



2019 – 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Parliamentary Paper No. 48/2024



**PARLIAMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF FIJI**



ABOUT THIS REPORT

This Annual Report highlights the results of targeted Parliament activities contributing to the achievement of our strategic objectives over the 2019–2020 reporting year. This is benchmarked against the targets published in our Operational Plan and Strategic Plan 2018–2022.

This report including the financial statements and audit report will be made available on the Parliament’s website at www.parliament.gov.fj.

REFERRAL LETTER

Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum
Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications
Office of the Attorney-General
Level 7 Suvavou House
Victoria Parade
SUVA

RE: 2019–2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in forwarding to you the Annual Report (**‘Report’**) on the operations of the Parliament of Fiji for the period 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020.

The Report highlights the Parliament’s performance and achievement in delivering services to the Honourable Speaker of Parliament, the Honourable Members of Parliament and the Fijian people, as reflected in the Parliament’s Operational Plan and Strategic Plan 2018–2022.

This Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Management Act 2004 and encapsulates the commitment and diligence of all staff in Parliament.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Viniana Namosimalua".

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Viniana Namosimalua (Mrs)
Acting Secretary-General to Parliament



FOREWORD: HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

I am pleased to accept the annual report for the Fijian Parliament for the year ending 31 July 2020 – a year that was dominated by the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

As the challenges of 2020 presented, the Fijian Parliament was adaptive and agile, and successfully ensured democracy continued in the face of such enormous disruption. In fact, the Parliament did far more than simply manage during the pandemic. The Honourable Members and staff used the opportunities of 2020 to innovate, by rolling out new and modern procedures and practices relating to the operations of Parliament.



As part of the amended and limited sitting arrangements, various new protocols were introduced to facilitate adapted processes. With containment and physical distancing restrictions applied, Parliament adopted various digital solutions to ensure parliamentary work continued. When the public galleries were closed, the Parliament live-streamed all Parliament proceedings on TV and on social media platforms.

The cancellation of public tours prompted the development of online content that were shared on digital platforms. Committees were also significantly impacted, and quickly transitioned hearings and meetings to virtual platforms. The live-streaming of Parliament sittings and Committee hearings presented a COVID-safe opportunity for citizens to stay in touch and up-to-date with the proceedings of Parliament.

The introduction of digital solutions presented significant benefits for people in remote and rural areas, as they were able to be connected and engaged with Parliament. Most importantly, the safety and health of all Honourable Members and staff was paramount, and I thank everyone for adhering to the COVID-safe restrictions and protocols that ensured a safe working environment.

I commend the Acting Secretary-General to Parliament and her team for their hard work, dedication and swift responses to a challenging year. I likewise acknowledge the Honourable Members, and our development partners in their commitment to our democracy despite trying circumstances. We will all continue to deliver on the strategic priorities of the Parliament. There are many exciting projects already underway, and I look forward to seeing them delivered accordingly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Epeli Nailatikau'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a dotted line.

H.E Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau
Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji



STATEMENT: SECRETARY-GENERAL TO PARLIAMENT

I am pleased to present this report on the Parliament's operations, and I hope it is of interest to Honourable Members, the public and our other stakeholders.

Like many people, I reflect on the year with incredulity about how straightforward it now seems. The COVID-19 pandemic had altered virtually every aspect of parliamentary work. After a brief period in March where the Parliament contemplated putting various projects on hold, we chose instead to find ways to keep delivering services and supporting Members and the community, rather than waiting for life to return to normal.

With much effort behind the scenes, Parliament and Committee sittings quickly moved to online or hybrid meetings and hearings; the Civic Education and Media team adapted its work and delivered content through television and social media platforms; and the rest of the Parliamentary staff adapted processes for the COVID-19 environment.

Our move to digital service delivery would have been impossible without the hard work and diligence of our colleagues in the Information Communications and Technology Unit who had provided the necessary infrastructure and training to enable a relatively seamless transition.

I also acknowledge the support from the UNDP Fiji Parliament Support Project ('FPSP'). The UNDP FPSP is generously funded by the governments of Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

The momentum of service delivery during this challenging times continued unabated with much of our processes being migrated on to electronic and online platforms. Numerous smaller projects including refurbishment of Member offices, meeting rooms, services and amenities within the Parliamentary precincts were also completed.

COVID-19 has undoubtedly tested the institution's resilience and ability to operate, with the ability to continue delivering services being tested. Our management team convened early in the pandemic, continued to meet throughout, and has now morphed into an ongoing Manager's forum, enabling agile decision making and response to a rapidly evolving situation.

The digitisation strategy being pursued for the last four years enabled us to rapidly deploy the systems and infrastructure needed to support Honourable Members and staff to work remotely and to socially distance. Parliament's sittings were restructured requiring novel arrangements for *Hansard* and broadcasting (live-streaming) operations.

Committee hearings rapidly moved to a digital format with options for fully remote meetings. The trust, collaboration and positive attitude of Honourable Members and staff ensured that the opportunities provided by our digital approach were taken up very quickly, with little warning, and in many cases without being exposed to these systems beforehand. The experience gave us many learning opportunities and potential to improve access to our democratic process, resilience in adverse conditions and improved service delivery by adopting the right digital strategies.





Significant investment went into dealing with cyber and physical security risks, training and development and community engagement activities. The day to day, often invisible, service delivery that keeps infrastructure available, systems and networks operating, information flowing and the lights on, continued uninterrupted. Throughout the year, all areas of the parliamentary services continued to achieve high levels of customer satisfaction which is credit to the skill, professionalism, commitment and dedication of our staff. For this, I thank them most sincerely.

As I look to the year ahead, it is clear that the challenges of COVID-19 will be with us for some time to come. If Honourable Members require Parliament to do its business differently in response to the challenges of COVID-19, there are options available. Hybrid sittings to allow limited remote participation have occurred in comparable jurisdictions, and our Committees have already demonstrated how effectively they can meet remotely using technology. The work of Parliament can and must continue during the pandemic.

Finally, none of the achievements outlined in this report would be possible without the hard work and innovation of the Fijian Parliament staff. It is rewarding for me to work with people who are always prepared to look at problems from different angles, and be open to new ideas. We have spent time in the last year considering what sort of team we want to be, and we are keen to demonstrate that every day.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Viniana Namosimalua".

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Viniana Namosimalua (Mrs)
Acting Secretary-General to Parliament



The Fijian Parliament

Who we are

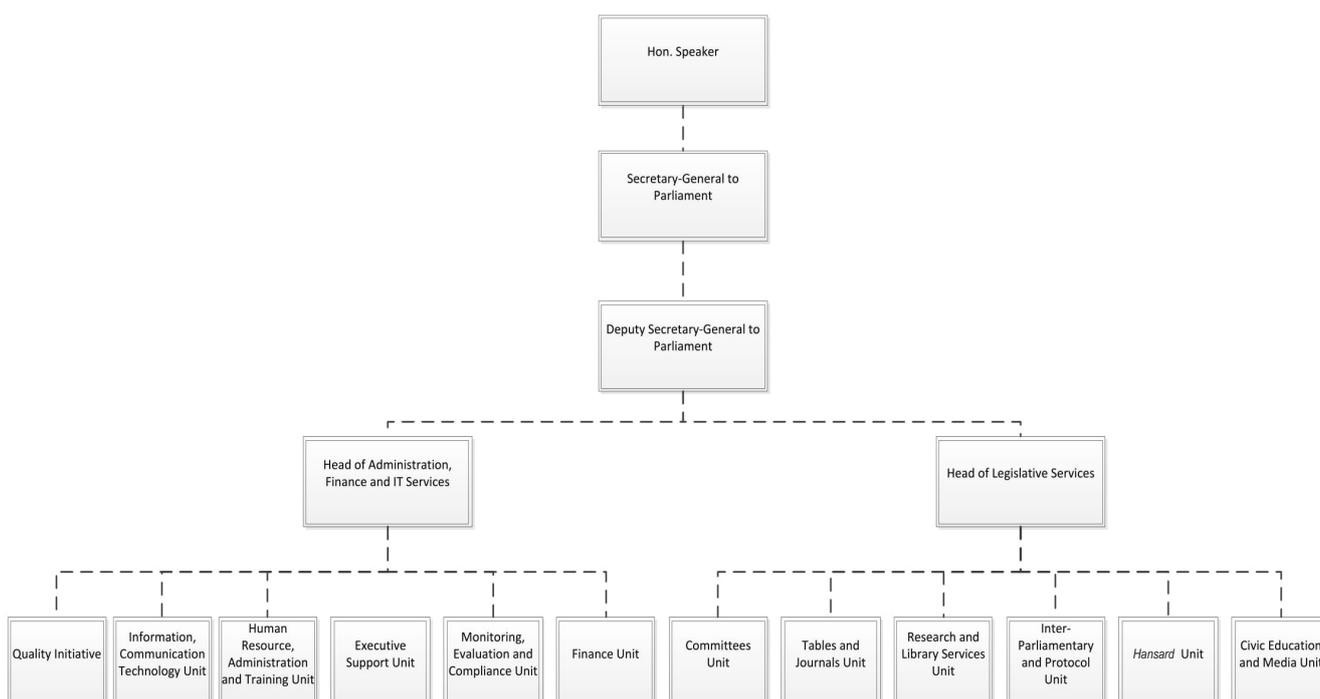
The Parliament of the Republic of Fiji is a unicameral legislature comprising 51 members (after the 2018 general election and subject to change in future elections) elected by an open-list proportional representation in one multi-member nationwide constituency. Its responsibilities include law-making, representation and holding the Government to account.

Parliament is supported by staff who provide procedural support and advice to Members along with a wide range of essential services that facilitate the work of the Parliament. The Secretary-General is the Head of the Parliament Secretariat and is responsible to the Speaker for the efficient, effective and economical management of Parliament.

Our Vision and Mission



Our structure





What we do

The Parliament of Fiji secretariat supports our democratic process in many ways by delivering on activities to –

- ensure the effective functioning of Parliament and its Committees;
- support Members in fulfilling all their parliamentary roles; and
- facilitate access to the Parliament precincts and information about the role and function of Parliament

In doing so, the secretariat performs the following key functions –

- provide support and expert advice to Honourable Members, members of the public and stakeholders;
- provide support, policy and procedural advice to the Speaker;
- provide *Hansard* support to Members;
- establish and strengthen relations with other Parliaments;
- undertake awareness on the role of Parliament;
- liaise closely with Permanent Secretaries with respect to questions, motions and other matters raised during Parliament proceedings; and
- increase the institutional capacity of the secretariat in its service delivery.

Parliament’s Strategic Priorities

1. Respect for the relevance and independence of Parliament



2. An effective Parliament with exceptionally capable people



3. Sustainable service delivery through operational excellence



4. ICT to facilitate the services of Parliament



5. Extensive engagement and effective communication





Strategic Priority 1. Respect for the relevance and independence of Parliament

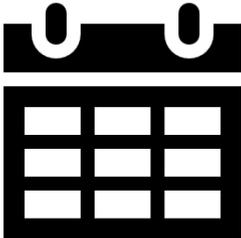
Ensuring the smooth running of the plenary

The secretariat ensures that relevant documents and parliamentary papers are prepared well in advance along with the provision of appropriate advice to ensure proceedings are conducted in accordance with accepted parliamentary practices provided for under the Standing Orders of the Parliament.

During the year, the Tables and Journals Unit delivered high quality secretariat support and timely and accurate advice to the Members of Parliament and their staff across 34 sitting days. This support involved the timely preparation of Order Papers and necessary documentation ahead of the sitting days and the official Minutes after the adjournment. During the 2019–2020 period, the Unit provided support to 11 Select Committee meetings with 4 meetings facilitated for the Privileges Committee and 7 meetings facilitated for the Business Committee.

During the 2019–2020 period, the Committees Unit delivered

The support also extended to the analysis of data collected in the plenary to determine the level of integration of the SDGs and potential use of essential data for future SDG related programmes and activities. From November 2019–May 2020, a total of 113 SDG related questions were tabled in the House with the primary focus on SDG 8 “Decent Work and Economic Growth” and SDG 9 “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure”. The analysis was expanded to illustrate the total number of SDG questions as a percentage of the total questions asked in the House. A significant improvement was shown from 2016, which determined that capacity-building undertaken for Members and staff was producing results and opening up areas to explore in relation to holding the Government to account on achieving the Global Goals by 2030.

SMOOTH RUNNING OF THE PLENARY	
	34 sitting days
	152 Parliamentary Questions
	36 Acts of Parliament enacted
	100% delivery of <i>Hansard</i> Reports for all sitting days



Further, the Tables and Journals Unit administered the tabling of questions from the Caucus and provided procedural advice to the Speaker and Members of Parliament. This support resulted in the effective scrutiny of the Government and the enactment of 36 Acts. In this period, the plenary saw the passage of 6 treaties through the ratification process embracing and ensuring the institution's international obligations and commitments to its people. This is all in addition to the administration of the ordinary and extraordinary COVID-19 budgets, which were implemented during the 2019–2020 period.

Challenging and improving Government policy through Committee scrutiny

The role that oversight and scrutiny can play in holding the Government to account makes it fundamentally important to the successful functioning of a parliamentary democracy. Effective Committee scrutiny has significant potential to improve the effectiveness of Government and shaping the way Government executes its business.

The Parliament of Fiji Committees Unit aims to provide timely and accurate advice as well as high quality secretariat support to the Parliament's Committees. During this period, the Unit supported almost 500 Committee meetings, 64 public consultations and 19 site visits, spanning across the country including the maritime islands (in the final quarter of the year site visits were no longer possible). During this period, despite the effects of the pandemic, the Committees utilised online and virtual forums to ensure that its role of oversight and representation continued. Parliament ensured its political and social obligations by making Parliament accessible and accountable through this process. The Committees engaged with CSOs, Government agencies and public consultations saw 120 submittees from all walks of life, gender, ethnic and religious backgrounds. The Committees secretariat also provided expert procedural and legal advice to the Committees. The *Hansard* Unit produced 68 verbatim reports for the Standing Committee meetings. At the end of this period, the Standing Committees tabled 40 reports on Government agency annual reports, 6 reports on treaties and conventions, 1 Select Committee report and 1 report on a Bill.

Active participation in inter-parliamentary networks

The Fijian Parliament actively engaged with counterparts from other Parliaments and other stakeholders. An important approach for the Fijian Parliament in engaging with other countries was through its partnership agreements with other Parliaments and institutions. This year, the Fijian Parliament entered into key partnership with the Parliaments of Georgia (March 2019) and New Caledonia (November 2019).

The Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Protocol Unit facilitated 21 bilateral meetings with representatives from the Parliaments of New Zealand and Indonesia, with Ambassadors from Europe and the USA and with business leaders from Hong Kong. The Unit also co-ordinated visits for the Speaker and Members for local and overseas engagements, including annual conferences hosted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Asian Caribbean Pacific and European Union (ACP-EU), and the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF).

A key highlight for the Fijian Parliament was its hosting of the Fifth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health at the Pullman Resort in Nadi, Fiji, from 20 to 22 August 2019. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Speaker at the time, with support from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Western Pacific. The meeting was attended by 49 parliamentarians from 20 countries. The meeting aimed to enhance the role of parliamentarians in addressing the health impacts of climate change. In addition, the Fijian Parliament hosted the CPA Public Accounts Committee Workshop (February 2019) and the 1st Pacific Women in Power Forum (March 2019).



Strategic Priority 2. An effective Parliament with exceptionally capable people

An effective and diverse workforce

Parliament will only be effective if it is supported by a capable secretariat. The Fijian Parliament had 86 staff, 74 of whom were established staff and the remaining 12 were Government Wage Earners. Over half of the Parliament's staff are female (55%). The Parliament is committed to the continuing development of these staff to equip them with the skills and capabilities to be responsive and solutions-oriented in supporting Members.

The Human Resources and Training Unit implemented and reviewed its Training Plan to adapt to the ongoing pandemic. Under the plan, the Unit successfully facilitated overseas training for staff, 33% female/67% male. Overseas training also included courses that formed part of McGill University's Professional Development Certificate in Parliamentary Management, which focused on a structured programme for parliamentary staff. In the final quarter of the year, the pandemic impacted the Unit's ability to facilitate both overseas training and some local training. In response to the challenges presented by the pandemic, the Unit explored training options offered online and as a result facilitated virtual trainings for Parliament staff. A notable achievement for the Fijian Parliament was its participation in the first ever Parliament Administration Conference which was hosted virtually by Parliament of New South Wales and attended by Parliaments in Australia, New Zealand and across the Pacific.

Professional development of MPs

The Parliament does not just support staff development. Through a focus on supporting the professional development of MPs, the Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Protocol Unit implemented training for MPs with the support of the UNDP Fiji Parliament Support Project on parliamentary oversight of human rights, mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals as well as key development issues. Given Parliament's role in advocating gender equality, nominations to trainings and conferences were always based on gender balance.

One of the key trainings in 2019 was the professional development training undertaken by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament the Hon. Veena Bhatnagar. This was part of the Fijian Parliament's advocacy of empowerment of women leaders and women in politics. The training was supported by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and UNDP in the Pacific.

The Fijian Parliament, in support of its women Members and its achievement towards SDGs 5 and 16, co-ordinated 3 overseas trainings and study visits to strengthen women's role and their representation in the political arena. Within this reporting period, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Fiji Group was formed, stamping its mark in the region and ensuring a clearer, louder voice for women MPs and aspiring women politicians.

Understanding the Members' core role of oversight, and the importance of shared experiences, the Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Protocol Unit, in collaboration with the UNDP Fiji Parliament Support Project, co-ordinated 4 overseas trainings for Members of the Standing Committees for Public Accounts and Foreign Affairs and Defence. In 2020, the Unit began testing virtual applications as the COVID-19 pandemic progressed and MPs and staff were mandated to adhere to COVID-safe protocols and regulations.

Strategic Priority 3. Sustainable service delivery through operational excellence

Provision of timely research and information to Members

Research and information can help MPs scrutinise Government policy, debate pressing issues of the day, pass laws and help to answer queries from constituents or address issues in their local area.

Despite the challenges faced with the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Research and Library Services Unit continued to provide timely and quality research support to the MPs, Executive Management and secretariat.

Over the course of the year, the research unit provided 79 briefs to MPs, eight speaking notes and five Bill digests for consequential Bills. One area of major development in the research unit's offering has been around the provision of budget analysis, with almost double the number of budget briefs published in 2019–2020 than in the previous three years. In this latterly COVID-affected year, the research unit provided budget

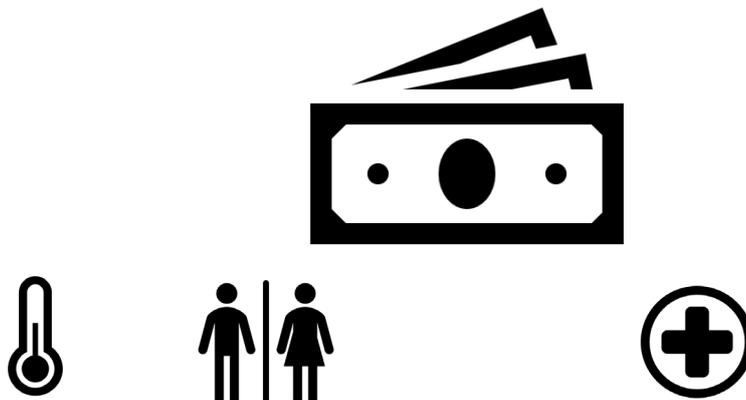


briefings ahead of the consideration of the 2020–2021 budget in July 2020. For this, the team innovated and prepared thematic area briefings on Climate Change, Gender and Health, with a focus on COVID-19. The Unit also prepared budget briefings on the supplementary budget submitted in March 2020 as a response to the impacts of COVID-19.

In its efforts, concerning the promotion of representation as a role of Parliament, especially among women MPs, the secretariat has been instrumental in the facilitation of secretariat support for the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Fiji Group which primarily focused on the advocacy of women’s empowerment in Fiji. This special grouping of all the women MPs in Parliament was also affiliated with the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). For this reporting period, the CWP Fiji Group convened 3 meetings with the finalisation of their Terms of Reference and Work Plan to ensure the effective and efficient execution of activities.

The Fijian Parliament, in partnership with the NZ Parliament secretariat, was also instrumental in providing support for the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) Group, a regional parliamentarian group chaired by the Regional Champion, Hon. Viam Pillay, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs in the Fijian Parliament. For this reporting period, the CPwD convened one (1) regional meeting, purchased equipment for the sign language interpreters in the Fijian Parliament and participated in the CPwD Conference in Canada.

Innovative budget analysis



Led by the Research and Library Services Unit, the team prepared 40 briefings detailing the trends in allocations over a 5-year period for each spending unit (Head) with details of major budget allocations, other budget allocations and initiatives that impacts the Head. In addition to the 35 headings, the Unit prepared briefings on several cross-cutting issues: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); climate change, gender and COVID-19. This novel analysis presented to MPs budget allocations across Government spending with impacts and relevance to these issues. For instance, the SDG brief reflected the targets in the Fiji National Development Plan (NDP) which aligns to the SDG for each Head and the corresponding budget allocation in the National Budget that is provided to achieve the targets. This demonstrates the independence of Parliament in providing independent budget briefs to MPs.

Tirisiane Logavatu, Senior Research Officer: “Given that the MPs are only given one week to go through the budget books, the budget briefs provide simplified budget information to help them with their oversight role. Additionally, identifying SDG related budget allocations and producing the three cross-cutting thematic briefs in Climate Change, Gender and COVID-19, provided more focused information for MPs that are not easily identified or readily presented in the Budget Estimates and Supplement.”

Building on this strength, the Unit has also contributed to capacity building projects in other Pacific Island Parliaments. In particular, the research team supported the Tongan Parliament secretariat in their preparation of the 2020–2021 budget briefings in May 2020 through the Pacific Parliament Floating budget office, supported through the UNDP Fiji Parliament Support Project.

The Research and Library Services Unit has also continued to support MPs through requests and loans made for parliamentary publications and reference materials.



Strategic Priority 4. ICT to facilitate the services of Parliament

Procuring and installing broadcasting equipment in Parliament

ICT can help promote greater transparency, openness and accessibility. In 2019, the Fijian Parliament became one of the first Pacific Parliaments to have a facility for live broadcast of Committee meetings (excluding New Zealand and Australia). The Information and Communications Technology Unit was responsible for the procurement and installation of this project with support from the UNDP Fiji Parliament Support Project. The equipment enabled the Parliament to live broadcast public hearings by the Standing Committees. At the launch, the Speaker, His Excellency Ratu Epeli Nailatikau said,

“Parliament derives its legitimacy from its core function as the people’s representative. Strong, democratic Parliaments are therefore responsive to changes in society.”

“I am, as most of you will know, one of those who see the broadcasting of Parliament’s work as one of the more effective methods of increasing people’s knowledge of Parliament and Government.”

“By stimulating citizen participation in the work of Parliament, effective parliamentary ICT systems will help Parliament in its core parliamentary roles of law-making, oversight and representation.”

“These initiatives build on our achievements from the previous term and we aim to achieve far bigger and bolder than what our Parliament has achieved previously.”

Making Parliament work and continue working during the pandemic

What started out as a year of business as usual, quickly changed in March 2020 with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, staff had largely been working-from-home since the end of March 2020.

During this challenging time, our staff continued to provide excellent service to Members through the work of the Standing Committees. Through the funding assistance from the UNDP FPSP, the Parliament was able to facilitate technical support for 265 meetings in addition to 7 virtual public submissions. The launch of the virtual committee meetings was supported by the deployment of the Microsoft Office 365 platform which enabled MPs and the Committee secretariat to work remotely when the need arose.

The planning and deployment of the Parliament's e-initiatives project prior to March 2020, is testament to the visionary leadership of the institution. The design and launch of the internal e-forms as well as the programming of e-signatures enabled effective business continuity and adaptability as well as uphold health and safety measures in the office. Investment in the area of ICT enabled the Unit to realise an e-Parliament platform before its anticipated timeline of 2022. Business units had been transformed by this realisation further taking us towards accomplishing SDG 16.

Our research unit had continued to conduct and publish its research on the website thus allowing Members to access this information from their respective locations. Parliament sittings and Committee meetings continued.

Parliament was in a position to respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project evolved and adopted innovative IT solutions such as secure cloud technologies like MS Teams and Microsoft Office 365. For the remainder of the 2019–2020 period, Parliament incorporated agile and proactive IT infrastructure and services into the overall business strategy and involved IT in all corporate governance planning and decision making.



Strategic Priority 5. Extensive engagement and effective communication

Communications and public engagement

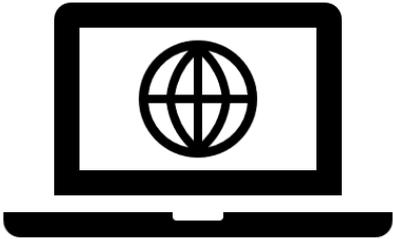
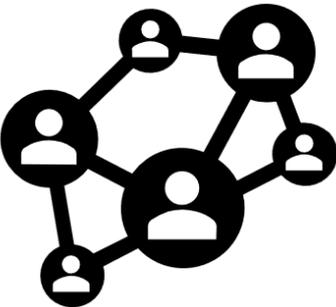
The Civic Education and Media Unit helps raise awareness on the work, processes and relevance of the institution of Parliament, with the aim of increasing levels of engagement between the public and the Parliament.

The Unit aims to provide coverage of all parliamentary events on our social media platforms on a timely basis. In 2019–2020, it achieved high engagement on social media platforms, averaging over 30,000 engagements on Facebook. This is important as Fiji has a youthful population who are active on social media. Using social media well can ensure Parliament reaches as many Fijians as possible.

This year, the Unit, in close consultation with the ICT team, enabled the Facebook live-streaming of Parliament sittings to be introduced. The live-streaming on Facebook continued to receive high engagements from members of the community, both locally and abroad. Parliament live sittings is crucial as people tune in to know what is happening in Parliament from the comforts of their home/office device. Ensuring the timely uploading of relevant papers and documents tabled in Parliament ensures Parliament is open and accessible even during times of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Unit had also innovated in the use of design tools for social media posts. Following staff exchanges with twin Parliaments, the Unit proceeded to use the Canva online tool for designing some of the social media posts. This allowed for a more professional design and presentation for posts on different social media platforms.

Bale Dolokoto, Senior Media Officer: “Fiji has a young population, with 60% of Fijians under the age of 35. As they represent the future of Fiji, it is crucial that we reach out to them to encourage them to be active participants in our democracy. Social media is a tool most of them use. We have regularly had thousands of viewers for these sittings since we started.”

MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT AND REACH	
	More than 85,000 hits on the Parliament website over the year.
	Over 30,000 engagements on Facebook every month. Around 4,000 engagements on Twitter each month.
	18 press releases and 81 media alerts issued.



Youth engagement

The Civic Education and Media Unit works to educate and inform the Fijian public. One of the Unit's key ambitions in 2019–2020 was to increase wider youth engagement with Parliament.

The Fijian Parliament is considered a leader in the Pacific in integrating the work of Parliament into the school (primary and high school) curriculum. It is undertaking many community outreach initiatives to engage with the public under its Engagement Strategy and make them aware of the roles and functions of Parliament. Continuing the initiatives, the Fijian Parliament, supported by the UNDP FPSP, organised workshops targeting school teachers in Labasa and Lautoka. A total of 29 participants (12 males and 17 females) participated in Labasa whereas 22 (9 males and 13 females) attended the Lautoka workshop.

This initiative was aimed at assisting teachers in making learning about Parliament interesting and more interactive. The workshops conducted in Labasa and Lautoka were to train and seek teachers' inputs on the content of these new educational materials. It also provided an opportunity for teachers to learn more about the Fijian Parliament and approaches to teaching parliamentary education topics in the classrooms.

Participant feedback

Head Teacher, Qalitu District School, Peniane Pickering:

"The workshop was very resourceful, and the knowledge and materials presented and distributed would really assist us in the classroom. This is a boost. We often hear and watch Parliament on TV, but this is reality brought closer to us which is something that will assist us in imparting the same knowledge to our students. We also appreciate the fact that we are consulted in the development and review of the current resources about Parliament. Our voice is heard, and we openly shared our views as teachers on how the resources could be tailor made to suit different levels of students in schools."

The Unit also supports Parliament tours for schools, groups and individuals. During this period, the Unit recorded a total of 110 tours and 3,898 visitors. With respect to the tours, the Unit promotes greater awareness of parliamentary procedures and the legislative, representative and oversight functions of Members of Parliament.



Disclosures and Financial Compliance





OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Promoting Public Sector Accountability and Sustainability through our Audits



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements of the Parliament of Fiji

Opinion

- ✓ I have audited the financial statements of Parliament of Fiji, which comprise the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, Appropriation Statement, Statement of Losses for the financial year ended 31 July 2020, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.
- ✓ In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements of the Parliament of Fiji are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004 and Finance Instructions 2010.

Basis for Opinion

- ✓ I have conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Parliament of Fiji in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountant's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Fiji and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code.
- ✓ I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the management and those charged with governance for financial statements

- ✓ The management are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004 and Finance Instructions 2010, and for such internal control as the management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- ✓ Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Parliament's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

- ✓ My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.



- ✓ As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:
- ✓ • Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
 - ✓ • Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Parliament of Fiji.
 - ✓ • Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management of Parliament of Fiji.
 - ✓ I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sairusi Dukuno'.

Sairusi Dukuno
ACTING AUDITOR-GENERAL



Suva, Fiji
23 June 2022



**PARLIAMENT OF FIJI
MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

We certify that these financial statements:

- (a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of Parliament of Fiji for the year ended 31 July 2020; and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act and Finance Instructions 2010.



Jeanette Emberson
Secretary-General to Parliament



Miriama Vereivalu
Manager Finance

Date: 21/06/22.



**PARLIAMENT OF FIJI
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

	Notes	2020 (\$)	2019 (\$)
RECEIPTS			
State Revenue - Operating Revenue		10,743	3,897
Agency Revenue - Miscellaneous Revenue		241	16,135
TOTAL REVENUE	3 (a)	10,984	20,032
EXPENDITURE			
Established Staff	3 (b)	4,327,251	4,632,507
Government Wage Earners	3 (c)	230,055	256,623
Travel & Communication	3 (d)	1,767,492	1,988,722
Maintenance & Operations		684,119	700,193
Purchase of Goods & Services	3 (e)	350,479	960,244
Operating Grants & Transfers	3 (f)	315,000	1,095,626
Special Expenditure	3 (g)	618,802	403,670
Total Operating Expenditure		8,293,198	10,037,585
Capital Purchase	3 (h)	-	400,000
Total Capital Expenditure		-	400,000
Value Added Tax	3 (i)	175,398	358,270
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		8,468,596	10,795,855



**PARLIAMENT OF FIJI
APPROPRIATION STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

SEG	Item	Budget Estimate (\$)	Appropriation Changes (\$)	Revised Estimate (\$)	Actual Expenditure (\$)	Carry-Over (\$)	Lapsed Appropriation (\$)
1	Established Staff	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Government Wage Earners	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Travel & Communication	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Maintenance & Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	7,862,365	606,278	8,468,643	8,468,596	-	47
7	Special Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total Operating Expenditure	7,862,365	606,278	8,468,643	8,468,596	-	47
8	Capital Construction	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Capital Purchase	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Capital Grants & Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Value Added Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7,862,365	606,278	8,468,643	8,468,596	-	47



**PARLIAMENT OF FIJI
STATEMENT OF LOSSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

Losses of Money

There were no loss of money recorded for the year ended 31 July 2020.

Losses of Revenue

There were no loss of revenue recorded during the year ended 31 July 2020.

Losses of Assets (Other than Money)

There was no reported loss (other than money) recorded for the year ended 31 July 2020. However, following the 2020 Board of Survey, the following were approved by Permanent Secretary for Economy:

- Write-off obsolete and unserviceable items valued at \$6,330
- Assets approved to be disposed of through auction/sale worth \$135,240

Category	Cost (\$)
Office Equipment	3,480
Furniture and Fittings	2,850
TOTAL	6,330
IT Gadgets	135,240



PARLIAMENT OF FIJI
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

NOTE 1 REPORTING ENTITY

- ✓ The primary function of the Parliament is provided for under Section 46(1) of the Fijian Constitution, which states that, “the authority and power to make laws for the State is vested in Parliament”. The Parliament is the voice of the Fijian people, and it is responsible for ensuring representative government, openly debating relevant issues and providing oversight of government activities.
- ✓ As an Independent Office, the Parliament of Fiji’s budget is reflected as a one-line item and this is administered by the Secretary General as stated in the Finance Instructions 2010. Hence, the disclosures of expenditures according to the Standard Expenditure Groups (SEGs) in the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures are done voluntarily by Parliament of Fiji.

NOTE 2 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Accounting

- ✓ In accordance with Government accounting policies, the financial statements of the Parliament of Fiji are prepared under the cash basis of accounting. All payments related to purchases of fixed assets have been expensed.
- ✓ The financial statements are presented in accordance with the Financial Management Act and the requirements of Section 71(1) of the Finance Instructions 2010. The preparation and presentation of a Statement of Assets and Liabilities is not required under the current Government policies.

b) Accounting for Value Added Tax (VAT)

- ✓ All expenses are VAT exclusive. The Parliament of Fiji on a monthly basis takes out VAT output on total money received for expenditure from Ministry of Economy. VAT input on the other hand is claimed on payments made to the suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred.

c) Revenue Recognition

- ✓ Revenue is recognised when the actual cash is received by the Parliament of Fiji.



PARLIAMENT OF FIJI
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*Continued...*)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

NOTE 3 SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS

- (a) Total Revenue decreased by \$9,048 or 45% in 2020 compared to 2019. The decrease was attributed to decrease in miscellaneous revenue due to the cessation and final deduction of sale of laptop from source in respect of a Member of Parliament at the expiry of 2018 Parliament term.
- (b) Established Staff Expenditure decreased by \$305,256 or 7% in 2020 compared to 2019. The decrease was due to three resignations, one retirement, one leave without pay and one promotion during the financial year. Honourable Member of Parliament was suspended without salary for 6 months from September 2019 to March 2020. Also, SODELPA Members of Parliament were suspended without salary from May to July 2020. The redeployment of funds following COVID-19 reduced budget, greatly assisted in ensuring staff were paid salary till the end of the financial year.
- (c) Government Wage Earners expenditure decreased by \$26,568 or 10% in 2020 compared to 2019. The decrease was due to a driver deemed to have resigned in December 2019 for not reporting to duties within seven days of absence. Overtime payment was also suspended and deferred to the next financial year as a means of cost cutting measure to spend within the revised allocations.
- (d) Travel and Communications expenditure decreased by \$221,230 or 11% in 2020 compared to 2019. Since WHO declared in January 2020 that Fiji is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Fiji had put in place strict travel entry arrangements at all international ports of entry to slow the importation of virus into the country. These arrangements affected members of Parliament and Secretariat official engagements both local and international. There were official travel restrictions that resulted in low spending on travel and subsistence allocations.
- (e) Purchase of Goods and Services expenditure decreased by \$609,765 or 64% in 2020 compared to 2019. During the COVID-19 outbreak, Parliament improvised to utilise available resources and suspend request of goods and services to the following financial year.
- (f) The Operating Grants and Transfers expenditure decreased by \$780,626 or 71% in 2020 compared to 2019. The decrease was due to no budget provided for Party Office grant in this allocation. SODELPA party office received staffing grant during the financial year. Fiji First and National Federation party office were paid 2019/2020 staffing grant from savings towards the end of 2018/2019 financial year.



PARLIAMENT OF FIJI
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*Continued...*)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

- (g) The Special Expenditure increased by \$215,132 or 53% in 2020 compared to 2019. In partnership with World Health Organisation, Parliament co-hosted the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum on Global Health held at Pullman Resort, Nadi from 19th to 23rd August 2019. Budget of \$200,000 was allocated for the event and \$164,483 was utilised. There was also an increased spending of 14% in payment of standing committee sitting allowance of \$337,131 in 2020 compared to \$291,300 in 2019.
- (h) There was no budget provided for Capital Purchase Cost in 2020. However, balance of UNDP donor funds for the IT project released through SLG 84 to finalise payment to GENCOM, NZ in August 2019.
- (i) Value Added Tax expenditure decreased by \$182,872 or 51% in 2020 compared to 2019 due to the revised COVID-19 supplementary budget that reduced spending in the last quarter of the financial year.

NOTE 4 DONOR ASSISTANCE

UNDP provided on-going support for capacity building locally and abroad to Members of Parliament and Secretariat Staff during the Financial Year. Funds paid direct to Members and staff or meeting venues where training or workshops were held.

Members attended the following conferences and seminars whilst the department paid top-up per entitlement in the parliamentary Emoluments:

- Deputy Speaker training at Parliament of Victoria, Melbourne.
- Pacific Women in Power Conference, Brisbane.
- Pacific Parliamentary Forum, Auckland.
- Global Conference against Corruption, Doha, Qatar.
- MPs Human Rights workshop, Pearl Resort, Deuba.
- MPs SDGs workshop, Inter-Continental Resort, Natadola.

NOTE 5 UNDERLINE ACCOUNTS

SLG 84

- Release of \$428,329 in August being UNDP contribution of 60% partial payment and \$229,972.09 reimbursed to Parliament through BLC account for the Final project payment paid in December 2019.
- A sum of \$531,608 redeployment funds approved to complement the COVID-19 supplementary budget.
- A balance of \$74,670.24 was redeployment funds.



PARLIAMENT OF FIJI
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*Continued...*)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

NOTE 6 ON-GOING CASE OF FALSIFICATION OF ADDRESS

Few Members of Parliament are currently under investigation by FICAC for lodging travel and subsistence claims travelling from beyond 30km although, the same Members have their primary residence within Suva boundary. The case is on-going and is before the court.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

BILLS PASSED IN PARLIAMENT – AUGUST 2019–JULY 2020

NO.	ACT NO.	SHORT TITLE	LONG TITLE	HISTORY	COMMENCEMENT DATE
1	24 of 2019	Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy (Amendment) (No. 2)	An Act to amend the Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy Act 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>5 August 2019</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>6 August 2019</u> 	Comes into force on 5 August 2019
2	25 of 2019	Civil Aviation Reform (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Civil Aviation Reform Act 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>7 August 2019</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>8 August 2019</u> 	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
3	26 of 2019	Maritime Transport (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Maritime Transport Act 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>7 August 2019</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>8 August 2019</u> 	Comes into force on a date appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
4	27 of 2019	Telecommunications (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Telecommunications Act 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>7 August 2019</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>8 August 2019</u> 	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
5	28 of 2019	Excise (Amendment) (No. 2)	An Act to amend the Excise Act 1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>7 August 2019</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>8 August 2019</u> 	Comes into force on a date appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
6	29 of 2019	Corrections Service (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Corrections Service Act 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>20 November 2019</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>22 November 2019</u> 	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
7	30 of 2019	Land Transport (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Land Transport Act 1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>20 November 2019</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>22 November 2019</u> 	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
8	1 of 2020	Covid-19 Response	An Act to appropriate a sum of three billion, one hundred thirty six million, seventy five thousand, three hundred forty five dollars for the ordinary services of Government for the year commencing 1 August 2019 and ending 31 July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>26 March 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>27 March 2020</u> 	Comes into force on 28 March 2020
9	2 of 2020	Tax Administration (Covid-19 Response) (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Tax Administration Act 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>26 March 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>27 March 2020</u> 	Comes into force on 1 April 2020

Note
 • FR First Reading • SR Second Reading • TR Third Reading



NO.	ACT NO.	SHORT TITLE	LONG TITLE	HISTORY	COMMENCEMENT DATE
10	3 of 2020	Income Tax (Covid-19 Response) (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Income Tax Act 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>26 March 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>27 March 2020</u> 	Comes into force on 1 April 2020
11	4 of 2020	Value Added Tax (Covid-19 Response) (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Value Added Tax Act 1991.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>26 March 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>27 March 2020</u> 	Comes into force on 1 April 2020
12	5 of 2020	Stamp Duties (Covid-19 Response) (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Stamp Duties Act 1920	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>26 March 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>27 March 2020</u> 	Comes into force on 1 April 2020
13	6 of 2020	Customs (Covid-19 Response) (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Customs Act 1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>26 March 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>27 March 2020</u> 	Comes into force on 1 April 2020
14	7 of 2020	Customs Tariff (Covid-19 Response) (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Customs Tariff Act 1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>26 March 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>27 March 2020</u> 	Comes into force on 27 March 2020, except section 2(a) which comes into force on 1 May 2020
15	8 of 2020	National Provident Fund (Covid-19 Response) (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Fiji National Provident Fund Act 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>26 March 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>27 March 2020</u> 	Comes into force on 1 April 2020
16	9 of 2020	Public Health (Covid-19 Response) (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Public Health Act 1935	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>26 March 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>27 March 2020</u> 	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
17	10 of 2020	Legal Practitioners (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Legal Practitioners Act 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>26 May 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>28 May 2020</u> 	Comes into force on a date appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
18	11 of 2020	Employment Relations (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Employment Relations Act 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>28 May 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>28 May 2020</u> 	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette



NO.	ACT NO.	SHORT TITLE	LONG TITLE	HISTORY	COMMENCEMENT DATE
19	12 of 2020	2020-2021 Appropriation	An Act to appropriate a sum of three billion, two hundred and eleven million, nineteen thousand, one hundred and twenty one dollars for the ordinary services of Government for the year ending 31 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved under SO84(1) and 99 on <u>17 July 2020</u> SR – <u>27 July 2020</u> TR – <u>30 July 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>30 July 2020</u> 	Comes into force on 1 August 2020
20	13 of 2020	Tax Administration (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Tax Administration Act 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>17 July 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>31 July 2020</u> 	Comes into force on 1 August 2020
21	14 of 2020	Income Tax (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Income Tax Act 2015		Comes into force on 1 August 2020
22	15 of 2020	Value Added Tax (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Value Added Tax Act 1991		Comes into force on 1 August 2020
23	16 of 2020	Stamp Duties (Repeal)	An Act to repeal the Stamp Duties Act 1920		Comes into force on 1 August 2020
24	17 of 2020	Service Turnover Tax (Repeal)	An Act to repeal the Service Turnover Tax Act 2012		Comes into force on 1 August 2020
25	18 of 2020	Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy Act 2015		Comes into force on 1 August 2020
26	19 of 2020	Airport Departure Tax (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Airport Departure Tax Act 1986		Comes into force on 1 August 2020
27	20 of 2020	Customs (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Customs Act 1986		Comes into force on 1 August 2020
28	21 of 2020	Customs Tariff (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Customs Tariff Act 1986		Comes into force on 18 July 2020
29	22 of 2020	Excise (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Excise Act 1986		Comes into force on 18 July 2020
30	23 of 2020	Reserve Bank of Fiji (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Reserve Bank of Fiji Act 1983	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>17 July 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>31 July 2020</u> 	Comes into force on 1 August 2020
31	24 of 2020	Accident Compensation (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Accident Compensation Act 2017		Comes into force on 1 August 2020
32	25 of 2020	Local Government (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Local Government Act 1972		Comes into force on 1 August 2020
33	26 of 2020	Telecommunications (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Telecommunications Act 2008		Comes into force on 1 August 2020
34	27 of 2020	Fiji National Provident Fund (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Fiji National Provident Fund Act 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>29 July 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>31 July 2020</u> 	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette, except for section 3 which comes into force on 1 August 2020
35	28 of 2020	Business Licensing (Repeal)	An Act to repeal the Business Licensing Act 1976		Comes into force on 1 August 2020
36	29 of 2020	Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission Act 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>30 July 2020</u> The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>31 July 2020</u> 	Comes into force on 1 August 2020



COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED IN PARLIAMENT – AUGUST 2019–JULY 2020

NO.	ANNUAL REPORTS
1	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 6 August 2019— “Review of Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism Annual Report 2015” PP 100 of 2019
2	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 7 August 2019— “Review of Fiji Broadcasting Corporation 2016 and 2017 Consolidated Annual Report” PP 29 of 2019
3	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 8 August 2019— “Review of Fiji Electricity Authority 2017 and Energy Fiji Limited 2018 Consolidated Report” PP 99 of 2019
4	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 3 September 2019— “Review of Audit Reports on the Management of Duty Concession Scheme and Management of Prisoners, Employees and Assets Management System” PP 68 of 2019
5	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 4 September 2019— “Review of Fiji Commerce Commission 2016 Annual Report” PP 123 of 2019
6	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 5 September 2019— “Review of the Office of the Auditor-General 2018 Annual Report” PP 110 of 2019
7	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 21 November 2019— “Review of Fiji Ports Corporation Limited 2017 Annual Report” PP 95 of 2019
8	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 21 November 2019— “Review of Fiji Roads Authority 2015 Annual Report, Fiji Roads Authority January–July 2016 Annual Report” PP 119 of 2019
9	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 21 November 2019— “Review of Consumer Council of Fiji 2016–2017 Annual Report” PP 96 of 2019
10	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 21 November 2019— “Review of Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts January–July 2016 Annual Report, Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts 2016-2017 Annual Report” PP 118 of 2019
11	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 21 November 2019— “Review on the Follow-up of Selected 2016 Auditor-General’s Reports for various sectors” PP 109 of 2019
12	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 21 November 2019— “Review of the COP23 Presidency Trust Fund: Third Semi-Annual Report for the period 1 May – 31 October, 2018” PP 157 of 2019
13	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 21 November 2019— “Review of Fiji Development Bank 2018 Annual Report” PP 123 of 2019
14	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence tabled the review report of the Committee on 21 November 2019— “Review of the Consolidated: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation 2014 Annual Report; Ministry of Foreign Affairs Annual Report 2015; Ministry of Foreign Affairs Annual Report 2016–2017” PP 139 of 2019
15	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 17 February 2020— “Review of the 2016/2017 Audit Report on Statutory Authorities” PP 05 of 2020
16	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 17 February 2020— “Review of Fiji Higher Education Commission Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 July 2016” PP 115 of 2019
17	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights tabled the review report of the Committee on 17 February 2020— “Review Report on the Department of Legislature Report 2016–2017” PP 14 of 2020
18	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 17 February 2020— “Review of Film Fiji Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2014; Film Fiji Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2015” PP 117 of 2019
19	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 18 February 2020— “Review of the Fiji National University 2018 Annual Report” PP 137 of 2019
20	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 18 February 2020— “Review of Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit 2018 Annual Report” PP 10 of 2020
21	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights tabled the review report of the Committee on 18 February 2020— “Review Report on the Office of the President Annual Report 2015” PP 12 of 2020
22	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 18 February 2020— “Review of the 2016/17 Audit Report on Government Commercial Companies and Commercial Statutory Authorities” PP 08 of 2020



23	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights tabled the review report of the Committee on 19 February 2020— “Review Report on the Office of the President Annual Report 2016–2017”	PP 13 of 2020
24	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 19 February 2020— “Review of Public Rental Board 2017 Annual Report”	PP 114 of 2019
25	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 19 February 2020— “Review of the Audit Report on Provincial Councils, Volume 1”	PP 07 of 2020
26	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights tabled the review report of the Committee on 20 February 2020— “Consolidated Review Report on the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption Annual Report 1 January—31 July 2016 and the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption Annual Report 1 August 2016 – 31 July 2017”	PP 17 of 2020
27	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 20 February 2020— “Review of the University of the South Pacific 2018 Annual Report”	PP 136 of 2019
28	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 25 May 2020— “Review of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs 2016-2017 Annual Report”	PP 22 of 2020
29	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights tabled the review report of the Committee on 25 May 2020— “Report on the Review of the Office of the Prime Minister 2016 Annual Report January – July”	PP 59 of 2020
30	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 25 May 2020— “Review of Reserve Bank of Fiji Insurance 2018 Annual Report”	PP 34 of 2020
31	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 25 May 2020— “Consolidated Oversight Report – Office of Auditor-General Reports 2010-2013”	PP 56 of 2017
32	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights tabled the review report of the Committee on 26 May 2020— “Report on the Review of the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission Annual Report 2016”	PP 61 of 2020
33	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 26 May 2020— “Consolidated Report on the Review of Ministry of Sugar Industry 2012-2016 Annual Report”	PP 36 of 2020
34	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 26 May 2020— “Review Report on the Performance Audit of Preparedness of Sustainable Development Goals”	PP 06 of 2020
35	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 26 May 2020— “Review on the Audit Report of the Municipal Councils for 2014 – 2017”	PP 31 of 2020
36	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence tabled the review report of the Committee on 27 May 2020— “Review Report of the Ministry of Defence and National Security Annual Report 2016-2017”	PP 19 of 2020
37	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights tabled the review report of the Committee on 27 May 2020— “Review of the Fijian Electoral Commission Annual Report 2016”	PP 58 of 2020
38	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 27 May 2020— “Review of the Performance Audit Report on the Coordination of Actions on Elimination of Violence Against Women”	PP 32 of 2020
39	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights tabled the review report of the Committee on 28 May 2020— “Report on the Review of the Fiji Corrections Service (01 August 2016-31 July 2017) Annual Report”	PP 60 of 2020
40	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 28 May 2020— “Review Report on the Performance Audit of the Effectiveness of Institutional Framework for Preventing Corruption”	PP 33 of 2020
BILLS		
1	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights tabled the review report of the Committee on 21 November 2019— “Report on the Registration of Sex Offenders Bill 2018 (Bill No. 34 of 2018)”	PP 158 of 2019
TREATIES		
1	The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence report was tabled back to Parliament on 18 February 2020— “Review Report of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer”	PP 01 of 2020
2	The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence report was tabled back to Parliament on 18 February 2020— “Review Report on the 2011 Asia-Pacific Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications”	PP 02 of 2020
3	The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence report was tabled back to Parliament on 18 February 2020— “Review Report on the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions”	PP 03 of 2020



4	The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence report was tabled back to Parliament on 26 May 2020— “Review Report on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons”	PP 39 of 2020
5	The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence report was tabled back to Parliament on 26 May 2020— “Review Report on the International Labour Organization-Violence and Harassment Convention 2019”	PP 40 of 2020
6	The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence report was tabled back to Parliament on 26 May 2020— “Review Report on the International Labour Organization Protocol of 2002 to the Occupational Safety and Health Convention 1981”	PP 41 of 2020
SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS		
1	The Chairperson of the Privileges Committee tabled the report on 6 September 2019— “In the Matter of Privilege Re: Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Sugar Industry the Hon. Josaia Bainimarama and Hon. Pio Tikoduadua”	PP 135 of 2019

COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED IN PARLIAMENT — AUGUST 2019–JULY 2020

YEAR	ANNUAL REPORTS	BILLS	TREATIES	SELECT COMMITTEE	TOTAL COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED
2019	14	1	–	1	16
2020	26	–	6	–	32
Total	40	1	6	1	48



INTERNATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FORUMS

No.	INVITATION	COUNTRY	DATE	DELEGATION
1.	Workshop for Deputy Speaker	Victoria Parliament, Australia	13–15 August 2019	1. Hon. Veena Bhatnagar 2. Ms Ajayeshni Singh
2.	Conference of the Presidents of Pacific Islands Parliaments	Papeete, Tahiti	10–12 September 2019	1. H.E Ratu Epeli Nailatikau 2. Hon. George Vagnathan 3. Hon. Mitieli Bulanauca 4. Mr Sefanaia Tudonu
3.	(a) Study Visit for the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee [FAD Committee] (b) Seminar for Parliaments of the Pacific on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540	Wellington, New Zealand	(a) 16–18 September 2019 (b) 19–20 September 2019	1. Hon. Alexander O’Connor 2. Hon. Dr Salik Govind 3. Hon. Selai Adimaitoga 4. Hon. Anare Jale 5. Hon. Pio Tikoduadua 6. Mr Jacob Abraham
4.	64th CPA Conference	Kampala, Uganda	22–29 September 2019	1. H.E Ratu Epeli Nailatikau 2. Hon. Vijay Nath 3. Hon. Ratu Tevita Navurelevu 4. Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi 5. Mrs Kalo Takape 6. Mr Senitieli Wainiu 7. Mr Sefanaia Tudonu
5.	141st IPU Assembly	Belgrade, Serbia	13–17 October 2019	1. H.E Ratu Epeli Nailatikau 2. Hon. Ashneel Sudhakar 3. Hon. Salote Radrodro 4. Mrs Jeanette Emberson 5. Mr Sefanaia Tudonu
6.	54th Session of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly and Inter-Sessional Meetings of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly	Brussels, Belgium	14–17 October 2019	1. Hon. Alvick Maharaj
7.	Pacific Women in Power Forum	Brisbane, Australia	5–8 November 2019	1. Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa 2. Hon. Premila Kumar 3. Hon. Rosy Akbar 4. Hon. Veena Bhatnagar 5. Hon. Selai Adimaitoga 6. Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa 7. Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi 8. Hon. Salote Radrodro 9. Hon. Lynda Tabuya 10. Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua 11. Ms Tirisiane Logavatu 12. Ms Rukalisi Dileqa
8.	15th Biennial Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committee Conference	Canberra, Australia	6–8 November 2019	1. Hon. Alvick Maharaj 2. Hon. Joseph Nand 3. Hon. Vijendra Prakash 4. Hon. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu 5. Hon. Aseri Radrodro



No.	INVITATION	COUNTRY	DATE	DELEGATION
9.	Pacific Islands Countries Conference & Pacific PAC on Oversight of Public Finance Workshop	Wellington, New Zealand	19–22 November 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Aseri Radrodro Hon. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu Hon. Mikaele Leawere Mr Josua Nameoce Mr Savenaca Koro Ms Komal Khushboo Mr Mateo Lagimiri
10.	3rd Pacific Parliamentary Forum	Wellington, New Zealand	25–28 November 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Premila Kumar Hon. Peceli Vosanibola Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua Mr Sakiusa Rakai
11.	Signing of the MOU	Noumea, New Caledonia	25–26 November 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> H.E Ratu Epeli Nailatikau Mrs Viniana Namosimalua Mr Sefanaia Tudonu
12.	Asia-Pacific Youth Forum	Bangkok, Thailand	2–3 December 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> H.E Ratu Epeli Nailatikau Mr Sefanaia Tudonu
13.	FAD Committee Study Visit of Australian Parliament	Canberra and Victoria, Australia	2–6 December 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Alexander O’Connor Hon. Dr Salik Govind Hon. Selai Adimaitoga Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua Hon. Anare Jale Mr Jacob Abraham Ms Susana Korovou Ms Darolin Vinisha
14.	7th Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption	Doha, Qatar	9–10 December 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Osea Naiqamu Hon. Vijendra Prakash Hon. Aseri Radrodro Hon. Inosi Kuridrani Mr Savenaca Koro
15.	25th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth [CSPOC]	Ottawa, Canada	6–10 January 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> H.E Ratu Epeli Nailatikau Mrs Viniana Namosimalua Mr Sefanaia Tudonu Mrs Salesni Prasad
16.	28th Annual Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum [APPF]	Canberra, Australia	13–16 January 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> H.E Ratu Epeli Nailatikau Mr Sefanaia Tudonu
17.	Sustainable Economic Development (SED) Workshop	Malta	28 January–1 February 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> H.E Ratu Epeli Nailatikau Mr Josua Nameoce
18.	Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Pacific Region	Niue	25–27 February 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Veena Bhatnagar Mrs Kalo Takape
VIRTUAL MEETINGS – DUE TO COVID-19				
19.	1st CWP Pacific Virtual Meeting	Wellington, New Zealand	25 June 2020	All Honourable Women Members – CWP Fiji Group



**PARLIAMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF FIJI**

