



The

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Sugar Mission Praised



Operation Musudovu is living up to its expectation of addressing labour shortage in sugar cane areas, receiving applause from Fiji's sugar stakeholders.

Chairman of the Sugar Cane Growers, Sundresh Chetty told *The Reformer* that the 'great initiative' is greatly assisting not only the sugar cane growers but the sugar industry as a whole.

About 230 inmates are dispatched daily in cane cutting areas of Labasa, Lautoka, Ba, Nadi and Rakiraki to assist with cane harvesting.

"Well the change that we have seen is that cane deliveries to the mills are efficiently done and mills have continuity of crush when cane supply is consistent," Mr Chetty said.

"While we need many more cane cutters as

there is still huge shortage, we appreciate the facts that many growers have been assisted who have been struggling to find cane cutters."

He said positive feedbacks have been received where inmates are deployed.

"There has been no report of any discipline issues and I understand that the staff officers very effectively supervise their work."

Mr Chetty said it would be greatly appreciated if there is a possibility of increasing the numbers of inmates next season as the sugar cane industry is still in need of many cane cutters.

65 year-old cane farmer Nokaiya Raju of Nanuku in Ra said the ten inmates deployed to work in his farm are producing two to three times more than the ordinary labourers.

"I have been a farmer all my life. My father was a sugar cane farm too and we established our farm in 1980. This is the first time for me to see more of our canes harvested within a short period of time. Works carried out by the inmates are so efficient," he said.

"I used to have two labourers and their production in 3-4 months is now produced in less than a month by the inmates."

The highest amount of sugar cane harvested in Rakiraki recorded 20.68 tonnes which nearly doubled the daily traditional harvest of 11 tonnes.

❑ Main: Commissioner of Corrections Commander Francis Kean meets with Labasa inmates.

❑ Top Right: SOO Vitoriano Koco is being briefed by COC Nacanieli Raikoti at the Ellington Sector.

❑ Top Left: COC Peniasi Saurara supervises the inmates at work.





'Commissioner's Jackspeak' A Seaman's Eye Never Fails

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**Consistency
is the
Key**



Reverend
Josefa Tikonatabua

COURAGE

The process of taking a stand takes a lot of courage.

The holy bible's New Testament, in 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17 – it talks about doing the right thing and running away from temptations that capture young people.

Paul knew how important it was to encourage Timothy, because for a young leader, he would have to take a stand in many tough situations. So he charged him to take courage and to do what was right in difficult times.

Courage is the first essential quality for effective leadership. Leaders initiate and take a stand even when no one else travels with them. Paul prepares Timothy for this act with his words:

1. There is something to prevent (2:22-23)

and ex-convicts rehabilitative opportunities and thereby increases chances of them being successfully reabsorbed into the community.

The YRP is founded on the concept of the need to offer forgiveness and a second chance to ex-offenders which is considerable shift in philosophy from the old system of "lock and key detainment" towards an environment of correction.

This week, we will once again host government officials, members of the statutory organisations, non-governmental organisations and members of the public in our annual Yellow Ribbon Walk as part of our continuous effort to increase awareness on this. So much has been done and our prison system is now a far cry from when the YRP was absent.

Padre's Message

"Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

2 Timothy 2:22

Leaders must flee temptations, such as pleasure and power that ruin their personal lives.

2. There are something to pursue (2:22)
Leaders must chase after qualities that will build their character and integrity.
3. There is something to portray (2:24-26).
Leaders, must model right attitudes so that others will want to submit to God and the Institution we engage ourselves to.
4. There are something to perceive (3:1-9)
Leaders must read the times and take responsibility to hold firm to what is right.
5. There is something to pronounce (3:10-17).
Leaders must hold forth God's Word and use it as a standard for training.

May this message bring you courage to encourage others to take a stand against temptations.

God bless you all.

Editor's Note



Losalini
Bolatagici

Fiji, in common with many countries, had issues with a prison system that does not seem to rehabilitate offenders effectively. And for this reason, the Yellow Ribbon Project (YRP) was introduced in 2008. With the main causes of committing crimes linked to unemployment, rural urban drift, peer pressure, and poverty, many ex-convicts face difficulties due to the stigma associated with their former status. The YRP concept allows prisoners

With another new initiative launched under this project known as Operation Solesolevaki, we continue to reach out to people, regardless of their background to preach about forgiveness and acceptance.

While we continue to work on changing the mindset of those who are not prepared to accept changes, the Yellow Ribbon should always be a reminder of our sacrifices and collective effort in trying to nurture offenders to become better citizens.

Despite all, we must continue with our commitment to our people and remind ourselves that evil has no room for good men and women except in its prisons.

Wear Yellow, invite a friend and bring them along for the Yellow Ribbon Walk!

New Course of Rehabilitation

A new concept under the Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP) has been introduced as we continue with our effort to improve the effectiveness of ex-offenders' rehabilitation.

Operation Solesolevaki is aimed at re-establishing the relationship between the vanua, church and general community to partner and network in a consolidated effort to restore the lives of inmates who are often rejects of society.

The initiative is undertaken in five phases and five inmates have already been identified for it. They are from Naganivatu village and Vatudavila settlement in Naitasiri whereby work has already reached phase 3 while assessment is still being carried out in Nayavu village, Wailailai and Vatudavila settlement of Wainibuka. The initiative is part of the Commissioner's Intent.

Commissioner of Corrections has already tasked supervisors in facilities around the

country to identify suitable inmates who are fit for this program. The operation would definitely re-establish a once lost itaukei initiative exploited in the recent years. FCS will conduct an all team effort in trying to encourage the vanua, church and general community on the re-establishment of the Operations Solesolevaki in a way that it will accept offenders back into society and at the same time discourage them to re-offend.

62 year-old Kalesi Marama of Nagani-vatu village in Naitasiri was emotional when his son was brought to the village for the third phase of the operation.

"I want to thank FCS for this initia-

tive. I am sure my son will return home a better person because even though he went to prison for the wrong decision he made, FCS still believe in him and he has been moulded to become a better person," Ms Marama said.

"When he gets out of prison, at least we have a farm and we don't have to start from scratch again. Thank you FCS for giving people a second chance at life."

□ Top: FCS officers and villagers of Naganivatu in Naitasiri after Operation Solesolevaki.

□ Bottom: Operation Solesolevaki gets underway in Vatudavila, Waibau.



More assistance for TC Winston victims

AN additional donation to assist Government with the rehabilitation of those affected by Severe Tropical Cyclone Winston was handed over to the Prime Minister, Rear Admiral Voreqe Bainimarama.

The contribution of \$3,805 went towards the Prime Minister's National Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Fund.

It was from the 50 per cent sale of artwork and paintings at the 'Stronger than Winston Art Exhibition' that was held in August at the Tagimoucia Gallery in Korovou.

FCS had earlier donated \$15,000 towards Government's 'Adopt a School' initiative in June - also from a painting that was sold in China.

The Prime Minister thanked the Fiji Corrections Service (FCS) for their continuous effort to assist with the rehabilitation.

Also as part of FCS's community engagement and civic responsibility, more than 200 inmates and 100 officers were deployed nationwide to carry out a massive clean-up of affected schools, villages, towns, cities and communities.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister also gifted our Chaplain's office with equipment during this visit. His donation included conference table, chairs, computers and other furniture.

□ Right: The Deputy Commissioner of Corrections handovers the cheque to the Prime Minister.

□ Bottom Left: FCS Chaplain briefs the Prime Minister at his newly furnished office.

□ Bottom Right: Traditional welcome for the PM.



President praises collaboration

THE work of protecting our environment and ecosystem requires partnership, says President, Major – General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote.

He made these statements at the launch of the Stronger than Winston Art Exhibition in August while praising the joint effort by the Wildlife Conservation Society and Fiji Corrections Service in organising the event.

The exhibition, themed 'Stronger than Winston: Resilience of Nature and Our People', was aimed to support rehabilitation efforts post-Tropical Cyclone Winston. It also created awareness on the protection of our natural resources.

"The partnership we witness this evening between the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and FCS through this art exhibition is one of many strategies that is required to bring to the attention of all Fijians the need to build resilient environments and ecosystems through sustainable means," Mr Konrote said.

The President said we could not afford to be complacent.

"Climate change is a reality that we as Fijians must embrace by collectively working together towards a common goal. The sustainable development of our environment and ecosystems is not negotiable, it is a call to action for all Fijians."

Two paintings and an ornate carved box were auctioned on the same night with all proceeds of the auction donated to the Prime Minister's Tropical Cyclone Winston Appeal.

The exhibition was opened to the public from August 15-19 at the Tagimoucia Gallery in Korovou.

□ Bottom: The President shares a light moment with one of the artists.

□ Top: Pauliasi Delaibatiki, artist Jane Rickets with former Commissioner and Fiji's Ambassador to China, Iowane Naivalurua.



Inmate contributes to school rehab

PAULIASI Delaibatiki was a mixture of emotions when he was told he had contributed \$15,000 to the Adopt a School initiative through the sale of his painting.

He was told it was the largest donation an individual had contributed to the initiative.

The revelation was made by Fiji's Ambassador to China, Major-General Ioane Naivalurua, who visited the Tagimoucia Art Gallery at the Suva Corrections Centre in June.

"The painting came to me at the right time," Delaibatiki said.

"I was one of those selected to help in the clean-up of schools, towns and villages after Cyclone Winston.

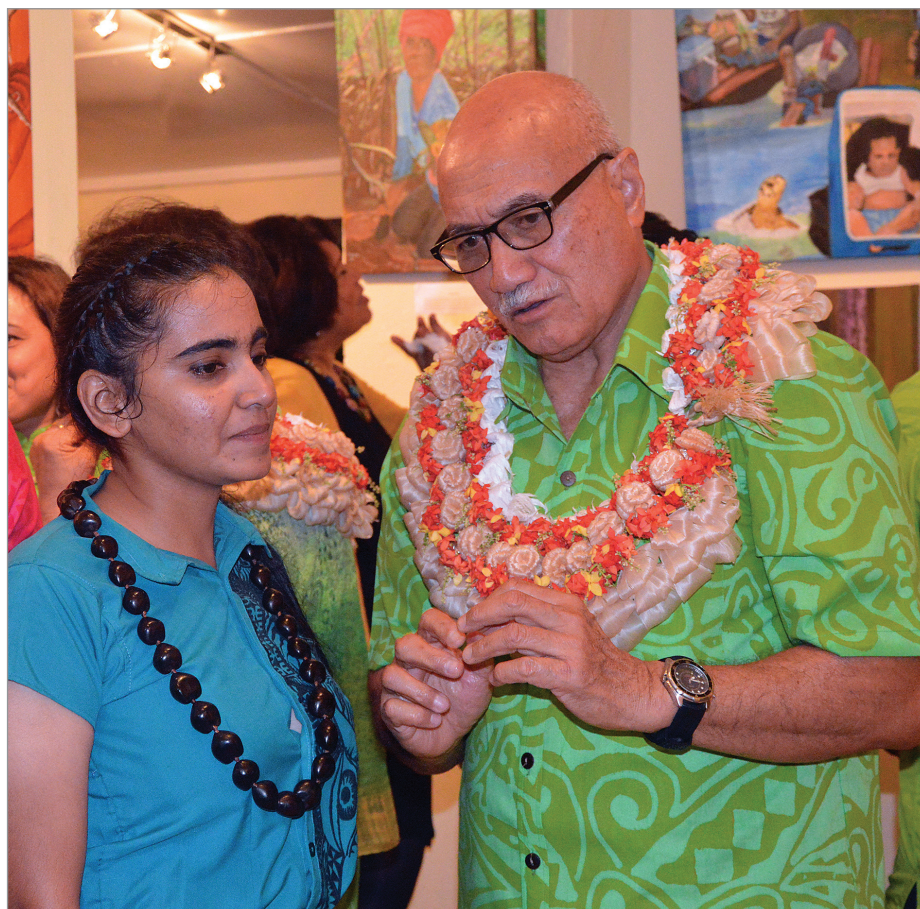
Seeing the widespread destruction and people homeless and without food really struck deep.

"I realised we, as inmates, were blessed because we had a place to stay and we had food supplied to us every day."

Major-General Naivalurua had sent him a picture from which the painting was adapted.

"Mr Naivalurua sent the picture from China and at that time, I was helping in rehabilitation work after the cyclone. It took me three weeks to complete the painting," he said.

12 years since he began serving a life sentence, Delaibatiki says painting has eased his transition through the years.



Lau remembers sons

MEMBERS of the Lau Provincial Council continued with their annual visit to prison with a visit to the Naboro Corrections Centre in October.

The delegation was led by leaders from the various Yavusa in the Lau Group.

They reminded the offenders that they would still be accepted by the province and their community when their term behind bars is completed.

The visit reaffirmed the vision of FCS in ensuring the offenders are successfully integrated back into society under the Yellow

low Ribbon Program.

The visit by the province has become an annual event, dated back to 2010.

They were briefed on the rehabilitation programs.

The council suggested that a program on how to utilise marine resources such as in-shore commercial fishing program should be introduced as the province do not have enough land but have abundance of marine resources.

Other initiatives proposed to FCS include;

- Having their artwork, handicraft

and sewing and designs displayed at hotels owned by the province under the Yatu Lau Company.

- Outfit for members of the Council meeting to be prepared by inmates annually.

Deputy Commissioner of Corrections Joe Kulinidilo applauded the effort of the council.

Meanwhile, inmates also sought forgiveness for their shortfalls from the elders.s

□ Bottom: **Up-Close and personal ...**

Elders of Lau meet with the inmates who are from the province at the Mess in Naboro.



□ ASC Dausiga presents in Namosi.

Namosi Plans Prison Visit

THE importance of upholding family values to ensure children are guided in the right direction in life was stressed at the Namosi Provincial Council meeting held at Nakavika village on October 17.

Director Rehabilitation, Isireli Dausiga told participants that if these values are well kept and taught it could avoid people from being incarcerated.

He stressed that the vanua and the church also have an important role to play.

He said their support is needed to ensure that less people enter prison especially the indigenous population who make up the

most numbers behind bars.

The presentation was greatly welcomed by the chairman of the Namosi Provincial Council, Ratu Romanu Matanitobua.

He also pledged on behalf of the vanua to assist their kinsmen who are behind bars through the Yellow Ribbon campaign.

He said they would be visiting the inmates from Namosi before Christmas.

Meanwhile, the launch of the Yellow Ribbon Program in Namosi, which was scheduled to take place in October, has been postponed to a later date.

YRP launches in Vatukoula

THE Yellow Ribbon Project (YRP) was successfully launched in Vatukoula on Friday, May 20.

Hundreds of people from the communities attended the event that was held at Theodore Park.

Officiating as chief guest was the Vatukoula Gold Mines Maximo Systems manager, Alisi Stark.

Commissioner of Corrections Commander Francis Kean was also present at the launch with Divisional Police Commander (Western) Marika Yalimaiwai and the Divisional Officer (Tavua).

In her official address, Ms Stark urged villages and communities to support the Yellow Ribbon Project and its efforts to reduce the rate of recidivism.

"We will face a lot of challenges but we should be firm in what we believe in and that is to encourage and support ex-offenders as they re-adjust to a new and better life; a life that is free from stigma," she said.

She called for a change in mindset and working in unity "so we can raise the standards of living and improve the lives of those released from Corrections institutions".

Primary and secondary school students participated in an oratory contest themed around the impact of the Yellow Ribbon Project and former inmates and a serving inmate delivered testimonials about their experiences.

Dog handlers from both the FCS and the Fiji Police Force and representatives from the Ministry of Health also featured at the event.

Meanwhile, the annual Yellow Ribbon Walk, is schedule for November 4. It will begin from Albert Park and ends at Ratu Sukuna Park in Suva.

The event is championing a cause that will help ex-offenders reintegrated into society.



□ Chief Guest Alisi Stark cuts the cake with the Commissioner and Chaplain.



□ Chief Guest Alisi Stark, senior officers with participants at the launch.



□ Fiji Police Force Brass band entertain the crowd.



□ Ms Stark, Commander Kean with ex-offenders.



□ Members of the public dance away to music provided by the FCS Band.

Way Forward Deliberated

A WORKSHOP was hosted by the Fiji Corrections Service with stakeholders to deliberate on the way forward for the rehabilitation of inmates.

In an effort to adopt an inclusive approach, the FCS had for the first time extended invitations to leaders of major religious bodies and heads of provincial councils.

The outcomes of the workshop would aid the FCS in its review of the current rehabilitation framework and development of a rehabilitation policy.

The objective of the workshop was to gather the contributions of stakeholders towards the rehabilitation framework.

Chairman of the Nuku Tikina Council

in Tailevu, Semi Matalau, said the workshop was timely.

"Gaps have been identified by not only officers but also serving inmates. The system was not in a position to change and we are fortunate to have this consultation. It has allowed FCS to grasp this opportunity to talk to stakeholders from the vanua, provinces, government and religious leaders who are important players not only at the last phase of reintegration.

"They should be included from the entry phase and take ownership of rehabilitation from the very first phase. We will not be in a position to deal with the inmates at the end phase without knowing what has happened in the earlier phases, we need to take responsibility for their lives

because when they are released, they will come back to us in the community so the community should be involved," he said.

Sanatan Dharm Pratinidhi representative Vigen Sharma said the workshop was an eye-opener and he was eager to share what he had learnt with members of his community.

"People should not be coming to jail. They have to do something good, occupy themselves with good things, if they are to avoid imprisonment. If you do good and teach good, nobody should be jailed. This teaching should start at school age," he said.

More than 20 stakeholders attended the workshop at the FCS Enterprise Outlet in Korovou, Suva.



Cultural Solution

IN an effort to address the iTaukei population density in our corrections facilities, the Fiji Corrections Service hosted a cultural empowerment training aimed at adapting a traditional approach to the issue in July.

The iTaukei Affairs Ministry's community development unit, participated in the two-day program to train senior FCS officers about the importance of knowing and taking ownership of their traditional roles and responsibilities and how to promote this issue to inmates.

"With the iTaukei making up more than half the current prison population, we need to target the iTaukei issues. It has to start from the village and community level. The high make-up of iTaukei inmates in our prisons is a negative repercussion of our cultural and traditional collapse," Deputy Commissioner of Corrections, Jo Kulinidilo said.

iTaukei Affairs Ministry senior training officer Ro Aca Mataitini said this was the

first time they had engaged an institution for the empowerment program.

"It's a pioneer program because this is the first time we're conducting a workshop for an institution. We started doing this work eight years ago but it was mainly at provincial and tikina level. This is our second year of hosting the program at village level but it's the first time we've hosted the program for an institution.

"This is an opportunity and I believe

it came at the right time. It involves the vanua, the church and the government and helping people to identify their traditional roles and taking responsibility for those roles," said Mr Mataitini.

He said they looked forward to including FCS officials at their village and community outreach events.

More than 40 senior officers attended the training.

Top: Workshop participants at the FCS Enterprise Outlet in Korovou.
Bottom: A team from iTaukei Affairs Board with Rehabilitation officers.



Quarter Events and activities



□ Top Left: Commander Kean with senior officers in Naboro

□ Top: Commissioner's Parade at Naboro.

□ Left: Olympians Kitone Taliga and Raijeli Daveua at their celebration after Rio.

□ Bottom Left: Officer's Wives were also part of the celebration.

□ Bottom: Students participated in the oratory contest during the YRP launch in Vatuikoula.



Warden Netters Reign



The winning team with their trophy at the morning tea hosted at the National Headquarters.

THE Warden Netters were winners of the NewWorld Suva Netball Association tournament after defeating CBM 40-38 in the final in August.

Team captain Vaiti Waqatabu, who also stands in as coach, said it was their fitness level that took them through the competition.

"CBM had former and current national reps and they also had a strong showing of support at the final match. For us, it was sheer fitness and composure that served us right to the end. I told the girls to take each quarter as it comes and treat every quarter as the final.

"I also told them to not focus on the height or built of our opponents and just step up to them. For us, the compulsory physical training (PT) for corrections officers really boost-

ed our fitness and we just touched on skills training every afternoon," she said.

Team manager Maraia Tuilevuka said the team's win was evidence of its improvement.

"It's the first time the team has won this tournament and I can say that the girls have really improved. It was a tough game especially since the

For us, the compulsory physical training (PT) for corrections officers really boosted our fitness and we just touched on skills training every afternoon,"

opponents boasted a lot of former Fiji reps and had an experienced pool of players to their advantage. "But our girls trained really hard and prepared themselves well. In the end it was their level of fitness that was the answer to the opponents' advantage of experience," said team manager Maraia Tuilevuka.

Two players in the Warden Netters are expected to undergo trials that will determine their selection for the national netball team, Fiji Pearls.



Our netball champions with Deputy Commissioner of Corrections Joe Kulinidilo.



Golden Moments



Taliga – Our Golden Warden

TWENTY-THREE year-old Kitone Taliga became our pride when he returned with a gold medal for the nation after winning the sevens rugby at the Rio Olympics.

His achievement was acknowledged by FCS as well as fellow Olympian, Raijieli Daveua who also represented Fiji in women's rugby.

They were given gifts during a small celebration at the Naboro Corrections Centre on September 2.

They were both given an undisclosed amount of money while Taliga was promoted from Correction Officer Class C to Corrections Officer Class B.

COC Class C Daveua received a pay rise from \$14,000 to \$17,000 per year.

Rio Farewell

Commissioner of Corrections, Commander Francis Kean said their achievement was a milestone.

"It's not easy to become an Olympian. It's something that will always be attached to you for the rest of your lives," he said.

"What this will do to you and depending on the outcome, I

hope your excursion will change your lives.

"How you react to it and what you make of it is very powerful. My only advice to you is to keep your feet firmly on the ground," he added.



Top: Taliga in action at the Rio Olympics.

Commander Kean also reminded the officers that they were ambassadors of the FCS.

"Give it your 100 per cent so that when you leave the field, you come away with your head held high, knowing you've done your best."

Advice to Inmates

In a nod to his role as a warden, Taliga had some words of encouragement for the people

under his care – the inmates.

"Work hard and acknowledge the Lord in everything you do. Don't be disheartened. There is still time for you to change," said the 7s impact player.

Wardens wins Macuata 7's



Wardens grabbed the main prizemoney of \$10,000 for the CMFI Macuata Region Sevens Tournament that was played at Subrail Park in Labasa on October 29.

The team, which included national 7s rep and Olympics gold medallist, Kitone Taliga beat Police Suva 19-14 to claim victory.

Coach Sailosi Naitete attributed the win to

team discipline.

"We just started our 7s tournament this year, this is the first tournament for us and I am very proud of the boys especially those in the training squad that joined us on Thursday. I would like to thank Taliga and Rusiate Tadulala. I think it's a big morale booster for the boys and it can open doors of opportunity for them to go into the

national 7s team".

Upon their return, the team was hosted to a morning tea at the National Headquarters.

Commissioner of Corrections, Commander Francis Kean congratulated the boys for the victory and thanked them for their effort.