



The

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# REFORMER

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## WAY FORWARD



**T**he Fiji Corrections Service has taken another proactive measure in its Yellow Ribbon Project campaign aimed towards the successful re-integration of ex-offenders back into society, with the implementation of its CARE Network.

The Community Awareness and Rehabilitation of Ex-offenders (CARE) Network program is now being piloted in Serua and Namosi with the formation of a committee to improve the effectiveness of ex-offenders' rehabilitation in the community.

Its main target is to have a concerted and coordinated approach towards supporting rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-offenders back into society.

It also ensures that the CARE Network initiates from day one of when an offender is incarcerated until the day of their release.

Roko Tui Serua, Seru Ratukalou is thankful to the Fiji Corrections Service for being proactive saying this initiative would be integrated into their Provincial Development plan.

"Too often these people (ex-offenders) are neglected by the community but we will ensure through this program that they are helped as well as their families so that they become responsible sons of Serua as well as better citizens of the country," Mr Ratukalou said.

"We will be discussing this at our village development meetings in the four districts on August 17 and it will certainly be a key point of

discussion in our provincial meeting in November where we hope to discuss our way forward and what needs to be done to rehabilitate ex-offenders."

Assistant Roko Tui Namosi, Watisoni Raikadroka said the launch of the YRP last month has opened their eyes to extend a helping hand to the ex-offenders who were often looked down at and not cared by the community; even by their families and relatives.

He said they would be discussing about the CARE Network at the District level meeting on July 17.

"We are going to action our plans and continue to discuss effort to help these people become productive members of Namosi."

Fourteen committee members were identified as part of the CARE Network for both provinces. The Fiji Corrections Service launched its inaugural YRP in the form of a workshop at the Pearl Resort in Pacific Harbour in June. The approach used was a paradigm shift from an open air gathering exercised previously with the main objective on achieving more awareness on community action for the rehabilitation of ex-offenders.

The Fiji Corrections Service will continuously engage with both the province to monitor the establishment of the CARE Network before they independently operate.

Similar forums are planned for other provinces. *Pictures on page 10*



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

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**Consistency is the Key**



Reverend Josefa Tikonatabua

## Possess a Make-A-Difference Mind Set

If you desire to accomplish something great and really want to see it happen, you need to possess a "make-a-difference attitude". Anytime you don't believe you can make-a-difference, you won't. How do you cultivate a solid make-a-difference mind set?

### Believe you can make a difference.

Every person on this earth-including you, has the potential to make a difference. But you can do it only if you believe in yourself and are willing to give yourself away to others. As Helen Keller (who was an American author, political activist, and lecturer. She was the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree) ever said: "Life is an exciting business and most exciting when lived for others." You may not be able to help everybody, but you can certainly help somebody.

### Believe the person you share with can make a difference.

We've read about something called a reciprocity rule

## Padre's Message

"For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7. Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so. 8. And those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

Romans 8: 5-8

in human behavior. It states that over time, people come to share similar attitudes toward one another. In other words, if we hold a high opinion of you and continue to hold that opinion, eventually, you will come to feel the same way. That process builds a connection between us and it opens the way for a powerful partnership.

### Believe that together you can make a big difference.

Mother Teresa is a living example of a truth she once expressed: "I can do what you can't do, and you can do what I can't do. Together we can do great things." No one ever achieves alone what he can do when partnering with others. And anybody who does recognize that falls incredibly short of her potential.

If you want to connect with people and take them with you to a higher level, recognize the difference you can make as a team, and acknowledge it at every opportunity.



Losalini Bolatagici

## Editor's Note

rehabilitation programmes within and outside of prison, FCS continues to look at ways to ensure these lives are saved and that they do not re-offend and return to the controlled life behind bars.

But while we put in all our effort to change these inmates, we also feel the need to put in more emphasis on ensuring that the general public are on par with our work. Through our YRP, continuous effort has been made to change the perception and the negative stigma associated with this. Our new initiative, the CARE (Community Awareness and Rehabilitation of Ex-Offenders) Network was recently launched in a form of a workshop for Serua and Namosi. The main objective was to provide a concerted and coordinated approach to create awareness, generate acceptance and inspire action within the community of Serua and Namosi to support the rehabilitation and re-integration of ex-offenders.

For sure we know that incarceration is a basic tool of criminal justice, but when the sole purpose is punishment and confinement, offend-

ers respond, in the privacy of their own minds, with resentment and defiance. The thinking that led them to offend is not extinguished by punishment; it is reinforced.

But the positive outcome from the workshop is an indication that people now understand their roles and responsibilities. They now know that FCS cannot be working in isolation and needs the participation and co-operation between all levels of government and community in order to necessary to deliver effective community programmes for ex-offenders. Proactive measures need to be identified to prevent future crime in the two provinces. The CARE network is to support the development of community programs for ex-offenders and their families.

It is only our hope that this program is the missing link to our rehabilitation effort in ensuring that the YRP becomes more effective. However, regardless of the outcome, we will continue to uphold the image of our organisation and live up to our roles as Captain of Lives.

Happy Readings!

# New Lautoka Remand Centre Commissioned

Chief Justice Anthony Gates commissioned two brand new remand centre blocks at the Lautoka Corrections Centre on April 29.

The new remand centre, worth \$2.9million will surely alleviate overcrowding issues currently experienced.

Both blocks can accommodate combined, a total of 190 remandees. This brings the total capacity for the Remand Centre, including the one currently used, to 292 remandees.

"These new blocks will alleviate the overcrowding issues at the Lautoka Remand Centre," Mr Gates said.

The old block will continue to be used

and the old block itself will undergo renovations it is hoped in 2017/2018. The centre is manned by 58 corrections personnel. An administration block was also commissioned.

Mr Gates also revealed that a new Female Remand Centre and Corrections Centre was built in 2015 at a total cost of \$1.55m.

However, the building would be brought into use once an administration block and an internal and perimeter fencing was completed.

Mr Gates added both facilities would be able to comfortably house 24 females each and would be manned by 10 corrections officers.

"Civil works for the new K9 and Emergen-

cy Control Unit are awaiting Government Tender Board approval.

"It is hoped the office building, accommodation and kennels will be completed by July this year. This section will be manned by 10 corrections officers."

Present at the opening ceremony was Fiji Corrections Service Commissioner Commander Francis Kean and other senior officers, Commissioner Western Manasa Tagicakibau, Minister for Fisheries Semi Koroilavesau; assistant Minister for Health Alex O'Connor, members of the legal fraternity, church and vanua leaders and various government and sugar industry dignitaries.



# Potential Leaders Nurtured

The sleepless nights, tough physical exercises and seven weeks of sacrifices were finally paid off for the 18 officers who graduated from the PCO (Principal Corrections Officer) and CCO (Chief Corrections Officer) Leadership Course in June.

A total of 25 officers had marched in at the Naboro Academy on May 1 for the course aimed at nurturing potential leaders for the institution.

The course is part of the Commissioner's Intent to enhance learning and improve the leadership skills of the officers in order to have a well established and strong institution.

Also included are some Corrections Officers Class A (COA)

– identified by the Commissioner of Corrections, Commander Francis Kean, and six cadet officers.

The training was opened on May 1 by the FCS Chaplain, Reverend Josefa Tikonatabua who highlighted that that the strength of an institution depends on its leaders.

“Developing and nurturing potential leaders is the most challenging assignment, because when we grow a leader we grow our institutions. The FCS cannot grow until its leaders grow within. The strength of any institutions is a direct result of the strength of its leaders. Weak leaders equal weak institutions. Strong leaders equal strong institutions. Everything rises and falls on leadership,” Rev Tikonatabua said.



# New Recruits Join the Force

**T**HE Fiji Corrections Service gained 60 new officers in April following the passing out of the new officers in Naboro.

Addressing the new recruits, Chinese Ambassador to Fiji, Zhang Ping, who was chief guest at the event, reiterated the need for them to uphold their responsibility as civil servants.

"We are all public servants and we must put the interest of the people first," he said.

The new recruits marched out of Naboro after undergoing a 16-week basic recruitment course.

Corrections Commissioner, Commander Francis Kean said they had plans in place for the rehabilitation of inmates.

The baton of honour was awarded to Edward Thomas Work of Kulukulu in Sigatoka.

Meanwhile, Ambassador, Zhang Ping toured the Naboro Correctional Facilities to see firsthand the rehabilitation programs undertaken by the Fiji Corrections Service.

He was also briefed on our future development plans and the ultimate aims of the organisation.

Mr Ping was impressed on the work undertaken and the plans already in place to move FCS forward.



# Order of Fiji Awards



Commissioner of Corrections, Commander Francis Bulewa Kean was awarded with the Officer of the Order of Fiji by His Excellency the President, Major General Retired Jioji Konrote in recognition for his contribution to the country.

The Investiture ceremony was held on April 7 at the State House whereby two other nominees from the Fiji Corrections Service were honoured.

Mrs Jane Ricketts received the Medal of the Order of Fiji award for her continuous support in teaching art to prison inmates and former Commissioner of Corrections, Brigadier General Iowane Naivulurua, who is now Fiji's ambassador to China, received the service medal award for recognition of long and faithful service to the Fiji Corrections Service.

President Konrote said praised the total five recipients for their effort saying it was encouraging to see Fijians' contribution to the country.

"I strongly believe that when we recognise the exceptional and outstanding contributions of individuals, we are directly elevating them to a status that they rightfully deserve.

"The five people are now part of the other 75 persons who were awarded with Order of Fiji medals with the Fiji College of Honour.

"So to award 75 deserving recipients adds to the fond memories of 2016. This continues our journey towards cultivating a culture of appreciation," said Mr Konrote.

## Professionalism Commendation

A heroic effort by COC Silivenusi Cavidu while on duty earned him a Commissioner's Certificate of Commendation.

He was honoured for his professionalism and steadfastness in the execution of his duties at the Minimum Correction Centre.

He was hosted to a morning tea by the Commissioner of Corrections, Commander Francis Kean in May, attended by other senior officers of FCS.

"You have contributed to the safety and security of the Institution, established an exemplary benchmark for the Fiji Correction Service," the Commissioner said.

COC Cavidu was attacked by the inmates after he confiscated a contraband item from one of them but he managed to handle the situation without any harm being caused to either parties.



# FCS work receives top award

The Fiji Corrections Service was invited to be part of a two-week Joint Public Affairs Training Course conducted by the Australian Defence Force and in collaboration with the Republic of Fiji Military Forces at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Nabua in June.

Representing FCS at the course were Public Relations Officer, Losalini Bolatagici and Chief Officer at the Naboro Medium Corrections Centre, PCO Hendry De Watcher who joined others from the RFMF, Fiji Police Force and Department of Information.

Conducted by the 1st Joint Public Affairs Unit (JPU), the training included photographing and basic editing, video production and standard public affairs officers' roles and responsibilities.

These roles include providing advice to their Commanders in Times of crisis, responding to media queries and how to continuously maintain the image of their various organisations.

"We often take the roles of the media lightly and this course has enlightened us on importance of the media to any organisation," PCO De Watcher said.

Officer Commanding of the 1st JPU, Major Dougie McGuire commended the effort and the hard work of the participants who have shown exceptional skills and outstanding work within the short period of learning.

Chief guest at the Certificate Presentation was the Australian Ambassador to Fiji, Her Excellency Margaret Twoomey.

She reminded the participants that good effective communication gives people the confidence. Mrs Bolatagici was given the Best Leadership Award as her team's work was recognised as the Best Media Package for the practical assignment they were given.

Her team was tasked to cover the rehabilitation programs undertaken by the Fiji Corrections Service and to try and weed out the negative perception against FCS. The team spent a day in Naboro covering this assignment.

Mrs Bolatagici said she was thankful to the Commissioner and the RFMF for the structured learning and the opportunity to learn from one of the best in the business.



## Dog handlers enhance skills



Five officers from the Dog Section of the Emergency Unit graduated from a 12 weeks course held in Naboro in June.

The course was to enhance their skills as dog handlers and to also bolster their relationship with their dogs.

A dog handler and his dog train for a specific purpose. As for the Fiji Corrections Service, the main purpose for dogs is to assist officers in tracking down escaped inmates.

The training was conducted by Maika who just recently obtain a certificate from New South Wales, Australia.

During graduation day, some of

the officers were dressed in inmates' uniform to showcase some of the dogs' skills and their abilities in tracking down escapees.

Deputy Commissioner of Corrections, Senior Superintendent Jo Kulinidilo reminded officers on the need to be true to their roles.

He said the Service was relying in their experiences and knowledge to assist them in recapturing inmates.

Also for the first time, the Fiji Corrections Service is training one of its dogs to specifically assist in detecting drugs.

The drug dog is hoped to be used at every admission centre to assist in the confiscation of contraband items.

# Pushing through the hurdles

**E**IGHTEEN year-old Adi Kabuta Vukivou has been through many hurdles in life.

She was forced to take on the responsibility of caring for her younger siblings at the age of 13 when her father went to prison and her mother re-married. She lived through the hardships of living with relatives until today.

But despite of her rough journey early in life, she is determined to overcome all obstacles in order to reach her goals of success.

A far cry from the lonely girl growing up in Ra where her paternal grandmother is from, Adi Kabuta is now two years away from attaining her university degree. She is currently pursuing her studies at the Fiji National University's College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in Koronivia.

Adi Kabuta is grateful for the continuous support provided by the Fiji Corrections Service. Through its Chaplain's Office, she was assisted financially by the Salvation Army Church to help her get through this new trimester.

"We continue to visit to see her progress and the same applies for her father," FCS Chaplain, Reverend Josefa Tikonatabua said.

Her father is an ex-offender. He was released early from the Suva Corrections Centre six months prior to his discharge date based on assessment carried out and through good behaviour and positive attitude of the inmates.

He was released late last year under a farming rehabilitation program at Natokaika village in Naitasiri under the care and responsibility of Reverend Tikonatabua.

"Jekope is still continuing with his



Captain Vilikesa Bogi of the Salvation Army hands over the financial assistance to Adi Kabuta

farming and we hope to help build his home at his village in Wainibuka once his crops are harvested," Rev Tikonatabua said.

Reverend Tikonatabua said they were grateful for the support rendered by the Salvation Army Church which was delivered to Adi Kabuta's aunt where she lives today.

"Adi Kabuta was emotionally grateful and her family showed indebtedness and they acknowledged the donation. I believe the assistance will elevate her to a successful end. Rehabilitation of ex-offenders is of wide significance as it contributes to the total development of their lives and helps reintegrate them back into the community where they truly belong," he added.



Jekope Vukivou with the Commissioner of Corrections and other senior officers during their visit to his farm early this year



# Be an example, drivers told!



Defensive Driving Course workshop conducted by the Land Transport Authority (LTA) on Friday, June 30, Commander Kean said all drivers must take extra precautions all the time.

"Be mindful of the number plate of the vehicles you are driving. You must be an example to all the drivers in the country and never forget that you are always carrying the name of your organisation," he said.

He has also reminded the drivers to take good care of the vehicles they are driving like their own.

Apart from further enhancing the drivers' skills and knowledge, it was also an opportunity to re-emphasise the responsibility held by drivers while on the road.

It reminded the drivers about the lives of their passengers and the need for them



The Commissioner of Corrections, Commander Francis Kean has reminded officers in the Transport Department of the Fiji Corrections Service (FCS) to be good examples to the rest of the drivers in the country.

Addressing the 40 participants at the

to appreciate and be aware of the fact they are sharing the road with other road users.

LTA Manager for Road Safety Education, Veronica Malani said road safety is everyone's responsibility.

The one day workshop was held at the Coffee Shop in Korovou.

## Rehabilitation for Inmates



Eight inmates from the Suva Corrections Centre and the Women's Corrections Centre underwent a week of training on the art of making jewelries under our rehabilitation program.

Conducted by two professionals from Australia at the Tagimoucia Art Gallery in Suva, the initiative is aimed at up skilling and upgrading the capabilities of inmates to prepare them for when they are released from prison.

Sydney-based Design and Visual Art teacher, Natacha Brochard and her Fashion and Jewelry designer mother, Linda Walker-Muchelknautz are sharing their experiences teaching them the basics of jewelry making techniques using materials such as beads, wire, glass, metal, and clay.

They hoped that the knowledge and skills obtained from this training would allow the inmates to start their own business when they leave prison.

Mrs Muchelknautz said we should always keep them encouraged because they have enormous potential.

"It is my philosophy that when we plant the seed of inspiration, creativity is birthed. When we are focused, we get good things out from that and it is only when we are unfocused that we lose a lot of things in life."

She added that this kind of program would allow the inmates to focus on what they want to do with their lives after prison.

Commissioner of Corrections, Commander Francis Kean thanked the mother and daughter team for their contribution to the inmates' wellbeing.

"Hopefully, when they are released from our care they are able to set up small business enterprises for themselves. This is all part of our rehabilitation so that they are able to sustain themselves when they return to our community," Commander Kean said.

# YRP Launch for Serua - Namosi!



# 3rd Quarter Pictorial



Rev Waisale Ketedromo officiates at the promotion ceremony after taking part at the Easter Church Service in Naboro



Former Corrections Commissioner and High Commissioner to China Brigadier General Ioane Naivalurua pays a courtesy visit to Commander Kean



Dr Massey of the Office of the Human Rights Commission visits the Naboro Medium Centre



Local entrepreneurs visit the Corrections Facilities with an Indonesian delegation to learn about our Small Business Units



# Rookie of the Year!

COC Raijeli Daveua was awarded the World Rugby by Women's Rookie of the Year for her impressive performance in the last season of the World Rugby Women 7s Series.

The award was given in June, at a ceremony held in France which coincided with the Clermont-Ferrand 7s. It was received by national coach Iliesa Tanivula on behalf of the Olympian as she missed the last leg of the series to prepare with the Fiji Pearls for the super club netball competition in Nelson, New Zealand, on July 2 to 7.

The dual international said she was overwhelmed by the award after only a year of rugby experience.

"Being a newbie playing the different sport made me want to learn more. Making my debut last year and being part of the Olympic Games made me realise my passion and I thank everyone that had supported me in my netball and rugby careers," she said.

Daveua hopes to make the team to the 2018 World Cup Sevens.

Fijiana finishes fourth in World Rugby Women's Sevens Series



COC Daveua with Headquarters colleagues

## Warden impresses in London



COC Josua Vakarunabili made an impressive debut in London and has established his name as a key player for our national 7s team.

The towering forward, after a remarkable performance for the Wardens Gold team in the local competition, was a given

a chance by national coach Gareth Baber.

He did not disappoint at all and performed up to the expectations of the team, management and the ardent rugby supporters.

COC Vakarunabili is based at the Suva Corrections Centre.