



# PARLIAMENT

## NEWSLETTER

2021 Parliament Bi-annual Newsletter  
Issue No. 2 : July - December

### NEXT PARLIAMENT SITTING

#### January

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**KEYS**

- PROROGATION
- PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
- OPENING OF PARLIAMENT
- PARLIAMENT SITTING DAYS

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## OPENING OF PARLIAMENT BY THE NEW PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY RATU WILIAME KATONIVERE



His Excellency the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere delivering his address during the opening of Parliament on Monday 22nd November, 2021.

An important event in the Parliament calendar took place on Friday, October 22nd, 2021 - the appointment of the new President of Fiji. Turaga na Tui Macuata, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere was nominated by the Prime Minister Hon. Voreqe Bainimarama while the Leader of Opposition nominated Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa. Having received the votes of more than half of all the Members of Parliament present, the Speaker of Parliament, His Excellency Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau declared Ratu Wiliame Katonivere as the new President of Fiji.

The former President His Excellency Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote was not eligible for reappointment as he had served his term twice, on 12 October 2015 and re-appointed on 31 August 2018. Pursuant to section 85 of the Fijian Constitution, the President holds office for 3 years, and is eligible for re-appointment for one further term of 3 years. H.E. Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau congratulated H.E. Ratu Wiliame and wished him the very best tenure as custodian of the Office of the President. On Monday, November 22nd 2021, was another special occasion as it marked the opening of the final session of Parliament by His Excellency the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere. The President was accorded a Guard of Honor by the Republic of Fiji Military

Forces before addressing the Members of Parliament, Members of the Judiciary and the nation who watched the opening live via telecast on Fiji TV, FBC TV, Parliament Channel on Walesi and on social media platforms.

The President reminded Members that these are still the defining years of our new Fijian democracy.

"The eyes of the nation and the world are upon us now, as will be the eyes of the coming generations who will learn from the precedent we set. We have much work before us and your effort to address the challenges of the day must be embodied in the legislation, debate and discussion that empowers all Fijians through visionary leadership." "As the youngest President of Fiji, I may not have the number of years in public life under my belt as some of you, Honourable Members, but I have been in leadership long enough to see the difference between genuine democracy we share today and past systems that fell short of delivery for true equality for our people. I view the preservation and strengthening of our democratic society as my greatest responsibility as your President," H.E. Ratu Wiliame added. Meanwhile, for the 2021-2022 session, Parliament will be sitting for one week every month from February to September except for a one-day sitting in June for the National Budget Address.

# PARLIAMENT OPEN DAY FOR PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES IN FIJI



Speaker Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau with some Members of Parliament and the Members of Persons Living with Disabilities at the Parliament foyer in December, 2021

The inaugural **Parliament Open Day for Persons Living with Disabilities in Fiji** was launched at the Holiday Inn on Friday, December 3rd, 2021.

Speaker of Parliament H.E. Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau said that this was an opportunity for Parliament to engage with and get better acquainted with persons living with disabilities and to reaffirm Parliament's commitment to ensuring that Parliament is disability friendly.

"I wish to reassure all of you that Parliament encourages and supports the participation and contribution of persons living with disabilities in its legislative and oversight processes."

"Parliament continues to invest resources into ensuring all Fijians, irrespective of their ability or disability, socio-economic status, gender, ethnicity, or religion are free to participate in the Parliament processes."

"We also actively encourage persons with disabilities to participate in Parliamentary processes, especially making submissions to Parliamentary Standing Committees on their reviews of legislation and oversight work," Hon. Ratu Epeli said.

The Speaker acknowledged that through Parliament's membership with

the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), it has strengthened its engagement with the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD).

"CPwD supports elected representatives with disabilities in Parliaments and legislatures across the Commonwealth and ensures that the issues of persons with disabilities are brought to the fore in Parliamentary debate and legislation. The network campaigns for equality for persons with disabilities in all spheres," the Hon. Speaker said.

The CPA CPwD Pacific Regional Champion the Hon. Viam Pillay said that one of Parliament's major achievements has been the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2017 and the enactment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act a year later.

"By ratifying, and acting on, obligations in the Convention, Fiji is acknowledging that – for people with disability – real barriers exist in society. And Fiji is taking action to address those barriers."

"In addition to ratification of international conventions and enactment of legislation, Parliament through its oversight function, plays a key role in ensuring respect for the human rights of persons with disabilities," Hon. Viam

Pillay said. He acknowledged the support from CPA which has allowed for the hosting of this event and the purchase of the high-end equipment to assist the sign language interpreters during Parliament sittings.

the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), it has strengthened its engagement with the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD).



First lower pic: Speaker Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau with Assistant Minister of Agriculture Hon. Viam Pillay with Members of Persons Living with Disabilities at the Holiday Inn launch of the Open Day.

Pillay said.

He acknowledged the support from CPA which has allowed for the hosting of this event and the purchase of the high-end equipment to assist the sign language interpreters during Parliament sittings.



Speaker Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau with some Members of Persons Living with Disabilities at the Parliament foyer in December, 2021.

# MPs NEED TO KEEP ABREAST WITH NEW INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS – SPEAKER



Speaker Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau and Members of Parliament at the Workshop on Key Development Issues.

Speaker Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau has reminded Members of Parliament (MPs) that they need to continuously arm themselves with new information, new knowledge and new ideas.

During the MPs workshop on Key Development Issues, SDG16, Hon. Ratu Epeli said that 'we all need to be keenly aware of trends in the development agenda and the emerging national and global challenges; and how Parliamentary practices adapt accordingly'.

"This workshop is part of the ongoing initiatives by Parliament and the UNDP under the Fiji Parliament Support Project (FPSP) to continue to progress discussions on Key Development Issues linked to the UN 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG16 which is: to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; provide access to justice for all and; build effective accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. There are also discussions on SDG 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls."

"The workshop is also part of the regular capacity-building initiative of the Parliament to continuously enhance Member's knowledge and understanding of Parliamentary practices and Standing Orders in the Fijian Parliament and that of other Parliaments, particularly those from commonwealth jurisdictions," Hon. Ratu Epeli said.

The Speaker also highlighted that the Parliament sittings and debates for 2021 have concluded and that the year ahead would be a busy one.

"After a hard hitting 2021, I know – and I am certain you all suspect it as well that 2022 will be a very busy year for all of us."

"I wish to remind Honourable Members that we have completed our Parliament sittings and the debates for this year. This is a workshop and not an extension of the debating chamber. Therefore, keep the debates at the chamber and let us not have marathon debates here," Hon. Ratu Epeli added.

UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji Resident Representative, Mr Levan Bouadze said that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted us all and deeply questioned the very core of our social contracts and the importance of the 2030 Agenda as a holistic vision for a just, prosperous and healthy society.

"Over the past two years, there have been extensive discussions and debates on matters related to the economic and social impact of the pandemic, its impact on specific categories of the population such as women and youth, and how the recovery could allow for a greener – and "bluer" Pacific economic growth."

"Often, the angle taken for these discussion has been through specific SDGs, health (SDG 3), poverty alleviation (SDG 1), gender equality (SDG 5), the environment (SDG 13 and 14), and others."

"Your constitutional mandate to legislate, oversee Government policies and programmes, including enacting and scrutinising the Government budget and representing the views of your people, makes you, as parliamentarians, crucial partners in ensuring the accountable, inclusive, participatory and transparent governance that is necessary to achieve

sustainable development for all," Mr Bouadze said.

Meanwhile, the Australian Deputy High Commissioner, Mr Paul Wilson acknowledged the resilience displayed, and the results delivered, by the Speaker, Members of Parliament and Parliamentary Staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Despite the challenges, Fiji's Parliament continued to undertake its core functions throughout the pandemic, and to deliver for Fiji's citizens."

"One of the mechanisms that allowed this was the use of innovative solutions such as information and communication technology for hybrid sittings of Parliament and virtual committee meetings."

"Fiji's Parliament was one of the first in the region to develop the capacity for its committees to meet virtually, and for its plenary to meet in a hybrid manner. This allowed work to continue through restrictions on travel and on social distancing," Mr Wilson said.

The MPs workshop was facilitated and supported by the UNDP and development partners of the FPSP – the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and Japan.



MPs during a breakout session on the Key Development Issues, SDG 16 workshop - Women in Politics and Leadership.

# INTER-PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS & PROTOCOL : JULY - DECEMBER 2021

## Speaker/MPs Virtual / Physical Meetings

No	Training	Venue	Date	Participants
01	IPU on the Parliamentary Forum at the HLPF on SDG's	Geneva	Monday 12 July at 9-11am	1. Hon George Vegenathan 2. Hon Atonio Lalabalavu
02	Bureau of the ACP-EU JPA - Drafting Committee Meeting on Rules of Procedure	Brussels	03 September	1. Hon Alvic Maharaj
03	E-learning Needs Assessment Survey and Bilateral Meetings - UNDP FPSP	Auckland, New Zealand	16 - 17 September	1. Hon. Hon. Alexander O'Connor 2. Hon. Vijay Nath 3. Hon. Salote Radrodro 4. Hon. Pio Tikoduadua
04	Bureau of the OACPS Parliamentary Assembly - Preparatory Meeting for the 4th ACP-EU JPA Drafting Committee on the ACP-EU JPA Rules of Procedure	Brussels, Belgium	Mon 20 September	1. Hon. Alvic Maharaj
05	Bureau of ACP-EU JPA - Meeting of the Drafting Committee on the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Rules of Procedure	Brussels, Belgium	Thursday 23 Sept at 11pm - 1am (24/09)	1. Hon. Alvic Maharaj
06	CPA Executive Committee Meeting; Regional Secretaries Meeting on 17 September; and Orientation New & Returning Executive Comm. Members - 18 Sept	London	27-30 September 2021	1. HE Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau 2. Mrs Jeanette Emberson 2. Mr Josua Namoce
10	National Forum on Women in Politics	Holiday Inn, Suva	27 Oct	1. Hon Premila Kumar 2. Hon Veena Bhatnagar 3. Hon Selai Adimaitonga
11	CPA - 39th CPA Australia and Pacific Regional Conference	Perth, Western Australia	Fiji Time	1. HE Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau 2. Hon Dr Salik Govind 3. Hon Adi Litia Qionibaravi 4. Mrs Jeanette Emberson 5. Mr Josua Namoce
12	APPF Executive Committee Special Virtual Meeting	Australia	Mon 20 Sept 11pm - 1am (21/09)	1. HE Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau 2. Mrs Jeanette Emberson 3. Mr Josua Namoce 4. Mr Mitieli Uculoa
13	6th Meeting ACP-EU JPA Drafting Committee on the ACP-EU JPA Rules of Procedure	Brussels	<b>Fiji Time</b> : 18 Nov 11pm to 1 am 19 Nov	1. Hon Alvic Maharaj
14	29th Meeting of the APPF	Korea	Fiji Time	1. HE Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau 2. Hon Alexander O'Connor 3. Hon Ro Teimumu Kepa 4. Mrs Jeanette Emberson 5. Mr Josua Namoce 6. Mr Mitieli Uculoa

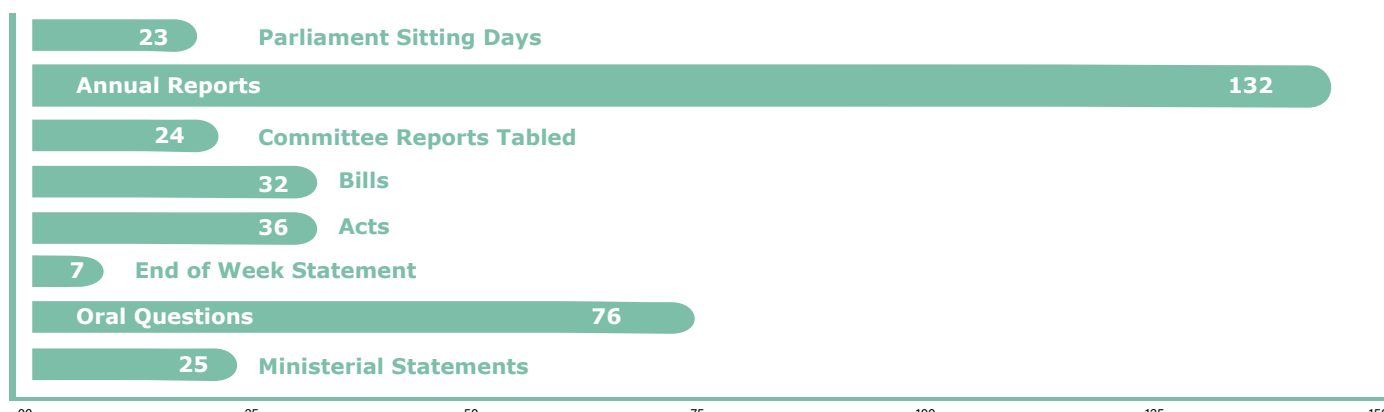
## Courtesy / Farewell Calls

No	Visits	Country	Date
1	High Commission of India to Fiji - HE K. Subramani Karthigeyan	India	Friday - 16 August 2021
2	High Commissioner of India to Fiji - HE P. S Karthigeyan	India	Thursday - 7 October 2021
3	Cuban Ambassador to Fiji - HE Mr Carlos Lago	Cuba	Friday - 5 Nov 2021
4	Non-Resident High Commissioner of Singapore - HE Ms Mary Seet-Cheng	Singapore	Tuesday - 14 Dec 2021

## MPs Training

No	Topic	Country	Date
1	Workshop on Key Development Issues	Marriot Resort, Moui Bay	6 - 8 December, 2021

## PARLIAMENT SITTING : JULY - DECEMBER, 2021



# STANDING COMMITTEES OF PARLIAMENT JANUARY - JULY, 2021

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

No. of Meetings	PAPERS TABLED	PAPERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
94	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review Report on the Patents Bill 2020 Bill No. 46 of 2020.</li> <li>2. Report on the Review of the Designs Bill 2020 Bill No. 47 of 2020</li> <li>3. Report on the Review of the Trademarks Bill 2020 Bill No. 45 of 2020</li> <li>4. Report on the Review of the Climate Change Bill No. 31 of 2021</li> <li>5. Report on the Review of the Fiji Institute of Chartered Accountants Bill No. 35 of 2021</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Climate Change Bill No. 31 of 2021</li> <li>2. Fiji Institute of Chartered Accountants Bill No. 35 of 2021</li> <li>3. Ministry of Civil Service Annual Report 2016</li> <li>4. Ministry of Civil Service Annual Report 2016-2017</li> <li>5. Ministry of Civil Service Annual Report 2017-2018</li> <li>6. Ministry of Civil Service Annual Report 2018-2019</li> </ol>

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

No. of Meetings	PAPERS TABLED	PAPERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review of the Performance Audit on the Access for Persons with disabilities to public offices and public transport</li> <li>2. Review of the 2018 Audit Report on Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities and Other Entities</li> <li>3. Review of the 2017-2018 Audit Report on Statutory Authorities</li> <li>4. Review of the Performance Audit on the Management of Environment Impact Assessment</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2019 – 2020 Audit Report on Public Enterprises and Other Entities.</li> <li>2. Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2019-2020 Audit Report on Municipal Councils</li> <li>3. Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Performance Audit on the Licensing and Monitoring of River Gravel and Sand Extractions</li> <li>4. Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Performance Audit on the Monitoring of Implementation of the Sugarcane Development and Farmers assistance programme</li> <li>5. Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2019-2020 Audit report on Statutory Authorities, Independent Body and Commissions</li> <li>6. Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Remaining 2019 Audit Report on General Administration, Social Services, Economic Services and Infrastructure Services Sectors</li> </ol>

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

No. of Meetings	PAPERS TABLED	PAPERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
25	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review of the Fiji National Sports Commission August 2018 – July 2019 Annual Report</li> <li>2. Review of the Fiji Airports 2018-2019 Annual Report</li> <li>3. Review of the Fiji National University 2019 Annual Report</li> <li>4. Review of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation 2017-2018 Annual Report</li> <li>5. Review of the consolidated Annual Report of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport 2016-2017 and 2015</li> <li>6. Review of the Ministry of Youth and Sports 2018-2019 Annual Report</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nausori Town Council Annual Report from 2005 to 2014 (10 AR)</li> <li>2. Rakiraki Town Council Annual Report from 2011 to 2018 (8 AR)</li> <li>3. Nadi Town Council Annual Report from 2011 to 2015 (5 AR)</li> <li>4. Lautoka City Council Annual Report from 2006 to 2010 ( 5 AR)</li> <li>5. Sigatoka Town Council Annual Report from 2005 to 2018 (14 AR)</li> <li>6. Savusavu Town Council Annual Report from 2005 to 2010 (6 AR)</li> <li>7. Ba Town Council Annual Report from 2011 to 2018 (8 AR)</li> <li>8. Labasa Town Council Annual Report from 2004 to 2016 (13 AR)</li> <li>9. Lami Town Council Annual Report from 2004 to 2014 (11 AR)</li> <li>10. Suva City Council Annual Report from 2011 to 2015 (5 AR)</li> <li>11. Tavua Town Council Annual Report from 2011 to 2014 (4 AR)</li> <li>12. Levuka Town Council Annual Report from 2005 to 2010 (6 AR)</li> <li>13. Lautoka City Council Annual Report from 2011 to 2014 (4 AR)</li> <li>14. Nasinu Town Council Annual Report from 2009 and 2010 (2 AR)</li> <li>15. Fiji Ports Corporation Limited Annual Report 2018 and 2019 (2 AR)</li> <li>16. Fiji National Provident Fund Annual Report 2021 (1 AR)</li> <li>17. Fiji National Sports Commission Annual Report 2019-2020 (1 AR)</li> </ol>

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

No. of Meetings	PAPERS TABLED
10	1. Consolidated Review Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Annual Reports 2017-2018 and 2018-2019

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

No. of Meetings	PAPERS TABLED	PAPERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review of Fiji Development Bank 2019 Annual report</li> <li>2. Consolidated Report on the Review of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Annual reports</li> <li>3. Consolidated Report on the Review of Investment Fiji 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 Annual Reports</li> <li>4. Consolidated Review Report of Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit 2019 and 2020 Annual Reports</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Energy Fiji Limited Annual Report 2020</li> <li>2. Ministry of Sugar Industry Annual Report 2018-2019</li> <li>3. Fiji Sugar Corporation Annual Report 2020</li> <li>4. Fiji Revenue and Customs Service 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018 Annual Report</li> <li>5. Fiji Meat Industry Board Annual Report 2015</li> <li>6. Fiji Meat Industry Board Annual Report 2016</li> <li>7. Fiji Meat Industry Board Annual Report 2017</li> <li>8. Reserve Bank of Fiji August 2020 –July 2021 Report</li> <li>9. Reserve Bank of Fiji Insurance 2020 Annual Report</li> <li>10. Fiji Development Bank 2020 Annual Report</li> </ol>

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

No. of Meetings	PAPERS TABLED	PAPERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review of the Consolidated Annual Reports for Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.</li> <li>2. Review of the Ministry of Fisheries Annual Report 2017-2018.</li> <li>3. Review of the Ministry of Agriculture Annual Report for the Period 01st January to 31st July 2016</li> <li>4. Review of the Department of Forestry Annual Report for the period 01st January to 31st July 2016</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ministry of Fisheries 2018-2019 Annual Report</li> <li>2. Ministry of Forestry 2017-2018 Annual Report</li> <li>3. Ministry of Forestry 2018-2019 Annual report</li> <li>4. Ministry of Agriculture 2016-2017 Annual Report</li> <li>5. Ministry of Agriculture 2017-2018 Annual Report</li> </ol>

# COMMITTEES AT WORK



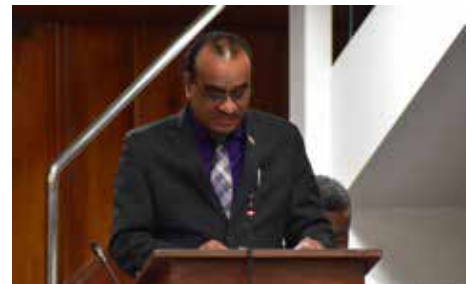
Members of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights during their public consultations in Rakiraki on the Fiji Institute of Accounts Bill in November, 2021.



Virtual submission from the Ministry of Waterways and Environment to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the Performance Audit Report on the Management of Environment Impact Assessment (PP. No. 273 of 2020) in August, 2021.



Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, Hon. Vijay Nath presenting the Review Report on the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 Annual Reports in August, 2021.



Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal presenting the Review Report on the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Annual Reports in August, 2021.



Standing Committee on Economic Affairs and Social Affairs attended a virtual seminar hosted by UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji on Tourism - Global outlook of the sector, priorities and opportunities in August, 2021.



Chairperson for the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence Hon. Alexander O'Connor presenting the Consolidated Review Report on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Annual Reports in September, 2021.



National Federation Party General Secretary Ms Seini Nabou presenting their submission on the Climate Change Bill to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights in September, 2021.



Pacific Disability Forum Regional Coordinator - Climate Change, Ms Sainimili Tawake (bottom centre) presenting their submission on the Climate Change Bill to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights in September, 2021.



Director of Fiji Museum, Mr Sipiriano Nemani presenting their submission on the Heritage Bill to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights in October, 2021.



Members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence during a site visit at the Namatakula Village Seawall in Nadroga in November, 2021.

# SPEAKER'S EVENT



Speaker Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau with the President of Fiji, His Excellency Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, First Lady Mrs Filomena Katonivere and the Minister for Defence and National Security, Hon. Inia Seruiratu after the swearing-in of His Excellency the President at Government House in November, 2021.



Courtesy call by the new High Commissioner of India to Fiji, H.E. Karthigeyan Subramanyan in August, 2021.



(L-R) Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete, Speaker Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Deputy Australian High Commissioner HE Paul Wilson and UNAIDS Pacific Director Ms Renata Ram during the handover of antiretroviral donation by UNAIDS, Atlanta Medicare Ltd and DFAT-Fiji to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in September, 2021.



Speaker Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau with the staff of the Fiji Elections Office after the registration of new voter ID for Parliament staff in November, 2021.



Farewell Call by the Cuban Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Carlos Lago in November, 2021.



Speaker Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Hon. Selai Adimaitoga, Secretary-General to Parliament Mrs Jeanette Emberson and Mr Sekope Toduadua during the opening of the 2021 CPA Australia and Pacific Regional Virtual Conference in November, 2021.



Speaker Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, UNAIDS Country Director, Fiji and the Pacific, Ms Renata Ram (right) with a UNAIDS staff during the handover of antiretroviral donation by the UNAIDS and Indian High Commission to the Ministry of Health on December 1st, 2021, the World AIDS Day.



Speaker Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau receiving his booster shot at Albert Park in December, 2021.



Speaker Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau during the Graduation Ceremony at the University of Fiji in December, 2021.



Courtesy call from the new Non-Resident High Commissioner of Singapore, Ms Mary Seet-Cheng in December, 2021.

## MRS JEANETTE EMBERSON APPOINTED AS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO PARLIAMENT

**M**rs Jeanette Emberson was appointed as the Secretary-General to Parliament on September 17, 2021. She was formerly the Deputy Secretary-General and acted as Secretary-General from January 12, 2021.

During the Strategic Planning workshop that was held at Natadola in November, the staff organised a tea party to acknowledge and celebrate Mrs Emberson's appointment.

Since her appointment in September and the busy Parliament activities and COVID-19 restrictions in place, management and staff noted that this was the proper time to thank Madam Secretary-General for her appointment and for her leadership role in the

Department since the retirement of former Secretary-General Mrs Viniana Namosimalua early this year.

Mrs Emberson was taken by surprise and thanked everyone for the kind thoughts.

"I am grateful and humbled to lead the organization and I will not be able to do it alone. I need all your support to be able to carry out the roles and responsibilities of such a high office."

"It is important to know and appreciate that we are all here in such a time as this to serve the Speaker and the Members of Parliament," Mrs Emberson said.

Mrs Emberson is responsible to the Speaker for the efficient, effective and economical management of Parliament. As well as being chief executive of the parliamentary administration, she is also the principal procedural advisor to the Speaker, Members and Committees of Parliament. Mrs Emberson is a lawyer by profession.

Congratulations Madam on your appointment!



Secretary-General to Parliament, Mrs Jeanette Emberson cuts her congratulatory cake from the staff of Parliament.



Secretary-General to Parliament, Mrs Jeanette Emberson.

## DEPARTMENT CONTINUE TO UPSKILL AND AWARD STAFF DESPITE PANDEMIC



Secretary General to Parliament Mrs Jeanette Emberson with Parliament Staff after the Wage Earners workshop at the Pearl Resort in November, 2021.



Parliament Staff in discussion at the Corporate Refresher Course at the Holiday Inn Conference room.



Secretary General to Parliament delivering an opening address at the Budget Systems seminar by UNDP's FPSP.



Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau presents Loata Waqanisau with an award.



Secretary General to Parliament Mrs Jeanette Emberson presents Sarwesh Narayan with an award.



Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau presents Manager IT, Maika Lakeba with an award.

**T**he Department accomplishes its work processes through the knowledge, skills, abilities and competencies of its workforce. Through capacity building programs we were able to address the impact of the pandemic to

our operations and revised relevant policies, work systems and processes to address current and future requirements based on our strategic objectives.

Our leaders are committed to creating an environment for organizational and workforce

learning. High performance and staff engagement are also recognized annually and the 2021 awards night was conducted after the Strategic and Operational Plan workshop on 17 December, 2021.