



Prime Minister and TLTB Chairman Hon. Voreqe Bainimarama at the ground-breaking ceremony of the Halaiwalu Subdivision at Raralevu, Tailevu

Landowners to invest and run own businesses

THE iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) has contributed a lot to the lives of landowners and what some individual and dissident groups are claiming is the contrary.

CEO Mr Tevita Kuruvakadua says that there is a total of 199 landowning units are being assisted by the Board with a total payout of \$55.2 million in the last five years.

"From that total, \$53.5 million is from their normal lease funds, \$1.2 million is invested by the landowners at various banking and commercial institutions and \$554,000 is being distributed as grants to those who want to lease and develop their own land," he added.

The Landowners Affairs Department has also been providing business advice, training and also facilitating other landowner capacity building exercises.

Mr Kuruvakadua says the formation of the Department is an avenue created by the Board to assist the landowners to manage their aspirations and concerns so that they can improve their livelihoods.

It is designed to ensure that the interest or welfare of the landowners is paramount as stipulated under Section 4 (1) of the iTaukei Land Trust Act "the control of all itaukei land shall be vested in the Board and all such

land shall be administered by the Board for the benefit of the iTaukei owners".

There many landowning units have investment portfolios made by TLTB on behalf of the landowners, and to name a few; Mataqali Serau, Nabitu, Macuata; Mataqali Navunivuvudi, Wainunu, Bua; Yavusa Navatulevu, Sila & Nabati, Nadi; Mataqali Matanikorovatu, Kalabu, Naitasiri; Mataqali Cawanisa Vitogo Ba; Mataqali Valevale, Vatulele, Nadroga; Mataqali Nukuni, Onoilau, Lau and Mataqali Raranimeke, Labasa, Macuata.

Since 2017 TLTB has also assisted 107 landowners as individual or LOU trustees or companies, a total of \$600,000 as seed grant fund to establish their business in agriculture, livestock, land development, beehives, handicraft, forestry, eco-tourism, etc. It will continue this year with a \$500,000 budget.

TLTB has assisted land developments subdivision schemes for landowners with no costs. It also facilitates financial training programs with the landowners so that they can change from a consumption mindset to an investment mindset by promoting compulsory savings and the utilization of their land to generate higher returns through income from commercial investment. ■

In this issue



The benefits of farm mechanization
Page 2



Planting trees is our national pride
Page 3



Raranimeke's business model is for all
Page 4



Korovou town to expand soon
Page 5

From the GM's Desk



IT is a pleasure to welcome you all to the first Newsletter for 2019.

There have been a lot of activities in the last four months for the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) especially in the areas of landowners' development. In this issue we have made it a point to highlight some of their stories so that we can learn from them.

Our Trust Section (Finance Department) and the Landowners Affairs Department have been working tirelessly to provide the necessary support for our landowners especially in terms of providing business and investment advice where others can replicate for better utilization of their land and their lease monies.

In this issue we have covered stories from the mechanization of farm (Tsunami Ltd) and the gravel extraction (Vatia Unique Extraction) in Labasa, the Nakovacake Development Trust, the revival of the cocoa farming in Tailevu and the formation of Petra Enterprises in Lautoka – all made by the landowning units.

We will highlight more of these success stories so that we can support the work TLTB is doing for the landowners and also see how we can learn from them.

Apart from these developments, one of the key changes was brought to light by the amendment of the iTaukei Land Trust Act to change the name of its senior executive officer from General Manager to Chief Executive Officer, \$8.7 million premium paid by FNPF for the Denarau leases and \$3.26 million CBUL payment received from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Our Strategic Corporate Plan 2019 is out and we are looking forward to the support of everyone in Government and from the private sector so that we can achieve what we have set out to achieve for 2019.

Happy Reading!

Tevita Kuruvakadua
Chief Executive Officer

The benefits of farm mechanization

Tsunami Ltd – a major sugar cane producer

THE Mataqali Savulu in the village of Nasekula, outside Labasa Town in Macuata has established itself as one of the highest sugarcane producing entity in the country.

Established in November 2012 as the first iTaukei land owning unit (LOU) to form a joint venture (JV) with the Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC), the Qomate family business called Tsunami Limited is now producing approximately 7,500 tonnes on a 280 acre land annually.

Farm Manager Ratu Savenaca Ritova believes that they are getting better at what they do and are encouraging landowners to venture into mechanizing farms in Fiji.

"For us we are doing well and we are optimistic about using machines to help us develop our land - from the 50 cane cutters in 2015, to four cane harvester operators in 2018. From the 70 labourers in 2015, there are currently only 15 employees looking after our farm. We must use current technologies to support us and remain competitive in the long run," he added.

The *mataqali* first proposed the idea to FSC back in 2006 when the land was still vacant. All the documentation and formalities were later finalised in 2012 but they did not start planting sugarcane until 2014. The total cost of replanting the whole farm came to around \$1.2 million which was fully funded by FSC.

A part of their MOU with FSC is to share the dividends equally for five years; and a yearly installment of \$221,000 to be paid by the Mataqali to FSC. This payment and sharing of

dividends are expected to cease by 2019. This will be the end of the JV and as a result the total income from 2020 onwards will go to the *mataqali*.

In 2015, the first harvest recorded a total of 2,600 tonnes. In 2016, the harvest had increased to 7,500 tonnes with an income value of \$350,000. The same was also recorded for the last two years. There are other business plans in the pipeline and are awaiting the completion of the JV agreement.

Ratu Savenaca said when they had first taken their proposal to the Fiji Development Bank (FDB), the bank rejected their application saying that there were high risks involved and they could not finance it. And just a year into its operation, FDB returned saying that they are now in a better position to give them loans if they needed one. As a result, the *mataqali* were able to buy a cane harvester last year. The harvester was not only used in their farm, but was also being hired by other farms which generated extra income for them. This year they are planning to buy a tractor to help with the cultivation of their fields.

Mataqali Savulu is a beacon to iTaukei landowners who are still struggling to utilise their vacant land. They have proven themselves against all odds in the sugar industry and have exemplified that there is lot more for us if we lease our own land. ■



Farm Manager of the Qomate family business Ratu Savenaca Ritova standing in front of their sugar cane harvester in Labasa

Planting trees is our national pride



South-West Region staff, Ministry of Forestry representatives with villagers and their children at Vunitogoloa in Ra after their tree-planting programme

THE iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) staff and family members conducted its first tree-planting exercise for the year at various locations for the first quarter of the year with a lot of enthusiasm and national pride.

CEO Mr Tevita Kuruvakadua stated this was part of TLTB's corporate social responsibility (CSR) and was one of the board's flagship initiatives and staff participation in such programmes was an avenue wherein the organization can give back to the community.

The program includes visitation to our dedicated *TLTB Native Tree Reserve* areas in Colo-i-Suva, Lautoka, Navolau in Ra and Naduna in Macuata to clean, plant, pot, replant and transplant.

With the support of the Ministry of Forestry and in collaboration with various provincial offices; TLTB's CSR programme as contained under the Strategic Corporate Plan 2019-2021 require us to work with the Government, communities, civil societies and other government agencies to plant four million trees by 2020.

It is also part of the core business outcomes with measured efforts to address environment sustainability, climate change and ensuring livability

for the communities in Fiji," he said. "As a land management agency, replanting programs such as this also ensures loss of land through bad land management or extreme weather is mitigated, thus improving the health and livability of these regions and communities.

At the national level, the programme will help conserve the environment and support local environmental outcomes by improving the extent, connectivity and condition of native vegetation that supports native species," he added.

Mr Kuruvakadua further explained that TLTB was glad that they were able to contribute to the "4 Million Trees in 4 Years' initiative" which was launched by the President of Fiji His Excellency Col. Joji Konrote early this year.

The initiative is part of Government's renewed effort to continue the fight against climate change challenges and to protect Fiji's environment and rich biodiversity – in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development particularly the SDG15 and in support of the New York Declaration on Forests. ■

LOU business and investment

THERE are many tangible outcomes of what the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) is doing to assist landowners and land owning units to provide training and assist in the set up of new business ventures and investment opportunities and the creation of employment for the landowners. The following are some of the major projects that TLTB had undertaken so far:

- ◆ Yavusa e Tolu, Navatulevu, Nadi – Ancillary business from tourism operation and real estate investments.
- ◆ Vanua o Nakovacake Holdings Ltd (agriculture, transportation, real estate) - Nadi
- ◆ Halaiwalu Subdivision - Tailevu
- ◆ Forest Climate (housing subdivision, real estates, supermarkets) - Mataqali Naulukarua, Naitasiri
- ◆ Mataqali Cu (transportation, real estate) – Nadi
- ◆ Mataqali Matarasiga (land development, gravel extraction)
- ◆ Mataqali Namako (real estate) - Dogotuki, Macuata
- ◆ Mataqali Nailagobakola (integrated development at the old bus station) - Nausori.
- ◆ Mataqali Qoma (land development, transportation business) – Coloisuva, Naitasiri.
- ◆ Mataqali Lomanikoro (ancillary business from quarry operations).
- ◆ Yavusa e Tolu (and development – Navuso).
- ◆ Qomate Family (agriculture and land development) – Nasekula, Macuata.
- ◆ Mataqali Yavusasivo, (land development) - Votualevu, Nadi.
- ◆ Vanua Nahoqo, (ancillary business from Natadola tourism operations) – Sanasana, Nadroga.
- ◆ Mataqali Nasau (ancillary business for tourism operations) - Votualevu, Nadi.
- ◆ Tui Nabou (land development) - Natogadravu
- ◆ Yavusa Leweiunaliu (housing developments) – Nadroga.
- ◆ Mataqali Naitavuni (gravel extractions) – Nairukuruku.
- ◆ Yavusa Solia (gravel extractions) - Sawani
- ◆ Mataqali Raranimeke (gravel extraction and purchase of heavy machines, bee hives and investments) – Galoa Village, Labasa.
- ◆ Mataqali Rara (real estate investment) – Nausiori.
- ◆ Mataqali Rara (land development) – Nadali. ■

Raranimeke's business model is for all

THE Mataqali Raranimeke of the Yavusa Qoibau in the village of Galoa in Vanua Levu has formed a company called the Vatia Unique Extraction that specialises in gravel/soil extraction and landscaping.

Speaking on behalf of the mataqali Mr Isoa Rokobici said, "this is probably the first iTaukei company to be registered in Labasa. Though the company was registered in 2016, we have only received our excavator and truck in March this year".

TLTB were also invited to attend the official launch of these machines. Representing TLTB, the Acting Manager North, Mr Nemani Tamani said, "this is a milestone achievement for the Land Owning Unit (LOU) and TLTB is honoured to be part of its success. This is just the beginning of their long term investment and I believe that the consultations and financial

literacy sessions conducted for the landowners have now borne fruit," he added.

Currently the company has a contract with Fair Deal Earthmoving Contractors Ltd but are also trying to secure government tenders and looking out for other opportunities because they now have the resources as well as the equipment to carry out the work.

"We are confident of the business' success," said Mr Rokobici. "There are bigger plans to expand and hopefully to own a stone crusher. Aside from the gravel business, we have a bee-hive business and have bought shares in Kontiki Finance".

Thirty percent of their lease monies go to the Trust Fund which finances the business arm while the other seventy percent (70%) is equally distributed to their members. "Prior to the implementation of the Equal Rent

Distribution (ERD) policy, there was hardly any major development as the elders of the mataqali were the only ones receiving the lease monies and making decisions on how it was used," said Mr Rokobici. "Now, things have really changed for Mataqali Raranimeke," he added.

As part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), they donated \$10,000 towards the expansion of their village hall, they give their tithes to three (3) different church denominations and they also have a Yada Programme where they give food items or money to widows on a monthly basis.

All the LOU members are in support of these initiatives. Some LOU members have even found employment in these business arms of the *mataqali*. The new journey for Mataqali Raranimeke has not only improved the livelihood of its people but has given back to the people to benefit and enjoy. ■

ERD prompts landowners to form company

Petra Industries plan to lead the gravel market



Mataqali Matarisiga of the Yavusa Tunuloa in Vitogo, Lautoka runs a competitive business as Petra Industries that deals from crushing of stones/rocks to producing concrete and cement

WHEN the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) was conducting consultations about the Equal Rent Distribution (ERD) policy in 2014, the Mataqali Matarisiga in Vitogo, Lautoka, was already thinking ahead to form a company to meet the cost of traditional obligations and other expenses that have always been covered by the lease monies.

"In the past, we have seen that when a lease has expired, the lessee will just offer a little sum of money and we the landowners would agree to the renewal of leases," said Mr Tomasi Sauqaqa the spokesperson for Petra Enterprises and Petra Industries. "We have also realised that if the same attitude continues, it is not going to bring us any good" he added.

This was when the mataqali decided to venture into business and formed Petra Enterprises and the Petra Industries with 50 percent of the lease monies to go into the trust fund to finance the formation of these

business ventures while the other 50 percent is equally distributed to their members.

At first they had thought of building a shopping mall and later to venture into real estate. Their scheme plan was approved. However, for two years they did not get any response to their application for a government grant. "Another thing that hindered our progress was the sewer system," added Mr Sauqaqa. The sewer system only goes as far as Vunato and has not reached the place where they had wanted to set up these businesses.

"Then a business opportunity came our way," said Mr Sauqaqa. "Since we have a stream that supplies us with river gravel on our piece of land, we thought that this would be the type of business we were going to begin with because we already have the raw materials. In addition, the required site was vacant at the time so we applied for an industrial lease and set up the crusher at the proposed site".

Petra Industries deals mainly with aggregates; from the raw materials to the crusher and to the different grading and sizes of stones/rocks while Petra Enterprises is the ready-mix business. The Mataqali Matarisiga aims to capture the whole income stream that can be obtained from the stones/rocks; from crushing to producing concrete and cement.

"We have also leased out a block to Tengy Cement. This is because their business is in line with what we wish to expand on," mentioned Mr Sauqaqa. "It is our goal to outrun all our competitors by offering the lowest prices because we own the raw materials whereas our competitors buy theirs. Our major drawback, is that we have not really fully developed our capabilities and capacity to meet bigger demands. As soon as we are able to do this, we are sure to gain the highest market share in this line of business," said Mr Sauqaqa. ■

Korovou Town to expand soon



On your left is an area earmarked for the Korovou town's expansion

KOROVOU is probably the smallest town in Fiji but that is about to change when it will start its expansion plan soon.

With the iTaukei Land Trust Board's Greater Master Plan Central, the town boundary is set to expand with more buildings to be constructed, more businesses to be set up and more housing subdivisions to be created

resulting in a broader range of services to be provided.

As you travel from Suva towards Rakiraki, the plain field on your left just as you approach Korovou Town is the area earmarked for expansion. This is in line with the National Development Plan that aims to have all the necessary facilities within its vicinity.

Aiding the implementation of this plan is TLTB's Land Use Planning Unit who works with the Landowners, Town & Country Planning, Housing Authority and other stakeholders to bring this plan into reality.

The TLTB office in Korovou makes it easier for stakeholders to have their land management service needs met. They are able to get faster services, timely advice and ideas that would help them to utilise vacant lands which will in turn improve their livelihoods.

Currently, there isn't a bank that operates in Korovou Town as well as other services like hardware stores and furniture dealers. Hence the nearby communities have to travel further to Nausori or right to Suva to be provided with the service that they need.

In addition, the Housing Authority had secured a lease to the hills adjacent to the plains for its housing scheme. This will then be open to the general public who wish to apply for a housing lease.

The little dairy town is expected to be a buzz in five to ten years from now with most of the goods and services being provided for commuters and people in surrounding communities. ■

Nakovacake Development Trust

Our journey to success

THE Nakovacake Development Trust (NDT) is the business arm of the Yavusa Nakovacake which included the villages of Navoci, Namotomoto and Narewa. These three villages make up what is known as the *Yavusa e Tolu*.

"If we look back, majority of the iTaukei land had been a source of wealth to non-iTaukei," said Mr Anare Naivutevute, the Chairman of NDT. "Seeing this has prompted us to develop our own land, and utilise our own resources to maximise our wealth," he added.

NDT was established in December 2006. Before the establishment of the Trust, the reservation of the land had begun way back in 1996 and included the villages of Navoci and Namotomoto.

The Nadi Town which was established in 1940, is sitting on the reserved land of the *Yavusa e Tolu* of Nakovacake and also marked the beginning of receiving lease monies. These lease monies were often always shared only by the elders of the *Yavusa e Tolu* while the rest of the Land Owning Unit (LOU) members depended on what was distributed by the elders.

In the 1950s then the elders of the *Yavusa e Tolu* decided to form the Nakovacake Cooperative which included sugarcane farming and a mini supermarket. Having very little education back then, these were some of the little things the elders had believed to have



*NDT Chairman ...
Mr Anare Naivutevute*

worked for the LOU members back then. Proper financial records were not maintained as there was a lack of knowledge to set up proper businesses.

Progressing slowly, a housing scheme was created in 1980 known as the Nakovacake Housing Scheme which catered for the housing needs of the LOU members. One hundred percent (100%) of the lease monies was channeled to Housing Authority to facilitate this project by building 120 houses to replace the traditional bures and bamboo houses that they had at the time. These houses are still being used today.

As the LOU members are gaining knowledge

and skills, the members of the *Yavusa e Tolu* sat together again in 2006 to discuss a restructure. It was in this meeting that the LOU members unanimously agreed to form the NDT which eventuated in December of that year.

From a cooperative and housing scheme, the LOU members have decided to begin a new development journey that will enhance both the social and economic development. The focus now moves not only to the business sector but at the same time caring for the well-being of its people.

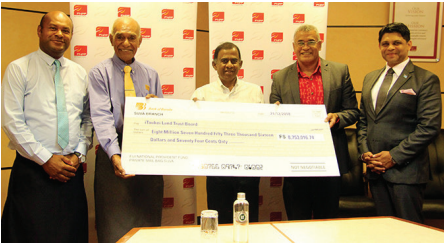
To do this, 50 percent of the lease monies still goes to the Trust while the other 50% are equally distributed to the LOU members. The Trust Fund is then the mother source of the NDT.

At the establishment of the Trust, the committee did not really consider education assistance. This took a different turn later on, and they are now providing education assistance to its members. This has proven successful as well, when one of its very own sponsored member is currently the lawyer of the Trust.

It is crucial therefore, to move away from the usual iTaukei mentality to depend on what is easy and what is quick. It is time to invest into our iTaukei land and resources and raise the standard of living of our people. ■

IN BRIEF

\$8.7m Premium for Denarau Lease



L-R: TLTB CEO Tevita Kuruvakadua, TLTB Board Member Ro Epeli Mataitini, FNPf Board Chairman Ajith Kodagoda, FNPf Chief Executive Officer Jaoji Koroi, and the Attorney General and Minister for Economy Hon. Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum

The iTaukei Land Trust Board received a premium of \$8.7m from the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPf) in January this year, for the reinstatement of the expired lease term of the 50 acres of land where the Sheraton Fiji Resort and Westin Resort are located in Denarau in Nadi. This enabled the issuance of a 99year term effective from the 1st of January 2018. CEO Mr Tevita Kuruvakadua said that these new lease terms have opened up doors to renegotiate some of the conditions that were in the previous lease terms, most of which had been highlighted by the government. The new lease terms are seen to be very beneficial to the landowners.

Bill to Amend iTaukei Land Trust Act

The bill to amend the iTaukei Land Trust Act has been passed by parliament to allow the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) to appoint a CEO as the current act only provides for the appointment of a manager and officers of the Board. The Board has already gone ahead and appointed a Chief Executive Officer which is not provided for in the current act. Therefore, it was pertinent to amend the law to cater for this change. Amendments are also proposed to allow for suitably qualified persons to be appointed and to also provide for provisions regarding their functions, responsibilities and remuneration. A consequential amendment was also proposed to the Higher Salaries Act to include the Board as one of the bodies for which the salary and benefits of its Chief Executive Officer are subject to sections of the Higher Salaries Act.

Illegal land dealings

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) hereby notifies the general public that a person by the name of "Zameer" (may not be his real name) has been visiting a few places in Nausori in the Central Division claiming to be working for the TLTB Korovou Office. It has also been brought to our attention that "Zameer" recently visited residents of Vuci South Road and allegedly told residents that he was working with TLTB's

Team Leader for the Korovou office in the leasing of land within that area. The TLTB advises that it must be understood that: (i) all TLTB officers going onto the field must carry proper TLTB identification cards, (ii) all lease applications and land dealings on iTaukei land must involve TLTB (iii) all payments should be made with any TLTB cashier, and (iv) official TLTB receipts must be issued for any payments made.

\$3.26million for CBUL Payment

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) has received a VAT inclusive cheque of \$3,410,178.52 from the Ministry of Agriculture for a Committee of Better Utilisation of Land (CBUL) payment. Following the tax deduction and the deduction of \$50,000 of TLTB fees, the total amount that is left to be distributed amongst nine hundred and fifty four (954) land owning units is \$3,260,928.92. The CBUL program, which was initiated in 2008, is simply an initiative by the government and administered by the Ministry of Agriculture, to subsidise the tenants leases who wish to renew their leases that are expiring or have already expired.

Hydro Dams in Namosi



Namosi Eco-Resort

There has been a lot of misinformation being propagated by certain landowners in the media about the three (3) hydro dams that are to be built by Hydro Fiji Limited in Namosi. "I can confirm that our staff conducted a series of public consultations since 2015 about the project. There were about 41 consultations carried out in 18 villages and respective land owning units who will be directly or indirectly affected by this project," said TLTB's CEO, Mr Tevita Kuruvakadua. Mr Kuruvakadua also mentioned that majority of the landowners had given their support for the project during the consultations. The Department of Environment has also conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required under the Environment Management Act 2015.

A Surprise Visit



Former Assistant General Manager Mr Alan Frith with his wife Jennifer during their short visit to TLTB

Mr Alan Frith, together with his wife Jennifer got off the ship and made their way to the TLTB Building where he once served as Assistant General Manager – Training & Personnel for nine years before he retired. He made a quick recollection of what used to be. It had been difficult to find local experts to carry out training. He had to train the locals to take over the positions that had always been held by expatriates. The couple now lives in Woolongong in South Sydney and has two children. He is now 83 years old and that might have been his final visit to Fiji and to TLTB. The couple has always had a place in their hearts for this country especially for TLTB. The Executive Management is thankful to Mr & Mrs Frith for having the courtesy to pay a visit to the Head Office. It was people like him, who had contributed to what the Board is today, and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

Delainavesi land claim unfounded

THE iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) wishes to correct the claims made by Mataqali Mataqereqere over the weekend in Delainavesi in Suva by saying that TLTB does not have any intension to issue any lease on the land in question. CEO Mr Tevita Kuruvakadua said as of now we did not know what were the landowners' intention in creating such a scene that was broadcasted live through a Facebook chat group during the Easter weekend claiming that TLTB is taking over their land without their consent. "We want to say that TLTB will neither receive any application or expression of interest nor issue any lease for the land known as Bonatoa. The land was first schemed some years ago with the request from the Ministry of Local Government for the formalisation or regularisation of squatter settlements. The work on the formalisation of the area was stopped due to the landowners' show of disagreement especially from the head of their mataqali (Turaga ni Mataqali)," he added.

Last prime land in Lautoka City



Clean up activities where children were also engaged in along the Vunato road side

THE Mataqali Ketenatukani of the Namoli Village in Lautoka has decided to have a commercial and an industrial lease on their land at Kaleli (Vunato), just outside the Lautoka City - the last prime area in Lautoka. Being one of the major landowning units in Lautoka, Mataqali Ketenatukani formed the Kohotu Properties as its business arm to handle its current development plan which is the vision of the 74 year-old Turaga ni Mataqali, Mr Vilive Vunisa Ravouvou.

"The Directors of Kohotu Properties are appointed from each tokatoka within the mataqali," said Mr Peni Veidreyaki, the spokesperson for the Company. "Currently, there are only three tokatoka as one is extinct, with each tokatoka having two representatives each in the Board," he added.

The current leases are 100 percent owned by the landowners with its ground work almost completed. The engineering works of \$59,000 have already been paid from their lease monies making this lease a mortgage-free one.

Although they receiving some expression of interests (EOI) from the public, there is no intention for pre-sale as it will devalue the land. Their plan is to develop the land first before they begin with the sale.

"We expect to rake in approximately \$50 million from this project," said Mr Veidreyaki. "This project also aims to provide employment for our members. The Mataqali is also planning to use the income generated from this project to compensate for leases that will be expiring soon," he added.

The *mataqali* has had a very good working relationship with TLTB for so many years now, adhering and implementing all the advice that have been proposed by the Board of Kohotu.

"In an incident some years ago, this *mataqali* had to block its lease monies to pay off the Housing Scheme that was set up by Housing Authority for Namoli Village. When Housing Authority decided to stop the scheme and would have probably seized the properties due to non-payment, this LOU saved the deal by diverting all their lease monies to pay off Housing Authority," said Mr Veidreyaki.

Mataqali Ketenatukani is considerate of its members' welfare and well-being and this is evident in the provision of education assistance, housing schemes and catering for traditional functions. on top of it all, 20 percent of its lease monies always goes to the Namoli Methodist Church Circuit. ■

LOU hopes to revive cocoa farming

THE Mataqali Vunibua of the Yavusa Vugalei in Tobuniqio village, is eager to bring back to life the once upon a time thriving source of income for the upper Tailevu – the cocoa business in order to help realise the bigger dream of having a chocolate factory in Korovou Town.

As you travel past Nausori Town on the Kings Highway, there is a feeder road construction just opposite Logani village which comes right through to the outskirts of Tobuniqio Village. Visible from the roadside are cocoa plants that have turned wild from not being pruned or cared for. "This road had been here for quite some time now, but rarely used nowadays," said Mr Kemueli Kedrayate the *Turaga ni Koro* (TNK) for Tobuniqio Village. "Because we were unable to use the road, we have also stopped the harvesting of the cocoa fruits, hence crippling the cocoa production business," he added.

However, most of the cocoa plants are still producing fruits. It is the inaccessibility to the plantation that has stopped them from gathering the fruits. They had made a request to the Ministry of Agriculture in 2016 to help them with reviving the cocoa plantation and they are still awaiting the response.

While waiting for the feeder road to be completed, the members of the Mataqali Vunibua are making good use of the other vacant blocks planting *dalo*, *yaqona* and even having two fish ponds in the area.

"Along the feeder road as well are numerous agriculture lessees who will directly benefit from the upgrading of this feeder road," commented Mr Kedrayate "It will make it easier for them to transport their produce to the market and also help with their movement to and from their individual farms.

Now with the road upgrade, talks are also under way for the Mataqali Vunibua to lease their own land, to not only revive cocoa farming but to also venture out into other forms of businesses that will help improve the livelihood of the land owning unit members. ■



Cocoa ... chocolate fruit

CORPORATE STATEMENT 2019



TLTB CORE BUSINESS

"Sustainable Development and Wealth Creation".



VISION

Excellence in Land Management Services to Meet the Expectation of all Stakeholders.



MISSION

In the best interests of the iTaukei landowners and stakeholders we will:

- 1) Deliver competent and resilient estate land management services to all our stakeholders.
- 2) Provide the best financial and investment services to the iTaukei landowners and ensure sufficient land are reserved to meet their immediate and future needs.
- 3) Automate through modern technology, systems and processes to accelerate organisational growth, innovation and business delivery.
- 4) Promote partnerships with government, regional and international sustainable development goals and conventions.
- 5) Promote equality of opportunities for all Fijians, develop human capital management and recognise performance.
- 6) Uphold good governance, inclusiveness, visibility and inculcate a culture of growth, innovation, productivity and excellence in the workforce.



VALUES

- I** Innovation
- T** Transparency & Trust
- A** Accountability
- U** Unique
- K** Knowledgeable
- E** Effectiveness & Efficiency
- I** Integrity



ADDRESS

Head Office
431 Victoria Parade,
G.P.O Box 116,
Suva



PHONE

(679) 331 2733



EMAIL

info@tltb.com.fj



FACEBOOK

iTaukei Land Trust Board



WEBSITE

www.tltb.com.fj



LINKEDIN

iTaukei Land Trust Board



TWITTER

@iTaukeiLand



YOUTUBE

iTaukei Land Trust Board