



PARLIAMENT NEWSLETTER

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July - December

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, this year.

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.



Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni conveying the congratulatory letter to the Members of Parliament during the workshop in October, this year.

"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 Bakhtiyor Burkhanov acknowledged the Fijian Parliament for embracing the vision of development, equity and peace embodied in the SDGs.

"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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OPENING OF THE 2017-2018 PARLIAMENT SESSION



His Excellency, the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote delivering his keynote address during the opening of the 2017-2018 Parliament session in September, this year.

My Government's purpose is to continue to bring Fiji into the full mainstream of international best practices to ensure that our legislation encourages — and certainly does not inhibit — proper development and growth, and to provide a positive climate for business to grow and for individual Fijians to accumulate wealth.

These were the words of His Excellency, the President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote while opening the 2017-2018 Parliament session in September, this year.

"As we look forward to the legislation that you will consider in this session of Parliament, it is also valuable to review what we have done — what you have done — for the Fijian people since the Constitution was adopted. We are here for one reason: to represent the Fijian people and to keep their interests always before us," he said.

"I am proud that we have now enjoyed eight consecutive years of economic growth, continuing the longest period of growth in Fiji's history. This is due to prudent economic management and sound macroeconomic policies."

"Our reputation among development partners and international financial institutions has never been stronger. These institutions

like to lend their support to countries with sound policies and systems in place, countries that are stable and responsible. We give them that assurance, and they are responding with assistance, partnership and financing."

"I am also proud that our economic expansion has been broad-based. Education, health and welfare benefits have been extended as never before. Government benefits have literally put more money in the hands of the lowest-income Fijians by reducing the number of things they once had to pay for."

The economy, the President said has been expanding in part because his Government has established sound policies and trusted the Fijian people to respond with energy and sound ideas — and they have done just that, from the largest corporations to the smallest micro enterprise.

"We are encouraging entrepreneurship at all levels in Fiji through the Small and Micro Business Grants, which is truly an investment in our people. It goes to show that when government has faith in the people, the people repay that faith. And when the people invest in their country, foreigners are never far behind," he said.

"A country has no greater asset for its future than its youth, and my Government has put a priority on giving every Fijian child and adult the opportunity for a solid education, one that will help each one become a responsible and productive citizen with the means to lead a happy and fulfilling life."



His Excellency, the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote delivering his keynote address during the opening of the 2017-2018 Parliament session in September, this year.



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ENGAGEMENT IS THE KEY IN FORMULATING CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES



Speaker Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni and her delegation meets with their Russian counterparts.

Engaging our leaders in the formulation of policies is vital for the purpose of building a better place for our future generations.

Speaker of the Fijian Parliament Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni made this statement while addressing more than 50 participants at the 2017 Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Australia and Pacific Regional Conference in Sydney, Australia on October 27.

With the theme "Engagement of all stakeholders is the key in formulating Climate Change policies that are sound, pragmatic and methodical to make lives better", the regional conference featured participants from all Australian Parliaments, Bougainville, Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa, Solomon Islands along with representatives from Pakistan and the Channel Islands, Guernsey and Jersey.

"We need to secure the support of all our leaders in the engagement strategies of policy formulations if we are to make our world a better place for our children," Hon. Dr. Luveni said.



Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, Hon. Netani Rika, Speaker Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni, Consulate General & Trade Commissioner Mr. Zarak Khan and Manager Inter-Parliamentary Relations Mr. Senitili Wainiu.

She also shared her experience on the "Meet the Speaker" programme as a strategy to engage young people and educate them not only on the role of parliament but also on global issues such as SDGs and Climate Change.

The conference convened at the New South

Wales Parliament where Members of Parliament shared ideas and experiences on the theme "Engagement".

The Speaker was accompanied by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, Hon. Netani Rika. The delegation also visited the Office of the Consulate General of Fiji in Sydney.

FIJIAN PARLIAMENT TAKES CENTRE STAGE AT 137TH IPU GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Speaker Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni addressing the plenary on the theme-Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue.

The Fijian Parliament took centre stage at the 137th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) General Assembly held in St Petersburg, Russia in October this year.

Speaker Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni chaired plenary sessions where all national Parliaments converged to discuss key issues- one being titled 'Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue'. Hon. Dr. Luveni said the Fijian Parliament recognised that cultural pluralism and peace were important conduits for the achieve-

ment of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

She further added that the Fijian Parliament was adamant to continue to encourage legal, regulatory and policy frameworks that were inclusive and ensured that all citizens regardless of ethnicity, culture and religion were fully covered under the Bill of Rights of the Constitution and have equal access to the basic needs of life.

The Speaker, in her concluding remarks, reiterated that since Fiji stood on the constitutional foundation of an inclusive society, the Fijian Parliament would continue to complement the work of the existing institutions of democracy, in efforts to encourage dialogue, respect, and build capacities for co-operation towards harmony and peaceful co-existence.

In a separate side event, the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Hon. Jone Usamate addressed the IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade which discussed a draft Outcome Statement on climate change.

The key message from Hon. Usamate was that it "is time to bring the Paris Agreement to life and COP23 needed to ensure that commitments were made and kept".

Hon. Usamate further emphasised on the need to keep global temperature growth to 1.5 degrees celsius and the need for accessibility to funding assistance.



Fijian delegation, Hon. Salote Radrodoro, Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Hon. Jone Usamate and Hon. Mikaele Leawere listening to the address by the Speaker, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni during the 137th IPU General Assembly.

CLIMATE CHANGE SENSITIVITIES CRUCIAL FOR PARLIAMENT



Senior executives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Patricia Espinosa, Speaker of Parliament Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni, Fiji's Prime Minister and President of COP 23 Hon. Voreqe Bainimarama at the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 23).

Speaker of the Fijian Parliament Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni suggested that "the global actions for climate change should, with urgency, be translated to national legislations and poli-

cies and to have in place, a Climate Change Bill".

This was part of the suggestions raised by the Speaker in her speech during the IPU Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 23) held at the University of Bonn on November 12.

To build the capacity of parliaments to address the issue of climate change through its processes, given that climate change affects the economy, the social sectors, security, the productive sectors and all development programmes, Speaker raised these suggestions which she hoped will provoke discussions to enhance inter-parliamentary cooperation to tackle climate issues.

"Members of parliament should be climate change literate to have a multiplying effect on the population and be influential in people's actions to significantly cut and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions."

"In formulating climate change policies, members of parliament to engage with lead-

ers in public and private sectors with all other stakeholders particularly those that have experienced the effects of climate change."

"When scrutinizing Bills and Annual Reports, Standing Committee members should be climate change sensitive and report on how these Bills are affected by the effects of climate change, etc," Speaker said.

She also emphasized the importance of IPU organized forums which can establish mechanisms for strong and effective links between parliaments of developed countries and those in the developing or least developed part of the world.

"I believe inter-parliamentary cooperation can be enhanced to allow for greater knowledge-sharing among parliamentarians. Parliamentarians in the low-capacity countries can benefit from the experience and resources of their colleagues in the developed countries," Hon. Dr. Luveni added.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY VISITATIONS JULY-DECEMBER, 2017

COURTESY CALLS TO THE SPEAKER OF THE FIJIAN PARLIAMENT

No.	Delegation Name	Number of Delegates	Dates
1	• New Ambassador of Japan to Fiji, H.E.Mr Masahiro Omura	3	04/08/2017
2	• Mr Lee Ju-young • Mr So Byung Hoon • Mr Cho Yong Tak	3	08/08/2017
3	• Member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Japan, Hon. Yoichi Anami	1	09/08/2017
4	• Farewell call – European Union Head of Delegation, H.E.Mr. Andrew Jacobs	3	12/09/2017
5	• Former President of JICA and currently President of the National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies (GRIPS) of Japan, Dr. Akihiko Tanaka	3	09/10/2017
6	• New Deputy Chief of Mission for US Embassy in Fiji, Mr. Michael Goldman	2	27/11/17
7	• UN Independent Expert on Albinism, Ms. Ikponwosa Ero	4	27/11/17

COURTESY CALLS TO THE FIJIAN PARLIAMENT

NO	DELEGATION NAME	COUNTRY	DATES
01	• Senator Fierravanti-Wells • H.E Ms Margaret Twomey • Ms Karen McNamara • Ms Alice Cawte	Australia	03/7/17
02	• Hon. Mariam Goni – Head of Delegation • Hon. Abomo Fama M.C. • Aline • Hon. Gaston Komba • Mrs. Pauline Lambou	Cameroon Parliament	15-22 /7/17
03	• Charlotte Dawber-Ashley	New Zealand Parliament	24-29/7/17
04	• Ms Sherrill Anne Whittington	Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)	1-8/9/17
05	• Ms Louise Gloria Guttenbeil • Mr Vikilani Sione • Mr Giotto William Fine • Ms Faleola Mary Rhonda Hufanga	Tonga Parliament	16-20/9/17
06	Mr Mads	Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)	13/11/17

MPs OVERSEAS MEETINGS

Invitations	Delegation Name and Country	Number of Delegates	Dates
48 Annual Conference for Presiding Officers and Clerks	• Hon. Dr • Jiko Luveni • Hon. Ruveni Nadalo • Viniana Namosimalua • Jeanette Emberson • Rukalisi Vecena	6	2-7/7/17

	• Kalo Gahvakadua • Sydney, Australia		
14th Regional Meeting (Pacific) of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly	• Hon. Ashneel Sudhakar • Port Villa, Vanuatu	1	19-21/7/17
Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health	• Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni • Hon. Rosy Akbar • Hon. Anare Vadei • Sakiusa Rakai • Tokyo, Japan	4	24-25/8/17
SDGs Agenda 2030 through Inclusive Development	• Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni • Hon. Howard Politini • Hon. Mohammed Dean • Hon. Ro Kiniviliame Kiliraki • Hon. Parmod Chand • Mr. Tarun Lal • Masilina Raumakita • Bali, Indonesia	7	6-7/9/17
Invitation to the 81 st Council Meeting and the 47 th General Assembly of the Asian – Pacific Parliamentarians Union (APPU)	• Hon. Ruveni Nadalo • Hon. Viliane Gavoka • Atelait Rokosuka • Beppu, Japan	3	18-20/9/17
Fifth Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships (PWPP) Forum	• Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni • Hon. Jilila Kumar • Hon. Salote Radrodoro • Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa • Hon. Veena Bhatnagar • Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa • Serei Naicavu	7	25-28/9/17
47th Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and Intersessional Meetings of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly	• Hon. Ashneel Sudhakar • Brussels, Belgium	1	9 -12/10/17
International Day of Democracy and the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Democracy & 137th IPU Assembly	• Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni • Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa • Hon. Jone Usamate • Hon. Mikaele Leawere • Hon. Salote Radrodoro • Lois Vakarau • Jeanette Emberson • St. Petersburg, Russian	7	14 – 18/10/17
2017 CPA Australia and Pacific Regional Conference and Hot Topic Seminar 23 - 27 October	• Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni • Hon. Netani Rika • Senitielei Wainiu • Parliament House, Sydney, Australia	3	23 - 27/10/17
63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference	• Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni • Hon. Mataiasa Akauola • Hon. Prem Singh • Senitielei Wainiu • Dhaka, Bangladesh	4	1- 8/11/17
Twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change	• Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni • Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa • Hon. Josefa Dulakiverata • Senitielei Wainiu • Bonn, Germany	4	6-17/11/17
Fourth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians	• Hon. Alvick Maharaj • Avinash Sharma • Ottawa, Canada	2	

MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF PARLIAMENT JULY TO DECEMBER, 2017

STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Number of Meetings	Issues Before The Committee	
	Annual Reports	Bills(Pending)
36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Forests Annual Report 2014 and 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kava Bill 2016 Land and Water Resource Bill Hydrological Bill Meteorological Bill

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Number of Meetings	Issues Before The Committee		
	Annual Reports	Petitions	Bills
56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of iTaukei Affairs 2015 iTaukei Trust Fund Board 2015 USP 2015 Ministry of Youth & Sports 2015 Ministry of Education 2015 Ministry of Local Government 2009, 2010 & 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill (Bill No. 12) Heritage Bill (Bill No. 10) of 2016 Rotuma Land Bill and Rotuma Bill (Bill No. 6 & Bill No. 7 of 2016) National Employment Centre - Bill No 31 of 2016

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

Number of Meetings	Issues Before The Committee			
	Conventions	Annual Reports	Petitions	Bills
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hague Convention on the Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibilities and Measures for the Protection of Children (1996 Convention) UN Convention on Electronic Communication in International Contracts World Trade Organisations on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement World Trade Organisation Trade Facilitation Agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiji Police 2014 Ministry of Defence and National Security 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Number of Meetings	Issues Before The Committee		
	Annual Reports	Petitions	Bills
39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Rural and Maritime and National Disaster Management -2014 Annual Report Ministry of Agriculture Annual Report of 2009, 2011 and 2012 Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) Consolidated Report 2010-2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kava Bill Land and Water Resources Management Bill Forest Bill Aquaculture Bill Meteorological and Hydrological Service Bill

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Number of Meetings	Issues Before The Committee		
	Annual Reports	Petitions	Bills
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserve Bank of Fiji Annual Report 2015 Fiji Electricity Authority Annual Report 2016 Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit Annual Report 2015 Fiji Meats and Industries Board Annual Report 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TLTB to review lease distribution to personal accounts and land rent premised on unimproved capital value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Bill Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 2016; Code of Conduct Bill Parliamentary Powers & Privileges Bill Community-Based Corrections Bill Adoption Bill

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Number of Meetings	Issues Before The Committee
52	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Majority Owned Entities – February 2009.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Majority Owned Entities – Off-Budget State Entities – December 2009.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies and Commercial Statutory Authorities – June 2009.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – June 2009.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Majority Owned Entities, Off-Budget State Entities – December 2010.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Majority Owned Entities and Off-Budget State Entities – June 2010.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – December 2010.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – June 2010.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Off-Budget State Entities, Majority Owned Entities, Provincial Councils, and Special Projects – December 2011.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, and Off-Budget State Entities – June 2011.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – December 2011.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – June 2011.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Off-Budget State Entities and Majority Owned Entities – December 2012.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Off-Budget State Entities and Majority Owned Entities – June 2012.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – December 2012.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – June 2012.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Majority Owned Entities – Off-Budget State Entities – June 2013.
	Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audits of Statutory Authorities – June 2013.
	Report of the Auditor - General of the Republic of Fiji - Audit Report on Statutory Authorities - December 2014
	Report of the Auditor- General of the Republic of Fiji - Audit Report on Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities, Majority Owned Entities, Off- Budget State Entities - December 2014

PARLIAMENT SITTINGS-JULY TO DECEMBER, 2017



COMMITTEES AT WORK



Members of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs hearing submissions from the public in Labasa in August, this year.



Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs during their site visit to the Kalabu Housing Project in November, this year.



Members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence during their site visit to the Republic of the Fiji Navy Base in November, this year.



Members of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts hearing submissions from the Suva City Council in October, this year.



Members of the Foreign Affairs and Defence during their site visit to the Fiji Corrections Services' Korovou centre in October, this year.



Members of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights share a light moment with Chief Justice Anthony Gates (Left) after his submission in August, this year.



Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs with their counterparts from the Standing Committee of Liaoning Provincial People's Congress in China after their high-level meeting in November, this year.



Members of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources with officials of the Tuvatu Gold Mine in Nadroga during their site visit in November, this year.



Chairman of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts Hon. Ashneel Sudhakar asks a question during one of the committee meetings in November, this year.



Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence Members Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua and Hon. Jilila Kumar during one of the committee meetings in November, this year.



Hon. Salote Radrodoro and Hon. Anare Vadei of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs mingle with two officials from the Itaukei Trust Fund Board during one of the committee meetings in October, this year.

PICTORIAL



Members of Parliament with Speaker Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni and UNDP Country Director and Head of Pacific Regional Policy and Programme, Bakhodir Burkhanov with facilitators during a retreat for MPs at the Fiji Marriott Resort in August, this year.



Prime Minister Hon. Voreqe Bainimarama with invited guests during the opening of the 2017-2018 Parliament session in September, this year.



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Service and Communications Hon. Aiyaz-Sayed Khaiyum raises a point during the September Parliament sitting, this year.



Former EU Ambassador for the Pacific Andrew Jacobs (second from right) paying a farewell visit to the Speaker Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni in September, this year.



Members of Parliament during a Budget Workshop in July, this year.



Speaker Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni addressing the crowd during the Fiji National University (FNU) Alumni Association celebration in July, this year.



Minister for Agriculture, Rural & Maritime Development and National Disaster Management and Leader of Government in Parliament Hon. Inia Seruiratu with executive members of the Judiciary during the opening of the 2017-2018 Parliament session in September, this year.



Speaker Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni addressing the students of Adi Cakobau School during their visit to Parliament in August, this year.



Minister for National Security and Defence Hon. Ratu Inoke Kubeabola during the September Parliament sitting, this year.



Speaker Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni with pre-schoolers of Lil Champs Preschool and Day Care during their graduation ceremony held at the FNU Hall in Namaka, Nadi in November, this year.

PICTORIAL



Panels for the 9th Speakers Debate held at the GPH in Suva in September, this year.



Deputy Speaker Hon. Ruveti Nadalo addressing MPs at the IPU Needs Assessment Mission on Sustainable Development Goals and Gender Equality in July, 2016.



Hon. Viliame Gavoka and Hon. Prof Biman Prasad during the September Parliament sitting, this year.



Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni exchange greetings with villagers of Lovoni in Levuka during the "Meet the Speaker" programme in September, this year.



Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni with Hon. Mataiasi Niuramataivalu and Hon. Veena Bhatnagar during the Gender-Mainstreaming workshop in July, this year.



Members of the public during the Speakers Debate in July, this year.



Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni with villagers of Vatikalo during the "Meet the Speaker" programme in August, this year.



Opposition Members of Parliament- Hon. Mosese Bulitavu, Hon. Prem Singh and Hon. Salote Radrodoro participate during the Media workshop organised by the UNDP and the Parliament of Fiji in July, this year.



Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni with a group of women from Lau during their tour of Parliament in August, this year.



Members of Parliament during the MPs retreat at the Fiji Marriott Resort in August, this year.

DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATURE WINS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR THE SECOND TIME



Parliament staff with the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Hon. Jone Usamate after receiving the Achievement Award.

Staff of the Fijian Parliament have been reminded that the road to excellence requires a consolidated effort, perseverance and sacrifice.

In congratulating the staff and their families for the job well done, Secretary-General to Parliament Mrs Viniana Namosimalua said the achievement award received by the Department of Legislature at the Fiji Business Excellence Awards (FBEA) over the weekend at the Sheraton Fiji Resort and Spa was another opportunity of lifting the bar in terms of service delivery and productivity.

This is the second time that the Department has received the award.

"This is a tremendous achievement and I want to thank you all and your families for what you have done so far,"

Mrs Namosimalua told the staff.

"It is a great achievement for us as we progress as an organisation with continuous improvement and being recognised by achieving an award is something great for the organisation."

"We have come a long way as an organisation and when we started in 2014, we had

little knowledge of how things were done around here but now, seeing how we have progressed, it's really been a wonderful journey."

"This Achievement award is a recognition of our hard work and sacrifices and we are one step away from the Prize level. This means that we must progress together with more hard work, perseverance and consolidated efforts to enhance excellence in our service delivery."

Mrs Namosimalua added that the Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni was also excited about the news and had conveyed her sincere gratitude to the staff.

Meanwhile, in an official letter to Mrs Namosimalua, Leader of Opposition Hon. Ro Temumu Kepa also congratulated the staff for their invaluable services to the Members of Parliament and the public at large.

"The award is a culmination of success through team work."

"It is an extraordinary achievement befitting the dignity and decorum of our Parliament and I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all those who have been part of

this success story," Hon. Kepa said.



Secretary-General to Parliament Mrs Viniana Namosimalua with staff members cutting the celebration cake.

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SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:



Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni shares a light moment with the Teen Contestants during the pre-launch of the Vodafone Hibiscus Festival in August, this year.



Hon. Parmod Chand and Hon. Mikaele Leawere take a selfie during the International Day of Democracy celebration in September, this year.



Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni addressing the students of Delainakakai Primary School during their tour of Parliament in November, this year.



Parliament staff picking up rubbish as part of the National Climate Change Clean-Up Campaign week in September, this year.



A team from the Tongan Parliament with Manager Civic Education and Media Unit, Vatimosi Delailovu during their work attachment in the Fijian Parliament in October, this year.



A team from the Tongan Parliament with Manager Civic Education and Media Unit, Vatimosi Delailovu during their work attachment in the Fijian Parliament in October, this year.



A team from the Tongan Parliament with Manager Civic Education and Media Unit, Vatimosi Delailovu during their work attachment in the Fijian Parliament in October, this year.