



*Prime Minister Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka while opening the Taukei Plaza Dua in Lautoka – the first property to be acquired under the Qelemaroroi Holdings Pte Ltd*

## TLTB launches Qelemaroroi Holdings, opens Taukei Plaza Dua

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) proudly marked a new milestone with the official launch of its new commercial arm, known as Qelemaroroi Holdings Pte Ltd (QHPL), and the opening of Taukei Plaza Dua by the Prime Minister Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka last Thursday (24th July 2025).

These initiatives show the Board's deepening commitment to building sustainable wealth for iTaukei landowners.

CEO Mr. Solomon Nata expressed his sincere gratitude to the Prime Minister for taking time out of his busy schedule to officiate the launch event in Lautoka last week. His opening remarks will resonate in the days to come, serving as our guiding light and source of direction as we move forward.

"We are truly fortunate to have leaders in Government who share our vision –

that for Fiji to prosper, the iTaukei people must first be empowered and thrive," he added.

Last week was both a celebration of success and an emotional milestone, as it marked the beginning of a new realisation – that we, as a people, can confidently step into the commercial space, succeed, and create lasting wealth for our landowners.

Qelemaroroi Holding Co Pte Ltd will provide financial oversight and long-term direction to its three subsidiaries:

1. *Qelemaroroi Property Development Co. Pte. Limited*  
– This arm focuses on land development, subdivision, and acquiring valuable properties for future growth.
2. *Qelemaroroi Finance Pte Limited*  
– This is what we have been referring

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*PM Rabuka with the new board of directors of the Qelearoroi Holdings Pte Ltd*

to as iTaukei Bank --- a lending facility that had been running since 2024 as Taukei Development Fund Facility, assisting itaukei start-ups and small and medium enterprises.

### *3. Qelearoroi Management Co Pte Limited*

- This is what that will be connecting us together in business, especially if you want to set up joint ventures, they will bring in investors and create new income streams.

Mr Nata said the new building is the first major investment under the Board's new commercial arm, Qelearoroi Holdings Pte Ltd, and its property subsidiary, Qelearoroi

Property Development Co Pte Ltd, which now leads TLTB's renewed business focus on financial empowerment and property development.

According to Mr Nata, the Taukei Plaza Dua stands as more than just a modern commercial building—it symbolizes the Board's transformation and ambition to shift from land administration into active commercial development. The new facility features 12 commercial spaces, each measuring 61 square meters, with two units now occupied by TLTB's North-Western Regional Office.

Until now, TLTB's property portfolio has included a commercial building in

Savusavu and a residential property in Tamavua. The addition of Taukei Plaza Dua not only expands this portfolio but also reinforces the Board's confidence in real estate as a key driver of long-term, stable returns for landowners.

"The commercial spaces in this plaza will generate sustainable revenue and open up new opportunities for partnerships. We encourage iTaukei entrepreneurs and businesses to take advantage of these spaces and be part of this vision," Mr. Nata added.

"Taukei Plaza Dua is not just made of concrete and steel – it is a symbol of transformation and the vision we now carry. It

reflects our evolution as an institution, from managing land to creating wealth from it. This building is a bold demonstration that iTaukei landowners can participate in – and lead – commercial success stories."

The newly appointed directors for Qelearoroi Holdings are: Mr Alipate Naiorosui as interim chairman, civil engineer Mr Netani Qicatabua, property development management expert Mr Mosese Ratakele, banking and finance expert Mr Isikeli Tuituku, former Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association chief executive officer Ms Olivia Pareti, lawyer Mr Apisalome Matebalavu Rabo, and TLTB CEO Mr Solomone Nata. ■



*Momo na Tui Vuda Ratu Kitione Tavaiaqia (third from left) at the opening of Taukei Plaza Dua*



*Momo na Tui Vitogo Ratu Jone Sovasova with Hon. Rabuka doing the honours*





*Landowners Workshop moves to Vanua Levu with the issuance of their Asset Capitalisation Report*

## Empowering Landowners: Nakama Workshop in Macuata

The Landowners Empowerment Department successfully hosted its second Landowning Unit (LOU) Workshop of the year marking the first of three workshops scheduled for the Northern Division. Centered on the theme “Empowering Landowners for Successful Implementation & Sustainability of Development Projects,” the event brought together key stakeholders in the village of Nakama, Wailevu, Macuata.

Fifteen landowning units were invited to participate alongside representatives from

various Government Ministries and private institutions. The workshop aimed to foster awareness and collaboration among stakeholders, ensuring landowners are well-equipped to lead and sustain development initiatives on their land.

The event started with a devotion by the Village Pastor and was officially opened by the General Manager of Landowners Affairs Mr. Peni Qalo. Participants were later presented with their individual Asset Capitalization Reports, a key tool in helping them assess and leverage the value of their

land-based assets.

In his closing remarks, a representative from the Macuata Provincial Office commended the initiative and underscored the importance of landowner engagement in the country’s broader development agenda.

A participant expressed gratitude, stating, “Most of us present today are hearing about these assistances and initiatives for the first time. We are grateful to be part of the workshop as it has exposed and broadened our understanding of how to utilize

the resources available on our Mataqali lands.”

The workshop focused on three primary objectives:

1. Engaging stakeholders to align on development priorities of each Landowning Unit.
2. Sharing current and future initiatives designed to support landowners.
3. Exploring opportunities for collaboration to enable the successful implementation and sustainability of community-led projects. ■



*Women now acquiring itaukei leases and develop*

## 224 women given itaukei leases in 2025

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) continues to take bold steps towards promoting gender equality in land access, with 224 out of 1,301 leases issued so far going to women as at end of June 2025. This includes 117 iTaukei women and 107 are women from other races; a strong indicator of TLTB’s commitment to inclusivity and fair opportunity. Out of the 117 iTaukei women leases, 24 are members of their landowning unit leasing their own land.

CEO Mr. Solomon Nata said that these efforts are part of TLTB’s broader strategy to ensure women are not left

behind in the economic use and ownership of land leases.

“Our goal is to remove systemic barriers and ensure women—whether iTaukei or other race—have equal opportunity to access land for residential, agricultural, or commercial use. This aligns directly with our Strategic Corporate Plan 2025–2029, which commits to equity and empowerment for all land users,” Mr. Nata said.

Traditionally, access to land in Fiji has been male dominated, especially in customary settings. However, TLTB is actively working to change that narrative



through targeted outreach, simplified leasing processes, and community education programs to encourage women applicants.

The move reflects Fiji's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly

Goal 5: Gender Equality, and supports broader national efforts to build an inclusive and just society.

Mr. Nata reaffirmed that TLTB will continue to lead by example by embedding inclusivity into its daily operations, lease approvals,

and land development support services.

"Women have always played a vital role in our communities and economies. Giving them access to land isn't just fair—it's smart development," he said.

TLTB is calling on communities, landowners, and development partners to support this movement by encouraging more women to apply for leases and by eliminating cultural or institutional biases that may stand in their way. ■



*Monasavu Hydro Dam*

## Media Statement on “Lesuvi ni Vanua” Facebook post

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) acknowledges recent commentary made by a Mr. Jope Masiyaka in a series of videos posted on the Facebook page “Lesuvi Ni Vanua.” In these videos, Mr. Masiyaka discusses a range of topics, including matters related to TLTB's roles and responsibilities, as well as specific cases involving iTaukei land and TLTB-administered leases.

Given the breadth of issues raised, TLTB will be issuing a series of statements to clarify its position and provide accurate information on the matters discussed. The first in TLTB's series is regarding the Monasavu Hydro Dam.

**Background**  
Energy Fiji Limited (then Fiji Electricity Authority) commissioned its Monasavu Hydro project in 1983. The land on which the infrastructure (which includes the dam and power station) was built was acquired by

outright purchase by the Government in 1978. The Monasavu water catchment area was initially not acquired or leased by the Government. Over time, however, the landowners became aggrieved that they were being stopped from using the catchment and were being deprived of their resource and land use.

Given the gravity of the landowners' grievance and the importance of the Monasavu hydro plant to the nation's development, the Government set up a task force to carry out a valuation of the compensation claim and to also suggest leasing the catchment area to FEA. An initial compensation offer of more than \$14.6 million (to be incorporated into a lease offer) was approved by Cabinet and made to the landowners at a meeting at Tradewinds Convention Centre. However, some Mataqalis did not agree and walked out of the meeting.

These dissenting Mataqalis then filed legal proceedings being HBC 576/1998 against the Attorney-General, the NLTB and the FEA as defendants. They claimed the sum of \$38 million and obtained an injunction against TLTB from proceeding with the lease offer.

In August 2000, a further meeting was convened at the Pacific Harbour in Deuba. At the meeting, parties agreed to the payment of \$52.8 million in order for the Monasavu landowners to settle their grievances for all time. This offer was finally agreed to by the landowners with a Joint Statement of Understanding being signed.

### TLTB's Position

**1. Monasavu Land Acquisition**  
The compulsory acquisition of the dam site, tunnel site, switch yard, and power site areas was lawfully executed by the State in lieu of consideration paid. Compensation was paid and part invested with TLTB, and

dividends were paid.

**2. Monasavu Compensation:**  
TLTB wishes to point out that the compensation payment of \$52.8 million was administered by Fa & Co., who are the lawyers of the Monasavu landowners.

On its part, TLTB issued a lease to the then FEA in 2006 with a total lease offer of \$1.5 million. TLTB also levied \$7 million to FEA as mesne profit on the utilization of the resources without proper lease and compensation for trees of commercial value within the water catchment lease, a sum of \$3.7 million.

It is important to note that although TLTB was initially named in the action, Fa & Co. discontinued the action against TLTB. This meant that from then on, TLTB was neither involved, nor was it consulted in any negotiations that led to the payout of the \$52.8 million.

**3. Water Royalty**



Although the issuance of a water lease is outside the legal jurisdiction of TLTB, FEA has been faithfully paying Water Royalty from 2006 till now.

A total of \$5.1 million has been received and distributed to the respective landowners over 20 years.

4. Annual Rental  
Commencing in 2006, Monasavu's annual rental was set at \$160,000. This amount has been subject to periodic reviews and adjustments every five years, resulting in the current rental figure of \$500,000 per annum.

Since 2006, the landowners have received a total of \$5.6

million in rental. In addition, TLTB maintains on behalf of the Monasavu landowners investments in Fijian Holdings Limited, Fijian Holdings Unit Trust and Unit Trust of Fiji. The value of the investment portfolio is currently \$2.1 million.

Mr. Masiyaka suggests an alternative method of rent calculation i.e., the landowners be paid 40% of the annual revenue generated from the hydro dam. We must point out that the Board's mandate is only in respect of the land lease. The electricity produced by EFL is generated from the water. Under the River and Streams Act 1880, all waters and land beneath it

in all rivers Fiji shall belong to the State. Given the current position of the law of ownership of waters by the State, the calculations that Mr. Masiyaka suggests are clearly untenable as they are unenforceable in respect of EFL's lease.

For completeness, we must also point out that qoliqoli rights that accrue to a landowner pursuant to the Fisheries Act only grant rights to use and access. As pointed out earlier, all waters in Fiji including rivers and streams, belong to the State.

TLTB will make further statements on other issues raised in the videos made by Mr. Masiyaka on the "Lesuvi

Ni Vanua" Facebook page. TLTB remains committed to serving its landowners. This commitment includes ensuring that all public discourse regarding itaukei land and landowners' rights is discussed in a manner that is transparent, factual, and legally accurate.

In the meantime, TLTB urges iTaukei landowners as well as the general public to exercise discernment and caution when consuming information shared through social media channels. We encourage our landowners and members of the public to contact TLTB at any of its regional offices or email [info@tltb.com.fj](mailto:info@tltb.com.fj) for any queries. ■



*Community consultation at Tikina Naloto in the highlands of Ba*

## TLTB takes empowerment message to tikina Naloto in Ba

CEO Mr. Solomon Nata led a community consultation in the tikina of Naloto, covering the villages of Toge, Balevuto, and Nadruvu to explain the Board's new business initiatives and wealth-building strategies for the iTaukei landowners.

Addressing the villagers Mr Nata emphasized that "the time has come for landowners not just to lease their land, but to invest in it, manage it, and grow from it." He outlined how TLTB's new commercial arm, Qelemaroroi Holdings Pte Ltd, will work to create sustainable income

through land development, financing, and joint ventures — all with landowners at the heart of the decision-making.

In each village, the consultation focused on bridging the poverty gap by transforming land into a tool for economic security. CEO Nata stressed the importance of moving from passive leasing to active landowner participation, encouraging each Mataqali to consider registering trusts or cooperatives or even companies to access the Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF).

The villagers received the message with enthusiasm, with many requesting follow-up sessions on business registration, financial literacy, and lease renewal policies.

"This is the most practical vision we've heard," said one elder in Balevuto. "We're ready to use our land for more than just survival — we want growth."

Mr Nata reaffirmed that TLTB's role has evolved — from administering leases to becoming a partner in progress. ■







*CEO Mr Solomon Nata inspecting the logging site with directors of the Dreketi Mahogany Farmers Cooperative in Tailevu*

## A milestone for iTaukei enterprise in forestry

Logging operations have begun in Nukurua, Tailevu, led by the Dreketi Mahogany Farmers' Cooperative — one of the first iTaukei-owned businesses in the logging industry to be supported by the Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF).

During a recent visit to the site, our CEO Mr. Solomon Nata

expressed his admiration for the cooperative's progress: "We're impressed with what can be achieved through the support of TDFF. Without this kind of capital injection at a low interest rate from TLTB, none of this would have been possible."

Thanks to a \$1.3 million loan from TDFF, the cooperative has acquired essential machinery —

including a loader, a 12-wheeler truck, an excavator, two D6 bulldozers, a skidder, a twin cab — to kickstart operations.

Mr. Josese Rabesa Visako, chairman of the Dreketi Mahogany Farmer's Cooperative, shared: "This investment empowers us to sustainably manage our mahogany operations, create

employment opportunities, and contribute to Fiji's economic growth."

This marks a new chapter for TLTB and a proud moment for LOU development in Fiji.

Congratulations to the Dreketi Mahogany Farmer's Cooperative! ■



*Inspection Team at one of the pineapple farm owned by Tevita Manono under TDFF scheme*

## The success of a northern Tailevu pineapple farmer

Meet Tevita Manono from Naloto, Verata — a determined pineapple farmer turning his mataqali land into a thriving source of income and hope for his community.

Through a \$5,000 Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF) loan, we assisted Tevita with building an access road to his farm, enabling him to reach his land more

easily, expand operations, and start harvesting his first pineapples.

At present he has more than 3,000 pineapples on his farm and arrangement has been done to get gravelling done on his farm road.

During a recent TLTB visit, we saw first-hand the remarkable progress — from

the well-cleared farmland to the growing crops ready for market for the second time. Tevita expressed his deep gratitude for the support provided by TLTB and believes that if landowners across Fiji share the same vision and mindset, we can transform iTaukei land into a sustainable source of livelihoods for generations to come.

He's already planning his next phase of development and hopes to secure more funding to further grow his farm and also diversified into vegetable farming which may provide quick turnovers.

This is what empowerment looks like — turning land into livelihoods, and dreams into reality. ■





*Momo na Tui Ba Ratu Filimoni Lagivala Nale while opening the Varavu Subdivision in Ba*

## Official opening of the Varavu Subdivision

A significant milestone for the people of Ba especially for the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) with the official opening of the Varavu Residential Subdivision – a visionary development that brings new opportunities for homeownership, investment, and community growth.

Chief Guest na Momo na Tui Ba Ratu Filimoni Lagivala Nale was full of gratitude for being the first chief and landowning unit in Fiji to give a part of their land for development by TLTB.

Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Hon. Ifereimi Vasu said that that Government, the Board and the people are looking up to TLTB to continue such work for the

full benefit of the iTaukei landowners.

Head of the Ba Methodist Division Rev. Samisoni Daunivala was given the honour to pray over and bless the new development.

Also present were the Turaga ni Vanua and members of the Tokatoka Masekonalagi, Matakali o Yasawa from Sorokoba Village and nearby villages.

Representatives from Government and key stakeholders were also in attendance including: Ba Provincial Office, Ba Town Council, Department of Town & Country Planning, Fiji Roads Authority, Energy Fiji Ltd, Water Authority of Fiji and the Fiji Police Force; and we

were all very grateful for their contribution in making this project a success.

The land belongs to the Tokatoka Masekonalagi, Matakali o Yasawa of Sorokoba Village, and is managed by a Trust on behalf of the landowning unit.

### Subdivision Highlights

- 26 lots in total – 24 residential and 2 commercial
- Land area: 9.75 acres of iTaukei land
- Lot sizes: 800–1000 sqm
- Prices range from \$65,000 to \$120,000
- Total project budget: \$900,000

### Project Arrangement

- Developed in full consultation with the

landowners

- Funded by TLTB, with development costs included in the sale price
- One commercial lot reserved for the landowning unit

### Benefits to Buyers

- Fresh 99-year leases
- Road access to every lot
- Connection to essential utilities – water and electricity
- Close proximity to services and amenities

This development is a testament to what can be achieved through collaboration, respect for landowner rights, and a shared vision for progress. Congratulations to all involved in making the Varavu Subdivision a reality! ■



*Momo na Tui Ba Ratu Filimoni Lagivala Nale*



*Senior Project Officer Tanielo Taukeinikoro showing the details of the Varavu Subdivision*





*At the Nacobicibici Trust Farms who are planting cow peas in Ra*

## Nacobicibici trust leads the way in agricultural development in Ra

In the heart of Nalawa, Ra, the Nacobicibici Trust is leading a powerful shift in land use and community empowerment. Once a sugarcane farming area, hundreds of acres of mataqali land at Nasavusavu Settlement have been reclaimed and revitalized by the Mataqali Nacobicibici for sustainable agricultural development.

In April, the mataqali received \$70,000 in funding to purchase a tractor and working capital to support their farming operations.

During a recent visit, TLTB CEO Mr. Solomon Nata expressed his admiration for the visible progress and dedication of the community.

### Key Highlights of the Development:

- 84 hectares leased for sugarcane farming
- 300 acres planted with high-value agarwood
- 100 acres allocated under the Solesolevaki Framework for communal farming
- 6 acres of cowpeas already planted, with harvest expected in just

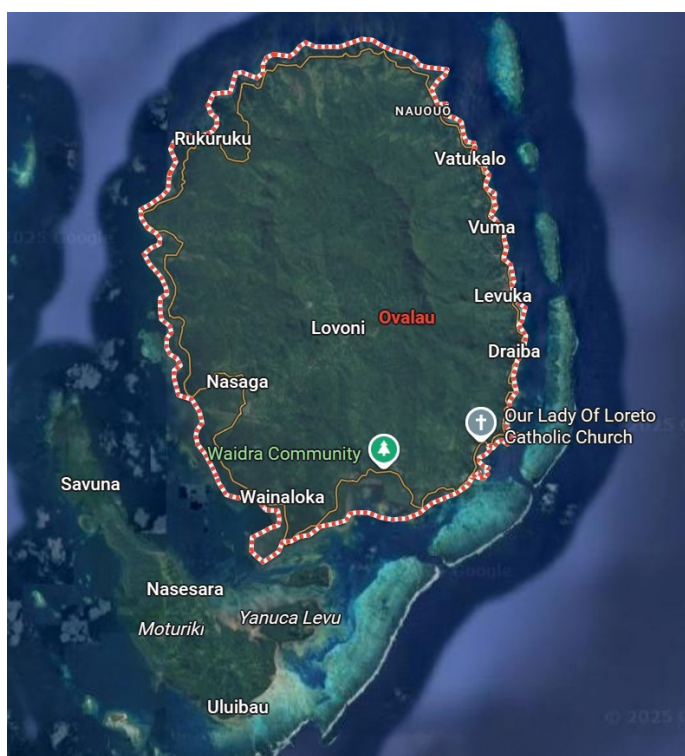
over two months

Additional crops include kumala, cassava, watermelon, cucumber, and ginger, reinforcing the community's commitment to food security and economic resilience.

Turaga ni Mataqali Netani Dokoni shared that the initiative is directly benefiting 25 families, each managing their own farming plots. He also acknowledged the vital support from the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) through the Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF), which made these developments possible.

"There is now a future for us in farming—especially for our children, who are actively involved in daily agricultural activities," said Mr. Dokoni.

The Trust is also spearheading a special farming project for its company, supported through a TDFF loan. This includes a cowpeas project in partnership with the Prime Minister's Office and New Valley, showcasing the power of collaboration in driving sustainable rural development. ■



*New TLTB service centre in Levuka, Ovalau*

## TLTB opens new service centre in Levuka, Ovalau

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) is proud to announce the opening of its new Service Centre in Levuka tomorrow, Wednesday 27th August 2025.

This new centre will serve landowners across the Lomaiviti Group — including Gau, Moturiki, Koro, and Nairai — bringing TLTB's services closer to remote and rural communities.

The Levuka Service Centre will initially operate two days every fortnight, with room to expand as demand grows.

"This office will help facilitate land use planning with our landowners, create new

economic opportunities, promote development projects that can lift the standard of living, and increase awareness of the assistance programs we offer, such as the iTaukei Development Fund."

This milestone reflects TLTB's ongoing mission to:

- Decentralise services
- Empower landowners with knowledge
- Encourage sustainable land development
- Support iTaukei economic growth

Apart from its Head Office in Suva, TLTB now operates:

- 4 Regional Offices Suva,



Nadi, Lautoka, Labasa +  
Tourism Office in Namaka  
• 6 Sub-Regional Offices  
– Nausori, Ba, Sigatoka,

Rakiraki, Korovou,  
Savusavu  
• 4 Service Centres  
Nabouwalu, Vunidawa,

Dada, and now Levuka  
This expansion is another step  
towards ensuring that iTaukei

landowners across Fiji have  
easier access to services,  
advice, and opportunities to  
grow. ■



*GMES Isoa Tuwai with agency representatives while inspecting the extension of the Waiqele Airport in Labasa*

## Groundwork starts for Waiqele Airport extension

*LOU to benefit from the new business opportunity*

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) has commenced groundwork to identify land and respective landowning units that will be required for the proposed Waiqele Airport Extension in Labasa.

A joint inspection has been completed, with representatives from the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, Airports Fiji Ltd (AFL), and TLTB.

GM Estate Services Mr Isoa Tuwai said the Waiqele Airport Extension was part of the Vualiku Integrated Tourism Development Initiative, a joint project of the Fiji Government

and the World Bank. One of the major components of this initiative is the upgrading of port facilities, including airports. Both Waiqele Airport in Labasa and Savusavu Airport have been earmarked for upgrades to cater for ATR 72 aircraft, requiring an extension of the main runway and related infrastructure.

"Currently, World Bank Airport Consultant BECA is finalising the master plan for airport infrastructure development.

"As part of the groundwork, acquisition of existing leases affected by the proposed airport boundary extension (periphery) has

been addressed through joint inspections and ground verification by TLTB, the Ministry of Lands, and AFL, together with landowners from the Mataqali Nabukarabe of Wailevu, Macuata," Mr Tuwai added.

The stakeholders also paid a courtesy visit to the landowning unit (LOU) to present the sevusevu, explain the purpose of the joint inspection, and provide a brief overview of the planned works. The landowners warmly reciprocated, welcoming the development and expressing their willingness to collaborate. They also shared their hopes

of benefiting from potential business opportunities that the project will create in consultation with stakeholders through TLTB.

A commercial lease will also be granted to the landowning unit (LOU) over an expired agricultural lease at the extension area through TLTB. This will allow the landowners to develop Business or Development Plans in consultation with AFL, ensuring they are well-positioned to directly benefit from the airport operations through business opportunities within and not on the fringes. ■

## TDFF loan initiative empowers Nadroga/Navosa entrepreneur

From the village of Jubairata in the district of Mavua, Nadroga/Navosa, Mr. Asesela Tuilokuloku is living proof of how landowner empowerment and access to financial support can transform livelihoods. Through the iTaukei Land Trust Board's (TLTB) Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF) loan initiative, Mr. Tuilokuloku has been able to grow both his transport and agricultural businesses.

With the support of the TDFF loan, Mr. Tuilokuloku purchased a 4-tonne Isuzu carrier which now serves as the backbone of his community transport service. On a daily basis, he helps school children travel safely to their various schools and also provides reliable transport for market vendors commuting to and from Sigatoka Market. Beyond transport, the TDFF loan has enabled Mr. Tuilokuloku to further invest in his farming. On his one-acre



*Mr Aisea Tuilokuloku with his new 4-tonne carrier*





pawpaw farm, he consistently harvests and supplies between 50 to 60 crates to local markets. In addition, he cultivates English cabbage (ghobi), tobacco, and other fresh produce, ensuring a steady supply of vegetables and fruits for his customers.

Mr. Tuilokuloku's story highlights the real impact of TLTB's TDFF loan facility in

building resilience, creating opportunities, and supporting entrepreneurship in rural communities.

This is TLTB's commitment in action — empowering landowners, strengthening small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and building a stronger, more sustainable Fiji. ■



*CEO Solomone Nata at Draubuta Village - another tikina consultation*

## TLTB engages with landowners at Draubuta village consultation

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) continued its nationwide Tikina consultation program with a successful awareness session at Draubuta Village in the Tikina of Tokatoka, Tailevu.

The consultation brought together 21 members of the landowning units representing seven villages under the Tikina: Nabitu, Vuci, Draubuta, Lomainasau, Vanuadina, Nakaile, and Vanualevu.

In his address, TLTB CEO Mr. Solomone Nata outlined the Board's new strategic direction, which was presented and endorsed at the Great Council of Chiefs (GCC) meeting earlier this year. He noted that Draubuta marked the continuation of the nationwide program, with 126 tikina already visited to date.

Mr. Nata's presentation revisited the history and purpose of TLTB's establishment, its role in

managing iTaukei land leases and licenses, and the guiding principle of Cabe ni Lotu upon which the institution was founded.

He further elaborated on the iTaukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF)—its requirements, the highest approved funding so far, and the 100 applicants successfully assisted. Inspiring success stories from Nadi, Naitasiri, and other provinces were shared to demonstrate how the Fund is helping landowners venture into sustainable, income-generating projects.

The CEO also highlighted TLTB's new investment approach, focusing on acquiring commercial properties to invest in iTaukei future development and sustainable growth. Purchases in Nadi and Lautoka have been completed, with Labasa to follow soon.

During the open forum,

landowners raised questions on matters such as iTaukei Land and Fisheries Commission (TLFC) boundary disputes, reversion of freehold and extinct mataqali/tokatoka lands, lease queries, market access, and cooperative registration for women's groups. These were documented and referred to the relevant TLTB teams, including the Nausori office and provincial authorities, for appropriate follow-up.

on a positive note, with landowners commending TLTB's engagement. While TLFC boundary disputes remain a pressing concern, participants welcomed the clarity and direction shared by the Board.

The Draubuta visit reaffirms TLTB's commitment to transparent dialogue, empowering landowners, and driving a forward-looking vision for the sustainable use of iTaukei land. ■

The consultation concluded



*Women is an important part of any decision making by LOU*





*Turaga na Roko Tui Namata Ratu Paula Halaiwalu with the senior managers at Raralevu Village*

## Awareness in Raralevu bring joy to the villagers

The monthly managers' meeting of the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) was held in the vanua Nacobua, Raralevu Village, Tailevu on Tuesday, 16 September 2025, and it was warmly welcomed by the community.

The unity and hospitality of the villagers were evident, with the event led by Roko Tui Namata, Ratu Paula Halaiwalu, from morning until evening. The men and young men were dressed in black sulu and white shirts, while the women prepared tea and lunch for the meeting attendees.

CEO Mr Solomon Nata said the gathering was a reflection of good leadership within the chiefly system, showcasing the respect and

recognition of traditional roles across the two villages of Raralevu and Namata.

Following the meeting, a community awareness session was held for both villages of Raralevu and Namata, with men, women, youth, and children gathering to hear updates they had long awaited.

Mr start the awareness exercise by outlining several key developments within TLTB:

1. Launch of the new Qele Maroroi Holdings Company Ltd
2. Opening of the Taukei Development Fund Facility

3. Introduction of the Taukei Wealth Fund
4. Support for students in education
5. Assistance with land development plans (individual, clan-based, or corporate)

Ratu Jeremaia Halaiwalu, son of the Roko Tui Namata, said the Board had opened a new door for the iTaukei people to progress and take steps toward development, creating opportunities for future generations.

This awareness session was one of the largest ever held by the Board, with questions only paused due to time constraints. Nata noted that the turnout and engagement

showed the people's desire to break free from poverty and pursue ventures such as business and investment.

Mr Peni Sokia, a long-serving officer in the iTaukei Affairs Board, said this was a moment the people had waited for a long time, and it was truly divinely inspired to bring blessings to the land of Nacobua.

The Roko Tui Namata also offered words of blessing and encouragement to Mr Nata and his three general managers and those appointed to serve in the Management Team, which oversees the 14 provinces of Fiji in managing land and natural resources. ■

## Deans Trophy visits TLTB office

The prestigious VODAFONE Deans Trophy made a special visit to the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) office this week – a proud moment for staff and a celebration of one of Fiji's most iconic rugby traditions.

The visit carried with it not just the trophy, but the spirit of unity, discipline, and resilience that school rugby has instilled in young men across generations. For TLTB, it was also a moment of pride as many of its staff are members of the RKS Old Boys Association, sharing in the joy of their school reclaiming the much-touted U18 title after seven years.

Reflecting on the finals, TLTB CEO, Mr. Solomon Nata, extended his heartfelt congratulations to all participating schools and the champions crowned on the day.

"Congratulations to the final winners in all grades, with RKS taking the much-touted U18 category after 7 years, though they were beaten by QVS in the zone final. Congratulations RKS," Mr. Nata said.

The Deans competition continues to be a platform where discipline, character, and leadership are forged values that resonate deeply with TLTB's mission of building a



*RKS Old Boys in celebration with CEO Mr Solomon Nata*

stronger and sustainable Fiji for future generations.

The presence of the Deans Trophy at TLTB serves as a

reminder that rugby in Fiji is more than a sport—it is a vessel of identity, pride, and unity that connects the Vanua, schools, and communities. ■





*Hoisted by the iTaukei community ... Government delegation led by Hon. Manoa Kamikamica in NZ*

## TLTB joins Fiji-NZ Business Mission 2025

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) was proud to be part of the Fiji-New Zealand Business Mission 2025, held from 8–12 September in Wellington and Auckland.

Led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Trade, Co-operatives, MSMEs and Communications Hon. Manoa Kamikamica and Investment Fiji, the mission brought together senior officials, business leaders, and stakeholders from both countries to strengthen trade, investment, and economic cooperation.

For TLTB, this mission was especially significant as it provided an international platform to:

- Showcase Fiji's land

policies and investment frameworks.

- Engage with potential investors in land development.
- Promote sustainable development on iTaukei land.
- Build ties with New Zealand businesses and Māori land authorities.
- Connect with Fijian communities in Wellington and Auckland.

Key learnings included insights from Māori Trusts and Iwi Leaders who have grown their assets from initial settlements into multi-billion-dollar portfolios in tourism, real estate, agriculture, and fisheries – while ensuring employment and opportunities for their people. This experience highlighted

valuable lessons for TLTB as we continue empowering iTaukei landowners through sustainable investment and joint ventures.

Representing TLTB at the mission were CEO Mr. Solomon Nata, Acting Senior Estate Officer (Tourism) Mr. Savenaca Bola, and Landowners Relations Officer Mr. Ilaitia Ralulu.

Mr Nata said TLTB continues to foster its relationship with the Maori tribal leaders who have been very successful in implementing their development models for the Maori people.

For TLTB the highlights were their engagement with the Chairman of the Māori Trust, the Chairman of the Waikato

Iwi Trust, and the Chairman of the Ngāti Manuhiri Trust.

Their stories of resilience and determination after decades of struggle for self-determination are truly inspiring. Today, the Māori economy is valued at NZ\$126 billion. For example, the Waikato Iwi Trust, which began with a settlement of NZ\$170 million under the Waitangi Tribunal (established through the Waitangi Treaty Act 1975), now manages assets worth NZ\$4 billion. Their portfolio includes five-star hotels, retail businesses, real estate, dairy farms, and fisheries. Importantly, every project they undertake guarantees 30% employment for Māori, supported by robust training and capacity-building programs.

Similarly, the Ngāti Manuhiri Trust grew from an initial NZ\$9 million settlement to NZ\$700 million in assets today.

These examples demonstrate the power of strategic investment, cultural resilience, and community empowerment – a vision TLTB shares. For us, this is a reminder of the opportunity and responsibility we carry: to grow, to innovate, and to ensure that development on iTaukei land is sustainable, inclusive, and truly beneficial to landowners, while driving Fiji's economic growth. ■



*Hon. Kamikamica making a presentation to investors*





*Tui Maumi Ratu Karai Vuibau while opening the Vunitavola Subdivision in Tailevu*

## Tui Maumi opens Vunitavola Subdivision

*A First for the Central Eastern Division*

Yesterday marked another historic milestone for land development in Fiji as the Mataqali Vunitavola, under the leadership of Turaga na Tui Maumi, Ratu Karai Vuibau, together with the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Chairman of the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB), Hon. Ifereimi Vasu, officially opened the Vunitavola Subdivision.

Division to be fully planned, designed, and developed by TLTB.

“This project stands as a classic example of what landowners can achieve in collaboration with TLTB – and sets a model for nearby provinces such as Tailevu, Rewa, Naitasiri, and Namosi,” Ratu Karai said.

and the wider community. With roads, water, electricity, and other utilities already in place, future developments will soon include road sealing, a supermarket, service station, and taxi base. Its proximity to Nausori Town, Nausori Airport, and essential services makes it a highly strategic location.

CEO Nata says the shift in

The Vunitavola Subdivision now joins Varavu Subdivision in Ba as one of only two fully-fledged iTaukei residential developments with tarsealed roads, utilities, and ready-to-issue surveyed titles. Several other projects are underway.

This landmark project not only transforms idle land into a thriving residential hub but also demonstrates



*Ratu Karai and Hon. Vasu with TLTB staff, stakeholders and landowners at Vunitavola*

In his address, Ratu Karai described the occasion as a day of thanksgiving, gratitude, and celebration. The project, comprising 24 residential lots and two commercial lots at a total cost of \$2.3 million, is the first subdivision in the Central

He acknowledged TLTB CEO Mr. Solomon Nata and his team, calling them “a vital partner and link to this development project.”

The subdivision, once idle rice land, now promises new opportunities for the Mataqali

TLTB’s approach: “As part of our new strategic direction and business, we are now assisting landowners to develop land ourselves and sell at fair market rates to ensure the true value of iTaukei land is realised.”

how strategic partnerships between landowners and TLTB can deliver sustainable, inclusive development for the iTaukei people. ■





*Malaysian fact-finding mission at the TLTB Boardroom in Suva*

## Strengthening ties in indigenous land management

On Thursday, 11th September 2025, the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) had the honour of hosting a delegation from the Land Surveyors Board of Sarawak, Malaysia, on their special study visit to Fiji.

The visit was facilitated by the Executive Management and Senior Managers, focused on benchmarking best practices in surveys and the management of indigenous land titles.

The Sarawak Board, a statutory and regulatory body established in 2004 under the

Land Surveyors Ordinance, oversees licensing and regulation of land surveyors in the state of Sarawak. Their interest in TLTB stems from our unique role in iTaukei land administration, empowerment of landowners, and sustainable land-use practices.

### Key Discussions & Themes:

- TLTB's role in indigenous land tenure, similar to systems in Australia and Malaysia.
- Importance of land-use planning, surveys, and sustainable development.
- Lease administration,

fund distribution, and landowner empowerment.

- New business strategies through Qelemaroroi Holdings Pte Ltd.
- Proposal for a mutual exchange program to share knowledge and expertise.

The Sarawak delegation commended TLTB's unique trustee model, highlighting how we manage iTaukei land through lease issuance, administration, and sustainable development to ensure fair returns to landowners.

### Benefits of Collaboration:

- Knowledge & expertise sharing
- Stronger land administration systems
- Balancing development with conservation
- Building stronger Fiji-Malaysia ties

We thank the Sarawak Board for their visit and look forward to continuing this partnership to enhance indigenous land management for the benefit of our people. ■

## TLTB assist in mataqali Nautodamu Cooperative 1/3 & 2/3 grant scheme

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) supported Mataqali Nautodamu through its Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF) by contributing \$18,000 towards the mataqali's one-third share under the Northern Development Program and the Ministry of Agriculture's 1/3 & 2/3 grant scheme. On top of the \$18,000 - \$5,700 is sourced from the mataqali's lease money.

CEO Mr. Solomon Nata served as the Chief Guest at the official handover ceremony of farm machinery—a tractor—to Mataqali Nautodamu Cooperative, held last week at

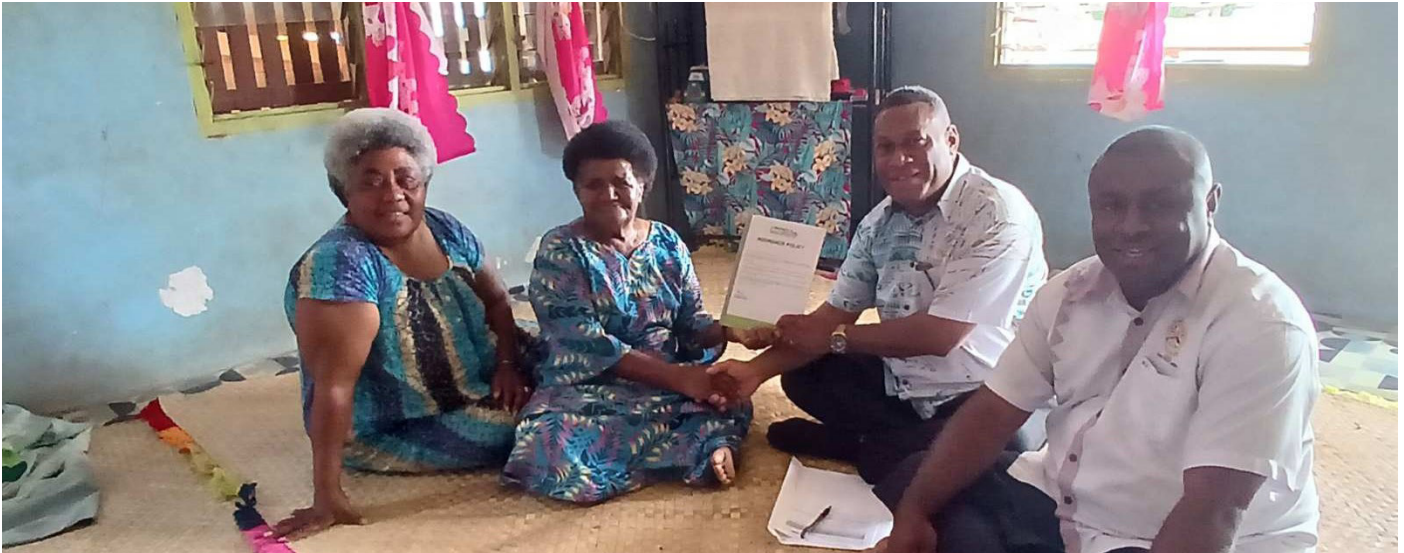
Vunivutu in Nadogo, Macuata. This milestone was made possible through the generous collaboration between TLTB and the Ministry of Agriculture and the Northern Development Plan (NDP).

The tractor, valued at \$50,000, represents a significant advancement for the Mataqali Nautodamu and their families as they embark on their journey into farming and agribusiness. This achievement exemplifies how partnership and dedication can fuel rural development and economic empowerment of the iTaukei landowners. ■



*Mr Nata at Vunivutu Village*





*Head of the Tunuloa Clan at Naviyago receiving the BSP Life insurance policy*

## Business and investment rise in the Tunuloa clan (Naviyago)

The Naduanitu and Nasikali family units in Naviyago village are celebrating after receiving their land lease premium payment for a commercial lease agreement with Tropic, amounting to \$2.1 million.

This payment was made to the Tunuloa clan of Naviyago, which consists of two sub-clans:

- Matarisiga (Tokatoka Naduanitu)
- Tunuloa (Tokatoka Nasikali)

Since this is a one-time lump sum payment, Laite Salusalu, the head of the Tunuloa clan, requested assistance

from TLTB to help plan and manage the funds wisely. It was agreed at the village level that the money would be split into two portions to support each family unit's investment plans:

Tokatoka Nasikali

- \$486,000 for eight two-bedroom houses
- 1 clan house for the Tunuloa clan
- \$100,000 for a BSP Life insurance policy
- \$71,000 for Fijian Holdings Unit Trust
- \$40,000 set aside for a business lease (approx.

1 acre along the Queens Highway) to build a restaurant and car wash

- \$100,000 to purchase a minivan for a passenger transport contract with Fiji Pine Ltd
- Remaining funds to be equally distributed
- Tokatoka Naduanitu
- \$100,000 for a minivan for a passenger transport contract with Fiji Pine Ltd
- \$95,000 for farming equipment and tools
- \$150,000 for a BSP Life insurance policy

• \$250,000 for Fijian Holdings Unit Trust

• \$33,000 in a Trust Account to pay for a commercial lease for Tokatoka Naduanitu to develop a business on their own land near the highway, with plans to build a warehouse

• Remaining funds to be equally distributed

This initiative is expected to bring significant progress, with the lease funds now being used to launch iTaukei-owned businesses. The Tunuloa clan is celebrating this milestone as a major step forward in their development plan. ■

## TLTB boosts Fiji's First Biodiversity Park

More than 50 staff from the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) rolled up their sleeves and planted 600 native plants at Kalokolevu in Rewa – the site of Fiji's first biodiversity park!

With breathtaking views of the Suva Harbour, this park is a symbol of environmental stewardship and community collaboration. The initiative, led by TLTB's Chief Financial Officer Mr. Cama Raimuria, is part of the Board's 2025 Corporate Social

Responsibility (CSR) program.

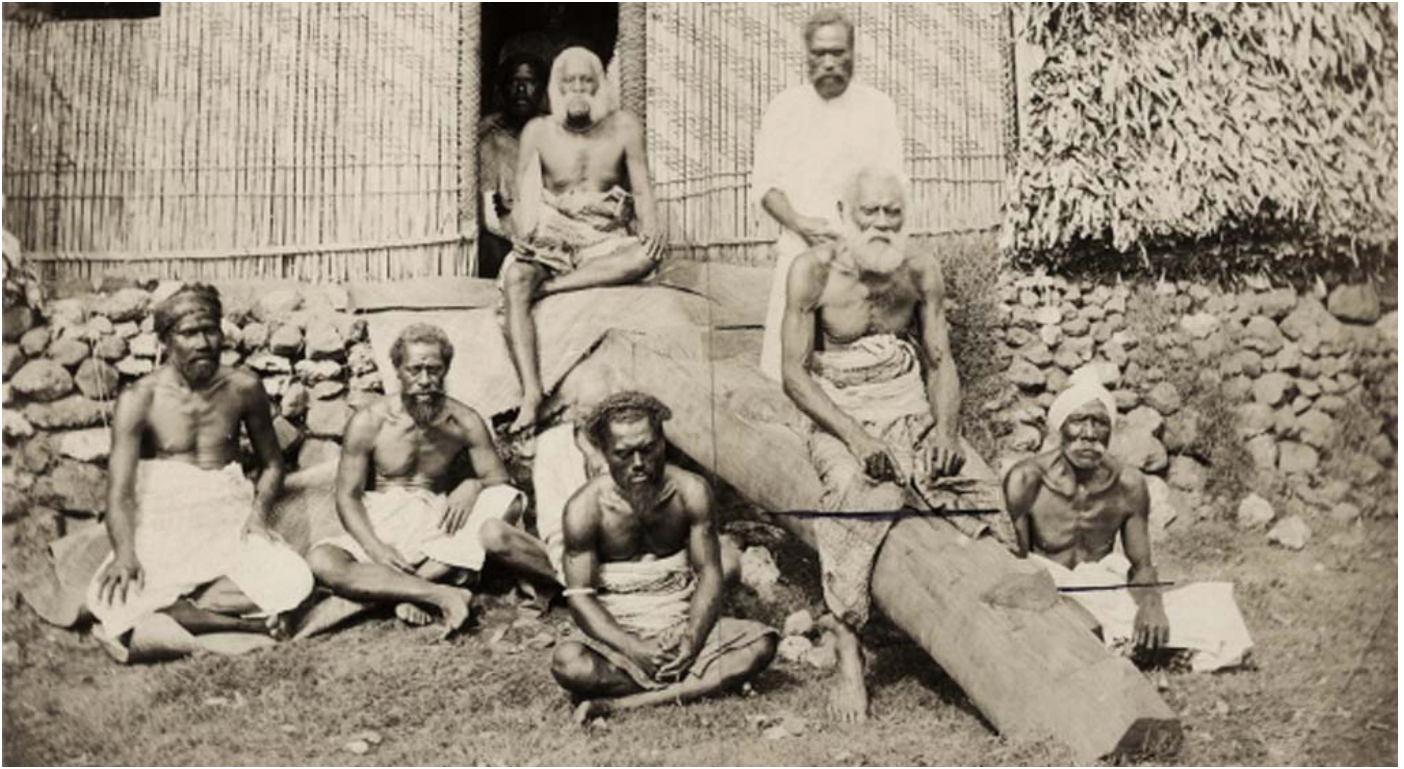
Liuliu ni Yavusa and Turaga ni Mataqali, Mr. Seveci Naisilisili, expressed his heartfelt gratitude for TLTB's support, noting the park's significance for future generations. The Mataqali is currently working on the Deed of Trust and lease process to formalize the park's status.

A big vinaka vakalevu to everyone involved in making this vision a reality! ■



*TLTB staff after planting trees at the Kalokolevu Biodiversity Park*





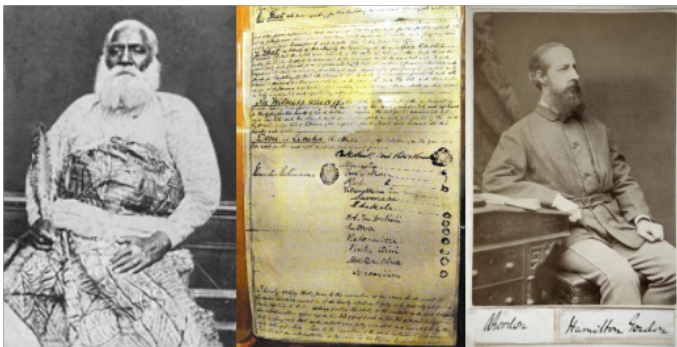
## Land ownership and history

The iTaukei Land Trust Board ("TLTB") wishes to clarify the historical context and legal framework surrounding land ownership in the country, in response to a recent social media post by one Montee Suguta. This statement aims to provide a factual overview based on historical documents, including the Deed of Cession and subsequent land laws.

- in Fiji.  
1876 Land Claims Commission: Following Cession, the colonial government established the Land Claims Commission to investigate land sales that occurred before 1874.
- European settlers had previously acquired land from indigenous Fijians using

Everard Imthurn, the sale of iTaukei land was temporarily permitted for development and public use. Lands acquired during this period were referred to as Native Grants, totalling about 206 parcels. After this time, the sale of iTaukei land was made permanently illegal under the 1905 Native Land Ordinance.

(Crown Grants) or acquired during the 1905-1908 period (Native Grants). Some of these are now owned by the State and are known as State Freehold Lands, while others remain as Private Freeholds and have been subdivided with their own titles. Freehold Lands Held in Trust: A small portion of freehold land is held in trust by the TLTB and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs. Some of these parcels were purchased by the government or the Board on behalf of specific landowning units, who are expected to repay the purchase price to gain proprietary rights.



### Historical Background

This press release highlights key historical milestones that have shaped Fiji's land landscape:

- 1874 Deed of Cession: The Deed of Cession transferred sovereignty over the entire Fiji archipelago, including its land, water, and inhabitants, to Great Britain. This act was the foundational legal document for British rule

goods such as guns and alcohol. The Commission's purpose was to validate these transactions and, if found legitimate, grant a Crown Grant to the new owners. The Commission's work concluded in 1881, resulting in approximately 400,000 acres of land being registered as freehold.

- Native Grants (1905-1908): Between 1905 and 1908, a period under Governor Sir

### Current Freehold Land Categories

The different categories of land ownership in Fiji today are:

- Freehold Lands: These are lands that were either validated through the Land Claims Commission







## Initiatives for iTaukei Land Return

The government in conjunction with TLTB has been involved in ongoing efforts to return land to iTaukei landowners:

### SCHEDULE A LANDS

- Total Transferred: A total of 776 parcels, covering 207,121.80 acres (83,854.98 ha), were transferred to the TLTB in 2002.
- Approved and Published: Most of these parcels, 749 in number, representing 197,130.45 acres (79,809.90 ha), were approved by the Board and published in the Gazette by 2025.
- Allotted: A small number of parcels, 13 in total, covering 2,591.89 acres (1,049.35 ha), were allotted by the Governor in Council under Section 5 of the Native Land Ordinance 1905.
- Exempted: 10 parcels, totalling 7,390.59 acres (2,992.14 ha), were exempted from allotment

because their VKB (Vola ni Kawa Bula) had surviving members.

- Cannot Be Identified: 4 parcels, with an area of 8.84 acres (3.58 ha), were listed in the Gazette but could not be physically identified on the ground.

### SCHEDULE B LANDS

- Total Transferred: A total of 250 parcels, covering 79,885.80 acres (32,342.43 ha), were transferred to the TLTB in 2002.
- Approved and Published: Similar to Schedule A Lands, a large portion of these parcels were approved. A total of 215 parcels, with an area of 79,879.50 acres (32,340 ha), were approved by the Board and published in the Gazette by 2025.
- Unidentified Parcels: A notable aspect of Schedule B Lands is that a significant number of parcels, 35 in total, could not be identified on the ground. These parcels account for a small area

of 6 acres (2.43 ha).

### Overall Totals

- A total of 1,026 parcels of land transferred to the TLTB in 2002 under both schemes.
- The total number of parcels approved by the Board and published by Gazette by 2025 is 964 (749 from SCH A and 215 from SCH B).
- The total area approved under both schemes is 277,010 acres (112,150 ha).
- **Buy Back Scheme:** The Ministry of Lands has facilitated a scheme to purchase freehold land from registered proprietors on behalf of iTaukei landowners, who then repay the government in instalments.
- **Reversion and Reservation:** The Ministry of Lands and the iTaukei Land Trust Board have worked to set aside certain Crown Grants as iTaukei Reserves under the iTaukei Land Trust Act.

Additionally, land acquired for public purposes under Native Grants that are no longer needed can be reverted to iTaukei landowners.

TLTB had begun consultations on some of these reversions however, the process is currently undergoing review by a steering committee set up by government.

TLTB is concerned at the level of misinformation that is being promoted by persons like Mr Suguta and requests the public not to be swayed by ulterior motives that seek to cause ill-will among the people as well as with bodies sworn to uphold your interests.

This press release serves to provide clarity and historical accuracy on a topic of significant public interest, addressing misinformation and promoting a better understanding of land rights in Fiji. ■



The TLTB Building in Suva





*TLTB Head Office Staff on their CSR initiative at the Suva Foreshore*

## TLTB Suva staff roll up their sleeves for cleaner shores

The Suva Foreshore once again felt the commitment and care of the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) staff and management as they returned for their third Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity of the year – a rubbish-picking campaign aimed at promoting environmental awareness and community pride.

With gloves on and bags in hand, the Suva-based team combed the shoreline, collecting bags of litter – much of it left behind by visitors using the area for picnics, gatherings, or leisurely walks.

While national awareness of climate change, conservation, and environmental protection continues to grow, simple acts like proper waste

disposal remain a persistent challenge.

“People often talk about climate change and protecting our environment, but it starts with the small things – like not leaving your rubbish behind,” CEO Solomone Nata said. “We’re doing our part not just to clean up, but to set an example.”

TLTB’s ongoing CSR efforts reflect its broader commitment to sustainability and responsible citizenship – not just in land management, but in helping to build cleaner, healthier communities.

The Suva Foreshore clean-up serves as a reminder that small actions matter, and that the responsibility to protect our environment rests with each of us. ■



*A lot of leases going for renewal in Ba*

## 413 Leases endorsed by the landowning units for renewal

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) has taken a proactive approach in preparing for the expiry of 951 leases in Ba under the Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Act (ALTA) between 2025 and 2035.

To date, 765 of the 951 expired leases from Tikina Nailaga to Tikina Tavua have already undergone full consultation and inspection processes, with the support and participation of respective landowning units (LOUs) in the area.

CEO Mr Solomone Nata said, “

that of the 765 leases we have consulted and inspected so far, 413 have been endorsed by the landowning units for renewal and 311 leases have been confirmed to be reverted back to the landowners upon expiry, demonstrating the Board’s respect for the wishes of the vanua”.

“Our primary responsibility is to protect the interests of our landowners while upholding the principles of transparency and fairness in lease administration,” he said.

“Through extensive consultations and inspections,

TLTB is ensuring that landowners are fully informed, involved, and empowered to make decisions about the future use of their land,” he added.

As part of the ongoing work, 32 leases have already been successfully renewed, and one (1) lease has been subdivided into residential lots—a move that provides alternative development opportunities for landowners. Additionally, 8 other leases have been earmarked for residential subdivision once they expire.

Mr. Nata said this process marks a new era in land management. Landowners now have greater clarity and confidence to shape the economic future of their land—whether that means renewing a lease for continuity, converting to residential use, or regaining full access.

TLTB continues to encourage open dialogue with tenants and landowners to ensure the smooth transition and alignment of all leasing decisions with national development goals and vanua aspirations. ■





*Landowners were appreciative of the successful allotment of SSA and SSB land from the State*

## 112,149.9 ha of State schedule A & B land successfully allotted to landowners

The Chairman of the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) Hon. Ifereimi Vasu has announced the successful completion of the extensive and long-awaited allotment process for State Schedule A and B lands, marking a significant milestone in the management and equitable distribution of iTaukei land. This final report, presented to the Board, confirms the successful transfer and allocation of nearly 1,000 land parcels to iTaukei landowning units.

The comprehensive exercise, which formally began in 2002 following the Land Transfer Amendment Act of 2002, has systematically reviewed and processed land parcels originally transferred from the Ministry of Lands. This initiative aimed to vest these lands in the TLTB as iTaukei lands, empowering the Board to manage and allot them under the iTaukei Land Trust Act 1940.

### Key Outcomes of the Allotment Process:

- **991 Parcels Approved:** Out of 1026 Schedule A and B parcels transferred to TLTB, a total of 991 parcels have been approved by the Board and gazetted by March 2025. This includes 749 Schedule A parcels (approximately 79,809.90 hectares) and 215 Schedule B parcels (approximately 32,340 hectares).
- **Formalizing Land Ownership:** This process has been crucial in formally recognizing and registering iTaukei landownership, allowing for proper land administration and facilitating future development by landowning units.
- **Dedicated Resources:** The Fiji Government has consistently supported this vital work, allocating

an annual grant to the Reserves Commission since 2003 to fund this operation.

"This is a momentous achievement for the iTaukei Land Trust Board and for all iTaukei landowning units," said Hon. Vasu. "The completion of this allotment process provides clarity and security of tenure, enabling greater opportunities for sustainable land use and economic empowerment for our people."

The Reserves Commission, under the iTaukei Land Trust Act 1940, played a pivotal role in conducting inquiries, gathering evidence, and making recommendations to the Board. This involved rigorous procedures, including preliminary meetings, field inspections, and formal inquiries with claimant units.

While most parcels have been

successfully allotted, the report also identified a small number of cases requiring further attention.

These include 10 Schedule A parcels where the Vola ni Kawa Bula (VKB) shows surviving members despite previous declarations of extinction, and 39 parcels (4 Schedule A and 35 Schedule B) that could not be physically identified. The TLTB will work closely with the iTaukei Lands Commission to resolve these outstanding matters.

The Board has accepted this as the final report on the allotment of Schedule A and B lands. The Reserves Commission will now focus on comprehensive administrative work to ensure all documentation, evidence, Board decisions, gazette notices, and land titles are properly archived in both digital and hardcopy formats by December 2025 for future reference. ■





# Valenivolavola ni Matabose ni Qele Maroroi ni Taukei



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