



PARLIAMENT NEWSLETTER

2018 Parliament Bi-Annual Newsletter, Issue No. 2

August - December

NEW MPs READY TO SERVE IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS



New MPs with the re-elected Speaker Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni after the swearing-in ceremony on November 26.



The late Speaker Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni swearing her oath of allegiance as the Speaker of Parliament.

Following the 2018 General Election, 51 new Members of Parliament will now represent every Fijian in the next four year.

The MPS took oath and affirmation in Parliament on November 26.

The late Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni was re-elected as the Speaker of Parliament for another four-year term while the Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Veena Bhatnagar was elected as the Deputy Speaker.

Meanwhile, Hon. Sifiveni Rabuka was unanimously elected as Leader of Opposition.



Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Veena Bhatnagar.

"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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ORBITUARY : A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT LEADER THE LATE HON. DR JIKO FATAFEHI LUVENI



The late Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni became Speaker when she was elected to the position on 6 October, 2014. Her appointment was a historic one as it was the first time in Fiji's history that a woman was elected to the important position of Speaker of Parliament.

During the 2014 General Election, she was among eight women candidates who won seats in Fiji's new Parliament. She relinquished her seat when she was elected unopposed by Members of Parliament to be Speaker.

Hon. Dr Luveni was re-elected again in Parliament on Monday 26 November straight after the 2018 General Election.

Hon. Dr Luveni graduated as the first woman dentist from the Fiji School of Medicine as well as from the University of Sydney. She served as a dentist in all Divisions in Fiji for 20 years with special interest in Public Health Dentistry. She was also a tutor in Public Health Dentistry at the Fiji School of Medicine.

In 1988, she worked as a Program management officer for the United Nations Population Fund. For 15 years she served various Pacific island countries. She took early retirement to enable her to focus on providing service for Fiji only.

Subsequently, Hon. Dr Luveni worked as the HIV/AIDS Project Officer for the Ministry of Health for five years. In this role, she helped set up the organisation, Fiji Network for People Living with HIV and AIDS, that played an effective role in reducing fear and discrimination

against people living with HIV and AIDS throughout Fiji.

Hon. Dr Luveni worked as the Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation for eight years before the 2014 General Election. Since assuming her role as Speaker, the late Hon. Dr Luveni faced the challenge of promoting Parliament and the ideals of parliamentary democracy. For eight years, Fiji did not have a functioning Parliament and it fell on her to take the leadership role in getting Fiji citizens re-engaged with Parliament. She was instrumental in encouraging the Parliament secretariat to establish outreach and community engagement programmes such as the 'Parliament Bus', 'Meet the Speaker', and 'Our S.a.Y'. She also took the lead role in pushing for and encouraging women to enter national politics and prove that they can have an impactful contribution in Parliament and nation building. She became a champion for the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, she championed SDG 5 – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. During the 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women held in New York in March 2016, the late Hon. Dr Luveni stated that it was her hope that her journey, experience and commitment would inspire and empower more Fijian women particularly ordinary and rural women to contribute to the decision-making process and the country's development.

- She transcended the role of the Speaker by taking Parliament to the people through her many initiatives such as the 'Meet the Speaker' programmes, Speaker's Debate, Parliament Tour, 'Parliament Bus' and the live streaming of Parliament sittings. These Speaker led initiatives were focused on educating the Fijian people about the role and functions of

the Fijian Parliament, the Members of Parliaments, the Parliamentary Committees including how Fijians can engage with their parliament

- She formed the Gender Parliament Committee which is made up of all chairs and deputy chairs of the Parliament standing committees. This was to ensure that gender considerations were applied to all committee work and reflected in their reports tabled in Parliament

- Under her leadership, the Fijian Parliament was acknowledged/recognised internationally for a number of pioneer achievements, namely:

- (i) The only Parliament in the world with its Standing Orders requiring a gender based analysis to be used by parliamentary committees when scrutinising legislation or undertaking their oversight functions;

- (ii) Being the first Parliament in the world to adopt the IPU Gender Toolkit; which is a practical guide for Members of Parliament on how to scrutinize legislation from a gender perspective;

- (iii) The Fijian Parliament made history by being the first Parliament to carry out a self-assessment exercise on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and

- (iv) She approved the formulation of a toolkit to assist Members of Parliament monitor SDG related issues in Parliament committee work to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Fiji and contribute to national development

- As the first woman Speaker of the Fijian Parliament, the late Hon. Speaker was in an influential position to convince women that women can effectively play the leadership role. As such she encouraged political parties to have at least 30% women candidates in their parties (reflected in one of her speeches).

ACHIEVEMENTS:

In June 2018, Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni was the first in the South Pacific to have been conferred the honorary fellowship from the Council of the Royal Australian College of Dental Surgeons. She was the third woman to receive such a prestigious award alongside the Princess of Wales, the late Diana Spencer and New Zealand Paediatric Dental Specialist, Professor Bernadette Drummond;

In 2017 during her term as Speaker, the Fijian Parliament was the first Parliament in the world to undertake a self-assessment on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

In 2016, she was appointed Champion for Early Childhood Care and Education in Fiji;

In 2015, she was named as an Ambassador to Champion the SDGs by the Fiji Council of Social Services;

In 2015, she became the UNFPA High Level Champion to advocate at all levels of society for behavioural

change in the mandate areas of UNFPA, in particular in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, rights and youth;

In 2014, Hon. Dr Luveni was elected as Speaker of the Fijian Parliament and marked an important event, being the first female speaker in the history of Fiji and re-elected in November, 2018;

She was also the Chairperson of the Lau Provincial Council and later joined the Fiji First Party where she became the President of the Party;

In 2008, she was invited to be part of the Cabinet and serve as Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation until September 2014;

In 2004, she worked for three years at the Ministry of Health as the HIV/AIDS Project Officer before setting up the NGO, Fiji Network for People Living with HIV and AIDS as its Executive Director;

She also initiated the National Tooth-brushing competi-

tion sponsored by Colgate in 1985;

She became the National Women's Champion in Table Tennis, and represented Fiji to the Second South Pacific Games in New Caledonia in 1966;

A household name, trailblazer and a good role model is how many described the late Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Fatafehi Luveni who was called to eternal rest on December 22, 2018.

Born on November 20, 1945, the untimely passing of the first woman Speaker of the Fijian Parliament, at the age of 72, was indeed a great loss to the nation.

The late Hon. Dr Luveni's reputable achievements spoke volume about how passionate, committed and patriotic she was to the nation's call of duty.

She is survived by her husband, Mr Inoke Luveni, five children and seven grandchildren.

DEMOCRACY, OUR PRECIOUS TREASURE- PRESIDENT



His Excellency the President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote addressing the House during the opening of the 2018-2019 Parliament session.

Our democracy is a precious treasure, owned by the Fijian people and enshrined in the Fijian Constitution.

This was the comment made by His Excellency the President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote while opening the 2018-2019 new Parliament session on November 26.

The opening also followed the successful outcome of the 2018 General Election which saw 51 new Members of Parliament being elected into the august House.

The President said he believed that it was a blessing from the Almighty God that "we are finally a nation that holds to genuine democratic principles, where all Fijians are guaranteed an equal say in the governing of our nation and where the outcomes of our elections are respected by all parties".

"Our journey towards the achievement of a truly inclusive democracy has spanned decades, and it is never-ending. Democracy is not a static thing; it must grow with the people and incorporate new found wisdom," he said.

"It must confront problems and respond to demands that we cannot even contemplate today. So, we will always have more work to do, and that work begins here, with the elected representatives of the Fijian people."

The President, in his address, also revealed some new legislative programmes expected to be discussed in the new Parliament sessions.

"The legislative programme for this parliamentary session will include new legislations on the formulation of a new independent land tribunal, including public health protections, the modernisation of quarantine practices and procedures, matters pertaining to landlord and tenants and consumer protection to name a

few.

"Parliament will also substantially review a number of existing laws such as the financial Management Act, Immigration Act, Consumer Credit Act, Security Industry Act and Stamp Duties Act, Customs Act, Customs Tariff Act, Land Transport Act, Sale of Goods Act, Bankruptcy Act and Police Act."

Among others, one such commitment they aimed to further develop is the empowerment of young Fijians.

"We can go that extra mile to bring the opportunities they deserve, make space for them at the decision-making table and bring them exposure, experience and mentorship. That is why my Government started holding national

budget consultations with students directly in high schools and young people directly in universities, and that is what we will continue to do.

"We will incentivise our economic growth in ways that produce new and better employment for young people. We will continue our massive investment towards the Fijian education system.

"We will also grow our investment in the business ideas and ambition of young Fijians and we will make new, strategic investments that modernise our economy and unleash a wave of technological innovation across the country."



His Excellency the President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote inspecting the Guard of Honour during the opening of the 2018-2019 Parliament session.

EMERGENCY ITEM RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED AT IPU 139TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY



IPU President Hon. Gabriela Cuevas Barron (centre), Speaker Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa with Members of the Small Islands Development States at the General Assembly.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union ('IPU') 139th General Assembly unanimously adopted the emergency item resolution entitled "Climate Change – Let us not cross the line". The emergency item was submitted by the Small Island Developing States ('SIDS') – comprising Fiji, Seychelles, Tonga, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia – following the release of the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C.

The emergency item resolution was debated and approved by the Assembly on October 15, 2018, for inclusion on the Assembly agenda, drawing support from 1,106 votes with 311 votes against and 248 votes in abstention. The emergency item resolution was then referred to the Drafting Committee for vetting and finalisation. On October 17, 2018,

the rapporteur from the Drafting Committee submitted the finalised draft to the Assembly whereby it was put to the vote and subsequently adopted unanimously.

It was an unprecedented historical moment in the history of the IPU noting that unanimous vote has never been achieved for emergency item resolutions submitted. Not only is this a victory for the sake of SIDS but rather for the sake of humanity.

As alluded to by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa during the debate, "This is one of those resolutions that should have everybody unanimously voting in favour. Why? Because climate change will affect all of us in a way that wars and famines won't. Climate change knows no border. It knows no geo-

graphical limitations. Yes, the impact may be different depending on whether you are surrounded by sea or not but I tell you one thing – if it isn't rising sea level that will get you, category 5 cyclones will; earthquakes will; floods will or some other natural calamity that you may have never experienced before as a country."

Hon. Vuniwaqa further stated, "SIDS are big on climate change – simply because we are feeling the ramifications more than you today due to our heavy reliance on the sea that surrounds us and in the Pacific region, the effects of climate change include significant temperature increases, changing rainfall patterns, sea-level rise, floods and more intense tropical cyclones."

"You see ladies and gentlemen, for us climate change threatens our very existence," said Hon. Vuniwaqa. "So I call on all of you as Members of Parliaments representing the millions of voices around the world to stand together with us and agree to act on the IPCC report. As parliamentarians we have a vital duty to ensure that our NDCs are met; deliver key outcomes not only to the Pacific; and preserve and advance global climate consensus."

In giving her closing remarks, Hon. Vuniwaqa reiterated that the task for Members of Parliaments is relevant now more than ever, and they need to maintain their stance to maintain global solidarity to make a difference.

OVERVIEW REPORT OF PARLIAMENT LAUNCHED



The late Speaker Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni with the Country Director for UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji and Head of Pacific Regional Programme Policy Bakhodir Bukhanov and other invited guests during the launching of the report last year.

The 2014-2018 overview report of Parliament was launched in November, last year.

In launching the report, the late Speaker Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni said; "These statistics not only highlights the instrumental role of the Fijian Parliament in its legislative, oversight, budgetary and representative role during the 2014-2018 Parliament term, but it also provides important information that will assist the Parliament staff to review the way we work and the support we provide in the next Parliament, particularly on how we can monitor the engagement of Members of Parliament and the parliamentary committees about the implementation of the SDGs".

The UNDP Fiji Parliament Support Project with the assistance of the Governments of New Zealand, Australia, Japan and the European

Union, provided invaluable support to the Parliament during the 2014-2018 term. Former UNDP Country Director Pacific Office and Head of Pacific Regional Programme Policy Mr Bakhodir Bukhanov congratulated the Speaker and said; "Delivering the 2030 agenda depends on good governance which includes the responsiveness and accountability of institutions at all levels".

"SDG 16 outlines the need for institutions to be open, transparent, effective and inclusive."

Summary of the 2014-2018 overview report of Parliament included:

- 144 sitting days during the Parliament term with 161 pieces of legislations approved by Parliament;
- 24 International Treaties or Conventions were approved by Parliament;
- 612 questions with notice were asked in Parliament by the Honourable Members;
- 1918 supplementary questions were asked to Honourable Ministers in Parliament;
- 131 written questions were submitted to Parliament;
- 25 substantive motions were debated in Parliament;
- 18 petitions were tabled in Parliament;
- 1506 Standing Committee meetings with 133 reports tabled by committees in Parliament relating to legislations or scrutiny of International Treaties and Conventions, petitions or Annual Reports;
- More than 2,600 individuals appeared before the Parliament Standing Committees.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY VISITATIONS AUGUST- DECEMBER, 2018

COURTESY CALLS TO THE SPEAKER OF THE FIJIAN PARLIAMENT

NO.	DELEGATION	NO. OF DELEGATES	DATES
1	UN Resident Coordinator –Mr Samaka Sanarasinha	4	26/09/18
2	H.E. Mr Masahiro Omura	1	19/11/18
3	China's Ambassador to Fiji H.E. Mr Qian Bo	1	28/11/18

MPs OVERSEAS MEETINGS

4	Eurasian Women's Forum	Saint Petersburg, Russia	20-21/09/18	1. Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni 2. Hon. Lorna Eden 3. Mrs Viniana Namosimalua 4. Mrs Kalo Galuvakadua 5. Mr Sefanaia Tudonu 6. Mr Alipate Tuwai
5	139th Inter- Parliamentary Union(IPU) General Assembly	Geneva, Switzerland	14-19/10/18	1. Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni 2. Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa 3. Ms Jeanette Emberson 4. Mr Silivario Malo 5. Ms Ane Navunivere
6	2018 Asia-Pacific Summit	Nepal, India	30/11-04/12/18	1. Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni 2. Mr Senitili Wainiu 3. Mr Alipate Tuwai
7	Strengthening the Global regime for Migrants and Refugees	Morocco	06-07/12/18	1. Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni 2. Mr Senitili Wainiu 3. Mr Sefanaia Tudonu 4. Mr Alipate Tuwai

MPs OVERSEAS MEETINGS

No.	INVITATION	COUNTRY	DATE	DELEGATION
1	Fourth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health	Manila, Philippines	23-24/08/18	1. Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni 2. Hon. Alexander O'Connor 3. Hon. Mikaele Leawere 4. Mr Sakiusa Rakai 5. Ms Ane Navunivere
2	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Work Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies in Asia and the Pacific at United Nations	New York, USA	04-08/09/18	1. Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni 2. Mr Avinesh Sharma 3. Ms Ane Navunivere
3	2nd World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development	Bali, Indonesia	12 -13/09/18	1. Hon. Jone Usamate 2. Hon. Viam Pillay 3. Mr Senitili Wainiu

PARLIAMENT SITTING SUMMARY : 2014-2018

No. of Bills

2014	28
2015	36
2016	53
2017	41
2018	31

No. Acts

2014	16
2015	32
2016	32
2017	48
2018	33

No. of Treaties

2014	-
2015	10
2016	6
2017	6
2018	4

No. of Petitions

2014	1
2015	12
2016	3
2017	2
2018	-

No. of Annual Report

2014	29
2015	40
2016	56
2017	46
2018	60

No. of Committee Reports

2014	-
2015	11
2016	23
2017	37
2018	62

No. of Ministerial Statements

2014	-
2015	21
2016	29
2017	49
2018	47

MEET OUR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT GOVERNMENT MPs



HON. JOSAI VOREQE BAINIMARAMA
PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER
FOR ITAUKEI AFFAIRS AND
SUGAR INDUSTRY



HON. ATIYAZ SAYED-KHAIYUM
ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND
MINISTER FOR ECONOMY, CIVIL
SERVICE & COMMUNICATIONS



HON. INIA BATIKOTO SERUIRATU
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE, NATIONAL
SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS



HON. PREMILA DEVI KUMAR
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY, TRADE,
TOURISM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



HON. PARVEEN KUMAR BALA
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT,
PRODUCTIVITY AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS, YOUTH AND SPORTS



HON. DR MAHENDRA REDDY
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE,
RURAL AND MARITIME DEVELOPMENT,
WATERWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT



**HON. MERESEINI RAKUITA
YUNIWAQA**
MINISTER FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN
AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION



HON. ASHNEEL SUDHAKAR
MINISTER FOR LANDS AND MINERAL
RESOURCES



**HON. SEMI TULECA
KOROILAVESAU**
MINISTER FOR FISHERIES



HON. OSEA NAIQAMU
MINISTER FOR FORESTRY



HON. JONE USAMATE
MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE,
TRANSPORT, DISASTER MANAGEMENT
AND METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES



HON. ROSY SOFIA AKBAR
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,
HERITAGE AND ARTS



**HON. DR IFEREIMI
WAQAINABETE**
MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND MEDICAL
SERVICES



HON. VIJAY NATH
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE,
TRANSPORT, DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES



HON. ALVICK AVHIKRIT MAHARAJ
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT,
PRODUCTIVITY AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS,
YOUTH AND SPORTS (**GOVERNMENT WHIP**)



HON. JALE SIGARARA
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR
AGRICULTURE AND MARITIME
DEVELOPMENT



HON. VIAM PILLAY
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



**HON. VEENA KUMAR
BHATNAGAR (DEPUTY SPEAKER)**
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR WOMEN,
CHILDREN AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION



HON. JOSEPH NITYA NAND
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,
HERITAGE AND ARTS



**HON. ALEXANDER DAVID
O'CONNOR**
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR
HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

MEET OUR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT GOVERNMENT MPs(Con't)



HON. GEORGE VEGNATHAN
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR SUGAR
INDUSTRY



HON. SELAI ADIMAITOGA
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR
ITAUKEI AFFAIRS



HON. ALIPATE TUICOLO NAGATA
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT,
PRODUCTIVITY AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS, YOUTH AND SPORTS



**HON. SANJAY
SALEND KIRPAL**



**HON. DR SALIK
RAM GOVIND**



**HON. VIJENDRA
PRAKASH**



**HON. ROHIT
RITESH SHARMA**

MEET OUR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OPPOSITION MPs



**HON. SITIVENI LIGAMAMADA
RABUKA (LEADER OF OPPOSITION)**



**HON. RO TEIMUMU
VUIKABA KEPA**



**HON. RATU NAIQAMA
LALABALAVU**



HON. NIKO NAWAIKULA



**HON. VILIAME
ROGOIBULU GAVOKA**



**HON. SALOTE
VUIBURETA RADRODORO**



**HON. ADI LITIA
QIONIBARAVI**



**HON. MOSESE
DRECALA BULITAVU**

MEET OUR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OPPOSITION MPs(Con't)



HON. ANARE JALE



HON. ASERI
MASIVOU RADRODRO



HON. MIKAELE ROKOSOVA
LEAWERE



HON. RATU SULIANO
MATANITOBUA



HON. DR RATU ATONIO
RABICI LALABALAVU



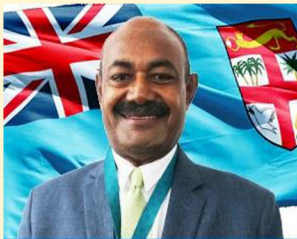
HON. SIMIONE
ROKOMALO RASOVA



HON. PECELI
WAQAIRATU VOSANIBOLA



HON. LYNDA DISERU
TABUYA (SODELPA WHIP)



HON. INOSI KURIDRANI



HON. RO FILIPE
TUISAWAU



HON. RATU TEVITA
NIUMATAIWALU



HON. JESE SAUKURU



HON. MITIELI
BULANAUCA



HON. PROF BIMAN
CHAND PRASAD



HON. PIO TIKODUADUA
(NFP WHIP)



HON LENORA SALUSALU
QEREQERETABUA

PARLIAMENT AT WORK



Parliament in session during the November sitting, 2018.



Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama delivering his maiden speech during the November sitting, 2018.



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the November sitting, 2018.



Government Members of Parliament during the November sitting, 2018.



Opposition Members of Parliament listening during the November sitting, 2018.



(L-R) Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi, Hon. Salote Radrodro and Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Hon. Veena Bhatnagar making their way out of Parliament during the November sitting, 2018.



First committee sitting for the new Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights in December, 2018.



(L-R) Opposition Members of Parliament- Hon. Mikaere Leawere, Hon. Mosese Bulitavu and Opposition Leader Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka making their way out of Parliament during the November sitting, 2018.



Members of Parliament lining up for a quick medical check-up during one of the breaks in the November sitting, 2018.



(L-R) Hon. Mitieli Bulanauca and Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua making their way out of Parliament in November, 2018.



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum chats with the Minister for Health and Medical Services Hon. Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete after the sitting in November, 2018.



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa delivering her maiden speech during the November sitting in 2018.

PARLIAMENT ENGAGEMENTS



His Excellency the President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote exchange greetings with the late Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni during the issuance of the Writ of Elections in October, 2018.



His Excellency the President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote chats with the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama during the royal visit of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex- Prince Harry and Meghan Markle to Fiji in October, 2018.



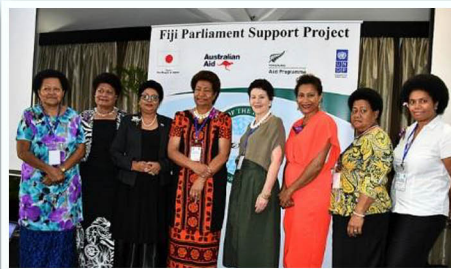
Minister for Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs Hon. Inia Seruiratu signs the visitor's log book as Minister for Fisheries Hon. Semi Koroilavesau and Permanent Secretary for the Office of the Prime Minister Mr Yogesh Karan looks on during the swearing-in of His Excellency, the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote in November, 2018.



Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum chats with invited guests during the cocktail event for new Members of Parliament in November, 2018.



New Members of Parliament with some guest speakers at the MPs Retreat at the Warwick Resort in December 2018.



Women MPs with a guest speaker during the retreat at the Warwick Resort in December, 2018.



Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Maritime Development Hon. Jale Sigarara (second from left) and Opposition Member of Parliament Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua with two guests after the swearing-in ceremony for new MPs in November, 2018.



(L-R) Opposition Whip Hon. Lynda Tabuya and Government Whip Hon. Alvick Maharaj checks the counting of the ballots during the election of the Speaker in November, 2018.



(L-R) Assistant Minister for Sugar Industry Hon. George Vegnathan, Hon. Rohit Sharma and Assistant Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Hon. Joseph Nand during the MPs Induction workshop in November, 2018.



Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa and Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaga in Nadi during the royal visit of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex-Prince Harry and Meghan Markle to Fiji in October, 2018.

DEPARTMENT TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE



Acting Secretary-General to Parliament Mrs Viniana Namosimalua and some staff of the Department receiving the Achievement Award from First Lady, Madam Sarote Konrote.

It is often said that excellence is the gradual result of always trying to do better and this rings true for the Department of Legislature in its journey to achieving such quality in its daily operations.

For three consecutive years, the department has received the Achievement Award at the Fiji Business Excellence Awards event.

In November, the department received its third award during the event held at Sheraton Resort on Denarau, Nadi.

The late Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni said that the achievement confirmed that Parliament had so far achieved what it had been set out to do.

"This has been made possible through the staff contribution who have played their respective roles in ensuring the objectives of this institution is met," Hon. Dr Luveni said.

"As one of the three arms of the State, it is important that Parliament reflect that it's performing to the best of its abilities."

At the same time, the Speaker commended the good leadership demonstrated by the executive management of the department. "I thank the senior management staff for their abilities to deliver positive changes within the department and for the team work demonstrated since 2014," she added.

"The staff bonding here is also commendable and I take my hats off to everyone for the job well done. Satisfactory outputs have been produced but we will continue to improve our service delivery and aim higher for the next level of achievement.

"Staff have their own sets of skills and talents which they have brought with them and this has tremendously boosted Parliament operations."

Acting Secretary-General to Parliament Mrs Viniana Namosimalua shared similar sentiments and stated that the department would continue to work hard.

"Achievement is a great award and all staff must be commended for all their hard work and commitment in the business of excellence," she said.

Meanwhile, the Department of Legislature was among seven other organisations which received the Achievement Award.

They are Wallson Foods Pacific, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Fiji Marriot Resort Momi Bay, Fiji Revenue and Customs Service, Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission, Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa and RC Manubhai and Company Limited.



The late Speaker Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni and Acting Secretary-General to Parliament Mrs Viniana Namosimalua with the Achievement Award during the FBEA Awards night in Denarau.

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 [Parliament of the Republic of Fiji](https://www.youtube.com/ParliamentoftheRepublicofFiji)

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



(L-R) His Excellency the President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote, Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa and Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama at the Fiji Day celebration at Labasa's Subrail Park in October, 2018.



Acting Secretary-General to Parliament Mrs Viniana Namosimalua visited the Babasiga Ashram in Labasa and met with senior citizens during the Fiji Day celebrations in October, 2018.



Parliament staff singing Christmas carols during the pre-Christmas celebration in December, 2018.



(L-R) Hon. Aseri Radrodro, Hon. Salote Radrodro and Hon. Mikaele Leavere at a reception hosted by His Excellency the President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote after the opening of Parliament in November, 2018.



Opposition Members of Parliament with a guest (left) at the MPs Induction cocktail event in November, 2018.



Department of Legislature's Team Infinity won the Best Innovative award at the Quality Circle Convention in October, 2018.



Parliament staff at the Department Annual Awards night in December, 2018.