

# BILL NO. 16 OF 2023

## A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE LIQUOR ACT 2006

ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji—

*Short title and commencement*

- 1.**—(1) This Act may be cited as the Liquor (Amendment) Act 2023.
- (2) This Act comes into force on a date appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.

*Schedule amended*

- 2.** The Liquor Act 2006 is amended by deleting the Schedule and substituting the following—

“SCHEDULE  
(Sections 30, 36 and 40)

PERMITTED HOURS

|    | <i>Provision of the Act</i>      | <i>Description</i>  | <i>Permitted days and hours</i>  |
|----|----------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1. | On-premises use<br>Section 30(2) | Hotel<br><br>Tavern | <i>Bar</i> – open for 24 hours from Monday to Sunday, including public holidays<br><br>From 11 am to 1 am daily  |
| 2. | On-premises use<br>Section 30(4) | Private hotel       | <i>Bar</i> , if any, within private hotel – from 9 am to 1 am daily to guests and their <i>bona fide</i> guests<br><br><i>Room service</i> within private hotel – no restriction on guests only, and at the discretion of management |
| 3. | On-premises use<br>Section 30(6) | Restaurant          | From 11 am to 12 midnight daily  |
| 4. | On-premises use<br>Section 30(7) | Nightclub           | From 5 pm until 1 am daily   |
| 5. | Off-premises use<br>Section 36   |                     | 8 am to 12 midnight daily  |
| 6. | Club use<br>Section 40           |                     | 9 am to 1 am daily   |

”.

July 2023

## **LIQUOR (AMENDMENT) BILL 2023**

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Bill and is intended only to indicate its general effect)*

#### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Liquor Act 2006 (**‘Act’**) provides for inter alia the regulation of liquor licensing and permitted hours for the sale of liquor and has generally had a direct link to the opening hours of various venues which sell liquor.
- 1.2 Under the Schedule to the Act, “special zones” are identified as areas in the city of Suva and township of Nadi.
- 1.3 In recent years, there have been numerous reports regarding brawls, robberies and attacks during the early hours in Suva and Nadi and this has also resulted in serious injury and/or loss of lives.
- 1.4 Therefore the Liquor (Amendment) Bill 2023 (**‘Bill’**) seeks to amend the Act to remove special zones which provides for the sale of liquor for extended hours in taverns, restaurants and nightclubs for areas in Suva and Nadi.

#### **2.0 CLAUSES**

- 2.1 Clause 1 of the Bill provides for the short title and commencement. If passed by Parliament, the amending legislation will come into force on a date appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.
- 2.2 Clause 2 of the Bill amends the Schedule to the Act to remove special zones.

#### **3.0 MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- 3.1 The Act comes under the responsibility of the Attorney-General.

S. TURAGA  
Attorney-General