



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

## NEWS BRIEF

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Parliament of the Republic of Fiji

### PROTECT WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST POLITICAL VIOLENCE - LUVENI



Speaker, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni at the 62nd Commonwealth Parliament Conference in London, UK.

There is a need to protect women parliamentarians against political violence.

This was the key message from the Speaker Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni while participating at the 62nd Triennial Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians' (CWP) Conference at the Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel, London.

Hon. Dr. Luveni was part of the panel which considered the topic 'Legislating Effectively to Protect Women from Political Violence' to address the global phenomenon of women parliamentarians being physically, sexually and psychologically violated.

"Women parliamentarians need to be protected against political violence and it is important to engage very closely with people through civic education," Hon. Dr. Luveni said.

"People need to understand the role of women in Parliament and how they can support their women parliamentarians so that their views could also be addressed."

Discussions also focused on women leaders being killed for standing up for their views on issues of national interest, and some being psychologically violated by demeaning and snide comments on social media. The conference ended on December 17th, 2016 with the election of Hon. Noraini Binti Ahmed, MP Malaysia as the new Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP).



Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni chats with an official during the conference



Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni meets with the French delegation during her official tour of Paris.

### FIJI AND FRANCE MAINTAINS STRONG RELATIONSHIP TIES



Speaker, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni at the 62nd Commonwealth Parliament Conference in London, UK.

The President of the France-Pacific Islands Inter-parliamentary Group, Mrs Catherine Procaccia, warmly welcomed the Speaker of the Fiji Parliament, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni, at the Luxembourg Palace in Paris, France on December 20th, 2016.

Mrs Procaccia headed a delegation to Fiji early September, last year to observe the impact of climate change especially after the events of Cyclone Winston. The delegation met with villagers from Verevere in the Ra Province and also held meetings with the Hon. Prime Minister and His Excellency, the President.

They also visited the Fiji Parliament to establish ties with their counterparts on the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence. Hon. Dr. Luveni also held discussions with Mr. Hervé Maurey, President of the Sustainable Development Committee, on the rehabilitation programmes put in place by the Fijian Government to assist victims of Cyclone Winston.

She mentioned that with the rebuilding program, all newly-built houses would have to abide by the building code so that they were able to withstand severe damages when there was a natural disaster. In closing, the Hon. Speaker welcomed the bond of friendship that had been formed between the two countries, adding that there was a lot to learn from each other and that the cultural exposure and experience would be of mutual benefit.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS TOURS ROTUMA ISLAND

Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs visited the island of Rotuma on December 29th – 31st to hear firsthand from the islanders their views on the two Rotuma Bills- The Rotuma Bill (Bill No. 6 of 2015) and Rotuma Lands Bill (Bill No. 7 of 2015).

The committee conducted their consultations at the Rotuma Island Council Chamber in Malhaa District and also at the District Officer's office in Ahau Government Station. Following the consultations, the feedbacks from the islanders were very positive as most of them raised their opinions openly regarding the two Bills.

Such feedbacks now allows the committee members to further deliberate on the Bills and also note amendments before presenting them to Parliament.



Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs with Government officials and the people of Rotuma.

### APPF PREPARATIONS WELL UNDERWAY



Speaker, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni at the 62nd Commonwealth Parliament Conference in London, UK.

Preparations for the forthcoming 25th Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) is well underway with the host- The Fiji Parliament- putting in a few "final touches" to the much-awaited event.

Gender-equality and empowerment of women, education for new generation leaders, border control, human trafficking, peace and security, economy and trade, poverty alleviation, food security, social media in civic participation, climate change and disaster risk reduction, conservation and sustainable development and non-communicable diseases will be some of the topic of discussions during the five-day forum.

The APPF is a mechanism that enables parliamentarians to discuss issues of common concern, and to deepen their understanding of the region and the interests and experiences of its diverse countries. The forum's proceedings address political, security, economic and social and cultural issues, thus furthering regional cooperation and building relationships between and among parliamentarians from the Asia Pacific region.

There are 27 member Parliaments/countries of the APPF. For this year's meeting, we are expecting about 23 member countries with more than 250 delegates including their staff/secretariat.

The members of the APPF are: Australia, Cambodia, Canada, China, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, the United States of America, and Vietnam.

The forum will be held from January 15th to 19th at the Intercontinental Resort in Natadola.

### PARLIAMENT TOUR SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER

Tourists, youth groups and faith-based organisations were some of the visitors to Parliament last month. A total of 315 people visited Parliament for the purpose of learning more about the institution.

This was the last batch of visitors that the Civic Education and Media Unit facilitated as part of the Parliament tour programme last year. Meanwhile, a total of 7414 people visited Parliament from January to December in 2016.



Senior citizens of Delaivalevu Methodist Church circuit during their visit to Parliament last month.