भुगतान शुल्क को अपडेट किया है। महोगनी क्षेत्र में सुधार के लिए गठबंधन सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए सरल व्यावहारिक कदम पहले से ही महत्वपूर्ण परिणाम दे रहे हैं। महोगनी क्षेत्र की आगामी समीक्षा इसे और बढ़ाएगी,” मंत्री वासु ने कहा।

चीनी व्यवसाय के प्रति सरकार की अटूट प्रतिबद्धता



रोनल देव

सरकार रणनीतिक पहलुओं के माध्यम से चीनी व्यवसाय के प्रति अपनी अटूट प्रतिबद्धता और समर्थन की पुष्टि करती है। मल्टी एथनिक अफेयर्स तथा चीनी व्यवसाय के मंत्री माननीय चरण जीथ सिंह ने हाल में लौतोका और सिंगातोका के किसानों से मुलाकात करते हुए ऐसा कहा। मंत्री सिंह ने अपने मंत्रालय तथा फीजी शुगर कोर्पोरेशन के उच्च अधिकारियों के साथ किसानों से मुलाकात की और उनके द्वारा सामना की जा रही समस्याओं पर गौर किया। सभा के दौरान मंत्री ने चीनी व्यवसाय को बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार के व्यापक प्रोत्साहन पर उन्हें आश्वासित किया। मंत्री सिंह ने गन्ने के किसानों के लिए विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों पर प्रकाश डाला जो सरकार ने व्यवस्थित की है और शुगर मंत्रालय के द्वारा संचालित है। उन्होंने व्यवसाय को आधुनिक बनाने की योजना पर प्रकाश डाला जहाँ नई-नई तकनीक की शुरुआत करना शामिल है जैसे कि गन्ने के खेतों में ड्रोन की मदद से मसाला छोड़ना। विकास और स्थिरता को बढ़ावा देने पर ध्यान देने के साथ, सरकार किसानों, हितधारकों और फीजी के आर्थिक परिदृश्य की आजीविका में अपनी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका को पहचानते हुए, चीनी व्यवसाय को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए समर्पित है,” मंत्री सिंह ने कहा। मंत्री चरण जीथ सिंह ने नालियों वाली कुछ योजनाओं का भी दौरा किया जिन्हें हाल में मंत्रालय ने पूरा किया है जो कि कोआलिशन सरकार की एक नई योजना है जिसकी शुरुआत पिछले साल हुई है।

चीनी और मल्टी एथनिक अफेयर्स मंत्री माननीय चरण जित सिंह पश्चिमी विभाग का दौरा करते हुए शिक्षा चित्र :प्रदान किया गया

फ़ीजी दर्पण

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व्यवसाय और कोमुनिकईशन्स मंत्री माननीय मानोआ कमिकमिदा, मंत्रालय के स्थाई सचिव शहीन अली, येस प्रोग्राम के नीचे एक सफल व्यापारी श्री मुनेश प्रसाद की सहायता प्रदान करते हुए चित्र: प्रदान किया गया

सरकारी सहायता, आर्थिक विकास की इंजिन है

रोनल देव

व्यवसाय और कोमुनिकईशन्स मंत्री माननीय मानोआ कमिकमिदा ने छोटे और मध्यम व्यापारियों के प्रति सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता पर प्रकाश डाला है। हाल ही सूवा में कुछ व्यापारियों को सहायता प्रदान करते हुए मंत्री कमिकमिदा ने स्वीकार किया कि एम.एस.एम.ई क्षेत्र, देश के आर्थिक विकास की इंजिन है। हमें इस क्षेत्र की ताकत का अंदाज़ा है तथा हम इसमें सुधार लाते रहेंगे। 'आज हमें खुशी है कि हमने कुछ व्यापारियों को लगभग दो लाख अस्सी हजार डोलर लागत सहायता पहुँचाई है, जो इन व्यवसायों में ज़रूरी बदलाव के लिए सरकार के समर्थन को बढ़ाते हैं। इस दौरान योग्य व्यापारियों को यंग

एन्टाप्रेनुआशिप प्रोग्राम, नेशनल एक्सपोट स्ट्रेटजी प्रोग्राम, अग्नीविज़नस तथा उत्पादन करने वाले व्यापारों की श्रेणी के नीचे सहायता पहुँचाई गई है। यंग एन्टाप्रेनुआशिप स्कीम प्रोग्राम के तहत: * श्री रासालातो यानुयानुरूआ की कम्पनी एसवाए एन्टरप्राइस को एक अनूठी तकनीक का उपयोग करके फीजी में गिटार के हिस्सों और बिलैट निर्माण में क्रांति लाने के लिए सहायता दी गई * श्री विनूदा सेनिवरतने को एक विशेष प्रशिक्षण सुविधा की स्थापना करने के लिए मदद पहुँचाई गई है * श्री मुनेश प्रसाद की कम्पनी कोकोसिप को सहायता दी गई है जो उच्च कोटि के नारियल पैक करते हैं तथा उनके

व्यवसाय, ग्रामीण विकास तथा स्थानीय कृषि में योगदान देते हैं उधर नेशनल एक्सपोट स्ट्रेटजी प्रोग्राम के नीचे: * श्री नवेन्द्रा नायडू को सहायता दी गई है जो तोन्गा तक अंडे सप्लाए करने वाले हैं, अंडे ग्रेड करने वाली मशीन खरीदना चाहते हैं तथा माल रखने वाले एक उचित गोदाम की सुविधा बनाना चाहते हैं * गितो स्पोर्ट्सवेयर के मालिक श्री असायेली लेमाकी को सफलता से प्रशान्त के तीन देशों तक अपना सामान निर्यात करने तथा लक्ष्य निर्धारित करने की शक्ति का प्रदर्शन करने के लिए सहायता दी गई। ट्रेड एनहान्समन्ट प्रोग्राम के नीचे सहायता पाने वालों में शामिल है: * एलिज़बर्थ सावाकी रोसेता

* सउरारा दोला सेनिली गोलेसोंबू
* जसोदा
* कालेसी वालेउला
* आकानीसी आँदिमईवा

माननीय कमिकमिदा ने छोटे व्यापारियों को प्रोत्साहित किया है कि वे सहायता से लाभ उठाने वाले व्यापारियों का उदाहरण देखें कि उन्होंने व्यापार चलाने में कितनी सफलता हासिल की है तथा इन मौकों से फायदा उठाएं। एम एस एम ई के प्रति सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता उसके आर्थिक समर्थन, नवाचार तथा आर्थिक विचारों को बढ़ावा देने में स्पष्ट है। सरकार द्वारा लगाई गई यह पूँजी एक संपन्न और एम.एस.एम.ई क्षेत्र के दृष्टिकोण को मजबूत करता है जो देश की समृद्धि में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देता है।