

Church privatises

By LITIA CAVA

THE Seventh-day Adventist Church has joined other faith-based organisations to call on Government for faith-based organisations to be included in the recruitment process of their schools.

This year, after three years of pleading with Government to consider faith or religion as a criteria in the selection of teachers and school leaders appointed to Seventh-day Adventist schools, the church has chosen to privatise Navesau High School in Talilevu.

General secretary of the Adventist church in Fiji, Pastor Joe Talemautoga says the church supports the call made by the head of the Catholic church recently to include faith as a criteria in the selection of leaders for faith-based schools.

Mr Talemautoga said the church was now financing the salaries of 18 former civil servants who were recruited by the church to teach at Navesau.

The church now pays for the salaries of teachers and ancillary staff and accepts the fact that no grant (free education grant) will be provided by the Ministry of Education," Mr Talemautoga said.

Dr Nemani Tausere, the director of education for the church in Fiji, said the church had written to the Education Ministry and had discussions with the former and current permanent secretaries, Minister for Education and the Prime Minister to consider faith or religion as a criteria in the selection of teachers and school leaders appointed to Seventh-day Adventist schools, but on all occasions their request was denied.

"The church commends the MOE on the introduction of the open merit recruitment system (OMRS). However, the church believes that in the field of education, unlike some other departments in government, the

MOE on the introduction of the open merit recruitment system (OMRS). However, the church believes that in the field of education, unlike some other departments in government, the

'Suggestions welcomed'

By LITIA CAVA

THE culture and values of schools is incredibly important and this is one of the improvements that can be made into the role description of teachers, particularly school heads, says Civil Service Reform Unit director Jane Curran.

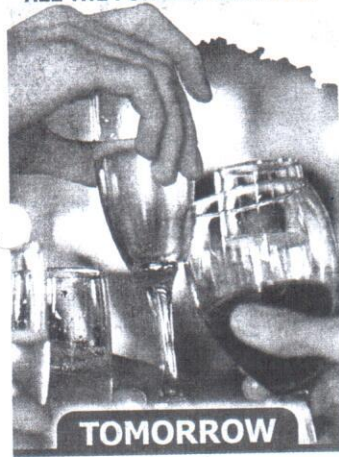
Ms Curran says the ministry was looking for educational leadership that goes together with the role description.

"What we need is suggestions as to how we can assess that without breaking the other parts of the Constitution because we need to read the Constitution in its totality," Ms Curran said during a meeting with stakeholders of the Catholic schools in Fiji at the Sacred Heart Cathedral crypt in Suva last week.

"We are looking for suggestions from you as to how we can assess without asking someone if they are Catholic, how we can assess how they will uphold those values for your school."

"We are open to suggestions as to how we can manage that part of the process and incorporate it into the process."

Meanwhile, Education Ministry permanent secretary Alison Burchell said leadership was not solely based on faith, but rather on individual leadership skills.



Index

North news	4
West news	5
Your views	8-9
Damodar movies	10
Life Cinemas	11
Business	13-19
World	22-23
Sports	28-32

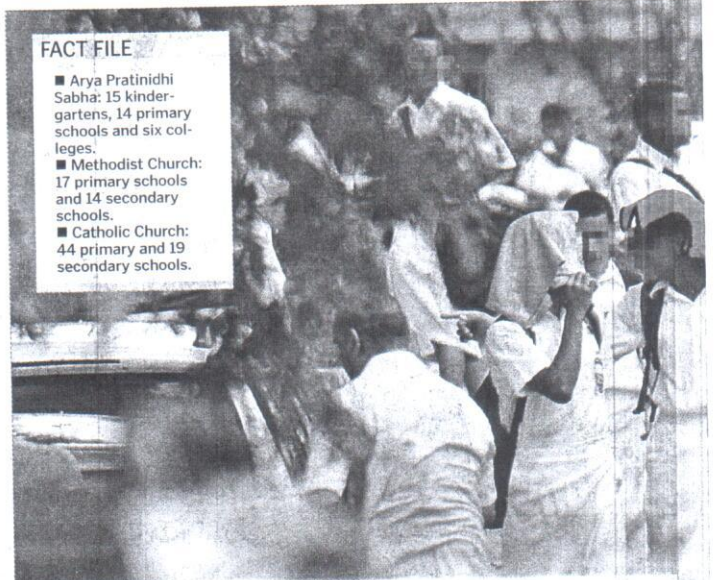
Weather

TODAY: Cloudy periods with some showers with isolated thunderstorms and heavy falls expected over Lau and Lomaiviti group and the eastern parts and interior of the other larger islands. Elsewhere, cloudy periods with afternoon or evening showers and thunderstorms with heavy falls. Localised heavy falls may lead to flash flooding of low lying areas. Moderate easterly winds. Moderate seas.

Details: PAGE 25

FACT FILE

- Arya Pratinidhi Sabha: 15 kindergartens, 14 primary schools and six colleges.
- Methodist Church: 17 primary schools and 14 secondary schools.
- Catholic Church: 44 primary and 19 secondary schools.



Students return home after school yesterday.

Picture: JOVESA NAISUA

Singh: Teachers' increment overdue

By LITIA CAVA

TEACHERS around the country are still waiting for their increment pay, claims Fiji Teachers Union general secretary Agni Deo Singh.

Mr Singh claimed that the morale of the teachers was low and this was a result of an announcement that was made by Government.

He said the first one was the increment pay that was to have been paid out to teachers after the annual performance appraisal that was supposed to be completed and submitted on April 30 last year.

Mr Singh said teachers were required to complete individual assessments by April 30 last year so that a budget could include an allocation for the increment pay.

He said it was announced publicly last year that all civil servants would receive their pay increment by Au-



Agni Deo Singh.
Picture: FILE

gust 1 last year.

"August came and no increment. We inquired and they said the exercise is yet to be completed. We were advised by the Ministry for Civil Service that the increment would be paid in January this year," Mr Singh claimed.

He claimed the ministry said the exercise would be completed by December.

"After December, you ask anybody in the ministry including the new minister, they will say 'I don't know!'"

Mr Singh said the union had meetings with the director of Civil Service and also the minister, who he claimed were not aware of this pay increment.

"Our question is who knows and what happened?"

A copy of Mr Singh's letter regarding this issue has been forwarded to the Education Minister, Rosy Akbar, who is yet to respond.

More Chips, More Yum

Chips! More!

Touching your lives with
Quality Products

MOTIBHAI
FIJI DISTRIBUTORS

FIJI TIMES LIMITED COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

■ The Fiji Times endeavours at all times to publish articles which are accurate and fair. If you have a complaint about a report that appeared in The Fiji Times publication please write to Complaints, GPO Box 1167, Suva Fiji; email: complaints@fijitimes.com.fj or fax to 3301521

F/T 22/01/19