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**Prime Minister of Fiji and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, the Public Service, People’s Charter for Change and Progress, Information, iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Lands and Mineral Resources**

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**SPEECH AT THE COMMISSIONING OF THE CWM HOSPITAL PROJECTS**

**CWM Hospital Fri. 14th March, 2014**

**SUVA 1000 Hours**

**The Minister for Health and Senior Executives;**

**Representatives from the Public Private Partnership – Digicel & International Women Association (IWA);**

**Invited Guests;**

**Ladies & Gentlemen.**

I am indeed privileged to be here this morning to officiate the commissioning of projects at CWM Hospital.

Healthcare Worldwide continues to change with developments in Science and Technology. Fiji , in it’s strive for keeping up to par with these developments had embarked on several projects in the past and the government will continue to support projects that will enhance the quality and efficiency of Health Service to all Fijians. I remember commissioning the MRI Machine few years ago and to be here again shows the commitment of government to continuous improvement of Health Services to the people of Fiji.

Today we witness yet another success in the Ministry of Health’s strategies in meeting the demand from the Communities with the Disease trends noted through the years. I must acknowledge the Health Team for their perseverance and effort in bringing these projects into reality despite constraints and limited resources.

We have heard of these projects:

1. The new Lithotripter Machine
2. The new look Wellness Center for Women
3. The new look Maternity Unit
4. The New Cytology machines
5. The New look CWMH Kitchen

All have been initiated in line with Strategies of the Ministry and the Government targeting improvement and strengthening Maternal Child Health, procuring new technology for quality and efficient healthcare and generally improving Health facility Outlook such as the CWMH Kitchen. In addition, these initiatives will assist the government in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

At this juncture, I also acknowledge the assistance and vision of the Private Partners that had come on board to assist the Ministry of Health achieve its Vision in the provision of high quality healthcare delivery services. I thank the Digicel Company for their Commitment and contribution to the New Look Maternity Unit. …This the beginning of LIFE and providing that homely environment for mothers and newborns starts the enjoyable, exciting nurturing for future Fijians. …Not only for families.. But IMPORTANTLY also providing that environment for Healthcare givers to be at their best in the delivery of Care.

I also salute the IWA for the New Look Wellness Center for Women. Health of Women is one of the government’s priority considering their role and capabilities in families, Societies, Organisations and other areas of socioeconomic developments. The Center will certainly provide that much needed health services for Women whether it be counseling, screening, family planning or treatment of any women related illnesses. While the Center concentrate on screening and preventive measures, the hospital has also procured the New Cytology Machines which is targeted at early detection of Cervical Cancers thus early treatment and better clinical outcomes with reduction in Morbidity and Mortality.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Cervical Cancers has been one of the leading cause of Death for Women of Fiji in recent years BUT with these new developments the government has gone full Circle first with the introduction of the HPV Vaccines for our 12 year old girls as prevention, the procurement of the Cytology Machines for early detection and now the new Wellness Center will certainly boost the Ministry in its strive for Better Care for our Women.

Today, we will also commission the new LITHOTRIPTER Machine….I believe, this is the first of its kind in the South Pacific Region. Lithotripsy is the now the modern and preferred method of treating Kidney Stones…Gone are the days of having major operation to remove kidney stones. I have been informed that within few minutes of treatment with this machine, the stones are crushed and passed naturally without much pain and stress to patients.

This is certainly an exciting time for the government and the Ministry in terms of HealthCare Services in Fiji. We must not forget that Fiji plays a vital role in training of our future Pacific health personnel and thus it must be well resourced in order to fulfill this important role. CWM hospital has been the training ground for 90 years and the government will continue to support this regional role.

I am sure with this support and the vision of the Ministry of Health; we can take Fiji Health Service to greater heights with the main aim of improving the Health of all Fijians. I strongly believe that Healthy People means a Healthy Nation.

I, therefore, congratulate the Ministry for these great achievements and encourage all users and providers to utilize these services well.

The Government will continue to consider Health as one of the priorities in its direction towards a better Fiji.

Thank you – vinaka vakalevu.