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BUSINESS

EFL seeks \$508m solar aid

By **ANISH CHAND**

ENERGY Fiji Ltd (EFL) is seeking \$US230million (\$F508m) in financing through a proposed World Bank-supported project aimed at accelerating Fiji's transition to renewable energy, according to newly released World Bank documents.

According to the World Bank, the project's objective is "to accelerate renewable energy development and energy transition in Fiji".

The project will support EFL to invest in solar power generation, power grid infrastructure and technical assistance, while also advancing reforms to attract greater private sector investment into solar energy.

■ Full report on **PAGE 16**

Officers escape charges for now

By **ANDREW NAIDU**

NO charges for now.

Eleven police officers accused of taking bribes and discussing alleged drug activities have avoided criminal charges after the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions ruled there is not enough evidence to prosecute.

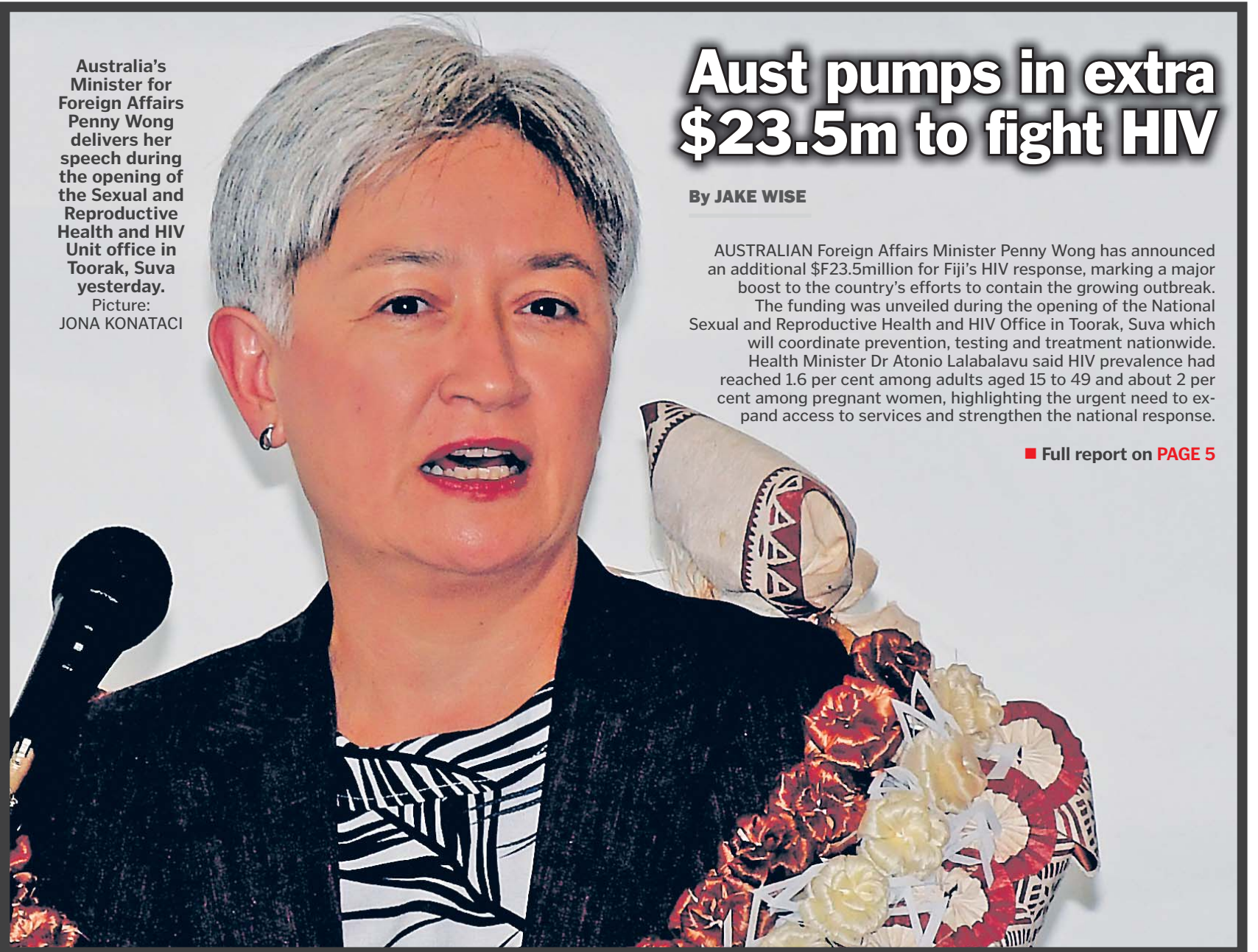
The allegations stemmed from Facebook posts featuring screenshots of Viber messages.

Acting DPP Nancy Tikoisua has sent the investigation files back to police, calling for further inquiries.

The ODPP says the case is far from over and will reconsider charges if fresh evidence emerges.

Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong delivers her speech during the opening of the Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV Unit office in Toorak, Suva yesterday.

Picture: JONA KONATACI



Aust pumps in extra \$23.5m to fight HIV

By **JAKE WISE**

AUSTRALIAN Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong has announced an additional \$F23.5million for Fiji's HIV response, marking a major boost to the country's efforts to contain the growing outbreak.

The funding was unveiled during the opening of the National Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV Office in Toorak, Suva which will coordinate prevention, testing and treatment nationwide.

Health Minister Dr Atonio Lalabalavu said HIV prevalence had reached 1.6 per cent among adults aged 15 to 49 and about 2 per cent among pregnant women, highlighting the urgent need to expand access to services and strengthen the national response.

■ Full report on **PAGE 5**

CRITICAL RISKS TO FOOD, WATER, AND TOURISM

El Niño threat

By **ROSALIA TUI**

A VERY strong El Niño is threatening to supercharge severe cyclones while leaving Fiji facing months of dry weather, water shortages and pressure on food production.

The Fiji Meteorological Services has warned Fijians to prepare as the climate pattern is expected to persist into next year, with agriculture, tourism, fisheries and water security at risk.

More reports
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