



# Nai COKONAKI

FIRST QTR EDITION

2022



**FIJIAN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**  
CO-OPERATIVE THRIFT LIMITED

Colossians 3 : 23

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said ; 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

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*"...we must continue to live our lives in the context of the 'new normal' in order to strengthen and build resilience to any challenges and uncertainties in the future".*

**-Mr. Iosefo Volau -  
FTACTL Chairman**

As we are a dawn away from the end of 2021 and are about to welcome 2022, I wish to extend to each one of you and your families a belated Christmas Greetings and a prosperous New Year. May the New Year bring blessings of good health, wealth, renewed happiness and new inspirations to your life.

I would like to share with you my thoughts for this new year regarding the impact of COVID-19 to the world and local economy, businesses and Co-operative organizations such as the FTA Co-operative Thrift Limited (FTACTL).

The deadly COVID-19 global pandemic has impacted greatly on the way we communicate and conduct business. It has affected the mode of teaching and learning and every aspect and fabric of our lives. It has reshaped and transformed policies and mode of doing business to favour those who conduct business remotely. The FTACTL Board, in its foresight and vision since 2009, was already shifting its focus towards cultivating strong digital culture in the use of digital tools and data-powered insights to drive decisions and Customer-centricity while innovating and collaborating across the organization. This began with the implementation of Output 2 of the FTACTL Strategic Plan 2019 to 2021 and that is: To improve delivery of efficient, effective, and equitable services to all members through reforms in internal processes and systems through the acquiring of the IP1 Information Communication System software. The system enabled the FTACTL to easily include initiatives and new products into the system and allowed members to access loans and services remotely.

The FTACTL employees and Board members were able to process members applications online and to send funds through Bank Transfer and MPaisa. The FTACTL was able to strengthen and build resilient people and systems that enable the FTACTL to continue its services to members during lock downs for the four months in 2020 and

eight months in 2021. It has also continued to serve members without disruption after the wake of TC Yasa and Ana in 2021.

With many financial and other challenges currently encountered by members, it is indeed fortunate that teachers' salaries have not yet been affected. It is imperative then that organizations such as the FTACTL must re-align, restructure, reform and adapt its position to the "new normal" and strategize the way forward. Likewise, members should prepare and re-align themselves with the changes and challenges that were brought about by this global pandemic and natural disasters. Most importantly, members now need to change their attitudes and transform their behaviours to meet the challenges of the future.

The FTACTL has continued to fund members who needed urgent support in the form of loans and investments in education and business ventures. While stringent regulatory measures have been put into place by Banks and Lending Institutions, the FTACTL has continued to serve members consistently. The FTACTL is created from members' contributions, hence, it is answerable to members. Dividends or profits are shared by all members in accordance to their Shares. When individuals join in a Co-operative venture, the power generated far exceeds what they could have accomplished if acting individually. In other words, Co-operative is really "Sosolevaki" in the iTaukei tradition when everyone works together for the greater good of all.

Lessons learnt from our experience during COVID-19 have taught us that we must continue to live our lives in the context of the 'new normal' in order to strengthen and build resilience to any challenges and uncertainties in the future. The FTACTL Board, in adapting to the current financial climate, has begun this process with the creation of different innovative products that meet members' needs for the present and in the future. The initiatives by the Board have created enabling policies and environment that help the FTACTL to grow exponentially in terms of members, members' funds and investments. It is crucial that members must, likewise, respond with very simple actions such as applying for loans only for urgent matters, furthering education or to support sustainable money generating business ventures. To ensure that the FTACTL will remain strong in the challenging times ahead, all members must strengthen their Savings and Investments.

During this difficult time, members must prepare to make sacrifices to ensure that the 'hen that lays the golden egg' remains healthy and strong. With regards to the uncertainty created by COVID-19, it is imperative that members are to ensure that they safeguard themselves and their families by urgently joining the Kakavaki. Furthermore, members are to begin focusing on long term Investments and Savings which will create the fundamental foundation to access and make higher loans with low interest through the 6.5 % low interest offered through the secured loan initiative. In addition, the FTACTL has purchased thirteen (13) one quarter acres residential lots in Natabua, close to FNU Campus, Lautoka. Another sixty (60) quarter acres residential lots are currently being subdivided in Nakadi, Qiolevu Rd near Nausori. The Teachers' Village concept had initially been the idea on which the FTA Housing Scheme was founded. It is envisaged that the Teachers' Village initiative would create opportunities for members to acquire affordable land and property, in particular, when cost of land and property in the main centers had sky-rocketed making it impossible for members to acquire land and property.

Finally, members must plan their Retirement. They must begin by investing funds into the Ika ni Yabaki or Vavakada, at least 3 years before they reach the age of 55. Upon reaching the age of 55, it is crucial that they transfer their Vavakada and Ika ni Yabaki and some of their FNFP into the Na i Lololo Investment. In this way, they have their investment secured and they gain 8% interest if they invest for about six years. The fact remains that when a member dies prematurely or retires, the only Savings that most probably will remain will be members' Retirement Benefit and Investments with the FTACTL in the form of Shares and Interest gained from Investments such as Ika ni Yabaki, Vavakada, FTAKAVACTL and Kakavaki. Above all, members who understand the benefits of Investments, will continue to use the FTACTL Investments and facilities such as the Na i Lololo to sustain them during their Retirement. In other words, the FTACTL support starts from the day a member joins until s/he passes away. Thus, it is a life-long relationship.

May God Bless the FTACTL family. A prosperous new year to all!

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

## JEREMIAH: 29:11

*"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to a future and hope".*

New Year's greetings and well wishes to all our valued members. The years 2020 to 2021 was indeed a challenging year for FTACTL and its members as we were faced with the global COVID 19 pandemic. It was a time when our quarterly newsletter was coined as "Nai Cokonaki", which meant that your Cooperative, despite the challenges, was able to meet the needs, requests of its members and transform its mode of operation to be best suited for the new paradigm shift.

Essentially the FTACTL's business foundation is based on the collective efforts of its members for prudent savings through accumulation of shares for a viable future. This activity alone ensures the readily availability of certain benefits through a variety of loans products that should cater for your needs when it arises. Therefore, the unorthodox way of service delivery prior to the formation of its new Board, has been vastly reduced due to structures being put in place through reviews of policies and relevant legislations for a member centered focus.

The new initiatives "The Teachers Village", "Kakavaki", "Secured Loan", "Agricultural Cash Farming" and the modern IT system, to name a few, has been put in place to sustain us in years to come.

At present, however, members must take ownership of the progress of your Cooperative to assist in the refinement of its business. Therefore being custodians, the FTACTL Board has acquired a lot of management skills to control operations within, enabling a beneficial environment for you, the shareholders.

Furthermore, in considering the rapid evolution of our world, adaptations to adjustments is encouraged to fulfill our noble calling and extend this to developing a constructive and positively nurturing cocoon, for a brighter tomorrow for you and your loved ones.

Your Cooperative, the FTACTL with God's guidance assures you, our support in every step of the way. Stay tuned for updates, do follow us on our FTACTL website page, You Tube and Facebook page. Happy reading, stay safe and God Bless.

Vinaka vakalevu.

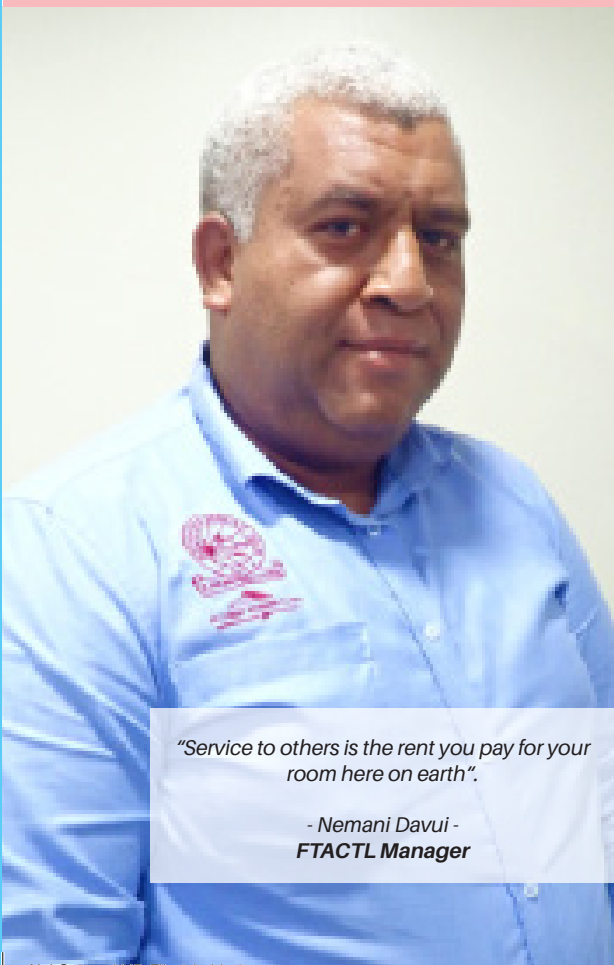


*"...adaptations to adjustments is encouraged to fulfill our noble calling and extend this to developing a constructive and positively nurturing cocoon, for a brighter tomorrow for you and your loved ones".*

- Mr. Meli Yabakivou -  
**FTACTL Secretary**

## OFFICE UPDATES

1. Members Dividend is still being distributed up until 30 June 2022. Please fill in the appropriate form if you wish to withdraw your Dividend.
2. Members must make the effort to sign up for the online portal in order to keep track of financial transactions.
3. When emailing the FTACTL office, every member must always state their TPF and current school.
4. Please be mindful of the time conditions between normal loans and special loans.
5. Please be reminded that it is important that the FTACTL office is informed of any study leave without pay
6. DO access the FTACTL website to get more information of the different Loans products and its special conditions.
7. Members you are reminded to always check your pay slips so that you are aware of the amount you are deducting to FTACTL
8. Please advise the office on changes to your Bank accounts and MPaisa numbers.
9. For more information please visit the **FTACTL website** or send your emails to [ftactl@fta.org.fj](mailto:ftactl@fta.org.fj)
10. Phone contacts to the office : 8927100 / 7194596 / 3318156.



*"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth".*

- Nemani Davui -  
**FTACTL Manager**

# FTACTL BOARD VISITS : 2021 - 2022

## NADI VISIT & REGUREGU TO THE LATE TAUKEI NALAGI, TURAGA NA TUI NAWAKA

It was quite timely as it was a follow up of the recent launch of the FTACTL Village and the Kakavaki Scheme. The support from the FTACTL includes the sevusevu, waqanivola to add to the contribution of the Nadi FTA members. It was a very auspicious occasion as we represent the teachers in Nadi to the Vanua Nalagi. It was a very successful event and the meeting with the teachers does not end after the, but continue at Ratu Navula for the further consultation and again the need for some interested members to continue until Friday. We do acknowledge the Principal of Ratu Navula and his staffs for inviting the FTACTL to be part of the reguregu and the consultation.



*Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of  
someone's life. Be the light that helps others see; it is  
what gives life its deepest significance.*

*Roy T. Bennett*

# FTACTL :

## Vaccination Centre Visitation

JOHN WESLEY SECONDARY SCHOOL, NAUSORI  
DISTRICT, VUCI SECONDARY & MARITIME SCHOOL

On behalf of the Rewa Medical team and the teachers carrying out the vaccination roll out to students. We would like to say thank you for the generosity and support shown by the donation that were dropped off in school today. This will be used by the team in our daily tea breaks.

### COVID RESPONSES TO MEMBERS :

1. Two Centres were visited in the Central Division where our members are on frontliners in monitoring the vaccination to our children. Tea items with traditional sevusevu were presented to our members who were engaged in John Wesley Secondary & Nausori District School.
2. A group of members stationed at Sila Central was lead by Mr. Jope Bukacaca, HOS of Vuci Secondary on volunteer basis were provided with \$50 allowance and food from the FTACTL for their sacrifice.
3. Visit to our Maritime School children who were lockdown in the Capital City.





## LAUNCHING OF THE TEACHERS VILLAGE / KAKAVAKI & SECURED LOAN PRODUCTS :

*Nothing ventured, nothing gained!*

An age old adage ringing true as we approach the end of another year, eagerly awaiting the heralding of the new dawn of 2022, with yet another chapter closing and exciting initiatives to be fulfilled in the new one.

Despite the COVID 19 Lockdown challenges, the opening of borders ensured more constructive progress for the Co-operative. The visits to the few branches, coinciding with the launching of the 'Na Kakavaki', the modified Secured Loan and the fruition of the dream of a Teachers village were some of the major additional accomplishments of the year. The Dratabu visit in Nadi, saw the attendance of members from the greater Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua and Vatukoula areas.

Never a dull moment at the FTA Co-operative Thrift Ltd, the same weekend had the Board mulling over innovative ideas TOWARDS CULTIVATING CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION, INNOVATION & DIGITAL CULTURE IN FTA Co-OP. This was a major leap from the transitory phase of providing beneficial attributes for the members. Therefore, anticipated activities have indicated that Board aspirations towards its fulfillment of core functions directs a move towards refining statistical information for more analytical decision.

Targeted endeavors were also shared with Bua and Macuata area members where mutual understanding of future undertakings were discussed and core functions of savings, investments and shares were again encouraged and re-enforced.

Surmising, it is of utmost importance that our valued members realize that the 'new normal' has brought about reforms to adapt to the financial challenges, currently experienced. Prudent savings and sensible loan applications were the order of the visits and disseminating these messages to other members on digital platforms and other modes of communication was essential.

*"Lead by example, insist on teamwork and instill motivation. Self-discipline is what gets you to work every day, and hard work builds character."*

Dave Mueller

# FTACTL SITE VISIT : Nanuku, Natabua.

Since the inception of the **Fijian Teacher's Association Co-operative Thrift Limited (FTACTL)** in 1997, the initial purpose as it was then *Fijian Teacher's Association Housing Assistance Scheme (FTHAS)* was to purchase the land, sub-divide and sell it to the members at an affordable price.

The vision was finally accomplished by the current Board as the link from the FTACTL to the landowners. History is now being created as the Liuliu ni Mataqali ko Nanuku has with the blessings of the members of his mataqali made it possible to secure the **13 Lots at Natabua Native Residential Lease of 99 years**. This initiative by the Board has been long overdue and now members will reap the full benefit and as the cost of living is high it does not stop members from investing with FTACTL with the trust that their investment is in good capable hands of the Board.

Now the Board are mandated to secure a piece of land to satisfy our 3500+ members. With the increasing costs of securing a land and a property within Suva, Nausori corridor, this new initiative will make it more convenient to members.



*"Plans are only good intentions unless they immediately degenerate into hard work."*

- Peter F. Drucker -

# FTACTL FARM VISIT : Korovisilou, Serua. Viti Levu.

Plans to begin a second agricultural site for members began after much brainstorming on the existing Farm on its Governance, Finance and Marketing came to fore.

Its accessibility, a great advantage, the 60 acres of leased Korovisilou land in Serua, was a solution to the reach of the Board and the Staff and likewise but most importantly, its members.

Its development and progress mapped and deliberated throughout, the land is currently prepared for Ginger and Dalo Farming. Estimates indicate a healthy financial return and the Board is already seeking out markets to expedite and maximize on its returns.

Pictures from the few weekends spent surveying the area and marking its boundaries was not an easy job, as all the Board members, some Staff with the TLTB and some landowners, completed the task with the expected scrapes from swinging and sliding, bee stings, even some got lost but found their way back through remembering own teachings to their students and applying them to good use.

With the investment, the FTACTL hopes to continue to capitalize on agriculture and more land property for the maximum benefit of its members.





## FTA & FTACTL VANUAVOU- FARM VISIT : Vanuavou, Vaturova. *Vanua Levu.*

It was a dreary morning as the FTA/FTACTL entourage made its way to the sprawling Vaturova highlands where nestled the 50 acres of the shared farm adjacent to the FTACTL investment of 30 acres of Yaqona, which began as a thought that blossomed into an idea and became a reality with the good intentions and wishes of the late FTA/FTACTL Farm Manager, Master Semi Vela for the sole vision of paying of the Unions debts. The FTACTL Farm was a later addition in the effort, to assist in increasing members Annual Dividends.

The associates, made their way past the farmlands to the Vanuavou village to present the 'Na I Vakalutuqe'le', a custom that was observed to show appreciation to the landowning unit for their graciousness in permitting the lease of their virgin forests in pristine surroundings. The morning embraced the presentations of the I Magiti, Yaqona and the Kamunaga to the mantras of the wisdom of the land as the voices of the menfolk of either parties sounded in the sparsely filled Vanuavou Community Hall. Traditional exchanges to continue the investments and services encouraged the visiting party and spurred affirmations of the agreed inclusion of a 10% profit from the aftersales of the matured product to the Yavusa Ratu of Vanuavou village.

It was an uplifting morning, and the land saw and eased as blessing rain fell, as the day enfolded.

*"Trust is the glue of life. It's the most essential ingredient in effective communication. It's the foundational principle that holds all relationships."*

- Stephen Covey -



# SUCCESS STORY :

## MR. PENI VATILIAI.

Ni bula ni yadra vinaka nai tokani lewe ni soqosoqo.  
 Au gadreva meu vakaraitaka eke na veivuke levu ratou solia na nodatou 'Thrift', sa gole kina na noqu cauravou ki *Australia, New South Wales*. Ra lai vakatikotiko ena vanua a luvu mai Lismore, sa levu sara na ka e sa lai lako curuma na gone qoka.

1. Na veivueji ena waluvu levu ka yaco mai kea ka sa levu na kena i talanoa eda sa rogoca
2. Sa ra nanumi jiko me sa soli nodra citizenship mai kea, ke dina ya sa na oka kina na cauravou ka veivuke kina na FTACTL.

Dina mada ga ni lailai noqu share, ratou se rawa ni vukei keda ga ena sasaga eda sasaga jiko kina. Vinaka valevu FTACTL. Vinaka tale ga FTA.

Ori ga so nai taba ni kena soli vei iratou na oppotunity mera tou lai sara qito free ena nodrau sota na Reds kei na Drua kei nai taba ni veivueti mai Lismore.

### OBITUARY : DECEASED MEMBERS LIST NAME IN ORDER FROM 2021

NAME(S)	TPF No.	D.O.B	D.O.D	STATUS
Marewalesi Enaitikama	87944	27/05/1978	15/05/2021	Teacher/Member
Ivakiini Pale	10042	21/07/1966	10/05/2021	Teacher/Member
Jovoni Kavotamano	56569	22/02/1987	10/05/2021	Teacher/Member
Ilisea Lawerence	38105	21/05/1979	20/05/2021	Teacher/Member
Mesapa Fawalele	56136	01/01/1970	25/05/2021	Teacher/Member
<b>Akulla Vaganalau Vute</b>	<b>66644</b>	<b>04/05/1972</b>	<b>16/07/2021</b>	<b>Principal/Board Member</b>
Feliciano Stevens	98347	25/04/1975	18/07/2021	Teacher/Member
Nemou Nabalanis	131177	09/07/1965	20/07/2021	Teacher/Member
Rt. Jonasa Rihakama	85384	15/10/1972	22/07/2021	Teacher/Member
Mosele Fava	94099	15/05/1982	01/08/2021	Teacher/Member
Jovani Uluhaua Seta	14825	17/07/1963	05/08/2021	Teacher/Member
Ana Adimazu	56582	27/01/1973	24/08/2021	Teacher/Member
Osia Keli Uluiviti	87521	05/04/1969	30/08/2021	Teacher/Member
Buku Tarii Oubelawa	56220	15/07/1972	31/08/2021	Teacher/Member
Tamarii Lututaha	98144	21/01/1987	22/09/2021	Teacher/Member
<b>Simeone Delabaki</b>	<b>SNQ</b>	<b>12/12/1978</b>	<b>19/11/2021</b>	<b>SNQ &amp; FTACTL Staff</b>
Melissa I. Iba	30325	17/05/1973	20/11/2021	Teacher/Member
Jaki Vakavava	54318	05/05/1971	05/12/2021	Teacher/Member
<b>Arieta Timi Delabaki</b>	<b>58318</b>	<b>18/04/1980</b>	<b>27/12/2021</b>	<b>Member/ Late Mrs. Delabaki</b>



### 2022

Simeone Naitina	56113	27/05/1972	17/01/2022	Teacher/Member
Elmore Meseke	56486	27/05/1975	18/01/2022	Teacher/Member
Gordon Fong	94588	27/05/1975	05/02/2022	Teacher/Member
William Peni	56149	01/07/1967	21/02/2022	Teacher/Member
Viniano Kanabuli	8982	10/02/1963	05/03/2022	Teacher/Member
Apela Tulaelumu	30137	05/05/1960	01/04/2022	Teacher/Member
<b>Peniasi Naqou</b>				<b>Retired Teacher</b>





## NA KAKAVAKI:

The new product is created as an initiative to support members as long investment and at the same time as a death cover if the member died during the course of employment. This is a very lucrative product tailored for the members. Currently there are three categories of the cover:



### 1. 1st category - 10k

- a. \$10 deduction fortnight until 55 or retirement with 8% simple interest per year.
- b. \$20 deduction fortnightly for fifteen years and premium waived until the next 15 years.
- c. \$30 deduction fortnightly for 10 years and premium waived until the next 20 years.

### 2. 2nd category - 20k

- a. \$20 deduction fortnight until 55 or retirement with 8% simple interest per year.
- b. \$40 deduction fortnightly for fifteen years and premium waived until the next 15 years.
- c. \$60 deduction fortnightly for 10 years and premium waived until the next 20 years.

### 3. 3rd category - 30k

- a. \$30 deduction fortnight until 55 or retirement with 8% simple interest per year.
- b. \$60 deduction fortnightly for fifteen years and premium waived until the next 15 years.
- c. \$90 deduction fortnightly for 10 years and premium waived until the next 20 years.

### 4. 4th category :

*Immediate family of members [10k]*

- a. Age below 18 - \$10 premium
- b. Age between 18 and 30 - \$15 premium
- c. Age between 30 and 50 - \$20
- d. Age between 50 and 65 - \$30
- e. Above 65 - \$40

## FAREWELLING FTACTL STAFFS: 2021

### *Mr. Luke Lomasalato & Mrs. Wati Saladoka*

In fulfilling and adhering to the Staff Contractual Employment provisions upon reaching the age of 60, the FTACTL board had proposed that all contracted staff shall retire at the age of 60 and that current employees that have exceeded shall retire at the year ending 31st December 2020. all staff retention policy shall be null and void as of 2021. This is further highlighted in the FTACTL policy.

Mrs. Wati Saladoka has completed 14 years of service and Mr Luke Lomasalato has been with the FTACTL as Driver for 4 years. The Cooperative is most grateful for such a high calibre of service rendered to its Board, the staff and its members' visitors throughout these years.

Vinaka vakalevu.



*"If you have a good idea, use it so that you will not only accomplish something, but so that you can make room for new ones to flow into you."*

- Deng Ming-Dao -



# IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE LATE :

**D**oignant memories filled with bittersweet glimmers of his short time with all who remembered him, will always be cherished.

The late Master Vute was instrumental in the committee's that looked into issues of HR and Media Publication, Policies and Debt Recovery. His contributions, outstanding in the formation, review and dissemination of certain policies illustrated the essence and vitality he placed in his work.

Always on the go, he was exemplary in his ethics towards his work. Forever occupied to the point of exhaustion that he would be scolded by his closest friends, he would always ensure that wherever he was needed, he was 2 or 3 steps ahead. Such was his life, a faithful man indeed. Selfless, dedicated and devoted, till he was satisfied that achievements were not mediocre but maximized on potentials.

His efforts to shape a life, to show how to cross a certain bridge when certain bridge was approached, for teacher and student alike, will be sorely missed.

Heartfelt messages when looking for a picture, you cannot avoid but tear up again for indeed he was regarded with high esteem. A person who knew how to appreciate every moment of life, his positivity and optimism radiated through all acquaintances, of all walks of life.

The late Master Vute, rest his soul, left behind an incomparable legacy, undeniably honorable and worthy of mention.

Goodbye dear friend and colleague, until that day, when we will all meet again.



# GALLERY:

Parallel visits to areas, clusters and to individual schools, have been a cost cutting measure of the Board since most of these schools were not in the usual visitation paths of the Ministry. Whilst cutting costs in the transportation of these members to and from their workstations, the progress made has been in leaps and bounds. It is most unfortunate that most of these schools highlighted, communication problems with the Office and the Ministry due to no network providers or fading signals in the area.



Branch visit to **Labasa, Vanua Levu.**



Branch visit to **Vutia District, Rewa.**



Branch visit to **Lautoka, Viti Levu.**



Branch visit to **Bua, Vanua Levu.**





**FTACTL**

**2022**

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