



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



ANNUAL REPORT 2017 – 2018

Parliamentary Paper No. 80 of 2026

30 July 2026

Honourable Sitiveni L. Rabuka
Prime Minister
Government Buildings
SUVA

Dear Sir,

I present the Annual Report of the Office of the President for the financial year ending 31st July 2018 in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004, which requires the Annual Reports of Government Agencies to be tabled in Parliament.

Yours sincerely,


V. Qioniparavi
Official Secretary

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OFFICIAL SECRETARY'S REVIEW

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the Office of the President covering the period from August 2017 to July 2018.

This report covers the engagements attended to by the President His Excellency Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote as Head of State, Commander-in-Chief, and Chancellor of the Order of Fiji.

The Office of the President aligned its work program to the 5-year (2017-2021) and 20-year (2017-2036) National Development Plan that became operational in November 2017.

2017 saw preparations for the complete refurbishment of State House, while Quarters 79 was appropriately converted and furnished as the President's temporary residence. The historic Borron House hosted official ceremonies and functions while State House was being refurbished. The official residence of the President was renamed in 2016 from Government House to State House to formalise the status of the President as the Head of State and the institution as The Pillar of National Unity. While it is the official residence of the Head of State, it also hosts ceremonial functions for visiting Heads of State, dignitaries and members of the community.

Additionally, Fiji through the Prime Minister Honourable Voreqe Bainimarama assumed the presidency of the 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP23) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in November 2017. Considering the vulnerability of Small Island Development States to the indiscriminant impacts of climate change, Fiji became vocal as an island nation on the frontline of climate diplomacy. The President played a leading role in raising awareness on the impacts of climate change, the importance of food security, promotion of sustainable practices and the utility of backyard gardening.

The President continued the tradition of community outreach in accordance with the long-standing practice that his predecessors established.

The Office continued to facilitate the President's engagements within Fiji and abroad. The Office also acknowledges the continued support rendered to His Excellency and the Office of the President, from all across Government in particular the Office of the Prime Minister for direction and support.

V. Qionibaravi
Official Secretary

Corporate Profile

Vision

To be the Pillar of National Unity

Mission

The primary mission of the Office of the President is to support the President in fulfilling his responsibilities as the Head of State. The Office of the President will work in accordance with all relevant legislations including the Constitution and the Fiji Honours and Awards Act 1995, among others; it provides facilitative services to its customers including all members of the public and both local and foreign dignitaries; it will emphasize the importance of its human resources and accommodate their creative and innovative abilities in the pursuit of service excellence; and will operate within its budget and allocated resources whilst investing in technology to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

Our Values

The Office of the President shall uphold:

- High Standards of Professionalism
- Prompt and Faithful implementation of Government Policies
- Free from Corruption
- Effective, Efficient and Economic Use of Public Resources
- Prompt Response to Requests and Questions and Delivery of Service to the Public in a Respectful, Effective, Impartial, Fair and Equitable Manner
- Accountable for Administrative Conduct
- Transparency including:
 - timely, accurate disclosure on information to the public
 - prompt, complete and candid reporting to Parliament as required by Law
- Cultivation of Good Human Resource Management and Career Development Practices to maximize human potential
- Recruitment and Promotion based on:
 - (i) Objectivity, impartiality and fair competition; and
 - (ii) Knowledge, experience, skills and abilities, qualification and other characteristics of merit.

Legislation and Polices

The Office of the President is guided by the following legislation and polices:

- 2013 Constitution
- Fiji Honours and Awards Act 1995
- 5-year and 20-Year National Development Plans
- Financial Management Act 2004
- Finance Instructions 2010
- Agency Financial Manual 2015
- Procurement Regulations 2010
- The Public Service Act 1999
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1996
- Fiji National Provident Fund Act 2011
- Employment Relations Act 2007
- Fiji Civil Service Reform Polices:
 - Open Merit Recruitment System - Policy
 - Job Evaluation
 - Performance Assessment Guideline
 - Discipline Guideline
 - Learning and Development Guideline

Roles and Responsibilities

The role and responsibilities of the Office of the President are to provide support services for the effective functioning of the Office of the President in the following areas:

- To ensure that the role and functions of the President under the 2013 Constitution, and other relevant legislation are carried out effectively and efficiently.
- To provide management and service support in the maintenance of the Presidential residence and properties.
- To provide secretariat support services in the administration of the Honours and Awards system in accordance with the Fiji Honours and Awards Act 1995.
- To facilitate the proper administration of the annual budgetary process and proper utilization of budgetary provision in accordance with the Financial Management Act, Finance Instructions, Public Service Act and Regulations, and the policy guidelines of Central Agencies.
- To provide security services and personal protection to the President and His Excellency's immediate family through the Republic of Fiji Military Forces and Fiji Police Force personnel on attachment with the Presidential Office.

Office of the President

The President's roles and functions are governed by the Constitution. These include attendance to his role as Executive Head of State with Constitutional Appointments and presiding over ceremonial functions as Commander-in-Chief of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces. The engagements enhance and strengthen social cohesion, national security and the Rule of Law with Access to Justice.

As Head of State, the President opens the yearly Parliamentary Session, acts on the advice of the Prime Minister and other Ministers and other Constitutional bodies. The President also appoints the Chief Justice, Judges of the Court of Appeal, High Court, Magistrates, and Assents to Bills.



The President of the Republic of Fiji is Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces, and Chancellor of the Order of Fiji, and **Photo: Department of Information.**

FY 2017-2018 in Review

Programme Components

Constitutional Function

Constitutional Roles and Appointments

The President's Executive functions are defined by the 2013 Constitution. The Head of State serves as the symbol of national unity and embodies the State, exercising powers and functions as prescribed by the Constitution and laws of Fiji.

Table 1: The President's Constitutional Role - 2017 – 2018

No.	Date	Details
1	4/09	Opening the 2017 Session of Parliament followed by evening Reception, State House
2	28/11	Meeting with the Prime Minister Honourable Rear-Admiral (Re'td) J.V. Bainimarama
3	29/01	Meeting with the Prime Minister Honourable Rear-Admiral (Re'td) J.V. Bainimarama
4	26/03	Meeting with the Prime Minister Honourable Rear-Admiral (Re'td) J.V. Bainimarama
5	7/06	Meeting with the Prime Minister Honourable Rear-Admiral (Re'td) J.V. Bainimarama
6	25/07	Meeting with Mr. Mohammed Saneem, Supervisor of Elections
7		PRESIDENTIAL ASSENT Between 18th September 2017 and 13th July 2018, the following Acts received the Presidential assent in accordance with section 48 of the Constitution. Act No. 48 of 2017 – Tax Administration (Amendment)(No.2) Act 2017 Act No. 47 Of 2017 – Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (Amendment)(No.2) Act 2017 Act No. 46 of 2017 – Land Transport (Amendment)(No.3) Act 2017 Act No. 45 of 2017 – Personal Property Securities Act 2017 Act No. 44 of 2017 – International Arbitration Act 2017 Act No. 1 of 2018 – Employment Relations (Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 2 of 2018 – Medicinal Products (Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 3 of 2018 – Public Enterprise (Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 4 of 2018 – Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018 Act No. 5 of 2018 – Crimes (Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 6 of 2018 – Succession, Probate and Administration (Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 7 of 2018 – Financial Transactions Reporting (Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 8 of 2018 – Online Safety Act 2018 Act No. 9 of 2018 – Information Act 2018 Act No. 10 of 2018 – Community-Based Corrections Act 2018 Act No. 11 of 2018 – Fair Share of Mineral Royalties Act 2018 Act No. 12 of 2018 – 2018-2019 Appropriation Act 2018 Act No. 13 of 2018 – Tax Administration (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 14 of 2018 – Income Tax (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 15 of 2018 – Value Added Tax (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 16 of 2018 – Service Turnover Tax (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 17 of 2018 – Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 18 of 2018 – Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 19 of 2018 – Excise (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 20 of 2018 – Customs (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 21 of 2018 – Customs Tariff (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 22 of 2018 – Drainage (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 23 of 2018 – Employment Relations (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 24 of 2018 – Telecommunications (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 25 of 2018 – Tertiary Scholarship and Loans (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 26 of 2018 – Parliamentary Retirement Allowances (Budget Amendment) Act 2018

	Act No. 27 of 2018 – Public Hospitals and Dispensaries (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 28 of 2018 – Medical and Dental Practitioner (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 29 of 2018 – Nursing (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 30 of 2018 – Workmen's Compensation (Repeal) Act 2018 Act No. 31 of 2018 – Public Health (Budget Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 32 of 2018 – Fiji National University (Amendment) Act 2018 Act No. 33 of 2018 – Fiji Teachers Registration (Amendment) Act 2018
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Executive & Judicial Appointments

To strengthen inclusivity, ensure national security and the rule of law with access to justice

His Excellency the President's executive and ceremonial roles are governed by the Constitution. These include the appointment and rescission of appointment of Constitutional Officers, members of Commissions, the appointment and swearing-in of Judicial Officers, and the commissioning of Fiji's Ambassadors and High Commissioners.

The year was marked by a number of swearing-in and commissioning ceremonies at State House as listed below.

Table 2: Execution of Oath, Commissioning, and Appointments – 2017-2018

No.	Date	Details
1	3/11	Swearing-in of Mr. Asanga Shyamal Bodaragama as Resident Magistrate
2	11/12	Swearing-in of Honourable Dr. Mahendra Reddy as Minister for Waterways
3	16/01	Swearing-in of Honourable Mr. Justice Kurukula Arachchige Nanayakkara as a Puisne Judge of the High Court of Fiji
4	19/01	Commissioning of Fiji's Roving Ambassador to the Pacific Island States and Special Envoy to the Regional Organisations under the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific, His Excellency Ratu Seremaia Tuinausori Cavuilati
5	9/02	Commissioning of Fiji's Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia, Her Excellency Mrs. Seleima Veisamasama
6	13/04	Commissioning of Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, His Excellency Dr. Satyendra Prasad
7	10/05	Swearing-in of Resident Magistrates • Mr. Lisiate Fotofili • Mr. Timoci Qalinauci
8	21/06	Swearing-in of Honourable Mr. Justice Chamath Morais as Puisine Judge of the High Court
9	21/06	Swearing-in of Mr. Lasitha Chaminda Appuhamilage as Resident Magistrate
10	21/06	Swearing-in of Ms. Vandhana Lal as a Resident Magistrate and Acting Master of the High Court
11	28/06	Commissioning of Fiji's High Commissioner to Australia His Excellency Luke Daunivalu
12	24/07	Commissioning of Ambassador His Excellency Lt. Col. Manasa Tagicakibau, Fiji's representative to the People's Republic of China
13	27/07	Swearing-in of Ms. Nayani Nirmala Mudiyansele as Resident Magistrate
14	27/07	Swearing-in of Ms. Kasthurirathne Delpathe Yapa Kasthurirathne as Resident Magistrate



Fiji's Roving Ambassador to the Pacific Island States and Special Envoy to the Regional Organisations under the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific, Ratu Seremaia Cavuilati pictured here following his commissioning ceremony (19/01). Photo: Department of Information.

Commander-in-Chief

The Constitution provides that the President shall perform ceremonial roles as Commander-in-Chief of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces. As Commander-in-Chief, the President's role includes presiding over military ceremonies, awarding military honours and awards, and representing Fiji at regional and international security fora.

Highlighted below are the engagements the President attended to as Commander-in-Chief of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces.

Table 3: Execution of Role as Commander-in-Chief – 2017-2018

No.	Date	Details
1	22/08	Meeting with Commander RFMF, Rear-Admiral Viliame Naupoto
2	10/10	Hosted morning tea reception to toast CRFMF and Officers following the Fiji Day 2017 Parade held at Prince Charles Park, Nadi
3	11/11	Remembrance Day
4	5/12	Meeting with Commander RFMF, Rear-Admiral Viliame Naupoto

5	8/12	Chief Guest – RFMF Band Centennial celebration and Military Tattoo
6	7/02	Visited 3FIR, Nausori Highland
7	5/06	Guest speaker – RFMF Grade 2 Staff and Tactics Course
8	10/06	Church service to commemorate Fiji's 40th UN peacekeeping anniversary
9	15/06	United Nations 40th Anniversary of Fiji's Peacekeeping Symposium
10	16/06	Main celebration /United Nations 40th Anniversary of Fiji's Peacekeeping
11	16/06	Hosted Reception to commemorate Fiji's 40th Anniversary of Peacekeeping under the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)
12	16/06	Hosted reception to commemorate 40 years of Fiji's contribution to peacekeeping under the United Nations banner

Diplomatic Relations

To strengthen Fiji's international trade base – international relations – enhance global integration and international relations

NDP 3.2.17 - Enhancing International Trade and Foreign Relations.

The President as Head of State receives the Letter of Credence of Ambassadors and High Commissioners as representatives of sovereign states to Fiji. The presentation of diplomatic credentials to the Head of State is an essential process that is executed under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 (which is given force of law under the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1971) would authorise a country representative to legally engage in the responsibilities that he or she was appointed to serve in Fiji.

The President's attendance at diplomatic functions and engagements contributes to strengthening Fiji's international and diplomatic relations. These occasions present opportunities for the President to engage with members of the diplomatic corps to discuss issues of mutual interest.

In addition to honouring invitations from Diplomatic Missions, the President receives and hosts visiting Heads of State, Heads of Government, Foreign Ministers or Dignitaries on Official Visit. To honour visiting Head of States and Royalty on official business, it is customary for the President to receive a Courtesy Call from the visiting dignitary. Additionally, a traditional welcome ceremony and State Dinner may be hosted by the Head of State.

Table 4: Presentation of Diplomatic Credentials – 2017-2018

No.	Date	Details
1	12/09	His Excellency Mr. Jesus S. Domingo, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to Fiji
2	26/09	His Excellency Mr. Julian Wilson, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific
3	26/09	Her Excellency Mrs. Ekaterini Xagorari, Non-Resident Ambassador of Greece to Fiji
4	31/10	His Excellency Mr. Saleh Alsuwaidi, Non-Resident Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Fiji
5	31/10	His Excellency Mr. Sujiro Seam, Resident Ambassador of the Republic of France to Fiji
6	31/10	His Excellency Mr. Ahmad Salem Alwehaib, Non-Resident Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Fiji

7	14/11	His Excellency Mr. Nikenike Vurobaravu, High Commissioner of the Republic of Vanuatu to Fiji
8	21/12	His Excellency Mr. John Matthew Feakes, Ambassador of the Commonwealth of Australia to Fiji
9	23/01	Her Excellency Ms. Cho Shinhee, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Fiji
10	23/01	His Excellency Mr. Qian Bo, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Fiji
11	27/02	His Excellency Mr. Marc Muille, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Fiji
12	27/02	His Excellency Mr. Jonathan Curr, High Commissioner of New Zealand to Fiji
13	1/03	His Excellency Mr. Bello Kazaure Hussein, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Fiji
14	6/03	His Excellency Mr. Miguel Julian Palomino De La Gala, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Republic of Peru to Fiji
15	13/03	His Excellency Dr. Bernard Zimburg, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Fiji
16	13/03	His Excellency Mr. George Dolidze, Non-Resident Ambassador of Georgia to Fiji
17	24/04	His Excellency Mr. Wahidullah Waissi, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Fiji
18	15/05	His Excellency Mr. Raden Mohammad Carnadi, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Fiji
19	29/05	His Excellency Mr. Ewin Nii Adjei, Non-Resident High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana to Fiji
20	26/06	His Excellency Mr. David Ateti Teaabo, Resident High Commissioner of the Republic of Kiribati to Fiji
21	17/07	His Excellency Mr. Juan Salazar Sancisi, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Republic of Ecuador to Fiji



The Kiribati High Commissioner to Fiji, H.E. Mr. David Teaabo presented his Letter of Credence to the President His Excellency Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji K. Konrote at Borron House (26/06).
Photo: Department of Information.

Table 5: Courtesy Calls, Farewell Calls, Lunches and Dinners – 2017-2018

No.	Date	Details
1	2/08	Courtesy Call by Mrs. Margaret MaCauley, former Honourary Consul to Fiji, Mr. Peter MaCauley, Mrs. Jenny Seeto
2	3/08	Courtesy Call by Mr. Ian Risley, President of Rotary International, Ms. Malini Raghwan, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Taoi
3	3/08	Hosted dinner in honour of Mr. Ian Riseley, President of Rotary International
4	9/08	Courtesy Call by Mr. Fatongia Hopoate and Mrs. Naomi Hopoate, Suvavou Seventh Day Adventist School
5	11/08	Courtesy Call by Reverend Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary, World Council of Churches, and Dr. Katalina Tahaafe-Williams
6	16/08	Courtesy Call by Mr. Antonio Muera, member of the interim Rotuma Island Council
7	23/08	Courtesy Call by Professor Michael O'Keefe
8	24/08	Hosted lunch for His Excellency Mr. Andrew Jacobs, Head of Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific and team
9	25/08	Hosted morning tea for Wows Kids executives
10	1/09	Courtesy Call by Lt. Col. George Langman, Deputy Commissioner, Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption
11	6/09	Courtesy Call by Mr. Savenaca Caqumu, Koronivia Research Station
12	18/09	Courtesy Call by Mr. Epeli Waqavonovono, Government Statistician, Fiji Bureau of Statistics, and team
13	18/09	Courtesy Call by His Excellency Commodore Esala Teleni, Fiji's High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea
14	19/09	Courtesy Call by Mr. Luke Moroivalu, Commissioner Eastern, and Mr. Osea Ravukivuki, District Officer Rotuma
15	19/09	Courtesy Call by His Excellency Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, former President of the Republic of Fiji
16	27/09	Courtesy Call by the former Governor General of New Zealand, His Excellency Sir Anand Satyanand
17	27/09	Hosted lunch for: • His Excellency Mr. Michel Djokovic and Mrs. Djokovic • Fiji's former ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Ambassador Iowane Naivalurua • Fiji's Roving Ambassador, Mrs. Litia Mawi
18	5/10	Courtesy Call by the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Her Excellency Dr. Hilda Heine, accompanied by Mrs. Tregar Albon Ishoda, Charge D'affaires
19	12/10	Hosted lunch for the outgoing Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Fiji, His Excellency Zhang Ping
20	12/10	Courtesy Call by Mr. Viam Pillay, Assistant Minister for Agriculture
21	7/11	Hosted lunch for outgoing High Commissioner of Australia, Her Excellency Ms. Margaret Twomey; accompanied by Deputy High Commissioner Ms. Amy Crago
22	13/11	Courtesy Call by Pastor Narabe and Pastor Joe Talemaitoga, Seventh Day Adventist Church
23	15/11	Hosted lunch for His Excellency Mr. Mark Ramsden, outgoing New Zealand High Commissioner to Fiji
24	15/11	Courtesy Call by Ambassador Winston Thompson, Pro-Chancellor, University of the South Pacific, Mrs. Lily Vesikula, Mrs. Seona Koti
25	23/11	Hosted lunch for His Excellency Gary Rachman Makmun Jusuf, outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Fiji
26	23/11	Courtesy Call by His Excellency Isikeli Matakaitoga, Fiji's Ambassador to Japan
27	5/12	Courtesy Call by His Excellency Mr. Rafi Dayan, Fiji's Honourary Consul to the State of Israel, Assistant Consul Mr. Guy Jacobi, Sir James Ah Koy, and Mr. Tony Ah Koy
28	5/12	Courtesy Call by His Excellency Mr. Peter Lui, chairman of the Fiji Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong; accompanied by six-member delegation including Fiji's Consul in Hong Kong Dr. Desmond Lee and Chamber Secretary Ms. Lucy Lui
29	12/12	Courtesy Call by Mr. Osea Ravukivuki, District Officer Rotuma
30	10/01	Courtesy meet with Commissioner of Police, Brigadier-General Sitiveni Qiliho
31	25/01	Courtesy Call by His Excellency Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, former President

32	29/01	Courtesy Call by Mr. Desmond Lee, Fiji's Honourary Consul in Hong Kong and delegation from Fiji Chamber of Commerce based in Hong Kong
33	8/02	Courtesy Call by Mr. Paserio Furivai and team
34	21/02	Hosted lunch for retired Roving Ambassador to the Pacific Island Countries, Ambassador Litia Mawi
35	22/02	Hosted lunch for Fiji's new Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia, Her Excellency Seleima Veisamasama
36	26/02	Hosted afternoon tea for Fiji Rugby Union management, as patron and ambassador for Fiji Rugby Union,
37	9/04	Courtesy Call by Mrs. Claudia Valentine, spouse of the late Mr. Charles Valentine, Fiji's Honourary Consul to Vanuatu
38	18/04	Courtesy Call by Mr. Esala Nayasi, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
39	19/04	Courtesy Call by Fiji Scouts Association, Mr. Abhay Nand and Mr. Jioji Qaranivalu
40	23/04	Hosted afternoon tea for Australian Scouts trainers
41	23/04	Hosted dinner by the South Pacific Engineers Association
42	25/04	Courtesy Call by the Fiji Rotuman Association – Ms. Mari Etika, Ms. Lusie Managreve
43	26/04	Hosted lunch for Ambassador Satyendra Prasad at Borron House
44	1/05	Courtesy Call by Mr. Jione Rigamoto, Chairman, Malhaha District Committee
45	7/05	Courtesy Call by Honourable Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, Minister for Defence, National Security and Immigration
46	17/05	Hosted tea for Her Excellency Ms. Melanie Hopkins, British High Commissioner
47	6/06	Hosted farewell lunch for Her Excellency Mrs. Reteta Nikuata-Rimon, High Commissioner of the Republic of Kiribati
48	6/06	Courtesy Call by Fiji Rugby League executive management
49	8/06	Courtesy Call by Dr. Ifereimi Waqainabete, President of the Fiji Medical Association
50	13/06	Courtesy Call by Professor Steven Hooper, University of East Anglia and Ms. Nancy Thomas, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Museum
51	20/06	Hosted farewell lunch for Her Excellency Ms. Osnat Lubrani, United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative and United Nations Development Resident Coordinator
52	25/06	Courtesy Call by Dr. Isimeli Tukana, National Advisor, Non-Communicable Diseases
53	26/06	Dinner hosted by University of the South Pacific to farewell His Excellency the President as USP Chancellor
54	2/07	Courtesy Call by Mr. Ilikena Tomasi, Vice-Principal, Rotuma High School
55	3/07	Courtesy Call by Chief Justice Honourable Justice Anthony Gates
56	3/07	Hosted farewell lunch for His Excellency Mr. Luke Daunivalu, Fiji's High Commissioner to Australia and His Excellency Mr. Yogesh Punja, Fiji's High Commissioner to India
57	18/07	Courtesy Call by Ambassador Isikeli Maitoga
58	31/07	Hosted farewell lunch for His Excellency Mr. Manasa Tagicakibau, Fiji's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China and Her Excellency Ms. Peniana Lalabalavu, Ambassador to the Republic of Korea

Table 6: Engagements with Head of States and Foreign Dignitaries – 2017-2018

No.	Date	Details
1	2/08	Courtesy Call by the former Governor General of New Zealand
2	17/08	Farewell Call by the Non-Resident Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Fiji, His Excellency Nguyen Viet Dung
3	17/08	Courtesy Call by His Excellency Solo Mara, Fiji's Ambassador to the United States of America
4	24/08	Farewell Call by the Head of Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, His Excellency Mr. Andrew Jacobs
5	26/09	Courtesy Call by His Excellency Mr. Paulson Panapa, High Commissioner of Tuvalu, accompanied by Fiji's Roving Ambassador, Mrs. Litia Mawi
6	12/10	Farewell Call by the outgoing Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Fiji, His Excellency Zhang Ping

7	7/11	Farewell Call by the outgoing High Commissioner of Australia, Her Excellency Ms. Margaret Twomey, accompanied by Deputy High Commissioner Ms. Amy Crago.
8	15/11	Farewell Call by His Excellency Mr. Mark Ramsden, outgoing New Zealand High Commissioner to Fiji
9	23/11	Farewell Call by His Excellency Gary Rachman Makmun Jusuf, outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Fiji
10	4/12	Courtesy Call by His Excellency Jose Manuel Ramos-Horta, former President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
11	14/12	Reception to celebrate National Foundation Day of the Republic of Korea
12	7/12	Courtesy Call by Ms. Gerda Verburg, United Nations Secretary-General and Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement
13	25/01	Courtesy Call by the visiting delegation, Korea National Assembly, led by Vice-Speaker of Parliament, Mr. Shim Jae Cheol
14	12/02	Courtesy Call by His Royal Highness Dr. Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
15	16/02	Farewell Call by Her Excellency Ms. Judith Cefkin, Ambassador of the United States of America to Fiji
16	20/03	Courtesy Call by Mr. Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
17	9/05	Europe Day celebration hosted by the Head of Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific
18	17/05	Courtesy Call by His Excellency Ambassador Qian Bo
19	21/05	Hosted welcome lunch for Mr. Roberto Azevedo, Director-General, World Trade Organisation
20	20/06	Courtesy Call by Mr. Bishar Abdirahman Hussein, Director-General of the Universal Postal Union
21	9/07	Courtesy Call by Honourable Peter O' Neill, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea
22	12/07	Hosted Reception in honour of the National Day of Kiribati hosted by the High Commissioner of the Republic of Kiribati
23	13/07	Courtesy Call by Mr. Zheng Zeguang, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of China
24	14/07	National Day of France hosted by the Ambassador of the French Republic
25	17/07	Farewell Call by His Excellency Mr. John Patterson Oti, outgoing High Commissioner of the Solomon Islands to Fiji

Overseas Engagements

The President with the support of relevant Government departments continues to make a commitment to contribute to Fiji's holistic development as a modern and progressive Nation in the 21st century. These contributions include upholding Fiji's Constitution and actively supporting the Government's nation-building initiatives that transcends and involves both local and international stakeholders.

Overseas engagements play a pivotal role in strengthening diplomatic ties and advancing the national interest. The President's attendance at international events and forums underscores Fiji's commitment to regional cooperation and enhancing partnerships. In the 2017-2018 FY, His Excellency the President Major-General (Re'td) Jioji K. Konrote embarked on seven overseas travel engagements enabling the President to reinforce diplomatic ties between nations and reconnect with the Fijian diaspora who are now working and living abroad.

In September 2017, His Excellency travelled to Tuvalu to commemorate the occasion of Tuvalu's Independence Day. In January 2018 on the invitation from the President of the Republic of Nauru, His Excellency David Adeang attended Nauru's 50th Anniversary of Independence.



University of the South Pacific, Emalus Campus, Vanuatu, graduation ceremony (1/12). **Photo: Daily Post Vanuatu**

In fulfilling the role of Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific, the President undertook duty travels. The first in October 2017 to the Kingdom of Tonga to officiate at the University of the South Pacific's Nuku'alofa Campus annual graduation ceremony.

In December of the same year, His Excellency traveled to Vanuatu to officiate at the University of the South Pacific Emalus Campus graduation ceremony. In Vanuatu he undertook a series of engagements, which included an opportunity to tour the Games Village for the Pacific Mini Games, as well as engagements to strengthen and boost relations with the Fijian diaspora residing in Vanuatu.

In May 2018, President Konrote traveled to the Republic of Nauru for multiple engagements, anchored by the graduation ceremony for the University of the South Pacific's Nauru campus. His Excellency undertook dialogue with the Nauru Minister for Education, and DFAT officials, including a courtesy call on His Excellency Baron Waqa, President of Nauru.

The President's duty travel abroad continued in April 2018 to attend the opening of the XXI Commonwealth Games in Queensland, Australia, as Patron of FASANOC. The visit included a courtesy call to the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency Honourable Mr. David Hurley, and the Fiji High Commission in Canberra.

His Excellency's final overseas engagement for the year was in Samoa where President Konrote celebrated the island nation's 56th Independence Day (May 30th – June 2nd, 2018).

Table 7: Overseas Engagements – 2017-2018

No.	Travel Dates	Details
1	30/09 - 2/10	Duty Travel - Funafuti, Tuvalu, Chief Guest at the Tuvalu Independence Day Celebration
2	19/10 - 21/10	Duty Travel – Nuku'alofa, Tonga 2017 graduation ceremony, University of the South Pacific, Nuku'alofa Campus
3	30/11 - 3/12	Duty Travel – Port Vila, Vanuatu Graduation ceremony, University of the South Pacific, Emalus Campus • Courtesy Call on His Excellency Mr. Tallis Obed Moses, President of the Republic of Vanuatu • Official dinner hosted by H.E. Moses • Chief Guest – USP Emalus Campus graduation ceremony (followed by Dinner hosted by USP Council Pro-Chancellor/Chair, Vice Chancellor/President) • Visit Games Village - Pacific Mini Games • Meet Fijian diaspora; dinner hosted by Ambassador Amena Yauvoli, Melanesian Spearhead Group Director-General
4	30/01 – 2/02	Duty Travel – Nauru Celebrate 50th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Nauru 31/01
5	4/04 - 6/04	Duty Travel – Queensland, Australia • Attend opening of XXI Commonwealth Games • Courtesy Call on His Excellency Honourable Mr. David Hurley • Visit High Commission in Canberra
6	23/05 - 26/05	Duty Travel – Nauru (USP graduation) • Met with Nauru Minister for Education, DFAT officials, USP Council Pro-Chancellor/Chair, Vice-Chancellor/President • Dinner hosted by Pro-Chancellor/Chair, Vice-Chancellor/President • Courtesy Call on the President of Nauru, His Excellency Baron Waqa • Dinner hosted by President Waqa • Graduation ceremony
7	30/05 - 1/06	Duty Travel – Apia, Samoa • National Thanksgiving Service • Independent State of Samoa's 56th Independence Day celebration (including lunch hosted by His Excellency Tuimaleali'ifano Va'aleto'a Sualauvi II, Head of State of the Independent State of Samoa)



The Independent State of Samoa's 56th Independence Day Celebrations was an opportunity for President J.K. Konrote to strengthen deep-rooted traditional and diplomatic ties between Samoa and Fiji. Pictured here with Samoa's Head of State His Highness Tuimaleali'ifano Va'aleto'a Sualauvi II (30/05). **Photo: Savali Newspaper.**

Community Engagements

To enhance national enabling environment, strengthen social services and social inclusion – promote a peaceful, non-racial, inclusive and united society

In implementing the Office of the President's vision to be the 'Pillar of National Unity', His Excellency the President was involved in a number of engagements that embraced people of all walks of life.

The President further reinforced national unity through public engagements, receiving courtesy calls from members of the community or the *vanua*, and attending to meetings with stakeholders. Engagements on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) awareness, youth and women empowerment, and poverty alleviation were generic in nature as they promoted peace, inclusivity and unity.

His Excellency the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji K. Konrote also supported national events that promote equal rights. These include the annual Fiji Day celebrations, social developments that ensure equal opportunities for all in education, employment, health, gender equality, special attention for disability and poverty alleviation. The President also indirectly supported such causes by mention in speeches that he delivered.

One such ceremonial function is the traditional iTaukei practice of *i-tatau*, where national sporting teams or representatives of sector agencies present their intentions and seek the President's blessing prior to departing for an international sports outing or high-level engagement.

His Excellency encouraged and strengthened social inclusion through invitations to meet with members of agencies such as the Walk On Walk Strong (WOWS) Kids (Fiji), and representatives from religious organizations and society groups. The President persisted in supporting service above self and commitment to supporting the marginalized and disadvantaged.

President Konrote's engagements also included visits to eight assisted care homes for the aged, disabled, children and youths. The President continued to spread messages of togetherness and compassion underscoring the importance of national unity, hope, and empathy for all Fijians.

As Head of State, President Konrote participated in various pre-COP meetings in the month of October and November, prior to the 23rd Conference of the Parties meeting.

A series of engagements in 2018 commemorated 40 years of Fiji's peacekeeping under the auspices of the United Nations facilitated by the Office of the President.

Table 8: National Engagements – 2017-2018

No.	Date	Details
1	15/08	2017 Fiji International Golf Tournament welcome hosted by InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa
2	15/08	President Konrote visited the University of the South Pacific; met with Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor-President and toured the campus, gallery and performing space
3	20/08	Awards ceremony, Fiji International Golf Tournament
4	7/09	2nd National Constitution Day 2017
5	7/09	Hosted Reception – National Constitution Day 2017
6	21/09	Opening 2017 Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Early Childhood Development, hosted by UNICEF
7	22/09	Presided at USP Graduation followed by Graduation Dinner
8	22/09	Reception on the occasion of China National Day, hosted by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China
9	7/10	Man-Up Campaign promoting male advocacy for the elimination of gender-based violence
10	10/10	Fiji Day 2017 celebration, Prince Charles Park, Nadi (included Parade inspection) Their Excellencies host Fiji Day Reception
11	13/10	Ground breaking ceremony for the Confucius Institute, University of the South Pacific
12	13/10	National Diabetes Symposium organized by Diabetes Fiji and Ministry of Health and Medical Services
13	14/10	Inaugural Pacific Tri-Nations Championship
14	17/10	Pre-Conference of the Parties (COP) 23 meeting
15	18/10	Pre-Conference of the Parties (COP) 23 meeting
18	24/10	Inaugural Pacific Islands Roundtable on International Humanitarian Law (co-hosted by Fiji Government and the International Committee of the Red Cross)
17	25/10- 26/10	Domestic travel – Kioa Island • Official dinner hosted by Commissioner Northern and team • Chief Guest - Celebrate 70th Anniversary of the arrival of the people of Tuvalu to Kioa
18	28/10	Namaste Pasifika Festival of India
19	3/11	Swearing-in 36 Peace Corps volunteers
20	3/11	Leadership Fiji graduation dinner
21	4/11	Fiji Business Excellence Awards ceremony/dinner
22	8/11	Official opening of the 2017 Western Agricultural Show
23	10/11	National launch of Diabetes Month
24	16/11	Fiji Live to COP23 rehearsal at University of the South Pacific, Laucala campus Fiji to COP23. Theme: Indigenous knowledge the change in our cultural climate
25	23/11	Ordination to priesthood of Reverend Pat Roland Visanti (followed by Reception)
26	4/12	Opening of the 2017 International Civil Society Week
27	19/12	Seventh Day Adventist Trans Pacific Union Mission 2017 Youth Congress. Venue – Fulton College, Nadi
28	27/12	President Konrote celebrates 70th Birthday, Borron House (Military toast and band)
29	5/02	Launch opening of the University of the South Pacific's 50th Anniversary celebrations
30	9/02	Fiji Development Bank 2017 National Small and Medium Enterprise Awards
31	11/02	Chief Guest – Chinese New Year celebration
32	23/02	Visit Marine Studies, University of the South Pacific – demonstration of portable fish smoker by Professor Ciro Rico
33	27/02	Fiji Business Excellence Awards 20th Anniversary launch organized by Fiji National University
34	2/03	Traditional welcome ceremony / <i>Veiqaravi vakavanua</i> for the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby
35	3/03	2017 Fiji Sports Awards

38	20/03	Presentation of medals and prizes, University of the South Pacific
39	21/03	Launch International Day of Forest 2018
40	22/03	University of the South Pacific graduation, sessions 1 and 2 University of the South Pacific graduation dinner
41	23/03	University of the South Pacific graduation
42	12/04	34th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Asia-Pacific Regional Conference
43	20/04	Chief Guest at Team Fiji's Welcome Home Thanksgiving Dinner (return from XXI Commonwealth Games)
44	21/04	Chair the 2018 Fiji Scouts Association annual general meeting (as patron and ambassador of Fiji Scouts Association)
45	23/04	International Symposium on Sustainable Infrastructure – Successful Economy
46	25/04	2018 ANZAC Day Dawn Service, followed by Gunfire Breakfast, Royal Suva Yacht Club
47	15/05	4th Meeting of Pacific Ministers of Culture
49	17/05	Fiji Institute of Accountants VIP Dinner 2018
50	18/05	Fiji Institute of Accountants 2018 Congress
51	27/05	Closing ceremony of 2018 Fiji Interhash
52	28/06	Unveil RNZAF Commemorative Monument
53	4/06	Open the International Youth Fellowship (Fiji) World Camp
54	8/06	World Oceans Day Symposium and the official launch of the Pacific Ocean Portal
55	20/06	Research Symposium on Sport and Sustainable Development in the Pacific (hosted by the University of the South Pacific as part of its 50th Anniversary celebrations)
56	29/06	Participate in National Sports and Wellness Day 2018 Olympic Run
57	29/06	Attend the Government-organized Sports and Wellness Day Programme
58	5/07	Vaka Pasifiki Education Conference
59	6/07	Officially open Rosie Holiday's Event Warehouse
60	10/07	Reguregu for the late Ratu George Kadavulevu Cakobau, Bau
61	11/07	Funeral service for the late Ratu George Kadavulevu Cakobau, Bau
62	20/07	Launch of Child Cancer Month facilitated by WOWS Kids



Remembering legacies - The President His Excellency Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji K. Konrote lays a wreath at the National War Memorial site (11/11). **Photo: Department of Information.**



H.E. President Jioji K. Konrote at the launch of Child Cancer Month facilitated by WOWS Kids at Tanoa Plaza Hotel in Suva (20/07). **Photo: Department of Information.**

Table 9: I-Tatau Presentations – 2017-2018

No.	Date	Details
1	18/08	Fiji National Under-20 Rugby team to the Under-20 World Rugby Trophy in Uruguay
2	28/08	Fijian Drua team to the Australian National Rugby Championship
3	11/09	Team Karate Fiji to the 5th Asian Indoor Martial Arts Games in Turkmenistan
4	14/09	Fiji Women's Volleyball team to the World Championship 2nd round qualifier in Kazakhstan
5	20/09	Fiji Secondary School Under-16 and Under-18 teams to the Tri-Nations School Boys championship in Australia
6	13/10	National Rugby League, Fiji Bati team to the Rugby League World Cup 2017
7	17/11	National Men and Women Sevens rugby teams to first leg of HSBC World 7s Series to Dubai and South Africa
8	22/11	Team Fiji to the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu. Presentation of the Queen's Baton for the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia
9	29/11	National School Swimming team to the Pacific School Games 2017, Australia
10	20/03	Team Fiji to the 2018 Commonwealth Games, Australia
11	18/04	Fiji Rugby Union Under-18 male, Under-18 female, Under-20 male teams to the Oceania Under-18 Sevens Tournament
12	18/04	Deaf Rugby team to the World Deaf Rugby Sevens
13	7/06	Fijiana 15s Rugby team to Australia
14	28/06	Fiji Men and Women's Sevens team
15	28/06	Fiji delegation to the 6th Melanesian Arts and Cultural Festival



Team Fiji *itatau* before departing for the 2017 Pacific Games in Vanuatu. The Queens Baton for the 2018 Commonwealth Games was also presented to the President (22/11).
Photo: Office of the President.



Fiji Sports Awards 2017,
Vodafone Arena (3/03).
Photo: Department of Information

Table 10: Community Outreach – 2017-2018

No.	Date	Outreach Location
1	20/12	Western Division - Visited 4 orphanages and homes for the aged located in the Western Division • Treasure Christians Children's Home, Saunaka, Nadi • St. Minas Children's Martintar, Nadi • Golden Age Home, Natabua, Lautoka • Veilomani Boys Home, Namosau, Ba
2	21/12	Suva - Visited 4 homes for the aged and disabled located in the Central Division • Homes of Hope, Wailoku • Retirement Home for the Sisters of Our Lady of Nazareth, Wailoku • Home of Compassion • Fiji Crippled Children Society, Suva



Residents of the Golden Age Home meet His Excellency the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji K. Konrote (20/12).
Photo: Department of Information.

The First Lady

Although the focus of the Office of the President is its Principal, the Office facilitates the engagements of the First Lady as Patron of the Fiji Girl Guides Association, as well as her role in supporting various organizations. Promoting women and youth empowerment and celebrating culture and the arts are high on the First Lady's agenda. Networking with stakeholders means strengthening relations and encouraging togetherness and inclusivity, in turn supporting the President's ceremonial roles.

Her Excellency the First Lady Sarote Konrote was engaged in multiple engagements this year. Engagements included opening the Fiji Girl Guides International Day of the Girl (April 2018), opening the Children's Ministry Leader's Convention, Seventh Day Adventist, hosting morning tea for Ms. Lu Qi, spouse of the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China (May 2018), attending the 40th Anniversary celebration for Fiji's participation in the UN peacekeeping (June 2018), and opening the 2018 Fiji National Women's Expo also in June.

Order of Fiji

To enhance the national enabling environment through portfolio leadership, cultivate appreciation and secretariat support

As per the Fiji Honours and Awards Act 1995, Section 4(2) the President is the fount of all honours and awards for Fiji.

As Chancellor of the Order of Fiji, the President is charged with the administration of the Order, and as such advocates for broad inclusivity and the culture of appreciation.

College of Honour

The College of Honour (College) as the secretariat of the Order of Fiji provided support services in facilitating the execution of the President's role as Chancellor of the Order of Fiji.

The College is an independent body that consists of five members: one chairperson and four members, who are appointed by His Excellency the President and serve a two-year term. Established under the Fiji Honours and Awards Act, 1995, the members of the College consider nominations for appointments to the Order of Fiji and makes recommendations to the President.

The College organizes awareness programmes on the awards, collates and researches on submissions, and presents submissions for the College of Honour members to evaluate prior to advising the President on matters regarding the Fiji Honour System.

The members of the College of Honour in the financial year 2017-2018 period were:

1. Dr. Akanisi Kedrayate (Chairperson)
2. Mr. Nesbitt Hazelman
3. Brigadier-General (Ret'd) Apakuki Kurusiga
4. Mr. Dixon Seeto
5. Mrs. Premila Kumar

Guided by this, the Office of the President as the Secretariat to the College of Honour, with the members of the College, facilitated a number of investiture ceremonies to recognise the effort(s) of extraordinary Fijians and friends of Fiji who have contributed to their industry, profession or community, to humanity at large, or for acts of profound bravery.

The President His Excellency Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji K. Konrote publicly continued to express commitment to cultivate a culture of appreciation, a phrase he popularized in 2016 to acknowledge the efforts of Fijians and friends of Fiji, who have contributed to shape the growth and development of their communities, the nation, and humanity at large.

As Chancellor of the Order of Fiji, His Excellency, conferred the following Order of Fiji awards in the FY 2017 – 2018:

Table 11: Special Investiture Ceremonies for the Order of Fiji

No.	Date	Awardee	Details
1	12/10	His Excellency Mr. Zhang Ping, outgoing Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Fiji	Honourary Officer of the Order of Fiji <i>For distinguished service of a high degree to Fiji or to humanity at large.</i>
2	23//11	His Excellency Dr. Gary Rachman Makmun Yusuf, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Fiji	Honourary Officer of the Order of Fiji <i>For distinguished service of a high degree to Fiji or to humanity at large.</i>
3	5/01	His Excellency Mr. Kim Seong-In, outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Fiji	Honourary Medal of the Order of Fiji <i>For service worthy of a particular recognition.</i>
4	21/03	Mr. Andrew Sutherland Thomson	Member of the Order of Fiji <i>For meritorious service in a particular locality or field of activity or to a particular group.</i>
5	10/05	Mrs. Shakuntla Singh	Medal of the Order of Fiji <i>For service worthy of a particular recognition.</i>

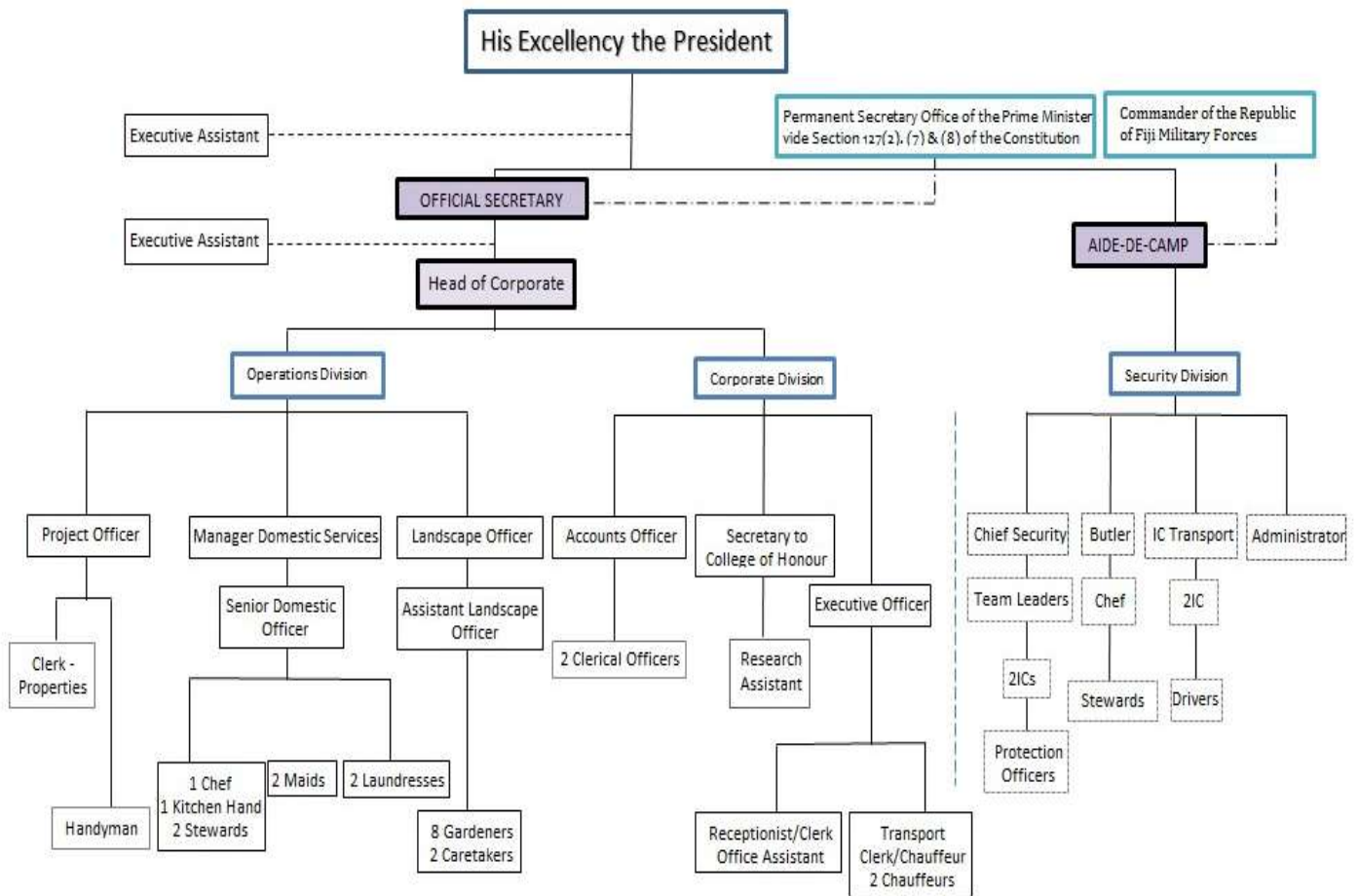


Mr. Andrew Sutherland Thompson receives the Member of the Order of Fiji from His Excellency the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji K. Konrote at Borron House (21/03).
Photo: Department of Information.



His Excellency the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji K. Konrote confers the Medal of the Order of Fiji to Mrs. Shakuntla Singh at Borron House (10/05).
Photo: Department of Information

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



Executive Support

The Executive Support Unit provides direct support to the President by planning, organising and managing all national and international engagements; advising on contextual matters and other issues; and preparing speeches and messages. The section also responds to all communications from stakeholders and the public at large.

Operations

The Operations arm of the Office of the President oversees all support services related to the operational arm of the Office.

This includes the Domestic Services section, which deals directly with His Excellency's personal welfare and wellbeing, the Properties Management section whose responsibilities include the upkeep of State House grounds, the Presidential properties in Taunovo and Tavakubu, as well as monitor all capital projects for the Office.

The cleanliness and beautification of the State House premises and the President properties is managed by the Landscape Unit.

Domestic Services

The Domestic Services section provides essential support to ensure the seamless operation of all domestic responsibilities pertaining to the First Family, the Official Residence, official ceremonies, receptions, courtesy calls, diplomatic engagements, and events hosted by the Office of the President.

A vital aspect of its role is the coordination of logistical arrangements for the President's engagements such as courtesy calls from dignitaries, government officials, stakeholders, and members of the community; farewell calls by diplomats, presentation of credentials by heads of missions, State dinners and receptions, swearing-in, investiture and commissioning ceremonies and community engagements such as visits from schools, choirs, national sports teams, and *vanua* delegations.

The Domestic Section is responsible for preparing the venue including setup of furniture, sound system and floral arrangements on each occasion the President receives guests. Refreshments are prepared and served and guests attended to as required. In the 2017-2018 FY, Borron House was the venue for ceremonial engagements for the President as major refurbishment works began at State House.

During the FY 2017 – 2018, the Domestic Services section attended to all household responsibilities including the provision of the following services – butler, steward, chef, maid, laundry and related domestic responsibilities.



The Archbishop of Canterbury His Grace the Most Reverend Justin Portal Welby receives the *Tabua* during the traditional welcome ceremony at Borron House (2/05). **Photo: Office of the President.**

Properties and Landscape

The Properties and Landscape Section facilitated capital projects, landscaping, maintenance and upkeep of State House and other State House properties. The Section is also responsible for project management, monitoring, and evaluation of capital projects.

The major undertaking commenced in the FY 2017-2018 included preparatory works for major renovation and refurbishment of State House. The President and First Family relocated to Quarters 79 for the duration of the project. As a national heritage listed structure, the refurbishment works was intended to conserve the original structure while upgrading the Presidential residence to ensure safety, sustainability, and ensure that it remains fit for purpose 88 years after it was constructed in 1929.

The State House premises covers 43 acres, which extends from the junction of Berkley Crescent through to the Department of Lands office blocks, *Valekau*, staff quarters, and the main State House property. Borron House, a historic, colonial mansion built in 1927, sitting on Rairaiwaqa Hill and a national heritage building, was designated to host the President's Official engagements while State



Then – before refurbishment works

Photo: Office of the President



Now – after major restoration works.

Photo: Office of the President

Corporate

The Section provides corporate services for the Office of the President which include Finance, and all aspects of Human Resources Management. Components of HRM include the facilitation of professional development and recruitment processes and the management of the Office vehicle fleet.

Human Resource Management

Staffing Establishment

The Office had an approved staff establishment which includes the positions of the President and the Aide-de-Camp [whose salary was paid for by the Republic of Fiji Military Forces].

The staff establishment does not include the security personnel from the Republic of Fiji Military Forces and the Fiji Police Force.

Training

The Office of the President continues to nurture a workplace culture where the staff are encouraged, supported and empowered to deliver their roles according to the vision and mission of the Office. The Office supports the continuous development of people while being employed at the Office of the President, training being integral for professional and personal growth, upgrade skills and competency. Records management and procurement training formed part of the upskilling that staff attended this financial year.

Administration

The Administration section provides general administrative support services to the Office of the President. The General responsibility of the section includes the provision of managing the office registry system, managing the IT needs of the staff in addition to the daily administrative needs of the His Excellency and the Office of the President.

An essential focus for the Administration section is that of asset management; and liaising with relevant government ministries, statutory bodies and external organisations to facilitate this.

Finance

The finance section provides financial support services to the Office of the President. The section focusses on Budget & Financial Planning & Reporting, Financial Audit, and Procurement compliance among other financial services for the Office of the President.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2018

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2018

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2018

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OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

I have audited the financial statements of the Office of the President, which comprise the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, Appropriation Statement and Statement of Losses for the year ended 31 July 2018, and the notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Management Act, Finance Instructions 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016.

Basis for Opinion

I have conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). My responsibilities under those standards are described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities* paragraph of my report. I am independent of the Office of the President in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Fiji and I have fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

I draw attention to Note 4 of the financial statements, which describes the replenishment of funds from Head 50. A sum of \$558,323 was released from Head 50 to cater for additional commitments for the Office of the President. For the year ended 31 July 2018, a total sum of \$2,686,886 was utilized including funds sourced from Head 50 to fund the operations of the Office of the President. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Matter

The internal controls over procurements and payments were generally found to be weak and if not addressed promptly may result in material misstatements and possible financial losses in the future.

Management's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The management of the Office of the President are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Financial Management Act, Finance Instructions 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016, and for such internal control as the management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities

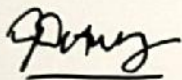
My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud and 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 Office of the President's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and related disclosures made by the Office of the President.

I communicate with the Office of the President 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.



Ajay Nand
AUDITOR-GENERAL



Suva, Fiji
15 March 2019

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2018

We certify that these financial statements:

- (a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of the Office of the President for the year ended 31 July 2018; and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act, Finance Instructions 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016.



Kiti Temo
Acting Official Secretary

Date: 13/03/19



Krishneel Kumar
Accounts Officer

Date: 13/03/19

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2018

	Notes	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
RECEIPTS			
State Revenue			
Commission		1,086	1,040
Total Revenue		<u>1,086</u>	<u>1,040</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Operating Expenditure			
Established Staff	3(a)	706,157	634,847
Unestablished Staff	3(b)	214,635	189,884
Travel & Communications		486,845	465,514
Maintenance & Operations	3(c)	466,224	380,314
Purchase of Goods and Services		202,864	184,652
Total Operating Expenditure		<u>2,076,725</u>	<u>1,855,211</u>
Value Added Tax		51,838	103,355
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4	<u>2,128,563</u>	<u>1,958,566</u>

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2018

SEG	Item	Budget Estimate (\$)	Changes (\$) Note 5	Revised Estimate (\$) a	Actual Expenditure (\$) b	Carry Over (\$)	Lapsed Appropriation (\$) (a-b)
Operating Expenditure							
1	Established Staff	744,567	(38,410)	706,157	706,157	—	—
2	Government Wage Earners	219,979	(5,344)	214,635	214,635	—	—
3	Travel & Communication	411,900	74,945	486,845	486,845	—	—
4	Maintenance & Operations	483,400	(10,608)	472,792	466,224	—	6,568
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	187,400	21,326	208,726	202,864	—	5,862
	Total Operating Expenditure	2,047,246	41,909	2,089,155	2,076,725	—	12,430
Capital Expenditure							
8	Capital Construction	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total Capital Expenditure	—	—	—	—	—	—
13	Value Added Tax	97,400	(41,909)	55,491	51,838	—	3,653
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,144,646	—	2,144,646	2,128,563	—	16,083

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

STATEMENT OF LOSSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2018

Loss of Money

There was no loss of money recorded for the year ended 31 July 2018.

Loss of Revenue

There was no loss of revenue recorded for the year ended 31 July 2018.

Loss (other than money)

There was no reported loss (other than money) recorded for the year ended 31 July 2018. The Board of Survey was conducted by the Office and the following items worth \$3,295 were recommended for write off:

Category	Cost (\$)
Office equipment	3,295

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Economy approved the write off of the unserviceable asset reported in the Board of Survey report on 10th December 2018.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2018

NOTE 1: REPORTING ENTITY

The Office of the President provides administrative and logistical support to the Head of State in the performance of their official duties. These duties include: the signing of Bills passed by Parliament into law, opening each session of Parliament, attending ceremonial functions, responsibility as Commander-in-Chief of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), state visits and active community engagement.

The President represents Fiji on state visits to other nations that strengthen Fiji's diplomatic relations and enhance Fiji's standing in the world. Furthermore, His Excellency presides over commemorations for war heroes and high achievers that have made outstanding contributions to Fiji, and also attends and hosts events for visiting leaders.

NOTE 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

In accordance with Government accounting policies, the financial statements of the Office of the President is prepared on cash basis of accounting. All payments related to purchases of fixed assets have been expensed.

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the Financial Management Act and the requirements of Section 71 (1) of the Finance Instruction 2010. The preparation and presentation of a Statement of Assets and Liabilities is not required under the current Government policies, except for that of the Trade and Manufacturing Accounts.

(b) Accounting for Value Added Tax (VAT)

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

The VAT payment as per the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures relates to the VAT input claimed on payments made to the suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred and VAT payments to Fiji Revenue and Customs Services. Actual amount paid to Fiji Revenue and Customs Services during the year represents the difference between VAT Output and VAT Input.

(c) Comparative Figures

The financial year end for Government was changed from 31 December to 31 July in accordance with the Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016.

The financial statements for the year ended 2017 and the financial statements for the year ended 2018 are both for a twelve months period.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued...) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2018

d) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised when the actual cash is received by the Office.

NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS

- a) The established staff cost increased by \$71,310 or 11% in 2018 compared to 2017. This was due to the filling of all vacant posts and pay increment.
- b) The government wage earners cost increased by \$24,751 or 13% due to the filling of all vacant posts and pay increment.
- c) The maintenance and operations cost increased by \$85,910 or 23% due to relocation of His Excellency to Quarters 79 following the renovation of the State House resulting in increased maintenance cost incurred from maintaining this property and Borron House for all State activities.

NOTE 4 REPLENISHMENT OF FUND

During the year, the Office budget had to be replenished twice from Head 50 due to major budget constraint. This resulted from increased State activities and official engagement of His Excellency and other costs to operate the Office. The following expenditures were incurred by the Office but are recorded under Head 50:

Items	Sub Total (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
Replenishment 1		
Publication of HE's speeches	26,826	
Hosting of reception for dignitaries	79,385	
HE's gifts for visiting dignitaries	40,235	
Former President's travel to Malaysia	20,684	
Travel cost for HE	100,000	
Salary increment	45,603	
Total Replenishment 1		312,733
Replenishment 2		
Hosting of State functions - welcoming His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury	40,454	
Travel costs for HE	150,000	
Purchase of office equipment	38,613	
HE's gifts for visiting dignitaries	16,523	
Total Replenishment 2		245,590
Total Replenishment Cost		558,323

The total cost incurred to fund the operations of the Office of President:

Total as per Statement of Receipts and Expenditure	\$ 2,128,563
Total charged to Head 50	\$ 558,323
Total Cost	\$ 2,686,886

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued...) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2018

NOTE 5 APPROPRIATION CHANGES

There were no redeployment of the Office's funds during the year. Other movements were made through virements as follows:

Virement No.	From	Amount (\$)	To	Amount (\$)
DV0101	SEG 5	10,000	SEG 3	10,000
DV0102	SEG 1	15,000	SEG 4	65,000
	SEG 2	3,000	SEG4	17,520
	SEG 5	40,520		
	SEG 13	24,000		
	Total	92,520	Total	92,520
DV0103	SEG 3	42,000	SEG 4	15,000
			SEG 5	27,000
	Total	42,000	Total	42,000
DV0104	SEG 4	8,723	SEG 3	26,400
	SEG 13	24,000	SEG 5	6,323
	Total	32,723	Total	32,723
DV0105	SEG 3	4,274	SEG 5	16,495
	SEG 13	12,221		
	Total	16,495	Total	16,495
DV0106	SEG 3	1,050	SEG 4	2,587
	SEG 5	23,849	SEG 13	22,312
	Total	24,899	Total	24,899
DV0107	SEG 3	4,884	SEG 5	45,875
	SEG 4	36,991		
	SEG 13	4,000		
	Total	45,875	Total	45,875
DV0108	SEG 1	23,410	SEG 3	25,754
	SEG 2	2,345		
	Total	25,755	Total	25,755

NOTES