



Parliament of the Republic of Fiji

THE MACE OF PARLIAMENT



AUTHORITY

The Mace represents the authority of the Speaker in the House. It is carried into the chamber by the Mace Bearer whenever Parliament meets.

HISTORY

Ratu Seru Cakobau gave the war club (current Mace of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji) as a gift to Queen Victoria of Great Britain in 1874, when Fiji became part of the British Empire. The war club stayed in Great Britain until 1932, when it was returned to Fiji by King George the 5th.

DESIGN

It is made of a type of hardwood called “*gadl*”. Ratu Seru Cakobau named the war club Ai Tutuvi Kuta I Radini Bau translated “The Kuta (water reed) coverlet of Radini Bau (wife of the Roko Tui Bau)”. The club was embellished with silver palm leaves and doves as symbols of peace and tranquillity when Ratu Cakobau converted to Christianity.

FUNCTION

At the start of each sitting day in the Chamber, the Mace is carried into the House by the Mace Bearer where it is placed on the central table. The crown of the Mace always points to the Government side of the chamber. The Mace sits on the central table as long as the House is officially sitting and the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker presiding.

END



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