

ELDERLY AFFAIRS

Increase In Elderly Numbers By 2050

In 2010 eight per cent of Fiji's population were over 60

VARANISESE NASILASILA
SUVA

Senior citizens 60 years and above will increase in number to 28,500 by 2050.

Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation minister, Dr Jiko Luveni, said this at the Families in Tomorrow's Development Agenda that was held at the Oceania Centre, at the USP, Suva.

The proportion of older persons is growing at a faster rate than the general population.

Dr Luveni said that "in Fiji in 2010 those aged 60 years and over make up eight per cent of the population and by 2050 this number is projected

to double".

Also addressed at the agenda was the influence senior citizens have on the young.

"Senior citizens can mentor youths to know, appreciate and preserve their cultures and traditions," Dr Luveni said.

She said that without this in place the society was at risk of losing its identity which was what the policy wanted to build on.

Despite caring for older people being a challenge to some there has been reports that assistance to them has improved.

"There have been reports of improved care for older persons in families, given that they are contributing financially to the family income," Dr Luveni said.

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The camp site of the Chinese engineers who are going to work in the Somosomo Hydro in Taveuni.
Photo: Seruwaia Waqasaqa

CONSTRUCTION

Camp site almost complete

Work on Somosomo hydro dam to start soon

SERUWAI WAQASAQA
LABASA

The construction of a camp for Chinese engineers at the Somosomo Hydro Dam project in Taveuni is expected to be completed soon.

Chinese engineer Chung David told the *Fiji Sun* yesterday they were expecting at least 50 engineers to arrive on the island next

month.

Once the camp is completed, he said they will then move on to work on the dam site.

"Hunan Construction Group Co-operation will also be working on the hydro dam," Mr David said.

Construction materials are coming in twice a month from China and some are bought locally.

District Officer-Taveuni, Jere-maia Ubitau, said people of Taveuni have been waiting to see this project completed soon.

"People have been waiting for this project since the villagers of Somosomo have been using gen-

erators and lamps for lights," he said.

"This is a project that the people were impatiently awaiting to see and will be glad to see it completed."

The hydro will have a capacity of 700 kilowatts and the transmission will be 10 kilometres on both sides from the Somosomo junction.

This is a Chinese and Fijian Government-funded project that costs about \$17 million.

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Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons (FNCDP) Sewing Centre students from left: Miliana Vosaitagi, Marisela Lokalo, Vani Koroi, Archana Chandra and Telea Tagilala after their graduation. Photo: Ronald Kumar

DISABILITY WELFARE

Tagilala graduates after 3-month training

20-year old acknowledges sharing the workload

ZAFIYA SHAMIM
SUVA

Telea Tagilala, was the only male graduate yesterday among the 23 who did a three-month sewing training.

The 20 year-old from Wanibuku said he was proud to be the only male graduate at the Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons.

"I think it all comes down to history because in the past men and women were tied to certain roles and girls were raised to cook, clean and so forth but that is changing and we can all share the workload," Mr Tagilala said.

He said even though he was intel-

"I live in an extended family of five and I'm happy that I will now be able to support my one-year old daughter financially"

Telea Tagilala

lectually challenged this training had helped him make use of his skills and talent.

"I live in an extended family of five and I'm happy that I will now be able to support my one-year old

daughter financially."

Mr Tagilala said he had a dream of a decent life and it had started to come true.

The event's chief guest, Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation executive, Ambalika Kutty, said fashion was one of the largest industries in the world and grooming well was not only a social norm but also a responsibility.

"Some people will require the services of a tailor to make them stylish and classy outfits that they may not be able to purchase from stores," Ms Kutty said.

She said their skills would also help them sew items that shops would sell to consumers at a much higher rate. Skills like sewing had low investment but higher a rate of return, she added.

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The Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation Dr Jiko Luveni (left), presenting a cheque to Inoke Bainimarama. Photo: Minfo News

WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

Bainimarama to make women's expo successful

Fiji Women's Expo in August

VARANISESE NASILASILA
SUVA

Newly appointed consultant, Inoke Bainimarama, will be working hand in hand with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation to make this year's Fiji Women's Expo a successful one.

Mr Bainimarama said the event would give women, especially rural women, exposure.

"This expo will include activities such as show and tell and will help women from rural areas to interact with women from urban areas," he said.

He also invited all poverty alleviation stakeholders to come on board and assist in the event.

The event will look at the empowerment of women and empowering the gatekeepers of the community.

Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation minister, Dr Jiko Luveni, stresses that the event is very important to women.

"This will help enlighten the people on the social status of women in the community," she said.

The permanent secretary for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation, Dr Joseva Koroiuvetu says the gate is open to all women wanting to attend.

"We are looking at a minimum of 5000 women to attend. So far about 100 women have registered and we are still hoping for more to come," he said. The event will take place at the Vodafone Arena from August 6 to 8.

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