



PARLIAMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF FIJI

# 2022–2023 ANNUAL REPORT



## ABOUT THIS REPORT

This Annual Report highlights the results of targeted Parliament activities contributing to the achievement of our strategic objectives over the 2022–2023 reporting period. 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 is available on the Parliament’s website at [www.parliament.gov.fj](http://www.parliament.gov.fj).

## REFERRAL LETTER

Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka  
Prime Minister & Minister for Foreign Affairs, Climate Change, Environment, Civil Service, Information,  
Public Enterprises, Immigration and Fiji Police Force  
Office of the Prime Minister  
P.O. Box 2353, Government Buildings  
SUVA

Dear Sir,

### **RE: 2022–2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

I have pleasure in tabling with your good office, the Annual Report (**‘Report’**) on the operations of the Parliament of Fiji (**‘Parliament’**) for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023.

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 2018–2022 Strategic Plan.

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



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Jeanette Emberson (Mrs)  
**Secretary-General to Parliament**

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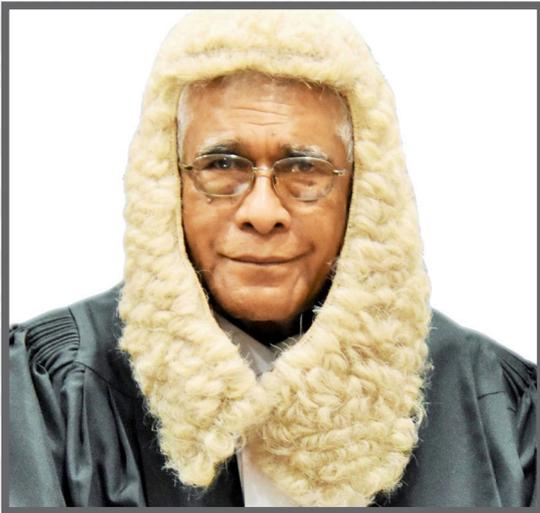
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## FOREWORD : HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT



As we present the Annual Report for the period 2022–2023, we reflect on a significant chapter in the history of the Fijian Parliament, now entering its third term.

I am truly grateful for the support I have received from the Parliament Secretariat since joining on 24 December 2022 as Speaker of the Parliament.

I also wish to acknowledge and commend the work of my predecessor, His Excellency Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, for his service over the last four years.

Whilst this year was marked by the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with flags flying at half-mast across the Pacific to pay tribute to Great Britain's longest-serving monarch of 70 years, we are proud and stand firm on the fact that the

Westminster system still lives through the procedures of how we operate our legislature.

This year is very significant for the Fijian Parliament in that it marks the establishment of a new coalition Government and a restructured Opposition, bringing fresh perspectives and dynamics to our legislative processes. The first-ever election of our new Prime Minister through secret ballot was a pivotal moment, underscoring our commitment to democratic principles and the importance of transparency in governance.

The results of the elections were certainly exciting but new ground in terms of operations to ensure that all Members are provided with quality secretariat support to execute their roles as mandated by the Constitution.

Throughout this reporting period, the Fijian Parliament has remained dedicated to prioritising committee work and civic education. We recognise that engaging citizens in the legislative process is crucial for fostering a well-informed electorate. Our ongoing efforts in these areas aim to empower communities and enhance public understanding of parliamentary functions. This commitment not only strengthens our democratic foundations but also ensures that diverse voices are heard and represented in our decision-making processes.

Parliament also published 'An Overview of the Fiji Parliament 2018-2022' highlighting the statistical summary of Parliament's core work over the four-year Parliamentary term. This is the second publication of its kind making it crucial for the public to be fully aware of the work we do. We strongly believe that more progress needs to be made on raising public awareness, this will help to show how Parliament and politics is relevant to all aspects of our citizens' lives.

I would like to reiterate my sincerest appreciation and gratitude to the UNDP Fiji Parliament Support Project, along with the Governments of Australia, Japan and New Zealand for their continuous and generous support since 2014.

Finally, I acknowledge and thank all our staff, whose steadfast commitment over the last year has enabled Parliament to operate efficiently, supported the work of our parliamentarians, our various units and meaningfully engaged Parliament with our community at large.

Hon. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu  
**Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji**

## STATEMENT : SECRETARY-GENERAL TO PARLIAMENT



The 2022–2023 reporting period was once again marked by significant events and challenges that tested our resilience and capability to meet the evolving needs of our Parliament. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our staff, we were able to continue delivering high-quality services to our Hon. Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, and the wider public. Throughout the year, we focused on strategic initiatives that not only strengthened our core operations but also expanded our outreach. This period brought both challenges and opportunities, compelling us to adapt and evolve in a rapidly changing environment.

In this 2022–2023 reporting period, Parliament has remained steadfast in its commitment to advancing its legislative, representative, scrutiny and oversight roles. Through an array of legislative initiatives and collaborative efforts, significant strides have been made towards realising the goals outlined in

its mandate. This annual report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the key activities undertaken by Parliament and their impact on the achievement of our strategic objectives. From economic growth and social development to environmental sustainability and good governance, the activities of Parliament have been instrumental in driving progress and fostering a more prosperous and resilient nation. By highlighting the milestones and achievements of the reporting period, this report underscores the vital role of Parliament and the secretariat in shaping the future of our country and ensuring the well-being of all citizens.

Of particular significance is the election of a new Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Hon. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu and Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua, on 24 December 2022. This event marks the commencement of the third parliamentary term from 2022 to 2026.

Embodying our resilience and growth, Parliament unanimously approved amendments to the Standing Orders on 12 July 2023 and 23 May 2024. We extend our gratitude to the Standing Orders Committee Members and to everyone who made submissions, sharing their insights on how to enhance the processes and best practices of Parliament. These collective efforts contribute to fostering a stronger and more robust Fijian democracy.

We have continued our dedicated efforts to ensure quality Parliamentary scrutiny through our six Standing Committees. Since 2019, Parliament has strived to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its Committee work, with a strong emphasis on SDG 16. As a result, we have observed significant increases in core parliamentary business, including questions and submissions to the Standing Committees, scrutiny of Bills, annual reports, sector performances, public expenditure and public engagement.

In our efforts to strengthen core operations and expand our outreach, the Fijian Parliament, through our Civic Education and Media Unit, successfully revived the 'Parliament Bus Programme' after a four-year hiatus. The unwavering support of the Hon. Speaker was instrumental in relaunching this initiative, ensuring that the public remained informed, engaged, and able to voice their concerns on critical socio-economic issues. This initiative also advances our commitment to achieving the SDGs, particularly in promoting inclusive and participatory decision-making as outlined in SDG 16. By promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions, Parliament ensures that our nation continues to advance towards a more inclusive, just, and resilient society.

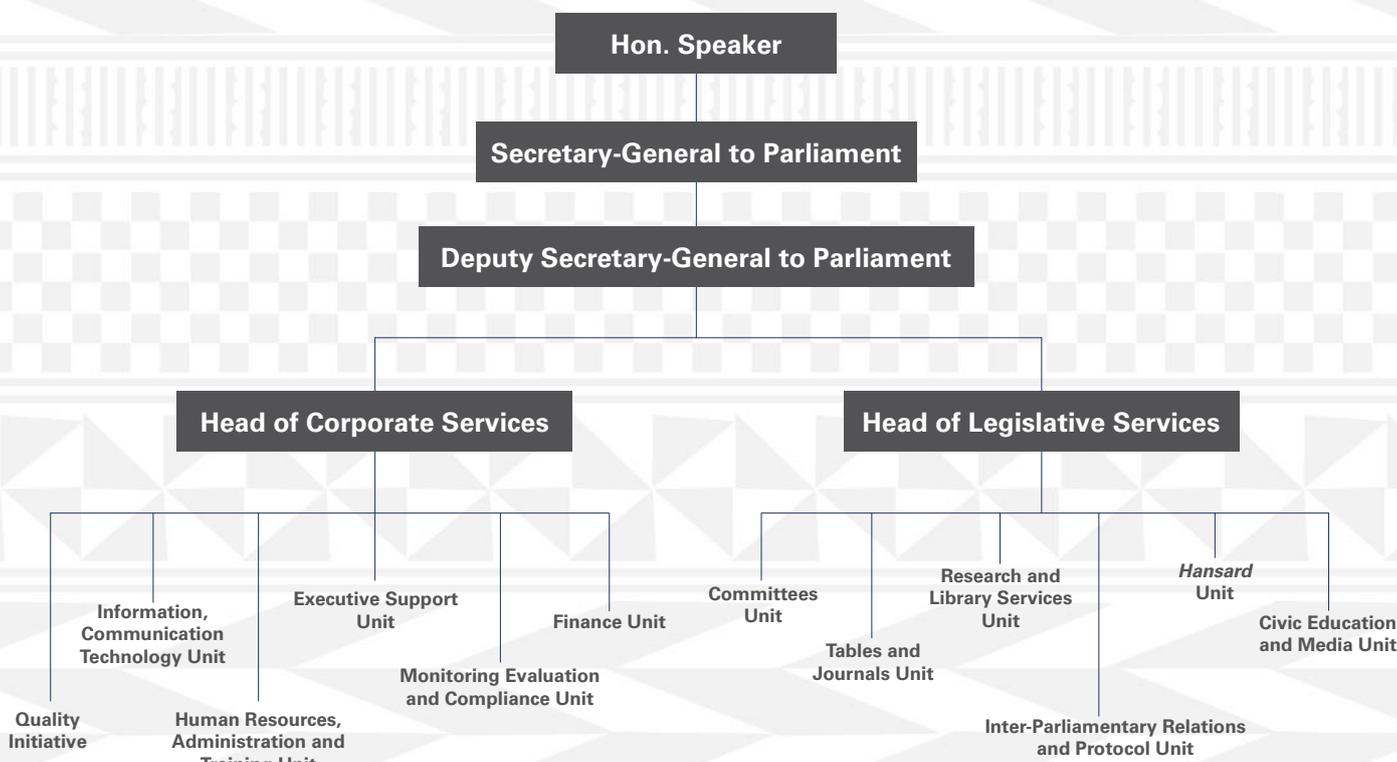
As we look to the future, we remain dedicated to transparency and accountability, making sure our stakeholders are well-informed and actively involved in our journey. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported us throughout this reporting period—our stakeholders, community, the Governments of Australia, Japan and New Zealand through the UNDP Fiji Parliament Support Programme. I also sincerely extend a big *vinaá vaálevu* to the hardworking and wonderful staff of Parliament for continuing to heed the call of duty. Together, we are laying the groundwork for continued success and positive impact in the years to come.

Jeanette Emberson (Mrs)

**Secretary-General to Parliament**



## ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



### Gender Composition

Our gender component analysis reveals that we have a higher percentage of female employees compared to male employees, a trend that is visible throughout the staff structure. The difference in the total number of male and female staff is not substantial, but they complement each other well across the organisational hierarchy.

Whilst achieving gender equality is a key component of the SDGs, it should be noted that gender equality is also interwoven throughout many other SDGs, such as SDGs 1, 3, 4, 8 and 10. Gender equality is not just a standalone goal but a catalyst for achieving numerous other objectives. By addressing gender disparities, we can unlock pathways to comprehensive development and ensure that no one is left behind.

The gender composition of Parliament staff for this reporting period is as follows –

<b>As at July 2023</b>			
Male	37 (46%)	Female	43 (54%)

## Who we are and our Purpose

The Parliament of the Republic of Fiji is a unicameral legislature comprising 55 Members during this reporting period. The Members are elected by an open-list proportional representation in one multi-member nationwide constituency. Parliament is mandated with the following functions – oversight and scrutiny of Government; representation; and law-making.

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

“A Resilient Parliament responsive to the needs of the people and driven by the ideal of a better quality of life for all Fijians.”

## Our Mission

To provide and sustain Members of Parliament with professional parliamentary support and services to enable efficiency and effectiveness of Parliament’s constitutional functions.

## Our Role and Function

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

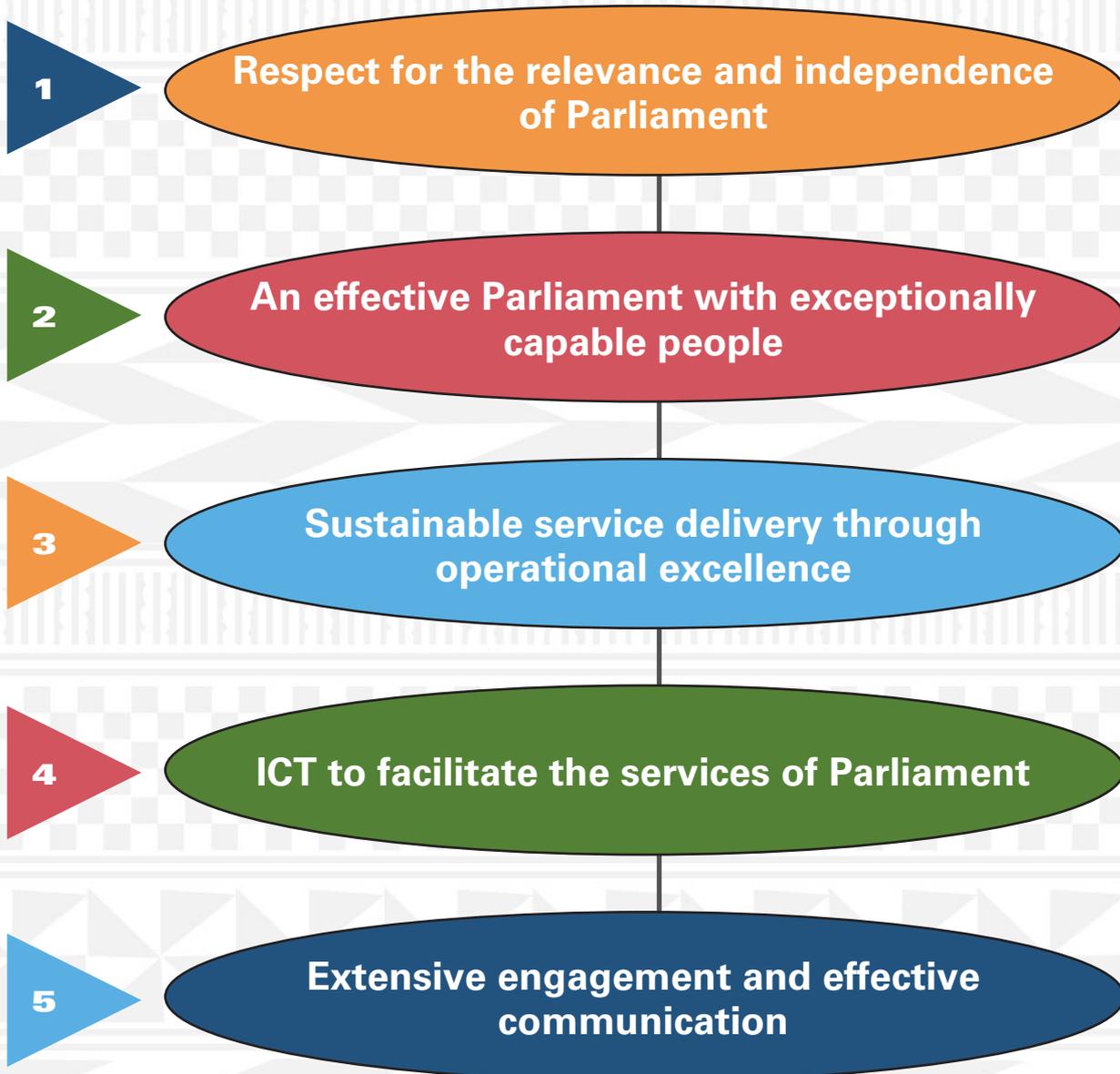
- ensure the effective functioning of Parliament and its Committees;
- support Members in fulfilling all their parliamentary roles; and
- facilitate access to the Parliament precincts and information about the role and function of Parliament.

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

- provide support and expert advice to Honourable Members, members of the public and stakeholders;
- provide support through legal, policy and procedural advice to the Speaker and Members;
- 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.

## OUR STRATEGIC THEMES

There are five strategic priorities that guide our planning, operational and performance framework and these are –



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

#### Facilitating the seamless operation of the plenary

The Tables and Journals Unit oversees all parliamentary proceedings by preparing relevant documents, parliamentary papers, and providing advice to ensure adherence to the Standing Orders of Parliament and accepted parliamentary practices. The Unit primarily liaises with Members of Parliament, the Executive, and statutory organisations on matters related to the tabling of reports and other procedural issues. This collaboration has enhanced the Unit's efficiency in delivering high-quality support and resources during scheduled Parliament sittings, Standing and Select Committees meetings, consultations, parliamentary events, and bilateral and multilateral engagements. As a result, the Unit promotes transparency, collaboration, and informed decision-making in Parliamentary proceedings. Additionally, the Unit endeavours to uphold integrity by maintaining the confidentiality of Members of Parliament.

During the 25 sitting days of this reporting period, the Unit efficiently fulfilled its role. This included the timely preparation of 25 Order Papers and 183 scripts prior to the sitting days, and the official Minutes of Proceedings following the conclusion of the sittings. Additionally, the Unit provided support for 5 Business Committee meetings, which included 17 Flying Minutes.

Question time allowed MPs to inquire about matters for which Government Ministers are responsible, resulting in 93 Oral Questions and 26 Written Questions. Furthermore, one of Parliament's significant roles—the passing of laws—was carried out through the enactment and subsequent gazetting of 22 Acts following the passing of 22 Bills during this reporting period.

The major highlight for the Unit was the successful opening and facilitation of the first sitting of Parliament following the November 2022 general election and the subsequent change in Government. The Unit also facilitated the first-ever election of the Prime Minister in the Chambers through a secret ballot, under the 2013 Constitution. Additionally, the Unit contributed to the induction of the MPs, preparing them for their first sitting, the opening of Parliament, as well as the Budget Address and Budget Debates.

<b>Highlights 2022–2023 : Tables and Journals Unit</b>	
	<b>25 Sitting Days</b>
	<b>93 Oral Questions 26 Written Questions</b>
	<b>22 Acts</b>
	<b>100% Delivery of <i>Hansard</i> Reports for all sitting days</b>
	<b>5 Business Committee Meetings</b>
	<b>79 Annual Reports tabled 6 Papers and certain documents tabled (for Members' information only)</b>

### **Challenging and improving Government policy through Committee scrutiny**

Guided by Strategic Priority 1: Respect for the Relevance and Independence of Parliament, the six Standing Committees have effectively followed the procedures outlined in the Standing Orders. This has empowered them to serve the best interests of Parliament and its Members by thoroughly examining their respective subject areas and sectors, and taking necessary remedial actions.

The significance and consultative efforts of the Standing Committees are evident in the volume and quality of their work during this reporting period. This year, a total of 39 Committee reports were tabled, and 387 Committee meetings were conducted, with 314 being face-to-face and 73 held in a hybrid format.

The Committees Unit serves as a formal channel of communication between Parliament and the public, encouraging greater community participation in the parliamentary process.

During this reporting period, the Unit facilitated a total of 17 site visits and 38 public consultations. The site visits and public consultations extended to the North through the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights. These Committees scrutinised audited reports for various Government ministries and departments, and consulted on the Heritage Bill 2023. This process enabled the Standing Committees to understand, assess, and inquire about the systems, procedures, and processes applied to the expenditure of Government funds, as well as listen to public feedback on the Bill. It also allowed for recommendations to improve systems, ensuring that public funds are managed and accounted for according to the law, and enabled public participation in the legislative process at various Bill stages.

Notable achievements during this reporting period included the election of Opposition MP Hon. Viliame Naupoto as Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, and the election of the first woman MP and Assistant Minister for Tourism, Hon. Alitia Bainivalu, as Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs.

All Committee reports, once tabled in Parliament, can be viewed on our website.

<b>Highlights 2022–2023 : Committees Unit</b>	
	<b>387 Committee Meetings</b>
	<b>314 Face-to-face Meetings</b>
	<b>73 Hybrid Meetings</b>
	<b>38 Public Consultations</b>
	<b>17 Site Visits Facilitated</b>
	<b>39 Committee Reports Tabled</b>

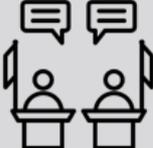
## Active participation in inter-Parliamentary networks

The Inter-Parliamentary Relations & Protocol Unit advises the Secretary-General to Parliament on Inter-Parliamentary relations matters and activities within the parliamentary institutions to which the Fijian Parliament is affiliated to. It also supports professional development and capacity-building programmes for Members of Parliament and facilitates protocol arrangements for visiting dignitaries.

The Unit's role involves maintaining and strengthening parliamentary relations with International Parliamentary Organisations ('IPOs') through conferences, meetings, workshops, attachments, seminars, and assemblies at both local and international levels. The engagement of Members of Parliament in international meetings provides insights on global issues, opportunities to share best practices, and networking.

The Inter-Parliamentary Relations & Protocol Unit will continue to strengthen parliamentary relations and foster parliamentary friendship groups with other Parliaments, with the aim to enhance the capacities of our Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff.

### Highlights 2022–2023 : Inter-Parliamentary Relations & Protocol Unit

	<b>12 Overseas Visits</b>
	<b>29 Courtesy Calls on the Hon. Speaker</b>
	<b>19 Protocol Facilitations</b>
	<b>2 UNDP Funded Workshops</b>

## Strategic Priority 2. An effective Parliament with exceptionally capable people

### An effective and diverse workforce

Despite the challenges of limited resources and increased workload, the Human Resources, Administration and Training Unit remains committed to providing excellent services. The Unit's focus on the long-term development of business processes and staff underscores the Unit's dedication to supporting Parliament's overall objectives.

At the end of this reporting period, the parliamentary service had 75 staff, including 60 established staff, 5 support services staff, 2 drivers, and 8 interns, with a gender distribution of 46% males and 54% females.

The Unit places a high priority on the professional development of our staff. We have established strong partnerships with the Ministry of Civil Service, development partners, and other stakeholders to enhance the skills and knowledge of our staff. Over the past year, the Unit organised 4 in-house training sessions and 5 external training programmes, benefiting a total of 64 staff. The Unit remains committed to providing comprehensive and impactful training opportunities for all staff, as the goal is to equip Parliament staff with the necessary knowledge and expertise to elevate their capabilities in the short, medium, and long term, ultimately surpassing their pre-training levels.

The Unit recently developed its Discipline Guideline, a comprehensive document designed to provide clear guidance to all staff regarding their expected conduct and behaviour. This guideline will play a crucial role in identifying and correcting inappropriate behaviour whilst promoting progressive and fair approaches to disciplinary actions within Parliament. The aim is to establish a framework that fosters certainty and consistency in the application of disciplinary measures.

During this reporting period, the Parliament experienced several staffing changes. Specifically, 10 staff resigned, 2 new employees were recruited, and 8 existing staff were promoted. Additionally, 18 acting positions were filled. Despite the turnover rate of 10%, the Unit continued to involve Graduate Interns and volunteers through the National Employment Centre ('**NEC**') to ensure the institution's smooth operation.

In terms of improvements for the Unit, there is opportunity to enhance its operations by implementing a comprehensive Human Resource Information System ('**HRIS**'). This upgrade will streamline the management of HR documentation, employee records, and related processes, resulting in improved data accuracy, accessibility, and overall HR management.

### Highlights 2022–2023 : Human Resources, Administration and Training Unit

	<b>8 Promotions and 2 Appointments</b>
	<b>Discipline Guideline Finalised</b>
	<b>64 Staff Trained</b>
	<b>9 Training Sessions Delivered (internal and external)</b>

### Effective stewardship of the Parliamentary Precincts

The Assets Management and Transport Unit of Parliament ensures the premises are well-presented with regular service and maintenance. With a current staff of two for this reporting period, the Unit is responsible for carrying out approved Capital Projects, including upgrading the BCR kitchen to modern standards, replacing carpets on Level 3 for improved comfort and safety, and upgrading the generator muffler to reduce noise and ensure reliable backup power. Air-conditioning systems were enhanced with new installations and general servicing, boosting energy efficiency and comfort. Security was strengthened with upgraded electronic door controls, whilst aesthetic and functional enhancements included polishing works in the BCR and SCR rooms and stainless steel installations in the Octa room. Collectively, these initiatives preserved the Parliament building's heritage value, improved safety and functionality, and reinforced its commitment to delivering high-quality service and governance.

The Unit also provided fleet services for official engagements of MPs, including Committee work, official trips, and workshops. The Parliament fleet consists of nine vehicles, including a 12-seater mini-bus. For this reporting period, a total of about 5,841 vehicle runs were recorded, with about \$41,007.26 spent on fuel.

The Unit conducted 8 internal work projects and continued to focus on adapting the Parliament to meet its changing needs and accessibility requirements for building occupants and visitors. For this said period, around 155 servicing and maintenance works were completed.

Despite ongoing challenges related to the lack of office space, the Unit strives to effectively manage the shared premises, its assets, and the appropriate usage of its vehicles to better serve the institution.

<b>Highlights 2022–2023 : Assets Management and Transport Unit</b>	
	<b>8 Capital Projects</b>
	<b>5,841 Vehicle Runs</b>
	<b>155 Service and Maintenance Works Conducted</b>
	<b>\$41,007.26 Spent on Fuel</b>

### **Strategic Priority 3. Sustainable service delivery through operational excellence**

#### **Ensuring comprehensive and precise documentation of all written proceedings**

The *Hansard* Unit is responsible for the official written record of proceedings and debates in Parliament and its Committees. The Unit's core role is to provide quality *Hansard* reports to our main clients, the Members of Parliament. After the slow return to normalcy following the COVID-19 pandemic, the *Hansard* Unit also experienced changes within the administration. With the 2022 general election, we welcomed a new administration that presented a fresh challenge for our reporters, bringing a group of young and energetic MPs. The Unit leveraged available resources and seized this opportunity to build capacity in preparation for the new administration.

In this reporting period, with assistance from UNDP under the Fiji Parliament Support Project, the Unit was fortunate to have three former *Hansard* staff join as consultants to assist as editors during Parliament sittings.

To maintain the quality of our reports, the Unit successfully conducted 3 On-the-Job training ('OJT') sessions. Two of these training sessions were conducted internally (merging and indexing), and one was conducted off-site (Wordfest). With the consultant's help, the reporters were exposed to the Wordfest training, which focused on identifying and addressing common errors like 'malapropism' in the *Hansard* team's work. OJT will be a regular part of the Unit's staff development, that is envisaged to enhance their knowledge of sentence structure, new vocabulary, current affairs, and a better understanding of parliamentary procedures.

With respect to *Hansard* assistance with Pacific Parliaments, the Unit also participated in a Peer-to-Peer Exchange for *Hansard* staff via Zoom. The Fiji *Hansard* team, alongside colleagues from other *Hansard* branches within the region—Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Queensland, and New South Wales Parliaments—shared insights on improving our role as reporters in both monolingual and multilingual parliamentary settings and virtual Parliaments.

To keep pace with the evolving business environment and the calibre of MPs we now have, maintaining high standards of reporting and editing is essential. Self-learning and passion, drive the team to produce qualitative reports whilst upholding the *Hansard* tradition of 'not altering the meaning of what the MP says in the House.'

## Highlights 2022–2023 : *Hansard* Unit

	<p><b>25 <i>Hansard</i> reports</b></p>
	<p><b>100% delivery of <i>Hansard</i> reports for all sitting days</b></p>
	<p><b>3 On-the-Job trainings</b></p>
	<p><b>47 Verbatim reports produced for Standing Committees</b></p>

### Strengthening governance and accountability at all levels

With the elections and the swearing-in of a new coalition Government in the first half of the year, it has been an interesting and refreshing period. The Unit's goal as the Monitoring, Evaluation and Compliance Unit was to maintain the timely submission of corporate documents, focusing on compliance and the review of policies and procedures.

The Unit is pleased to have achieved the submission of at least one client feedback report, the timely submission of the annual Operational Plan, and the review of the Strategic Plan. The Unit also introduced and finalised two new policies: the Assets Management Plan and the Risk Management Policy. These documents are crucial for the planning and budgeting process of the Operational Plan and its execution. With these policies, the Unit aspires to enhance collective approach to policy, planning, and the associated risk and financial components.

The Unit's efforts to sustain our data management process are gradually being appreciated by staff and clients, which the Unit hopes to build upon for effective decision-making in the future. Through the Unit's planning process, M&E, and governance forums, the Unit has contributed to achieving sustainable service delivery through operational excellence. The timely submission of the Operational Plan and Strategic Plan has enabled staff to gain a better understanding of the vision and mission of our leaders and how to execute them.

Whilst continuous challenge lies in the area of Monitoring and Evaluation and reporting for operational sustainability, it is envisaged that in the coming years, the Unit will continue to strengthen and improve for better service delivery to the institution and its stakeholders.

## Highlights 2022–2023 : Monitoring, Evaluation and Compliance Unit

	<p><b>7 Managers' Forum Meetings</b></p>
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## Highlights 2022–2023 : Monitoring, Evaluation and Compliance Unit

	<p><b>1 Client Feedback Report</b></p>
	<p><b>1 Staff Planning Workshop – Finalisation of Operational Plan and Strategic Plan</b></p>
	<p><b>Finalisation of the Assets Management Plan and Risk Management Policy</b></p>

### Financial Prudence and Compliance

The Finance Unit is responsible for delivering efficient, effective, and timely financial services to support the implementation of the Parliament's policies and programmes, in alignment with the approved budget and regulatory frameworks governing finances.

For this reporting period, the Parliament of Fiji received a budget allocation of \$8.6105 million.

The Unit ensures the timely submission of reconciliation compliance reports to the Ministry of Finance before the due date each month, and weekly and fortnightly wage/salary reconciliations to the Ministry of Finance. The Unit also ensures that the Parliament submits a draft Financial Statement to the Auditor-General before the due date.

The Unit also ensures the provision of monthly financial performance reports and highlight other significant issues to Management for the Executive Management's information and decision-making.

### Provision of timely research and information to Members

The Research and Library Services Unit is tasked with providing research and information services to MPs and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the effective functioning of Parliament. The Unit's primary objective is to deliver accurate and unbiased research and information products to MPs, Parliamentary Committees, and the secretariat.

The Unit supports MPs and Committee secretariat in their parliamentary work by supplying information and data from diverse sources. The Unit produces information briefs, research papers, annual report summaries, speaking notes, and documents for key parliamentary engagements. Additionally, the Unit is responsible for facilitating responses to IPO obligations, Inter-Parliamentary surveys, and reports on Parliament's activities.

A key activity of the Unit is the annual budget briefing exercise, conducted in collaboration with other staff and research colleagues from various Parliaments, supported by the UNDP. This exercise results in the creation of budget briefs for MPs, designed to simplify fiscal and budgetary information for ease of understanding.

A significant achievement of the Unit was leading practical on-the-job training for 18 staff in budget analysis during the annual budget exercise. This included 11 staff and 3 interns undertaking budget analysis for the first time.

## Annual Budget Analysis and UNDP Pacific Floating Budget Office

The UNDP Pacific Floating Budget Office ('FBO') was convened on 15 July 2022 to undertake the budget exercise for the Fiji 2022–2023 Budget. The team comprised 16 parliamentary staff: 11 local staff and 5 representatives from the parliaments of Australia and Tonga.

With the assistance of UNDP, a civil society organisation ('CSO') workshop was organised on 22 July 2022 to inform civil society stakeholders on the budget briefs produced by the Unit and to provide information on the budget process in Parliament.

### Capacity-Building Initiatives

The UNDP Fiji Parliament Support Project organised a series of capacity-building initiatives for the Fijian Parliament staff prior to the budget exercise.

#### 1. First Training (16–17 November 2021)

Held at the Holiday Inn, this two-day workshop focused on –

- The importance of sharing budget data in Parliament;
- Identifying principal stakeholders and methods to share data interactively;
- Understanding the concept of separation of powers and the representative role of MPs;
- Engaging with MPs and committees for analysis of financial statements;
- Pre-budget analysis and post-budget implementation; and
- Understanding the role of CSOs and engagement with Parliaments.

The workshop also included mock budget presentations to MPs and assessed staff presentations of information in a parliamentary context.

#### 2. Second Training (3rd, 10th, and 17th June 2022)

This three-day training was delivered virtually by data analytics expert and UNDP consultant Giles Dickenson-Jones. The capacity-building initiative aimed to familiarise staff with the FBO Excel templates and to enhance their understanding of data analysis for FBO budget analysis.

### Highlights 2022–2023 : Research and Library Services Unit

	<b>55 Library Requests</b>
	<b>10 Information Briefs 2 Annual Report Summaries</b>
	<b>38 Budget Briefs</b>
	<b>Annual Budget Analysis: 30 June–7 July</b>

## Strategic Priority 4. ICT to facilitate the services of Parliament

### Enhancing digital access to Parliamentary information and records

The role of the Information and Communication Technology ('ICT') Unit is to foster the introduction of ICT to Parliament, increasing transparency and effectiveness whilst supporting parliamentarians to be more active through better use of ICT from anywhere and anytime on a range of devices.

The Unit ensures that ICT infrastructure for Parliament and all its key stakeholders is well established and maintained to support efficient delivery of services. It is also responsible for the progressive utilisation of modern technology to promote digital transformation. The critical role of the ICT Unit includes broadcasting Parliament sittings, Standing Committee public hearings, and hybrid meetings, thus enabling Parliament to fulfill its legislative, representative and oversight and scrutiny roles through accessibility and inclusiveness.

In this reporting period, the ICT Unit delivered a range of activities to support the work of the Hon. Speaker, Members of Parliament and Parliament secretariat, and the maintenance of the Parliament precincts CCTV. The following achievements are tied to the Unit's strategic themes and intended results or deliverables articulated in the Parliament's Operational Plan and Strategic Plan 2018–2022.

### Outcome of the 2022 General Election

The ICT Unit was responsible for setting up individual Members of Parliament's electronic voting, electronic attendance, and microphones in the plenary. The election of the Honourable Speaker, Honourable Deputy Speaker, and Honourable Prime Minister was historic as it was held on a Saturday, Christmas Eve and through secret ballot. The event was broadcast live with a record live viewing on the Parliament's Facebook page, not including those who watched the event on the Government's Facebook page.

### Interpretation and translation system in the plenary

In service to the political will of the Government of the day, the Fijian Parliament through the ICT Unit, facilitated the provision of technological solution that enabled the interpretations of the vernacular *Vosa Vakaviti* and *Hindi* to English in the Parliament debating Chambers. An additional two-audio channel was created to facilitate the instant transmission of interpretation of the vernacular *Vosa Vakaviti* and *Hindi* to the 55 Members of Parliament, Honourable Speaker and secretariat in the Chambers.

### Data network infrastructure

Parliament's ICT Unit and the Government's Information Technology provider Information Technology and Computing Services ('ITC&S') worked in collaboration to upgrade all computers on the govnet domain. The upgrade consists of the upgrading of Windows 8.0 operating system to Windows 10.

### Strengthening of Govnet infrastructure

Parliament ICT and ITC&S worked in collaboration to push Endpoint Trend Micro Antivirus and Malware to all computers within the Parliament's LAN (Local Area Network) so as to block and remove malicious software that may enter the system through emails, internet, memory sticks, and so forth.

One of the many challenges faced by the Unit is the shortage of staff, as the responsibility of ICT has increased significantly from the inception of Parliament in 2014 to date. Parliament has taken over the directing of cameras and maintaining the Parliament Television studio which used to be facilitated by the Fijian Broadcasting Corporation ('FBC'). Additional staff will be needed to support this and we remain hopeful that additional funding from the Ministry of Finance will be granted for the relevant positions needed.

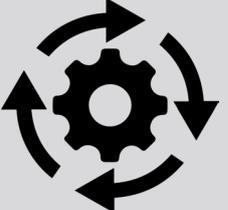
In addition, and in support of the ever-evolving world of ICT, commitment on upgrade of the conferencing system in the plenary is necessary to ensure safety of data, hardware and software.

## Highlights 2022–2023 : Information and Communication Technology Unit



### Translation of *Vosa Vakaviti* and *Hindi* in the Chambers

## Highlights 2022–2023 : Information and Communication Technology Unit

	<b>305 hours live broadcast of Parliament Sittings</b>
	<b>116 hours live broadcast of Committee Meetings</b>
	<b>Upgrade to Operating System Windows 10</b>
	<b>Endpoint Trend Micro Antivirus and Malware installation on all PCs</b>
	<b>371 Desk Queries attended to and resolved</b>

### Strategic Priority 5. Extensive engagement and effective communication

#### Communications and public engagement

The Civic Education and Media Unit is responsible for educating the public, particularly the youth, about their roles as citizens in relation to the functions of Parliament. The Unit organises and develops programmes and publications to increase public awareness and encourage participation in the parliamentary process.

The Unit also noticed a significant increase in Facebook followers. On 24 December 2022, the first day of sitting after the 2022 general election, the Facebook reach for that sitting alone was 410,500 with 337,000 viewers. The total reach for this reporting period was 1,315,544. Twitter and Instagram accounts also saw an increase in followers.

Special days such as Commonwealth Day, International Day of Parliamentarism, and International Day of Democracy were marked with messages from the Honourable Speaker, published in daily newspapers and on our social media platforms. The Unit reviewed its 2018-2022 Community Engagement Strategy and drafted the 2022-2026 Community Engagement Strategy.

The Unit faced challenges in restarting all its Civic Education and Media programmes and activities after the COVID pandemic with only 2 staff. During the pre-COVID period, the unit had 6 staff, but 4 officers resigned during the pandemic, leaving the Unit with only 2. The Unit reiterates the need for more staff to fully support the Unit's outputs.

## Highlights 2022–2023 : Civic Education and Media Unit

	<p><b>2,703 Visitors to Parliament</b></p>
	<p><b>Parliament Bus Programme – 2,819 Students and 250 Teachers</b></p>
	<p><b>Facebook reach of 1,315,544</b></p>
	<p><b>41 Press releases</b></p>
	<p><b>Drafting of 2022–2026 Community Engagement Strategy</b></p>
	<p><b>85 Livestream Committee meetings</b></p>

# DISCLOSURES AND FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE



## OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Promoting Public Sector Accountability and Sustainability through our Audits



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Karsanji Street, Vatuwaqa  
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File: 495

21 March 2024

The Honourable Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu  
Speaker of Parliament of the Republic of Fiji  
Government Buildings  
Constitution Avenue  
**SUVA**

Dear Sir

**PARLIAMENT OF FIJI**  
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 JULY 2023

The audited financial statements of the Parliament of Fiji for the year ended 31 July 2023 together with my audit report on them are enclosed.

Particulars of any errors and omissions arising from the audit have been forwarded to the Management for their necessary action.

Yours sincerely

Sairusi Dukuno  
**ACTING AUDITOR-GENERAL**

✓ cc: Ms. Jeanette Emberson – Secretary-General to Parliament

Encl.

**PARLIAMENT OF FIJI**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

**PARLIAMENT OF FIJI  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

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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 and Statement of Losses for the financial year ended 31 July 2023, 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 Accountants' 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 of Fiji's financial reporting process.

##### Other Information

The Management of the Parliament of Fiji are responsible for the Other Information. The other information comprises the Annual Report but does not include the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained during the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based upon the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

### **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 judgment 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's internal control.
- 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.

*Sairusi Dukuno*

Sairusi Dukuno  
**ACTING AUDITOR-GENERAL**



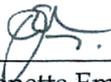
Suva, Fiji  
21 March 2024

**PARLIAMENT OF FIJI  
MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

---

We certify that these financial statements:

- (a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of Parliament of Fiji for the year ended 31 July 2023; and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act 2004 and Finance Instructions 2010.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeanette Emberson  
Secretary-General to Parliament

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jale Ratudo  
Acting Manager Finance

Date: 12 March 2024

**PARLIAMENT OF FIJI  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

	Notes	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
State Revenue – Operating Revenue		3,417	8,835
Agency Revenue – Miscellaneous Revenue		3,455	170
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	3 (a)	<b>6,872</b>	<b>9,005</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Established Staff	3 (b)	3,596,013	3,943,831
Government Wage Earners	3 (c)	226,299	168,297
Travel & Communication	3 (d)	1,262,434	765,238
Maintenance & Operations	3 (e)	744,093	712,892
Purchase of Goods & Services	3 (f)	850,796	469,516
Operating Grants & Transfers	3 (g)	541,250	125,000
Special Expenditure	3 (h)	443,684	638,027
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>		<b>7,664,569</b>	<b>6,822,801</b>
Value Added Tax		203,847	148,243
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>7,868,416</b>	<b>6,971,044</b>

**PARLIAMENT OF FIJI  
APPROPRIATION STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

SEG	Item	Budget Estimate (\$)	Appropriation Changes (\$)	Revised Estimate (\$)	Actual Expenditure (\$)	Carry-Over (\$)	Lapsed Appropriation (\$) Note 4
1	Established Staff	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Government Wage Earners	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Travel & Communication	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Maintenance & Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	8,610,532	-	8,610,532	7,868,416	-	742,116
7	Special Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>8,610,532</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,610,532</b>	<b>7,868,416</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>742,116</b>
8	Capital Construction	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Capital Purchase	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Capital Grants & Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
13	Value Added Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>8,610,532</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,610,532</b>	<b>7,868,416</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>742,116</b>

**PARLIAMENT OF FIJI  
STATEMENT OF LOSSES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

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**Losses of Money**

There was no loss of money recorded for the year ended 31 July 2023.

**Losses of Revenue**

There was no loss of revenue recorded during the financial year ended 31 July 2023.

**Losses of Assets (Other than Money)**

There was no reported loss (other than money) recorded for the year ending 31 July 2023. However, following the 2022-2023 Board of Survey, the following were approved by the Permanent Secretary for Finance;

- Dell Laptops issued to MPs from 2018-2022 – Approved for reuse worth \$88,000.
- Write – off obsolete and unserviceable items valued at \$138,400.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
Office Equipment	226,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>226,400</b>

**PARLIAMENT OF FIJI**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

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**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 Office Budget is reflected as a one-line item and this is administered by the Secretary-General as stated in the Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2017. Hence, the disclosure of expenditures according to Standard Expenditure Groups (SEGs) in the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures are done voluntarily by the Office.

**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 2004 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 Finance. VAT input on the other hand is claimed on payments made to the suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred.

**c) Comparative Figures**

Where necessary, amounts relating to prior years have been reclassified to facilitate comparison and achieve consistency in disclosure with current year amounts.

**d) 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 2023**

**NOTE 3 SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS**

- a) Total revenue decreased by \$2,133 or 24% in 2022/2023 compared to 2021/2022. Salary refunds, FNU levy refunds, and late arrivals made up the agency's revenue. Other operating revenue includes commission charges, loan recoveries to lending institutions and insurance companies, and revenue interest earned.
- b) Established staff expenditure decreased by \$347,818 or 9% in 2022/2023 compared to 2021/2022. The following movements were noted in the establish staff payroll;
- There were five new appointments of MPs.
  - One new appointment of staff.
  - Thirteen (13) staff promoted and appointed to vacant positions that were processed within the financial year.
  - Sixteen (16) acting appointment were processed
  - Five (5) MPs resigned from Parliament.
  - One (1) Member of Parliament was convicted with one count of tendering false information to a public servant under section 201(a) of the Crimes Act 2009.
  - Eleven (11) resignations of staff.
  - One (1) staff went on Leave without Pay.
- c) Government Wage Earners expenditure increased by \$58,002 or 34% in 2022/2023 compared to 2021/2022. With the realignment of the hourly wage rate of all the GWEs and the movement of staff as highlighted below:
- a. Two (2) staff went on Leave without Pay.
  - b. Three (3) staff have resigned.
- d) Travel and Communications expenditure increased by \$497,196 or 65% in 2022/2023 compared to 2021/2022. With the ease of COVID 19 restriction and our borders opening the following overseas conferences were attended;
1. 65<sup>th</sup> CPA Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Canada, August 20-26, 2022.
  2. 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health - Korea, August 24-25, 2022.
  3. 8<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Speakers Summit P20, Indonesia, October 6-7, 2022.
  4. 145<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly of the Inter Parliamentary Union meeting, Rwanda, October 11-15, 2022.
  5. 146<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly of the Inter Parliamentary Union meeting, Bahrain 11-15 March, 2023.
  6. CPA Post-Election Seminar, Tonga, March 21-23, 2023.
  7. CPA Executive Committee 2023 Mid-Year meeting, UK, 17-20 April, 2023.
  8. Members of Parliament Induction Vanuatu Parliament, Vanuatu May 8-11, 2023.

**PARLIAMENT OF FIJI**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued...)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

**NOTE 3 SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS (continued...)**

9. CPA Small Branch Workshop on Disaster Risk Management, UK, 25-26 May, 2023.
10. 63<sup>rd</sup> Organisation of African Caribbean and Pacific States - Parliamentary Assembly and 43<sup>rd</sup> ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Belgium, June 19-28, 2023.

The Speaker also directed all committees upon the easing of the COVID restriction to meet face-to-face, thus increasing MPs travel and subsistence allowances.

The following committees conducted site visits:

1. Standing Committee on Economic Affairs: Site Visit Levuka, April 24, 2023.
  2. Standing Committee on Natural Resources: Site Visit, Northern Division 08/05 - 12/05/23.
  3. Standing Committee on Justice Law and Human Rights: Site Visit, Northern Division, Taveuni and Levuka 30/05 - 02/06/23.
  4. Standing Committee on Justice Law and Human Rights: Site Visit Western Division.
- e) Maintenance and Operations expenditure increased by \$31,201 or 4% in 2022/2023 compared to 2021/2022.

With our aging heritage building, ongoing repair and maintenance work continued, such as water proofing, electrical upgrades, water blasting, servicing and repair of air conditioning units, and upgrading to level 3.

The bulk of the work was for the start of the third term of Parliament, which included tiling works at the foyer, installing new carpets in the Chamber, replacing wall lights, installing stainless steel railings, minor upgrades to the Government and Opposition offices, a new washroom for the Honourable Speaker, and maintenance to the vehicle shed.

Catering costs also increase during this period due to the late sitting of Parliament and Standing Committees sitting extra days.

- f) Purchase of Good and Services expenditure increased by \$381,280 or 81% in 2022/2023 compared to 2021/2022.

The increase in spending was noted to prepare for the new MPs swearing-in after the general election. Procurement of ICT gadgets, laptops, and computers were some of the major expenses noted.

The ICT equipment, after serving two parliamentary terms, needed upgrading or replacement. Exploring the cloud applications is mostly suited for MPs and staff working remotely, thus upgrading the Microsoft 365 plan from E1 to business premium level with an increase in user's license.

**PARLIAMENT OF FIJI**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*Continued...*)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

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**NOTE 3 SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS (*continued....*)**

- g) The Operating Grants and Transfers expenditure increased by \$416,250 or 333% in 2022/2023 compared to 2021/2022. The Department utilised its saving from 2021/2022 financial year and paid the three political parties its annual grant for August and September 2022.

For the financial year 2022/2023, the Department paid the grant for October 2022, and after a writ dated October 31<sup>st</sup> was issued, the Parliament was dissolved.

Upon the opening of Parliament for the third term, the grant for the 7-month period was processed (January 2023 – July 2023).

- h) The Special Expenditure decreased by \$194,343 or 30% in 2022/2023 compared to 2021/2022. Upon the writ announcement on October 30<sup>th</sup>, Parliament was dissolved, and there was no Standing Committee meeting from November 2022 to February 2023 (4 months).

**NOTE 4 REASONS FOR SAVINGS**

For the period 2022/2023 the Department had a saving of \$742,116 or 9%. The saving was due to vacant position, high staff turnover, MPs salary vote due to Parliament being dissolved and Fiji First Party suspension. There were no grants paid during the period Parliament was dissolved. The Standing Committees ceased sittings after the writ was announced and also from the Annual Parliamentary subscription allocation.

**NOTE 5 On-Going Case of Falsification of Address**

Members of Parliament accommodation allowances – FICAC case still on-going before the courts as at the end of 2022/2023 financial year.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### BILLS PASSED IN PARLIAMENT — AUGUST 2022–JULY 2023

NO.	ACT NO.	SHORT TITLE	LONG TITLE	HISTORY	COMMENCEMENT DATE
1	47 of 2022	Fiji Development Bank (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Fiji Development Bank Act 1966	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>29 August 2022</u></li> <li>The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>1 September 2022</u></li> </ul>	Comes into force on a date appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
2	48 of 2022	Financial Transactions Reporting (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Financial Transactions Reporting Act 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>29 August 2022</u></li> <li>The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>1 September 2022</u></li> </ul>	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
3	49 of 2022	Electoral (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Electoral Act 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>29 August 2022</u></li> <li>The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>1 September 2022</u></li> </ul>	Comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette
4	1 of 2023	Media Industry Development (Repeal)	An Act to repeal the Media Industry Development Act 2010 and for related matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>3 April 2023</u></li> <li>The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>6 April 2023</u></li> </ul>	Comes into force on 14 April 2023 LN 30/2023
5	2 of 2023	iTaukei Land Trust (Amendment)	An Act to amend the iTaukei Land Trust Act 1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>3 April 2023</u></li> <li>The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>6 April 2023</u></li> </ul>	Comes into force on 17 April 2023 LN 31/2023
6	3 of 2023	2023–2024 Appropriation	An Act to appropriate a sum of three billion, seven hundred sixty one million, nine hundred seventy nine thousand, four hundred four dollars for the ordinary services of government for the year ending 31 July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FR – The Bill was moved under SO84(1) and 99 on <u>30 June 2023</u></li> <li>SR – <u>10 July 2023</u></li> <li>TR – <u>13 July 2023</u></li> <li>The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>13 July 2023</u></li> </ul>	Comes into force on 1 August 2023
7	4 of 2023	Tax Administration (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Tax Administration Act 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>30 June 2023</u></li> <li>The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>14 July 2023</u></li> </ul>	Comes into force on 1 August 2023

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

NO.	ACT NO.	SHORT TITLE	LONG TITLE	HISTORY	COMMENCEMENT DATE
8	5 of 2023	Income Tax (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Income Tax Act 2015		Comes into force on 1 August 2023 except section 7 which is deemed to have come into force on 1 July 2023; and sections 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 to 11 which come into force on 1 January 2024
9	6 of 2023	Value Added Tax (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Value Added Tax Act 1991		Comes into force on 1 August 2023
10	7 of 2023	Customs (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Customs Act 1986		Comes into force on 1 August 2023
11	8 of 2023	Customs Tariff (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Customs Tariff Act 1986		Comes into force on 30 June 2023, except section 6 which comes into force on 1 August 2023 and sections 2(c), (d) and (e) and 5 which come into force on 1 January 2024
12	9 of 2023	Excise (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Excise Act 1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>30 June 2023</u></li> <li>The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>14 July 2023</u></li> </ul>	Comes into force on 30 June 2023, except sections 3 and 4(c) which come into force on 1 January 2024
13	10 of 2023	Airport Departure Tax (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Airport Departure Tax Act 1986		Comes into force on 1 August 2023
14	11 of 2023	Water Resource Tax (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Water Resource Tax Act 2008		Comes into force on 1 August 2023
15	12 of 2023	Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service Act 1998		Comes into force on 1 August 2023 LN 47/2023
16	13 of 2023	Fiji National Provident Fund (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Fiji National Provident Fund Act 2011		Comes into force on 1 August 2023 except section 5 which comes into force on 1 January 2024
17	14 of 2023	Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service Act 2014		Comes into force on 1 August 2023
18	15 of 2023	Land Sales (Budget Amendment)	An Act to amend the Land Sales Act 1974		Comes into force on 1 August 2023
19	16 of 2023	Liquor (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Liquor Act 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FR – The Bill was moved pursuant to SO51 on <u>11 July 2023</u></li> </ul>	Comes into force on 11 August 2023 LN 48/2023
20	17 of 2023	Immigration (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Immigration Act 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bill was moved, debated, voted upon and enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on <u>14 July 2023</u></li> </ul>	Comes into force on 10 October 2023 LN 82/2023
21	18 of 2023	Interpretation (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Interpretation Act 1967		Comes into force on 11 August 2023 LN 49/2023
22	19 of 2023	Electoral (Registration of Voters) (Amendment)	An Act to amend the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act 2012		Comes into force on 11 August 2023 LN 50/2023

## COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED IN PARLIAMENT – AUGUST 2022–JULY 2023

	ANNUAL REPORTS	BILLS	TREATIES	PETITIONS	TOTAL COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED
	38	–	1	–	39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>39</b>

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

## COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED IN PARLIAMENT – AUGUST 2022–JULY 2023

ANNUAL REPORTS	
1	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 29 August 2022 as— <b>“Review of the 2018–2019 and 2019–2020 Audit Reports on Municipal Councils”</b> PP 41 of 2022
2	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 29 August 2022 as— <b>“Review Report of the Accident Compensation Commission Fiji 2018 Annual Report”</b> PP 91 of 2022
3	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights tabled the review report of the Committee on 29 August 2022 as— <b>“Review of the Office of the Prime Minister and Department of Immigration 2018–2019 Annual Report”</b> PP 96 of 2022
4	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 30 August 2022 as— <b>“Review of the Fiji Public Trustee Corporation Pte Limited 2019 and 2018 Annual Report”</b> PP 60 of 2022
5	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights tabled the review report of the Committee on 30 August 2022 as— <b>“Review of the Fiji Corrections Service Annual Report 2017–2018”</b> PP 95 of 2022
6	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 30 August 2022 as— <b>“Review of the iTaukei Trust Fund Board 2019 Annual Report”</b> PP 59 of 2022
7	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 30 August 2022 as— <b>“Review Report of the Fiji Rice 2013–2017 Annual Reports”</b> PP 92 of 2022
8	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 30 August 2022 as— <b>“Review of the Fiji National University 2020 Annual Report”</b> PP 61 of 2022
9	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 30 August 2022 as— <b>“Review of the Performance Audit on the Licensing and Monitoring of River Gravel and Sand Extractions”</b> PP 87 of 2022
10	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 31 August 2022— <b>“Review of the Housing Authority 2016 and 2017 Annual Report”</b> PP 62 of 2022
11	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 31 August 2022— <b>“Review of the Public Rental Board 2018 Annual Report”</b> PP 63 of 2022
12	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources tabled the review report of the Committee on 31 August 2022— <b>“Review Report of the Ministry of Agriculture Consolidated Annual Reports 1st August 2016–31 July 2017 and 1st August 2017–31 July 2018”</b> PP 67 of 2022
13	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources tabled the review report of the Committee on 31 August 2022 — <b>“Review of the Water Authority of Fiji Annual Report 2017”</b> PP 80 of 2022
14	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources tabled the review report of the Committee on 31 August 2022 — <b>“Review of the Consolidated Annual Reports for the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources 2014 and 2015”</b> PP 68 of 2022
15	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 31 August 2022— <b>“Review Report of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service August 2017–July 2018 Annual Report”</b> PP 93 of 2022
16	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights tabled the review report of the Committee on 31 August 2022— <b>“Review of the Electoral Commission Annual Report 2018”</b> PP 281 of 2020
17	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 31 August 2022— <b>“Review of the Auditor-General’s Report on Compliance Audits Relating to COVID-19 Response ”</b> PP 84 of 2022
18	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights tabled the review report of the Committee on 1 September 2022— <b>“Review of the Electoral Commission Annual Report 2019”</b> PP 282 of 2020
19	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 1 September 2022— <b>“Consolidated Review Report of the Fiji Meat Industry Board 2015–2017 Annual Reports”</b> PP 94 of 2022
20	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 1 September 2022— <b>“Review of the Office of the Auditor-General’s 2021 Annual Report”</b> PP 88 of 2022
21	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts tabled the review report of the Committee on 1 September 2022— <b>“Review of the Auditor-General’s Report on COVID–19 Compliance Audits – Management of Unemployment Benefits, Management of Concessional Loan Package to Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)”</b> PP 85 of 2022
22	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence tabled the review report of the Committee on 27 March 2023— <b>“Review of the Fiji Police Force Annual Report August 2018 – July 2019”</b> PP 64 of 2022
23	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 29 March 2023— <b>“Review of the Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji 2020 Annual Report”</b> PP 24 of 2023
24	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 29 March 2023— <b>“Review of the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management 2016–2017 and 2017–2018 Annual Report”</b> PP 25 of 2023

25	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 30 March 2023— <b>“Review of the Land Transport Authority 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2016–2017 Annual Reports”</b>	PP 26 of 2023
26	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 30 March 2023— <b>“Review of the iTaukei Trust Fund Board Annual Report 2020”</b>	PP 27 of 2023
27	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights tabled the review report of the Committee on 3 April 2023— <b>“Review of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji Annual Report 2017–2018”</b>	PP 33 of 2023
28	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 3 April 2023— <b>“Review of the Fiji Airports Annual Report 2020”</b>	PP 28 of 2023
29	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 4 April 2023— <b>“Review of the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations 1 August 2016–31 July 2017 and 2017–2018 Annual Report”</b> PP 29 of 2023	
30	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 4 April 2023— <b>“Review Report of the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission 2018–2019 Annual Report”</b>	PP 36 of 2023
31	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 4 April 2023— <b>“Consolidated Review Report of the Pacific Fishing Company Ltd 2018–2019 Annual Reports”</b>	PP 37 of 2023
32	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 5 April 2023— <b>“Review Report of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Annual Report for the period of 1st August 2018–31st July 2019”</b>	PP 30 of 2023
33	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 14 July 2023— <b>“Review Report of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service 2018–2019 Annual Report”</b>	PP 68 of 2023
34	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 14 July 2023— <b>“Consolidated Review Report of the Fiji Development Bank 2020/2021 Annual Report”</b>	PP 67 of 2023
35	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs tabled the review report of the Committee on 14 July 2023— <b>“Review Report of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism 2018–2019 Annual Report”</b>	PP 82 of 2023
36	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence tabled the review report of the Committee on 14 July 2023— <b>“Review Report of the Ministry of Defence and National Security 2017–2018 Annual Report”</b>	PP 75 of 2023
37	The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources tabled the review report of the Committee on 14 July 2023— <b>“Consolidated Annual Review Report of the Ministries of Fisheries for the Years 2018–2019, 2019–2020 and 2020–2021”</b> PP 66 of 2023	
38	The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights tabled the review report of the Committee on 14 July 2023— <b>“Consolidated Review Report of the Ministry of Civil Service 2016, 2016–2017, 2017–2018 and 2018–2019 Annual Report”</b> PP 83 of 2023	
<b>TREATIES</b>		
1	The Committee report was tabled back to Parliament on 14 July 2023 as— <b>“Review Report on the Convention on Cybercrime”</b>	PP 53 of 2023



**PARLIAMENT OF THE  
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