

ADDRESS BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS, MS ALISON BURCHELL, AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ON FIJI'S PREPARATION FOR AND HOSTING OF THE NEXT GENERATION GLOBAL LEADERS (SHIP FOR WORLD YOUTH PROGRAM)

PRESS STATEMENT

Members of the media ladies and gentlemen thank you for your presence this morning.

Earlier this year, the Government of Japan through its Cabinet Office and the Embassy of Japan, extended an invitation to Fiji through our Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Fiji's participation in the Next Global Leaders program previously known as the Ship for World Youth Leaders. This will take place from 17 January to 3 March 2017.

At its meeting last month, Cabinet approved the following three items;

- I. That a 12 member Fiji youth delegation participate in the Next Global Leaders program
- II. That Fiji host activities for a visit of the ship to Suva from 17 to 20 February 2017
- III. That we submit an application for a budget to support this program which has now been approved through the budget process.

We are delighted and greatly appreciate the kind gesture of the Government of Japan for the invitation and the opportunity to host youth delegations from Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Egypt, India, Kenya, New Zealand, Tonga, Ukraine, and Japan.

The 12 member Fiji delegation will join 240 youth from the 10 countries in Japan on 17 January next year for orientation and pre-departure training. On 28 January 2017, they are expected to board the ship in Yokohama. The 33 day voyage will take the group to Vanuatu and then to New Zealand. From there, the ship is expected to arrive into Fiji on Friday 17 February for "port of call" activities until the 20 February 2017 when the group will depart again.

During their time in Fiji, we are planning activities for the port of call including:

- courtesy calls to various leaders
- a traditional welcome ceremony
- an onboard reception

- visits to various facilities and institutions
- an opportunity to exchange experiences with local youth
- village and home visits and
- an exciting cultural night program.

The purposes of this program are;

- 1.To develop abilities of the young people to deal with different cultures
- 2.To enhance communication, leadership and management skills
- 3.To deepen mutual understanding
- 4.To broaden global views
- 5.To strengthen the spirit of international cooperation.

We would like to make a special request to institutions to register their interest with us if they believe the youth from the ship would like to visit and learn about the work that these institutions undertake in the areas of:

- Disaster Risk Reduction and Volunteering
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Peace, Education and Dialogue
- Responsible Tourism
- Youth Empowerment
- International Cooperation

We also invite young people, especially ex-participants of the program, who would like to volunteer and help to host our visitors to register their names with the organizing committee secretary, Ms Prem Lata, on telephone number 3315960 and/or plata@govnet.gov.fj

We welcome an expression of interest from villages who are within the 30-60 minutes travel time from Suva Wharf to host youth delegations on Sunday 19 February 2017.

We appreciate your help in spreading this message around Fiji and Suva in particular.

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen.