



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Consolidated Review Report of the Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit 2021/ 2022 Annual Reports



**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
Parliamentary Paper No.147 of 2023**

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Chairperson's Foreword

The Standing Committee on Economic Affairs is pleased to submit to Parliament, the consolidated Review Report of the Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit (FFIU) 2021/2022 Annual Reports.

The Committee noted the FFIU contribution towards building a stronger legal, institutional, operational and regulatory environment on AML/CFT in Fiji that addresses domestic risk of money laundering and complies with the minimum international standards.

In its findings, the Committee noted that FFIU has Memorandum of Agreement (MOAs) in place with several local and international stakeholders which enable them to exchange information regarding suspicious transactions or possible money laundering activities, gain direct access to FFIU database including second staff with FFIU.

It further noted that in addition to scams, tax evasions were found to be the other top possible underlying criminal activity identified in the Suspicious Transactions Report. FFIU investigated cases where businesses had not lodged their income tax returns since 2006 and cases where business owners had not registered their businesses with FRCS.

The Committee expressed its concern on the increase in online scams, pyramid schemes, by using mobile money wallets and international debit cards to facilitate various online scams in 2021 and 2022. Members of the Committee would like to urge the general public to be vigilant and ensure that they do not fall prey to malicious scams of such nature which would lead to losing their hard-earned money and savings. The Members feel that at present, there are no coordinated approach to deal with scams and money laundering and that law enforcement agencies need to take action swiftly. A timely report to FFIU from financial institutions can assist in taking quick action. There is lack of single agency taking responsibility for ensuring that these scams are filtered out in its initial stages and exposed to the public.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to the Director of FFIU and his team for being prompt in answering the various queries and questions raised by the Committee.

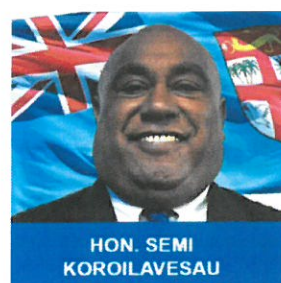
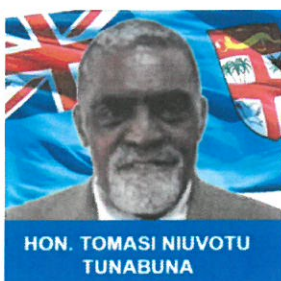
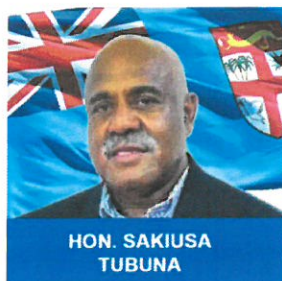
Finally, I would like to thank our Committee Members who were part of the team that produced this report: - Deputy Chairperson Hon. Sashi Kiran, Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna, Hon. Premila Kumar and Hon. Semi Koroilavesau.

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, I submit the Consolidated Review Report of the Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit Annual Reports to Parliament.



Chairperson –

Committee Membership



Committee Secretariat

Staff

- Ms. Komal Khushboo
- Ms. Lia Korodrau

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Acronyms

BCR	Boarder Currency Declaration Reports
CDR	Case Dissemination Report
EFTR	Electronic Fund Transfer Report
MRSP	Money Remittance Services Provider
MPMR	Mobile Phone Money Remitters
STR	Suspicious Transaction Reports
AML	Anti-Money Laundering
CFT	Combating the Financing of Terrorism
FPF	Fiji Police Force

Introduction

1.2 Background

The Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit (FFIU) is one of the leading agencies in Fiji that is responsible for preventing and detecting money laundering and terrorist financing activities. The FFIU is established under the Financial Transactions Reporting (FTR) Act. The role and functions of the FFIU are provided under the FTR Act.

A record number of EFTRs of 1,884,402 were reported in 2021 as a result of increased reporting from MRSP and MPMR sectors. As expected, the number of BCR reduced to just 99 in 2021 compared to 266 reported in 2020 and 1,102 in 2019.

In 2021, 56 percent of the CDRs were disseminated to FRCS while 24 percent of CDRs were disseminated to the FPF. Intelligence that is developed from a single STR is sent, in some instances to more than one law enforcement agency as it may involve suspected violations of multiple laws. Based on the CDR dissemination rates for 2021, the top two possible underlying criminal activities identified in the STRs were tax evasion and fraud and scams.

The FFIU issues Alert & Instruction Notices to financial institutions in order to protect the financial system from being used by adversely reported individuals and business entities. An Alert & Instruction Notice contains information on adversely reported individuals and/or business entities that require enhanced due diligence and scrutiny by financial institutions.

The FFIU also provides policy advice on an ad-hoc basis, as and when requested by financial institutions.

Committee Remit and Composition

The Committee is made up of five (5) Members of Parliament, three (3) are Government members and two Opposition members. According to Section 109(2) (a) the Standing Committee is responsible to look into matters related to economic development, finance, banking, and taxation.

1.3 Procedure and Programme

The Committee began its review of the Annual Report on 23 August 2023. The review process adopted by the Committee was agreed upon through consensus by the Members to review the report and a summary of this is as follows.

The Committee read through the Annual Reports and had discussions on matters that were noted by individual Members. From these discussions, a variety of issues were identified, which the Committee resolved and sought clarifications.

The Committee received submission and briefings from the following Entities:

- a) Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit and;
- b) Ministry of Trade Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises.

From the deliberations, the Committee put forth findings and recommendations based on the discussions with stakeholders and from the content of the Annual report.

Findings

The Committee noted the following:

1. There was an increase in online scams, pyramid schemes, the use of mobile money wallets and international debit cards to facilitate various online scams in 2021 and 2022.
2. In 2021 and 2022, FFIU had issued a Press Release on Cryptocurrency Trading and illegal pyramid schemes to make the public aware of the unscrupulous practices. The Committee further noted that FFIU uses the media and its website to communicate key announcements.
3. FFIU does not have a prosecutorial role nor does it have formal investigative powers to arrest and charge suspects or restrain properties. FFIU is administratively dependent on the RBF, however, the technical and core functions of the FFIU are independent of RBF.
4. FFIU provide trainings and awareness to employees of Financial Institutions as well as training and professional development for their staff through virtual and face to face mode.
5. FFIU may impose a financial fine not exceeding \$5,000 for each day when the Financial Institutions fail to comply with directives issued by FFIU.
6. FFIU has MOAs in place with several local and international stakeholders which enable them to exchange information regarding suspicious transactions or possible money laundering activities, gain direct access to FFIU database as well as seconded staff with FFIU.
7. The engagement of Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) to strengthen FFIU's information technology infrastructure to enhance the collection, analysis, and exchange of financial information.
8. FFIU analyzed 752 Suspicious Transaction Reports, provided 174 case dissemination reports to law enforcement agencies and 27 cases linked to other cases already disseminated but did not receive feedbacks on the outcome of these reports.
9. Apart from scams, tax evasions were found to be the other top possible underlying criminal activity identified in the Suspicious Transactions Report. FFIU investigated cases where businesses had not lodged their income tax returns since 2006 as well as cases where business owners had not registered their businesses with FRCS.

10. FFIU had issued formal letters of non-compliance for remitters who did not do their EFTR reporting on time and sent out notifications to at least 21 financial institutions to rectify the respective breaches.
11. The Committee commended FFIU's enforceable guidelines, specifically the issuance of new sector-specific guideline on obligations of Legal Practitioners under the FTR Act and Regulations.

Recommendations

The Committee made the following recommendations:

1. Given that most of these scams are online, FFIU must increase its online presence through various social media platforms to raise awareness.
2. Apart from releasing Press Statements, FFIU must engage in more diverse range of awareness programmes not only for Financial Institutions and related agencies, but also for the public to ensure that people are aware of their rights and responsibilities.
3. FFIU must have a more proactive role when responding to suspected cases of scams by formally notifying the designated taskforce immediately after they become aware of the possibility of suspicious activities.
4. FFIU should include its Key Performance Indicators in future reports to measure its performance.
5. FFIU must develop a feedback mechanism through amendments to the FTR Act or MOAs to ensure that feedbacks are provided for the reports they refer to other agencies.
6. FFIU should intensively collaborate with FRCS to develop strategies to reduce the number of tax evasion cases normally recorded by FFIU.
7. FFIU must impose fines on institutions who continuously breach the requirements of reporting CTRs and EFTRs instead of issuing warning letters.

Sustainable Development Goals

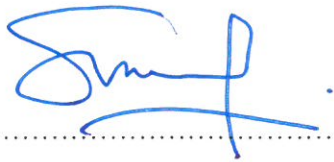
FFIU and the Sustainable Development Goals

1. The FFIU contributes to the Sustainable Development Goal 16.4 which aims to significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flow, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime by 2030.
2. In the short to medium term, our contribution to national AML/CFT goals by 2024 would include:
 - Provide proactive and supportive role in the investigation and prosecution of money laundering, fraud, corruption, tax evasion and other complex financial crimes, asset recovery and unexplained wealth cases;
 - Ensure that Fiji's "financial system" remains protected, and provide foreign investors, local businesses and ordinary Fijians a secure and safe environment to conduct their trade and financial transactions;
 - Ensure that financial institutions are fully implementing preventive customer due diligence and other measures and are reporting quality suspicious transactions and their clients to the FFIU;
 - Ensure that Fiji is fully compliant with the international AML/CFT requirements; and
 - Provide a strong platform for national and international networking & information exchange.

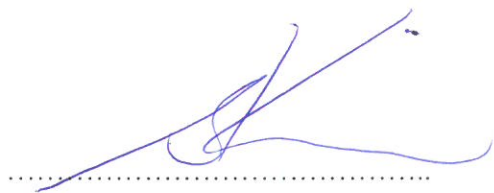
4.0 Conclusion

To conclude, the Committee is of the view that FFIU needs to work closely and effectively with other relevant stakeholders to ensure that fraudulent activities are detected and eliminated in its initial stages.

Members Signature

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Hon.Sakiusa Tubuna (Chairperson)

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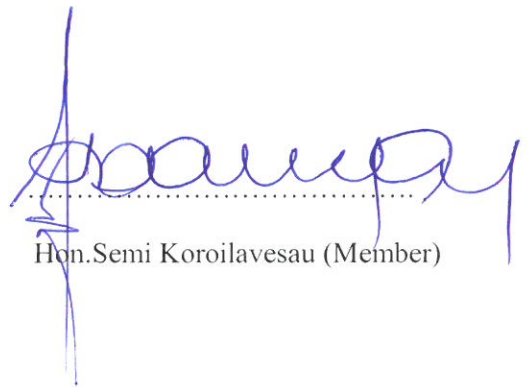
Hon. Sashi Kiran (Deputy Chairperson)

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Hon.Premila Kumar (Member)

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Hon.Tomasi Tunabuna (Member)

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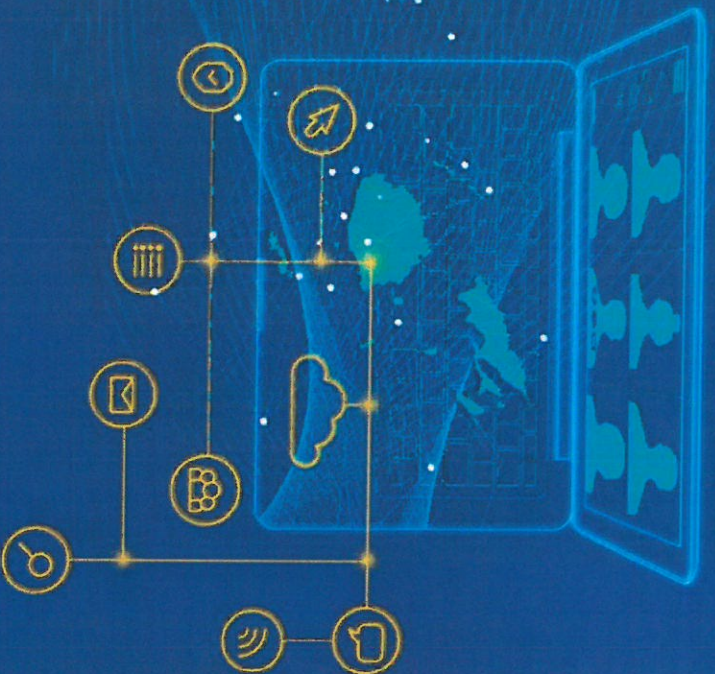
Hon.Semi Koroilavesau (Member)

ANNEXURE



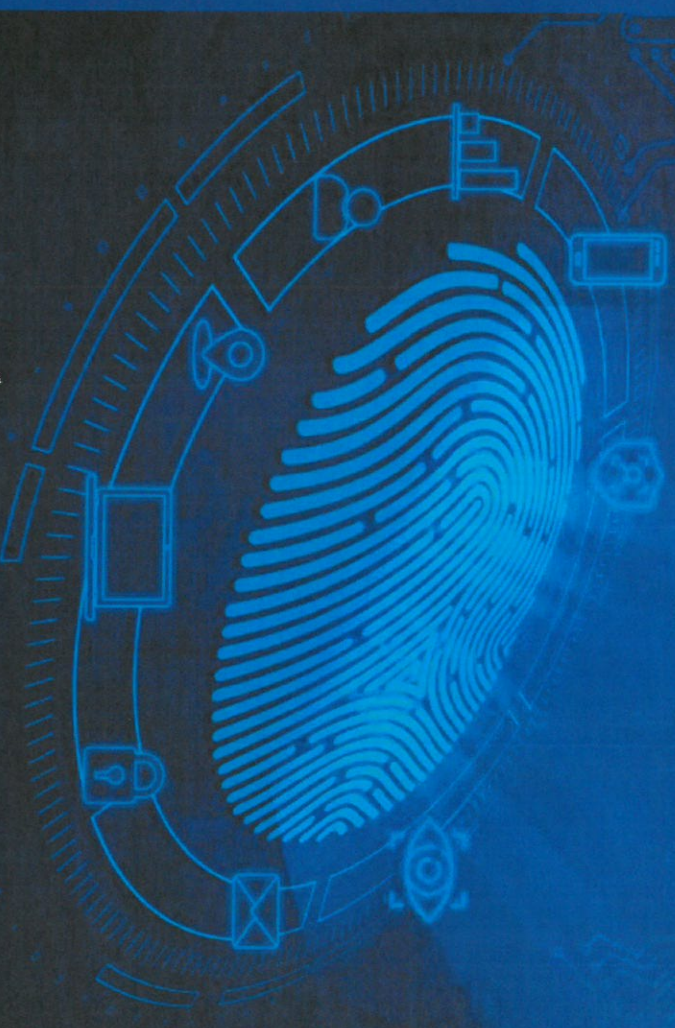
FijiFIU

Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit



FIJI FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

FIJI FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT
2022 ANNUAL REPORT



FijiFIU

Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit

Financial Intelligence Unit

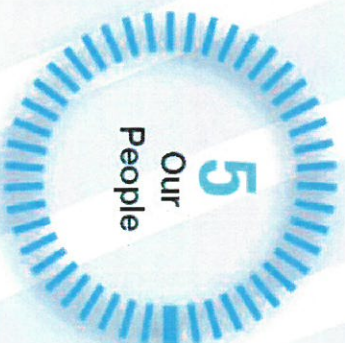
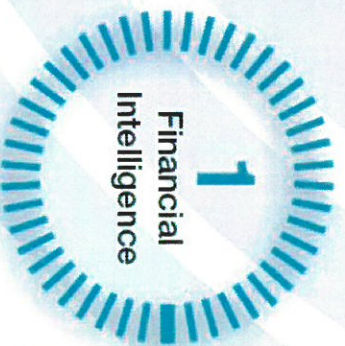
Annual Reports 2021 and 2022

Briefing to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

28 August 2023

Our Vision: **Protecting Fiji from Money Laundering**

Our Strategic Pillars:



FijifIU

Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit

Our Key Strategies:

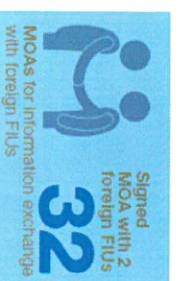
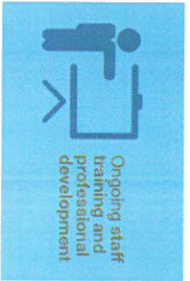
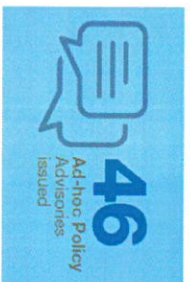
1. Develop and disseminate quality intelligence products for our stakeholders.
2. Improve the quality and use of our intelligence products.
3. Promote the understanding of money laundering risks and methods in Fiji.
4. Promote a risk based implementation of the preventive measures under the FTR Act.
5. Enhance financial institutions and businesses understanding of their obligations under the FTR Act.
6. Effectively supervise financial institutions and businesses for compliance with the FTR Act and take appropriate enforcement action in case of non-compliance.
7. Effective data reporting.
8. Develop innovative data management systems and analytic tools.
9. Improve data quality and information security.
10. Enhance our network for information sharing.
11. Strengthen relationships with domestic and international partners.
12. Provide support to international partners on AML/CFT initiatives and engagements.
13. Cultivate a skilled, motivated and high performing team.
14. Ensure corporate governance through strong internal controls and performance reporting.



FijFIU

Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit

2021 AT A GLANCE



FIU – ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS

- Established in 2006 under the FTR Act;
- National Intelligence Agency of the Fijian Government;
- Assist Government combat money laundering, terrorism financing, proliferation financing and other serious crimes;
- Role:
 - Administer the FTR Act;
 - Enforce compliance by financial institutions.

INDEPENDENCE AND FUNCTIONAL AUTONOMY OF THE FIJI FIU



Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit

FijiFIU

FIU GOVERNANCE

Minister for Justice

- Minister responsible for the FIU under the FTR Act.
- Delegated his responsibilities under the FTR Act to the Governor of the RBF in 2005.

Governor and RBF

- Responsible for the administration of the FIU under the delegation of powers from the Minister for Justice.
- Responsible for the approval of FIU annual work plan and budget.

Director FIU

- Responsible for the powers, functions and duties of the FIU as specified in the FTR Act.
- Reports directly to the Governor of the RBF.
- Advisor to Government on matters relating to combating ML and TF.

National AML Council

- Responsible for providing advice and assistance to the FIU on the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing activities in Fiji.
- Provides recommendations to the Minister and Governor on the appointment of the Director.



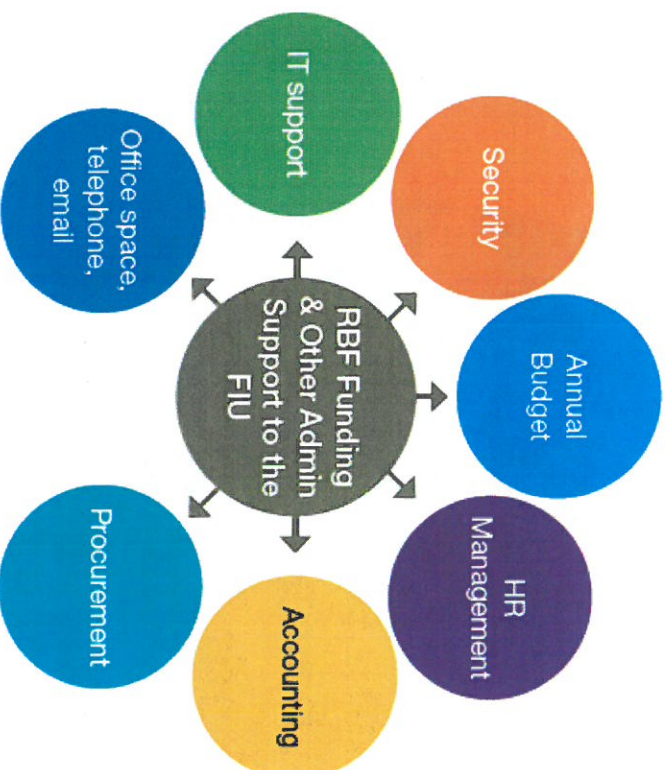
FijiFIU

Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF FIU'S FUNCTIONS



FIU – BUDGET, ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNANCE



- Administered & funded by RBF:
 - Annual operating expenditure approximately \$1 million
- RBF also provides rent free office space and provides HR, IT, Accounting and Audit services;
- Director of the FIU is appointed by the RBF Governor on the recommendation of the National AML Council;
- FIU is operationally autonomous and independent;
- Director reports to the RBF Governor in the performance of his functions.

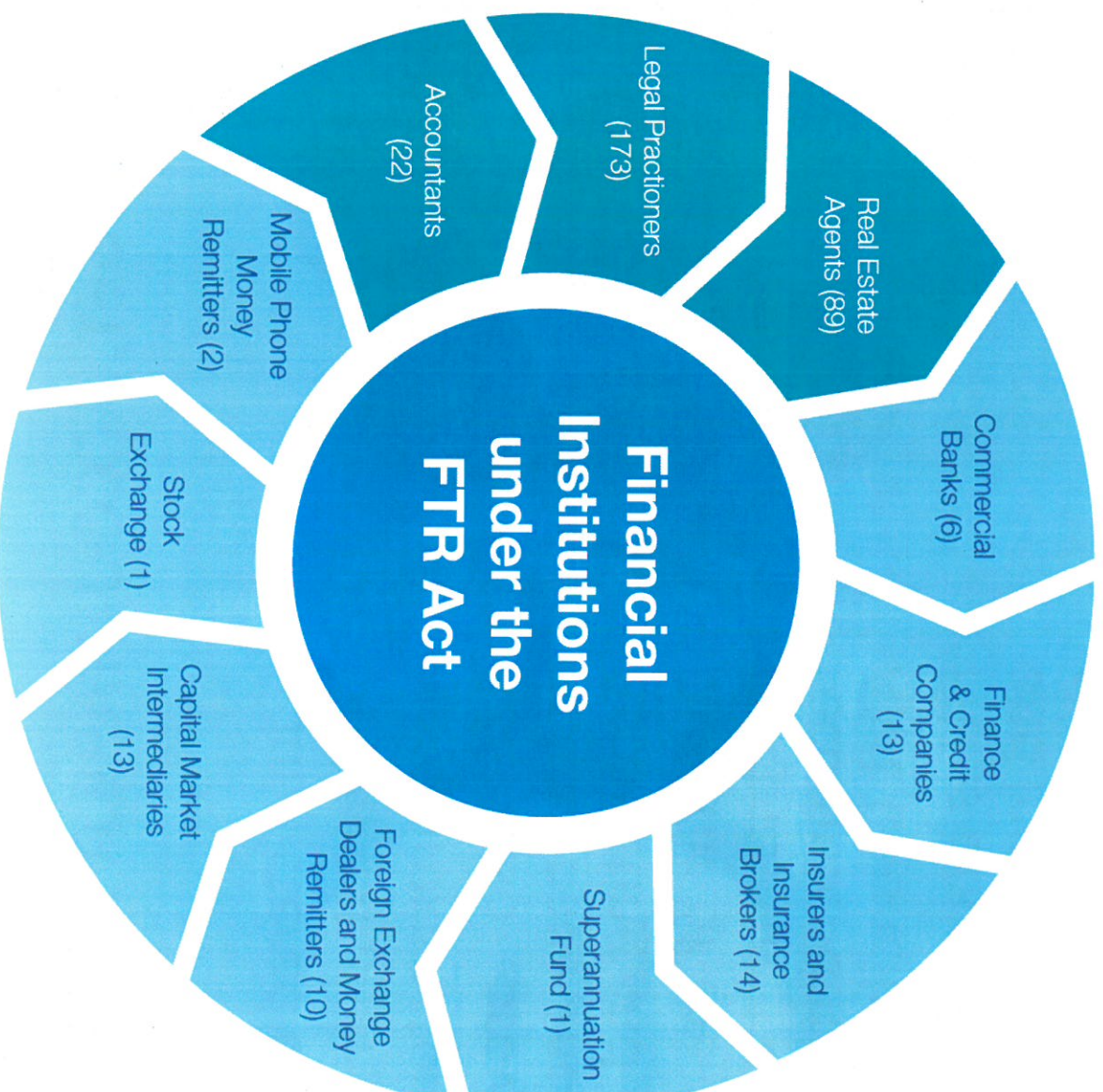


FijiFIU

Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit

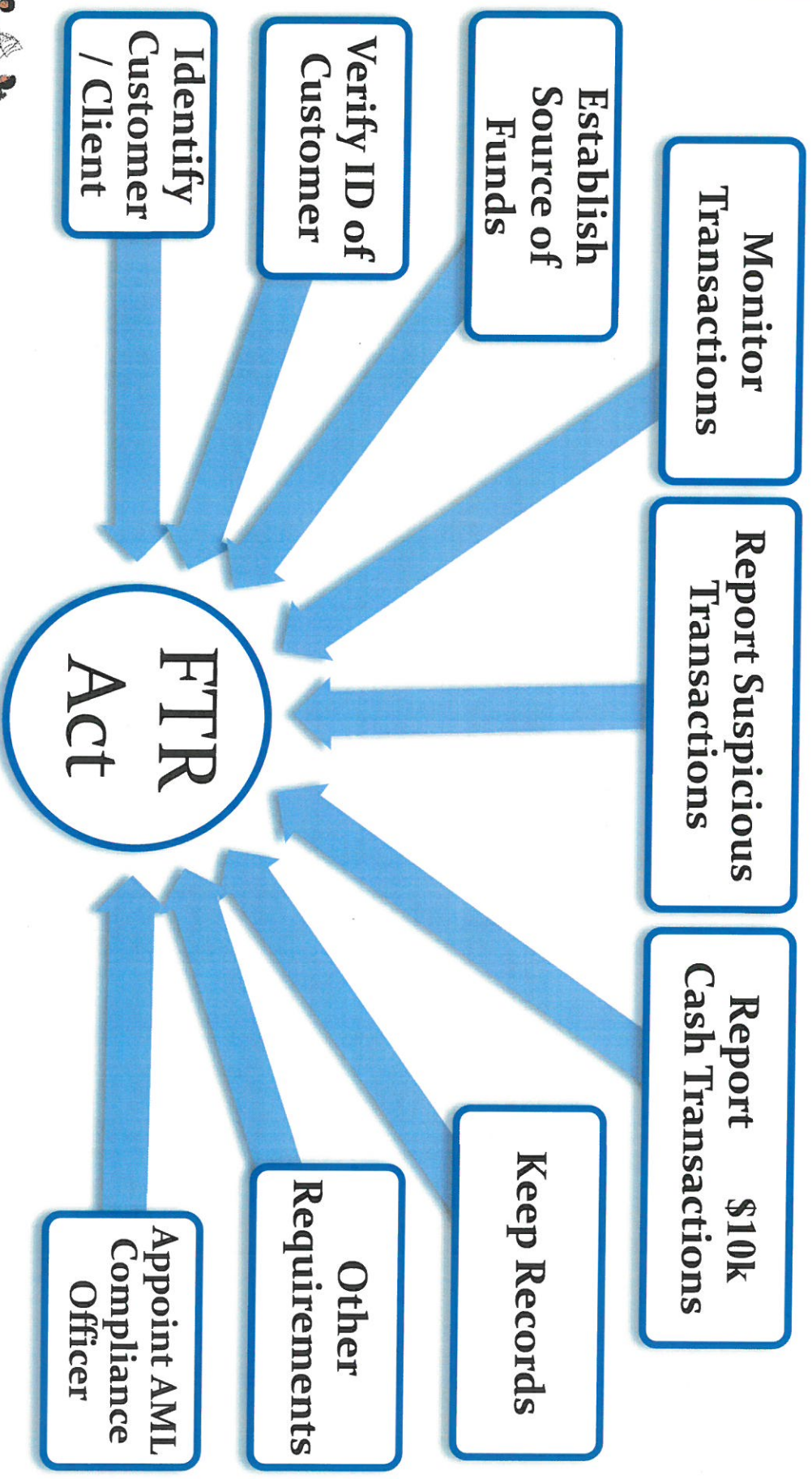
FIU ROLE: National AML Regulator

REGULATORY REACH OF THE FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS REPORTING ACT



FIU ROLE: National AML Regulator

OBLIGATIONS OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO PREVENT & DETECT MONEY
LAUNDERING & OTHER FINANCIAL CRIMES



FIU ROLE: National Financial Intelligence Agency

Financial intelligence or financial forensics is a specialised field that involves analyzing, profiling, and investigating complex financial transactions, records and data to uncover manifestation of fraud, cyber-crime, corruption, embezzlement, tax evasion, unexplained wealth, scams, money laundering and other criminal financial activities.

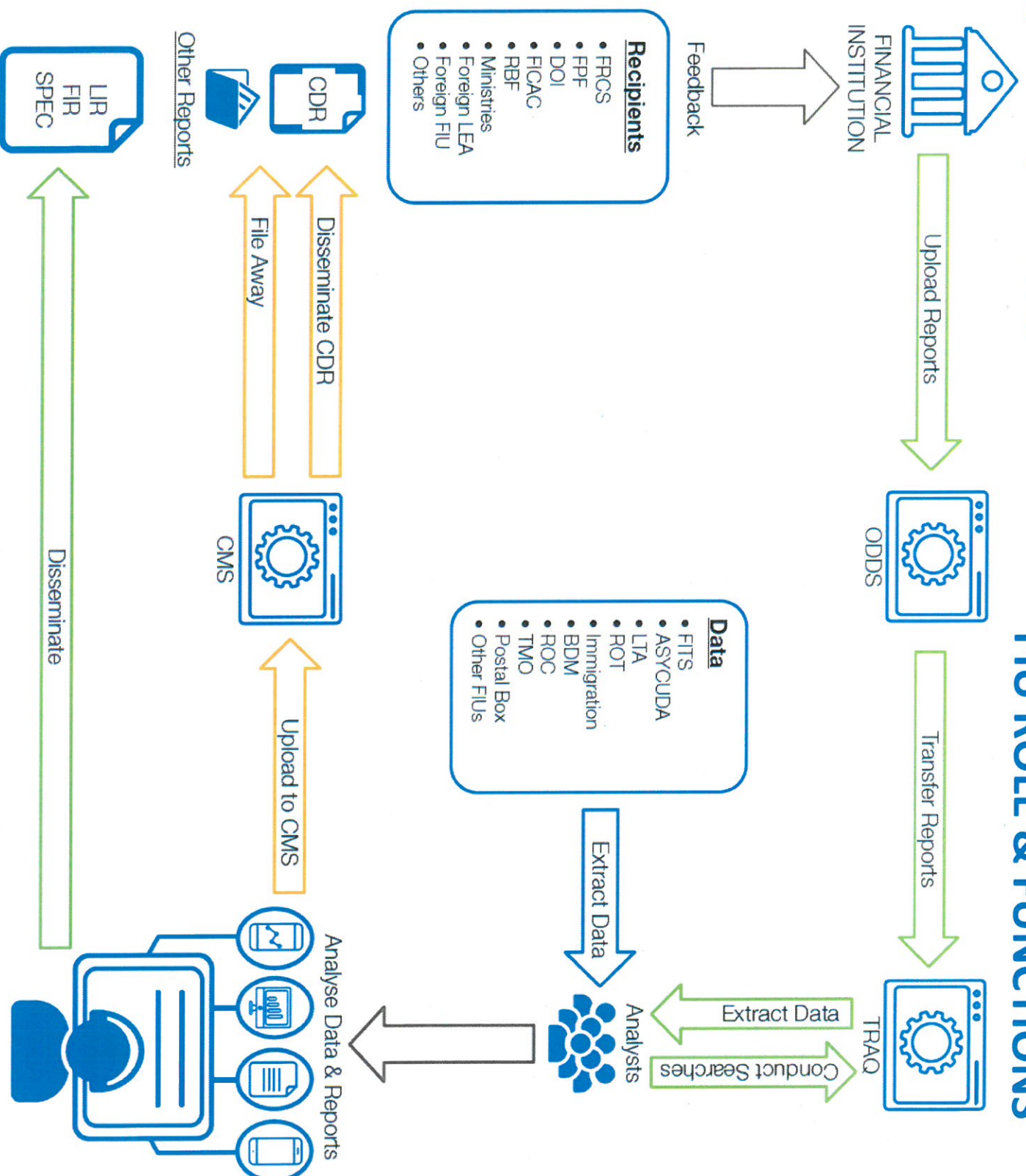
In simple terms, financial intelligence/forensics is the DNA of financial crime.

Financial intelligence/forensics is important because it plays a crucial role in upholding the integrity of Fiji's financial system, protecting customers, clients and stakeholders and ensuring prudent, transparent, fair and lawful financial practices.

Making sure that financial crime doesn't pay.

Parallel financial forensic investigation to identify and take away the proceeds of crime.

FIU ROLE & FUNCTIONS

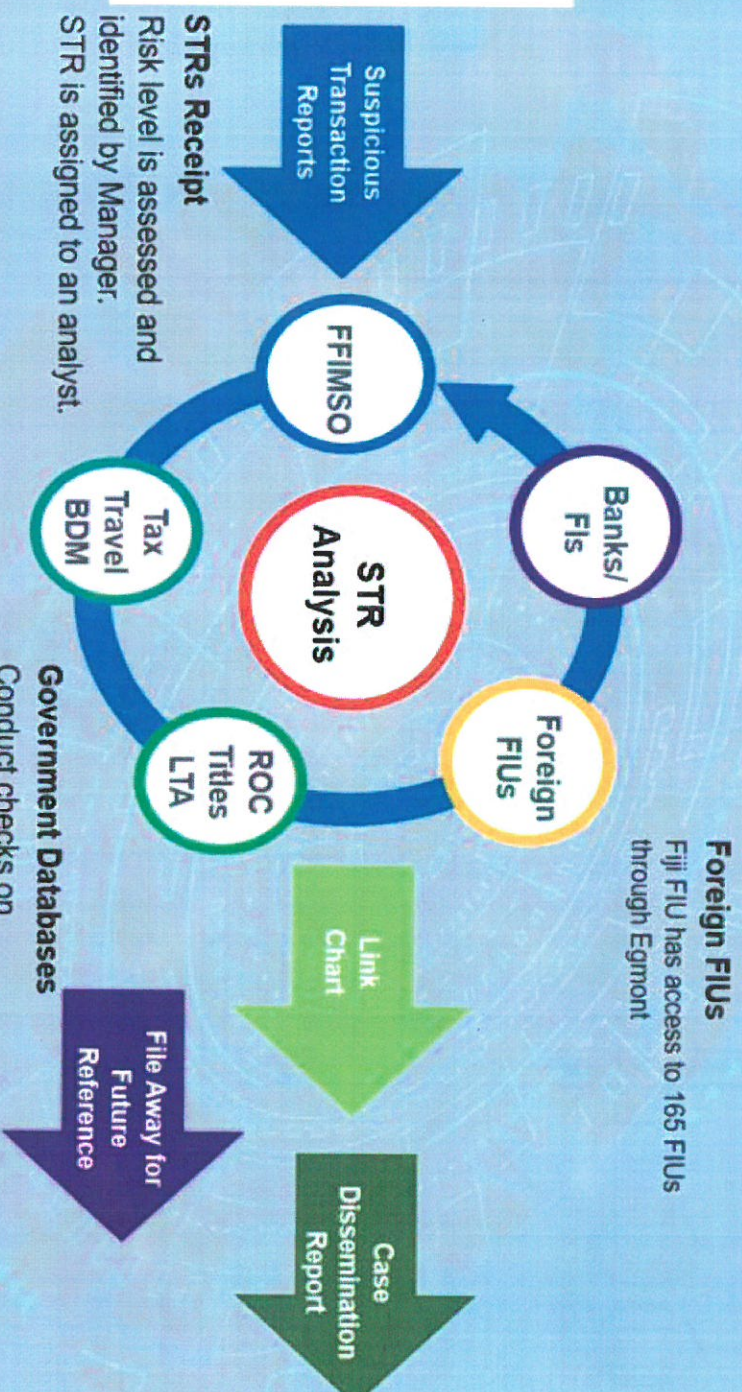


FIU ROLE & FUNCTIONS



Banks/FIs/DNFBPs

Fiji FIU can request for additional information such as bank, loan, and term deposit statements;



Foreign FIUs

Fiji FIU has access to 165 FIUs through Egmont



FijiFIU

Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit

A TYPICAL MONEY LAUNDERING SCHEME

Collection of Dirty Money

1. PLACEMENT



Dirty Money Enters
Financial System



3. INTEGRATION

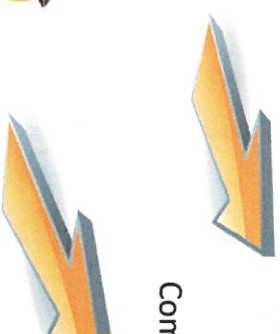


Purchase of Assets, including real
estate,
Financial Investments
Commercial / Industrial Investments

2. LAYERING



Transfer Funds between various
accounts, institutions and parties



PLACEMENT



LAYERING



Wire
transfer



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Crimes Generating Proceeds for Money Laundering in Fiji

Fiji NRA Review of Money Laundering Threats in Fiji 2020

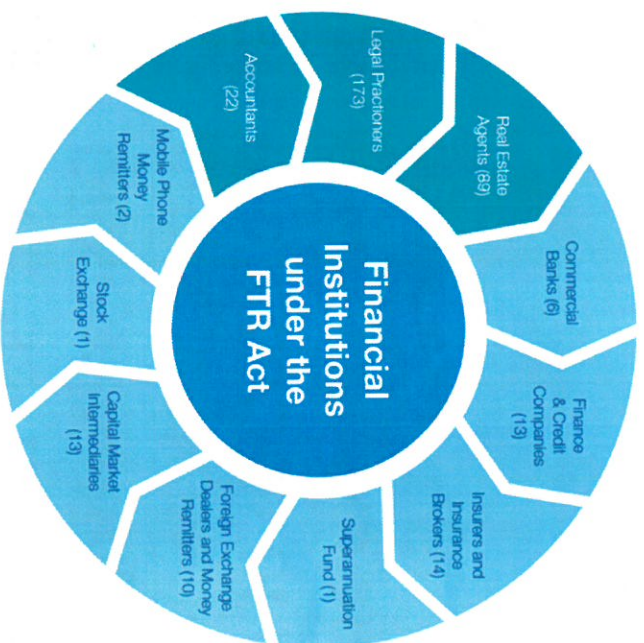
(Review period 2016-2019)



Under the Financial Transactions Reporting Act, the Fiji FIU is responsible for:

- **Collecting** suspicious transactions and activities reports;
- **Analysing** and further investigating and profiling financial transactions, persons and assets; and
- **Disseminating** intelligence to relevant law enforcement authorities for investigation and prosecution of money laundering, proceeds of crime, unexplained wealth and other predicate crimes.

FIU'S ACCESS TO FINANCIAL TRANSACTION AND RELATED INFORMATION



**FIJI REVENUE AND
CUSTOMS SERVICE**



OF FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNITS

FijFIU

Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit



Access to other information

REVISED CTR REPORTING (1 NOV 2022)

Revised FIU Policy on CTR Reporting From \$10,000 to \$5,000



Source: Fiji FIU



FijiFIU

Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit

FAILURE TO DECLARE CURRENCY

- Failure to declare currency at the border is an offence under the FTR Act. If convicted, a person is liable to a fine of up to \$60,000 or imprisonment of a maximum of 10 years or both.
- In 2022, there was one reported case of BCR non declaration, compared to nil cases in 2021.
- This case involved a passenger who was departing from Fiji for Vanuatu on 13 July and failed to declare excess foreign currency equivalent to more than FJD\$86,000. The passenger was subsequently fined \$3,750 for the breach of border currency declaration under the FTR Act.



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EFTRS RECEIVED BY SECTOR

EFTRs Received by Sector 2022



Source: Fiji FIU

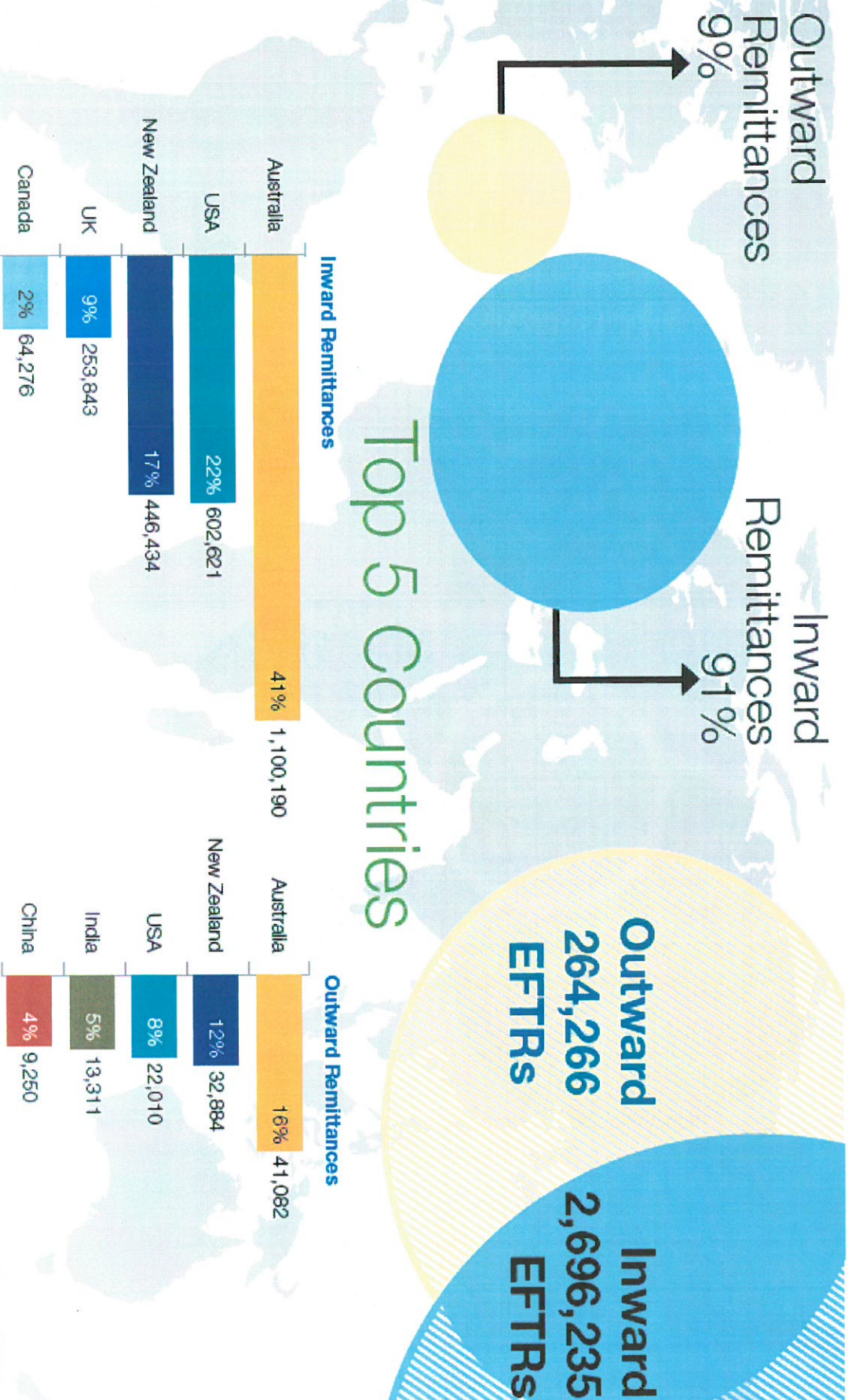
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EFTRS BY SENDING AND RECEIVING COUNTRIES

EFTRs: Top 5 Countries Conducting Inward/Outward Remittances to/from Fiji (Number of EFTRs) 2022



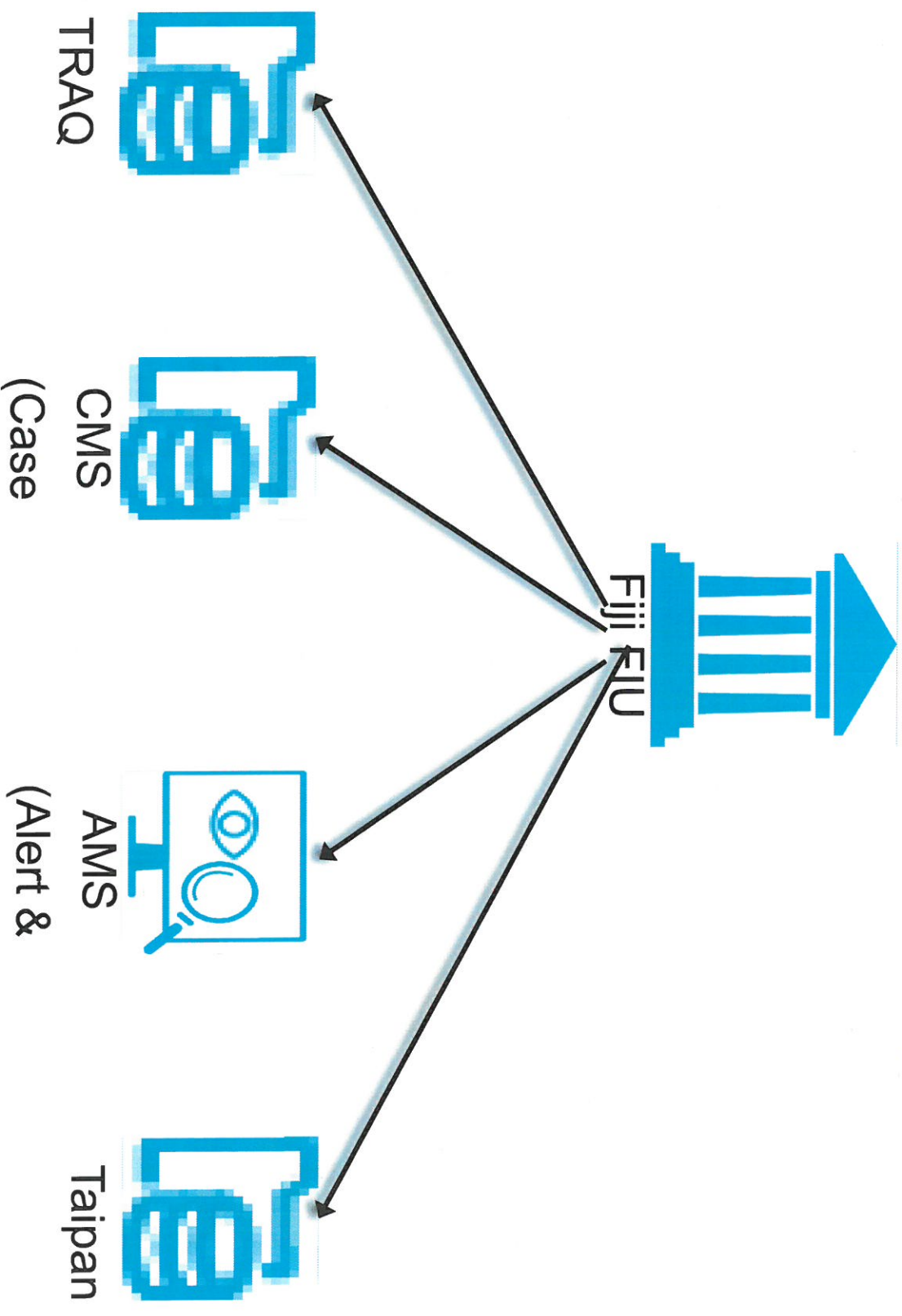
Source: Fiji FIU



Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit

FijiFIU

DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND ANALYTICAL TOOLS



FijiFIU

Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit

Management
System)

Monitoring
System)

KEY DELIVERABLES: 2021 and 2022

- Contributed to the investigation and prosecution of fraud, corruption, tax evasion and other complex financial crimes by providing timely and credible financial intelligence and information to law enforcement authorities, such as, FICAC, FRCS and the Fiji Police Force.
- Conducted background and due diligence checks on individuals and entities for Government and statutory agencies



FijIFIU

Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit

KEY DELIVERABLES: 2021 and 2022

- In its regulatory role, the FIU ensured that financial institutions (including lawyers, accountants and real estate agents) implemented preventative requirements of FTR Act
- Ensured that Fiji complies with international requirements on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism
- Contributed to national and inter-agency coordination and international networking



FijiFIU

Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit

HIGHLIGHTS 2021 and 2022

- ANALYSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION RECEIVED**

Analysed various reports of financial transactions received from Fiji's financial institutions

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Suspicious Transaction Report	622	736	261	435
Cash Transaction Report	794,044	619,987	586,382	572,269
Threshold Trans. Report	0	0	0	233,770
Electronic Fund Transfer Report	1,515,681	1,866,197	2,434,091	2,960,501
BCR	1,102	254	99	640

HIGHLIGHTS: 2021 and 2022

- **DISSEMINATED FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE**

Disseminated financial intelligence to law enforcement agencies and other government and statutory agencies

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Case Dissemination Reports	321	84	270	174	219
				17 entities 259 individuals	13 entities 359 individuals
Information Dissemination Reports	260	222	127	82	87
	1,077 entities 1,241 individuals	67 entities 318 individuals	45 entities 329 individuals	59 entities 195 individuals	30 entities 797 individuals
Due Diligence Reports	118	89	70	30	82
	95 entities 259 individuals	99 entities 162 individuals	90 entities 114 individuals	35 entities 105 individuals	82 entities 96 individuals
Outcome				286	388
				111 Entities 559 Individuals	125 Entities 1,252 Individuals



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HIGHLIGHTS: 2021 and 2022

- **VALUE OF DISSEMINATED FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE**

- Value of financial transactions in FIU case dissemination reports to law enforcement agencies

Agency	2018 (\$)	2019 (\$)	2020 (\$)	2021 (\$)	2022 (\$)
FRCS	114,060,337	12,175,316	54,216,419	46,959,343	220,888,802
Police	54,700,000	8,800,000	34,331,425	14,578,833	23,396,872
Immigration			6,707,064	8,913,246	3,763,108
FICAC	320,000		10,901,023	259,079	3,525,324
Total	169,080,337	20,975,316	106,155,931	70,710,501	251,574,106

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

- Information exchange with domestic and international partners;
- Representation in various national and international committees and working groups;
- Represent Fiji in key international forums (APG; Egmont Group).



FijiFIU

Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit

RESOURCES

9 permanent staff

3 staff on secondment (FRCS x 2; FPF x 1)

Online financial transactions reporting system;

Intelligence IT database on financial transaction management;

Access to external databases:

- Immigration;
- BDM;
- LTA;
- Company registry;
- Titles;
- Investment Fiji (indirect access);
- FRCS tax & customs database (indirect access);
- Post Fiji Ltd

Egmont Secure Web (access to 170 FIUs for international information exchange).



FijiFIU

Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit

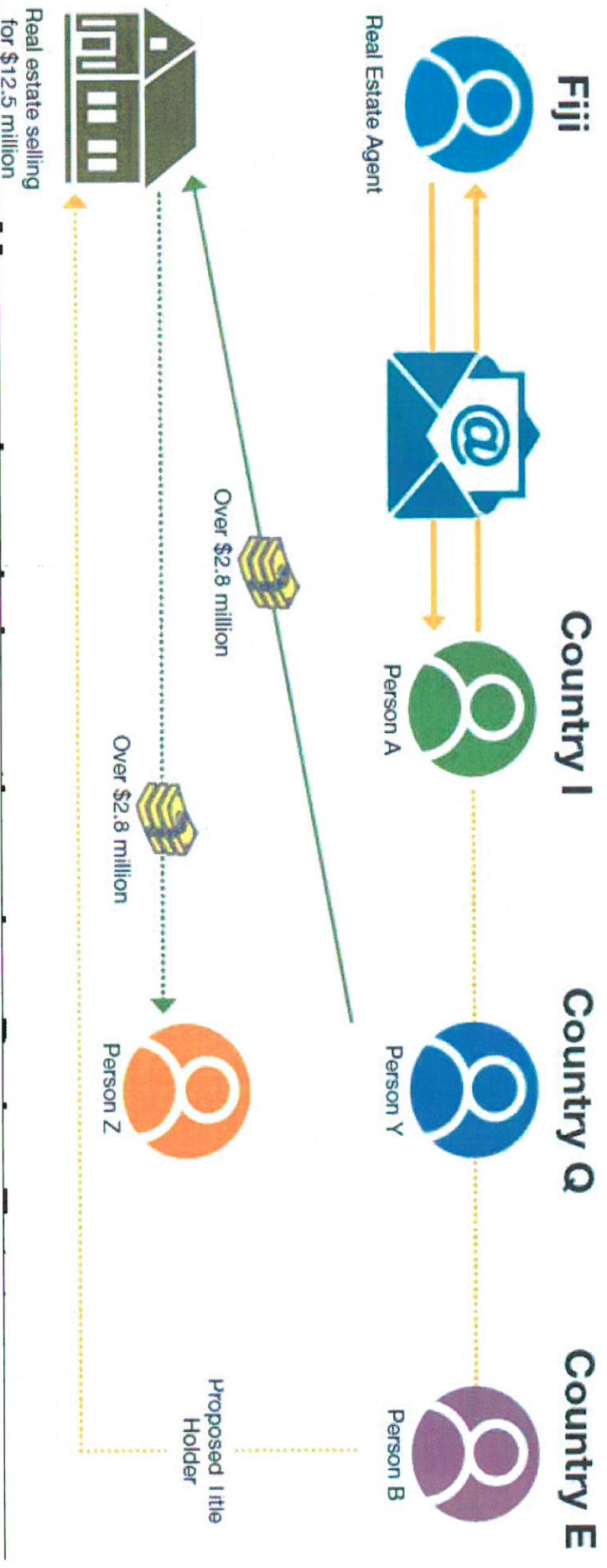
MONEY LAUNDERING CONVICTIONS

Name of Individual	Year STR was Reported	Age at the time of the offence	Year Convicted
Manoj Khera	2004	31 years old	2014
Timothy Aaron O'Keefe	2005	25 years old	2005
Monika Arora	2007	28 years old	2011
Salendra Sen Sinha	2008	30 years old	2010
Anand Kumar Prasad	2008	28 years old	2011
Deo Narayan Singh	2008	40 years old	2011
Atisna Kirti Singh	2008	23 years old	2011
Johnny Albert Stephen	2009	39 years old	2012
Doreen Singh	2009	31 years old	2013
Kacil Kushant Samy	2010	24 years old	2012
Nitesh Kumar	2016	23 years old	2016
Nirmala Devi	2011	46 years old	2012
Natasha Nilma Singh	2012	20 years old	2014
Vikash Mehta	2013	29 years old	2015
Turmoala Raoogo	2013	41 years old	2016
Fazeel Razid Ali	2015	27 years old	2016
Manjeet Singh	2014	22 years old	2017
Rajneel Chaudary	2014	23 years old	2017
Preetika Anuwesh Lata	2014	27 years old	2017
Prashil Prakash	2012	28 years old	2017
Aidong Zhang	2014 & 2016	51 years old	2019

Name of Individual	Age at the time of the offence	Year Convicted
Deepak Rajneel Kapoor	25 years old	2012
Robin Surya Subha Shyam	38 years old	2013
Fayaz Khan	38 years old	2013
Savita Singh	32 years old	2015
Chris Ronil Singh	38 years old	2015
Mukeshwar Narayan Singh	21 years old	2016
Sakusa Velkarwa	31 years old	2016
Josefa Saganawere	41 years old	2016
Saveraca Balbawa	47 years old	2016
Katarine Gounden Fiu	31 years old	2016
Vika Sadrau	34 years old	2018
Rahul Rajan Naidu	28 years old	2018
Avenal Dandford	29 years old	2018
Rimokshni Ranigal	30 years old	2018
Roshneen Praveena Raj	42 years old	2018
Rine Muniyal Sorby	54 years old	2018
Nousheen Mezbien Hussain	25 years old	2019

Continued on page 11

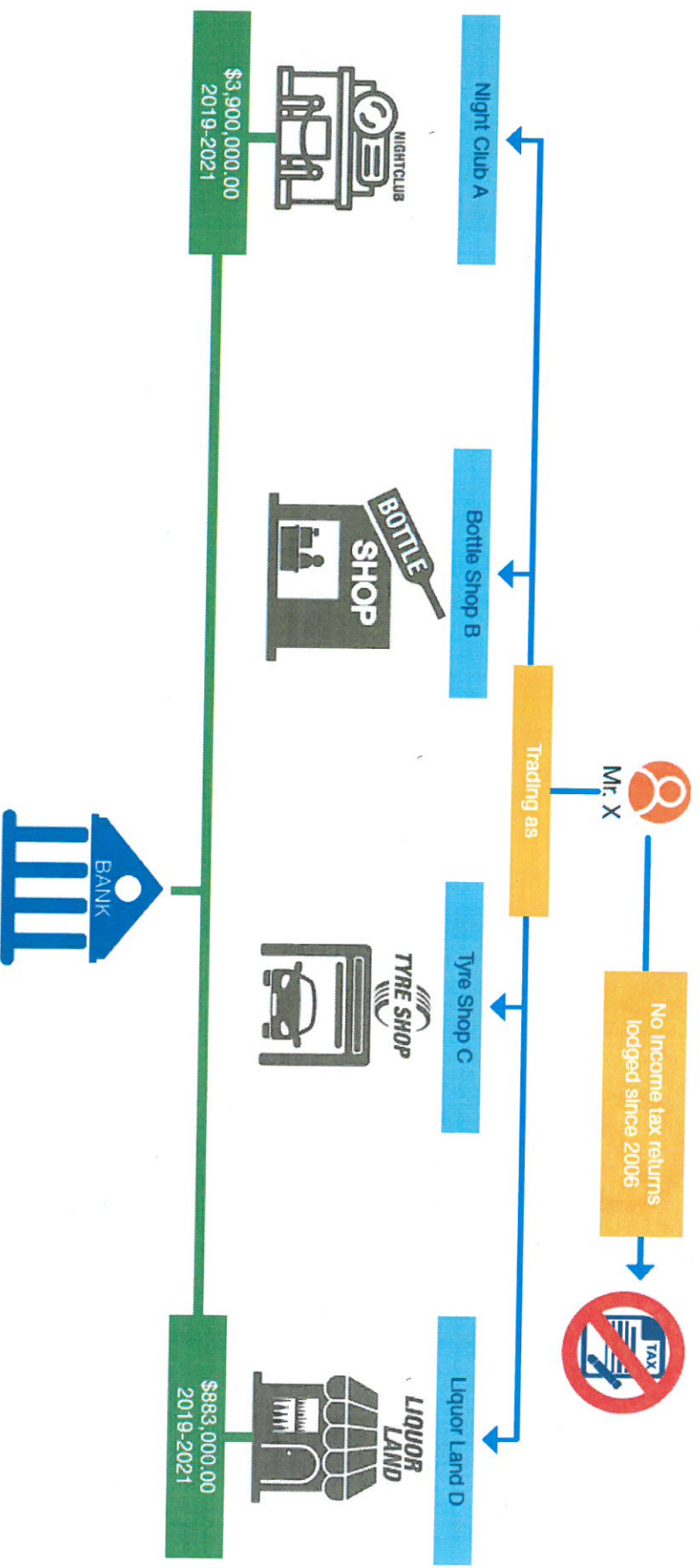
CASE STUDY – REAL ESTATE



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CASE STUDY – NIGHT CLUB



OUTCOMES

CRIME & COURT | SUNBIZ

Chinese Businessman Charged With Multiple Counts Of Fraud Given Suspended Jail Sentence

Zhang was convicted of one count of obtaining property by deception and a count of money laundering.

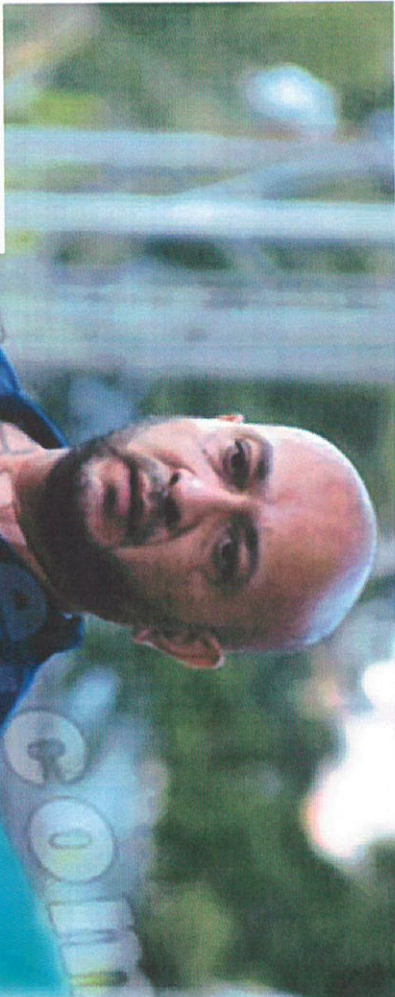
By Ilajila Ravuwai

01 Nov 2019 10:28



Musa sentenced to four years in NZ

August 14, 2023 7:59 pm



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3 Chinese Nationals Front Court

Three Chinese nationals charged with money laundering appeared at the Suva Magistrates Court yesterday. Wang Huanan, Xuhuan Yang and Guangsen Wang appeared before Magistrate Valere George. The charges were supposed

By Agela Susu, Suva

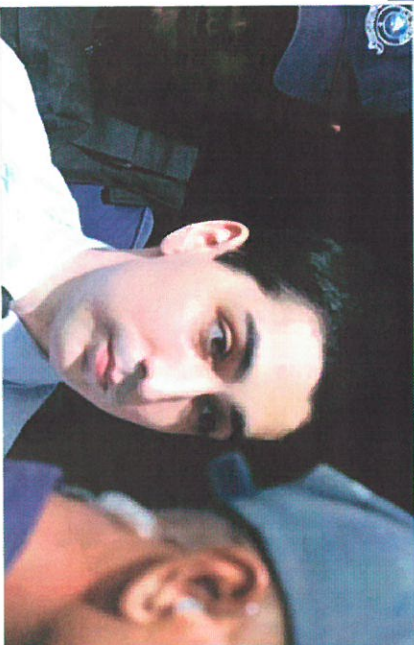
05 Feb 2016 10:17



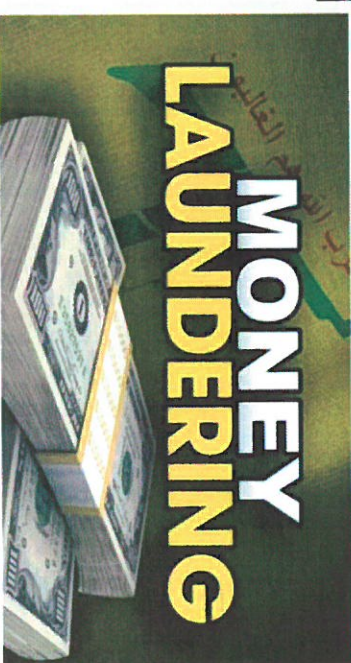
Rahman found guilty after being found with \$31 million worth of cocaine in Caubati

By Semi Turaga

Friday 15/04/2021



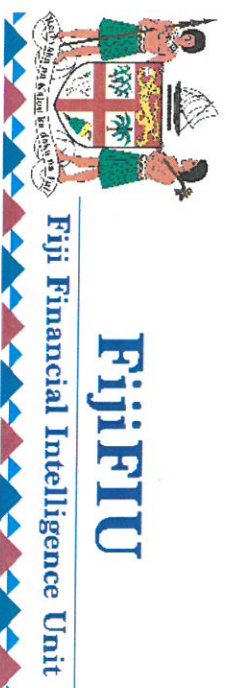
Canadian national Joshua Aziz Rahman



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Our Contribution to National AML/CFT Goals by 2024



Investigation and prosecution of money laundering, fraud, corruption, tax evasion and other complex financial crimes, asset recovery and unexplained wealth cases

100%
compliance with international AML/CFT requirements



Fiji's "financial system" remains protected. Provide foreign investors, local businesses and ordinary Fijians a secure and safe environment to conduct their trade and financial transactions.



Full implementation of preventive customer due diligence and other measures; timely & quality reporting of suspicious transactions and clients to the FIU

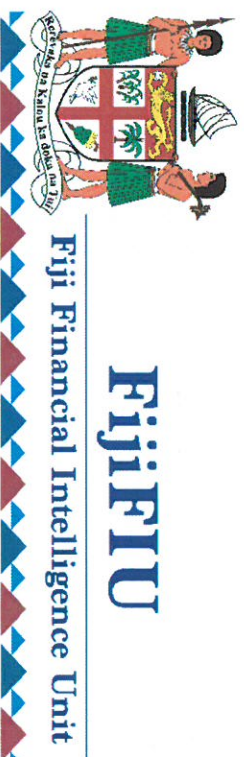


Strong national and international networking & information exchange



Please visit our website for more information

<https://www.fijifiu.gov.fj/>



THANK YOU!

