

Villagers during the Solevu at Nakavu Village in Nadi.



**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

CALL FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights has commenced its review of the **Heritage Bill (Bill No. 25 of 2023)**.

On 21 November 1990, Fiji became a party to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and National Heritage, which was adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ("UNESCO") General Conference in 1972 (**World Heritage Convention**).

Fiji, as a State party to the World Heritage Convention, is required under the World Heritage Convention to adopt legislative and administrative provisions to give effect to the World Heritage Convention. Therefore, the Heritage Bill 2023 ('Bill') provides for the domestic application of the World Heritage Convention in Fiji.

The Bill provides for the recognition and management of places having potential and actual world heritage values, establish the Fiji Heritage Council ("**Council**"), establish the Fiji Register, provide for the management and operating trust funds for places registered in the Fiji Register, implement Fiji's obligations under the World Heritage Convention and provide for other matters that are necessary for the administration of the new legislation.

In that regard, the Committee will be also conducting public consultation meetings in the following areas and on the following dates and cordially invites any interested person or institution wishing to provide their views and comments on the Bill, to attend the public consultation meeting.

Day/Date	Venue	Starting Time
Mon. 16 Oct. 2023	Naseuvou Village Hall, Naitasiri (Sovi Basin)	2:00 p.m.
Tues. 17 Oct. 2023	Volivolil Village, Sigatoka (Sand Dunes)	2:00 p.m.
Wed. 18 Oct. 2023	Morni Village (Morni Battery)	2:00 p.m.
Fri. 20 Oct. 2023	Levuka Town Council Hall (Levuka Town Port)	2:00 p.m.
Sat. 21 Oct. 2023	Levuka Town Council Hall (Levuka Town Port)	10:00 a.m.
Mon. 23 Oct. 2023	Provincial Administrator Conference Room, Savusavu Town	2:00 p.m.
Tues. 24 Oct. 2023	Somosomo Village, Taveuni	2:00 p.m.
Wed. 25 Oct. 2023	Waisali Village (Waisali Forest Reserve)	2:00 p.m.
Thur. 26 Oct. 2023	Nakanacagi Village Hall, Dreketi	2:00 p.m.

For any query, please contact the Committee Secretariat through e-mail address: jackson.cakacaka@parliament.gov.fj or anare.vugakoto@parliament.gov.fj and mobile: 9908 595

A copy of the Bill can be found on the Fiji Parliament website, via the link: Bill-No.-25-Heritage-Bill-2023.pdf (parliament.gov.fj)

**HON. RATU RAKUITA VAKALALABURE
(CHAIRPERSON)**

SOLEVU

**Nakavu Village
Raises \$32,000
for Five-Year
Projects**

**MERELEKI NAI
NADI**

Nakavu Village, headman Henry Tuidraki has mobilised his *vanua* to achieve projects in its five-year plan. Last week, the villagers organised a traditional gathering (*solevu*) where they collected \$32,000.

Projects in the five-year plan includes:

- A village dispensary
- Upgrade feeder road from main road to village
- Village lights and solar
- Art and craft centre for women
- A village gymnasium

Mr Tuidraki said the village nurse, who had been serving villagers for more than five years, was worried about the number of needles and medicine at her small home.

"Our nurse has raised her concern because these could affect her children and family," he said.

"We set a small room for the village nurse, but later it was not approved by the Occupational Health and Safety."

He said they were working with the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) about village streetlights.

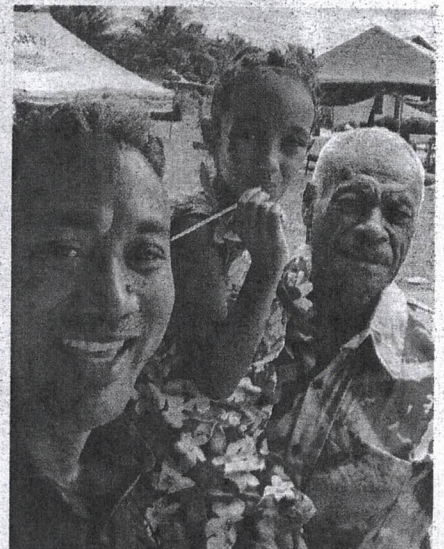
"Most of our women are hotel workers and mostly they are coming back from work during the night. Our area is not safe at night."

Mr Tuidraki has been discussing with the Health Ministry on their dispensary, and with government and non-governmental organisations on other projects.

"We need \$150,000 for these projects, which will benefit the lives of our villagers," he said.

The *solevu* was opened by the Tui Nadi, Ratu Vuniyani Navuniuci.

Feedback: mereteki.nai@fijisun.com.fj



Henry Tuidraki (right), with Abel Camillo and his daughter at Nakavu Village in Nadi.