

# PARLIAMENT NEWSLETTER

2016 Parliament Bi-Annual Newsletter. Issue No. 1

## **FIJI TO HOST 25TH APPF**

Fiji will be hosting the 25th Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) in January 2017.

Fiji will be hosting the 25th Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) in January 2017. The APPF was founded by the former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. The forum seeks to provide opportunities for national parliamentarians of the Asia Pacific region to identify and discuss matters of common concern and interest and to highlight them in a global context.

In April, Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni was handed the APPF flag to signify the official handing over by Canada to Fiji the hosting of the next APPF Forum.



Speaker, Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni with APPF members

Hon. Dr Luveni mentioned that it was indeed an honour for Fiji to have been selected to host a forum of this magnitude and stature.

"I have acknowledged and will continue to acknowledge the confidence the APPF has shown and we take great pride in hosting international events. It is an opportune time for Fiji to showcase not only its renowned hospitality brand but also what it can offer to the forum on raising awareness on issues of commonality to the region," Hon. Dr Luveni said. The outgoing President of the Executive Committee of the APPF, Senator Donald Plett commended Fiji for its willingness to host the 25th APPF and conveyed that everyone in the Asia-Pacific region are looking forward to coming to Fiji.

#### HISTORICAL NIGHT



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum delivering the 2016-2017 Budget.



Invited guests at the budget announcement on June 22, 2016.

It was a historical night in Parliament on Wednesday, 22 June 2016 when the 2016-2017 Budget was announced by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum at 7.30pm. Members of the Diplomatic Corps, businessmen and women, Heads of Government Departments, statutory organisations and other invited guests filled the public gallery to listen to the budget announcement. It was also historical as the financial year was brought forward to June/July instead of November/December as in previous years.

Parliament tabled a budget of \$10.8million, an increase of \$300,000 from last year. Parliament's budget is mainly to ensure that the Members of Parliament have the resources necessary to carry out their responsibilities. It also includes the maintenance of the Parliament building, salaries for Members of Parliament other than Ministers, staff, sitting allowance for members of various standing and select committee and administration of Parliament's activities.

#### PROGRAMME IN NAUSORI/ NAITASIRI SCHOOLS "MEET THE SPEAKER"



Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni being garlanded by Ms Joyce Seruiratu.

Three secondary schools in the Nausori/Naitasiri district were fortunate to meet and hear from the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni during her Community Outreach Program called "Meet the Speaker".

Students and teachers of Adi Cakobau School (ACS) in Sawani, Saraswati College in Nausori as well as Waidina Secondary School in Naitasiri heard Hon. Dr Luveni explain her role as the Speaker of Parliament, the role of Parliament and encouraged the students to study hard. At ACS, the Speaker relived her days whilst a student of the school and how the experiences have moulded her to be where she is today.

"It was here at ACS that the foundation of my future was established. It was here that I chose to become the first woman dentist. Now when I look back at all my achievements, I am thankful that it was here at ACS that all those goals were set," Hon. Dr Luveni said.

"For me as Speaker, I would like to see different occupations represented in Parliament, different professionals, educated members of society, teachers, lawyers and community workers. I would also like to see more youths and women represented in Parliament."



ACS students going through items on display.

At Waidina Secondary School, Head of Department Social Science, Mrs Kalolaini Yanuanurua, said the visit was vitally important for their students. "To have the team from Parliament travel with Madam Speaker is in itself filled with treasures. The treasures are what the rural schools like Waidina Secondary longs for as part of their knowledge on current affairs," said Mrs Yanuyanurua. "Because many of our rural schools don't have access to the internet, newspapers and other sources of fundamental information, the visit, is very informative and empowering," she added.

At Saraswati College, Principal Mr Wasu Deo said the school was humbled to meet the Honourable Speaker of Parliament on a per-



"Speaker was willing to come down from her high office and talk to us. A lot has been learnt from her personality and the experience of someone who has travelled the world, held national and international key positions - and to speak to us in her simple words is very humbling," Mr Deo said.

The programme allowed students to hear and ask questions pertaining to the Speaker's role and the role of Parliament.

A total of 1499 students and 103 teachers were reached during this programme.

#### PARLIAMENT BUS ENRICHES THE GARDEN ISLAND WITH PARLIAMENTARY KNOWLEDGE



The Parliament Bus Team with villagers on the island of Taveuni.

The Civic Education and Media team of Parliament kick started its "Parliament Bus" programme on the island of Taveuni from 15th -19th February 2016. The main objective of the programme was to inform the communities and students on the roles and functions of Parliament. The programme began at Bucalevu Secondary School which was attended by 395 students and 34 teachers.

School principal, Mr Mohammed Gani said the programme was very informative and well-presented.

"We thank the Parliament team for bringing such a programme to our school. We usually take things for granted and do not even know how many members are there in our Parliament. Now, both the teachers and students have learnt a lot from this programme," Mr Gani said.



Manager Civic Education and Media Unit Vatimosi Delailovu presents to students during the Parliament Bus programme at Tayeuni South High School.

Year 9 student, Salote Ulamila said that she enjoyed the programme and learned new things. She was surprised to learn of reasons why the Speaker is usually dragged when elected and the important role she played in Parliament.

In Tavuki, the village hall was filled to capacity with men, women, students and even the younger children listening to the presentation and deliberations by the team.

80-year-old Mr. Iosefo Matailima, one of the Turaga ni Yavusa said he was overwhelmed by the information he received.

"We are so happy that the team came all the way from Suva to explain more about Parliament to us, the rural dwellers," Mr. Matailima said.

The Assistant Head Teacher of Taveuni Central Sanatan District School, Mr. Jiten Narayan said that the awareness programme was appreciated as Parliament was brought to our doorstep and has encouraged students to work hard to become future Members of Parliament.

Similar sentiments were echoed by villagers

and students visited by the Parliament

Villages and schools visited were:

- Bucalevu Secondary School
- Taveuni Central Sanatan
- · Tavuki village
- · Qila settlement
- Wairiki Parish
- · Navakawau village
- · Niusawa High School
- Niusawa Primary School
- Welagi village
- · Lamini village
- South Taveuni Secondary School
- South Taveuni Primary School
- Vuna District School
- · Nakorocau and Kanacea village · Lavena village
- Korovou, Waitabu, Vidawa village
- Qeleni village
- · Naselesele village



Parliament Staff Iliesa Raiduduva explains about the Mace to students on Taveuni.

## SPEAKER'S DEBATE A SUCCESS



Panelists for the first-ever Speaker's Debate

The first-ever Speaker's Debate organised by the Fiji on Parliament and the UNDP Fiji Parliament Support Project (FSFP) was conducted in March with the theme - "Was the Paris Agreement a good deal for Fiji?" Chaired by the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni, the debate provided a platform for national discussion on key development issues, one of which is Climate Chanae.

The damage caused by Cyclone Winston highlights just how vulnerable we in the Pacific are to climate-related disasters.

The Speaker's Debate series will bring together diverse opinions and will hopefully lead to rigorous discussion on these important issues," Hon. Dr Luveni said.

Panelists were the Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Jone Usamate, Opposition MP Hon. Ro Kiniviliame Kiliraki, Member of Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN), Ms Genevieve Jiva, UNDP Regional Climate Change Specialist for the Pacific, Mr Kevin Petrini and Dr. Morgan Wairiu of the University of the South Pacific. The 2nd Parliament Speaker's Debate was

held in May on the topic - "Is Fiji making progress in tackling violence against women and girls" This topic emanated from Sustainable Development Goal 5, which is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. One of the indicators is to 'eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres'.

Panelists were the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Rosy Akbar, Opposition Member of Parliament Hon. Salote Radrodro, Commissioner of Police, Brig-Gen Sitiveni Qiliho, Ms Maraia Tabunakawai of the Fiji Women's Rights Movement and Secretary for the Department of Christian Citizenship and Social Services of the Methodist church in Fiji Reverend Iliesa Naivalu.



Large crowd turned up at the GPH to listen to the first-ever Speaker's Debate.

## NEW MPs SWORN-IN





Two new Members of Parliament were sworn-in during the February Parliament sitting. Hon. Mataiasi Niumataiwalu replaced Hon. Jioji Konrote while Hon. Mohammed Mursalinul Abe Dean replaced Hon Sanjit Patel.

#### COMMITTEES AT WORK



Economic Affairs Committee members during one of their submission



Social Affairs Committee meeting



Economic Affairs Committee visiting Labasa Sugar Mill.



Fiji Disabled Association making a submission to the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee.jpg



Economic Affairs Committee memebers during the Sugar Bill consultation in Sigatoka in May.



Members of the Justice, Law and Human Rights Standing Committee during one of their submission hearing in February, this year.



Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights hearing a submission.



Members of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources visited the Cadia Valley Mining Operations, New Crest, Orange in New South Wales from the 15th-17th February, 2016.



Members of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources visiting the Seaweed farm in Kumi.

### **PICTORIAL**



Parliament sitting in progress earlier this year.



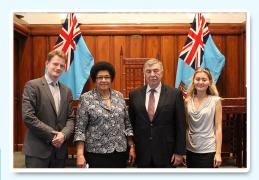
Prime Minister Rear Admiral (Ret'd) Vorege Bainimarama responds to a question in a Parliament sitting earlier this year.



Speaker, Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni with a delegation from Papua New Guinea.



Members of Parliament attending a training earlier this year.



Speaker, Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni with a delegation from Russia.



Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs with the Submittees from Disability Federation after their submission in June, this year.



Representatives from the Commonwealth during a courtesy visit to the Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni.

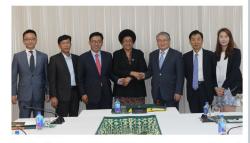
#### **PICTORIAL**



Opposition Leader Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa, Prime Minister of New Zealand Rt Hon John Key and New Zealand's Foreign Minister Hon. Murray McCully with members of the opposition party during his visit in June.



Civic Education Officer Mr. Iliesa Raiduduva(left) with Senator Joseph Day and Senator Donald Plett looking at the 'Mace' of Parliament.



Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni with the KOICA delegation in one of their official visit to Parliament in June, this year.



Handing over of Public Accounts Committee chairmanship from Hon. Professor Biman Prasad to Hon. Ashneel Sudhakar.



Members of the Economic Committee hearing a submission in May, this year.



Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni with members of the Diplomatic Corps during the Library hand-over ceremony in March, this year.



Manager Civic Education and Media Unit Vatimosi Delailovu presents to students of Gospel High School during their tour of Parliament.



Civic Education Officer Iliesa Raiduduva talks about the roles and functions of Parliament to a group of students from St. Joseph Secondary School.



Senior Civic Education Officer Masilina Raumakita stresses a point to students of Nabua Secondary School during the EU Exhibition Day.

#### INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNIT

JAN – JUNE 2016: FIJIAN DELEGATION OVERSEAS MEETINGS

COUNTRY	MEETING	DATE
New Delhi, India	CPA UK Asian Regional Workshop on Sustainability, Energy & Development	18th – 21st Jan
Vancouver, Canada	Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF)	17th – 21st Jan
Seoul, Korea	International Leadership Conference (ILC)	12th -16th Feb
New South Wales and Sydney, Australia	Site Visit to New Crest Mine & Australian Bauxite Company- Natural Resources Standing Committee	15th – 17th Feb
New York, USA	Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA)	14th – 24th March
Brussels, Belgium	41st ACP Parliamentary Assembly & International Meetings of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly	15th – 18th March
Lusaka, Zambia	134th IPU Assembly and Related Meetings	19th – 23rd March
Morocco	Africa, Regional Cooperation & The Future of the South-South	17th to 22nd March
Apia, Samoa	Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnership Forum (PWPP)	4th – 8th April
Brussels, Belgium	United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)	6th – 8th April
Tokyo, Japan	G7 Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population & 26th – 27th April Development (AFPPD)	
Brisbane, Australia	Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar, 5- 11th June Queensland Parliament	

#### **DIPLOMATS VISIT TO PARLIAMENT JAN - JU NE 2016**

COUNTRY	DATE
Legislative Assembly of Tonga	15/02/2016
Russian Ambassador to Fiji based in Canberra	15/02/2016
Minister for Foreign Affairs, New Zealand	17/02/2016
EU Delegation	25/02/2016
UNFPA Regional Director for Asia & Pacific from Bangkok	02/03/2016
New non-resident ambassador- designate of Cuba to Fiji	01/04/2016
Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Shanghai Committee (Minister Level) & H.E. Ambassador ZHANG Ping of the Chinese Embassy	20/04/2016
Non-Resident High Commissioner – Designate of Canada based in Wellington, New Zealand	21/04/2016
Hon. Kristopher Faafoi– Opposition MP from New Zealand	22/04/2016
New non-resident Ambassador from Guinea	28/04/2016
Director, Political Division, Commonwealth Secretariat from United Kingdom	11/05/2016
Delegation from Korea's National Assembly	14/06/2016
Russian Ambassador to Fiji	14/06/2016
PNG MP and Bougainville House of Reps members	20/06/2016
Visitors from the British High Commission	20/06/2016



Delegation from Shanghai, China visit Parliament in April.



Delegation from the Victoria Parliament that visited the Fijian Parliament.

#### ACTS

A Total of 43 Bills Were Tabled In Parliament From January-July, 2016 Where 14 Were Enacted.

	2010 Where 14 Were Linacted.		
Act No 1	An Act to amend the Employment Relations Promulgation 2007 and for related matters (1/2016)		
Act No 2	An Act to amend the Public Service Act 1999(2/2016)		
Act No 3	An act to amend the Companies Act 2015 (3/2016)		
Act No 4	An Act to give effect to the provisions of the Montreal Convention, 1999 concerning international carriage by air and for purposes connected therewith.(4/2016)		
Act No 5	An Act to amend the Sea Ports Management Act 2005. (5/2016)		
Act No 6	An Act to amend the Revised Edition of the Laws Act (Cap.6). (6/2016)		
Act No 7	An Act to exempt taxes and provide efficient entry assistance for diplomatic missions, international organizations and international bodies and for other related matters. (7/2016)		
Act No 8	An Act to provide for the establishment of a committee to evaluate the need for professionals in Fiji and to provide for special registration of the professionals and for related matters. (8/2016)		
Act No 9	An Act to establish Liability for the provision of false Information to any officer, agent or representative of the government or an entity.(9/2016)		
Act No 10	An Act to amend the Financial Management Act 2004. (10/2016)		
Act No 11	An Act to make provisions for the regulation, administration and licensing of credit reporting agencies and for related matters. (11/2016)		
Act No 12	An Act to amend the Prevention of Bribery Promulgation 2007. (12/2016)		
Act No 13	An Act to amend the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption Promulgation 2007. (13/2016)		
Act No 14	An Act to amend the Passports Act 2002. (14/2016)		
Act No 15	An Act to appropriate a sum of three billion, three hundred two million, two hundred twelve thousand, and seven hundred sixty five dollars for the ordinary services of government for the financial year ending 31 July 2017. (15/2016)		
Act No 16	An Act to amend the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority Act 1998. (16/2016)		
Act No 17	An Act to amend the Environmental Levy Act 2015. (17/2016)		
Act No 18	An Act to amend the Service Turnover Tax Decree 2012. (18/2016)		
Act No 19	An Act to amend the Water Resource Tax Promulgation 2008. (19/2016)		
Act No 20	An Act to amend the Airport Departure Tax Act 1986. (20/2016)		
Act No 21	An Act to amend the Tax Administration Decree 2009. (21/2016)		
Act No 22	An Act to amend the Value Added Tax Decree 1991. (22/2016)		
Act No 23	An Act to amend the Stamp Duties Act (Cap. 205). (23/2016)		
Act No 24	An Act to amend the Land Sales Act (Cap. 137). (24/2016)		
Act No 25	An Act to prescribe the opening hours of any shop in any area throughout Fiji and for related matters. (25/2016)		
Act No 26	An Act to amend the Excise Act 1986. (26/2016)		
Act No 27	An Act to amend the Income Tax Act 2015. (27/2016)		
Act No 28	An Act to amend the Foreign Investment Act 1999. (28/2016)		
Act No 29	An Act to amend the Customs Tariff Act 1986. (29/2016)		
Act No 30	An Act to amend the Customs Act 1986. (30/2016)		
Act No 31	An Act to provide for consequential amendments in relation to the consolidation of the laws of Fiji and related matters. (21/2016)		

# STANDING COMMITTEES OF PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS: JAN – JULY 2016

STANDING	NO. OF	ISSUE BEFORE
COMMITTEE	MEETINGS	THE COMMITTEE
Justice, Law and Human Rights	43	Bills 1. Fiji Interchange Network (Payments) Bill 2016 2. Public Order (Amndt) Bill 2016 3. Adoption Bill 2016 Petitions 4. Yavusa Navauvau Petition 5. Petition on working conditions at GPH 6. Petition on police back-pay payout 2015 7. Petition on severity of punishment by LTA Annual reports 8. PSC Annual Report 2014
Foreign Affairs	38	Convention Hague convention 1996 Report Annual Report Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2013
Economic Affairs	31	Bills Bill 19: Reform of Sugar Cane Industry Bill 2016 Bill 20: For An Act To Amend The Sugar Cane Growers Fund Act (Cap. 207) Committee had submissions and 2 rounds of public consultations.  Petitions 1. Petition on Introduction of Service Fee in Tourism Industry – Report done by former Chair (Report yet to be presented to current members) 2. Petition for the Parliament for TLIB to review the distribution of lease to personal accounts and the land rent premised on unimproved Capital Value – Report done by former Chair (Report yet to be presented to current members)  None of the annual reports has been scrutinized by the Committee

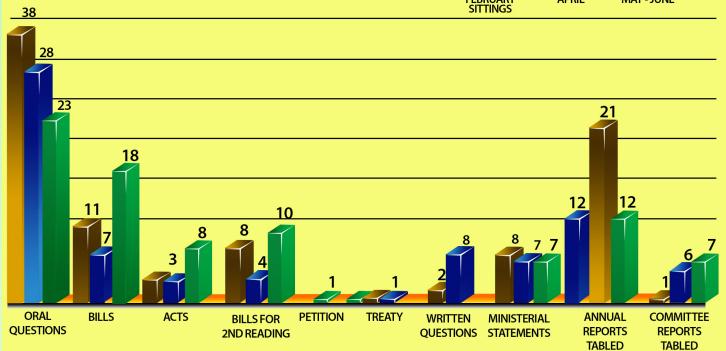
STANDING COMMITTEE Natural Resources	NO. OF MEETINGS 44	ISSUE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE  2015 Bills 1. Kava Bill No 24/16 2. Forest Bill No 13/16 3. Meteorological and Hydrological Services Bill No 4/16 4. Aquaculture Bill No.9/16 5. Land and Water Resources Management Bill No 7
Social Affairs	32	Bills 1. Heritage Bill (Bill No. 10 of 2016) 2. Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Bill No. 12 of 2016) 3. Rotuma Lands Bill and Rotuma Bill 4. Employment Bill - An Act to amend the National Employment Centre Decree 2009 (Bill No. 31 of 2016) Annual Reports 1. Ministry of Education, National Heritage, Culture & Arts 2013 and 2014 2. Itaukei Trust Fund Board 2014 Petition 1. Petition on the 2 Rotuman Bills by Hon. Ro Temumu Kepa
Public Accounts	24	Committee Deliberation on the Auditor General's Report.

#### **PARLIAMENT SITTING**









#### MACE HERO SAVED COLLEAGUES **DURING CYCLONE WINSTON**

Five parliamentary staff continue to testify to the power of prayer and the quick thinking and action of one of their colleagues, as they reminisced the harrowing experience they went through in Taveuni during the height of Tropical Cyclone Winston.

Parliament Chamber attendant Mr Penijamini Valebuli's actions, they say, saved them, together with other hotel occupants who escaped the destruction left behind by the destructive winds that fateful Saturday morning.

Members of the Civic Education and Media Unit of Parliament were conducting the 'Parliament Bus' outreach programme in Taveuni the same week the cyclone struck Fiii.

The team which consisted of Mr Vatimosi Delailovu (Manager Civic Education & Media), Ms Masilina Raumakita (Senior Civic Education Officer), Mr Iliesa Raiduduva (Civic Education officer), Mr Mitieli Uculoa (IT Officer) and Mr Penijamini Valebuli (Parliament House Orderly) recalled moments of fear, personal reflections with God, distraught and finally contentment when they were saved by Mr Valebuli.

The staff were billeted in individual rooms on the second storey of the First Light Inn Hotel in Waiyevo.

During the onslaught of damaging winds on the morning of February 20th, the five found themselves unceremoniously covered in rubble from the walls that had crumbled upon them and which they could only slightly peak from, to see debris flying in the skies as their roofs were blown away.

There wasn't time to run out of their rooms and even if they had attempted to, both stairways were blocked by tables, chairs and all kinds of debris. There was certainly no escape available at that point in time. Like a hero out of nowhere, Mr Valebuli struggled out of the rubble in his room, and ran downstairs before the stairways were completely blocked. In the midst of flying objects outside he found a ladder and held onto it with all the strength he had,



Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni awards Mr Penijamini Valebuli with a plague as a token of appreciation for his act of bravery.

and held onto it with all the strength he had, while the majority of the hotel occupants were safely transferred to the first floor.

"At that moment, I knew I could move around a bit and tried to assist people including our team as the hotel's rooftop had blown off. That was something that could have caused loss of lives," Mr Valebuli said. Mr Valebuli then used a long piece of wood to knock on the ceiling of the first floor in the hope that those who were still stuck in the second floor would respond, giving him an indication of who was still there and needed to be assisted.

Mr Delailovu who was stuck in the rubble of the second floor heard the sound from the floor and quickly got out of the rubble and yelled for help. By then, Mr Valebuli had again risked his life by running out to an open space to signal to him where the ladder was, guiding him there.

"I heard the knocking on the floor, and at first I thought the floor was going to crumble, but when it continued in a similar pattern, I knew someone was trying to contact me from the first floor. I quickly came out and escaped by climbing down the ladder Mr Valebuli was holding," said Mr Delailovu.

Later on Mr Valebuli with a few of his colleagues braved the strong winds and debris

to look for another team member, Mr Mitieli Uculoa who was still in his room covered in

"I had tried to run out but flying debris and the collapsed walls stopped me from moving elsewhere. So for more than an hour, I was stuck in a small corner of my room with all the rubble, praying and I praise God that I'm still alive and that experience will be with me for a long time," Mr Uculoa who hails from Naitasiri said.

Those rescued by Mr Valebuli were very thankful for his auick action and thinking and appreciated his wit and bravery. These included two Education officers from the Ministry of Education and two businessmen from Labasa who were billeted in the same hotel.

This heroic act of bravery is nothing new to Mr Valebuli. He is the same gentleman who protected the 'Mace' of Parliament from the hands of those who entered the old Parliament in Veiuto during the political upheaval in the year 2000.

For this act, he was awarded a medal of bravery in 2002 by the late President, Ratu Josefa Iloilovatu Uluivuda.

Mr Valebuli hails from Nadrala in Baravi, Nadroga and has been working in Parliament since 1994.



Penijamini Valebuli clearing debris at the First Light Inn in Taveuni.

#### Contact US

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## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni with Parliament staff distributing cyclone relief supplies to victims of TC Winston early this year.



tant Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Veena Bhatnagar under-health screening after a Parliament sitting in February.



Members of Parliament after the budget announcement at the end of June.



Parliament staff celebrates Fiji 7's win at the Rio Olympic.



Secretary-General Viniana Namosimahua (R) and Deputy Secretary-General Jeanette Emberson (second from left) join Parliament Staff during the celebration of Fiji 7's win at the Rio Olympic Games.



Parliament staff participating at the National Sports Day.