

Vodafone celebrates 13th anniversary

FIJI'S only mobile telecommunications company, Vodafone Fiji Limited, yesterday marked its 13th anniversary.

This comes as Vodafone covers 65 per cent of the population and caters for 300,000 customers.

According to Vodafone's Managing Director, Aslam Khan, the company had far exceeded expectations considering the slowdown in the market because of the current economic climate.

Khan said as expected the current situation would take time to normalise, as was

similarly experienced in 2000.

He added that he believed Vodafone's single main focus today was to connect the unconnected and to achieve this goal the company was directing the bulk of its investment towards rural areas, providing solutions and growing services to the unconnected in the most remote areas.

And in addition to the \$200 million invested by Vodafone in the last 13 years it 2q committed to further invest \$35 million every year to ensure that it bring about

mobile solutions that were tailored to suit every individual and strengthen its growing services with the customers.

Khan added that Vodafone also realised the importance of tourism in the country and would support the sector by implementing new initiatives.

He said that deregulation was a non-issue as far as Vodafone was concerned, adding that its main objective was to increase choices for consumers and appeal to different niches in the market.

Landowners urged to farm land

WITH the economy currently struggling, the Interim Fijian Affairs Minister Ratu Epeli Ganilau has urged landowners to make use of their land.

Speaking to the Department of Information, Ratu Epeli said indigenous landowners owned 83 per cent of the land and this was a good enough reason for it to be utilised to its fullest potential. Ratu Epeli said land could also be used for commercial activities, with the landowner earning a healthy income.

He said the Interim Government was ready to assist and educate the general public on the use of their land.

"I would like to see provincial councils discuss this in their meetings to point the people in the right direction since we're basically a country that relies very much on agriculture because of the abundance of land that we have," Ratu Epeli said. He said agriculture was the way to go since it was the backbone of the country.

"Agriculture should always be the backbone for this country and hopefully when other industries are not performing well, we always have agriculture there.

"It's something we can fall back on. To encourage people to use their land is one way of ensuring that the country can have some economic strength from the use of agriculture, from the use of land by the landowners," Ratu Epeli said.

Japanese embassy donates books to university

THE Japanese Embassy yesterday handed over 92 Japan-related books provided under the Japan Foundation Library support programme to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Fiji.

As a newly-established institution it is the first time for the university to be awarded the programme.

Representing the



Break Free HFC social club representative Livia Daubulu helps Vere Dausiga and Miliakere Aditaroga at the Old People's Home in Samabula as part of their community service every year. Photo: TUI SOGO.