

'D Book' Launch

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A book on the developmental work of the Lautoka-based non- government organisation (NGO), the Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises & Development (FRIEND) in communities on the West Coast of Viti Levu, was launched in Suva.

Called the “D Book”, D standing for “Dreaming, Daring Delivering,” the book is a collection of impact stories of FRIEND’s work on about 30 women and men, including youth who are physically challenged (deaf and mute), students and reformed prisoners.

FRIEND published ‘D Book’ under the sponsorship of AusAID. The acting Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, Mr Glenn Miles was Chief Guest at the launch of the “D Book”, which took place at the Pacific Theological College (PTC) in Suva.

“The Australian Government is honoured to have been a part of FRIEND’s journey over the last 10 years in its effort to fight against poverty. The “D Book” is a great representation of the difference that FRIEND has made in the lives and livelihoods of the communities they serve. Each and every story is one of hope and of rebuilding lives,” Miles said.

Speaking in a personal capacity at the request of FRIEND, Michael Brownjohn, Team Leader of the Fiji Community Development Program (FCDP) commended the NGO saying: “To effectively engage with and transform the lives of vulnerable groups is an extraordinary challenge which requires immense strength, skill and resilience.”

The Lautoka-based NGO contracted veteran journalist and communication consultant, Samisoni Pareti to author the 100-page book.

“I had little inkling of the huge effort that is involved in book production when I took up the publishing contract, but I did know that FRIEND was and continues to be a great servant of the community it is dedicated to serve,” Pareti wrote in ‘D Book’s’ acknowledgment.

“D Book is really about people in the community – many if not all of them unknown to the whole lot of us. Yet quietly but determinedly, they work hard each day to provide for their families and their communities, not because they are paid to do so, or because they will get an honorary medal for it, or even have a book written about them, but because that is what they want to do,” added Pareti.

About FRIEND: Founded in 2001 by journalist-turned development worker Sashi Kiran, the Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises & Development is a development NGO based in Lautoka in Fiji. FRIEND’s dream is a Fiji without poverty, where all enjoy sustainable livelihoods brought about through social and economic empowerment, participations and linking resources to opportunities for development; a Fiji where communities take ownership and responsibility for their own development.

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News feature