



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF FIJI
SUVA

19 September 2019

1/A/1

Hon. Alvick Maharaj
Chairperson – Standing Committee on Justice, law and Human Rights
Parliament of the Republic of Fiji
Government Buildings
Suva

Dear Hon. Maharaj,

Re: Clarification of Issues Pertaining to the Office of the president Annual Report 2015 and Annual Report 2016-2017

Greetings from the Office of the President!

1. It is with humility and respect that I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 11 September, 2019, advising the Office of the President to provide explanations and clarifications on its Annual Report 2015 and Annual Report 2016-2017 after the Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights had reviewed the reports.
2. I am pleased to provide the Office's written response to your office by the 20th of September, 2019 and I have attached a hard copy with this letter.
3. Thank you for the opportunity given to the Office of the President to explain on its Annual Report for 2015 and Annual Report 2016-2017.
4. Should there be any need for further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on 3314244.

Yours respectfully,

Jiko Rasoqosoqo (Mr.)
Official Secretary to the President

Office of the President Annual Report 2016-2017

1. In regards to the guiding documents for the Office of the President as specified in page 8 of the A/R 2016-July 2017; how has the Office ensured that it aligns itself to requirements of these guiding documents?

The office has ensured that it aligns itself to the requirements of these guiding documents by implementing them on a daily basis for policy advice, compliance and to abide with processes and procedures and aligning its corporate documents like its five (5) year Strategic Plan and Annual Corporate Plans to achieve its targets and meet its deliverables. These are dovetailed into the office Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) and are continually discussed with staff members during Open Monthly Forums (a forum where senior management discusses the aims and needs of the office with staff members) for their understanding and compliance as well.

2. In regards to the 3 Performance Targets that were not met for the year 2016 and the 2 not met for the year 2016-2017; specifically with regards to His Excellency the President's engagements that were beyond the control of the Office of the President, the Committee seeks further clarification on these.

The first performance target 1.1 was His Excellency's role as the Executive Head of State which requires the President to officiate at the Opening of Parliament on an annual basis. The assenting of bills by His Excellency the President will be based on the advice received from the Parliament Office thus the Office has no direct control over this engagements.

The second performance target 1.2 revolves around His Excellency's attendance to all Constitutional appointments (Swearing-in /rescission etc.) which is aligned to Chapter 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji, 2013 whereby His Excellency appoints the Chief Justice, President of the Court of Appeal, Judges and magistrates as per Section 106, Sub Section (1,2,3,4). The Office will only facilitate upon receipt of advice from the Office of the Prime Minister, the Judicial Services Commission in consultation with the Attorney General hence it is beyond the office control.

3. In regards to various engagements of His Excellency the President; it is noted that the number of engagement regarding the Constitutional Roles of the President has decreased from 2014 to 2017 and noting that a part of the reason for this decrease is that these engagement are beyond the control of the Office. What has the Office of the President done in trying to achieve its targets with regards to the above?

The Office has and will continue to attach great importance to this performance target as it is one of the important functions of the Office of the President and the Head of State's role which is to support the Prime Minister and Government in advancing and enhancing Fiji's Diplomatic and International relations and trade development. Aligned to this role, the Office continues to facilitate and receive

Foreign Dignitaries and Diplomatic Representatives that has diplomatic ties with Fiji whilst visiting our shores in addition to presentation of credentials upon receipt of requests and recommendations from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Therefore, the Office has no direct control on these engagements however, it is equally important to note that once requests are received, the Office ensures that it is attended to at all times.

4. Additionally, in regards to the Performance Targets for the year 2016-2017 it is noted that Performance Target 1.1 includes His Excellency the President's role of assent to Bills; can the Committee be provided a breakdown of the number of Bills that His Excellency had assented to?

Please find enclosed the list of Acts/Bills that were assented by His Excellency the President for the year 2016-2017 as per ANNEX 2

5. In regards to Figure 14 found on Page 20 of the Annual Report; clarification is sought on the details of His Excellency the President's Generic Engagements?

The generic engagements include His Excellency's additional responsibilities as the Lead Advocate and Champion for the Fight Against Non- Communicable Diseases, His Excellency's role as the Chief Scout and Patron of the Saint John of Fiji.

6. In regards to His Excellency the President's engagement for the youth and young people awareness on NCD's; what were the reasons for not achieving the targets and what, if any, steps have been taken to address this?

The office was unable to achieve the intended targets for attending to engagements for youths and young people to advocate through school visitation on the fight against NCD's due to the Governments efforts to rehabilitate the schools and communities after the aftermaths of Cyclone Winston. However, the office ensured that in every speech delivered by His Excellency, the message of Promoting and Championing the Fight against NCD was highlighted in addition to the publication of His Excellency speeches to enable wider reach, readership and moreover advocating to all communities including young people and youths.

7. Furthermore, it is also noted that Government reforms of rehabilitating schools had also hindered the community engagement of school visitation to promote the fight against NCDs. What other options has the Office of the President explored in addressing the above?

As highlighted in question 6 above, the office highlighted and advocated the messages of Fight Against NCDs in all of His Excellency's speeches and messages in addition to collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other government Ministries in attending to healthy activities that support the fight against NCDs. Importantly, His Excellency continue to consistently leading by example in taking

his daily 5-7km morning walk and in addition to promoting Backyard Gardening/farming to stay fit and healthy.

8. How has the Office of the President contributed to the efforts of achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals?

The Office of the President ensures that it contributes to the efforts of achieving the National Sustainable Development Goals by ensuring that staff members have adequate housing in the staff quarters that are OHS compliance. Staffs are continuously encouraged to practice backyard gardening in order to have supply of fresh food and vegetables, practice healthy eating and living a happy life. Recruitments are always based on merit taking into account that gender equality is represented in the office and no discrimination arises in any form. Decent work places and environment is continuously promoted as reflected in office policies and regulations.

9. How does the work of the Office of the President contribute to the 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plans?

The work of the Office of the President is aligned to Fiji's Constitution 2013 and the 5 Year and 20 Year National Development Plans to ensure that the Office continues to position itself to provide excellent support to His Excellency the President in fulfilling all his Constitutional obligations as the Executive Authority of the State and Commander in Chief of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces. The Office also ensures that government priorities and future development needs are implemented and advanced.

This has been reflected in the office Strategic Plan and Annual Operational Plan to ensure that the Government's objective and visions to Transforming Fiji to realize its full potentials as a nation is realized and successfully materialized.

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INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING, HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

2012-2018

Pre-June 2012	June 2012	2013	2014	2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Office of the President had no dedicated Accounts Officer position. The accounting duties were handled by the Senior Assistant Secretary who also looked after other administrative tasks including human resources management, transport, and registry – (Refer to 2011 Organisational structure) The Office was not a self-accounting entity. Part of the accounting functions were handled through the Office of the Prime Minister. Because of the shared nature of responsibilities, the Office of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Management in place. Situational analysis conducted. Implemented the 1st phase of the organisational reform, which included the clear demarcation of roles and responsibilities. The accounting responsibilities were entrusted to the Executive Officer who was a former Accounts Clerk. The Officer worked full-time on the accounting responsibilities. An additional Clerical Officer was re-assigned to assist the Executive Officer. For a sustainable and long-term solution, the Office needed to create a dedicated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the approval of the then Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, the Office of the President established its own Staff Board to address its staffing issues. The Office noted that the temporary arrangement from June 2012 was not producing the expected results. Whilst the Office was able to cater for the daily operational needs - noting that His Excellency the President had an increasing number of engagements - the handling of back-office operations like reconciliation and other accounting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The devolution of responsibilities from the PSC to the Permanent Secretaries as per the 2013 Constitution enabled the Office to complete the 2nd phase of the organisational reform. With the approval of the then Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, the Office of the President traded-off several vacant positions to create three accounting posts, including an Accounts Officer at AC03 Grade and two Accounts Clerks at AC05 Grade. The organisational reform was completed with no additional costs to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased capacity-building programme: all staff required to attend four or more competency-based training per year, whilst upgrading their formal qualifications from tertiary institutions. Accounting staff undertook more training programmes with the Ministry of Finance The Office became a self-accounting entity - it is now able to handle all accounting functions. This is resulting in significantly improved services to clients (faster payment of services rendered to His Excellency the President), and greater accountability

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<p>President did not have a fully-fledged Accounts Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no dedicated space for accounting records. The accounting records were merged with the Administration, Transport, and Registry records. • Lack of capacity building - there were no documented training programme for staff across the entire Office. • The Office did not have any Training Vote for staff development • No Staff Board in the Office of the President - all staffing decisions were referred to the Office of the Prime Minister. • The retirement of Senior Assistant Secretary in December 2011 affected the Office's accounting 	<p>Accounts Officer position and a fully-fledged Accounts Section in accordance with the Finance Management Act and Financial Instructions. The Office requested the Public Service Commission for an Accounts Officer position at AC03 Grade (annual salary of \$26,000) to attract a graduate and experienced accountant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the meantime, the Office secured support from Ministry of Finance for training on accounts management and reconciliation – a month-long training programme was held for the Executive Officer and Clerk. • PSC approved the creation of an Accounts position BUT at a lower level (AC04-Grade – annual salary of \$19,000). 	<p>functions were evidently a major challenge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Staff Board strengthened its efforts to trade-off existing positions to create a dedicated Accounts Officer position and a fully-fledged Accounts Section. 	<p>Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruited a formally qualified and experienced Accountant (an Accounting/Economic graduate with 10 years' experience) at AC-03 level carrying a salary of \$26,000 per annum. • Recruited two Accounts Clerks at \$12,000 each per annum. • Completed the physical restructure of the Office, which included a dedicated and secure space for the Accounts Section. • Secured a Training Budget for the staff • Implemented a systematic Training/capacity-building programme, which required all staff to attend not less than two competency-based training programmes per year. • The establishment of 	<p>– including better management of records and improved reconciliation of accounts, etc.</p>
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operations.	The Office was advised to trade-off positions to create the Accountant position.		the Staff Board led to the substantive filling of 36 out of 37 functional positions, which allowed the Office to operate consistently at 97% capacity.	
His Excellency the President's number of engagements per year	180	306	360	228
Number of Speeches/Statements delivered by His Excellency	67	152	70	57

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	2016 (Jan-July)	August 2016 – July 2017 Commencement of Government's new Financial Year	2017-2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the support of the Ministry of Economy, the Office has cleared all outstanding accounts in the Revolving Fund Account (RFA) – please refer to the GL671 included in the attached Response to the PAC. Proper accounting procedures in place, including strict compliance with the Finance Management Act 2004, Financial Instructions 2010 and the Office's Finance Manual 2013. Record keeping and management of documents continue to be improved in earnest. Ongoing capacity building for all staff - Accounts Officers in particular continue to be encouraged to obtain higher level formal qualifications and to become members of professional institutions like 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Audit Report for 2016-2017 (copy attached) noted only two administrative issues – a clear sign that the Office has improved its financial management capabilities. Despite the significant increase in the President's engagements, the Office is able to ensure that it has highly competent and knowledgeable staff to look after its back-office operations and, importantly, to comply with all the financial regulations. Staff capacity building continues to be strengthened through local and overseas courses. This also included all the Accounts Staff attending refresher training with the Ministry of Economy on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the Open Merit Recruitment and Selection Process, a replacement Manager Finance was recruited in August of 2017. Mr. Krishneel Kumar has a Masters in Commerce majoring in Accounting and comes with vast experience in a statutory body - the Fiji Commerce Commission where he was Manager Corporate Services covering both finance and administration. The Office has also recruited two new Accounts Clerks – one with a Diploma in Accounting with over 10 years of experience in the private sector (recruited in December 2017) and the second clerk with a Degree in Accounting with 3 years of experience in the public

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	<p>the Fiji Institute of Accountants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The renewed focus on human resources development has led to a number of significant achievements: By December 2012, the Office had less than 10% of staff with either formal or competency-based qualifications. By December 2016, the number of staff with formal or competency-based qualifications increased to over 81%. Many staff completed certificate, diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in the past four years. The Office was also able to consistently fill up to 97% of positions at any one time. The cumulative effect of all these developments is that the Office is able to facilitate His Excellency the President's Constitutional and ceremonial obligations, and his community engagements, whilst improving the overall management of the office 	<p>FMIS on a monthly basis to be abreast with changes and improvements implemented in Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Manager Finance Mr. Paula Naitoko resigned in July 2017. Mr. Naitoko set-up the Office's accounts section from 2014. He helped clear all the outstanding accounts and ensured that the Office followed the financial regulations. He helped establish a self-accounting entity to improve both the operational aspects of the accounts and the accountability of the Office. He has now taken on a senior accounting position in the Office of the Prime Minister. 	<p>sector (contract to be signed before 29 March 2018)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With three highly qualified staff, the office will ensure that all accounting processes and guidelines will continue to be followed. The office has also devised risk management strategies as part of its internal controls (Please refer to Annex 3). As of March 2018, the number of qualified staff including academic and competency-based qualifications has increased to 92% (Please refer to Annex 4: Staff List as at March 2018). The Office will ensure that all its staff are suitably qualified and competent to serve Fiji's President and Head of State in a modern and progressive nation State.
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	<p>operations including especially the management of accounts, among others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Office's revised target in as far as the management of its accounts is concerned is to achieve zero-audit queries. • The overarching focus of the Office now is not only to continue to facilitate His Excellency the President's engagements at the highest professional level befitting the Head of State, but also to research and conduct comparative analysis of international best-practices so that Fiji is able to elevate our standard of services in line with a modern and progressive Nation. 		
<p>His Excellency the President's number of engagements per year</p>	<p>381</p>	<p>405</p>	
<p>Number of Speeches/Statements delivered by His Excellency</p>	<p>65</p>	<p>65</p>	

Attached: Organisational Structures for 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2017.

BOARD OF SURVEY – OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT SUMMARY REPORT - 2015.

Introduction.

The Board of Survey (BOS) was conducted at the following locations;

1. Office of the President on Wednesday, 24.06.2015
2. Presidential *Bures* in Lautoka and Deuba on Thursday, 25.06.2015
3. State House on Thursday, 02.07.2015

Members of the BOS team includes:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Mr. Manasa Vola | Ministry of Education, Heritage & Arts –Chairperson |
| 2. Mr. Akulla Naga | Office of the President – Member (Admin) |
| 3. Mr. Saimoni Raturadreu | Office of the President – Member (Landscape) |

Methodology

As a requisite of this exercise, a physical count and verification against the BOS register were conducted at all the Presidential properties, in Suva which consists the inventories of the Official residence, His Excellency's Office, Administration, Finance and the Landscape section and the Presidential properties in Lautoka and Deuba.

Timeline

The BOS was conducted within the allocated timeframe given (exactly two days) and is far more than enough for the team as we've managed to conduct the survey efficiently.

Recommendation

A short summary is described below and the full detail is tabulated and attached as Appendix 1.

- i. Stock taking to be taken seriously in every quarter in order to reconcile items taken charge by each officer's and also to ease reference when conducting BOS in future.
- ii. It is highly recommended that the management to facilitate the disposal of items that were approved to be written off from the previous BOS which are still being stored or used; to create office space and make space for storage especially at the Landscape office.
- iii. An inventory book to be provided to each caretaker (Deuba & Lautoka respectively) so that they can log in every new item taken charge and also take note of unserviceable items that needs to be written off.
- iv. A tagging system to be adopted urgently in order to monitor and track the movements of all equipment (working tools, furniture, computers etc) within the official properties.

Conclusion

The Board of Survey was conducted according to the requirements of the procurement plan 2010 except in some areas where strict procedures (methodology) are to be followed as stated and recommended so that the President's Office could comply with the related regulations given and implemented by the Procurement Office.



Manasa Vola
Chairman
BOS Team

02.07.2015

2015 BOARD OF SURVEY REPORT – OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF FIJI

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DATE	SECTION	RECORD OF THE ITEMS TAKEN CHARGE	RECOMENDATION
24.06.2015	His Excellency's Office & Secretary's Office	Equipment and items taken charge were well kept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new items bought and taken charge are to be entered specifically into the inventory book. This new items are to be stored or maintained well. • Written off equipment such as furniture's and unserviceable items (computers/printers etc) that have been boarded previously and not in used are to be disposed immediately in order to create office space. • All new items bought and taken charge by respective officers are to be entered specifically into the inventory book within their own section. This new items are to be stored or maintained well by the officer responsible. • Written off equipment such as furniture's and unserviceable items (computers/printers etc) that have been boarded previously and not in used are to be disposed immediately in order to create office space. • All new items bought and taken charge by respective officers are to be entered specifically into the inventory book within their own section. This new items are to be stored or maintained well by the officer responsible. • Written off equipment such as furniture's, working tools and unserviceable items (brush-cutters etc) that have been boarded previously and not in used are to be disposed immediately in order to create space for storage area. • A tagging system to be adopted whereby all tools moving in and out of the storage room are easily tracked. Recommended the usage of tally cards record and supply tools to workers. (cane-knives, knife-sharpeners, trimmers, etc) • Written off equipment such as furniture's that have been boarded previously and not in used are to be disposed immediately especially at the Presidential Bure in Lautoka.
	Official Secretary's Office	Equipment and items taken charge were well kept.	
	Project Officer room / SAS Room & PAS Room	Equipment and items taken charge by each officer were well kept.	
	Administration & Finance Section	Equipment and items taken charge by respective officers were well kept.	
25.06.2015	Landscape Office	Equipment and items taken charge were well stored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written off equipment such as furniture's, working tools and unserviceable items (brush-cutters etc) that have been boarded previously and not in used are to be disposed immediately in order to create space for storage area. • A tagging system to be adopted whereby all tools moving in and out of the storage room are easily tracked. Recommended the usage of tally cards record and supply tools to workers. (cane-knives, knife-sharpeners, trimmers, etc) • Written off equipment such as furniture's that have been boarded previously and not in used are to be disposed immediately especially at the Presidential Bure in Lautoka.
	Presidential Bure Lautoka and Deuba	Equipment and items taken charge by the caretakers of each areas located were well managed & kept well.	

02.07.2015	State House	Equipment and items taken charge were well kept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An inventory book to be provided to each caretaker so that they can log in every new item taken charge and also take note of unserviceable items that needs to be written off. • Written off equipment such as furniture's, kitchenware's, utensils etc. that have been boarded previously and not in used are to be disposed immediately in order to create office space.
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REPORT OF BOARD OF SURVEY/STOCK VERIFIER ON STORES

To: The Official Secretary

In Accordance with the instructions contained in Stores Instructions, we the undersigned have inspected the stores on charge to the Official Secretary and we have the honour to report that the stores checked agree with the ledger balances.

2. We certify that a complete (100% test) check of the stores has been made.
3. Comments of the Board on the accommodation, general condition and security of the Stores:

All items are well kept under lock and key and are in good condition.

4. Comments of the Board on the manner in which the store records have been kept:

The Stores records are well maintained and inventories are updated accordingly.

5. Comments of the Board regarding responsibility for discrepancies:

Effective measures are taken to ensure that items are entered in the Inventory book upon receiving the items from suppliers. The accounts sections are solely responsible for this update.

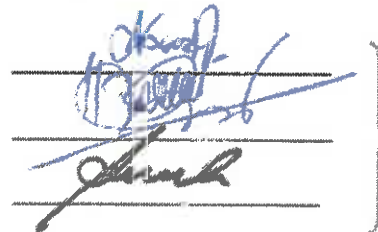
6. We did not encounter any difficulties in carrying out this exercise.

7. We enclose in quadruplicate:

- a) Schedule of Discrepancies (Form No. 58)
- b) Schedule of Unserviceable Stores (Form No. 59)
- c) Explanation of discrepancies by the Storekeeper.

Station: Administration Office, Government House, Suva.

Date: 25/06/2015



Member of the
Board of Survey

REPORT OF BOARD OF SURVEY/STOCK VERIFIER ON STORES

To: The Official Secretary

In Accordance with the instructions contained in Stores Instructions, we the undersigned have inspected the stores on charge to the Official Secretary and we have the honour to report that the stores checked agree with the ledger balances.

2. We certify that a complete (100% test) check of the stores has been made.
3. Comments of the Board on the accommodation, general condition and security of the Stores:

All items are well kept under lock and key and are in good condition.

4. Comments of the Board on the manner in which the store records have been kept:

The Stores records are well maintained and inventories are updated accordingly.

5. Comments of the Board regarding responsibility for discrepancies:

Effective measures are taken to ensure that items are entered in the Inventory book. This is responsibility of the Senior Domestic Officer.

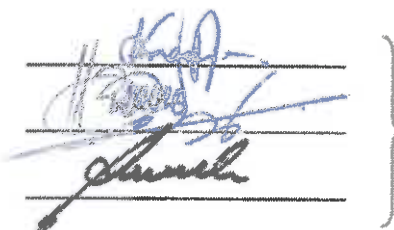
6. We did not encounter any difficulties in carrying out this exercise.

7. We enclose in quadruplicate:

- a) Schedule of Discrepancies (Form No. 58)
- b) Schedule of Unserviceable Stores (Form No. 59)
- c) Explanation of discrepancies by the Storekeeper.

Station: State House, Government House, Suva.

Date : 25/06/2015



Member of the
Board of Survey

REPORT OF BOARD OF SURVEY/STOCK VERIFIER ON STORES

To: The Official Secretary

In Accordance with the instructions contained in Stores Instructions, we the undersigned have inspected the stores on charge to the Official Secretary and we have the honour to report that the stores checked agree with the ledger balances.

2. We certify that a complete (100% test) check of the stores has been made.
3. Comments of the Board on the accommodation, general condition and security of the Stores:

All items are well kept under lock and key and are in good condition.

4. Comments of the Board on the manner in which the store records have been kept:
The Stores records are well maintained and inventories are updated accordingly.

5. Comments of the Board regarding responsibility for discrepancies:

It is recommended that all items that are issued to Landscape officers and Prisoner Officer on daily basis are recorded in the stock register under the responsibility of the Senior Landscape Officer.

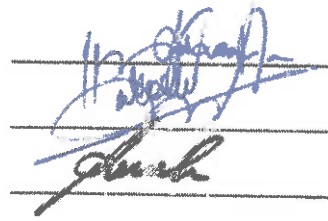
6. We did not encounter any difficulties in carrying out this exercise.

7. We enclose in quadruplicate:

- a) Schedule of Discrepancies (Form No. 58)
- b) Schedule of Unserviceable Stores (Form No. 59)
- c) Explanation of discrepancies by the Storekeeper.

Station: Landscape Office, Government House, Suva.

Date : 25/06/2015



Member of the
Board of Survey

LIST OF ACTS ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT

2016 ACTS (01/08/2016)

ITEM NO.	ACT NO.	SHORT TITLE	LONG TITLE	HISTORY	COMMENCEMENT DATE
32	32	CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ACT	AN ACT TO AMEND THE CUSTOMS TARIFF ACT 1986	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 26th day of September 2016	1 January 2017

2017 ACTS

ITEM NO.	ACT NO.	SHORT TITLE	LONG TITLE	HISTORY	COMMENCEMENT DATE
1	1	PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT) ACT	AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC ORDER ACT 1969	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 8th day of February 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
2	2	FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS REPORTING (AMENDMENT) ACT	AN ACT TO AMEND THE FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS REPORTING ACT 2004	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 8th day of February 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
3	3	WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) ACT	AN ACT TO AMEND THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT 1964	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 8th day of February 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
4	4	VALUE ADDED TAX (AMENDMENT) ACT	AN ACT TO AMEND THE VALUE ADDED TAX ACT 1991	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 8th day of February 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
5	5	ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) ACT	AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELECTORAL ACT 2014	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 9th day of February 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
6	6	COP 23 PRESIDENCY TRUST FUND ACT	AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A TRUST FUND FOR THE FUNDING OF THE STATE'S ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF COP 23 AND TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT TO FINANCE PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES THAT RELATE TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND FOR RELATED MATTERS	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 9th day of February 2017	Comes into force on the date it is published in the Gazette
7	7	FIJI INTERCHANGE NETWORK (PAYMENTS) ACT <small>BILL 15 OF 2016</small>	AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATION OF PAYMENT SYSTEMS AND SERVICES THROUGH THE FIJI INTERCHANGE NETWORK AND FOR RELATED MATTERS	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 9th day of February 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
8	8	ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS (AMENDMENT) ACT <small>BILL 53 OF 2016</small>	AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS ACT 2008	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 9th day of February 2017	Comes into force on the date the Electronic Transactions Act 2008 comes into force
9	9	PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ACT <small>BILL 23 OF 2016</small>	AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC ORDER ACT 1969	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 9th day of February 2017	Comes into force on the date or dates of its publication in the Gazette
10	10	ENDANGERED AND PROTECTED SPECIES (AMENDMENT) ACT <small>BILL 6 OF 2016</small>	AN ACT TO AMEND THE ENDANGERED AND PROTECTED SPECIES ACT 2002	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 21st day of March 2017	Comes into force on the date of its publication in the Gazette
11	11	LAND TRANSPORT (AMENDMENT) ACT	AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAND TRANSPORT ACT 1998	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 21st day of March 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
12	12	NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT CENTRE (AMENDMENT) ACT <small>BILL 31 OF 2016</small>	AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT CENTRE ACT 2009	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 22nd day of March 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
13	13	ELECTRICITY ACT	AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY BY THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT REGULATOR TO LICENSE THE GENERATION, TRANSMISSION AND SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY AND FOR RELATED MATTERS	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 22nd day of March 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette, provided however, that the Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, prescribe different dates as to when this Act comes into force with respect to a public agency
14	14	EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS (AMENDMENT) ACT	AN ACT TO AMEND THE EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS ACT 2007	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 23rd day of March 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
15	15	INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) ACT	AN ACT TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ACT 2015	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 23rd day of March 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
16	16	DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS (AMENDMENT) ACT	AN ACT TO AMEND THE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS ACT 2016	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 26th day of April 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Prime Minister by notice in the Gazette
17	17	MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONER (AMENDMENT) ACT	AN ACT TO AMEND THE MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONER ACT 2010	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 26th day of April 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
18	18	PHARMACY PROFESSION (AMENDMENT) ACT	AN ACT TO AMEND THE PHARMACY PROFESSION ACT 2011	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 26th day of April 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
19	19	HIGHER EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) ACT <small>BILL 2 OF 2016</small>	AN ACT TO AMEND THE HIGHER EDUCATION PROMULGATION 2008	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 27th day of April 2017	Comes into force on the date or dates of its publication in the Gazette
20	20	NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL ACT <small>BILL 5 OF 2016</small>	AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL AND TO REGULATE THE OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND AND RELATED MATTERS	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 27th day of April 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
21	21	FIJI SERVICEMEN'S AFTER-CARE FUND (AMENDMENT) ACT	AN ACT TO AMEND THE FIJI SERVICEMEN'S AFTER-CARE FUND ACT 1944	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 23rd day of May 2017	This Act comes into force on 1 August 2017

2017 ACTS

ITEM NO.	ACT NO.	SHORT TITLE	LONG TITLE	HISTORY	COMMENCEMENT DATE
22	22	2017—2018 Appropriation	AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE A SUM OF \$3,996,721,026 FOR THE ORDINARY SERVICES OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2018	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 13th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 1 August 2017
23	23	Water Resource Tax (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE WATER RESOURCE TAX ACT 2008	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 1 August 2017
24	24	Superyacht Charter (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE SUPERYACHT CHARTER ACT 2010	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 1 August 2017
25	25	Service Turnover (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE SERVICE TURNOVER TAX ACT 2012	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 1 August 2017
26	26	Income Tax (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ACT 2015	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 1 August 2017
27	27	Tax Administration (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE TAX ADMINISTRATION ACT 2009	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 1 August 2017
28	28	Pensions (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE PENSIONS ACT 1983	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 1 August 2017
29	29	Tertiary Scholarship and Loans (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIP AND LOANS ACT 2014	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 1 August 2017
30	30	Stamp Duties (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE STAMP DUTIES ACT 1920	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 1 August 2017
31	31	Financial Management (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT 2004	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 1 August 2017
32	32	Land Transport (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAND TRANSPORT ACT 1998	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
33	33	Value Added Tax (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE VALUE ADDED TAX ACT 1991	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 1 August 2017
34	34	Excise (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE EXCISE ACT 1986	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 30 June 2017
35	35	Omnibus Electronic Fare Ticketing (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE OMNIBUS ELECTRONIC FARE TICKETING ACT 2014	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on the date the Omnibus Electronic Fare Ticketing Act 2014 comes into force
36	36	Environmental Levy (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY ACT 2015	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 1 August 2017
37	37	Customs (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE CUSTOMS ACT 1986	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 30 June 2017
38	38	Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE FIJI REVENUE AND CUSTOMS AUTHORITY ACT 1998	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 1 August 2017
39	39	Customs Tariff (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE CUSTOMS TARIFF ACT 1986	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 30 June 2017
40	40	Accident Compensation	AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ACCIDENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION FIJI AND TO MAKE PROVISION FOR COMPENSATION IN RESPECT OF PERSONS WHO SUFFER PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH AS A RESULT OF AN ACCIDENT IN FIJI AND FOR RELATED MATTERS	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
41	41	Commerce Commission (Budget Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE COMMERCE COMMISSION ACT 2010	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on 1 August 2017
42	42	Regulation of Building Permits	AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE AND FACILITATE THE PROCESS FOR OBTAINING A BUILDING PERMIT AND FOR RELATED MATTERS	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
43	43	International Financial Organisations (Amendment)	AN ACT TO AMEND THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ORGANISATIONS ACT 1971	Debated and passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 14th day of July 2017	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette