



PARLIAMENT NEWSLETTER

2019 Parliament Bi-Annual Newsletter. Issue No. 1
January - June

HISTORIC VISIT FOR PARLIAMENT



United Nations Secretary-General His Excellency António Guterres addressing Members of Parliament in May.



United Nations Secretary-General H.E. António Guterres with the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Sugar Industry, Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, the Opposition Leader Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka and Speaker, His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau at the Big Committee Room during refreshments.

It was a historical moment for the Speaker, His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau and the

Members of Parliament to have the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) His Excellency Antonio Guterres address them during Parliament sitting on Thursday, May 16th, 2019. H.E. Guterres said that being in the Parliament of Fiji, he felt twice at home. At home because he was in Fiji and at home because he was in Parliament.

The UNSG had spent 26 years in Parliament, with six and a half years being the Prime Minister of Portugal.

He acknowledged that Parliament demonstrated another of Fiji's important achievements.

"Representatives from different political parties, backgrounds and experiences are here together to debate and decide on national issues.

"This was not always the case in many parts of the world, and I congratulate you on efforts to

make this parliament – and Fiji itself – a place of inclusiveness, equality, diversity and tolerance.

"We need that spirit more than ever at this troubled time," H.E. Guterres said.

The UNSG also congratulated the Fijian Parliament for being the first Parliament in the world to undertake a Sustainable Development Goals self-assessment.

"Your Parliament Speaker's Debates on the Goals have prompted national discussions between political leaders and civil society, the private sector and academia on Fiji's development policies.

"I applaud your commitment to sustainable development to improve the lives of all Fijians," the UNSG added.

Members of Parliament had an opportunity to meet with the UNSG after his address.

"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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SERVE THE NATIONAL INTEREST, ADVANCE THE COMMON GOOD – H.E. SIR RATU EPELI NAILATIKAU



Newly-appointed Speaker of the Fijian Parliament, His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau taking his oath in Parliament.

I am a servant of this House and the challenges that comes with this responsibility, I will not take lightly but to the best of my ability, continue to ensure that this office delivers with diligence, dignity and honour. These were the words of the newly-appointed Speaker of the Fijian Parliament, His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, while delivering his acceptance speech in the House.

H.E. Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, who was nominated by Government, succeeded the late Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni who passed away last December.

The former President was appointed following a secret ballot voting process in the House, winning 30 votes against 21 to Opposition nominee and Suva Lawyer, Tanya Waqanika.

"The Speaker does not represent a political party or a certain segment of the electorate but it is important to point out that he or she is appointed by the



Newly-appointed Speaker of the Fijian Parliament, His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau in his office.

the Fijian people who are represented through you, their representatives, in this House," Sir Ratu Epeli said.

"Just as you feel politically-responsible to serve the Fijian people, as Speaker, my role and responsibility is to equip you to perform your principle role as legislators and decision makers.

"My commitment to this House is to be completely impartial between Members of one political party and another. That is what it is about. I will do my best faithfully and honourably and effectively serve this House in the period ahead."

H.E. Sir Ratu Epeli also paid homage to his predecessor, the late Hon. Dr Luveni for her exemplary services to the nation.

"In this election, I follow in the path of many distinguished Speakers none more so than the late Hon. Dr Luveni, our first woman Speaker who has now set the standard for all those who will follow. She

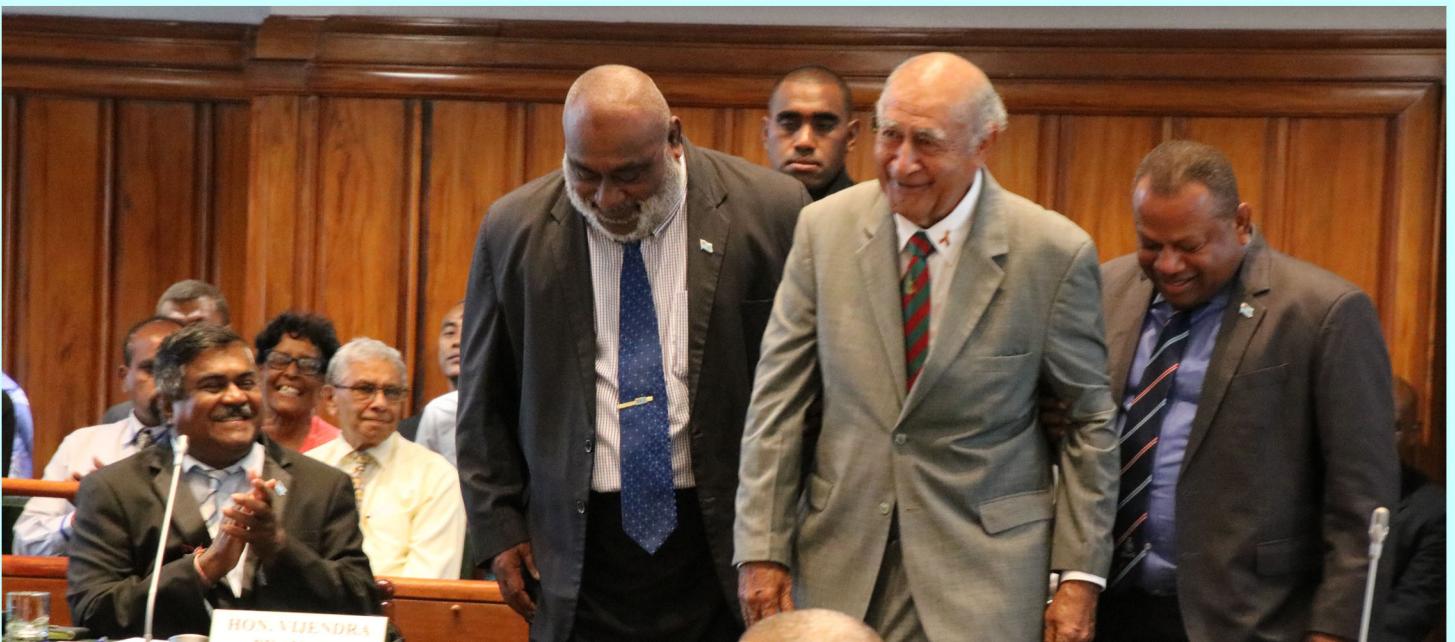
was said to have combined ability, firmness and impartiality with dignity and good temper. I shall endeavor to be a worthy successor in that tradition."

The Speaker also urged Members of Parliament to serve the nation well.

"As political leaders, we must dedicate ourselves to serve the national interest and advance the common good.

"In this regard Honourable Members, I encourage this House to embrace collegiality, fellowship, mutual and reciprocal respect when conducting all its proceedings. Let us be the agents that promote the unity and advancement of this indivisible Nation."

Meanwhile, the Speaker thanked the Government and his family for their unwavering support towards his new role.



Newly-appointed Speaker of the Fijian Parliament, His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau being escorted to his chair following his appointment.

SPEAKER REMINDS STAFF TO BE EFFICIENT



Group photo with the Speaker His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau.

The Department of Legislature accorded a traditional welcome ceremony for the newly-appointed Speaker Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau after his appointment in February this year and also to hear what his expectations are for the Department.

"You've been here longer than I am. You know what the requirements are of this great office as we look after the legislators of our country. "They make the laws that will affect the lives of all the people in Fiji. It means that we need to do our work thoroughly, be efficient and be on time in everything that we do," the Speaker said.

He also thanked the staff for the kind gesture, adding it was something he did not expect. Acting Secretary-General to Parliament Mrs Viniana Namosimalua said the welcome ceremony was befitting of Sir Ratu Epeli's status as a high Chief, as one who had reached the pinnacle of leadership in Fiji as a former President



Speaker His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau addressing staff.

and as Speaker of Parliament for the second time. "It is indeed a great honour for the Department to have a leader of such calibre," Mrs Namosimalua said.

Manager Civic Education and Media Vatimosi Delailovu, while presenting the 'isevusevu' said the

staff were all looking forward to working with the Speaker, knowing fully well the wealth of experience he has gained over the years while serving our nation.

Following the ceremony, the Speaker had a chance to meet with all staff of the Department.

PARLIAMENT PRESS GALLERY LAUNCHED



Speaker His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau and China's Ambassador to Fiji H.E. Qian Bo cutting the ribbon to officially launch the press gallery in April.

Media personnel wanting to cover Parliament proceedings during sitting days now have the luxury of using the press gallery inside the Chamber following its official launch in April. While launching the gallery, the Speaker His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau said the initiative acknowledged the unique and important relationship between Parliament and the media.

The Government of China funded the project which was one of the wishes of the late Speaker, Dr Jiko Luveni.

"The launching of the media gallery today is not an isolated development but part of Parliament's broader initiative under its 2018-2022 Strategic Plan to increase citizen awareness and engagement of Parliament and its parliamentary processes," Hon. Ratu Epeli said.

"In 2017, after a lapse of several years, Parliament continued with the recording and broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings keeping up with the global trend of opening up Parliament sessions to the media, which is the norm, particularly in most Commonwealth

countries. There is also work in progress to record and broadcast committee meetings to the media as this is where much of the parliamentary work is done.

Hon. Ratu Epeli hoped that the launch of the media gallery would signify a new journey and mutual understanding between Parliament and the media and that it would substantially contribute to the cause of good governance for the benefit of the people of Fiji.

China's Ambassador to Fiji, His Excellency Mr Qian Bo said they were pleased to extend their assistance to the Parliament of Fiji, adding it was part of their continued support to Fiji.

Acting Secretary-General to Parliament Mrs Viniana Namosimalua said the initiative was part of their journey of reaching out to members of the public, civil society groups and the wider community through the media.

Meanwhile, Fijian Media Association General-Secretary Stanley Simpson thanked Parliament, saying that this would allow journalists to do their work much more effectively for the benefit of the people of Fiji.

GUIDE TO MAINSTREAMING SDGs WITHIN PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE PROCESSES LAUNCHED



Speaker His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Sugar Industry Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Opposition Leader Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, UNDP Resident Representative Vineet Bhatia with representatives of the Governments of Japan, Australia and New Zealand after the official launch of the toolkit.

Building on previous efforts of strengthening the oversight, scrutiny of laws and representation role of the legislature, the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji with its partners, launched a toolkit that will see the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across all of its parliamentary Committee work.

Every progress towards achieving the aspirations of the SDGs contributes directly to improving the lives of citizens. The day to day concerns of Fijians, such as jobs, education, healthcare and access to justice, amongst others, are all related to the SDGs.

The aim of the Guidance Note is to assist Committees in making the SDGs central to the work of the Parliament and in engaging effectively with the SDGs in all areas of Committee work.

It was developed with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Office in Fiji through its Fiji Parliament Support Project (Phase II) which is jointly funded by the Governments of Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Titled, 'Oversight of the Implementation of the SDG: Guidance Note for the Standing Committees of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji', the toolkit contains tangible and concrete actions that Committees can use to improve their oversight role.

In his address at the launch of the Guidance Note, the Speaker for the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, acknowledged the partnership that was leveraged to produce the toolkit and reaffirmed the commitment of the Fiji Parliament in improving the lives of people through effective scrutiny.

"The SDGs are a robust framework around which Parliament can base its strategic plans and pursue its own oversight and accountability work and we look forward to the continuation of a strong partnership between the Parliament of Fiji, UNDP and other development partners", said Sir Ratu Epeli.

"The SDGs are an opportunity for parliamentarians to demonstrate their commitment to improving people's lives and the health of the planet.

"A key priority for government is the localization of the SDGs, which includes clear targets and baselines. He added, "Therefore SDGs monitoring, and oversight should be mainstreamed into the parliament's legislative process and oversight functions – the achievement of the SDGs requires engaged and committed parliaments in order to enable governments to act, while holding them accountable to their commitments."

In 2017, the Fijian Parliament made history by being the first in the world to carry out a self-assessment exercise on the SDGs.

"The guidance note is a direct follow up to the findings and proposed action plan of the parliamentary SDG self-assessment that recommended producing a toolkit for the committees to undertake monitoring and assessment of the SDGs related to their respective subject areas", said Sir Ratu Epeli.

He added, "it is a living document that will be periodically updated and refined with feedback, lessons-learned and case studies from on-going efforts related to parliamentary committee oversight of SDG attainment progress."

The SDGs were adopted, as an integral part of 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', by all 193 Member States of the UN on 25 September 2015.

Also referred to as the Global Goals, the ambitious plan to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity, came into force on 1 January 2016 and has 2030 as the target date for achievement.

In echoing the significance of the launch, the Resident Representative of the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji, Vineet Bhatia, congratulated the Fijian Parliament for the completion of the Guidance note and its commitment to participate directly in Fiji's development process.

"It is widely acknowledged that good governance processes need to be inclusive and participatory. To engage meaningfully, citizens need to know about Agenda 2030, and local actors (including Parliament, civil society, private sector, and communities as a whole) have to be engaged in a meaningful way and play their role in implementation", said Bhatia.

"Parliament's mandate offers you as MPs an opportunity to increase your engagement in national development and monitoring progress towards the SDGs, therefore ensuring better development outcomes for your citizens."

He added, "Standing Committee members are uniquely positioned in parliament to champion the SDGs and provide effective oversight of its progress. This Guidance Note provides Committees with the necessary direction to integrate the SDGs into their everyday work: by mainstreaming the SDGs monitoring and oversight into the Committees' legislative and oversight functions."

The Guidance Note has been developed for the Parliamentary Committees as a toolkit to promote and improve Committee engagement in the achievement of the SDGs.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMITMENTS JANUARY- JUNE, 2019

COURTESY CALLS TO THE SPEAKER OF THE FIJIAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATE NAME	DATES	NO. OF DELEGATES
Dr. Desmond Lee - Fiji's Honorary Consul in Hong Kong	14/02/19	7
EU Chargée d'Affaire and Head of Delegation a.i, Mr Corrado Pampaloni	28/02/19	2
WHO- Regional Director for the Western Pacific. Dr Takeshi Kasai to Fiji	20/02/19	1
China Ambassador to Fiji H. E Mr Qian Bo	19/02/19	1
Courtesy Call - Ms Renata Ram-UNAIDS	21/02/19	1
Courtesy Call - Ambassador Japan to Fiji H.E. Mr Masahiro Omura	26/02/19	1
Courtesy Call - France Ambassador to Fiji - H.E. Sujiro SEAM	11/03/19	1
Trade Mission of the Republic of China (Taiwan)- Ms Jessica Lee	12/03/19	2
Farewell Courtesy Call - High Commissioner of India, H.E. Mr Vishvas Sapkal	14/03/19	1
Courtesy Call - Regional Representative of OHCHR- Dr Chitrakala Massey	13/03/19	1
Brief & Courtesy Call - Consultant under Fiji Parliament Support Project (FPSP)- Mr Wanye Tunnecliffe	12/03/19	1
Courtesy Call - New Zealand High Commissioner H.E. Mr Jonathan Curr	14/03/19	1
Courtesy Call - UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights - Ms Kate Gilmore	04/04/19	1
Courtesy Call - UNICEF - Mr Sheldon Yett	23/04/19	1
Courtesy Call - British High Commissioner to Fiji-H.E Ms Hopkins	24/04/19	1
Courtesy Call-Ambassador of Korea to Fiji - H.E Ambassador CHO	09/05/19	1
Courtesy Call - New High Commissioner of India Ms Padmaja	04/06/19	1
Courtesy Call - Tuvalu Delegation (Speaker and 5 MPs)	05/06/19	5
Courtesy Call - High Commissioner, H.E Mr Jonathan Curr	27/06/19	1

MPs OVERSEAS MEETINGS

CONFERENCE	COUNTRY	DATES	DELEGATION
Women Parliamentarian Visit	New Zealand	18 to 22 Feb	1. Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa 2. Hon. Premila D. Kumar 3. Hon. Selai Adimaitoga 4. Hon. Ro Teimumu V. Kepa 5. Hon. Salote V. Radrodoro 6. Hon. Lynda D. Tabuya 7. Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi 8. Ms Jeanette Emberson 9. Ms Rukatisi Vecena 10. Ms Ajayeshni Singh
53 rd Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and the 37 th Session of the ACP-EU JPA	Bucharest Romania	13 to 20 March	1. Hon. Alvick Maharaj
Represent Fiji at the funeral of the Late Brigadier Robert Ian Thorpe (Brigadier R.I Thorpe) (CBE)	Rotorua, New Zealand	06 March	1. H.E. Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau
Parliamentary Development Meetings	Wellington New Zealand	19 to 20 March	1. H.E. Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau 2. Mrs Jeanette Emberson 3. Mr Sefanaia Tudonu
140 th Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly	Doha Qatar	06 to 10 April	1. H.E. Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau 2. Hon. Premila Kumar 3. Hon. Adi Teimumu Kepa 4. Hon. Pio Tikoduadua 5. Ms Viniana Namosimalua 6. Mr Senitiei Wainiu 7. Mr Sefanaia Tudonu
Commonwealth Pacific Parliamentary Human Rights Group	Nukualofa, Tonga	16 to 17 April	1. Hon. Rohit Ritesh Sharma 2. Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua 3. Mr Ira Komaisavai
Fiji Parliamentary Whips Professional Development Program Training	Victoria Parliament, Australia	20 to 22 May	1. Hon Alvick Maharaj 2. Hon. Rohit Sharma 3. Hon. Lynda Tabua 4. Hon. Aseri Radrodoro 5. Hon. Pio Tikoduadua 6. Mr Avinesh Sharma
Asia-Pacific Region Parliament on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	27 to 28 May	1. H.E. Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau 2. Hon. Selai Adimaitoga 3. Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad 4. Hon. Moses Bulitavu 5. Mr Sefanaia Tudonu 6. Mr Silivario Harry
2019 RSIS - WTO Parliamentarian Workshop on International Trade	Singapore	11 to 13 June	1. Hon. Veena Bhatnagar 2. Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau 3. Ms Komal Khushboo
Parliamentarian Forum within the Framework of the 5th Global Women Deliver Conference	Vancouver, Canada	03 to 06 June	1. Hon. Salote Radrodoro
2019 International Seminar on the Achievements of the SDGs for Parliaments of Developing Countries "Stronger Inter-Parliamentary Exchanges for Better Achievement of the SDGs"	Beijing, Ningxia, Zhejiang China	10 to 15 June	1. Hon. Inia Seruiratu 2. Hon. Rosy Akbar 3. Hon. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu 4. Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua 5. Mr Senitiei Wainiu
Women Political Leaders Summit 2019	Tokyo, Japan	25 to 26 June	1. Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa 2. Hon. Salote Radrodoro 3. Ms Kalo Takape

VISIT TO THE FIJIAN PARLIAMENT

NAME	COUNTRY	DATES
1. Hon. Nafioitoa Talaimanu Ketu, 2. Manutagi Tiotio, 3. Graeme Tualalelei.	Samoa	19/02/19
1. Mr Wayne Tunnecliffe	Australia	12/02/19 -13/02/19
1. Mr Sione Vikiiani 2. Ms Feaofaki Fetokai	Tonga	07/02/19 - 14/02/19
1. H.E Mr. Hugo Javier Gobbi 2. Mr Alfredo Amigorena 3. Mr Edgar Flores Tiravanti	Argentina	18/06/19
1. Hon. Kausea Natano, 2. Hon. Isaia Vaipuna Taape, 3. Hon. Simon Kofe.	Tuvalu	04/06/19 -05/06/19

MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF PARLIAMENT JANUARY TO JUNE, 2019

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

Number of Meetings	Issues Before The Committee		
	Annual Report	Treaties and Conventions	Site Visits
38	1. Ministry of Defence National Security and Immigration Bi-Annual Report January – July 2016	1. United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements resulting from Mediation; 2. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant workers and members of their families; and 3. International Convention for the Protection of all persons from Enforced Disappearance	1. Fiji Police Headquarters, Vinod Patel Plaza, Laucala Beach Estate, Ratu Dovi Road 2. Police Special Response Unit (PSRU), Nasinu 3. Police Dog Unit (K-9) Unit, Nasese 4. Forensics Science Services, Nasova 5. Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) Black Rock Camp, Votualevu, Nadi. 6. Nadi airport Immigration Department 7. Fiji Customs/ Fiji Police Joint Detector Program (K-9 Unit) 8. Site visit on 20/3/19 at the Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) 9. Head Office; FRCS HQ Complex; Nasese; Suva 10. Republic of Fiji Navy (RFN) HQ; Stanley Brown Base, Walu Bay, Suva.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Number of Meetings	Issues Before The Committee		
	Annual Report	Petition	Site Visits
44	1. Ministry of Fisheries 2016-2017 Annual Report	1. Public Petition by the people in the Lau group for the provision of reliable, safe and affordable shipping services for the people of Lau	1. Water Authority of Fiji, 2. Kinoya Water Treatment, 3. Wailoku Water Treatment, 4. Ministry of Fisheries, HQ 5. Fiji Fish Lami 6. Makogai Research Station, 7. PAFCO 8. Naduruloulou Research Station, 9. Galoa Aquaculture Research Station

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Number of Meetings	Issues Before The Committee		
	Audit Reports	Site Visits	PAC Meetings Outside of Parliament Precinct – SO 112(e)
50	1. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic Of Fiji - 2017 Audit Report on General Administration Sector 2. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic Of Fiji - 2017 Audit Report on Social Services Sector 3. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic Of Fiji - 2017 Audit Report on Economic Services Sector 4. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic Of Fiji - 2017 Audit Report on Infrastructure Sector 5. Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Follow-up of Selected 2016 Auditor-General's Reports for various sectors 6. Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Office of the Auditor General 2018 Annual Report 7. Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2016/2017 Audit Report on Statutory Authorities 8. Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Performance Audit of Preparedness for Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 9. Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Provincial Councils, Volume 1 10. COP 23 Presidency Trust Fund – Third Semi-Annual Report for the period 1 May 2018 to 31 October 2018 11. Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2016/2017 Audit Report on Government Commercial Companies and Commercial Statutory Authorities	1. Fiji Correctional Facilities located in Naboro and Nasinu dated 26/04/19	1. 22/02/2019 - Met with the Auditor-General and his Team - Brief overview of the reporting process to Parliament, Operations of OAG, Performance Audit and Financial Audits 2. 26/03/2019 - PAC is currently scrutinising the Auditor-General's Report on the Audit Report on Municipal Councils for 2013 (PP No. 135 of 2018) Venue: Nausori Town Council and Rakiraki Town Council Conference Room 3. 27/03/2019 - PAC is currently scrutinising the Auditor-General's Report on the Audit Report on Municipal Councils for 2013 (PP No. 135 of 2018) Venue: Lautoka City Council and Nadi Town Council Conference Room 4. 28/03/2019 - PAC is currently scrutinising the Auditor-Generals Report on the Management of Duty Concession Scheme (PPNo. 96 of 2018) Venue: FRCS Boardroom, Executive Section, Building 3, Level 4, Fiji Revenue & Customs Services Complex, Nasese, Suva

MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF PARLIAMENT JANUARY TO JUNE, 2019

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Number of Meetings	Issues Before The Committee		
	Annual Reports	Report	SITE VISITS
51	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fiji National Provident Fund 2018 Annual Report 2. Ministry of Youth and Sports 2016-2017 Annual Report 3. Fiji Public Trustee Corporation Limited 4. Fiji Roads Authority 2015 Annual Report 5. Fiji Roads Authority January-July 2016 Annual Report Ministry of 6. Education, Heritage and Arts 2016-2017 Annual Report 7. Fiji Ports Corporation Limited 2017 Annual Report 8. Consumer Council 2016-2017 Annual Report 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report on Annual Review of the iTaukei Trust Fund Board, 2017 2. Report on Annual Review of the Housing Authority, 2015 3. Report on Annual Review of the Public Rental Board, 2016 4. Report on Annual Review of the Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympics Committee, 2017 5. Report on Annual Review of the Fiji National University, 2017 6. Annual Review Report of the Fiji National Provident Fund for the Year Ended 30 June, 2018 7. Annual Review Report of the Ministry of Youth and Sports - August 2016 to July 2017 8. Review Report on the Annual Review of the Fiji Public Trustee Corporation Limited for 2017 9. Review Report on the University of the South Pacific for the Year Ended 31st December, 2017 10. Annual Review Report of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation-2014 to 2017 11. Annual Review Report on the Fiji National Sports Commission - January to July 2016 and August 2016 to July 2017 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Valelevu Youth Training Centre 2. Pearly Gates Home, Nasese 3. University of the South Pacific, Labasa Campus 4. Babasiga Ashram Home (Golden Age Home), Labasa 5. Naqere Youth Training Centre, Savusavu 6. Lomani Au Children's Home, Savusavu

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Number of Meetings	Issues Before The Committee	
	Annual Reports	SITE VISITS
39	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit 2017 Annual Report 2. Pacific Fishing Company PTE Limited 2017 Annual Report 3. Fiji Broadcasting Corporation 2017 Annual Report 4. Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism 2015 Annual Report 5. Energy Fiji Limited 2018 Annual Report 6. Fiji Development Bank 2018 Annual Report 7. Fiji Commerce Commission 2016 Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAFCO Factory Levuka • EFL Site Visit to the Western Division • EFL Site Visit Monasavu Hydro Scheme and the Nadarivatu Hydro Scheme

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Number of Meetings	Issues Before The Committee	
	Annual Reports	
57	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Department of Legislature 2016-2017 Annual Report 2. Fiji Corrections Service 2016-2017 Annual Report 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Independent Legal Services Commission Annual Report 2016 2. Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption Annual Report 2014 3. Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption Annual Report 2015 4. Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption 1 Jan. 2016-31 July 2016 Annual Report 5. Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption 1 Aug. 2016-31 July 2017 Annual Report 6. Fiji Corrections Service 1 Aug. 2016-31 July 2017 Annual Report 7. Department of Legislature Annual Report 2014-2015 8. Department of Legislature Annual Report 2016-2017

COMMITTEES AT WORK



Senior officials of the Ministry of i-Taukei Affairs conducting briefing with the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs during the Members of Parliament retreat that was held in January 2019.



Members of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts with senior officials of the Fiji Corrections Service on a site visit at the Naboro Prison Complex.



Members of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights with the Chief Executive Officer of the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission, Mr Joel Abraham.



Senior officials of the Fiji Police Force with Members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence after their submission.



Members of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs with senior officials of the Reserve Bank of Fiji.



Members of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights conducting public consultation on the Adoption Bill in February 2019.



Members of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs with the Energy Fiji Limited Chief Executive Officer Mr Hasumukh Patel and his senior officials after their submission.



Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence and Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Alexander O'Connor meets with Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director for Multilateral Bureau Mr Peter Emberson after their presentation.



Standing Committee on Social Affairs member, Hon. Mikaele Leawere looking through the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Annual Report during a committee deliberation in Parliament.



Members of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources during their site visit at the Water Authority of Fiji site in Tamavua.



Submission by the Permanent Secretary for Infrastructure and two of his senior officials to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources on the Petition of Shipping Services in the Lau Group.



COP23 Secretariat Executive Director Mr John Connor shakes hands with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts chair Hon. Alvyck Maharaj as Opposition MP Hon. Aseri Radrodoro looks on.

PARLIAMENT AT WORK



Acting Secretary-General to Parliament Mrs Viniana Namosimalua giving advice to the Speaker His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau during Parliament sitting in February this year.



Parliament in session during the Budget announcement in June, 2019.



Chairperson of the Standing Committee for Justice, Law and Human Rights Hon. Alvick Maharaj presenting his Committee's report in May, 2019.



University of Fiji students and other members of the public inside the Public Gallery during Parliament sitting in February, 2019.



Mace bearer Police Constable Epeli Lewenilovo leads the Speaker His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau out of the Chamber at the end of a day's sitting in April, 2019.



(L-R) Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Sugar Industry, Hon. Josia Voreqe Bainimarama, Opposition MP Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa, Speaker His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Australian Deputy High Commissioner Ms Anna Dorney, MIDA chairman Mr Ashwin Raj, New Zealand Deputy High Commissioner Ms Halia Haddad and First Secretary in the Embassy of Japan Mr Genta Yamada after the launch of the Fiji Parliamentary Reporters' handbook in April, 2019.



Students of Yat Sen Primary School inside the Parliament Chamber in April this year.



'Parliament Bus' outreach programme during the Government Roadshow at Vatumali Government Station.



Women MPs and secretariat staff during the Women Parliamentarians visit to the New Zealand Parliament in February, 2019.



Speaker His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau with invited guests after the budget announcement in June, 2019.



Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Sugar Industry, Hon. Josia Voreqe Bainimarama (center) with Dudley High School students during the May Parliament sitting.

PARLIAMENT ENGAGEMENTS



United Nations Secretary-General H.E. António Guterres with some Women Parliamentarians in May, 2019.



Arrival of the United Nations Secretary-General H.E. António Guterres to Parliament in May, 2019.



United Nations Secretary-General H.E. António Guterres with the Speaker, His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs Hon. Josia Voreqe Bainimarama and Leader of the Opposition Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka in May, 2019.



United Nations Secretary-General H.E. António Guterres meets with the Opposition Leader Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka in May, 2019.



United Nations Secretary-General H.E. António Guterres (right) meets with the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum (left) in May, 2019.



Some women Members of Parliament with the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Women, Senator Marise Payne in June, 2019.



Speaker His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau with other Members of Parliament during the 140th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly in Doha, Qatar in April, 2019.



Deputy Speaker and Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Hon. Veena Bhatnagar with a delegation from the Korean Parliament in May, 2019.



(L-R) Opposition Leader Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Sugar Industry, Hon. Josia Voreqe Bainimarama and Speaker His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau during the launch of the Guidance Note for Standing Committee Members.



Deputy Speaker and Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Hon. Veena Bhatnagar (2nd from right) with a delegation from the German Federal Parliament in March, 2019.



Assistant Minister for iTaukei Affairs Hon. Selai Adimaitoga and Opposition MP Hon. Lynda Tabuya with two Pacific Women MPs during the Regional Conference on Pacific Women in Power Forum that was held in Nadi in March, 2019.



Speaker His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau meets the Head of the USA Congressional delegation, US Senator Hon. Richard Shelby during his visit to Fiji in April, 2019.



Fiji's Honorary Consul to Hong Kong, Mr Desmond Lee and his delegation being welcomed in Parliament during the February Parliament sitting.

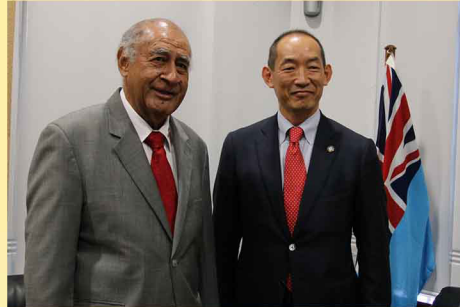
COURTESY CALLS ON SPEAKER

His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau

February



Chinese Ambassador H.E. Qian Bo.



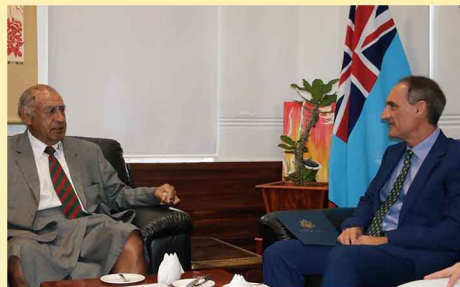
WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific Dr Takeshi Kasai.



UN Resident Coordinator Mr Sanaka Samarasingha.



Ambassador of Japan H.E. Masahiro Omura.



US Embassy Chargé d'affaires Mr Michael Goldman.



EU Head of Division for Asia-Pacific, Mr Reinhold Brender.

March



French Ambassador H.E. Sujiro Seam.



Regional Director of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Dr Chitraloka Massey.



New Zealand High Commissioner H.E. Jonathan Curr.

April



British High Commissioner H.E. Melanie Hopkins.



Korean Ambassador H.E. Cho Shin-hee.

June



Speaker of the Parliament of Tuvalu, Hon. Otinielu Tauteleimalae Tausi.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

PARLIAMENT CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH A DIFFERENCE



Parliament secretariat staff celebrating International Women's Day with residents at the Chanel Home of Compassion in March, 2019.



Acting Secretary-General to Parliament Mrs Viniana Namosimalua cutting the cake with 94-year old Shanta Ben.

Residents at the Chanel Home of Compassion were all smiles after a team from Parliament, led by the Acting Secretary-General Mrs Viniana Namosimalua, visited them to celebrate International Women's Day.

Mrs Namosimalua decided that Parliament staff 'go out of the norm' of listening to speeches and celebration in the office but to visit the less fortunate ones, as those that reside in the Home.

"On behalf of the Speaker of Parliament and the staff, we wish to thank you for all that you have contributed to society."

"We pray that God will continue to strengthen you and the staff that look after you so that you can enjoy your stay in this institution," Mrs Namosimalua

said. While thanking the team, Clinical Manager Elenoa Gonelevu expressed that Christ's love was manifested by the kind gesture shown.

"The residence of the Home see Christ in person and the Parliament team has brought light."

"We were all excited and the women wanted to wear scarf just to show your being here, together with the cake in a day to celebrate women, means so much to us."

"If our hearts can sing, there will be beautiful music sung here as your team has brought tonnes of love and care," Ms Gonelevu said.

Staff of Parliament took time to feed the residence with cake and juice and spend quality time with the senior citizens.

FAREWELL



Speaker His Excellency Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau giving a Parliament gift to UNDP Governance Team Leader Mr Dyfan Jones during his farewell function in June, 2019.

OBITUARY



Government Whip and Assistant Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations and Youth and Sports, Hon. Alvic Maharaj and Parliament secretariat staff farewelled a staff member, the late Mrs Vika Katalau in March, 2019.