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Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, Public Service, Peoples Charter for Change and Progress, Information, iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Lands and Mineral Resources

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SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW CLASSROOM BUILDING AT NAWAISOMO PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nawaisomo Primary School Fri. 4th July, 2014

Naitasiri 1100 Hours

The Vunivalu of Wailevu;

Elders and the people of Nagonenicolo District;

Invited Guests, and Teachers

Students of Nawaisomo Primary School.

Bula Vinaka and a very good morning to you all.

It’s a great pleasure to be with you today to open the new classroom building for Nawaisomo Primary School.

The renovation was funded by Government at a cost of $32,000 and is the latest addition to close to $47 million spent on development projects in Naitasiri in recent times by my Government.

Since the beginning of this year, I’ve been to ten schools across the country to open classrooms and other facilities like the new building here at Nawaisomo Primary School. I look forward to these events more than any other because they give me a chance to meet young Fijians and their parents.

Seeing the bright future that lies ahead of us reminds me that the hard work of the past seven years has been worth the struggle. It strengthens my resolve to keep fighting on your behalf for even better days ahead.

I am never more confident of our nation’s new path as when I visit schools in Fiji today and see a future for our children that is at last filled with the potential for unity, stability and prosperity. There is no better motivation for me personally than this to keep up the hard work.

Now, education is the right of all Fijians no matter who you are or where you are from as provided for under our Constitution.

My Government has taken the pressure off parents and is providing free schooling for the first time. Parents don’t have to pay school fees any longer at the primary or high schools. There is absolutely no reason any more for any Fijian student to not finish High School or not go to university. We also pay for university fees.

For the parents and all elders we must all encourage our children to attend to school and study hard. Now that my government has made education free and gives more grants to schools there should be no excuse for our children not to attend schools. My Government has also made sure that the rural and maritime schools also get the same resources as those in the urban areas.

As I keep telling our people all over the country – there has never been a more exciting time to be a Fijian. As parents and students we now have more opportunities for you than ever before.

In return, all we ask is that we all work hard. For your parent’s sake, for your country’s sake but especially for your own sake. Because if we all work hard, all sorts of doors will open up to us and a world of opportunity will be at our feet.

With those few words, it is now my pleasure to open Nawaisomo Primary School’s new classroom building.

Vinaka Vakalevu.

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