

# Opposition MP praises Minister for continuity

By Len Garae

**"THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED** before and what I am particularly impressed with is that my successor, the new Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity, Mr. Christopher Emelec arrives and sees the roadmap that I have embarked on and is happy to continue on the same roadmap instead of creating a new one".

Former Minister of ALFFB and current Opposition MP David Tosul made the statement while attending the ICT Workshop for Directors of all five Departments in the Ministry of ALFFB last week.

The MP said, "I am very glad to note that the new Minister and Director General Howard Aru are continuing on the roadmap that I left behind when my term in Government ended".

As an agriculturalist and farmer, he said when he took over the Agriculture Portfolio,

he was able to recognise the failures of the past and took the lead towards bringing forward those important services that the Ministry and Department should be providing. He brought all the Directors under one Directorate complete with its ICT Unit to link up with technical personnel and farmers from the North to the South. "I felt that all the activities in the Ministry and Department of Agriculture had touched my heart", he recalled.

Asked how he has come to join the workshop this week he replied, "As a farmer, when the Directors talked about areas that I was a part of in the past, I wanted to join to reconnect where I left when I stopped being the Minister of Agriculture.

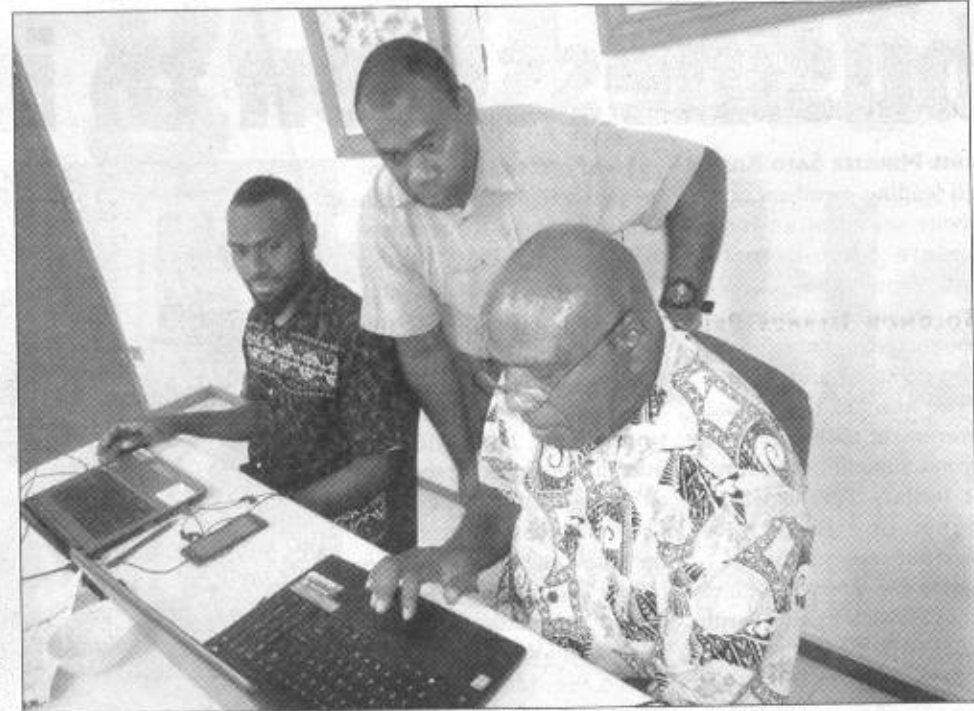
"Now when I realise my successor is endorsing what we started, I have to thank both the Minister and DG for the continuity that the Ministry and Department are doing.

"Somethings change

with the arrival of a new government but when a regime has been in power for a number of years during which it has implemented the country's five year or ten year development plan, it is important for any newly arrived political party in government, to analyse what development projects are ongoing and if its own party policies can be tailored to merge into the current development projects to drive the current development machinery for the best interest of the country then it is good".

MP Tosul said the new Minister also understands the emphasis of the National Development Plan which is why he maintains the same roadmap and added, "It would be most encouraging for all other Ministers in the new Coalition Government to recognise the positive approach he has taken, and strive to do the same".

The clearest example of the new Minister's support of the



MP Tosul (right) going ICT with assistance from ICT expert, John Jack (centre) at ICT Workshop

roadmap is the distribution of breeding herds of cattle to small farmers throughout the Provinces.

The former Government enabled 238 heads of cattle to

be offloaded at Sola in Torba Province to small smalls over one month ago.

The Ministry and Department of ALFFB are going to distribute over 400 heads of

cattle in Penama Province next month on the same roadmap, to contribute towards increasing the number of cattle in the country to a target of 500,000 heads by 2025.