

Proof of resilience

By FELIX CHAUDHARY

THE fact that Fiji's fruit and vegetable exports resumed within eight months of Tropical Cyclone Winston was proof of the resilience and enthusiasm of local produce farmers.

This was the comment made by Assistant Min-

ister for Agriculture Josephi Cawaki at the launch of Nature's Way Cooperative Ltd's new website in Nadi on Thursday.

The co-operative is made up of 300 farmers and its Nadi facility is internationally recognised as a treatment plant for fruit and vegetable exports to

overseas markets.

"We all know that it has not been an easy road for Nature's Way Cooperative and indeed for the whole of Fiji's agriculture sector," Mr Cawaki said.

"Over the past five years in particular, the industry has faced a number of significant setbacks due to

natural disasters including cyclones and floods.

"The industry has also faced significant challenges in the form of trade suspensions and pest outbreaks.

"Through all of this we have seen the resiliency of Fiji farmers and exporters and the fact that the

Fiji is back into export markets today after only eight months from suffering under the largest tropical cyclone to hit the South Pacific, this is a real

testimony to the strength of the industry and specifically the members and management of Nature's Way Cooperative."

'Prepare for the worst'

By MANASA KALOUNVITI

THE director of Fiji Meteorological Services, Ravin Kumar, told business representatives at the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council meeting on Wednesday that everyone including businesses must take adverse weather alerts seriously.

"You as a business must prepare for the worst when a cyclone or flood alert is given out by FMS," he said.

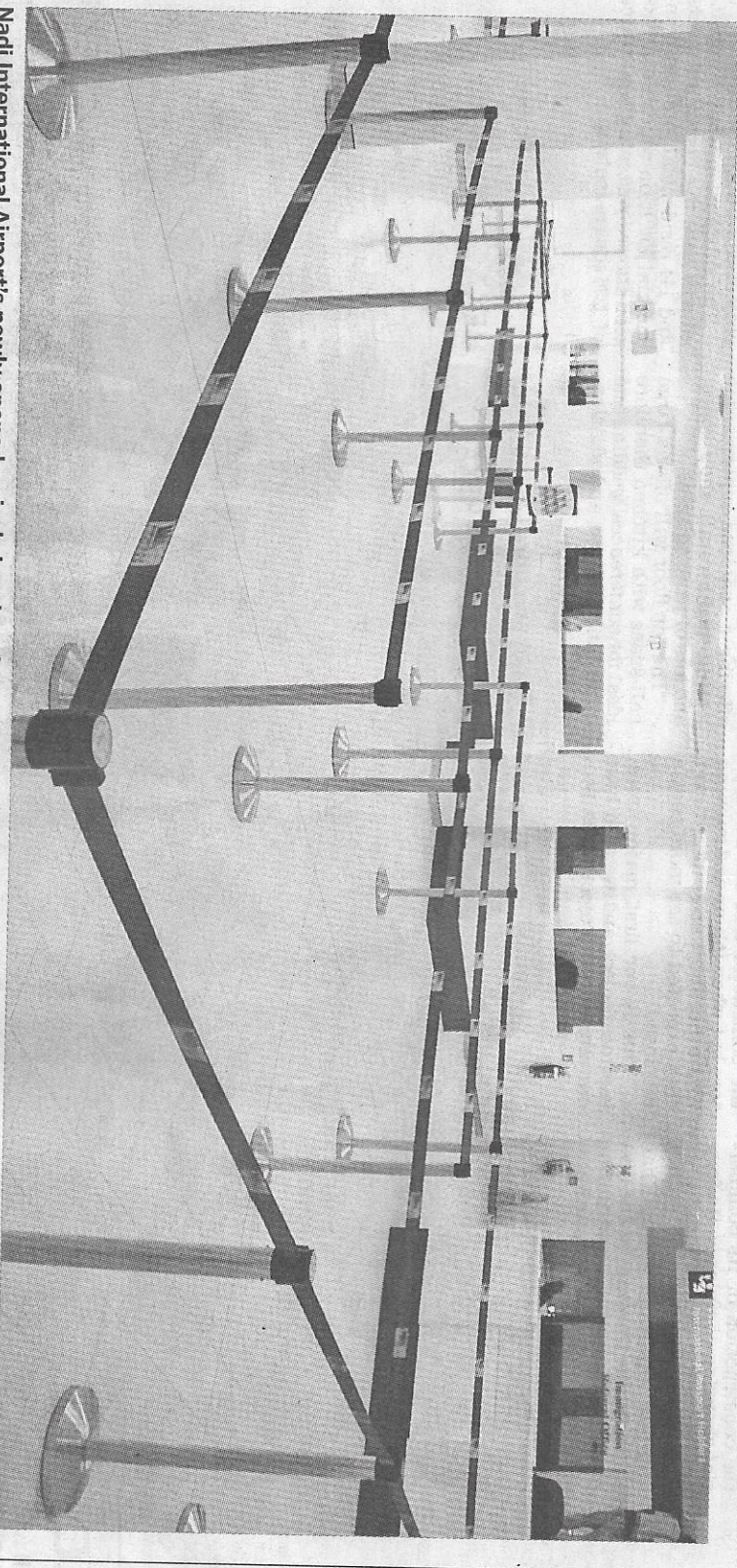
Mr Kumar outlined the values of FMS which included honesty, innovation, leadership, professionalism, teamwork and dedication.

"And without teamwork we cannot go far, so therefore with this business council we'd like to team up with you as well as provide the necessary information that you require to assist you do your daily work so it's business as usual whether it's a disaster period or post-disaster period."

He said FMS was also working closely with Vodafone and Digicel in terms of texting out some information and that they might reach some determination on how they would do that before the coming cyclone season.

"It may not be apparent within the next few months but we anticipate that by February we will get something going," Mr Kumar said.

The FMS head also spoke at length on how the FMS produced its weather reports especially how alerts were handed out when cyclones or impending floods were about to hit the coun-



Nadi International Airport's newly opened arrivals immigration.

Picture: SUPPLIED

8 new immigration counters online at the airport

By REPEKA NASIKO

TRAFFIC at the Nadi International Airport's

line yesterday in the new area," he said. "This will eventually increase to 14 in couple of months' time when the new arrivals

significantly increased; doubling from what it was before. "We are also expecting a num-