Its Time Foundation

School Solar System Agreement

Between **Its Time Foundation (ITF)** and **Muani Village School**

The solar is a major infrastructure gift to the school with the purpose of:

- assisting the school to deliver a more modern education and improve outcomes for students.
- improving teacher's capacity to do their work.
- improving teachers' quality of life and that of their families.
- make the school more environmentally sound by reducing its carbon dioxide emissions.

This agreement ensures that the solar system provides the greatest possible benefit for the longest possible time. By accepting the solar system, the school management committee and leadership agree to the following:

Financial Considerations and Reporting

1. During the first month of each term the school will return a Term Report Questionnaire provided by ITF. This allows ITF to stay up to date with school contacts, new buildings, other changes at the school as well as the functioning and impact of the solar system. ITF will not provide maintenance support if reporting is not up to date.
2. Each term the school will receive an invoice. It is important to note, this is not a charge for electricity, rather the funds are deposited into The Solar Fund (Fiji) that is responsible for financing the long-term maintenance of ITF school solar systems, including yours. Your contribution is an investment in the long-term sustainability of your solar system. School contributions alone are not sufficient to maintain the solar systems for 15 to 20 years, so The Solar Fund (Fiji) has additional sources of funding. For more information visit https://solarfund-fj.org

   a) The invoiced amount is based on the number of teachers quarters, the number of students at the time of solar system installation; a contribution to the Starlink subscription (ITF also uses the Starlink to monitor the solar system - ITF pays for the Starlink equipment and installation. Should the school get Starlink before solar, we will install a high-quality network system, mountings and a wall cabinet to ensure maximum life and usability of the Starlink. We can take over the subscription payments (we will discuss) as we need access also to monitor the solar system.) The calculation is approximately:

      i. FJD90 per teachers' quarters per term (less than most people pay for power on the mainland),
      ii. No more than FJD3.50 per student per term.
      iii. FJD200 per term for Starlink.

      Your invoice will be $730 per term

The school receives a single invoice for the total amount each term. It is at the school's discretion how it funds the payment.

   b) If the invoice is not paid within 60 days of issue, ITF reserves the right to turn the solar system off until the invoice is paid.

   c) The invoice values maybe adjusted annually in line with inflation.

   d) When ITF visits to do maintenance, the school commits to supply, at the school's expense, transport from the nearest main town or landing, meals and accommodation and labour for digging should that be required.

3. Our commitment

   a) It is our goal to supply 24-hour power to the school and teachers' homes without any outages. But our minimum commitment is to supply power from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM daily with no more than three days of outages per term.

   If that commitment is not met – the proportion of outages will be deducted from the invoice. It is up to the school to report any outages in their Term Report. We will confirm the claim via the solar system data logging portal.

   b) If repairs are needed and payments are up to date The Solar Fund (Fiji) will make arrangements, as soon as possible, to conduct the repairs.

   c) From time to time our technician will visit the school to do preventive maintenance checks.

   d) If there are outages due to the school not caring for the system or negligence or not applying the energy efficiency strategies, the full invoice is payable before repairs are considered and the school may be requested to contribute to the repairs.

   e) Disputes can be lodged at solar@iitime.org and CC thefund.fj@gmail.com

4. For most schools the amount requested will be well below their previous expenses for generator fuel, generator maintenance and teachers' personal expenses to access power. We ask the school to spend the savings on computers and other resources to advance student education. Each Management Committee meeting will discuss/confirm plans for this expenditure.

Caring for the Solar System and Reporting.

5. Should there be an issue with the solar system, contact solar@iitime.org and CC thefund.fj@gmail.com. Do not try and fix it yourself unless specifically instructed by an ITF representative.
6. The school is required to do the following to care for the solar system:
   a) Monthly: Dust and keep very clean the room where the batteries and inverters are located. Do not store items under, on or against any of the equipment.
   b) Monthly: Check and remove any wasp nests and spider webs from the equipment and on walls of the school and teachers' quarters. Most important, check carefully around the batteries, inverters and light fittings.
   c) Monthly: Check the solar equipment and power points in the school and quarters for black ant infestation. If so, take pictures and send notes to operations@iitime.org. Treat with surface insect spray (appropriate for ants) and "Ant Sand".
   d) Monthly: If you have a generator, run it for 10 minutes. This keeps it in good order.
   e) Monthly: Check that no teachers are using the power for commercial activities - this is not permitted by the Ministry of Education.
   f) Monthly: Check that no teachers have altered the electrical systems in their quarters.
   g) This point only applies if ITF has specifically requested and has provided safety equipment. First week of each term: Wash the panels with mild soapy water to stop build-up of dirt – particularly where the glass meets the lower frame. - take your time – do not rub hard!
   h) Make it clear to students that the solar system is off limits (except for teacher supervised educational purposes).
   i) Should ITF provide any internet or computer equipment, the school commits to care for it on the terms provided at the time.

Energy Efficiency.

7. The school and teachers' quarters will adopt a strong energy efficiency policy to minimise waste of electricity refer: www.iitime.org/new/power_poster.pdf This will maximise the value of the solar system for the school, avoid or reduce the need to use the generator and extend battery life. A responsible person will report each month to the school committee about how well the energy efficiency policy is being applied and check the posters remain visible in all classrooms and in teachers' quarters (use the link to get new copies if needed).
8. Teachers accept that high load electrical appliances such as cloths irons, electric cook tops, air conditioners, and kettles will not work in the quarters. Most modest sized appliances will work fine. This situation must be respected to ensure the system functions effectively for everyone. If ITF were not to apply these modest limits it would not be possible for ITF to include the teachers' quarters in the power supply. We suggest an area in the school be made available for teachers to do cloths ironing if they wish.
9. No member of the school community will change any settings or tamper with any of the installed equipment or general electrical system. That includes the circuit breakers in teachers' quarters. Altering the system is dangerous and may also be selfishly taking power from others in the school community. Should a teacher alter their quarter's power circuit, the school committee agrees to engage an electrician to disconnect their power for one term. That teacher is liable for the costs of the disconnection and reconnection.
10. The principal/head teacher will explain the energy efficiency policy to all new teachers and students entering the school.

Plastics commitment

11. The school commits to, once per week, have all students spend 10 to15 minutes picking up plastic in the surrounding area (before sport is a good opportunity). Perhaps invite the community to join the activity in the village. Plastic waste is disposed of in the best possible way to ensure it does not enter the ocean in the future. This helps protect marine life and gives students the opportunity to feel they can be part of building a more sustainable world. We ask you to send us a picture of the activity once a month to solar@iitime.org

This agreement is clearly posted in the school office. All points in this agreement are confirmed at each school management committee meeting.

Muani Village School

Signature by school representative 1:

Name: Malakai. Vuvago
Position: HOS Date: 05/05/25

Signature by school representative 2:

Name: Lemeki. Navusolo
Position: Manager Date: 05/05/25

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M.T.....
DATE.....
P O BOX 51 VUNISEA, KADAVU

Signed by Its Time Foundation

Rob Edwards, Founder Date: 28/5/2025