

August 31 2012

Many dimensions of poverty

Poverty Alleviation Affirmative Action should be based on location, not ethnicity, FNU workshops in Suva, Labasa and Lautoka on the Fiji Poverty Report was told.

The report was collated after Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) by the Fiji Bureau of Statistics under the leadership of the Acting Government Statistician, Epeli Wagavonvono.

Independent economist Professor Wadan Narsey analysed the data and produced a book, *Poverty in* Fiji: Changes 2002-03 to 3008-09 and policy implications.

He said some 71 percent of the poverty alleviation resources should go to the rural sector.

"The Affirmative Action policies should not be hand-outs but reward Fijian entrepreneurship," he said.

He emphasised the multidimensional nature of poverty and the need to examine it from all perspectives, including productive employment, food security, education and health.

Professor Narsey also examined poverty gaps, income sources and distribution issues, the impact of household size and need for family planning, narcotics including alcohol and kava, health insurance, employment and gender, and household assets and services.

Recommendations derived from the data included the need for tertiary training institutions to be encouraged to increase the output of skills in demand in the international labour markets, and trainees to recognise that they also needed to share the costs of their training, which would be generously rewarded by higher incomes abroad.

Other education recommendations included greater budget allocations for rural preschools, an investigation of causes of poor academic performance that result in school drop outs and opportunities to repeat.

Health recommendations included a ban on advertising non-nutritious snack foods on radio and television, health taxes on nutritionally poor quality foods, some form of health insurance for the poorest households, and campaigns to discourage excessive consumption of yaqona at gatherings.

Another recommendation emphasised the importance of female gainful employment for money as an important part of poverty reduction strategies, a government investigation of duty policies to encourage poor households to purchase basic washing machines to reduce the burden on women, and a campaign to encourage the poorest households to prioritise the purchase of computers rather than less necessary household assets.

Locations: College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, Head Office - Koronivia, P. 0. Box 1544, Nausori: Ph:(679) 347 9200, Fax:(679) 340 0275. College of Humanities and Education, Head Office - P. 0. Box 7222, Nasinu: Ph:(679) 339 3177 Fax:(679) 337 0275. College of Engineering, Science & Technology, Head Office - P. 0. Box 7222, Sanabula, Suva: Ph:(579) 338 104 Fax: (679) 337 0375. College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences, Head Office - P. 0. Box 7222, Nasinu: Ph:(679) 339 3177 Fax:(679) 330 3469. College of Humanities and Education, Suva: Ph:(679) 338 104 Fax: (679) 339 104 Fax: (679) 339 104 Fax: (679) 339 104 Fax: (679) 339 104 Fax: (679) 330 104 Fax: (679) 339 104 Fax: (679) 330 0377 Fax: (679) 330 0377 Fax: (679) 330 0377 Fax: (679) 330 0370 Fax: (679) 360 104 Fax: (679) 666 7000 Fax: (679) 666 7000 Fax: (679) 666 104 50 Suva Centre: 11 Cumming St. Suva: Fiji Tel: (679) 330 6370 Fax: (679) 330 6340.



There was a recommendation seeking a public inquiry into all aspects of mobile phone use by children and marketing campaigns to find out if they result in excessive expenditure on unnecessary phone use.

The workshop participants heard from the Ministry of Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority, Fiji Commerce Commission, National Food and Nutrition Centre, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Health and FNU.

Locations: College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, Head Office - Koronivia, P. O. Box 1544, Nausori: Ph:(679) 347 9200, Fax:(679) 340 0275. College of Humanities and Education, Head Office - P. O. Box 7222, Nasinu: Ph:(679) 339 177 Fax:(679) 334 0210. College of Engineering, Science & Technology, Head Office - P. O. Box 7222, Smainula, Suva: Ph:(679) 337 0275. College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences, Head Office - P. O. Box 7222, Nasinu: Ph:(679) 331 1700 Fax: (679) 330 3469. College of Engineering, Science & Technology, Head Office - P. O. Box 7222, Nasinu: Ph:(679) 330 1477 Fax:(679) 330 1470 Fax: (679) 330 469. College of Humanities and Education, Head Office - P. O. Box 7222 Nasinu: Ph:(679) 338 0476. College of Humanities and Education, Head Office - P. O. Box 7222 Nasinu: Ph:(679) 330 479 75. College of Humanities and Education, Head Office - P. O. Box 7222 Nasinu: Ph:(679) 338 0477. National Training & Productivity Centre: Training House Lot I, Box 6990, Nasinu, Fiji: Tei (679) 337 0446. Lautoka, Centre: Office Nacera St, Private Mail Bag, Lautoka, Fiji. Tei: (679) 666 7000 Fax: (679) 340 210. National Centre: Jerusalem Road, Nabua GPO Box 15676, Suva Fiji Tei: (679) 333 0446. Lautoka Centre: Off Naceva St, Private Mail Bag, Lautoka, Fiji. Tei: (679) 666 7000 Fax: (679) 640 4046 Suva Centre: 11 Cumming S, Suva. Fiji Tei: (679) 330 6340.