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Press Release

Fair Share of Mineral Royalties distributed in Nasomo Vatukoula.

It was a great day for the Nasomo Landowners Trust Members as the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Hon. Ashneel Sudhakar distributed the third fair share royalties of gold and silver to the landowners in Nasomo Village, Vatukoula on the 8th of May, 2019.

A total of \$57,002.47 was paid out for the period from December 2018 to February 2019 which is to be equitably shared amongst 123 trust members for leasing their land to Vatukoula Gold Mines.

Hon. Minister said that each trust member will receive a total of \$463.40 as their third fair share of royalty.

Minister Sudhakar said the payout is aligned to Section 5 of the Fair Share of Mineral Royalties Act 2018 which states that 80 per cent of mineral royalties to be given to landowning units and 20 per cent to be retained by the State.

“Mineral ownership remains vested with the State but the Bainimarama Government saw it fit to recognize the contribution of landowners that allow the use of their land to facilitate mineral development” “ This in itself entails landowners as partners in national economic development and nation building,” Hon. Minister Sudhakar said.

Hon. Minister also mentioned to the landowners that the Mine has plans to ramp up production and any increase in gold production will result in increased earnings for the mining company as well as the State, which will result in increased share of mineral royalties to the Nasomo Landowners Trust.

Hon. Minister Sudhakar also advised the recipients to sustainably manage the funds to ensure their future generation continues to reap the benefits of the mineral royalties in the near future.

The 57 year old Paulini Naitoko, a Trust Member said she is very proud of how the Government has been helping the people of Nasomo through the fair share of royalties.

Ms. Naitoko said she would save half of the money she received and use the other half to buy household items.

Another Trust Member Mere Mason who has been living in Nasomo village for 77 years said that she will use her money to start a duck business with her husband.