

## 2017 Issue No.6

**... more on page 4**

## FCS hosted the 37th APCCA





## 'Commissioner's Jackspeak'

### Leaders make things happen

### Strategic Statement

#### Vision:

To effectively rehabilitate all inmates that they will become law abiding citizens, who contribute positively to our country, Fiji.

#### Mission:

To positively restore lives

#### Values:

Family, Integrity, Loyalty, Honesty, Empathy, Leadership

#### Motto:

Semper Restituens

#### Major Core Business

#### Security:

Security Service includes a well-defined and organized corrections safety measures for inmates and safe keeping from the community. The security of Corrections Institutions encompasses several essential components including appropriately designed physical infrastructure, relevant modern technology and an efficient and effective manning standard.

#### Safety:

The Fiji Corrections Service ensures proper management and treatment of those under its care. These include the recognition of inmates' personal needs and affection, the protection of their human dignity and rights, and the provision of nutritional health and hygiene services.

#### Through Care:

FCS has transformed its focus from containment to effective rehabilitation of inmates. This involves the development of a holistic rehabilitation framework that ensures realistic change in the lives of inmates to ensure their successful re-integration into society.

**Consistency is the Key**



**Reverend  
Josefa Tikonatabua**

## The Hope of Christmas

### Immanuel, "God with Us"

**H**e was favored, we are blessed, Mary yielded her life, her life, her dreams, her very body to the Sovereign and His plan for all humanity. The Holy God, who had been immeasurably far away since our first mother and father sinned in the garden, would come to earth through young Mary's holy womb and be Immanuel, "God with us." Some people will make their annual or semi-annual visit to church in honor of this God who has come near. But if this Babe truly is God, does He not deserve more attention than Christmas Eve and Easter

## Padre's Message

**"So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Matthew 1:22-23**

Sunday? Jesus has come close for a reason. Actually, for several reasons. He wants His wandering sheep – sinful human beings – to recognize their sin, receive His forgiveness, and live with Him, now and for eternity, as Lord of their lives. Jesus has come near to bless us with His grace, to guide us, protect us, provide for us, to free us from our sinful ways and their consequences, to show us and tell us that He loves us. Receive Jesus' love if you haven't. share His love if you have.

*"If you lose hope, somehow you lose the validity that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of it all. And so today I still have a dream."*

*(Martin Luther King Jr)*



**Jone  
Kalouniviti**

**T**he Year 2017 has been a year of special events and milestones for the Fiji Corrections Service.

We also met challenges along the way which tested the way and means of how we operate and also how we valued ourselves as a disciplined service.

We celebrated our 143th Birthday, commemorated the 10th year of the Yellow Ribbon Project, launched a new rugby shield, we opened new facilities in Lautoka and also hosted an international event which gained us accolades from the international community including local organisations and government departments. The APCCA event held in Denarau, Nadi from 5-9 September, showcased the capacity of the Fiji Corrections Services to host international events.

## Editor's Note

In November 2017 we also welcomed into the family 44 new members who passed our Basic Recruitment Test successfully and now have been posted to the various departments and institutions. They have been offered sound advice by the Commissioner of Corrections, Commander Francis Kean – that they must embrace the profession they have chosen, and make it a career not just a job.

"You have joined a disciplined force, which is a noble profession, a higher calling, the business of saving and transforming lives."

The serious journey of helping restore lives which began 10-years ago during the launch of the Yellow Ribbon Project continues today on a more vigorous level. This September the Yellow Ribbon Project team conducted a symposium in the Province of Kadavu and hosted reps from its 9 districts to take them through the ropes of what rehabilitation entails and why they must be involved from the communities and families. This work of rehabilitation cannot be

conducted alone by the Fiji Corrections Service.

In line with the Commissioner's Intent of "Through Care", community leaders, heads of families and related Government Departments have been engaged in the process of reintegration of inmates back into civil society. The work of changing mindsets in the community in order to provide second chances for former inmates will always be a challenge.

In celebrating our 143 years of service in Fiji, we were all reminded by chief guest the Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto that "sacrifice" was a key word that we often attribute to ourselves as members of a disciplined force.

We have to make sacrifices for the noble profession that we have signed up for as rehabilitation officers in the cause of restoring lives. This issue is dedicated to instilling messages of hope for those who will be released back to their families soon. We wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!



# A day of Reflection



Commander RFMF, Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto accepting a tabua presented to him by the FCS, beside him is his wife Lilian and the Commissioner of Corrections Commander Francis Kean.

The Commander of the Royal Fiji Military Forces, Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto challenged members of the Fiji Corrections Service to re-dedicate themselves to excellence for the sake of their families during the Inaugural Corrections Day celebrations.

The event was held at Naboro on October 18, 2017 and reflected on the 143 years since the Service was established in Levuka.

Today, the organisation has corrections centers in Suva, Naboro, Lautoka, Ba, Nasinu, Labasa, Taveuni and Levuka.

The Rear Admiral Naupoto's speech as Chief Guest of the celebrations reminded all of the importance of family and sacrifice.

He shared with the men and women a special word that defined all Service men and women in the cause of their duties.

"It has to do with a word that we often attribute to us as workers, whether we are soldiers, sailors, police men or women or Corrections officers - and that word is sacrifice.

"Sacrifice is the word that we have been attributing to ourselves as members of the disciplined forces in the conduct of our duties.

"That word does not belong to or defines

us exclusively; we do what we do because that is the job we wanted and signed up for."

"In the Military we even swear an oath to that job and to the institution that provides us that job.

"The word sacrifice defines more the life of our families, they go without us and do what they do without us to allow us to do the job that we chose, and signed up for."

"And the best way to repay that sacrifice, is for us to do our jobs to the best of our ability."

***"The word sacrifice defines more the life of our families, they go without us and do what they do without us to allow us to do the job that we chose, and signed up for."***

"So today as you celebrate your inaugural Corrections Day, I ask that you rededicate yourselves to excellence in the performance of your duty.

"And on behalf of the people of Fiji - thank you for your hard work and commitment to the rehabilitation of the un-

fortunate members of our society.

"Days like this allows us to acknowledge the big contributions that our families and friends provide to the successful achievements of our organisational goals - it something that we take for granted and rarely acknowledge."

He said reflecting on these things will help keep the organisation alive.





# Hundreds attend Yellow Ribbon Walk

... from page 1

"I acknowledge and am grateful for the hard work and commitment of all men and women of the service including the prayers and support of your families at home," Mr Rika said.

"As we remember our brothers and sisters under-going rehabilitation inside and our acceptance of those released into our homes, let us give each other a second chance."

Fiji Corrections Services (FCS) Commissioner, Commander Francis Kean thanked everyone that came out to participate.

"I want to thank the families and also the organisations both in the private and public sectors for this morning walk.

"This is an acknowledgement for those under our care. This is part of their journey on their road to acceptance," Commander Kean said.

Commander Kean shared that the work of Corrections Officer

need to be shared with the community at large in order for the rehabilitation of former inmates is to be successful. "This is work that we cannot do alone, we need the community, the faith based organisations, we need the families and we need the corporate sector and also the Vanua." The event ended with participants signing messages of hope which would be delivered to inmates in the institutes around the Central Western Division to help inspire them whilst kids were entertained by the Fiji Corrections Unit Dog Unit.

This year's walk also marked the 10th anniversary of the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Also on show on the day where the Special Business Units who came out to show case their products in eggs, clothing, farm produce and furniture and wooden items all made in Naboro.





# Kadavu tour opens doors

Led by Assistant Commissioner Operations Apimeleki Taukei, a 12-member team from the Fiji Corrections Services arrived on the shores of Vunisea in Kadavu in the wee hours of Wednesday, 27 September to be greeted by over 70 villagers at the Namuana Village Hall.

This was the launch of the Fiji Corrections Service (FCS) second Yellow Ribbon Project (YRP) Symposium for the year. The first one was held for the Serua/Namosi Province in July at the Pearl South Pacific Resort.

The village of Namuana in Vunisea, hosted the 72 participants from the nine districts of Tavuki, Sanima, Ravitaki, Nabukelevu, Yawe, Nakasaleka, Yale Naceva, Ono.

ACCO Taukei opened the workshop with a speech that focussed on the importance of community and family in the rehabilitation process.

"The challenges and stigma faced by inmates when released back into their communities is a major factor that sees them re-offending," he said.

"This is why we have made the trip here to Kadavu to let you know that our prisons have some of your sons and daughters and we need to work together now to try and bring them back to civil society when released."

Mr Taukei told the meeting about the proactive measures in place now to help inmates learn new skills or to set up their farms and businesses.

The approach used was through a Workshop Forum setting with the main objective on achieving more awareness on Community Action for the Rehabilitation of Ex-Offenders (CARE) Network.

Representative from the Naceva District and former public works employee Taniela Toalevu said the workshop was truly an eye opener for them.

"What I have learnt today is that we really do not have any idea of what is happening due to our own ignorance, today has been an eye opener for me on how we can help as community leaders," Mr Toalevu said.

"The Yellow Ribbon Program can only work if we play our part in acceptance, I can see it now," he added.





# "Blooming Inside" A Yellow Ribbon Project



Five inmates at the Fiji Corrections Service displayed their brilliant artwork at the Tagimoucia Art Gallery at the Fiji Corrections Service in Korovou, Walu Bay on Thursday evening (30 November 17).

Chief guest at the launch, the Honorable Mr Faiyaz Siddiq Koya, Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Land and Mineral Resources said the theme of the exhibition 'Blooming Inside' simply expressed the work Fiji Corrections was relentlessly pursuing, in order to harness and expose the goodness and beauty of its inmates when it came to art.

"I have been informed that most visitors, who do visit the art gallery, are touched by the flower paintings. This is because they know that flowers usually express the celebration of joy and the beauty in the regeneration of life.

"But seeing these expressions emanating from Corrections institutions makes them realize that we are all still human beings and everyone deserves a chance," Hon. Koya told guests at the launch.

"All they need is a second chance to make things right and express the beauty of what they can positively contribute to." The Art Gallery was an initiative organized by the former Commissioner of Corrections Service Major General Ioane Naivalurua in October 2008 in his effort to recognize, develop and expose the talents inmates have within the institution. Hon. Koya paid tribute to Mrs Jane Ricketts, whom the Fiji Correction Service considers its Guardian Angel because of her commitment to the Art Gallery.

"I would like to commend Mrs Jane Ricketts a volunteer arts teacher, who has been instrumental in developing and working with inmates identified to participate in this program from 2008 until today.

"Some of the inmates who had worked under her guidance have exceptionally developed into outstanding artists. As a result, two artists won prizes in a national painting competition, while paintings produced from the gallery were auctioned in China to raise funds for the Cyclone Winston Appeal.

"Interestingly enough, one of the paintings sold became the highest priced art work and has also contributed towards today's occasion."

Some of the paintings that caught the eye of many included the work of Pauliasi Delaibatiki who produced a series called Blooming Trilogy and also that of Pita Driti whose famous depiction of a famous event that makes Ba stand still – a horse race in the middle of a green field blooming with flowers.

Other inmates included Aisake Amoe, and Australian pencil artist Ethan Kai. The only female of the group is Muskaan Balagaan who hails from Punjab in India.





# Recruits told to embrace profession

**"I**mplore you all this morning, to embrace the profession you have chosen. Make it a career for yourselves, and not just a job."

This was part of the address the Commissioner of Corrections, Commander Francis Kean gave to the 44 new recruits during their passing out parade at the Naboro Corrections Complex on Friday, 30 November.

Commander Kean congratulated them for enduring the 13-week training but also reminded them of the tough journey ahead.

"You have joined a disciplined force, which is a noble profession, a higher calling, the business of saving and transforming lives. "It is the work of people of faith, because you and I know that only one person can do this, and without his help and guidance

it is going to be a tough journey where you will encounter. See these road blocks as an opportunity to grow, and advance your personal life and career in the Fiji Corrections Service," he added.

Close to 200 people comprising of family members and friends of the recruits came to watch their loved ones pass out at the event.

Tears of joy flowed freely as recruits celebrated a new chapter in their lives and also of the struggles some had to endure to make the final cut. Twenty two year old Alivereti Ravudi took out the baton of honour in the presence of his family.

The 22-year-old was in tears as he described his upbringing and how he was motivated to join the FCS. Ravudi, spent the early years of his life living between his mother and his father who had been

divorced when he was only 4-years old.

"Growing up was tough, but I believe my achievements means I am ready for the Fiji Corrections Service. Samuela Netzler was the other award winner having topped the theory tests in their exams. Commander Kean also informed relatives and friends of recruits who attended that the Basic Recruit Training Program at the Fiji Corrections Service had evolved since he began his term to meet the demands of the work inside the Institutions and offices.

## **Baton of Honour :**

Alivereti Ravudi

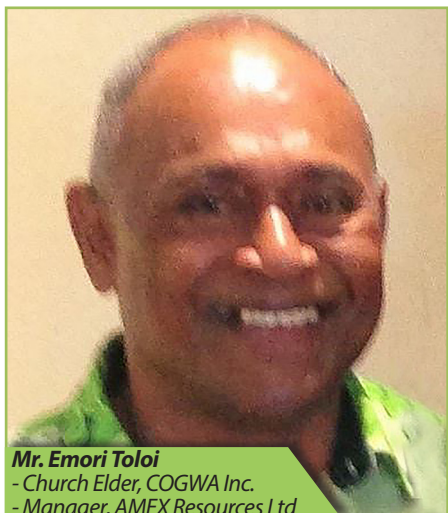
## **Commissioners Book Prize :**

Samuela Netzler





# MESSAGES



**Mr. Emori Toloi**  
- Church Elder, COGWA Inc.  
- Manager, AMEX Resources Ltd

Nothing is impossible if we always put the Lord as the leading light in our lives.

This is my message of Hope to the brothers, fathers and sisters who are being incarcerated, to those who will be released soon and even to those who have been released but are finding it tough to make a living.

Our lives as those who have been behind bars is a battle of faith, it will test

your faith until you take his hand and accept Him as your Saviour.

My bible verse to you all is on the book of James 1:2-4.

It states: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

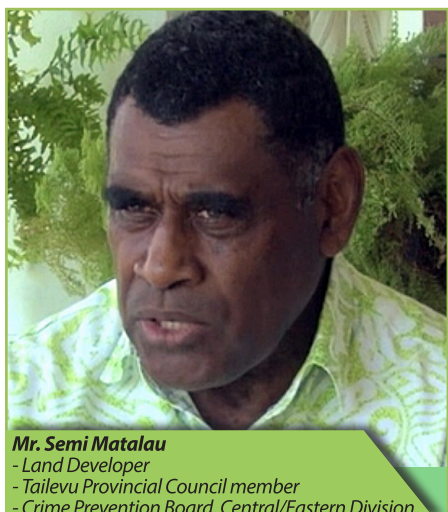
This verse talks about trials and temptations but most of all a test of your faith when times get tough.

Here Paul is trying to inspire his spiritual family - the brethren, while being held captive, in whatever circumstances they face, to keep their focus on the Hope and Plan of Salvation which is the greatest and most precious Hope for all of mankind.

For me when I came back to society, I had to learn again these simple things in order to progress.



Mr. Emori Toloi with his wife Sereima after his being ordained a Local Elder by the two overseas pastors Mr. Andre' Van Belkum and Mr. Art Vershoor of the Church of God, a Worldwide Association.



**Mr. Semi Matalau**  
- Land Developer  
- Tailevu Provincial Council member  
- Crime Prevention Board, Central/Eastern Division

Living in the outside world is much tougher, according to Matalau.

"Because society sets a certain standard which hinders the efforts of former offenders to regain their lives.

"Some communities and families are great because they accept back their loved ones, others are not so fortunate.

"This is what we call the second prison when we get out of jail, so for us it takes a lot of courage and spiritual strength to sail through this second prison.

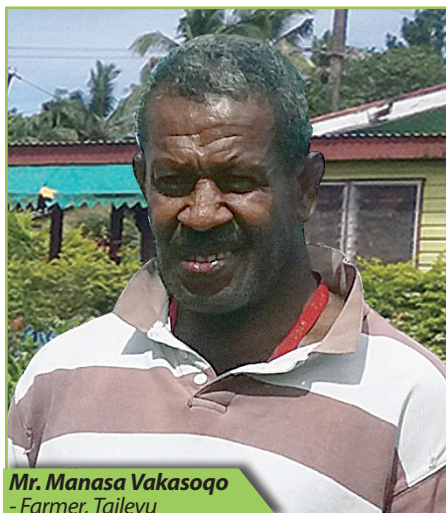
"It is my plea to those who are preparing to go home to have a lot of courage and faith in your own self and understand

that what you have learnt inside will take you through if you work hard and have faith in God and your abilities."





# OF HOPE!



**Mr. Manasa Vakasoqo**  
- Farmer, Tailevu

"I completed all the stages of the Rehabilitation Yellow Ribbon Programs in Prison and it taught me how to think differently with a positive mindset and how to handle stress – so I just recalled (went back to) the values the program instilled when times got tough.

In the real world, we have to be goal oriented about what we want to do and not be emotional about what people think of us, all it does is make you feel sorry about yourself.



I have learnt the hard way to change my attitude to better and improve my life, hard work and looking after your family is the only way to unlock your second prison. For me, I had to realise within myself and understand what the outside world saw me as, not what I thought they should see me as.

"It took me a while, but as soon as I started working on my farm and setting my goals I soon forgot about all of that. I think it is up to us as individuals to understand this is our second chance to our family and to God."

"Many people did not believe I was able to buy a car not long after being released, this is the result of me just focus-



sing on my farm and my family.

"This is life in the real world, only those who work hard are recognised and respected, those who do not work hard often end up back inside."



**Mr. Jekope Vukivou with Rev. Tikonatabua**  
- Farmer, Naitasiri

"Many of us end up behind bars due to a moments' indecision. And very often it is due to our own laziness.

I was incarcerated because I followed the wrong path and chose to steal to provide for my children.

We the itaukei are blessed with an abundance of natural resources and it had to take a lesson from God for me to realise

what he has already blessed us with.

Our prisons are full of young people who can only see what lies in front of them and not what the future holds if they commit a crime.

Most of the time we fill our heads with useless dreams of making money or buying this and that but we do not plan how to do the work to get it – many would rather steal.

Today, I am making more money than I imagined from farming and I am thankful to mentors from the Fiji Corrections Service like Talatala Josefa Tikonatabua

for helping me realise this.

My plea to youths out there is try to realise this now, do not break the law because there is no life in prison.

For those who are still inside, you must prepare yourself well for life outside well before you are released – remember God has blessed us with many things, we just have to realise it and work hard.

There is no short cut to making a good life for you and your family, we have to work hard and honestly."





# New Center for Women Commissioned



this woman's facility, K9 Unit and staff quarters is a pretty small price to pay for the Government to ensure that we fulfil the rights of these people."

He added that the in reality, any society cannot be seen to be inclusive if they do not cater for those who are on the periphery of society.

"So even though a person might be convicted, it doesn't mean we deny them their fundamental rights. Unfortunately, in Fiji people talk about Human rights, as we can see on social media every day with absolutely no idea what human rights means?"

"When you treat a human being with a sense of dignity they will respond to you much better.

If you don't treat them with dignity, they will not respond to you, they will actually not listen to you."

Mr Sayed-Khaiyum was later taken on a tour of the new facility which included a new K9 unit, new staff quarters and some office buildings.

Commissioner of Corrections Commander Francis Kean said it was special day for the Service and was a huge step forward to have a new women's center and also other facilities which would help in the overall work of rehabilitation.

The new Lautoka Women's Corrections Center will help improve support for inmates whose families could not visit them in the past due to them being far away in Suva.

This was the point made by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Service and Communications, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum when he commissioned the new women's facility, a new K9 Unit and staff quarters at the Lautoka Corrections Center on 1 December, 2017.

The whole project cost \$5M which covers for the;

1. Womens Correction Center,
2. K9 and Emergency Control Unit,
3. 6 new staff qtrs,
4. Supervisor Western Division HQ Building
5. And the new Training Room/Chapel for inmates.

"This is the first time we've had a correctional facility built for women based outside of Suva. This essentially signifies a number of key issues in terms of government priorities and our overall commitment to human rights, to the protection of the very practical and tangible rights of people who are incarcerated through the criminal justice system," Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said.

"Since the Colonial times we've only had one women's prison which is in Suva which has meant that any female that is being convicted of any crimes has always had to be relocated from all other parts of Fiji to Suva.

"What does this mean? It means it minimises the ability of their family members, their children and other relatives to be constantly in touch with family members who are incarcerated which again means that they have less support."

"So building them this facility, which amounts to around \$5m,





# Standing Committee Visit



Front Left-Right: Hon. Netani Rika (Chair), Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua, Hon. Jilila Kumar, Commissioner of Corrections, COB Rusiate Naivau, Hon. Howard Politini, ASC Jeremaia Baikeiyasawa. Back: ACCO Apimeleki Taukei, CCO Filimoni Seru.

The Standing Committee of Defence and Foreign Affairs visited the Fiji Corrections Service facilities on October 17.

Led by their Chair, Honorable Netani Rika, the visitation was in response to a presentation made to them by the Fiji Corrections Service in early October 17 on all our strategic documents.

"It was a very interesting tour because we saw for ourselves what goes on behind those walls in Naboro and Korovou and I must commend all the men and women of the Fiji Corrections Service for the work they do to rehabilitate inmates," Hon. Rika said.

"I think we take back many positive things to go and think about in terms of how best we can help add value to your operations especially to your Yellow Ribbon Program which I must say is indeed an eye opener for us."

The Committee was taken on a tour by the Commissioner of Corrections Commander Francis Kean accompanied by the Assistant Commissioner Corporate Services Mrs Salesia Racaca, Assistant Commissioner Operations Supt Apimeleki Taukei and Senior Accounts Officer Helen Koi including supervisors and staff officers from Naboro Complex.

Commander Kean, thanked the Committee members for taking half a day out of their busy schedules to visit the FCS facilities and to see for themselves the reality of what a normal day entails for a Corrections officer whether they were in the office, in the fields or in the institutions.

The touring party visited the Tagimoucia Art Gallery and met the artists for the first time and also how the Gallery was established as part of the Yellow Ribbon program.

From Korovou, the party headed to Naboro where they visited the various business units, clothing shop, poultry sheds, piggery, the farms, tailoring and joinery departments, K9 Unit Maximum Facility and the Academy.



Hon. Jilila Kumar with artist Pauliasi Delaibatiki



Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua inspects furniture made by inmates





# 37th APCCA hailed a success



APCCA delegates and special guests at Sofitel Resort, Nadi.

The 37th Asia and Pacific Conference of Correctional Administrators hosted by the Fiji Corrections Service from November 6-9 at Sofitel, Nadi has been hailed a great success.

The event was attended by delegates from 23 Countries from the Asia-Pacific Region and also included local delegates from the disciplined services, faith based organisations and NGOs.

Over 115 people in total attended the 4-day conference which included a tour of the FCS Lautoka Institution and a tour of the historic Viseisei Village.

Chief Guest, the Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Employment, Productivity & Industrial Relations, the Hon. Jone

Usamate in his closing address said the meeting was the perfect platform to share ideas and resources on matters concerning rehabilitation.

"This conference has been a platform for you to meet, share ideas and expertise on correctional and rehabilitative matters. You have – and that is always useful, not only for reflection but also for benchmarking.

"You have also covered a range of topical areas to help you progress your national administrations," Mr Usamate said.

"I know that is a lot you have learnt through all the sessions. I note in particular the topic of restorative justice that you have discussed this morning.

"That has always been something of interest to me and I know that has a lot of merit in your field of endeavour."

Mr Usamate compared the work of Corrections to the work the Prime Minister of Fiji, Voreqe Bainimarama was doing in spearheading the COP23 Movement in Bonn, Germany that week.

"COP23 meeting is also focused on rehabilitation. Rehabilitation of the earth. That is an enormous challenge — to rehabilitate the planet; to fix the damage we human beings have done to this planet."

"Rehabilitation of human beings is your business. I do not profess to know too much about rehabilitation, but I do know that it has moved on significantly from







APCCA heads of delegates with Commander Kean at Viseisei Village, Vuda.

just being about punishing people for crimes or just for reclusion. Today, there is a stronger approach to help people become better people.”

Rapporteurs for APCCA, Prof. Neil and Ms. Irene Morgan hailed the efforts and leadership of FCS Commissioner Commander Francis Kean and his staff for a very successful event.

“There has been a lot of fruitful discussions and the meeting was professionally organised, plus the hospitality shown to us by the FCS Staff was excellent,” said Prof Neil Morgan.

“I think it says a lot about the leadership they have under Commander Kean and we are excited about the outcomes of this

conference and the things to expect in the future.”

In his vote of thanks Commissioner of Corrections Commander Francis Kean thanked the Conference for having faith in Fiji to host the event.

“On behalf of my staff and on behalf of our Government we would like to thank you for having faith in us to deliver this event.

“We also thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend this conference,” Commander Kean said.

Commander Kean also thanked the Chief Guest for his commitment towards APCCA and for always investing in leadership programs for FCS.

He also paid tribute to the local delegates whose attendance he said had bridged a huge gap in the efforts of FCS to adopt an all nation approach towards rehabilitation.

“As you would have heard in the last few days, the work of rehabilitating people is not a Corrections job alone – it requires the work of the whole nation.”

The event culminated with the handing over of the APCCA Symbols to Malaysian Commissioner of Corrections Dato Sri Zulkifi Bin Omar who will be hosting next year’s event.





# Unlocking the Second Prison



Semi Matalau at the Tui Nabou development site in Natogadavu.

The will and determination to set all of this in motion began from inside the prison walls of Naboro which Matalau says was a great testament to the rehabilitation process and leadership in the Fiji Corrections Services.

"This is my story, and I want to preach it to the whole of Fiji – that no matter how low you go in life, God always has a purpose for you only if you accept the circumstances and have the will to rise."

"I was committed into the Labasa Corrections Center for 3 years from May 2011," said Matalau.

Through this support of the FCS, Matalau was able to realise his dream for his family and village sub-unit (Mataqali) with the set up of their new sub-division business.

"I was able to set up a meeting with my land development partners from Australia in Naboro in 2013, I was also blessed with the provision of a full time project manager and accountant after this meeting. He pleads with inmates who are to be released to be strong because it is tough in the real world.

**S**EMI Matalau never dreamt that one day he would end up in a prison cell. He was once a celebrated civil servant, revered mentor and lay preacher in his community who one day found himself on the wrong side of the law. Today, Matalau works on his family farm, supplying dalo and cassava to the market and also runs a cattle farm. But his biggest achievement to date is the set up of a sub-division for 50 residential lots from within the walls of the Naboro

Prison while he served his sentence in 2014. These residential lots which belong to his land owning unit from his village of Natogadavu in Tailevu was developed over the last 3-years and finally commissioned recently this August by the Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama.

"It took us 3-years to develop it with slightly over just \$1M spent on total development, government assisted with \$437,400 in the form of payment of an FDB Loan," Matalau added.

## Attitude and Heart

**M**anasa Vakasoqo, a 48 year old from Vunivaivai in Tailevu, found it very tough when he was discharged from prison in 2015.

He was incarcerated in 2010.

He was released early to serve his sentence in doing community work due to good behaviour. He had undergone the full program for the Yellow Ribbon but coming to terms with how the community viewed him became a challenge.

"It was hard returning home, although my close family members, friends, wife and children were happy to see me, others distanced themselves" said Vakasoqo. "Sometimes my spirits were down, I had genuinely wanted to work my way back to being a normal family man again but sometimes people just don't want to give you a second chance."

His break came when his cousin allowed him to operate his tractor for hired jobs and earn \$30 per day.

"The job gave me the opportunity to start my road to recovery in the outside world." He started to plough his own land for dalo and cassava farming. He became goal oriented and invested all his free time into his new project. Hard work was his key in unlocking his second prison.

"I was also farming before I went to prison but not on a large scale or with the



Manasa with his new family car, proceeds from his farm made it possible to buy his car

focus like I have today. I had completed all the stages of the Rehabilitation Yellow Ribbon Programs in Prison and it taught me how to think differently with a positive mindset and how to handle stress.

Vakasoqo did not have the perfect start in life. He was the 5th child in a family of 11 siblings and eventually he had to drop out of school at the age of 14-years.

"I only reached class 8, so naturally most things in life I had to teach myself through observations and for me it was farming. It became my basic means for survival.

Today, he owns and operates a dalo and cassava farm which supplies the local

markets.

Just recently, he brought bought his own car to help his business and also a means of transport for his family.

This is quite an achievement for someone who just over a year ago was an inmate in Naboro Corrections Complex.

"Some people may be surprised on how I have developed the expansion of my farm. I managed to buy a second hand car. My response to them was that I have learnt the hard way to change my attitude to better and improve my life," said Vakasoqo.

Vakasoqo now carts his produce to the Suva Market every week.



# Wardens win Cmdr FB Kean Shield

The Asaeli Boko led Fiji Corrections won the first Commander Francis Kean Shield challenge defeating National Fire Authority 15-7 at Nasova on October 18.

The challenge match, played for the first time between Fiji Corrections and National Fire Authority, coincided with the inaugural National Corrections Day celebrating 143 years of existence in Fiji.

The Wardens dominated the game scoring two tries in the first half to Solomoni Radinirova and Ase-sela Ratudamu.

Ratudamu scored their third try in the second half. NFA scored their try through Seru Cakobau which was con-

verted by Viliame Maiono.

It was double celebration for the Wardens rugby side winning the trophy on Fiji Corrections Service Day.

Wardens head coach Sailosi Naitege said they had to win because it was a special

day for the Service.

"This is a special day for Fiji Corrections Service and i think the team understood that and work hard out there to win," said PCO Naitege said.

NFA head coach Akuila Nasi congratulated Wardens and said it was good now that both organisations have something to look forward to every year.

The new shield had been launched by the Deputy Commissioner Corrections Jo Kulindilo on Friday, 13 October, 2017.

As a prelude to the Fiji Corrections Day, it was geared towards strengthening the working relationship between both organisations and also to celebrate the first ever National Corrections Day.



CEO Fiji Rugby Union John O'Connor presents the Cmdr FB Kean shield to Wardens Capt Asaeli Boko with Deputy Commissioner Joe Kulindilo.





# Farewell Comrades

It was a Christmas with a difference for the Fiji Corrections Service as they said goodbye to two long serving Officers who have had to take leave under medical reasons.

COB Petero Ceinaturaga, 52 had served 26 years and 10 months and COB Leone Dalia had served 12 years and 5 months before having to resign due to medical reasons.

For the first time the duo with COC Penaia Takirua, who at 19 is the youngest member of the FCS were the chief guests at the Christmas party held at Naboro Complex on 21st December.

The setting of the occasion was symbolic in the sense that the Service bid farewell to the past and looked forward to the future.

In his parting words on behalf of the Commissioner of Corrections Commander Francis Kean, Deputy Commissioner Joe Kulidilo said it was a sad occasion to farewell two dedicated officers.

"It is sad that we have to farewell you today, but as Corrections officers we all know too well the demands of the job requires us all to

be fit and healthy," he said.

"We thank you for your years of dedication to the Service, we also thank your families for supporting you all throughout the years – they have contributed also to how you have conducted yourselves in the line of duty.

"It is our prayer that you will continue with the next chapter of your life with the same spirit you have shown at work in order to recover and live well."

Commander Kean ended the formalities with the presentation of parting gifts to COB Ceinaturaga and COB Dalia.

COB Ceinaturaga, shared some sound advice to the young members of the force.

"My years are spent and my career has ended, but I would like to share with you the importance of family and keeping your health in check – we exist because of what we do and how we live," he said.

"You are at a point in your life to make changes, look after your families and your health as these dictate how well you will do your work, I thank you all for this wonderful gesture as this has never been down before in all my years in the Service."



(l-r) COB Leone Dalia, COB Petero Ceinaturaga, COC Penaia Takirua and Cmdr Francis Kean

## "The Hard work starts now"

These were the parting words of the Commissioner of Corrections, Commander Francis Kean to the 88 officers who were promoted during the final Commissioner's Parade for 2017 at the Naboro Complex on Thursday, 21 December, 17.

"The expectations from those above you and below will be high for you to perform your duties diligently and honestly at all times and every time.

"Our roles for Security and Safety and Through Care, of the men and women under our care is paramount.

"You must not give an opportunity or laxity and negligence creeping into the performance of our daily work, it's very important that you remain focused and that you remain true, and that you remain honest in the delivery of correctional services.

"Especially to those of you in positions of leadership, make sure you attend to the welfare of the men and women, this is very important – it is not an easy job being an officer,

He mentioned that their role was 3-pronged – one to those un-

der their care, one to the men and women under their supervision, and the delivery of services to the Government and citizens of our country.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you, I have been to the North, I have been to the West thanking the officers for the work you have undertaken throughout the last 11 months and in our financial year of the last 6 months.

"It is a good time for us to stand still and take stock of our performance individually and as an organization to identify the gaps that need to be plugged, to identify the weaknesses that need to be strengthened."

Cmdr Kean also reminded all of the sermon delivered by Chaplain Rev. Josefa Tikonatabua at the family church service – to always remember your families.

"This is the time to be still, and spend quality time with your family during this festive season. Our families should always be at the forefront of whatever we do."



TPCO Karolina Dimaiwai receives her new rank from Dep. Commissioner Joe Kulidilo



(l-r) CCO Sausauwai, PCO Ramabuke and PCO Drauna at the Commissioner's parade