



Joshko Wakaniyasi tests the wheel chair lever of the new REACH project bus. Looking on are guests at the event held at the Albert Park Pavilion, Suva, on April 12, 2017. Photo: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

GOVERNMENT-GOVERNMENT

Social Services REACH Rural, Maritime Areas

JAPAN PROVIDED FUNDING OF ABOUT US\$2.67 MILLION (FJ\$5.56M) FOR 3 YRS

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Fijians living in rural, maritime and semi-urban areas now have easier access to social services thanks to three buses commissioned yesterday under REACH.

REACH stands for: Rights, Empowerment and Cohesion for Rural and Urban Fijians project.

The ministry has been working closely with the Commissioner's office and the Provincial Council to identify hot spots where the services are needed most.

The buses are expected to be in one particular area covering several communities and villages in one district for two weeks.

People who use wheelchairs will have access to the services as well. Each bus has at least 3 average sized meeting rooms along with a rest room.

Last year, the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission joined the project. A partnership of

SINCE JULY 2015, REACH HAS PROVIDED AWARENESS TO:

- 3138 ordinary Fijians (1592 women, 1379 men and 168 children) covering 132 remote rural communities in 28 districts across the 10 provinces in the Eastern, Northern, Central and the Western Division.

the Fiji Police Force was established recently.

The Government of Japan provided a funding of about US\$2.67million (FJ\$5.56m) for a period of three years in support of the United Nations Development Programme which facilitated the project.

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuni-

waga said the multi-sectorial approach was Government's commitment to ensure that no Fijian should be left behind.

"The approach is proactive and will enable the key stakeholders to deliver their appropriate services for the multi-faceted issues that arise during service delivery."

While the awareness aspect is different from service delivery, the Women's Ministry will provide the normal services like one-to-one question and answers, necessary documentation and verification.

The partnerships with other bodies, Ms Vuniwaga said would go a long way in not only realising the ministry's mandate, but also forge Fiji's national efforts towards the realisation of the UN sustainable development goals.

The three buses will be stationed in the Northern, Central and the Western Division.

Edited by Ranoba Sava

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Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Mereseini Vuniwaga (right), with Assistant Minister Veena Bhatnagar (left) and Permanent Secretary Dr Josefa Koravuetu at Albert Park, Suva on April 12, 2017. Photo: Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

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