



STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

Review Report of the Fiji Police Force 2021-2022 Annual Report



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
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Acronyms

DUAVATA	Drawing Unity Amongst Various Agencies Through Acceptance
FPF	Fiji Police Force
FICAC	Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption
INTERPOL	International Police Organisation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

Chairperson's Foreword

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, I am pleased to present this Review Report on the Fiji Police Force 2021-2022 Annual Report.

The Fiji Police Force plays a critical role in safeguarding national security, maintaining law and order, protecting lives and property, and upholding the rule of law. During the period under review, the Force continued to operate in a challenging environment marked by the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing criminal complexity, and growing demands on policing services. The Committee, however, notes several positive achievements, including a 12 percent reduction in overall registered crime, a decline from 20,239 cases in 2020–2021 to 17,842 cases in 2021–2022, an 11 percent reduction in road fatalities following extensive traffic enforcement operations, and strengthened drug enforcement activities that resulted in 170 drug raids and the destruction of more than 224,000 marijuana plants. The Committee also acknowledges the Force's continued investment in community policing, digital technologies, and officer welfare programmes.

The Committee's scrutiny also revealed several areas of concern that require strategic attention. While overall crime decreased, serious crime increased by 22 percent, and sexual offences rose by 28 percent during the reporting period. The Committee further notes that the Force faced a funding shortfall of approximately \$165 million against its requested budget, operated with 219 unfilled vacancies, and continued to encounter challenges relating to ageing infrastructure, overcrowded detention facilities, cybercrime, transnational crime, and maritime border security. These issues highlight the growing complexity of Fiji's security environment and the need for sustained investment in policing capabilities, workforce development, technology, and operational resources.

The Committee has made several recommendations to strengthen the Fiji Police Force's operational effectiveness and accountability, including the development of a formal whistleblower policy, increased investment in digital forensics and cybercrime capabilities, enhanced maritime border security through the deployment of the INTERPOL I-24/7 screening system at ports of entry, improved funding for policing infrastructure and technology, the implementation of body-worn cameras, and the expansion of community policing initiatives. Collectively, these measures are intended to improve public confidence, strengthen national security, and ensure that the Force remains equipped to respond to evolving crime trends and emerging security challenges.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish to convey our sincere appreciation to the Fiji Police Force for its cooperation and constructive engagement throughout the review of its 2021–2022 Annual Report. The Committee acknowledges the valuable information and insights provided, which greatly assisted Members in the conduct of their scrutiny and deliberations. I also extend my gratitude to the Members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence for their commitment, diligence, and bipartisan approach in the preparation of this report.

Honourable Speaker, I submit this Report to Parliament.



Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua
Chairperson

1.0 Committee Remit and Composition

Under Standing Order 109(2)(e) the Committee is mandated to investigate matters related to Fiji's relations with other countries, development aid, foreign direct investment, oversight of the military, and relations with multi-lateral organisations. The members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence are as follows:



Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua
Chairperson
Deputy Speaker of Parliament
Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs



Hon. Rinesh Sharma
Deputy Chairperson



Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu
Member
Assistant Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Heritage and Arts



Hon. Penioni Ravunawa
Member
Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services



Hon. Virendra Lal
Member



Hon. Taito Rokomatu
Member

1.1 Committee Secretariat Team

Supporting the Committee in its work is a group of dedicated Parliament Officers serving as the Committee Secretariat. These officers are appointed and delegated by the Secretary-General to Parliament by Standing Order 15(3)(i). The Secretariat officers are as follows:

- Ms. Tirisiane Logavatu – Senior Committee Clerk
- Mrs. Elesi Tabuyaqona – Deputy Committee Clerk

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2.0 Background and Terms of Reference

2.1 Presentation of the Annual Report

- 2.1.1 The Speaker of Parliament, on 27 April 2026, referred the Fiji Police FPF (“FPF”) 2021-2022 Annual Report to the Committee for review. The referral was made pursuant to Standing Order 38(2), which mandates that all annual reports tabled in Parliament be referred to the relevant Standing Committee for examination and report back to Parliament.
- 2.1.2 The Committee is responsible for reviewing matters concerning Fiji’s international relations, development assistance, foreign direct investment, national security oversight, and engagement with multilateral organisations.
- 2.1.3 The FPF Annual Report falls within the mandate of the Committee, given the FPF’s central role in law enforcement, public safety, and national security.

2.2 Procedure and Programme

Public Submission

- 2.2.1 In relation to Standing Order 111 (1), the Committee is committed to upholding public trust in Parliament, by ensuring that there is public participation and that all such participation is given due consideration. The FPF representatives appeared before the Committee at a public hearing in Suva on 10 June 2026. The public submission was broadcast live on the Parliament Facebook page and aired on the Walesi Parliament channel.
- 2.2.2 A summary of the submission is provided in a later part of this report, under the heading ‘Committee’s Deliberation and Analysis’. Copies of the written submission and the verbatim from the public hearing can be obtained from the online Appendices of the report, which can be accessed from the Parliament website: www.parliament.gov.fj

3.0 Committee Deliberation and Analysis

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This report presents a summary and analysis of the FPF Annual Report for the financial year 2021-2022. It highlights key achievements, challenges, and provides recommendations for improvement to support the mandate of the FPF.
- 3.1.2 The FPF derives its mandate from the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji, the Police Act 1965, the Crimes Act 2009, FPF Standing Orders, and other relevant laws, policies and regulations. The Force's performance is assessed against the national goal of maintaining law and order, through a framework of strategic priorities, key performance indicators, and operational activities set out in its Annual Corporate Plan.
- 3.1.3 The FPF is mandated to maintain law and order, protect lives and property, uphold the rule of law, and ensure that all Fijians can live and conduct their daily activities in a safe and secure environment. To fulfil this responsibility, the FPF must effectively prevent and investigate crime, support the administration of justice, and maintain a professional, well-trained, and adequately resourced workforce equipped with the necessary technology and operational capabilities.

3.2 Committee Findings

- 3.2.1 The Committee notes that while the FPF achieved a 12 percent reduction in overall registered crime, decreasing from 20,239 cases in 2020–2021 to 17,842 cases in 2021–2022, this result should be interpreted with caution. The Committee observes that a substantial portion of the decline was attributed to COVID-19 restrictions, rather than broad-based reductions across all crime categories. This suggests that the overall decrease in crime may not fully reflect improvements in underlying crime trends.
- 3.2.2 The Committee is concerned that serious crime increased by 22 percent during the reporting period, rising from 2,727 to 3,320 cases. In particular, significant increases were recorded in robbery, aggravated robbery, burglary, rape, and murder offences.
- 3.2.3 The Committee notes with concern the 28 percent increase in sexual offences and the reported rise in crimes against children. While the increase may partly reflect improved reporting mechanisms and greater public awareness, the Committee considers the figures indicative of persistent vulnerabilities affecting women and children and underscores the importance of strengthening prevention, investigation, and victim support services.
- 3.2.4 The Committee acknowledges the FPF’s proactive approach to drug enforcement, reflected in the 27 percent increase in detected drug offences, the conduct of 170 drug raids, and the destruction of more than 224,000 marijuana plants. The Committee notes that the increase in drug cases is reflective of enhanced enforcement activity.
- 3.2.5 The Committee notes the positive impact of sustained traffic enforcement operations, which included more than 107,000 random breath tests and the interception of almost 290,000 vehicles. The resulting 11 percent reduction in road fatalities demonstrates the effectiveness of visible policing and targeted enforcement in improving public safety outcomes.
- 3.2.6 The Committee finds that community policing remains one of the FPF’s most effective crime prevention strategies. The continued implementation of the DUAVATA Framework (Community Policing), together with community awareness programmes, youth engagement initiatives, and Crime Prevention Committees, has strengthened partnerships between the Police and local communities. The Committee considers these initiatives essential to maintaining public trust and addressing the root causes of offending.
- 3.2.7 The Committee notes progress in advancing gender inclusion within the FPF, with women comprising 26 percent of the workforce and increasing participation in leadership development and international deployments. However, the Committee considers that further

efforts are required to improve gender representation at senior leadership levels and strengthen institutional responses to gender-based violence.

- 3.2.8 The Committee acknowledges the FPF's efforts to modernise policing through investments in digital technologies, including Video Recorded Interview systems, CCTV expansion in municipalities, and improved communications infrastructure. The Committee considers these initiatives important for enhancing investigative capacity, transparency, accountability, and operational effectiveness, particularly in the context of emerging cybercrime threats.
- 3.2.9 The Committee notes that lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in improvements to operational preparedness, digital service delivery, and inter-agency coordination. The Committee considers these reforms critical in strengthening the FPF's capacity to respond to future emergencies and national crises.
- 3.2.10 The Committee notes that the FPF does not currently operate a standalone whistleblower policy. However, the FPF has established internal reporting mechanisms through the Inspectorate Officers Association, Subordinate Officers Association, and Gazetted Officers Association, which serve as direct channels for officers to raise concerns, welfare matters, workplace grievances, and allegations involving senior officers directly with the Office of the Commissioner of Police, outside the normal chain of commands. The Committee further notes that these associations are recognised under the Police Act 1965 and provide an avenue for officers to communicate sensitive matters without interference from immediate supervisors.
- 3.2.11 The Committee notes that the FPF has faced persistent funding shortfalls over the past five years. In 2021–2022, the Force requested \$349.3 million but received \$184.3 million, a funding gap of approximately \$165 million. Similar disparities between budget submissions and approved allocations continued in subsequent years, affecting the Force's ability to address critical priorities.

The Committee finds that these resource constraints have limited investments in infrastructure upgrades, fleet replacement, maritime surveillance, ICT systems, forensic and cybercrime capabilities, and frontline operational support. The Committee considers that sustained investment is necessary to ensure the FPF remains adequately equipped to meet growing policing demands and emerging security challenges.

- 3.2.12 While personnel numbers increased to 5,055 officers, the Committee notes that 219 vacancies remained unfilled, particularly within frontline policing, traffic operations, criminal investigations, WATERPOL, K9, pathology, and specialist investigative units. The

Committee finds that staffing shortages contribute to increased workloads, officer fatigue, longer response times, delays in investigations, and reduced proactive policing capability. The Committee further notes that 266 officers left the organisation during the reporting period and 1,331 acting appointments were recorded, indicating ongoing workforce planning and retention challenges.

- 3.2.13 The Committee notes that crime detection rates declined from 71 percent in 2021 to 69 percent in 2022, falling below the organisational target of maintaining a detection rate above 70 percent. The Committee finds that manpower shortages, technological limitations, increasing cyber-enabled offences, competing operational demands, and growing drug-related investigations contributed to this decline. While efforts are underway to strengthen forensic services, intelligence-led policing, and investigative training, sustained investment will be required to improve investigative outcomes.
- 3.2.14 The Committee notes that police holding facilities have an approved capacity of approximately 680 detainees nationwide; however, occupancy levels frequently exceed approved limits by between 30 and 60 percent. The Committee finds that overcrowding, deteriorating infrastructure, inadequate segregation facilities, shortages of essential supplies, and delays in transfers to correctional facilities pose risks to detainee welfare, officer safety, and is in violation of constitutional and human rights obligations.
- 3.2.15 The Committee notes that the Psychology Unit attended to 1,653 officers which is around 33 percent of the Force during the reporting period. Evidence presented to the Committee highlighted that many officers experienced significant mental health pressures arising from prolonged COVID-19 deployments, family breakdowns, relationship stress, burnout, and emotional fatigue. The Committee finds that officer wellbeing is increasingly linked to operational effectiveness and supports continued investment in counselling services, welfare programmes, and family support mechanisms.
- 3.2.16 The Committee notes that the FPF identified cybercrime, misinformation, digital fraud, narcotics trafficking, and transnational crime as emerging threats that are outpacing current capabilities. The Committee finds that additional investment is required in digital forensics, cyber investigations, maritime surveillance, intelligence systems, and specialised training. The Committee also notes the Force's support for legislative reforms, including the proposed Fiji Police Bill 2026 and modernised cybercrime legislation, to strengthen operational effectiveness and accountability.
- 3.2.17 The Committee notes that the FPF has established a formal recruitment framework based on merit, transparency, and equal opportunity principles, supported by recruitment boards, selection panels, conflict-of-interest declarations, and documented assessment processes.

While these safeguards provide assurance regarding recruitment integrity, the Committee finds that ongoing monitoring and public transparency remain necessary to maintain public confidence and address perceptions of favouritism or nepotism.

3.2.18 The Committee notes the FPF's zero-tolerance approach to corruption and misconduct, supported by internal investigations, external oversight by FICAC, and strengthened accountability mechanisms. Nevertheless, the Committee considers that continued vigilance is necessary to maintain public confidence, particularly in traffic enforcement and drug related offences.

3.2.19 The Committee remains concerned about vulnerabilities in Fiji's maritime border security framework. The Committee found that the INTERPOL 24/7 (I-24/7) database is used by the FPF INTERPOL Unit only at the Nadi International Airport.

The I-24/7 database is used to:

- Screen foreign nationals against INTERPOL NOTICES (e.g., stolen passports, wanted persons, international fugitives);
- Support border security and immigration screening.

However, since this system is currently operational only at Nadi International Airport for air arrivals, it creates a significant maritime security gap as foreign nationals arriving by sea (yachts, private vessels, inter-island vessels with foreign crew/passengers) are not screened against I-24/7 at Fiji's wharves and maritime ports of entry. The lack of a dedicated maritime border policing structure equivalent to that operating at international airports may expose Fiji to transnational crime risks, including drug trafficking, people smuggling, and the movement of wanted persons.

3.2.20 The Committee is concerned by the delays in establishing police posts in Beqa and Kavala, Kadavu, particularly given the policing challenges associated with remote maritime communities. The Committee considers the timely establishment of these facilities is important for improving police accessibility, response times, and public confidence in underserved areas.

3.2.21 The Committee notes that the FPF is actively exploring the introduction of body-worn cameras as part of its broader efforts to strengthen transparency, accountability, and public confidence in policing. Evidence presented to the Committee indicated that the Force has commenced preliminary assessments of body-worn camera technology and recognises its potential to enhance the integrity and credibility of frontline policing activities, particularly in traffic enforcement and highway operations. However, the Committee notes that the successful implementation of such technology will require the establishment of an

appropriate legislative framework, supporting digital infrastructure, secure data storage systems, and operational policies to ensure its lawful and effective use.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee recommends that the FPF develop and implement a formal whistleblower policy that provides clear reporting procedures, confidentiality safeguards, protection from retaliation, and independent oversight mechanisms to encourage the reporting of misconduct, corruption, abuse of authority, and workplace grievances. This would strengthen accountability and public confidence in the Force. (*reference 3.2.10*)
- 4.2 The Committee recommends that the Government prioritise investment in the FPF's Digital Forensics Unit through the provision of specialised equipment, software, training, and personnel to enable the Force to effectively respond to emerging threats such as cybercrime, online fraud, cyber harassment, artificial intelligence-enabled offences, and digital evidence investigations. (*reference 3.2.16*)
- 4.3 The Committee recommends that the FPF, in collaboration with relevant Government agencies, establish and operationalise police posts and K9 screening capabilities at all key maritime entry points, to strengthen border security, detect illicit activities, and improve monitoring of passenger and cargo movements. (*reference 3.2.16*)
- 4.4 The Committee recommends that the Government provide dedicated funding for the rehabilitation, upgrading, and replacement of ageing police stations, posts, and accommodation facilities, particularly those identified as non-compliant with occupational health and safety standards, to ensure a safe working environment for officers and improved service delivery to the public. (*reference 3.2.11*)
- 4.5 The Committee recommends that the FPF continue to strengthen community policing programmes and expand outreach initiatives in rural and maritime communities to improve public trust, encourage community participation in crime prevention, and increase support for criminal investigations through witness cooperation and information sharing. (*reference 3.2.6*)
- 4.6 The Committee recommends that the FPF expedite the implementation of a body-worn camera programme, supported by the necessary legislative framework, digital storage infrastructure, and operational policies, to enhance transparency, accountability, evidence gathering, and public confidence in policing activities. (*reference 3.2.21*)
- 4.7 The Committee recommends that the FPF strengthen internal integrity mechanisms through regular asset declaration requirements, lifestyle audits where appropriate, and enhanced collaboration with relevant agencies to detect unexplained wealth, corruption, and other forms of misconduct within the organisation. (*reference 3.2.18*)

- 4.8 The Committee strongly recommends that the Government consider the FPF's annual budget submissions, particularly in relation to infrastructure upgrades, technology modernisation, digital policing capabilities, fleet replacement, maritime surveillance, and community policing initiatives, to ensure that the Force remains adequately resourced to meet evolving security challenges. (*reference 3.2.11*)
- 4.9 The Committee recommends that the FPF strengthen public complaints mechanisms, including greater public awareness of the 1681 hotline for reporting against police conduct, and regularly publish data on complaints received, resolved, and actions taken to improve transparency and accountability. (*reference 3.2.10, 3.2.18*)
- 4.10 The Committee recommends that the FPF, in partnership with the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service, the Fiji Ports Corporation Limited, and other relevant border management agencies, develop and implement a phased plan for the deployment of the INTERPOL I-24/7 screening system at all maritime ports of entry and designated wharves, including Suva, Denarau, Lautoka, Savusavu, Levuka, Rotuma, and other locations receiving foreign vessels, passengers, or crew.

The Committee further recommends that the necessary infrastructure, training, and operational protocols be established to ensure that maritime arrivals are subject to the same level of INTERPOL screening and intelligence checks as air arrivals. This will strengthen Fiji's border security framework, enhance the detection of transnational criminals and persons travelling on stolen or fraudulent travel documents, and reduce vulnerabilities that may be exploited through maritime entry routes. (*reference 3.2.19*)

5.0 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The Committee finds that the FPF's activities during the 2021–2022 reporting period demonstrated contribution towards the achievement of SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The Committee further notes that continued investment in technology, infrastructure, workforce development, gender inclusion, community policing, and strategic partnerships will be critical to strengthening the Force's contribution to Fiji's sustainable development objectives.

5.1 SDG 5 – Gender Equality

The Committee notes the FPF's efforts to promote gender equality and women's participation within the organisation. During the reporting period, women constituted 26 percent of the Force's workforce, over 100 female officers participated in leadership training programmes, and eight female officers were deployed on United Nations missions. The Committee further notes the operation of the Female Police Unit, and the implementation of the No-Drop Policy on Gender-Based Violence.

5.2 SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

The Committee considers SDG 16 to be the primary SDG advanced by the FPF. The Force's core mandate to maintain law and order, investigate crimes, prosecute offenders, uphold professional standards, and strengthen public trust directly contributes to peaceful and inclusive societies. The Committee notes the FPF's reported 94 percent prosecution success rate, ongoing efforts to strengthen internal accountability through the Internal Affairs Unit, mechanisms for reporting misconduct, anti-corruption investigations, and initiatives to improve transparency through community engagement and public reporting channels. The Committee finds that these activities contribute significantly to strengthening institutions, promoting the rule of law, and enhancing access to justice.

5.3 SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

The Committee notes that the FPF continues to rely on strong partnerships with domestic and international stakeholders to strengthen policing capabilities. Evidence presented to the Committee highlighted collaboration with the Australian Federal Police, New Zealand Police, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit, the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service, the Online Safety Commission, and United Nations peacekeeping programmes. These partnerships support capacity building, technical assistance, intelligence sharing, digital forensics, anti-corruption efforts, and specialised training. The Committee finds that these collaborative arrangements are essential for addressing increasingly complex and transnational security challenges.

6.0 Conclusion

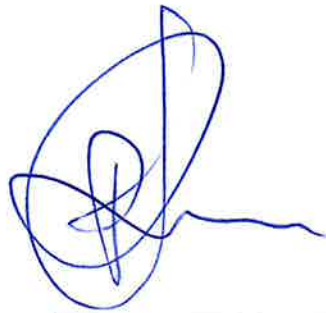
The Committee acknowledges the FPF's continued commitment to maintaining law and order and delivering policing services under challenging operational circumstances during the 2021–2022 financial year. The Committee notes several positive achievements, including the reduction in overall registered crime, improvements in road safety outcomes, enhanced drug enforcement operations, continued investment in digital policing technologies, and the strengthening of community policing initiatives through the DUAVATA Framework. The Committee also recognises the FPF's efforts to advance gender inclusion, strengthen internal accountability mechanisms, and improve operational preparedness in response to emerging security challenges. These achievements demonstrate the Force's ongoing dedication to safeguarding the people of Fiji and upholding the rule of law.

Despite these achievements, the Committee remains concerned about several systemic challenges affecting the FPF, including resource constraints, staffing shortages, overcrowded detention facilities, increasing serious and cyber-enabled crimes, transnational criminal threats, and the need for enhanced maritime border security. The Committee is of the view that sustained investment in personnel, infrastructure, technology, officer welfare, and specialised policing capabilities will be critical to ensuring that the Force remains responsive to evolving security demands.

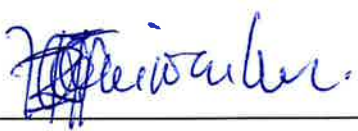
7.0 Committee Members' Signatures



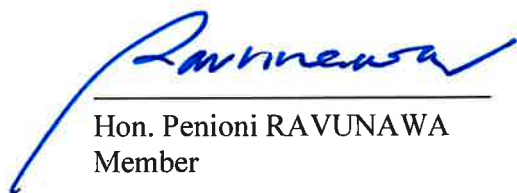
Hon. Lenora QEREQERETABUA
Chairperson



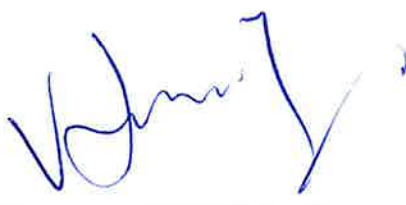
Hon. Rinesh SHARMA
Deputy Chairperson



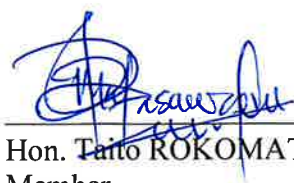
Hon. Ratu Isikeli TUIWAILEVU
Member



Hon. Penioni RAVUNAWA
Member



Hon. Virendra LAL
Member



Hon. Taito ROKOMATU
Member

8.0 Annexure

Published evidence

Written evidence, transcripts, and supporting documents can be viewed on the Parliament website at the following link:

<https://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-foreign-affairs-and-defence/>