



ITAUKEI
LAND TRUST BOARD

TOSO KI LIU

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Launch of the TLTB Education Scholarship



(L-R) Minister for iTaukei Affairs Hon. Ifereimi Vasu, Tui Suva Sanaila Madanavosa, Prime Minister Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka and CEO Mr Solomone Nata at the launch of the TLTB Education Scholarship at Suvavou House in Suva.

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB), is proud to announce the launch of the TLTB Education Scholarship (TLTBES) Framework, a strategic initiative under the Taukei Wealth Fund.

Prime Minister Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka had the honour of officially launching the scholarship programme and presenting awards to 15 recipients today, representing six specialised fields, and that includes:

- Aircraft Engineering
- Biotechnology
- Civil Engineering
- Commercial Pilot Training
- Land Surveying
- Medicine & Surgery

These fields represent areas of high national and global demand where iTaukei representation has historically been low.

The Hon. Prime Minister said the scholarship is designed to support the development of iTaukei human capital, addressing skill gaps, promoting self-sufficiency, and enhancing participation in key economic sectors.

Speaking in the iTaukei language, "Ni

kalougata vakalevu ni sa rawa me ra wasea na veituraga ni vanua, turaga ni mataqali e Viti na nodraiyou me da vakaiyautaki kina ka tokona yani na nomuni sasaga ena vuku ni vuli toro cake."

It also aligns with national development goals, international treaties such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), as well as the TLTB's Landowners Empowerment Strategic Framework.

Through the Taukei Wealth Fund, TLTB is transforming landownership into genuine, sustainable economic power for iTaukei landowners. The Taukei Wealth Fund is allocated to the following five (5) key areas:

- 5% – Education & Skills Development (TLTB Education Scholarship)
- 25% – Compensation for lease - end improvements
- 20% – Equity contributions and joint ventures
- 20% – Land development and property investments
- 30% – Support for entrepreneurial ventures (Taukei Development Fund Facility)

Minister for iTaukei Affairs and TLTB Board Chairman, Hon. Ifereimi Vasu, said that the scholarship ensures equal opportunities for iTaukei students who must demonstrate academic commitment, financial need, leadership potential, and community involvement, while not receiving other schemes.

CEO Mr Solomone Nata said the programme offers tuition support, mentorship, internships, and pathways into key industries, with recipients required to serve in Fiji after graduation for the term equivalent to the period of their sponsorship. Those working outside TLTB will be required to repay one-third of the scholarship, while those migrating abroad will repay the full amount.

"This initiative is more than a scholarship—it is a commitment to ensuring no capable iTaukei student is held back because of financial barriers. To our recipients: you carry not only your personal hopes and the sacrifices of your families, but also the aspirations of your communities. Your success will inspire others, and your service will strengthen Fiji," Prime Minister Rabuka added. ■

Empowering Our Women Through Vision

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) handed over tables and chairs to the women of Namata Village and Raralevu Village yesterday. This was more than just a presentation of equipment, it was a reflection of a much bigger vision.

In his address to the women of Raralevu and Namata Village, Landowners empowerment General Manager Mr. Peni Qalo, reminded the women that this support aligns directly with the Board's core mission: empowering iTaukei landowners to actively participate in business and entrepreneurship.

He highlighted that through the iTaukei Wealth Fund — established from the 10%

poundage levy approved in 2024 — the Board is strategically investing in areas that build long-term, inter-generational wealth. A significant portion of the Fund is dedicated to supporting entrepreneurial ventures, inclusive of both women and youth-led businesses, as well as education and skills development through the newly launched TLTB iTaukei Scholarship Programme.

Mr. Qalo also touched on the Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF), which provides accessible financing to help landowners develop land projects, invest in agriculture, purchase machinery, and expand small businesses. The

aim is simple: to help our people move from subsistence living to sustainable enterprise.

In encouraging the women to make full use of the equipment for their catering ventures, Mr. Qalo reinforced that the Board's vision is not just about managing land — but about transforming landownership into real economic opportunity.

This small but meaningful support reflects a larger national strategy: ensuring that iTaukei landowners use their resources as a powerful engine for prosperity — today and for generations to come. ■



GM Landowners Empowerment Mr Peni Qalo with the women of Namata and Raralevu village after the presentation

TLTB Engages Water Taxi Operators



Water Taxi is a well-known business initiative in the delta areas of Rewa; an opportunity for TDFP assistance

TLTB Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Solomone Nata, met with water taxi operators at Nasali Landing on Tuesday, 20th January 2026, responding to their request for guidance on how they could benefit from the Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFP).

On his way to a Tikina Consultation in Vutia, Rewa, Mr. Nata and his team made a brief stop at Nasali Landing, where more than ten operators gathered to hear directly from him. The meeting provided an important opportunity for the operators to gain clarity on how TLTB's new

business direction supports iTaukei entrepreneurs.

Mr. Nata is fully aware that the majority of water taxi operators serving the Rewa River passage do not own the boats they operate but instead work under others for a modest wage of around \$100 per week. He explained that through the TDFP, operators can access financing to purchase boats and outboard engines at an affordable interest rate of just 2.5 percent, with no deposit required. The TDFP initiative is aimed at empowering iTaukei entrepre-

neurs by strengthening their enterprises and enabling them to become true owners of their businesses.

The announcement was met with enthusiasm, and since the meeting, the TLTB team has already begun receiving calls from interested individuals eager to take advantage of the facility. This engagement reflects TLTB's commitment to empowering landowners and fostering sustainable economic opportunities for iTaukei businesses in Fiji. ■

TDFF Empowers iTaukei Business in Nadroga

Another successful recipient of the Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF) was celebrated today in the province of Nadroga.

Mr. Joji Nasavuiliagi from Sanasana Village has taken a big step forward in strengthening his business to boost marine fishing and tourism activities.

CEO Mr. Solomon Nata officially presented Mr. Nasavuiliagi with a fiberglass boat and 60HP outboard engine, valued at \$20,583.50 in total.

After completing the full assessment process, Mr. Nasavuiliagi met all TDFF eligibility and compliance requirements, leading to the approval of his funding request.



Full gear for fishing and tourism activities at Sanasana Village

With strong industry experience and technical skills, Mr. Nasavuiliagi already operates an established business. However, like many entrepreneurs, limited access to financial capital has been a major challenge.

With TDFF support, he can now:

- Expand operations and increase production capacity
- Upgrade critical equipment
- Diversify services
- Improve efficiency, competitiveness, and resilience

Nadroga.

Collateral Provided:

- Assignment of 50% lease proceeds from two Distribution Units
- Bill of Sale over a 23-foot fiberglass boat and engine

TLTB is proud to support iTaukei businesses through TDFF—driving growth, resilience, and community development. ■

This investment will enhance sustainability, create new revenue opportunities, and contribute positively to economic growth in



Lease funds fully utilised for purchase of this 23-foot fibreglass boat

Kobakobau Investment Receives TDFP Funding



Kobakobau Investment securing an industrial lease at Kasavu

Ratu Nemani Kobakobau, from Sote Vugalei, Tailevu was presented with a Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFP) loan of around \$100,000 from the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB).

While making the presentation, CEO Mr Solomon Nata said the TDFP is funded through the iTaukei Wealth Fund, established from the 10 percent poundage levy approved in 2024.

“We are strategically investing in initiatives that build long-term, inter-generational wealth for our people. A significant portion of the Fund is dedicated to supporting entrepreneurial ventures, giving landowners the tools to grow their businesses and secure a stronger future for their families,” he said.

Mr Kobakobau, the founder and director of Kobakobau Investment, is a registered and licensed sawmill operator specializing in forestry support services, including non-wood forest product collection, logging, sawmilling, wood planning, and wholesale timber trade.

He became emotional as he expressed his heartfelt gratitude to TLTB and the Ministry of Forestry, acknowledging their support in turning years of hard work into meaningful progress. He shared that the assistance from TLTB brings renewed hope for achieving his business goals and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Using these funds, Kobakobau Investment is set to increase its production of furniture, including beds supplied to Courts Fiji Limited, from 60 to 120 units per month.

The TDFP support will also help secure a permanent workshop using a TLTB-leased land, strengthen working capital and enabling the business to expand operations and more create jobs.

The operation has created employment for 10 family members in the Nasinu operations and five skilled family members in the Nukurua operations, demonstrating the company’s commitment to establishing sustainable income streams for its community. Kobakobau Investment is

currently meeting its local supply commitments to Courts Fiji Limited, facilitated through Gaunavou Cooperative Limited, which operates under an MOU with the Ministry of Forestry.

The company also maintains supply arrangements with Vision Investments Limited, with a standing order to deliver 120 beds per month.

In addition to beds, Kobakobau Investment manufactures and supplies other mahogany-based products, including chest boxes, coffin boxes, sawn timber, and various other timber items.

The sawmill, operating under License No. 310/2025 issued on 15 May 2025, is currently based in Nasinu and plans are underway to relocate it to a permanent workshop in Kasavu.



Infinity Pacific Expands Again

Tokatoka Sautorotoro of Korovuto Village, in Nadi trading as Infinity Pacific Pte Limited, has proudly entered the second phase of their business expansion with the purchase of two brand-new vehicles to boost their transportation services for tourists in Nadi.

With an investment of around \$98,000 which was sourced from TLTB's Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF) – their second loan request, with the first already fully settled, proving strong cash flow and smart business growth.

What makes this event even more inspiring is that loan repayments are secured through an assignment of 30% of lease proceeds, ensuring sustainability and confidence in their repayment capacity.

While handing over the two vehicles to the trustees, CEO Mr. Solomone Nata said that Tokatoka Sautorotoro stands as an example of what can be achieved when we shift our mindset — creating wealth and opportunities for our people.

Since the incorporation of the company in 2023, Infinity Pacific has focused on transfers, tours, and property development. Starting with two Ace vans, they've steadily grown to meet the rising demand in Fiji's tourism sector.

This achievement is a true testament to vision, discipline, and the entrepreneurial spirit of the iTaukei people especially for Tokatoka Sautorotoro.

For them more vehicles mean more capacity, and more opportunities — Infinity Pacific is driving tourism forward in Nadi!



Mr Nata presenting the key for the new vehicles to Infinity Pacific

First Church Service for 2026

This morning, the Fiji Police Force Chaplain, Assistant Superintendent of Police Rev. Joeli Mawi, led the very first TLTB Church Service and CEO Session at the TLTB Building in Suva and broadcasted live via Teams across all regional and sub-regional offices in Fiji.

Rev. Mawi shared a powerful message from Ephesians 6:10–13, reminding our people to:

- "Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power."
- "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

- "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world, and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."
- "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

Following the service, staff joined the first CEO Session where Mr. Solomone Nata spoke directly about his concerns and his vision and expectations for the year ahead. His message inspired confidence as staff look

forward to a fruitful 2026 in serving our landowners and all stakeholders with dedication and unity.

Mr Nata was also emphasizing on the notion of "changing mindset" for a better "servant attitude" which was well received by staff. ■



SP Rev. Joeli Mawi

Kavugalei Investment Cultivate Idle Land for Growth

The Yavusa Labasa, consisting of Tokatoka Kavugalei and Mataqali Kavugalei, under the leadership of Turaga ni Yavusa and Turaga ni Mataqali Brian Vunibola, continue to demonstrate the strength of unity and vision.

On Wednesday (28 January 2026), CEO Mr Solomone Nata presented a tractor to the LOU so support their commercial farming operations in Labasa. The initiative was made possible through the Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF).

Originally from Nasekula Village, Labasa, Macuata, the 43 surviving members (30 males, 13 females, including 11 youths under 18) now reside at Naqai Settlement, Labasa. Together, they manage 61.5 acres of land across 10 parcels—17.6 acres leased out, 7.6 acres reserved, and 43.9 acres available for development.

To maximize their land's potential, the Yavusa has

registered Mataqali Kavugalei Investment, focusing on commercial farming, utilizing the balance area of 43.9 acres in which 30 acres have been lying idle. Their vision is clear: reduce reliance on lease income and cultivate idle land for sustainable growth.

From September last year, Turaga ni Yavusa requested to freeze their new lease premium to assist them in registering their company to generate more income to the members of Yavusa Labasa. Now they have used those funds to purchase a tractor to assist them in cultivating their unused land, rather than relying too much on their lease monies.

Key Achievements:

A total of 54 active leases generated \$31,354.20 in lease income and certain percentages will be deducted to TLTB and title shareholders and the balance to be distributed amongst members. Total lease funds of \$126,839.91, with \$62,600.50 allocated for the purchase of farming equipment.

Acquisition of modern tools including:

60/70 HP farm tractor

3-disc plough

Harrow

With support from TDFF, Yavusa Labasa is reinvesting lease income into:

- Expanding agricultural production
- Offering tractor hire services
- Exploring contract opportunities with Fiji Sugar Corporation
- This initiative reflects the determination of Yavusa Labasa to build financial sustainability, empower their members, and protect the legacy of their land for future generations.

TLTB proudly acknowledges their vision and commitment to transforming land into lasting prosperity. ■



Mr Nata presenting the tractor at Nasekula Village to Tokatoka Kavugalei, Mataqali Kavugalei

Matailobau Coop the First Commercial Facility in Naitasiri

Matailobau Co operative Limited, located at Vunidawa Government Station have decided to construct the first ever Business Hub in the highlands of Naitasiri to serve farmers and rural communities in the interior of Naitasiri.

Yesterday, CEO Mr. Solomone Nata announced a key financial boost, approving the payment of one-third of the Yavusa Matailobau's contribution, while the Government will cover the remaining two-thirds. This funding will support the construction, project equipment, and essential earthworks, with the total cost provided through TLTB's Taukei Development Fund Facility estimated at nearly \$100,000.

In his speech, Mr. Nata highlighted that iTaukei own only about 5% of businesses in the country, and in terms of overall value, it is quite nominal. "This is why TLTB have been allocating funds each year to support the iTaukei in utilizing their land, establishing businesses, creating value, and building wealth for future generations," he added.

Matailobau Cooperative Chairman, Mr. Kalaveti Rokobukete, shared that they have been working on this project for the past three years. He expressed his gratitude that the combined efforts of the Yavusa, the committee, the Government machinery, the iTaukei Trust Fund Board (TTFB), and most importantly the TLTB, have come together to enable visible progress on the ground.

Through this assistance, they are planning to create a business space where they will have a supermarket, a restaurant, a bakery, a barber shop, a car wash, a taxi base, a market and an internet café.

The establishment of the multi functional commercial hub represents a first of its kind iTaukei led business initiative in the interior which is expected to enhance local economic activity by providing a centralised commercial facility that supports business operations and generates sustainable employment opportunities for the LOU members.

It will also play a key role in advancing iTaukei rural economic development by reducing reliance on distant urban centres.

In addition, the project will stimulate entrepreneurship and the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by providing market access opportunities for farmers and small scale enterprises.

And also build institutional capacity by equipping Matailobau Co operative and the LOU members with enhanced skills, governance structures, and operational systems required to effectively manage and sustain commercial operations as such. ■



The new commercial site leased by the Matailobau Cooperative, Vunidawa, Naitasiri

Vasu Hands Over Truck to Naiyalasa Investment

The Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Chairman of the TLTB Board of Trustees, Hon. Ifereimi Vasu, 10 February 2026 officiated at the handover ceremony of a 9-tonne dumper truck to Naiyalasa Investment Pte Ltd, a company fully owned by the Mataqali Naiyalasa, Yavusa Nakurukruvakatini of Naraiyawa Village in Namosi.

The truck was purchased through the TLTB's Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF) under a loan arrangement requiring no deposit with an interest rate of 2.5 percent.

In his speech, Hon. Vasu said that the development of our resources requires both capital and knowledge, encouraging the Mataqali to seek support from the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and TLTB. He added that that such support would enable the Mataqali to advance their business and entrepreneurial activities, and at the same easing traditional responsibilities to the vanua, lotu, and matanitu.

During the Talanoa session following the handover, CEO Mr. Solomone Nata took the opportunity to reaffirm the TLTB's new business direction. He expressed his gratitude for the dedication and hard work of the Mataqali, noting that their achievements serve as a strong example for others to follow—particularly the three villages of Naraiyawa, Naqarawai, and Wainimakutu.

Located in the interior of Namosi, Naraiyawa Village sits at the border of Naitasiri, Navosa, and Namosi—one of the most rugged areas in the highlands of Viti Levu. Despite its remote setting, the community has established Naiyalasa Investment Pte Ltd which now operates as the commercial arm of the Mataqali Naiyalasa.

The company specializes in the production of dalo, cassava and other short-term cash crops,

and is driven by the collective efforts of youths, women, and men of the Mataqali.

The company has already acquired a digger to support land development. The company holds an agricultural lease covering 46.36 hectares of land, valued at \$250,000, with a primary focus on supplying dalo, cassava and vegetables—crops in high demand. Naiyalasa Investment also owns a 4-ton Isuzu truck and an excavator, both of which are actively used as income-generating assets for the Mataqali.

Few months back Mr Nata officiated the handing over of farming assistance close to \$200,000 in costs to 32 farmers at Wainimakutu village, about two (2) miles down the road from Naraiyawa, to Mataqali Naleya, Yavusa Naleya.

The opening of the TLTB fortnightly service office at Dada, Namosi is having domino effect in land utilisation and business ventures in such remote area. ■



TLTB Chairman Hon Ifereimi Vasu presenting the new truck to the elders of Mataqali Naiyalasa in Namosi

Nasarava Water Catchment Issues Resolved

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) confirms that after a series of consultations the landowners of the Nasarava Water Catchment (Mataqali Nabukarabe, Nakama Village) in Labasa; the landowners have formally accepted the terms of the lease offer.

Responding to recent media reports suggesting insufficient consultation with Mataqali Nabukarabe, CEO Mr. Solomon Nata said that there have been several consultation meetings with the landowners, Ministry of Lands and Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) to agree on the lease and its conditions.

"TLTB's priority is to ensure that such agreements deliver sustainable benefits to landowners while also supporting Fiji's broader development objectives," he added.

The latest consultation was on 28th January 2026 when Mr. Nata convened a joint meeting with WAF

and the Trustees of Mataqali Nabukarabe.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Trustees of Mataqali expressed their satisfaction with the revised lease offer, together with specific conditions to be included in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Mr Nata added that the Board remains committed to conducting all lease arrangements with transparency, fairness, and integrity.



Nasarava Water Catchment

10,025 itaukei Students Supported Through TLTB's Education Assistance

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) today reaffirmed its commitment to supporting iTaukei students through the Early Withdrawal Minors Education Assistance, a program introduced in 2024 to allow access to lease funds for immediate educational needs.

Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Chairman of the TLTB Board of Trustees, Hon. Ifereimi Vasu, said that 2,356 students were assisted at the start of this year and to date, 10,025 students have received educational support for the 2024, 2025, and 2026 academic years.

This initiative was introduced after recognizing the need to support our children at the time they require assistance. The purpose was to ensure that part of the minors' funds could be utilized for primary and secondary education, with balance invested until the children reached the age of 18.

Hon. Vasu said the Early Withdrawal Minors Education Assistance has proven to be useful to our iTaukei students in support of government education programs in primary and secondary levels.

"It ensures that lease funds are

used meaningfully to meet essential immediate educational needs, to avoid dropouts and it demonstrate the Board commitments to support the education of our children as absolutely vital to socio economic development of our country," Hon. Vasu added. ■

Vuaniquele Expands Freight Capacity

The Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Chair of the TLTB Board of Trustees, Hon. Ifereimi Vasu, handed over a nine tonne Isuzu truck to Mr. Akariva Vura under the Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF), an initiative launched in 2024 to support iTaukei entrepreneurs in establishing and expanding commercial ventures.

The purchase was financed through a \$90,000 loan provided by TLTB under the TDFF's 2.5% interest and no-deposit loan initiative.

Mr Vura, a schoolteacher by profession, is a sole trader entrepreneur from Nacavanadi Village, Gau, who has grown into one of Lomaiviti's most committed grassroots entrepreneurs through his business, known as Vuaniquele Investment Pte Ltd. His business provides a critical logistics link for communities across the Lomaiviti maritime region, enabling the movement of goods, supporting access to essential services, and sustaining economic activity.

For the past five years, Mr. Vura has been running a vital freight service along the Suva-Gau-Suva route — a lifeline that keeps goods, supplies, and essential services moving across the Lomaiviti group of islands. Operating out of Qarani, the island's main administrative and shipping hub, his service has become a trusted connector for families, farmers, fishermen and small businesses.



Hon. Vasu presenting the key to Mr Akariva Vura while CEO Mr Solomon Nata looks on

But his contribution doesn't stop there. Vuaniquele Investment has grown into a multi service enterprise supporting everyday life on Gau and other parts of the Lomaiviti Group through:

- Freight Services – Reliable cargo transport linking Gau to Suva and Suva to Gau.
- Fuel Distribution – Supplying fuel to Nacavanadi and neighbouring villages in Lomaiviti, supporting households, small-scale enterprises, and maritime transportation.
- Bakery Operations – Fresh daily bread for the Gau and Lomaiviti community.
- Copra Trading – Engaging in the copra business, supporting local farmers and contributing to the island's agricultural value chain.

These four ventures reflect Mr. Vura's deep commitment to uplifting his community and expanding essential services across the island.

To continue growing these operations, Vuaniquele Investment Pte Ltd sought a \$90,000 loan from TLTB under the TDFF initiative, approved and successfully handed over on Friday, 2nd January 2026.

Mr Akariva Vura's journey is a reminder of what dedication, vision, and community spirit can achieve. His work continues to strengthen Gau's economy and support families across Lomaiviti.

Toutou Expands his Transport Business

Misaele Toutou, a former schoolteacher who resigned from the Ministry of Education in 2018, has since built a reputable and trusted transport operation. Drawing on his background in education, he has demonstrated good business acumen and a commitment to high quality customer service in the Tikina of Savatu in Ba.

Initially operating with a five-ton truck, Mr Toutou now requires an eight-ton truck valued at \$99,000 to expand his services and meet growing demand.

This was still a dream until he came to the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) with a plan to expand his transport service and meet increasing demand in the village of Lewa and the Tikina of Savatu; a place where no public bus service is available.

The \$99,000 was sourced through a loan under TLTB's Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF) and was formally

presented by CEO Mr Solomone Nata last week.

Mr. Nata said that the TDFF assistance program will expand and be rebranded as the iTaukei Bank. Once an iTaukei individual is registered in the Vola ni Kawa Bula (VKB), they will be eligible to apply for a loan with no deposit required and an interest rate of only 2.5 percent.

"We are supporting iTaukei businesses almost every week, with the clear objective of helping rural communities and villagers both in the interior and along the coastal islands. No one will be left behind—this initiative is for all of us. Whether you are a landowner or not, whether you hold lease money or not, this support is for every iTaukei," he added.

Now fully engaged in the transport industry, Mr Toutou operates under formal authorization from the Lautoka Education Office and the Ba Provincial Council.

These endorsements reflect the reliability and quality of his services, as well as his contribution to meeting daily school transport services for the last seven years across Drala Village, Vatukotokoto, Votualevu Settlement, Savatu Primary School/Lewa SDA School, and Nadarivate Secondary School. His focus has been on ensuring safe and consistent transport for schoolchildren.

In addition to his school transport contracts, he has diversified his operations by subcontracting with Fletcher Higgins to provide rural transport services covering several unsealed roads, including Lewa Road, Lewa Nabutautau Road, Nadrau Road, Monasavu, and Naga Road. The subcontract forms a key part of his broader income portfolio, further strengthening the sustainability of his business. ■



Mr Misaele Toutou with relatives receiving his brand-new truck from TLTB

GFIL Lease is Outside itaukei Reserve of Mataqali Vico

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) wishes to reaffirm its position regarding the recent social media video posts—often initiated by Mr. Jiutasa Bilavucu on Facebook—concerning the Goodman Fielder International (Fiji) Pte Ltd (GFIL) lease at Vunivaivai, Nakelo, Tailevu.

We hereby wish to categorically refute the claims made by Mr. Bilavucu on social media, which are inaccurate, misleading, and potentially defamatory. Mr. Bilavucu has made a series of allegations, including the assertion that the land leased to GFIL is iTaukei reserve land, and that TLTB acted unlawfully in granting the lease. These claims are false and misrepresent the facts.

At a sitting of the Reserves Commission held at Nauluvatu, Nakelo in the 1950s, Mataqali Vico submitted claim RC 65, requesting that the entire 40 acres be set aside as iTaukei reserve. After considering the submissions, the Reserves Commissioner recommended that an area of 22 acres out of the total 40 acres requested be set aside as iTaukei reserve for Mataqali Vico. The balance area of 18 acres was not set aside as iTaukei reserve as it was already leased out under the Garnett Dairy lease.

When the Garnett lease expired in 1955, three new leases were issued for 30 years each to Vunivaivai Dairy Company, Badri Narayan and Ram Parag, and were statutorily extended for 20 years. There were no issues raised by landowners then.

GFIL applied for a lease in 2003 and after a series of consultations with Mataqali Vico, Namara, Vunikavika, and Vutuvo, a new lease was issued over 32.9837 hectares after payment of premium. All the mataqali received payments from premium and rent from then till now.

In 2011, Mataqali Vico with Mataqali Namara filed legal proceedings in the High Court challenging the



LOU protest at the GFIL lease at Vunivaivai is a mistake by them

issuance by the Board of a lease to GFIL (HBC 222/2011 Ratabua v iTaukei Land Trust Board). Mataqali Vico alleged that there were no consultations or consent of the Mataqali when the GFIL lease was issued. The Mataqali sought an order for damages for TLTB's alleged breach of its duty as trustee. The Court dismissed the case, ruling that TLTB has the discretion to lease iTaukei land in the best interests of the landowners. The Court found that TLTB conducted extensive consultations with the Mataqali Vico and further determined that the land under the GFIL lease does not fall within the iTaukei reserve of the Mataqali Vico.

Therefore, the lease entered into by TLTB and GFIL on 20 June 2003 was valid, as the Garnett Dairy lease was already in existence when the Mataqali Vico, Namara, Nabua, Vunikavika and Vutuvo submitted their application for the reservation of the land.

The map that Mr Bilavucu is posting on his Facebook is the iTaukei Land & Fisheries Commission (TLFC) survey plan that was re-surveyed by the Surveyor General and signed on 30 November 2023 as SO 10956. It merely redefines and confirms the mataqali land boundaries for Lot 95, Mataqali Vico and Lot 96, Mataqali Namara on Map M3/2.

The reserve portion is an encumbrance registered in 1950 as Reserve Claim 65 over Mataqali Vico over 24 acres. The reservation also applies to Mataqali Namara, Mataqali Vutuvo, Mataqali Vunikavika and Mataqali Nabua with variable areas affected.

TLTB maintains its position—supported by documentary evidence and reaffirmed by the High Court—that the land leased to GFIL is not a reserved land. TLTB has also responded and met with the Mataqali Vico, including Mr. Bilavucu, to clarify its position and to confirm that the lease issued was proper.

As demanded by Mr Bilavucu, a meeting was held with Deputy Solicitor General, Surveyor General, TLFC's senior surveyor, TLTB with their representatives, Mr Bilavucu and Roko Manu, where it reaffirmed the status of the land for the two mataqali, its reserve status and the lease issued to GFIL. ■

TLTB Negotiated the Return of Part of Unused itaukei Land

The iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) CEO Mr. Solomone Nata, convened a meeting at Dakuinuku, Sawakasa, Tailevu; following formal communication from the landowners of Mataqali Sauniveikau, who requested surrender of buffer area to access to their back land through the catchment lease.

Mr Nata said the lease with Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) as tenant, originally issued for 99 years from 2009 for the Namau Water Catchment, also covered the land belonging to the Mataqali Sauniveikau of 237 hectares.

A week ago, following negotiations between TLTB and WAF, to convey it was confirmed that a partial surrender of the lease has been approved of all the Mataqali land. In addition, WAF has also agreed for mataqali to access through the remaining catchment area under the lease to their land.

Turaga ni Mataqali, Mr. Epeli Duvaga, expressed gratitude for the transparency of the process and

acknowledged the collaborative efforts between TLTB and WAF. He highlighted the importance of continued guidance from TLTB in identifying sustainable and beneficial land development opportunities.

Mr. Nata encouraged the landowners to explore sustainable land use and consider applying for Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF) loans to maximize the potential of their land and maximizing its value for future generations. ■



Team Leader Korovou Nacanieli Lewesi with CEO Mr Solomone Nata at Dakuinuku Village

TLTB Leads Coastal Clean-Up

Staff from the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) Head Office participated in a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, carrying out a clean-up along the Suva Foreshore at Nasese.

This activity reflects TLTB's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and community wellbeing. The team was joined by representatives from the iTaukei Trust Fund Board (TTFB) and Pacific Building Solutions (PBS), working together to collect and properly dispose of rubbish along the coastal area.

Their collective efforts contributed to improving the cleanliness and preservation of the shoreline, highlighting the importance of collaboration in maintaining a healthy environment. The initiative reinforces TLTB's role in promoting sustainable practices within the community. ■



TLTB staff always happy to give back to the community and cleaning up our surrounding environment

Vanua Wasavulu Leads the Way in Agriculture and Business

The Tui Labasa, Ratu Jone Qomate, of Mataqali Wasavulu, Yavusa Wasavulu in Nasekula Village (Labasa), continues to set a powerful example of how landowners can successfully utilise their resources for sustainable development.

After fully repaying his \$47,000 Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF) loan in 2025—used to purchase a 39HP tractor—Ratu Jone is now applying for \$83,000 to expand his commercial farming operations in sugarcane and rice. This brand-new tractor was successfully handed-over to the vanua on 9th January 2026.

Speaking in the iTaukei language during the handing over in Labasa yesterday, Ratu Jone thanked the TLTB leadership in Suva and the team on the ground in Labasa for their support.

“This is the fourth generation of our family planting sugarcane in Labasa. We started with a small tractor, and now we are ready to grow further. It shows that we can utilise our land and run successful businesses.”

With demand for land preparation increasing across the Northern Division, a larger tractor is needed to boost efficiency, improve soil preparation, and service more farms. Discussions are also underway with the Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) for a potential partnership that would see FSC hiring his tractors for land prep services—creating a new and reliable income stream for the business.

Despite recent challenges in sugarcane yields, the first tractor has already improved cultivation. A second, larger machine will further strengthen productivity and support farmers across the region.

As part of the application, Turaga ni Mataqali - Wasavulu (Nasekula), Turaga ni Qali - Wasavulu (Nasekula), and the Turaga iTaukei – Tui Labasa have committed 50% of their lease income toward loan repayment.

CEO Mr. Solomone Nata also acknowledged the vanua Wasavulu for leading by example.

“The leadership of Tui Labasa is a role model for all landowners—showing that yes, we can do it.”



Tui Labasa Ratu Jone Qomate receiving a tractor under TDFF from CEO Mr Solomone Nata

The New Vuda Peace Park

The President of Fiji – Na Turaga na Tui Cakau, Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, led the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Vuda Peace Park at the historic Lomolomo Gunsite in Lautoka.

The event was attended by the Tui Vuda, Ratu Eparama Tavaiaqia, cabinet ministers, military officers, ex-servicemen, landowners and other invited guests. The event was also attended by the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and TLTB Chairman Hon. Ifereimi Vasu and CEO Mr Solomone Nata.

Ratu Naiqama said the Lomolomo Gunsite is an important part of Fiji's history.

He said that building the Vuda Peace Park shows Fiji's respect for those who served to protect not only Vuda but Fiji as well and its commitment to preserving heritage sites for future generations.

The Lomolomo Gunsite was built during World War II as part of Fiji's coastal defense system overlooking the Nadi Bay with Denarau Island from the other side of the harbour.

The new Vuda Peace Park will cover 12 acres and include:

- Military museum with modern facilities
- Homes for veterans
- Veterans' hospital
- Indoor sports centre
- World War II chapel
- Monuments to national heroes, including the late Sukanaivalu
- Duke of Edinburgh military museum
- Regional cultural and convention center
- Hotel to boost tourism and local economy

Project Director Epeli Naivalu said the park will be more than a memorial. It will be a living heritage site where future generations can learn about Fiji's military history and its role in promoting peace in the region and the world.

The Vuda Peace Park is expected to become a major national landmark, encouraging remembrance, education, and community involvement, while also supporting heritage protection and economic growth in the Western Division. ■



Tui Vuda Ratu Kitione Tavaiaqia at the foundation-laying ceremony at the new Vuda Peace Park in Lautoka

Over \$200,000 in TDFFF Assistance



Hon. Ifereimi Vasu continues to support TDFFF initiative given the provision of low-interest loan to the iTaukei people to do business

The Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFFF) continues to support the growth and empowerment of iTaukei landowners through financial assistance aimed at strengthening economic participation and sustainable development.

Yesterday, the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Chairman of the iTaukei Land Trust Board, Honorable Ifereimi Vasu, presented approved funding assistance totaling over \$200,000 to four successful applicants under the TDFFF.

In his address, Hon. Vasu reminded the recipients of the purpose behind the establishment of the Taukei Development Fund Facility.

He noted that for too long many iTaukei communities were unable to fully realise their true economic potential. With the Board's new direction and continued support through initiatives such as the TDFFF, he expressed hope that more iTaukei individuals and landowning units will prosper and actively participate in Fiji's growing economy.

The four successful applicants represent three provinces – Ba, Bua and Serua – and operate in key sectors including tour operations, eco-tourism, agriculture, and infrastructure services.

Among the recipients was Tokatoka Sautorotoro of Korovuto Village, Sikituru, Ba, which received \$98,283.50 to purchase two vehicles to expand their pool transportation services for tourists. This marks the second time the landowning unit has accessed the facility after successfully repaying their first loan.

Dama Village Investment of Dama, Bua was approved \$100,000 to support its road vegetation control works under an agreement with the Fiji Roads Authority. The funding will assist with the purchase of a 3-ton truck and working capital to commence operations.

From Serua Province, Ms. Ana Gasaucalayawa of Nasamita Village, Deuba received \$20,475 to develop an eco-tourism venture offering tour and adventure activities along the Upper Navua River. The funding will support the payment of a Tourism Lease Offer, purchase of essential equipment, and provide working capital.

Also from Serua, Mr. Iosefo Vakalelebula of Culanuku Village was approved \$20,412.88 to support his farming development project, which includes land clearing, establishment of a nursery and poultry shed, and fencing.

Speaking on behalf of the recipients, Ms. Ana Gasaucalayawa expressed sincere gratitude to the Chairman and the Board's Chief Executive Officer for initiating the facility, noting that such support provides meaningful opportunities for iTaukei communities to pursue business ventures and build sustainable livelihoods.

Through the Taukei Development Fund Facility, the Board continues its commitment to empowering iTaukei landowners by providing access to financial assistance that promotes entrepreneurship, community development, and long-term economic resilience. ■

NG 187 Returned to Landowners

Vitogo Village witnessed a historic milestone on 15th January 2026 as Prime Minister Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka formally handed back Native Grant 187 to its rightful owners — the five mataqali of Tunuloa (Vitogo), Matarisiga (Vitogo), Vidilo (Namoli), Nadakuvatu (Saru), and Noi Batiri (Namoli).

CEO Mr Solomone Nata said that the event marks not only the return of Native Grant 187 from the State to its rightful (native) landowners, but also the reaffirmation of our collective responsibility to protect and empower iTaukei communities.

“This handover is a testament to the enduring bond between land and the native Fijians. As custodians, we encourage landowning units to harness and fully utilise this God-given gift for the future of our people and the generations to come,” he added.

Mr. Nata conveyed his gratitude to the Minister of Lands and his team for presenting a renewed submission to Cabinet following the extensive peripheral survey process. He further expressed sincere appreciation to the Prime

Minister for graciously officiating the occasion.

The land, spanning 3,177 acres, was originally acquired by the colonial government on 25 September 1926 for the Lautoka Water Supply Catchment.

It was purchased for £637, the land remained under State ownership for nearly a century.

In 1992, a paper was submitted to the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) requesting its return, as it was no longer used for its original purpose. The Board endorsed the submission and resolved that it be submitted to the Minister for Lands.

In 1999, Cabinet approved the reversion of the land under Section 8 of the State Lands Act, which empowers the Minister, in consultation with Cabinet, to declare State land unused for its intended purpose to be reverted to its original owners.

Last year, a new submission was submitted to Cabinet to review the Cabinet decision of 1999 which was again endorsed for completion and returned to the landowners.

handover as a reflection of Government’s commitment to fairness, respect, and partnership with Indigenous landowners.

He encouraged the landowning units to use their restored land productively, highlighting opportunities in agriculture, tourism, business, and other ventures.

With support from government agencies, the land is expected to generate employment, strengthen local communities, and secure a more prosperous future for generations to come.

The ceremony, held at Vitogo Village this week, were also attended by the Momo na Tui Vitogo Ratu Jone Sovasova, Minister for Lands & Mineral Resources Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo, Minister for Youth & Sports Hon. Jese Saukuru, CEO Mr Solomone Nata, Chairman of the Ba Provincial Council Ratu Meli Tora Tavaiqia, Acting Commissioner for the iTaukei Lands and Fisheries Commission (TLFC) Mr Kelepi Curuki and Reserves Commissioner Mr Mosese Ratubalavu. ■



Landowners of Vitogo gathered at Vitogo village for the successful reversion of their land back to them (from State Land to iTaukei Land)

Success Does Not Come Overnight



Mr Moape Batigai at his farm in Sawani

For 17 years, he operated a BBQ stall in the heart of Nausori Town, working long hours to support his family while holding onto a bigger dream — to farm his own land and build something sustainable for future generations.

That turning point came when Mr. Moape Batigai was finally able to secure an Agricultural Lease from his own mataqali land at Sawani Village, allowing him to properly develop his land and formally access support under the Taukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF) from the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB).

Now farming on 4.6262 hectares of mataqali land along Koroi Road in Sawani, Mr. Batigai has transformed opportunity into measurable success.

With assistance from the TLTB, he was able to:

- Extend his family home, adding approximately \$10,000 in value and contributing to a dwelling now valued at \$40,000
- Expand cultivation of dalo, cassava, ginger, vegetables, and fruit-bearing trees, with current crops valued at over \$5,000
- Strengthen pig farming operations
- Diversify into cattle grazing
- Invest in the future by planting 50 coconut trees to support long-term income and sustainability

Today, his farm produce is sold on a wholesale and retail basis at the Suva Municipal Market, popular eateries and along the Sawani main road, generating

stable income. With his harvest, he was also able to pay for his children's education and also support his community financially by employing young men from his village to tend the farm.

Mr. Batigai's message to all iTaukei Landowning Units (LOUs):

"We must move away from the old mindset of fearing that we will lose our land if we lease it to our own people. Leasing opens pathways to success for all LOUs. It allows support and assistance to help maximise the yield and prosperity of our land."

From a roadside BBQ stall to a thriving agricultural enterprise, Mr. Batigai's journey is proof that secure land access, combined with hard work and proper support, can transform lives. ■



ITAUKEI
LAND TRUST BOARD

GROUND LEASE PAYMENT OPTIONS

THE FOLLOWING TLTB OFFICES ARE OPEN FOR DIRECT PAYMENTS:
SUVA, NADI, LAUTOKA, NAUSORI, RAKIRAKI, BA, SIGATOKA, LABASA, KOROVOU
AND SAVUSAVU OFFICES.
Mon - Fri 8:30am - 3:00pm

TLTB Tenants should provide Lease Reference (Lease Account No. or Lease File No. or File Ref Number) when making payments to Banks, Post Fiji, MH or Max Val-u to ensure your account is updated in a timely manner. Please note that we do process payments on a daily basis for bank accounts that have been provided on your invoice lease statement.



Bank Account:
1230137
ANZ Swift Code:
ANZBFJFX



Bank Account:
000128850046
WBC Swift Code:
BREDFJFJ



Bank Account:
9803367755
WBC Swift Code:
WPACFJFX



Bank Account:
8066882
BSP Swift Code:
BOSPFJFJ



Any Post Fiji Outlet



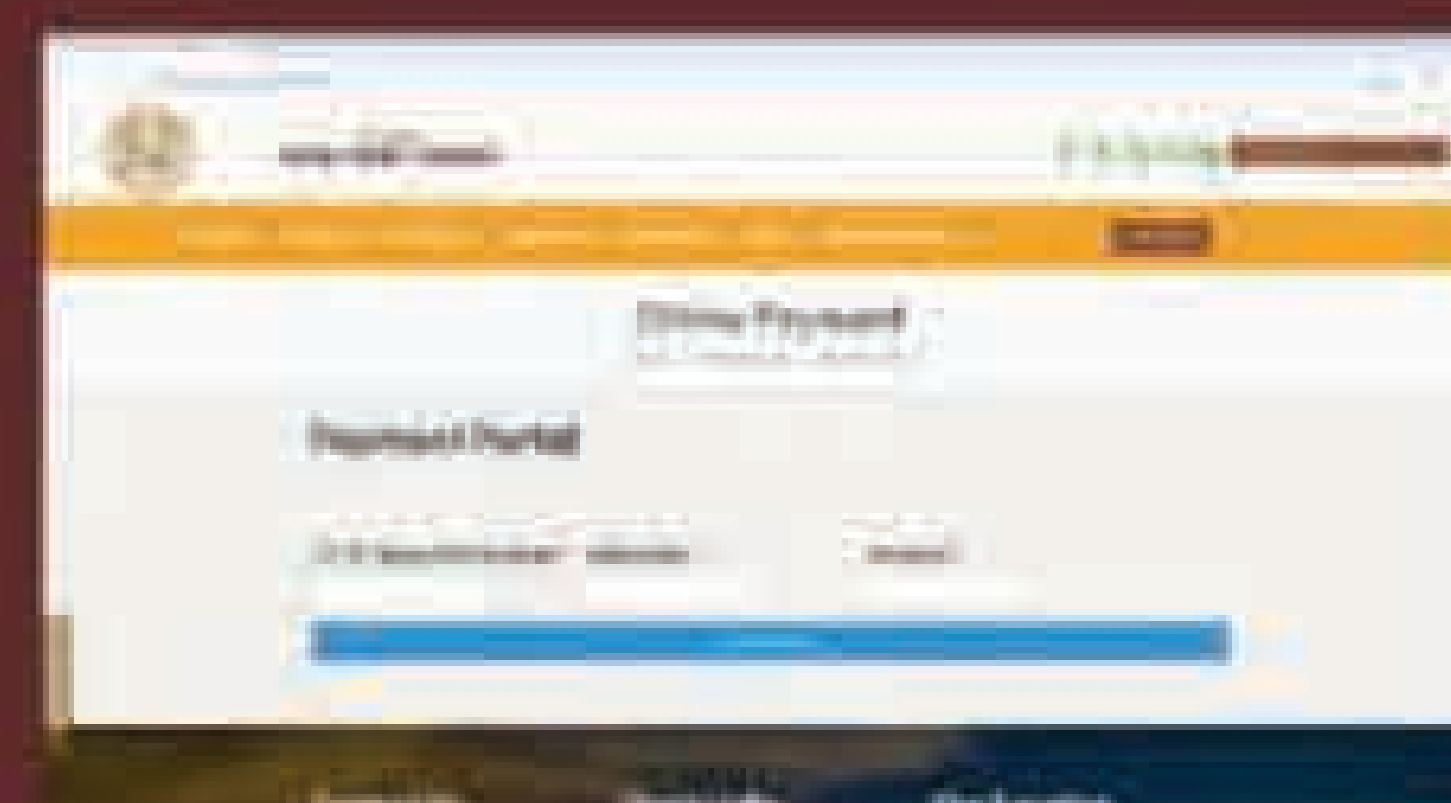
Any MH FIJI Outlet



Any Max Value FIJI Outlet



Please ensure to include your lease reference (lease account number or lease file number) when making your payments using the bank accounts mentioned. Alternatively please send an email to info@tltb.com.fj to advise us that you have made a payment together with the payment receipt from your bank. For any queries on making lease payments, email financialteamfinance@tltb.com.fj and the team will respond within one working day.



For visa card payment, TLTB offers the following facility on tltb.com.fj under payment options and online payment to make payments.