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Parliament of the Republic of Fiji

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE VISIT CORRECTIONS FACILITIES



From Left-Right: Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence Hon. Netani Rika, Hon. Ratu Sulliano Matanitobua, Commissioner of Corrections Commander Francis Kean and Hon. Howard Politini at the Tailoring Shop in Naboro.

As part of the deliberations on the Fiji Corrections Services 2015 Annual Report, Members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence visited the Korovou and Naboro Corrections Centres in Suva on October 4, 2017.

The entourage was greeted and taken on tour by the Commissioner of Corrections, Commander Francis Kean and some of his senior staff.

The site visit was a crucial one as it would assist the Honourable Members in the compilation of a detailed report scheduled to be tabled in the next Parliament sitting.

The Members started their site visit at the Tagimoucia Art Gallery in Korovou where they observed serving inmates at work in the form of painting, sketching and screen-printing.

At Naboro, the Members visited the Dog Unit (K-9), and then to the root crop and vegetable farms, piggery and the poultry farm. They also visited the bakery shop, joinery, tailoring shop, screen-printing room and the Maximum and Medium Corrections Centres.

Commander Francis Kean and his senior staff briefed the entourage on the developments taking place at the shops, farms and the corrections facilities as a whole.

The Honourable Members were humbled by the enriching experiences during the tour of all the facilities.

NINTH SPEAKERS DEBATE FOCUS ON TRANSPORT SYSTEM

The 9th Speakers Debate on October 2 brought together about 250 people from all walks of life to the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva.

The Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni said the debate was an opportunity to hear views and opinions from Government, the Opposition, private sector, different stakeholders in Fiji and the general public.

The theme of the debate was titled "Is Fiji's Transport System Working?".

Hon. Dr Luveni said transport was vital to Fiji's economic development and it "cuts across" many Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including health, energy, infrastructure, environment, climate change and cities and human settlements.

"Whether in the rural or urban areas, sustainable, accessible and affordable transport in Fiji can provide access to trade, jobs, markets, education, health care and other services that contribute to better lives of our people," she said.

The panel members included the Minister for Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Hon. Parveen Kumar, Opposition Member of Parliament and Shadow Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Hon. Aseri Radrodro, President of the Fiji Bus Operators Association Mr Richard Lal, Fiji National University Acting Dean of Engineering Mr Salabogi Mavoia and Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji CEO Mr John Tunidau.



Panel members of the 9th Speakers Debate. From left; Minister for Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport Hon. Parveen Kumar, Fiji National University Acting Dean of Engineering Mr Salabogi Mavoia, Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni, President of the Fiji Bus Operators Association Mr Richard Lal, Opposition Member of Parliament and Shadow Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Hon. Aseri Radrodro and Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji CEO Mr John Tunidau.

FIRST PARLIAMENT IN THE WORLD: SELF-ASSESSMENT ON THE SDGs

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has congratulated the Fijian Parliament for being the first in the world to carry out a self-assessment exercise on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from October 2 to 6.

In an official letter to the Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni, IPU's Secretary-General Martin Chungong stated that such an exercise showed the strong commitment and ownership of the Parliament of Fiji to dealing with SDGs and promoting their comprehensive inclusion in its work.

"Fiji is the first country in the world to undertake this exercise, aimed at helping Parliaments assess their capacity and readiness to engage in the SDGs implementation," Mr Chungong said in the letter.

Mr Chungong commended the Honorable Speaker's close involvement and engagement in such process that set a noble example for other Parliaments to follow suit.

Hon. Dr Luveni said she was proud that the Fiji Parliament was taking the lead in engaging with the SDGs.

"Parliament is doing its part to mainstream the SDGs into its work such as legislative scrutiny, civic education and capacity-building for MPs and the secretariat," she said.

"We recognise the importance of international cooperation and conferences to stay up-to-date on what's happening and to be part of the international network working on the SDGs."

Meanwhile, Minister for Agriculture, Rural & Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Hon. Inia Seruiratu, while delivering a congratulatory statement from the IPU to some Members of Parliament (MPs) during a workshop on the Parliamentary Engagement with the 2030 Agenda and SDGs on October 2, stated that this was a milestone achievement.

Hon. Seruiratu said; "The self-assessment that is being undertaken with the assistance of the IPU may conclude with an action plan that will set out concrete activities and areas of engagement for the Parliament of Fiji and the IPU, and UNDP would be happy to support the implementation of this plan".

"Although Fiji joined the IPU recently, it has already taken the lead role on SDG issues ranging from gender equality to human rights."

UNDP Pacific Country Director and Head of Regional Policy and Programme, Mr Bakhodir Burkhanov acknowledged the Fijian Parliament for embracing the vision of development, equity and peace embodied in the SDGs.



Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni addressing the MPs during the workshop on October 2.



Members of Parliament, invited guests and Parliament staff at the workshop.

PARLIAMENT BUS PROGRAMME VISITS MACUATA



Senior Civic Education officer Masilina Raumakita presenting during the 'Parliament Bus' programme to students of Naleba College in Macuata.

The Parliament Bus Programme visited 21 schools and seven villages in the Macuata Province from September 25 to October 6 as part of efforts to inform Fijians about our Parliament and how to engage and actively participate in the parliamentary processes.

This was an educational programme facilitated by the Civic Education and Media Unit of Parliament.

The students, teachers and villagers who were part of the programme all shared similar sentiments that they were fortunate to have been enlightened thoroughly on the works of Parliament.

The Parliament Bus Programme visited Labasa College, Labasa Sangam (SKM) College, Holy Family Secondary School, Shree Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Naduna Technical College, Vunimoli Secondary School, Batanimaka Secondary School, Bulileka Sanatan College, Valebasoga Secondary School, Nadogo Central College, Nadogo Technical College, Naleba College, All Saints Secondary School, Labasa Muslim College, Tabia College, Nabala Secondary School, Seaqaqa Central College, Ahmadiya Muslim College, Dreketi Central College, Duavata Primary School and Duavata Secondary School.

The villages visited were Cawaro, Korovuli, Navesidrua, Vuo, Bulileka, Vunimoli and Raviravi.



Villagers of Vuo in Macuata with items on display during the 'Parliament Bus' programme in their village hall.



Parliament staff Mitili Uculoa presenting educational materials to a student of Tabia Sanatan College in Macuata during the 'Parliament Bus' programme at the school.



Students of Dreketi Central College during the 'Parliament Bus' Programme at the school.