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FIJI NEWS

Department Moves Forward With Biofuel Projects

By SALASEINI TAWAKE The abundance of copra in the country had been utilised for the betterment of people living in maritime islands, especially within the Lau group. Bio fuel projects

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By SALASEINI TAWAKE

The abundance of copra in the country had been utilised for the betterment of people living in maritime islands, especially within the Lau group. Bio fuel projects had been implemented in Rotuma, Koro Island and Cicia in the Lau Group and plans are in place for more projects around the country. Department of Energy media liason officer Losena Tudreu said the islands were identified after intense feasibility studies or surveys and consultations with the communities.

“The primary resource which is coconut, was also factored into the process and its abundance in supply,” Ms Tudreu said.

“Coconut is the essential ingredient in producing biofuel which when added into the maximum allowable ratio 20 per cent coconut oil, 80 per cent diesel becomes the renewable diesel, R20.”

“A product produced for consumption,” she said.

The projects are estimated to cost \$500,000 per mill.

Moala, Matuku, and Vanuabalavu, in the Lau Group are currently being commissioned for biofuel projects but has yet to be confirmed. However, in the Island of Lakeba the project is currently under way.

A plant is yet to be commissioned in the island of Rabi.

People run the mill and also reap the benefits from these mills.

“These mills are to serve the communities in terms of a consistent supply of clean green and affordable fuel and also uplift the standard of living through the provision of economic activity that is associated with the mill,” Ms Tudreu said.

“This will create employment on the island thus reducing rural- urban drift and students will be able to study better and for longer hours,” she said.

Other projects by the Department of Energy include through its Solar Home Systems project, small and micro hydro scheme and also diesel schemes which provide

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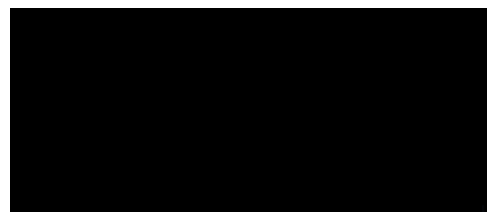


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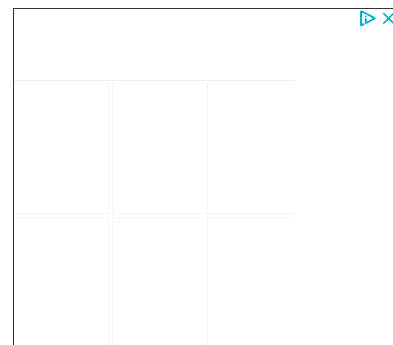
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