

The Fiji Times

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GUESS WHO'S OUR MAMA?

WIN fantastic prizes



Details on Page 7

REWA IN TOUGH POOL

Delta Tigers face Ba, Labasa at Fiji FACT

SPORTS



Orange is the new black ... Coca-Cola Games boys blue ribbon gold medal prospect Misikote Naisowalu (sitting) of Kadavu Provincial Secondary School with his teammates at their camp at Nabua in Suva last night. Report on PAGE 38.

Picture: RAMA

11 deaths

Health Ministry notes increase in Men-C cases

By MERE NALEBA

THE life-threatening meningococcal disease has claimed 11 lives in the country, says Health Minister Rosy Akbar.

She said seven lives were claimed last year, and an additional four recorded this year.

Confirming this in a ministerial statement in Parliament yesterday, Ms Akbar

said the invasive meningococcal disease used to be very rare in Fiji.

Ms Akbar said prior to 2015, the annual incidence rate was consistently below one per 100,000 population — equivalent to 0 to 10 cases annually.

However, from the fourth quarter of 2016, the ministry noted a significant increase in cases, recording 46 cases for the period of

January 1 to April 12 this year, 48 cases for last year and 29 cases for 2016.

She said out of the 46 cases recorded for January to April this year, 22 cases were laboratory confirmed and 24 were either suspected or probable with similar symptoms but not diagnosed by laboratory.

"In 2017, our national incidence of meningococcal disease was 5.9 per 100,000 popula-

tion and there was a total of seven deaths reported," Ms Akbar said.

"There have been four confirmed meningococcal disease-related deaths and two suspected from January 1 to April 12, 2018."

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Men-C vaccination program to last six weeks — PAGE 3

What do you think?



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