



HIGH COMMISSION
OF MALAYSIA

SUVA, REPUBLIC OF FIJI



BULA MALAYSIA

E-NEWSLETTER
VOL 1/2020



FOREWORD

by the High Commissioner

Bula vinaka & Welcome!

The year 2020 was not what we had expected it to be. Last year, like any other people in the world, we were hoping that 2020 will bring us an exciting future. However, we did not see it coming and before we know it, the world was engulfed with the pandemic and put a stop to many things.



We had several trade and tourism activities planned to be held this year in Suva. But we have to postpone everything that we have planned to a later date.

Fiji and the other island nations were not spared from the Covid-19's impact. Though the Pacific region is relatively safe, the pandemic has adversely affected its livelihood and economy. Coupled with the Tropical Cyclone (TC) Harold which occurred in April 2020, the hardship was twice as much that the islanders have to face. Some lost their homes, schools, infrastructure destroyed and basic needs such as supply of water and electricity were interrupted.

But the Pacific communities are resilient. Natural disasters are not new to them. They are accustomed to it but they need all the support they can get. This is where I am confident Malaysia can assist. We will work with Fiji and other Pacific island nations, as well as regional and international organizations to forge a stronger cooperation to cope with these challenges.

In the meantime, stay positive, have faith and practice new norms. Inshallah as the Sunnah says that for a sickness there is a treatment for it. To fellow Muslims, Selamat Hari Raya Aidil Adha.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Courtesy Call by the CEO of Fijian Broadcasting Corporation



On 15 January 2020, the CEO of Fijian Broadcasting Corporation (FBC), Mr Riyaz Aiyaz Khaiyum paid a courtesy call on the High Commissioner. The FBC will be organizing a Tech and Trade Show in mid-April and invites companies and embassies to participate in the event. It will be a platform where foreign countries may showcase their tradition and culture, whilst promoting trades and tourism in Fiji. They also discussed collaboration of media contents between Malaysia and Fiji. Mr. Riyaz is very interested to bring

in Malaysian fruits to showcase at the trade show. Also in the works are cooking programmes using Fijian fruits and vegetables.



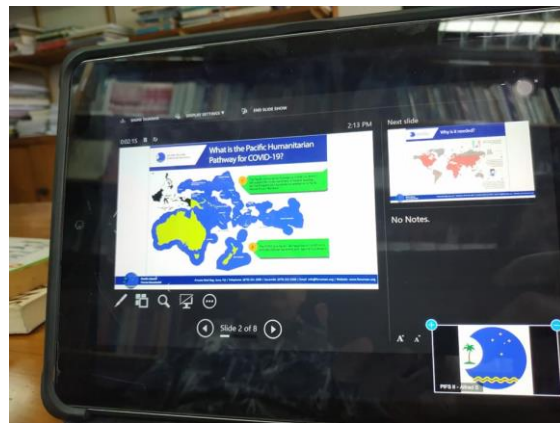
International Mother Language Day

On 21 February 2020 the Counselor attended the International Mother Language Day organized by the Ministry of iTaukei (*indigenous*) Affairs. Participants were briefed history of language of the region. They were then served with delicious traditional Fijian cuisine (seafood with cassava/taro) accompanied by performances from the Fijian villagers.



Handing Over of Relief Items to MOFA

On 6 May 2020, the High Commissioner handed over relief items for the Covid-19 and Tropical Cyclone (TC) Harold victims at the Fijian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The High Commissioner was received by the Deputy Secretary of MOFA, Mr. Esala Neyasi and the Undersecretary for Asian Affairs Bureau, Mr. Apolosi Lewaqai. TC Harold has left severe damages to the infrastructure and economy of certain parts of Fiji; and also hampered the Government's effort to curb Covid-19 at that time.



Pacific Islands Virtual Meeting

On 12 May 2020, the High Commissioner joined the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)-a Pacific Islands version of ASEAN; virtual briefing for Dialogue Partners on Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on Covid-19 (PHP-C). The PHP-C will complement the work of WHO in coordinating the movement of medical supplies and health personnel in the Pacific region. Fortunately, many of the island states in this region are Covid-free due to the stoppage of flights from other regions.



Hand-Over of Sanitizers and Face Masks to the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)

Subsequent to the virtual meeting on 20 May, TYT High Commissioner on 13 May 2020, the High Commissioner met with the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Meg Taylor; and handed over sanitizers as well as face masks as contribution to the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on Covid-19 PHP-C. Fiji is the hub where stockpiles of PPEs will be stored for the South Pacific region. The PIF works with the World Health Organization (WHO) and act as coordinator on movement of medical supplies and health personnel in the region.



Courtesy Call by the Ambassador of the United States

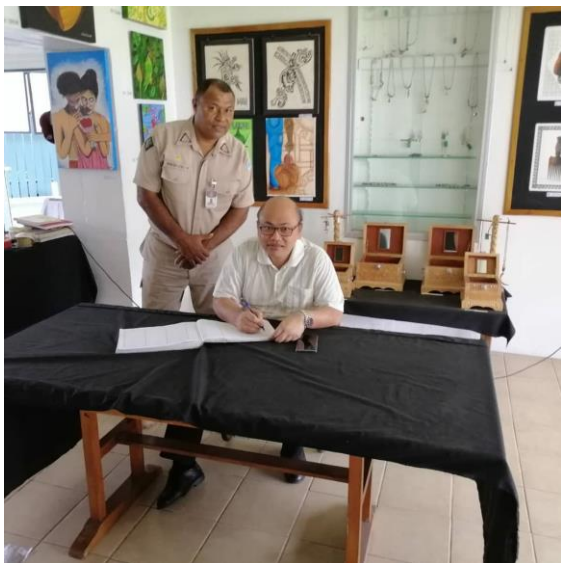
On 29 May 2020, H.E. Joseph Cella, the Ambassador of the United States to Fiji paid a courtesy call on H.E. Ilham Tuah Illias. Ambassador Cella arrived in Fiji in January 2020. During the call, they discussed matters of mutual concern including politics, economy, trade and investment and how both countries can work together in Fiji



Courtesy Call by the CDA of Palau

15 June 2020, Dr. Jay Lincoln, the CDA of the Embassy of Palau paid a courtesy call on the High Commissioner. Palau is part of the Micronesian group besides Marshall Island, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Nauru and Kiribati. Palau is in the midst of opening its mission in Fiji.

Palau's policies are focused on the issue of climate change, sustainability and protection of the environment.



Visit to the Tagimoucia Prison Art Gallery

On 27 July 2020, the High Commissioner visited the Tagimoucia Prison Art Gallery in Suva. The gallery showcases artworks and crafts by the inmates where the artworks are also available for sale. The High Commission and the prison authorities agreed that rehabilitation of inmates are important and explored the possibility in sharing of knowledge especially in handicraft, garment design and cooking.

NETWORKING



Bakers Car Rental Fiji

The High Commissioner was invited for a dinner at Mr. Mursad Khan's home on 18 July 2020 in Sigatoka. Mr. Mursad is the owner of Bakers Car Rental and is planning to diversify his business by

sourcing for auto parts & components, building materials, sanitary wares and bathroom accessories. In February this year, Mr. Mursad visited Malaysia and had a business networking session with Malaysian companies organized by Matrade. Mr. Intiaz Gul who attended the dinner is in the cattle business and assisted the High Commission in making *qurban* which were then distributed to Malaysians and the poor around Suva.

Lunch with Friends of Malaysia



On 8 August 2020, the High Commissioner hosted lunch for Mr. Winston Thompson and his wife (Mr. Thompson is Pro Chancellor of University of South Pacific as well as former Ambassador of Fiji to the US and the United Nations). Also invited

was Ms. Friederike Eppen of German Development Cooperation as well as Mr. Villiame Waka who owns a local roofing company. They discussed and exchanged thoughts on the current economic/political, environment and education situation in Fiji and the Pacific.

Visit to the Naduruloulou Agriculture Regional Service Centre



COMMODITY	SEEDLINGS			SUPPLY
	APR	MAY	JUN	
1 Coconut				
Malayan Green Dwarf				
Fiji Tall				
2 Cocoa Seedlings				
Trinidad				
Amelonado				
3 Budded Cocoa				
WRS 1				
WRS 4				
WRS 11				
WRS 28				
WRS 29				
K24-103				
K24-106				
K82				
KA2-106				

On 13 August 2020, the High Commissioner visited the Agriculture Research and Fisheries Centre in Nadurulouou. The staff has gone to Malaysia for training and it is great to catch up with them for future cooperation.



The durian trees are 30 years old and bore only one durian fruit. Chef Elda Lembang who has some MARDI training advised them not to trim the branches and to plant them closer to each other in the future.



The Centre rears tilapia and prawns where the fry's are then distributed for free to local fish breeders. One female staff completed a course in Malaysia in 2018 (in blue jersey in photo). They hoped to get pituitary gland for the fishes to spawn.



Group photo of the Research Centre's staff with the High Commissioner.

Asia Pacific One Interview with Fiji Sun

The High Commission on 14 August 2020 organized a briefing session and interview between Asia Pacific One (AP1) and a local media from Fiji Sun. The owner, Mr. Tiun Kian Seng also known as Jeff (Kelantan-born) promoted his service of providing 360° panoramic picture for local businesses in Fiji, to boost their visibility in Google Maps.

The service provided by AP1 will help to improve businesses where potential clients will be able to view and walkthrough their premises (as well as menu for restaurants) online before visiting the place physically. His services can also be used to monitor climate change in that when he was in Kiribati, he uploaded photos of areas where there were coastal erosion. AP1 currently provides free services to small business owners to help promote their businesses in the midst of economic challenges due to Covid-19 pandemic. Google Map recorded that there are 200 million views of Mr. Jeff's uploads.



VISIT BY FIJIAN MINISTER OF TRANSPORT TO MALAYSIA



On 25-28 February 2020, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, Hon. Jone Usamate, led Fiji's delegation to the International Association of Marine AIDS to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) Diplomatic Conference in Kuala Lumpur.

Minister Usamate was amongst the few speakers who delivered remarks at the opening of the Conference. He highlighted the significance of IALA to Fiji as a coastal and maritime community, as it relates to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. He also underscored IALA's importance to Fiji's climate change strategies and how it would contribute to Fiji's maritime transport sector and in achieving the sustainable development goals.

On the margins of the Conference, Minister Usamate had a bilateral meeting with Malaysia's Ministry of Transport Secretary-General, Dato' Isham Ishak. Recalling the longstanding relations between Fiji and Malaysia, the Minister expressed Fiji's desire to deepen engagements with Malaysia in the maritime transport sector, including through human capacity building. Both sides agreed to draft an MOU to cover the areas of cooperation.

IN THE MEDIA

Search Results

New norms need to be embraced

25 May 2020 HIGH COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA, Malaysian Embassy staff members and families dining in Sora last year.



In Malaysia, Eidul Fitri is the most awaited celebration for the Muslims. It is a day to celebrate after a month of fasting to control one's desires and performing religious duties such as zakat (donation) and prayers.

Thousands of families will swarm the highways several days before the Eid to get back to their villages, celebrating the special day with their parents.

Houses will be cleaned, old curtains and sofas will be changed to new ones.

The ladies will be busy in the kitchen preparing assorted variety of *leleh raya* (Eid biscuits), *nasi impit* (compressed rice cooked in coconut leaves), *lobeh* (vegetable stew), *rendang* (slow-cooked curry of chicken or beef) and *santay* (chicken/beef barbecue). Meanwhile, the men will be preparing more laborious tasks outside the house i.e. preparing the Lemang (glutinous rice soaked in coconut milk and cooked in bamboo) and *dodol* (sweet-like toffee confection) which needs to be stirred for hours in a big pot. After the Eid prayer in the morning, families will gather around for a big meal.

This is the time to seek forgiveness from parents and among siblings.

The children will be looking forward to this as they will get small packets of money as gifts.

They will then visit nearby relatives, friends and families. At night, the festivities continue with children playing fireworks and kerosene-lit lanterns which are placed around the compound of the houses.

At least, that was the way we traditionally celebrate the Eidul Fitri in Malaysia.

However, this year things will be different.

No gathering is allowed and social distancing is a must. And this is the new norms that we have to embrace. As one hadith (sayings of Prophet Muhammad) that if there is a plague in an area, one must not go to or leave the area. This reflects to the principle of modern day quarantine. Indeed, COVID-19 has changed our lives. The Eidul Fitri this year may not be the same anymore. By the grace of Allah, may this Eid bring you joy, happiness as well as peace and prosperity for you and your family.

Despite the hardship, there could be something positive out of it.

Eid Mubarak!

This year things will be different. We celebrate Eidul Fitri and pray at home, at best have a video call with our parents, families and friends

Uthman bin Muhammad

The High Commission's opinion on Covid-19 and Eidul Fitri celebration was featured in the Fiji Sun on 25 May 2020.

CONNECTIVITY

Google-Registered Photographer Aims To Put Fiji On Map

FREDERICA ELBOURNE
SUVA

A photographer said to be registered with Google has set up shop in Nadi, with the view to putting more of Fiji on the global map.

Tiun Kian Seng, known locally as Jeff, says judging by the statistics, he was the world's second best 360-degree Google-registered photographer. He has travelled over 300 kilometres around the country and has gained over two million viewers for scenic Fiji images he posted on Google Maps.

Mr Tiun met with the Malaysian high commissioner Ilham Tuan Illias and his counsellor Mohd Moor Zay Mohd Nasir yesterday to describe the

nature of his business. Mr Tiun says he is the only Google registered 360-degree photographer in Fiji.

While many can take pictures on the 360 degree platform, a select few can upload them to Google Maps, he said.

Asia Pacific One Consulting

His business, Asia Pacific One Consulting P1 Ltd, operates out of Marintuar, Nadi, where he has generated 200 customers.

Mr Tiun arrived in Fiji in 2015 as a tour guide for visitors from China, but has since turned to photography as a virtual extension of his tourism operations.

"Even with COVID-19, Fiji is still my home," he said.

Mr Tiun displayed expensive pho-

tography equipment which he believes is the first of its kind in Fiji.

He said he was willing to work with the hotel sector through COVID-19.

"Now is not the time to be asking for money.

"I am offering my services for free."

Mr Ilham said Mr Tiun was visiting the private sector to generate aware-

ness on the services he provided.

He said the 360 degree photography service allowed viewers to virtually see places they could literally visit when the international borders reopened.

Mr Tiun has a Facebook page titled Bula Maps, where he uploads images of places he has visited in Fiji.

Feedback: frederica.elbourne@fijisun.com.fj

From left: Asia Pacific One Consulting Pte Ltd owner Tiun Kian Seng, Malaysian high commissioner Ilham Tuan Illias and Malaysian High Commission counsellor Mohd Noor Zaky Mohd Nasir at the high commission on August 14, 2020. Photo: Frederica Elbourne



Interview session with Fiji Sun for Asia Pacific One in the Fiji

Sun newspaper on 15 August 2020

***Correction: Total views of Jeff's works are 200 million and not 2 million views as stated in the news.**

ENGAGEMENTS



Visit to Asia Pacific One

On 11 February 2020, the Counselor visited Asia Pacific One in Nadi. The owner, a Malaysian, Mr. Tiun Kian Seng also known as Jeff has been in the Pacific region for more than 5 years and currently providing travel consultancy services for those who plan to visit any countries in the South Pacific region.

Jeff has visited most of the island nations and tourism spots in the region. Jeff is also one of Google maps top contributor in the Pacific. Most of the pictures and Google Street views in the region were Jeff's works. His uploaded information on the

internet has been viewed almost 200 million times. The High Commission also handed over Visit Malaysia 2020 tourism kit to him so as to also promote Malaysia to his clients.

Meeting Malaysians at Shangri-La

The Counselor also met with Malaysians who work at the Shangri-La Resort and Spa in Fiji. There are currently 6 Malaysians who work at Shangri-La; there a sizeable numbers of Malaysians who work in other hotels and resorts in Fiji. Chef Arnold and Chef Afiq (pic.) have been in Fiji for several years; helming the resort's kitchen.



Meeting with Malindo Crew

While in Nadi, the Counselor met with several crew of Malindo Air, who were based in Nadi (4 hours' drive from Suva). They discussed about their projects with Fiji Airways and also exchanged experiences and stories they had experienced in Fiji. They expressed appreciation that staff from the High Commission visited them.



High Commissioner Hosted Lunch for Malindo Crew

On 20 February 2020, the High Commissioner hosted 30 Malindo crews of pilot, engineers and air hostesses at Rumah Malaysia. They were served with scrumptious traditional meals and kuih-muih. This in some way cure their craving for Malaysian home cooked meals.

Malindo Air was on a 'wet-leased' (a plane with onboard and ground crew being leased for 3 months) agreement with Fiji Airways to serve Nadi-Brisbane and Nadi-Christchurch route from October 2019 until March 2020. Malindo even flew to Solomon Islands during the lease.

Visiting Malaysians at Shangri-La Resort Fiji



As part of the Program Mendampingi Rakyat Malaysia (PMRM), on the second day of Hari Raya, the High Commissioner visited Malaysians that work in Shangri-La Resort on 28 May 2020. There are currently 6 Malaysians working at the resort, led by Mr. Francis Lee as the General Manager. Our fellow Malaysians are also in-charge in the engineering, kitchen, administration and finance department of the resort. During this Covid time, we learned that Shangri-La did not retrench their staff and provide food as their corporate social responsibility. The resort like others, focus on domestic tourism with affordable prices for the locals and special day packages to utilize the facilities.



Eidul-Fitri Gathering at Rumah Malaysia



On 13 June 2020, the High Commissioner hosted an EidulFitri luncheon to the Diplomatic Corps and Malaysians residing in Suva. Due to restriction on numbers in a gathering, the luncheon was only attended by several number of Malaysians and diplomats. It was graced by the Hon. Faiyaz Koya, Minister for Economy and Tourism of Fiji, Heads of Mission from Indonesia, European Union, United States and the CEO of Fiji Road Authority; along with Malaysians staying in Suva. The Ambassadors of the United States and the EU hosted iftars during the month of Ramadhan. Minister Koya in his speech spoke about the new norms due to Covid, the challenges ahead economically, the excellent works completed by Malaysian companies such as Naim in the construction of the King's Road along Fiji's idyllic coastline, as well as to reflect the meaning of Eidul Fitri.

Repatriation of Malaysians Stranded in Fiji and the Pacific



The High Commission has assisted a number of Malaysians who were stranded in Fiji and Nauru. They have been stranded in these countries due to border closure in early March as well as shortage of flights. Fiji is also the transit point for passengers going to the other Pacific island countries; and since Fiji closed its border, these travelers were also affected and stranded in Fiji. Most of the stranded Malaysians have safely return home. They expressed appreciation of seeing Embassy staff and this bring comfort to them.

Covid-19 in the Pacific

FIJI

Confirmed	Recovered	Deaths
27	19	1

NAURU

Confirmed	Recovered	Deaths
0	0	0

KIRIBATI

Confirmed	Recovered	Deaths
0	0	0

TONGA

Confirmed	Recovered	Deaths
0	0	0

TUVALU

Confirmed	Recovered	Deaths
0	0	0



For Fiji, COVID-19 preparedness started early. By early-March, the Government has implemented border closure and nation-wide lockdown. Fiji's molecular laboratory at the Fiji Centre for Disease Control had validated testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, enabling the country to test suspected cases locally rather than sending the specimens overseas. In early May, the newly developed testing equipment started to arrive in the Pacific, increasing the number of tests and allowing other Pacific countries to test for COVID-19 locally. Due to the distance and prompt action by the governments of the Pacific island nations of Nauru, Kiribati, Tonga and Tuvalu to close their borders; these countries are so far Covid-19 free.

Food Trivia

Malaysia and Fiji share almost the same climate conditions and similarly blessed with fertile soil. Most of Fijian delicacy are made from root-based plant such as cassava, taro and yam; as well as wide usage of coconut milk in most of their cooking. Hence, the preparation and the type of foods are almost identical with Malaysia's. Here are the examples of the food that are similar with Malaysia's that we can find in Fiji (and the Pacific!)



1



3



5



2



4



6

1. Bingka Ubi
2. Tapisolo
(cassava cake)
3. Keledek goreng
4. Dalo (taro)
chips
5. Pucuk ubi
masak lemak
6. Rourou
(taro leaves in
coconut milk)



Typical Fijian Food spread

Boiled or fried cassava and taro with fried fish in coconut milk. Various green leaves such as taro leaves also cooked in coconut milk; accompanied with lime, salt and chili.



*VINAKA VAKALEVU
&
Terima kasih!*