



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Report on the Registration of Sex Offenders Bill 2018 (Bill No. 34 of 2018)



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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

Fiji's societies today are plagued with the problem of constant growth in crime and this issue is exacerbated by the decay in morale in society, which is evident in the increase of sexual offences commonly being committed to one of the vulnerable groups of our societies; our women and children.

Such offences are degrading and dignity-shattering and the more concerning aspect of it is that, most of the perpetrators are persons in position of trust. Therefore the Government of Fiji has introduced the *Registration of Sex Offenders Bill 2018* as a means of addressing this growing problem of sexual offences and to protect the public from sex predators.

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights was referred the Registration of Sex Offenders Bill 2018 in November 2018 to scrutinise and to return a report of its findings to Parliament.

This Report covers the Standing Committees' role in reviewing the *Registration of Sex Offenders Bill* to ensure that all due processes regarding the Bill has been followed and that the provisions contained in the Bill would contribute to the achievement of the Bill's objectives.

Some of the important areas which the Bill addresses are as follows:

- the creation of a Sex Offender Register whereby sex offenders will be registered;
- putting in place monitoring mechanisms for sex offenders, including reporting obligations by sex offenders;
- that all sex offenders who commit a sexual offence under Part 12 B of the Crimes Act 2009, except for an offence under Section 213, will be registered; and
- minimising and limiting access of sex offenders, to employment that deal with children and women;

The Committee straightaway commenced its work and read the Bill, called for public submissions, invited and consulted experts and relevant stakeholders. Issues were identified from the Bill, which were used as basis for extensive discussions with stakeholders.

The Committee conducted public consultations within the Parliament precincts and in selected key areas around Fiji. Public input identified concerns similar to that of the Committee and other pertinent issues, which the Committee deliberated on extensively.

In the course of the Committee's deliberation, the Committee believed it was appropriate to also give consideration to the work done by the previous Committee of the last term of Parliament. The previous Committee was referred a similar piece of legislation, which was introduced in the 2014-2018 Parliament term. Deliberations by the previous Committee utilised by the current Committee aided in the setting the direction for the review of the Bill.

To do justice to the importance of the Bill, it is also prudent to note the amount of time and resources the Committee invested in reviewing the Bill. The Committee had to

extend the period of its deliberation on the Bill in order to have wider and extensive consultation. This then gave the opportunity for the Committee to also hold public consultations in other various venues in the four Divisions of Fiji to obtain the widest possible views on the Bill.

It would also be amiss to turn a blind eye to the Committee's experience during the public consultations. This was an eye opener for the Committee and was an experience of its own, witnessing all the emotions felt and grievances raised by the submitters during the public consultations. Emotions ran high in the consultation venues, with some submitters showing sympathy for sex offenders and others condemning sex offenders and requesting that there be more severe penalties and punishment in place for such offenders. There were also views that the Bill should not protect sex offenders by keeping their identities and other personal information confidential.

Some of the main issues highlighted from the review are as follows:

- there were concerns that the Bill is indiscriminate to the types of offenders there are, that is, it applies to all sex offenders including juvenile sex offenders, first time offenders, offenders that commit less severe sexual offences;
- there was concern that the Bill has a lot of leeway in allowing a sex offender access to and to live in close proximity to the victim;
- it was noted that the information contained in the proposed register will be kept confidential, which promotes the protection of rights for all, however, there are also views that see this as a gap in the law, which allows sex offenders who are genuine predators to live amongst communities and families without being known.

Furthermore the Committee compared pieces of legislation of other jurisdictions with the proposed law to see whether there were similar provisions of the laws pertaining to the issues identified in the review. The laws in the jurisdictions looked at by the Committee had both; similar provisions to the Bill and also provisions that had different approaches to that of the Bill. The Committee was appreciative of these varying provisions but also considered the diverse make-up of Fijian communities and how laws introduced into the country are localised for effective implementation.

Consideration was also given to the impact the Bill has on the sustainable development goals. The Committee focused its consideration on SDG 5 – Gender Equality and SDG 16 – creating of peaceful and safe societies. It was noted from the review that this proposed law has been worded and designed not to discriminate between genders and will apply to all sex offenders. The Bill could also be relied on to combat the problem of increase in sex offences thus making societies safer to live in.

The Committee consulted the initiating Ministry and also sort legal clarifications pertaining to the issues noted from the Bill. This ensured that the primary objectives of the Bill is preserved.

At the conclusion of the review, the Committee acknowledges that there were numerous issues that had been noted and this is evidence of the sensitive nature of the matter that will be addressed by the Bill. However, this sensitivity aspect of the Bill, adds to the careful nature of consideration the Committee has chosen to follow, when considering making any drastic changes to the provisions of the Bill.

The Committee believes the objectives of the Bill is preserved by acknowledging the sensitivity of the Bill and that any changes to it, could, at this stage, dilute its intended impact.

The Committee also realises that the Bill will bring about a new law in Fiji, which, like any other law, will have implications on the lives of Fijians. However, at this stage there is little to no data on these implications in Fiji's communities. Therefore, given this lack of relevant data on the implications of such a law in Fiji, the sensitive nature of the Bill and the need to preserve its objectives, the Committee believes that the Bill is sufficient as it is and that no amendments are needed.

Notwithstanding the Committee's position in terms of the status of the Bill, there are a few recommendations the Committee feels are vital for the successful implementation of the Bill. It is recommended that before commencement; awareness and advocacy programmes, which educate Fijians on the impact of this law, is vital. Educating all Fijians on the impact of this proposed law could hinder the commission of such despicable offences, since it makes people aware of the consequences of being subjected to this law. The projected impact the Bill would have on people is too great and should be something that all Fijians are given appropriate awareness on.

Given the Bill's novelty in terms of the empirical evidence there is on the implications of such a law in Fiji, the Committee does recommend that after the proposed law comes into force, a proper review of this law should be carried out. This review will have to be carried out after an adequate period has passed, which allows for proper data collection on its implications to be carried out.

I would like to thank the Honourable Members of the Justice, Law and Human Rights Committee for their deliberations and input and the vast experience they have brought from different sectors, the likes of; Hon. Deputy Chairperson, Hon. Rohit Sharma, with fifteen years of experience in the teaching field; Hon. Dr. Salik Govind, with four decades of service to public health sector within Fiji and Internationally (United Nations); former State Minister of Fijian Affairs, Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua; Hon. Mosese Bilitavu, with over a decade of legal research and management; and not to forget the vast experience by our alternate member, Hon. Niko Nawaikula, with over two decades of legal services. I would also like to acknowledge the staff of the Research Unit and Secretariat, the entities who accepted the invitation of the Committee and made themselves available to make submissions and the members of the public for taking an interest in the proceedings of the Committee and Parliament.

I, on behalf of the Committee, commend the *Registration of Sex Offenders Bill 2018* to the Parliament and seek support of all the members of this August house for the Bill.



HON. ALVICK A. MAHARAJ
CHAIRPERSON

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The Committee is made up of Members of both the Government and Opposition Members. Members of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights are as follows:



Hon. Alvick A. Maharaj (Chairperson)

- *Assistant Minister of Employment, Productivity, Industry Relations, Youth and Sports*
- *Chairperson of Public Accounts Committee*
- *Government Whip*
- *Pharmacist*



Hon. Rohit Sharma (Deputy Chairperson)

- *Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights*
- *Deputy Government Whip*



Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua (Member)

- *Former State Minister of Fijian Affairs;*
- *Shadow Minister for Youth and Sports*



Hon. Dr. Salik Govind (Member)

- *Public Health Specialist – United Nations (World Health Organisation)*
- *Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee*



Hon. Mosese Bulitavu (Member)

- *Legal consultant*
- *Territorial Military Officer – Republic of Fiji Military Force*
- *Businessman*

During the duration of the deliberation on the Bill, the following Hon. Member assisted the Committee as an alternate member, pursuant to Standing Order 115 (5):



Hon. Niko Nawaikula (Alternate Member)

- *Legal Practitioner – High Court of the Republic of Fiji*

Committee Secretariat Team

Supporting the Committee in its work is a group of dedicated Parliament Officers who make-up the Committee Secretariat, and are appointed and delegated by the Secretary-General to Parliament pursuant to Standing Order 15 (3)(i). The Secretariat team is made of the following Parliament officers:

- Mr. Ira Komaisavai – Senior Committee Clerk
- Mr. Jackson Cakacaka – Deputy Committee Clerk
- Ms. Darolin Vinisha – Committee Assistant

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, was referred the *Registration of Sex Offenders Bill 2018* for review on 30 November 2018. The Bill was referred to the Committee pursuant to SO 85(4)(a), whereby the Committee was tasked with scrutinising the Bill and to report back on the Bill in a subsequent Parliament Sitting.

1.2 Procedure and Program

The Committee read through the Bill and did its own deliberation of the Clauses in the Bill. The Committee called for submissions from the public and other interested stakeholders by placing advertisements through the local newspapers (Fiji Times and Fiji Sun) on various dates in the months of March, July and September, 2019. The Committee also invited certain entities to make submissions on the Bill.

It is also appropriate to highlight the tremendous work that the previous Committee had undertaken when it reviewed a piece of legislation that was similar to the Bill. This work by the previous Committee had laid the foundation for the current Committee in its review process.

The Committee was mindful of the provisions in Standing Order 111(1)(a) and ensured that its meetings were open to the public and the media, except during such deliberations and discussions to develop and finalise the Committee's observations and this Report.

As part of its deliberation, the Committee received numerous submissions on the Bill from relevant stakeholders, and visited numerous areas around the four divisions in Fiji to conduct public consultation on various dates falling between and including 8-13 April 2019, 24 April-1 May 2019, 15 July to 18 July 2019 and 26 September to 27 September 2019. A list of the areas visited is appended to this report as 'Appendix A'. These stakeholders included various organisations and individuals that made submissions to the Committee. A list of all submitters is found in 'Appendix B'. Transcripts of the submissions can be obtained from the online Appendices of this Report, which can be accessed via the parliament website: www.parliament.gov.fj.

As noted in the various dates mentioned for the public consultation, the Committee needed ample time to conduct a proper review of the Bill. Thus a request for more time was presented to Parliament, which was then put through a motion and agreed to as resolution of Parliament. The extended timeframe allowed the Committee to visit the selected key areas in the four divisions of Fiji and gather views from many individuals.

The Committee took into consideration the submissions made by organisations and individuals and would like to extend its gratitude to all those who participated and provided essential contribution to the Committee's work.

Submissions received are summarised and provided in this Report. Copies of written submissions received can be obtained from appendices to this Report, which can be accessed via the parliament website: www.parliament.gov.fj.

1.3 Committee Remit

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights was established under Standing Order 109 of the Standing Orders of Parliament and is mandated to, among other things as prescribed in Standing Order 110 to examine each Bill referred to the committee by Parliament, and make amendments to the Bills, to the extent agreed by the committee and examine any subordinate legislation tabled in Parliament within its category of affairs.

2.0 REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS BILL (BILL NO. 34) 2018

2.1 Introduction

Commission of sexual offences are rapidly increasing and this is evidence of the dwindling and fragile status of morals in Fiji's societies today. The *Registration of Sex Offenders Bill* is one of the initiatives and necessary tools relied on by the Fijian Government to address and combat this growing problem of sexual offences

The Bill aims to realise the government's efforts in achieving its goal of a safe Fiji, where the public can live life without fear of being victims of such heinous crimes and have confidence in the justice process.

2.2 Objective of the Bill

The objective of the Bill, which conform to the governments intentions of creating a safe Fiji, is clearly set out in Clause 3 of the Bill as follows:

“to establish a register containing information on sex offenders to enable specified agencies to monitor sex offenders and to assist in reducing the risk posed by sex offenders and the rate of sexual offences in Fiji, by providing—

(a) specified agencies with the information needed to monitor sex offenders in the community, including after the completion of their sentences; and

(b) current information that may assist the Fiji Police Force to rapidly resolve cases of sexual offences.”¹.

¹ *Registration of Sex Offenders Bill 2018* (Bill No. 34 of 2018).

3.0 COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE BILL

3.1 Initial Reading of the Bill and Deliberation by the Committee - Impact of the Bill

The Committee commenced its analysis of the Bill, reading through it Clause by Clause. From this initial reading, it was noted that the Bill will establish a register of sex offenders, whereby all relevant personal information about a sex offender will be kept. The Bill will also, among other things:

- enable specified agencies to monitor sex offenders and minimise the risk posed by such offenders;
- assist in the quick and effective response by the police and ultimately the solving of sexual offence cases; and
- apply to all sex offenders, including those that had been convicted of a sexual offence, prior to the commencement and coming into force of the law.

Sex offenders will also be required to make periodic reports of their personal information for a prescribed timeframe and report any changes to any of these personal information, as and when the change(s) occurs.

3.2 In-depth Analysis of the Clauses of the Bill

The Committee then had extensive discussions on the Clauses and identified certain Clauses that merit proper consideration.

These discussions resulted in the identification of a few issues, which the Committee placed as priority issues to be further discussed and deliberated on. Some of the main issues noted from these discussions are as follows:

- i. The Bill applies to all sex offenders and this is not necessarily a positive aspect. This means that offenders who commit minor offences are categorised in the same category as offenders who commit severe offences.
- ii. The application of the Bill is quite far-reaching, since it is designed to also include sex offenders who were convicted prior to its commencement and its introduction by the government. Offenders from a past era and even those from a period that long predates any form of proper registration of offenders, would be affected by the provisions of the Bill. These would include those that have been rehabilitated and have since been leaving a normal life.
- iii. It was also noted that offenders would be subject to a form of branding by society, which in turn would impact their families and create a stigma, which in most cases is detrimental to the well-being of the family.

3.3 Oral and written evidence received

All the submissions received were considered and deliberated on extensively. The main points and issues noted from the submissions are summarised below.

Submissions received provided a range of comments and suggestions, which cover various issues pertaining to certain Clauses of the Bill.

One particular point of interest that was common in all the submission was the fact that the Bill was designed to apply to all sex offenders, and it was particularly concerning that it will apply to juvenile sex offenders. Most submitters felt that juvenile sex offenders were to either be exempted from being registered or given a limited period for registration in the register. The belief was that the negative impact of registration on such offenders would be far worse, given that they are still growing and developing. There was also belief that such offenders are those that are drawn into such incidents due to either mistakes or other influential factors such as peer pressure, thus negatively affecting their lives by subjecting them to lifetime registration would be irresponsible and detrimental to society.

There were also views that touched on the application of the Bill to all sex offenders irrespective of whether they committed minor sex offences or more serious offences. These views were two-folds; firstly, there were submitters that felt that all sex offenders must be considered a danger to society and the Bill should apply equally to all. These submitters believed that the Bill will ensure prevention of all forms of sex offences.

Secondly, there were similar sentiments to that pertaining to juvenile offenders also received in regard to the indiscriminate application of the Bill include those offenders who commit minor sex offences. Offenders who commit minor offences being included in the same category as serious sex offenders, such as re-offenders and serial sex offenders has been viewed by some as being unreasonable. Thus many of the submitters have suggested that a registration time limit is prescribed to differentiate the different categories of offenders.

There were views received that sought the inclusions of stricter restrictions on sex offenders, such as restricting a sex offender from living in close proximity to the victim. There were first-hand accounts by some submitters in rural areas who face the problem of a sex offender who has served his time, returns back to the village/community and lives in close proximity to the victim. The negative impact that this has on the victim also has a ripple effect on the victim's family and loved ones. This issue has also given life to the fear that exists when it comes to sex offences; that some of the perpetrators of these offences are those that the victim trusts and/or relies on for protection and care.

Some submitters suggested that the Bill allow the dissemination of information from the Register to the public or if that is not possible, then to officials that are in direct contact with the public such as Provincial Administrators, District Officers and/or Turaga-nikoro's. The argument for public access stems from the need for the submitters to be aware of who the sex offenders are so that they are able to better protect their women, children and other vulnerable members of society. Submitters feel that knowing who their

neighbours are could be an effective way of monitoring sex offenders, which in turn may assist in reducing the commission of sex offences.

There were also submissions received that sought the inclusion of provisions in the Bill to mandate the relevant authorities to do awareness programmes in villages, settlements and other communities with regards to the contents and impact of the Bill once it becomes an Act. Awareness is vital since the Bill is designed to impact all members of a community.

3.4 Research into other jurisdictions

In reviewing the Bill the Committee was also conscious of its impact on all the communities in Fiji and noted how the proposed law was a first of its kind for Fiji. This led the Committee to also consider other jurisdictions with similar legislation.

The Committee compared the Bill to various jurisdictions that had similar legislation and which the Committee believed to be relevant for the review given the age of the registration of sex offender's regime in some of these jurisdictions and the relevancy of the others to Fiji's circumstance. The focus of the jurisdictional comparison was on the key contentious issues identified from the review. It was noted that these jurisdictions have legislative provisions, which provide varying approaches to those issues that were identified from the Bill. These jurisdictions include; Australia (Victoria), Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States of America (California).

One of the key issues noted was the indiscriminate application of the Bill to juveniles and offenders who commit minor sex offences. The Committee noted that in all the jurisdictions considered, registration laws applies to all sex offenders irrespective of age. However, there were a few varying approaches when it came to the types of sex offences that the offender committed.

In some jurisdictions, registration is specific to those that committed a sex offence against a child or a person with a mental disability (Victoria (*Sex Offender Registration Act* 2004), New Zealand *Child Protection (Child Sex Offender Government Agency Registration) Act* 2016, South Africa (*Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act* 2007)). In other jurisdictions, such as Canada and the California (*California Sex Offender Registration Act – Penal Code 290*), all sex offenders are required to register, and in California's case, there are tiers of offences, which are attached with varying periods of registration.

Other key issues the Committee focused its jurisdictional comparison on were; access to the information in the register and/or disclosure of information to the public and the restriction of an offender from living in close proximity to the victim. These issues were brought up in majority of the venues the Committee conducted the public consultation and there were varying inputs to these. In considering other jurisdictions, the Committee noted that in most jurisdictions, access to the register is only allowed to the Police and specific government agencies for the purpose of investigations and/or prevention of sex offences.

The Committee had much discussion on the approach taken the United States in allowing disclosure of information about sex offenders to the public, as was realised after the passing of ‘*Megans Law*’. This law was a federal law passed in 1996 by the U.S. Congress, which required every state to have a sex offender registry and a notification system for the public when a sex offender is released into their community. In some cases it also required that repeat sex offenders receive a sentence of life in prison.

The Committee acknowledged the need for prevention of sex offences and the protection of the public from such offenders, but also were mindful of how effective such laws are and whether there were any negative impacts of such a provision. For this the Committee looked into academic articles related to the impact of sex offender laws. Rose Corrigan² writes that Megan’s Law excludes the most common offenders of sex offences, the relative, family and friends and deflects the attention from them to stereotyping the stranger as being the person to focus on when considering such offences.

Another writer, Deborah Jacobs³ also suggests that such laws as Megan’s law and laws that restrict offenders from choosing where to live, takes the attention away from those perpetrators who hold positions of trust. Jacobs also adds that these laws impedes on those offenders who genuinely try to rehabilitate and lead a law-abiding life, by hindering them from finding or starting new a life, and thus may lead to re-offence.

3.5 SDGs Impact Analysis

Consideration was also given to the impact the Bill has on the sustainable development goals and Fiji’s efforts towards its development plans. The Committee thought it appropriate that given the objectives of the Bill is the protection of women and children and the vulnerable, consideration should be placed on the SDG 5, which focuses on gender equality and SDG 16, which focuses on creating strong institutions.

In regard to gender equality, the Committee ensured that full consideration will be given to the principle of gender equality so as to ensure all matters are considered with regard to the impact and benefit on both men and women equally. It was evident from the review, that the Clauses of the Bill were designed to impact all sex offenders equally, irrespective of gender.

In regard to creating strong institutions, the Committee heard numerous views on the gaps that exists in Fiji when it comes to addressing sex offences. The rate of sex offences seems to be increasing as the day goes by and so does the severity of such offences. This creates an environment that is perceived by the public as being unsafe and lacks the usual peace and security that is expected of any community. This is also reflection of the status of the institutions that exist for the protection of the public from sex offenders. The Committee believes that the introduction of the Bill will assist in combating the problem of increased sex offences.

² Corrigan R. ‘*Making meaning of Megan’s Law*’, https://www.jstor.org/stable/4092748?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents [Accessed online]

³ Jacobs D. American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), New Jersey, (online article): <https://www.aclu-nj.org/theissues/criminaljustice/whysexoffenderlawsdomoreha> [Accessed Online]

3.6 Outcome of deliberation

After extensive deliberation, the following outlines some of the main outcomes of the Committee's deliberation.

The pertinent issues identified during the review were discussed at length by the Members of the Committee and considered with the assistance of the drafting team, so as to ensure that all these relevant issues were appropriately addressed and that the objective of the Bill was preserved.

The Committee weighed all options concerning the numerous issues that had been identified and had extensive discussions on these. The objective of the Bill and its impact is sensitive in nature thus the Committee took care when considering all the issues and all suggestions for changes that were made to address the issues.

In regard to the issue of the indiscriminate application of the Bill to juvenile offenders and offenders who commit minor offences, the Committee took into consideration the numerous submissions from the public and the approach of other jurisdictions. As identified from the submissions and the approaches in other jurisdictions, the main objective of introducing such a law is to curb the commission of the offence it aims to address. The Committee believes that the objective of the Bill, which is to reduce sex offences, would be achieved if the provisions relating to the application of the Bill remains as is. This therefore means that the Bill should apply to all sex offenders and there should not be any flexibility in its provisions.

In regard to the issue of restricting sex offenders from living in areas that are in close proximity to the victim; the Committee had to balance the right of the victim with that of the offender. In doing so, consideration was given to the submissions received and the jurisdictional comparison of legislation of other jurisdictions. Submissions received leaned towards having the restrictions ingrained into the law. From the jurisdictional comparison, it was noted that there are both positive and negative impacts of having such restrictive provisions.

However, emphasis is drawn to the actual impact such provisions have on society and the justice system as a whole; it was noted that restrictions such as that being proposed by some submitters would do more harm than good. Furthermore, restrictions would infringe on an offenders constitutional right; Section 21(4), (6) and 7 of the Constitution, provides for the right of every citizen, including an offender to reside and live in any part of Fiji. Therefore the Committee feels the Bill should not be seen as something that could do more harm and that it should not infringe on rights that are afforded to all citizens of Fiji.

In regard to the issue of public access to the register and disclosure of information; the Committee noted that the submissions had varying approaches; the Committee had a difficult task of balancing the right of the offender to his or her privacy against the right of the public to be protected. The Committee has given much thought to the concerns of the public and the need to feel safe and be informed of whether a sex offender has moved in to the committee. However, the argument that 'the public will be more safe if they know', is somewhat incorrect. As provided in the views of learned persons that have been

following and studying the impact of sex offender laws; having provisions that allow access and disclosure, would draw attention away from other potential offenders to those that are already stereotyped⁴. Therefore defeating the purpose of the Bill, which is assist in monitoring offenders and reducing sex offences.

Apart from the deliberation on the issues, the Committee also considered the impact the Bill has on the sustainable development goals. It was noted that the Bill, would bring into place a law, which is designed to impact all Fijians, irrespective of gender and one that aims to improve the institutions of justice within Fiji and create a safe environment for all.

The Committee also acknowledged the fact that the Bill will bring about a new law in Fiji, which, like any other law, will have implications on the lives of Fijians. However, since this Bill will be a first for Fiji, there are currently very little to no data on the implications of the law in Fiji's communities. There is a need to gather relevant data on the implications of such a law in Fiji and to monitor how effective the law has been in achieving its objective.

Therefore, considering the Committee's intention of preserving the objective of the Bill and acknowledging the fact that the perceived consequences of Bill, which are still largely theory at this stage, the Committee believes the Bill should be left as is and no amendments to be made to it.

Despite the Committee's position in terms of the status of the Bill, there are a few recommendations the Committee feels are vital for the successful implementation of the Bill. These recommendations are:

- i. That before its commencement, awareness and advocacy programmes be carried out by relevant agencies to educate Fijians on the impact of this law, before commencement, is vital. The projected impact it will have on people is too great and should be something that all Fijians are given appropriate awareness on. This is could be one way of achieving the objective of reducing the rate of reducing the risk posed by sex offenders and the rate of sexual offences in Fiji.
- ii. It is also recommended that after the proposed law comes into force, a proper review of this law should be carried out. The Bill is new and this review will have to be carried out after an adequate period has passed, preferably a period of not less than 5 years, which allows for proper data collection on its implications to be carried out.

4.0 CONCLUSION

After adhering to all due process and the requirements of the Standing Orders of Parliament, the Committee in its deliberation saw that the Bill was an important step towards ensuring that our communities are made safe, that sex offences are reduced and that the vulnerable are protected. As highlighted above in its deliberations, the Committee has conducted extensive public consultations, reviewed similar legislation from other

⁴ Ibid 3.

jurisdictions in order to gauge how the proposed law is, in terms of best practices and consulted independent legal experts in the Solicitor-General's Office. At the conclusion of the review, the Committee believes the Bill is sufficient in its current form in realising its objectives.

The Committee through this report commends the *Registration of Sex Offenders Bill (Bill No. 34) 2018* to the Parliament.

APPENDICES

- Appendix A - List of the areas visited by the Committee for public consultation
- Appendix B - List of all submitters

APPENDIX A - LIST OF THE AREAS VISITED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

1. Vunidawa Government Station, Vunidawa, Naitasiri
2. Korovou Provincial Office, Korovou, Tailevu
3. Rakiraki Police Conference Room, Rakiraki
4. Ba Town Council Civic Centre, Ba
5. Lautoka City Council Chambers, Lautoka
6. Masimasi Primary School, Sabeto, Nadi
7. Lagalaga Primary School Hall, Macuata
8. Vunivutu Village Hall, Macuata
9. Ravindra Narayan's Residence, Coqeloa, Macuata
10. Labasa Town Council Chambers, Labasa
11. Ram Lila Mandir, Bulileka, Labasa
12. Seaqaqa Police Station, Seaqaqa
13. Provincial Administrator Office, Savusavu
14. Women Resource Centre, Taveuni
15. Bua Lomanikoro Village Hall, Bua
16. Naulumatua House, Bua Provincial Office, Nabouwalu
17. Sauniveiuto Village, Deuba
18. Rampur College, Navua
19. Namosi Provincial Council Office, Namosi
20. Shalini Apartments, Sigatoka
21. Keasi Government Station, Navosa
22. Eli Peceli Hall, Levuka, Ovalau
23. Bureta Village Hall, Bureta Village, Ovalau

APPENDIX B - LIST OF SUBMITTERS THAT MADE SUBMISSIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

Some of the names listed below in some of the venues are of those that attended before the Committee and had given a submission to the Committee.

Vunidawa Government Station on Monday 08th of April, 2019		
Name	Designation (if any)	Gender (M/F)
Mr. Ifereimi Corerega	Roko Tui Naitasiri	M
Mr. Sairusi Bosenaqali	Provincial Administrator for Naitasiri	M
Mr. Valetino Seruitukana	Assistant Roko Naitaisiri	M

Korovou Provincial Office on Monday 8th Day of April, 2019		
Name	Designation (if any)	Gender (M/F)
Mr. Josaia Waqa		M
Mr. Apimeleki Rokotuiloma		M
Mr. Osea Vutikalulu		M

Rakiraki Police Conference Room On Tuesday, 9th Day Of April, 2019		
Name	Designation (if any)	Gender (M/F)

Mr. Peni Vunisa		M
Mr. Hazrat Ali		M
Mr. Mohammed Abbas		M

Ba Town Council Civic Centre on Wednesday 10th of April, 2019		
Name	Designation (if any)	Gender (M/F)
Mr. Vatemu Tinalevu	Mata-ni-Tikina	M
Mr. Joseva Sadulo	Turaga Ni Koro Vatutavui	M
Mr. Sairusi Vuluma	Mata-ni-Tikina Bulu	M
Mr. Koliaci Kutulivaliva		M
Mr. Poasa Tuwai		M

Lautoka City Council Chambers on Thursday 11th Day Of April, 2019		
Name	Designation (if any)	Gender (M/F)
Mr. Keshwa Sharma		M
Mr. Jese Saukuru (MP)		M

Masimasi Primary School, Sabeto, Nadi on Friday, 12th Day of April, 2019		
Name	Designation (if any)	Gender

		(M/F)
Ms. Elenoa Cabealawa		F
Mr. Ranjit Singh		M
Mr. Nasir Khan		M
Pastor Uraia Sevu		M
Mr. Ali	Head Teacher – Masimasi Primary School	M

Lagalaga Primary School Hall on Tuesday, 24th Day of April, 2019

Name	Designation (if any)	Gender (M/F)
Ms. Akisi Vinaka		F
Mr. Amrit Chand		M
Mr. Kes Reddy		M
Mr. Jas Karan		M

Vunivutu Village Hall on Wednesday 24th April, 2019

Name	Designation (if any)	Gender
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		(M/F)
Mr. Alivereti Abenisiga	District Officer Macuata	M
Mr. Sheik Mohammed Daud	Radio Announcer (FM96)	M
Mr. Aseri Tagicakiverata		M
Mr. Apenisa Ciwa		M

Ravindra Narayan's Residence, Coqeloa, Labasa on Thursday, 25th Day Of April, 2019		
Name	Designation (if any)	Gender (M/F)
Mr. Ravinesh Prasad	District Officer Macuata	M
Mr. Jadu Bans	Radio Announcer (FM96)	M
Mr. Aseri Tagicakiverata		M
Mr. Apenisa Ciwa		M

Labasa Town Council Chambers on Thursday 25th April, 2019		
Name	Designation (if any)	Gender (M/F)
Mr. Mohammed Shanil	Youth Coordinator (Youth Council)	M

Ram Lila Mandir, Bulileka, Labasa on Friday, 26th Day of April, 2019		
Name	Designation (if any)	Gender (M/F)
Mr. Amukh Prasad		M
Mr. Ramesh Prasad		M
Mr. Amulesh Prasad		M

Seaqaqa Police Station On Friday 26th April, 2019		
Name	Designation (if any)	Gender (M/F)
Ms. Jane Naulu	Red Cross President, Seaqaqa Branch	M
Mr. Kelevi Vakarusa		M
Mr. Pramesh Prasad		M

Savusavu on Saturday 27th April, 2019		
Name	Designation (if any)	Gender (M/F)
Mr. Saliceni Tulevu	Red Cross President, Seaqaqa Branch	M
Ms. Vasiti Lovobalavu		M
Mr. Nemani Dravisau		M
Mr. Luke Maiyaroi		M
Mr. Matavesi Tauriwau		M

Women Resource Centre, Taveuni On Monday, 29th Day Of April, 2019		
Name	Designation (if any)	Gender (M/F)
Mr. Alifereti Tuinamata	Department of Fisheries	M
Mr. Venusi Tamaidraumala		M
Ms. Matelita Roqica	Nurse	F
Mr. Vatili Tikonaivalu	Mata ni Tikina Cakaudrove	M
Mr. Matavesi Tauriwau		M
Mr. Pauliasi Rokosuli	National Fire Authority	M

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Bua Lomanikoro Village Hall, Bua On Tuesday 30th Day Of April, 2019		
Name	Designation (if any)	Gender (M/F)
Ratu Maika Tuimuru		M
Mr. Semi Nataba		M
Mr. Sitiveni Solei		M
Mr. Vatili Tikonaivalu		M
Mr. Sivo Rokotuibua		M

Naulumatua House, Bua Provincial Office, Nabouwalu-Wednesday 1 May, 2019		
Name	Designation (if any)	Gender (M/F)
Ratu Amenatave Rabona	Tui Vuya	M
Mr. Edward Bhan	Former School Teacher	M
Mrs. Sesarina Naliku		F
Ms. Filomena Lewakalou		F
Mr. Mateo Ratusili		M

Mr. Majia Daoro		M
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Sauniveiuto Village, Deuba – Monday 15 July 2019 – 9:00am		
Name	Designation (if any)	Gender (M/F)
Mr. Jacoro Kenatale	Assistant Roko Serua	M
Mr. Kinijoji Tubucake		M
Mr. Aminisitai Koroi	Turaga ni Koro Sauniveiuto	M
Mr. Iiesia Naituku		M
Mr. Emosi		M
Mr. Mitieli Mirinalagi	Sauniveiuto Village	M
Mr. Samuela	Mata ni Tikina Deuba	M
Mr. Sunia Tabuatoga		M

Rampur College, Navua – Monday 15 July 2019 – 7:30pm		
Ms. Theresa J. Wise Navua		F
Ms. Fanny Qaqa Navua		F
Mr. Nitesh Prasad Navua		M
Mr. Kamal Narayan Navua		M
Mr. Dharendra Chand	Advisory Councillor, Navua	M

Mr. Bimal Chaudhry Navua		M
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Namosi Provincial Council Office – Tuesday 16 July 2019 – 9:30am		
Ms. Fanny Waqa		F

Shalini Apartments, Sigatoka – Wednesday 17 July – 6:30pm		
Mr. Manasa Nawakula Korotogo Village		M
Ms. Moureen Mohammed Korotogo		F
Mr. Sessa Reddy Tokalau Pointe		M
Mrs. Jeanette Walker Sydney Drive, Korotogo		M
Mr. Alvin Korotogo, Advisory Councillor		M
Mr. Samsoper Korotogo		M
Mr. Joveci Naika Sydney Drive, Korotogo		M
Ms. Ashita Deo Olosara		F
Mr. Peleki Railau Korotogo Village		M
Ms. Saras Kumari Nasau Korokoro		F
Ms. Roshni Reddy Olosara		F
Dr. Amos Zibrán Sigatoka, SDMO Sigatoka		M
Mr. Ronal V. Anam Olosara		M
Pastor Shalen Kumar Sigatoka, Advisory Councillor		M

Ms. Lata Naidu Sigatoka town		F
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Eli Peceli Hall, Levuka, Ovalau,-Thursday 26 September 2019		
Mr. Sairusi Semilawalawa	Fisheries Officer, Levuka	M
Mr. Josese Rakuita	CEO, Levuka Town Council	M
Rev. Timoci W.	Religious Leader	M
Mr. Seresio N.		
Mr. Asesela Biutiviti	Provincial Administrator, Lomaiviti	M
Mr. Samisoni Bola	PA Office, Lomaiviti	M

Naiveiteitei Village Hall, Bureta Village, Ovalau-Friday 27 September 2019		
Ms. Makarita Cagi		F
Ms. Vasenmaca Lave		F
Ms. Lavenia Lagi		F
Mr. Donato Koyanasau	Turaga-ni-Vanua	M
Mr. Mesake Siga	Turaga-ni-koro	M
Adi Vika Lagilagi	Teacher	F
Mr. Leone Eveni		M
Mr. Alosio Koyanasau	Mata-ni-Tikina	M
Ms. Timaima Tarisi		F

Ms. Sainiana Vesidau		F
Ms. Kalesita Mataika		F
Mr. Luke Kalouniviti		M
Ms. Salanieta Kelibau		F
Ms. Alanieta Velua		F
Mr. Naibakia		M
Ms. Marama Sovaki		F
Ms. Waqare		F
Ms. Penina		F
Mr. Waisea Yacalevu		M