

# Villagers buy ship to ease costs

Mere Naleba Monday, May 20, 2013 Fiji Times



VILLAGERS of the district of Nabukelevu in Kadavu can expect to save more money after the district purchased a boat to service the lower southern parts of Kadavu.

The MV Uluinabukelevu returned to Port Mua-I Walu on Saturday after making its third voyage to the Island of Kadavu, focusing entirely on providing the cheapest and affordable trips for the people of Nabukelevu-ira.

"This is a big help for the people in the villages belonging to the tikina of Nabukelevu-ira. Before they were paying \$55 for their fares from Suva to the jetty at Vunisea and an additional \$200 from Vunisea to their villages on the lower part of the Island," Valesasa Transportation Company manager Ilaitia Caginavanua said.

"After the company purchased the boat, through funds from the tikina, the people of Nabukelevu now only have to pay \$55 and they are dropped off at their villages."

Mr Caginavanua said the people from Nabukelevu-ira often paid more than \$300 for outboard fibreglass boats to transport their cargo, which included building materials, from the Vunisea jetty to their villages.

He said with the two bigger shipping companies operating the MV Lomaiviti

Princess and Sinu-I -Wasa only stopped at the jetties in Kavala in the northern upper part of Kadavu and Vunisea.

Villagers from the district of Nabukelevu have been forced to pay huge sums of money from the jetties to their villages.

"The boat was bought for the sole purpose of reducing the burden of having to pay so much when our people want to travel to Suva, or when they are returning from Suva," he said.

The boat made its maiden voyage on April 25 and has been a welcome sight for villagers of Daviqele, Nabukelevu, Qaliira, Kabariki, Yawe, Talaulia and Lomati.



