The exploration and mining of our vast land has through the years grown to an extent where more and more foreign investors are seeking entry into the country with a common goal of utilizing the potential findings of mineral deposits that is believed to be in abundant.

Since the colonial years to date, new companies and investors have emerged with interest in exploring and mining Fiji lands and waters with hope of gathering as much deposits which would later be used for various matters important to global use.

Recently in 2013, there were a number of sites identified to have been potential mining areas with Bauxite being a major finding in the highlands of Vanua Levu.

This has been described by Mineral Resources Department Director, Malakai Finau as a step forward for mining and for the people of Fiji as this signifies an advantage of bringing in more foreign investors.

Director Finau said that there were other potential sites being explored for deposits of the mineral and some of the exploration sites that are being earmarked are situated in Nasarawaqa, Wainunu, Lekutu in Bua.

"This promising news will mean a boost for economies in the Vanua Levu and the North as a whole," Mr Finau said.

Potentially speaking, it is believed that already certain exploration groups have shown interest in mining the findings in Vanua Levu and this would definitely bring about good fortunes and employment while at the same time being mindful of environment issues.

The mataqali Naita from the village of Votua in the district of Lekutu is the second mining area identified in the province of Bua on Vanua Levu.

Mataqali spokesman Tevita Raiova said such a development would greatly benefit the landowners and the people nearby.

"The members have already given their consent to the bauxite company and we are looking forward to a new chapter in life," Mr Raiova said.

Acting commissioner Northern AIS Patate Bolienu said they were yet to receive the consent letter from the mataqali. However, he said the proposed development would not only benefit the Bua Province but the northern economy as a whole.

"This is another economic activity that will surely boost the northern economy and we are thankful to the landowners for having this insight," he said.

"With this finding, we are eagerly anticipating the beginning of mining expeditions where everyone involved tends to benefit from this scheme," said Finau.

Finau concluded that these findings potentially gives more reason to explore further to untouched places not only in Vanua Levu but in other scattered islands within Fiji waters and of course Fiji’s mainland, Viti Levu.

Economically, Fiji as a whole tends to benefit from this and with other findings could add more in terms of value to our land and waters which is sure to develop and secure Fiji’s future financially.

With this finding, we are eagerly anticipating the beginning of mining expeditions where everyone involved tends to benefit from this scheme.

- Director MRD, Malakai Finau