



## Asian Productivity Organization “The APO in the News”

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### **We want to compete with the best: PM**

Fiji wants to compete with the best in a global marketplace that is more competitive and includes more players every day, says Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama.

Speaking at the opening of the 54th Workshop Meeting of the Heads of National Productivity Organisations in Nadi today, the Prime Minister said Fiji is determined to link its name or national brand with quality.

He said through the tourism and hospitality sector, the country is competing with the most desirable and sophisticated tourist destinations in the world.



Bainimarama said Fiji is fortunate to have been a member of the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) over the past 29 years and has received a great deal of support from APO training and development in many areas that have helped raised the performance of managers, technicians and CEOs alike—in both the private and public sectors.

“Through APO’s strong role in building the capacity of our own NPO, we Fijians have advanced our own efforts to be more productive and efficient, to encourage better management, and to stay abreast of the changes that affect the world’s economy,” he said.

“We still have a lot of work to do, but there is no doubt that we are a different country than we were when we started with APO.”

"We owe a great deal to the lessons we have learned from our fellow APO member countries in making Fiji more productive and committed to quality. The services you have provided in Business Excellence have been particularly useful to both the private sector and my government."

"Our Fijian Made campaign is an important step in that process. It is not just a campaign to encourage Fijians to buy products made in Fiji and therefore amongst other things, protect Fijian jobs. It is also a program to promote the quality of Fijian goods at home and abroad."

"My government sees it as our duty to give our citizens what they need to meet the high standards we expect from them."

"Our main priorities have been to improve the roads, reform the ports, develop a robust wireless broadband regime that connects the entire country, wage a relentless fight against corruption, and invest in education."

"It takes a national commitment to build a nation, and improving national productivity is no different. All of Us- producers, retailers and wholesalers, government, labor, the financial community, the business community, employee organizations, the education sector, trade unions and consumer have to be fully engaged in the effort," he added.

The workshop which is attended by more than 50 delegates from 19 APO member countries including Fiji will conclude on Thursday.

**By Reginald Chandar**