

# Visit brightens day

By VERENAISI RAICOLA

MERE Lomaiviti, a widow residing at the Nakasi Hart outside Suva, could not contain her smile yesterday after the staff of Home Finance visited them with food rations and goodies for morning tea.

The mother of four said such visits were welcomed because people at the HART settlements, especially the elderly, were often lonely and left to live on their own.

"It is usually during the festive season that such visits by social groups are frequent.

"But regardless of when people come, they are always welcome and this is something that residents look forward to," she said.

Ms Lomaiviti said she had lived at the HART for 12 years since her husband's death in 1987.

She said while three of her children had grown up and were looking for work her youngest 14-year-old daughter still attended school.

"I am supporting my daughter, who attends Saraswati College, while the others are 20, 21 and 22 years old and looking for employment."

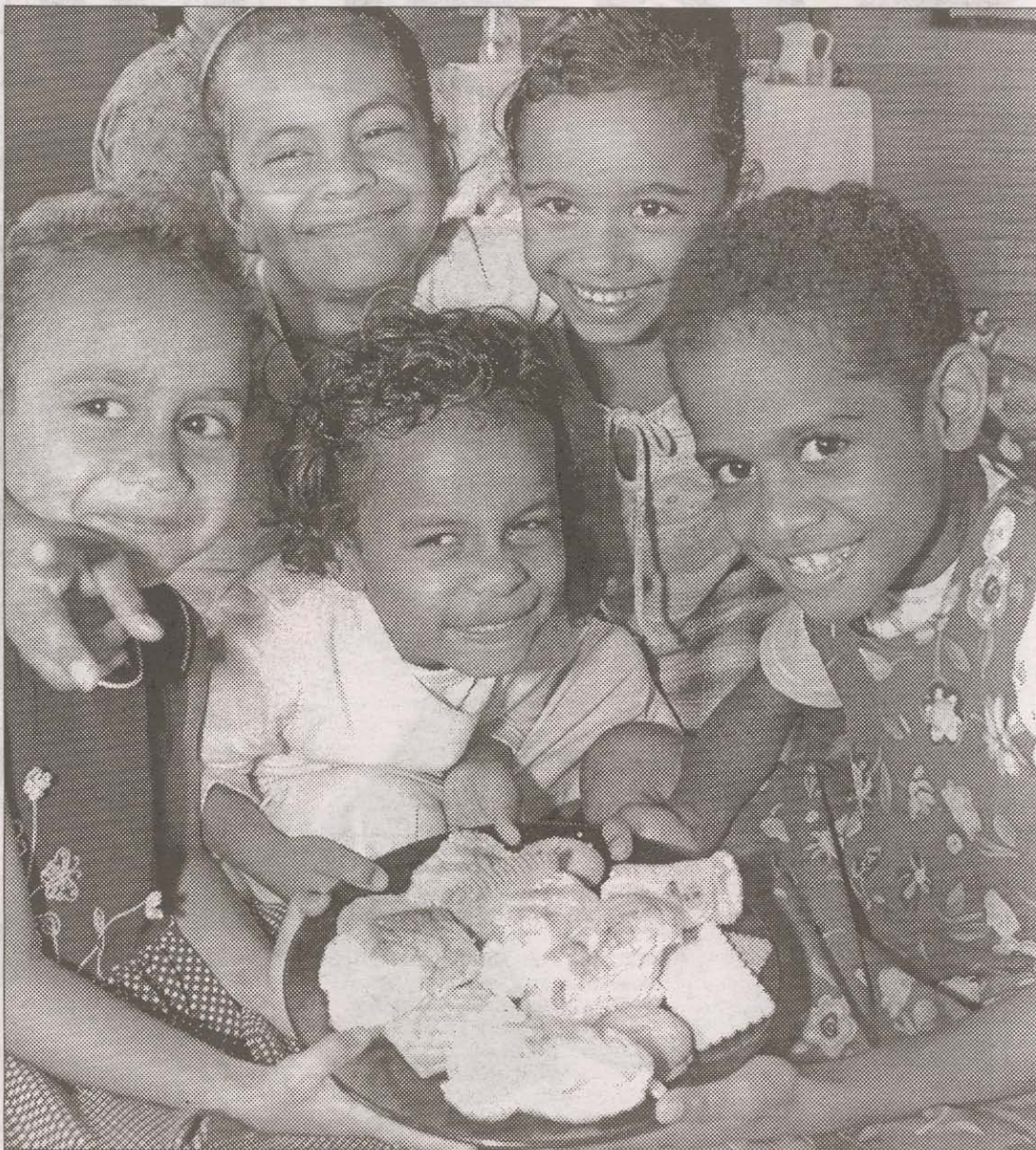
There are 24 Fijian families, 26 Indian families and four families of other races living at the settlement.

"We look after one another here and we are very close because for some of us this is the only family we have," she said.

Some residents paid \$5 a week for the newly-renovated flats while the others paid \$1 a week.

"Those who have lived here for more than 20 years only pay 50 cents a day for accommodation," she said.

The flats are self-contained with a little kitchen, toilet,



Children of the HART settlement in Nakasi, are all smiles around a plate of goodies donated by staff of Home Finance during a visit yesterday.

□ Picture: ELIKI NUKUTABU

bathroom and a bedroom.

Home Finance marketing administration officer Urvi Chandra said members of the social and sports club made

visits to the underprivileged a couple of times a year.

"For this visit all members had contributed financially.

"With the money we bought

groceries, clothes and kitchen cutlery for the residents, just to lift their spirits and to tell them that someone cares," she said.