



# PARLIAMENT NEWSLETTER

2015 Parliament Bi-Annual Newsletter. Issue No.1

## Navigating Parliament to The New Dawn

The Department of Legislature created history in April this year when it launched its first-ever Annual Corporate Plan. Fijian Parliament Speaker, Honourable Dr. Jiko Luveni, whilst launching the Plan and other critical initiatives said the occasion was not only historic for the Department, but for the entire Parliament of Fiji, its customers and partners.

"This is a historical occasion, an occasion we are proud of because it is the first time ever that the Department of Legislature has produced an Annual Corporate Plan. The Department will also for the first time launch critical initiatives that now become an integral part of the Department's commitments."

"Our theme for today is 'Navigating Parliament to the New Dawn'. With that, I look back with much joy and pride and with the realisation that the Fijian Parliament has indeed progressed from the day people exercised their right to choose fifty (50) leaders who were sworn in as Members of Parliament," Hon. Dr. Luveni said.

Hon. Dr. Luveni reminded staff to contribute value towards the realisation of the Department's vision, which is "A resilient Parliament responsive to the needs of the people and driven by the ideal of a better quality of life for all Fijians".

Hon. Speaker noted that the Plan has strategies of taking Parliament to the people. "I am especially excited



*Speaker, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni and Secretary-General, Mrs. Viniana Namosimalua at the launch of the Department of Legislature's Annual Corporate Plan and other critical initiatives.*

about strategies in the Plan to take Parliament to the people through various educational and outreach programmes. This, I believe is a positive approach. It brings to the fore the significance of having representatives of the people interacting with and responding to curiosities about the role of Parliament and indeed Parliamentarians."

The occasion also marked the:

- launch of a first-ever departmental logo, which sets the Department

apart in its role of serving Members of Parliament who rely on its support to better serve the people;

- launch of a corporate uniform, which is a demonstration of the corporate value of teamwork and uniformity driven by a common vision and goal; and
- launch of the Parliament Discovery Centre, which has historical materials, photos and gifts donated to the Fijian Parliament.

*"A Resilient Parliament responsive to the needs of the people and driven by the ideal of a better quality of life for all Fijians"*

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# TAKING PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE



Parliament's first-ever outreach activity, titled 'Meet the Speaker' programme was launched in Queen Victoria School by the Speaker of Parliament Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni in March. The programme enabled the

Speaker to come down to the students and teachers to inform them about the roles and functions of Parliament, how they can participate in the process and also explain her role as the Speaker. Hon. Dr. Luveni then visited Lodon Primary School and Verata Wailevu village. In all three locations, students and members of the community were happy to see the Speaker and hear her explaining clearly the objectives of the programme.

"The message by Hon. Speaker was very informative. The students and teachers have really enjoyed the programme. We are quite fortunate that we didn't have to go to Parliament to hear all these. Parliament was brought to us," Vice Principal of QVS, Mr. Osea Koli said.

In Verata Wailevu, the Women's Group president Mrs Niumai Cavuilati said: "We were quite surprised when we were told that Hon. Speaker will visit us. This is the first time for her to come down, as Speaker, to visit our village and clearly explain her role as Speaker. We only see her on television and sometimes, we don't understand what's happening in Parliament and her role. But now, we have learnt a lot and I'm sure the women and members of the community present are very grateful for this programme," Mrs. Cavuilati added.

The fourth and fifth 'Meet the Speaker' programmes were held in Suva schools - Yat Sen Secondary School and Latter Day Saints Church College.



Parliament also launched another outreach activity in Labasa, named the 'Parliament Bus'. The Manager of the Civic Education and Media Unit, Mr Vatimosi Delailovu launched the programme at Holy Family Secondary School where he explained the functions of Parliament, the composition, procedures and works of Parliament and also discussed ways in which students can be involved in the democratic process. In the evening, the team visited Wailevu village where the Parliament Discovery Centre was displayed in the village hall and videos and discussions were held with the villagers. Similar programme was held in Nadi and Lautoka. The team visited Nadi Muslim College, Shri Vivekanandan College, Natabua High School and Namoli village respectively.



# Real Men Protect Women — *PM Bainimarama*



"Men must be repeatedly told what I tell our menfolk in Fiji: that real men don't hit women. Real men protect women and treat them as equals. And women need to be encouraged to stand up more for themselves – to keep repeating the mantra that violence is unacceptable in any

setting whatsoever, let alone the family, which is the heart of every society and ought to be a place devoid of conflict. A place of love and acceptance in which our children can be reared and every family member can be safe."

These were the words of Prime Minister Honourable Voreqe Bainimarama whilst opening the Pacific Womens' Parliamentary Partnership Forum held in Suva from May 29th to June 1st, 2015. "Where there is a reluctance to confront the extent of the problem, we need to force it onto our national agendas. And where there is a lack of political will to address family violence, those governments and politicians must be shamed into action," the Prime Minister said. Over 30 women parliamentarians from the Pacific and 21 from the Australian and New Zealand parliaments attended the Forum that was hosted by the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni. The focus of this year's forum was on family violence and the challenges women face in the region. It was an opportunity for the delegates to share their experiences and support one another as women parliamentarians, discussed legislation, regulations in the region, understood data and reliable

research that assisted Governments deal with the issue of violence. Whilst closing the Forum, Hon. Dr. Luveni challenged the participants to implement strategies and mechanisms identified from the exchanges made in the course of their deliberations.

"No doubt, we have all been overwhelmed and fully empowered by the vast level of information disseminated in the form of experiences shared and recommendation made in the course of our deliberation on the subject of domestic violence and gender equality," Hon. Dr. Luveni said. "One thing has come out clear and that is as legislators and representatives of the people, Parliamentarians are in a privileged position to make a difference. However, this can only be effective if there is meaningful, practical and results oriented engagement with all stakeholders." The Speaker thanked PWPP for organizing the event and also acknowledged the Australian Government, Australian Federal Parliament and all the State Parliaments of Australia for their support. The PWPPF participants also took time to visit the Fijian Parliament where they toured the Parliament Chambers and the Parliament Discovery Centre.



## Two new MPs sworn-in

Two new Members of Parliament were sworn-in on May 11th, 2015 after the resignation of Fiji First member Hon. Dr. Neil Sharma and the passing of SODELPA MP, the late Hon. Ratu Viliame Tagivetaua. Hon. Jilila Nalibu Kumar was the new member for Fiji First and Hon. Mikaele Leavere of SODELPA for the Opposition.







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# PICTORIAL



*Speaker, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni, Moderator for Session IV Common challenges regarding the human rights situation in Asia-Pacific*



*Speaker, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni meeting with the Australian Governor-General, H.E. General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)*



*Parliament delegation with the National Assembly for Wales Presiding Officer [Speaker] Rosemary Butler AM whilst on a study tour to the United Kingdom in January*



*Parliament delegation in New Zealand*



*Delegation with Mr. Neil Angus MP, Member for Forest Hill in Melbourne*



*Senator the Hon. Stephen Parry, President of the Australian Senate with Fijian Parliament Speaker, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni and Australia's High Commissioner to Fiji, H.E. Margaret Twomey*



*Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Ruveni Nadalo with the new Non-Resident Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Fiji, His Highness Sayyid Nazzar bin Al-Julandi bin Majed Al-Said*



*Fijian Parliament Speaker, Hon Dr. Jiko Luveni with her counterpart from New Zealand, the Rt. Hon. David Carter*



*Parliament Bus outreach activity at Nadi Muslim College*



*National Federation Party member, Hon. Tupou Draunidalo and Ms Seini Nabou making oral submission to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights.*



*Speaker, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni, Opposition Leader Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa, Assistant Minister for Rural Maritime, Hon. Joeli Cawaki and other Members of Parliament at the funeral for the late Hon. Ratu Viliame Tagivetaua.*



*First group to tour Parliament in 2015, students from Gustavus Adolphus College of the United States of America*

## MPs Discuss Key Development Issues



The Fijian Members of Parliament attended a four-day forum on Key Development Issues in Fiji and across the region from 1st to 4th June 2015. Opened by the Fijian Parliament Speaker, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni and the UN Resident Coordinator, Osnat Lubrani, the forum discussed lessons learnt of the MDGs, Overview of the 3 pillars of SDGs and issues to consider in the Post-2015 Development Agenda/SDGs. The Guest Speaker was the Australian House of Representatives Speaker, Honourable Bronwyn Bishop. Hon. Dr. Luveni told Parliamentarians that they are central to development in Fiji and the region. "Constitutionally, you possess the functions that can make a real difference to key development issues in Fiji. Only you can make the laws that are needed to ensure that key development issues are addressed. Only you have the opportunity to provide direct oversight of Government on a regular basis through questions and debates on key development issues. Only you vote to approve the national budget that will be allocated to national development. These are important powers," Hon. Dr. Luveni said.

## Historical Agreement Signed



During a Parliamentary tour to Australia in March, the Speaker of the Fijian Parliament Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni signed a Parliamentary Partnership Agreement with her Victorian counterparts Hon Telmo Languiller and Hon Bruce Atkinson.

The partnership agreement allows for exchange of information, visits and training activities between the two parties and to provide professional development of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff.

Parliament of Victoria has been assisting the new Fijian Parliament in the provision of training programs and attachments under the Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships program.

The program is supported by funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Centre for Democratic Institutions.



## Members of Standing Committees

### Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

- ▶ Hon. Balmindar Singh – Chair
- ▶ Hon. Prem Singh – Deputy Chair
- ▶ Hon. Dr. Brij Lal
- ▶ Hon. Sanjit Patel
- ▶ Hon. Viliame Gavoka

### Standing Committee on Social Affairs

- ▶ Hon. Viam Pillay – Chair
- ▶ Hon. Salote Radrodoro – Deputy Chair
- ▶ Hon. Veena Bhatnagar
- ▶ Hon. Vijay Nath
- ▶ Hon. Anare Vadei

### Standing Committee on Natural Resources

- ▶ Hon. Joeli Cawaki – Chair
- ▶ Hon. Ratu Kiniviliame Kiliraki – Deputy Chair
- ▶ Hon. Alivereti Nabulivou
- ▶ Hon. Samuela Vunivalu
- ▶ Hon. Jiosefa Dulakiverata

### Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

- ▶ Hon. Netani Rika – Chair
- ▶ Hon. Ratu Isoa Tikoca – Deputy Chair
- ▶ Hon. Semi Korailavesau
- ▶ Hon. Alexander O'Connor
- ▶ Hon. Roko Tupou Tekeiwai Senirewa Draunidalo

### Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights

- ▶ Hon. Ashneel Sudhakar – Chair
- ▶ Hon. Semesa Karavaki – Deputy Chair
- ▶ Hon. Iliesa Delana
- ▶ Hon. Lorna Eden
- ▶ Hon. Niko Nawaikula

### Standing Committee on Public Accounts

- ▶ Hon. Dr. Biman Prasad – Chair
- ▶ Hon. Balmindar Singh – Deputy Chair
- ▶ Hon. Sanjit Patel
- ▶ Hon. Aseri Radrodoro
- ▶ Hon. Semi Korailavesau

## Members of Select Committees

### Business Committee

- ▶ Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni (Speaker) – Chair
- ▶ Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama
- ▶ Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum
- ▶ Hon. Inia Seruiratu
- ▶ Hon. Semi Korailavesau
- ▶ Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa
- ▶ Hon. Ratu Isoa Tikoca
- ▶ Hon. Dr. Biman Prasad
- ▶ Hon. Roko Tupou Draunidalo

### Standing Orders Committee

- ▶ Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni (Speaker) – Chair
- ▶ Hon. Inia Seruiratu
- ▶ Hon. Semi Korailavesau
- ▶ Hon. Prem Singh

- ▶ Hon. Rt. Isoa Tikoca

### House Committee

- ▶ Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni (Speaker) – Chair
- ▶ Hon. Ruveni Nadalo
- ▶ Hon. Timoci Natuva
- ▶ Hon. Alvick Maharaj
- ▶ Hon. Salote Radrodoro
- ▶ Hon. Prem Singh

### Privileges Committee

- ▶ Hon. Ruveni Nadalo (Deputy Speaker) – Chair
- ▶ Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum
- ▶ Hon. Faiyaz Koya
- ▶ Hon. Inia Seruiratu
- ▶ Hon. Semesa Karavaki
- ▶ Hon. Salote Radrodoro

## Acts

The following Acts were enacted by Parliament in the first six months of this year:

- ▶ **Act No 1 of 2015** - Boxing Commission of Fiji (Amendment) Act 2015
- ▶ **Act No 2 of 2015** - Republic of Fiji Military Forces (Amendment) Act 2015
- ▶ **Act No 3 of 2015** - Companies Act 2015
- ▶ **Act No 4 of 2015** - Employment Relations (Amendment) Act 2015
- ▶ **Act No 5 of 2015** - Fiji Roads Authority (Amendment) Act 2015
- ▶ **Act No 6 of 2015** - Land Transport (Amendment) Act 2015
- ▶ **Act No 7 of 2015** - Income Tax (Amendment) Act 2015

### Question Time

Statistical Analysis: Parliament Proceedings					
9 February 2015 – 10 July 2015					
	Feb	March	May	July	Total
Oral Questions Asked	30	30	60	29	149
Supplementary Questions Asked	74	79	150	115	418
Questions Withdrawn	-	2	3	0	5
Written Questions	7	-	7	6	20
Urgent Oral Questions	-	1	2	1	4
Motions for Debate	-	3	5	3	11
Urgent Motion for Debate	-	-	-	-	-
Weekly Adjournment Motion	-	1	2	0	3
Petition	2	-	4	3	9
Treaties	2	-	-	-	2
Bills	3	-	10	5	18
No. of hours sat	14:49:00 hours	11:47:00 hours	20:27:00 hours	15:25:00 hours	62:28:00 hours
Average hours per day	2:57:48 hours per day	2:21:24 hours per day	2:02:42 hours per day	3:05:00 hours per day	2:29:55 hours per day
No. of sitting days	5	5	10	5	25

# SPORTS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Welfare, Sports and Social Club of the Department of Legislature organised a number of activities for the first six months of this year. Activities ranged from cleaning up at the Old Parliament complex, gardening in front of the Hansard and Civic Education & Media offices and sports activities every Wednesdays. Major activity for the WSSC was the organisation of the Department's Sports Day held on Friday, 26th June, 2015. The Department won the award for the Best Turnout Team.



## TRIBUTE



Speaker, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni led a Parliament delegation to present its 'i-reguregu' to the late Member of Parliament Ratu Viliame Tagivetaua in Lomanikoro, Bua. Hon. Dr. Luveni was accompanied by the Opposition Leader, Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa, Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Hon. Joeli Cawaki, other Members of Parliament and senior Government officials in the Northern Division. In presenting the i-reguregu, Madam Speaker thanked the people of Cakaunitabua for the services rendered by Ratu Viliame in nation building and also as a Member of Parliament, even though it was only for a short time. Ratu Viliame was laid to rest at the chiefly burial ground in Lomanikoro, Bua on Friday 13 March 2015.

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