



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



ANNUAL REPORT 2018 – 2019

Parliamentary Paper No. 81 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 2019 in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004, which requires the Annual Reports of Government Agencies to be tabled in Parliament.

Yours sincerely,


V. Qionibaravi
Official Secretary

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OFFICIAL SECRETARY'S REVIEW

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Office of the President for the financial year ended 31st July 2019.

The period 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 President was sworn-in for a second three-year term in November 2018. President Konrote's re-appointment followed a successful first tenure as Head of State since his inauguration in 2015. The swearing-in ceremony was facilitated by the Chief Justice the Honourable Anthony Gates on 5th November, 2018 at Borron House.

His Excellency's success in assuming a second term is partly attributable to the immense support from stakeholders across the board. The continuity of His Excellency's tenure was also crucial as the nation headed to elections in 2018.

The Office acknowledges the continued support rendered to the President and the Office of the President, from all across Government in particular the Office of the Prime Minister for direction and support.

The Office of the President's strategic priorities for the year were based on the Constitution and the 5-year and 20-year National Development Plan.

There were several highlights for the 2018-2019 FY, which included the issuance of the Writ of Elections in October, prompting the 2018 General Elections, the Return of the Writ and formation of Government. State House facilitated timely Swearing-In of Cabinet Ministers into their respective portfolios. The Office also received a number of dignitaries on State Visit – His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex Prince Harry and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Sussex Megan Markle (October), the Prime Minister of Australia, Honourable Scott Morrison (January), the Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand Rt. Honourable Winston Peters (February), the President of the Republic of Kiribati, H.E. Taneti Maamau (March), His Royal Highness Haakon Magnus, Crown Prince of the Kingdom Norway (April), and the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Her Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine (May).

The Office farewelled the then Official Secretary Mr. Pene Baleinabuli, who completed five years of service at the Office of the President spanning three Heads of State. We congratulate Mr. Baleinabuli on his successful tenure at the Office of the President and his appointment as Permanent Secretary for Forestry.

President Konrote's domestic engagements during the 2018-2019 FY included community service, and attending to his Patron roles. The Office ensured that the President's engagements were properly facilitated across the board.

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 Head of State. The Office of the President will work in accordance with all relevant legislation including the Constitution and the 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 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 Policies

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

- 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 Policies:
 - 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 role and functions are governed by the Constitution. These include attendance to his role as 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 support for the Rule of Law and Access to Justice.

As Head of State, the President opens the yearly Parliamentary Session and exercises executive authority on the advice of the Prime Minister and other Ministers and Constitutional bodies. The President also appoints the Chief Justice, Judges of the Court of Appeal, High Court Judges, Magistrates, and Assents to Bills passed by the legislature, the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.



His Excellency the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote was inaugurated for a second term on the 5th of November 2018, at Borron House having first come into Office in 2015. **Photo: Department of Information.**

FY 2018-2019 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, on the advice of the Prime Minister and other Ministers and Constitutional bodies as defined in the Constitution, including the Constitutional Offices Commission, Judicial Services Commission, Public Service Commission, and the Electoral Commission.

Table 1: President's Constitutional Role – 2018-2019

No.	Date	Details
1	30/09	Honourable Prime Minister advised His Excellency the President on the dissolution of Parliament
2	1/10	Issuing of the writ for 2018 election
3	18/11	Return of the writ for 2018 election
4	26/11	State opening of Parliament (followed by evening Reception at State House)
5	17/07	Presentation of 2018 General Elections Joint Report and Annual Reports - Electoral Commission
6	24/07	Presentation of the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission's Annual Report
7		PRESIDENTIAL ASSENT Between 13th February to 24th June 2019, the following Acts received the Presidential assent in accordance with Section 48 of the Constitution: Act No. 1 of 2019 – Companies (Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 2 of 2019 – iTaukei Land Trust (Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 3 of 2019 – High Court (Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 4 of 2019 – COP 23 Presidency Trust Fund (Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 5 of 2019 – Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 6 of 2019 – Public Enterprises Act 2019 Act No. 7 of 2019 – 2019-2020 Appropriation Act 2019 Act No. 8 of 2019 – Tax Administration (Budget Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 9 of 2019 – Income Tax (Budget Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 10 of 2019 – Value Added Tax (Budget Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 11 of 2019 – Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy (Budget Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 12 of 2019 – Stamp Duties (Budget Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 13 of 2019 – Excise (Budget Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 14 of 2019 – Customs (Budget Announcement) Act 2019 Act No. 15 of 2019 – Customs Tariff (Budget Announcement) Act 2019 Act No. 16 of 2019 – Financial Management (Budget Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 17 of 2019 – Tertiary Scholarship and Loans (Budget Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 18 of 2019 – Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (Budget Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 19 of 2019 – Environment Management (Budget Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 20 of 2019 – Climate Action Trust Fund (Budget Amendment) Act 2019 Act No. 21 of 2019 – Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund Act 2019 Act No. 22 of 2019 – Small and Micro Enterprises Development (Repeal) Act 2019 Act No. 23 of 2019 – Companies (Budget Amendment) Act 2019



The 2018 General Elections Joint Report and Annual Report is presented to His Excellency the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji K. Konrote (17/07). **Photo: Department of Information**

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 Oaths, Commissioning, and Appointments – 2018-2019

No.	Date	Details
1	13/08	Swearing-in of Honourable Mr. Justice Sze-On Quentin Loh, Non-Resident Justice of Appeal of the Supreme Court
2	15/08	Swearing-in of Mr. Vishwa Datt Sharma, Acting Puisne Judge of the High Court
3	31/08	Commissioning of Her Excellency Mrs. Peniana Lalabalavu, Fiji's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea
4	5/11	Swearing-in of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Fiji, Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote, 2 nd term, at Borron House
5	20/11	Swearing-in of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Honourable Rear Admiral (Ret'd) Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama
6	20/11	Swearing-in of Mr. Henpitage Pushpa Nilantha Ragajeeva Wimalasena
7	22/11	Swearing-in of Cabinet Ministers of the Government of the Republic of Fiji
8	28/01	Swearing-in of two Assistant Ministers: - Hon. Alipate Tuicolo Nagata - Assistant Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports - Hon. Selai Adimaitoga - Assistant Minister for iTaukei Affairs

9	4/02	Swearing-in of Resident Magistrate Ms. Seini Puamau
10	11/02	Swearing-in of: - Resident Magistrate Mr. Sekonaia Vodokisolomone - Honourable Mr. Justice Priyantha Nawana, Non-Resident Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal - Resident Magistrate Mr. Bimsara Amila Nuwan De Silva Jagodage
11	27/02	Swearing-in of Honourable Mr. Justice Mohamed Javed Mansoor as Puisne Judge of the High Court
12	8/03	Swearing-in of Mr. Upul Indula Ratnayake as Resident Magistrate
13	4/04	Swearing-in of Mr. Yohan Liyanage as Puisne Judge
14	5/04	Swearing-in of Acting Chief Justice, Honourable Mr. Justice Kamal Kumar
15	8/04	Swearing-in of Judge of the Supreme Court of Fiji, Honourable Mr. Justice A.H.C.T. Gates
16	8/04	Swearing-in of Non-Resident Justice of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Fiji, Hon. Mr. Justice Frederick Brand
17	8/04	Swearing-in of Non-Resident Justice of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Fiji, Hon. Mr. Justice Frank Stock
18	16/04	Swearing-in of Ms. Nilmini Fernandez as Resident Magistrate
19	18/05	Swearing-in of Honourable Mr. Justice Viraj Dayaratne as Justice of Appeal on the non-resident panel of the Court of Appeal

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 – 2018-2019

No.	Date	Details
1	31/10	Courtesy Call by RFMF Land Force Commander, Col. Manoa Gadai
2	11/11	Remembrance Day
3	25/01	Dine-in at the Officers Mess as Commander-in-Chief
4	30/01	Courtesy Call by the RFMF Deputy Commander, Brigadier-General Aziz Mohammed
5	14/02	Addressed Junior Non-Commissioned Officers
6	19/02	Courtesy Call by RFMF Commander, Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto
7	20/02	Visited RFMF Section Commanders
8	26/02	Visited RFMF Warrant Officers
9	25/05	Commander-in-Chief hosted afternoon tea for Scotts Guards (following Change of Guard)
10	7/06	Visited RFMF Officer Cadet Course
11	20/06	Courtesy Call by RFMF West Point Cadets
12	21/06	Infantry Day formal dinner hosted by the Third Battalion Fiji Infantry Regiment



His Excellency the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji K. Konrote dined with Officers of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces at the Officers Mess at Queen Elizabeth Barracks (25/01). **Photo: Department of Information.**

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 to the Republic of Fiji. The presentation of diplomatic credentials to the Head of State is an essential process that is executed under the Vienna Convention of Diplomatic Relations 1961 (which is given force of law under the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1971) would authorise the 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 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 Heads of State 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.



As State House underwent extensive refurbishment works, Borron House hosted official events and official engagements such as receiving the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, HRH Prince Harry and Megan Markle in October 2018.

Photo: Department of Information.

Table 4: Engagements with Head of States, Diplomatic Corps, Foreign Dignitaries – 2018-2019

No.	Date	Details
1	7/08	Farewell Call by Archbishop Martin Krebs, Apostolic Nuncio to Fiji
2	27/08	Courtesy Call by the Honourable Tuila'epa Lufesoliai Sailele Malielelegaoi, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa
3	13/09	Courtesy Call by a delegation from China led by His Excellency Mr. Qian Bo, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Fiji
4	18/09	Courtesy Call by the President of the Republic of Kiribati, His Excellency Taneti Maamau
5	23/09	Chief Guest – China National Day and Moon Festival
6	2/10	Chief Guest – 150 th Birth Anniversary celebration of Mahatma Gandhi
7	18/10	Courtesy Call by: - Ms. Alice Cawte, Observer Coordinator, Multilateral Observer Group - Mr. Gary Rachman Makmun Jusuf, Ambassador of Indonesia to Fiji - Mr. Thomas Ambrosius, First Secretary, Embassy of Indonesia - Mr. Andrew Elborn, Executive Policy Officer Multilateral Observer Group
8	19/10	73 rd Anniversary of Independence, Republic of Indonesia
9	23/10 - 25/10	Royal Visit – Duke of Sussex and the Duchess of Sussex - Courtesy Call by His Royal Highness Prince Harry the Duke of Sussex and the Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle – Borron House - Traditional Welcome Ceremony – Albert Park - State Reception – Grand Pacific Hotel - State Dinner - Grand Pacific Hotel - Wreath laying by the Duke of Sussex – National War Memorial - Unveiling of Her Majesty the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy plaque by the Duke of Sussex – Colo-i-Suva - Traditional farewell for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex – Nadi Airport - President's War Cross posthumously awarded to Sgt. Talaiasi Labalaba (received by the late Sgt. Labalaba's son Mr. Isaia Labalaba) – Nadi Airport - Unveiling of the late Sgt. Labalaba's commemorative statue – Nadi Airport

10	24/10	Hosted dinner for the President of the Republic of Estonia, Her Excellency Kersti Kaljulaid
11	30/10	Courtesy Call by Mr. Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister, People's Republic of China
12	13/11	Courtesy Call by the Multi-National Observer Group for the 2018 General Elections
13	3/12	47 th National Day of the United Arab Emirates
14	13/12	Courtesy Call by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Environment, Mr David Boyd
15	14/12	85 th Birthday Reception of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan hosted by the Ambassador of Japan
16	2/01	Farewell Call by Non-Resident Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Fiji Ambassador Gerhard Thiedmann
17	16/01	Courtesy Call by the Prime Minister of Australia, Honourable Scott Morrison
18	24/01	Reception to mark Australia Day
19	26/01	Reception to celebrate Republic of India's 70 th Anniversary
20	1/02	Farewell Call by His Excellency Mr. Gerhard Thiedman, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany
21	5/02	Courtesy Call by the International Committee of the Red Cross - Mr. Fred Grimm, Head of Regional Delegation in the Pacific, and Mr. Vincent Ochilet (HRDP-designate)
22	6/02	Waitangi Day Reception
23	18/02	Chinese Spring Festival
24	27/02	Courtesy call by Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand, Right Honourable Winston Peters
25	13/03	Host farewell lunch for His Excellency Mr. Vishvas Sapkal, High Commissioner of India
26	18/03	Courtesy Call by the President of the Republic of Kiribati, His Excellency Taneti Maamau
27	18/03	Courtesy Call by His Excellency Sir Frank Kabui, Governor-General of Solomon Islands
28	20/03	Courtesy Call by The Most Reverend Fereimi Cama, Archbishop of the Anglican Church, Diocese of Polynesia
29	22/03	Dinner hosted by the University of the South Pacific to honour the President of the Republic of Kiribati, His Excellency Taneti Maamau
30	24/03	Hosted lunch for the President of the Republic of Kiribati, His Excellency Taneti Maamau, and First Lady Teiraeng Maamau
31	2/04	Courtesy Call by the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Kate Gilmore
32	4/04	Courtesy Call by His Royal Highness Haakon Magnus, Crown Prince of Norway
33	6/05	Courtesy Call by Honourable Mangala Samaraweera, Minister for Finance, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
34	14/05	Courtesy Call by the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Her Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine
35	16/05	Courtesy Call by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres
36	24/05	Courtesy Call by Mr. Zhang Shuofu, Party Secretary of Guangzhou Municipal Committee of the People's Republic of China
37	27/05	Signed congratulatory book on the occasion of the Enthronement of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito (Japan)
38	13/06	Farewell Call by His Excellency Mr. David Vogelsanger, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Swiss Republic
39	14/07	Reception – National Day of France
40	15/07	Courtesy call by Mr. Houlin Zhao, International Telecommunication Unit Secretary General
41	26/07	Courtesy Call by Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary General of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

Additional to receiving dignitaries, the President attended local engagements that were hosted by foreign dignitaries.

The President received His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex Prince Harry and the Duchess of Sussex, Her Royal Highness Meghan Markle in October 2018. Among the engagements hosted by His Excellency the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote were a State Dinner and

Reception, a traditional welcome ceremony and receiving Their Royal Highnesses courtesy call at Borron House. Further engagements involved the laying of a wreath at the National War Memorial grounds, unveiling of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy plaque at Colo-i-Suva Park, an investiture ceremony in which the President's War Cross was posthumously conferred to Mr. Isaia Labalaba, son of the late Fijian war hero Sgt. Talaiasi Labalaba, and the unveiling of the late Sgt. Labalaba's statue at Nadi International Airport. Sgt. Labalaba was posthumously honoured for acts of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril encountered during the Battle of Mirbat in July 19th, 1972.



The Crown Prince of Norway His Royal Highness Haakon Magnus paid a courtesy call to the President His Excellency Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji K. Konrote at Borron House in April 2019. Photo: Department of Information.



Her Excellency Ms. Padmaja, High Commissioner of the Republic of India, presented her Letter of Credence to the President His Excellency Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji K. Konrote at Borron House (April 2019). The presentations of credentials by foreign Heads of Missions is a necessary protocol for the official commencement of duties for Resident and Non-Resident Head of Missions. Photo: Department of Information.

Table 5: Courtesy Calls, Farewell Calls, Lunches and Dinners – 2018-2019

No.	Date	Details
1	9/08	Courtesy Call by Captain (Navy) (Ret'd) Timoci Lesikivatukoula Natuva, Director General, National Security Council
2	16/08	Courtesy Call by Reverend Abel Nand, Reverend Anil Rao, Deaconess Saini Rogadi, Methodist Church Indian Division
3	24/08	Courtesy Call by Dr. Deryck Scarr, Australia, Pacific historian, Australian National University
4	11/09	Courtesy Call by Honourable Ashneel Sudhakar, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee
5	12/09	Courtesy Call by Ambassador Winston Thompson and Ambassador Robin Yarrow

6	12/09	Courtesy Call by Dr. Navitalai Seavadua, Sub-Divisional Medical Officer, Rotuma Hospital
7	13/09	Courtesy Call by Mrs. Agatha Furivai
8	19/09	Courtesy Call by Dr. Michael O'Keefe from Australia (International Relations, La Trobe University)
9	30/10	Courtesy Call by Professor Jacqueline Leckie, associate writer of the book 'A University for the Pacific: 50 Years of USP'
10	6/11	Courtesy Call by the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations, Dr Satyendra Prasad
11	22/11	Courtesy Call by former President His Excellency Ratu Epeli Nailatikau
12	13/12	Courtesy Call by Ambassador Isikeli Mataitoga
13	14/01	Courtesy Call by Ambassador Robin Yarrow
14	16/01	Courtesy Call by Captain George Tudreu, CAAFI
15	18/01	Courtesy Call by Ambassador Nazhat Shameem
16	23/01	Hosted lunch for Ambassador Nazhat Shameem and spouse
17	13/02	Courtesy Call by Chief Justice Honourable Anthony Gates
18	13/02	Courtesy Call by Ms. Elizabeth Erasito, Director, National Trust of Fiji, and team
19	15/02	Courtesy Call by Mr. Meleti Bainimarama, Permanent Secretary for Rural and Maritime Development
20	25/02	Courtesy Call by Commanding Officer Police Special Response Unit
21	26/02	Courtesy Call by Honourable Faiyaz Koya, Minister for Lands, Trade, and Tourism
22	13/03	Courtesy Call by Station Officer Rotuma, IP Naivasi Talelaitoga
23	13/03	Courtesy Call by Mr. David Kolutagane, Permanent Secretary for Agriculture
24	15/03	Courtesy call by: - Major-General (Ret'd) Ioane Naivalurua – Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Foreign Affairs - High Commissioner Filimone Waqabaca – Fiji's High Commissioner to New Zealand - Ambassador Mosese Tikoitoga – Fiji's Ambassador to Ethiopia
25	18/03	Courtesy Call by Mr. Savneel Sangeet, Fiji Mountaineering and Climbing Association
26	18/03	Courtesy Call by Mr. David Tough, author of the book "212 Soldiers"
27	18/03	Hosted lunch for: - Fiji's High Commissioner to New Zealand, Mr. Filimone Waqabaca - Fiji's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Mr. Mosese Tikoitoga - Permanent Secretary, Foreign Affairs, Major-General (Ret'd) Ioane Naivalurua (Acting PS Mr. Esala Nayasi stood-in for PS Naivalurua)
28	20/03	Courtesy Call by Ms. Louise, Tourism Fiji
29	1/04	Courtesy Call by Chief Justice Honourable Mr. Anthony Gates
30	2/04	Courtesy Call by Major-General (Ret'd) Ioane Naivalurua, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs
31	3/04	Courtesy Call by Fiji's High Commissioner to New Zealand, High Commissioner Filimone Waqabaca
32	4/04	Courtesy Call by Commissioner of Police, Brigadier-General Sitiveni Qiliho
33	10/04	Courtesy Call by Mr. George Westlake Langman, Deputy Commissioner, FICAC
34	18/04	Courtesy Call by Mr. Sharvada Sharma, Solicitor General and team
35	23/04	Courtesy Call by St. John Association - Mrs. Emma Bovoro, Chief Executive Officer, and Dr. Ratu Vereniki Raiwalui, National Executive Chairman
36	26/04	Courtesy Call by Mr. Steven Hooper and Mr. Pene Baleinabuli, Permanent Secretary for Forestry
37	30/04	Courtesy Call by Mr. Rashmi Aslam, Acting Deputy Commissioner FICAC
38	1/05	Courtesy Call by Dr. Robin Mitchell, Chairman of the Organising Committee, International Weightlifting Federation
39	2/05	Courtesy Call by Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, former Minister for Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs
40	6/05	Courtesy Call by Mr. Daniel Singh, Ditis Pacific Private Ltd.

41	7/05	Courtesy Call by Mr. Mohammed Shah, Construction Implementation Unit, Ministry of Finance (visit included final inspection of State House, handing over and briefing)
42	8/05	Courtesy call by the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson
43	9/05	Courtesy Call by Mr. Luke Moroivalu, Commissioner Eastern
44	10/05	Courtesy Call by Mr. Tim Joyce, Managing Director, Joyce Aviation Group
45	10/05	Courtesy Call by Mr. Rodney Fong, President, Fiji Motorcyclist Association
46	13/05	Courtesy Call by Lt. Col. Ilai Moceica, Deputy Secretary Defence
47	13/05	Courtesy Call by Dr. Satyendra Prasad, Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations
48	14/05	Courtesy Call by Colonel Sapenasa Motufaga, Military Police Advisor, UN HQ, New York
49	17/05	Courtesy Call by Fiji's High Commissioner to the Commonwealth of Australia, Mr. Luke Daunivalu
50	20/05	Hosted lunch for: • Ambassador Satyendra Prasad, Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations • RFMF Commander, Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto • Commissioner of Police Sitiveni Qiliho • Captain (Navy) Humphrey Tawake
51	22/05	Courtesy Call by Reverend Iliapi Tuiwai, Talatala Qase, Suva Circuit
52	30/05	Hosted lunch for team from Rotuma: • Ms. Kinisimere Likutabua – Teacher, Rotuma High School • Zimran Sagaitu Kamea – Student/swim team • Dwain Joseph Mario – Student • Gary Ferefi – Student/swim team • Petu Pasirio – Student/swim team • Mrs. Jenny Elaise – Trainer • Mrs. Kelly Finiasi - Trainer
53	17/06	Courtesy Call by Mr. Deo Sharan, Fiji's Ambassador to the European Union
54	3/07	Courtesy Call by I-Taukei Land Trust Board team led by Mr. Isireli Buwawa (presentation on Geospatial Network System)
55	4/07	Courtesy Call by Mr. Filipe Nainoca, Director General, Fiji Red Cross Society
56	8/07	Courtesy Call by Honourable Dr. Ifereimi Waqainabete, Minister for Health and Medical Services
57	8/07	Hosted welcome luncheon for returning Heads of Missions and their spouses: • Ambassador Mosese Tikoitoga (Ethiopia) • Ambassador Kolinio Takali (Malaysia) • Ambassador Cama Tuiloma (Brazil) (Apologies) • PS Foreign Affairs, Major-General (Ret'd) Ioane Naivalurua
58	18/07	Courtesy call by Dr. Michael O'Keefe, Director of Master, International Relations and Master of International Development, La Trobe University, Australia
59	18/07	Courtesy Call by Honourable Inia Seruiratu, Minister for Defence, National Security and Immigration
60	24/07	Courtesy Call by Mr. Luke Moroivalu, Commissioner Eastern

Table 6: Presentation of Diplomatic Credentials – 2018-2019

No.	Date	Details
1	25/09	His Excellency Mr. Sanaka Samarasinha, United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative for Fiji
2	18/10	His Excellency Mr. Andres Unga, Non-Resident Ambassador of Estonia to Fiji
3	18/10	His Excellency Mr. Ilham Tuah Bin Illias, Resident High Commissioner of Malaysia to Fiji
4	30/10	His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, Non-Resident High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Fiji
5	21/11	His Excellency Mr. Paul Gulleik Larsen, Non-Resident Ambassador of Norway to Fiji
6	13/12	His Excellency Mr. William Soaki, Solomon Islands High Commissioner to Fiji
7	24/01	His Excellency Mr. Saad Abdullah Al-Mahmoud Al-Shareef, Non-Resident Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Fiji

8	18/03	His Excellency Mr. Michal Kolodziejski, Non-Resident Ambassador of Poland to Fiji
9	20/03	His Excellency Mr. Laszio Zsolt Szabo, Non-Resident Ambassador of Hungary to Fiji
10	20/03	Her Excellency Ms. Nineta Barbulescu, Non-Resident Ambassador of Romania to Fiji
11	26/03	His Excellency Mr. Sergio Eduardo Moreira Lima, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to Fiji
12	26/03	His Excellency Mr. Mesaad Bin Ibrahim Al-Sulaim, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Fiji
13	28/03	His Excellency Mr. Babar Amin, Non-Resident High Commissioner of Pakistan to Fiji – Officiated by Acting President, Chief Justice Anthony Gates; President Konrote on duty travel to New Zealand
14	3/04	His Excellency Fernando Curcio Ruigomez, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Kingdom Spain to Fiji
15	29/04	His Excellency Mr. Tregar Albon Ishoda, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Republic of Marshall Islands to Fiji
16	29/04	Her Excellency Ms. Padmaja, Resident High Commissioner of India to Fiji
17	4/06	His Excellency Mr. Rodrigo Espinosa Marty, Non-Resident Ambassador of Chile to Fiji
18	4/06	His Excellency Mr. Antonio Pedro Da Vinha Rodrigues Da Silva as Non-Resident Ambassador of Portugal to Fiji
19	6/06	Her Excellency Mrs. Martha Mavrommati, Non-Resident High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus to Fiji
20	13/06	Her Excellency Mrs. Nantana Sivakua, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Fiji
21	20/06	Her Excellency Ms. Mira Simone Woldberg, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Fiji

Overseas Engagements

His Excellency with the support of Government agencies continued 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 Government's nation-building initiatives that involves both local and international stakeholders.

Overseas engagements by the Head of State play a pivotal role in strengthening diplomatic ties and advancing the national interest. The President's attendance at international events and forums underscore Fiji's commitment to regional cooperation and enhancing partnerships.

In March 2019, the President His Excellency Major-General (Re'td) Jioji Konusi Konrote traveled to New Zealand to attend the National Remembrance Service held in Christchurch in honour of the victims of the Christchurch Mosque shooting that occurred on March 15th. The overseas engagement was His Excellency's only duty travel abroad during the 2018-2019 FY. The President was accompanied by the First Lady Her Excellency Sarote Konrote. In Christchurch, they were joined by New Zealand Prime Minister Honourable Jacinda Ardern and other dignitaries at the National Remembrance Service at Hagley Park.

As the Pillar of National Unity, His Excellency's presence at the National Remembrance Service conveyed a sincere message of compassion and unity amongst a sea of diversity of cultures and religions.



Diplomatic Engagement.... The President His Excellency Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote and Her Excellency the First Lady Sarote Konrote visited New Zealand to honour the victims of the Christchurch mosque shooting.
Photo: New Zealand Government.

Table 7: Overseas Engagements – 201-2019

No.	Date	Details
1	29/03	Duty Travel – Christchurch, New Zealand National Remembrance Service in honour of Christchurch mosque shooting

Community Engagements

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

In promoting the Office of the President's vision in being 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 togetherness 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.

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.

The President also supported social services that promoted 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.

As chief advocate for combatting NCDs, the President engaged with the Minister for Health and Medical Services and medical personnel to discuss essential updates on NCD data and prevalence of NCDs within our communities. The President channeled the awareness of NCD concerns and the importance of overall wellbeing through intentional and joint national efforts via his public speeches.

The President attended to his Patronage roles as Patron of Fiji Red Cross and in his capacity as Chief Scout of the Fiji Scouts Association. He also visited institutionalized homes in December 2018 to encourage and support residents to share the message that no Fijian shall be left behind.

Table 8: National Engagements – 2018-2019

No.	Date	Details
1	7/09	Constitution Day, Labasa
2	15/09	Closing address, Project Survival Pacific Local Conference of Youth
3	31/09	Launch National Library Week 2018
4	5/10	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) 70 th birthday celebration
5	10/10	Fiji Day Celebration, Labasa
6	3/11	Fiji Business Excellence Awards
7	9/11	Launch of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and the introduction of Charlie the Child Helpline Turtle
8	16/11	Sunrise Initiative Ceremony marking the global celebration for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
9	23/11	67 th Sukuna Bowl Challenge
10	1/12	Project Bula Mai-Style Fiji 2018
11	7/12	Chief Guest – 20th Attorney-General's Conference
12	13/12	University of the South Pacific 50th Anniversary Closing Dinner
13	15/12	Itumuta Day 2018
14	27/12	Sister Kathleen Loyola Grehan's 100th Birthday
15	28/12	Government reguregu to the late Honourable Speaker Dr. Jiko Luveni
16	29/12	Funeral church service for the late Honourable Speaker Dr. Jiko Luveni
17	8/01	President Konrote launches the 4-million trees in four years initiative (Ministry of Forestry)
18	25/01	Inaugural LAWASIA Employment Forum
19	7/01	Tree planting with Ministry of Forestry at Presidential property in Taunovo
20	9/01	Workshop for caregivers and patients with diabetes
21	28/02	Fiji Development Bank's Small and Medium Enterprise Awards
22	1/03-7/03	Duty Travel – Rotuma • Rotuma High School, Malaha'a Primary School, Paptea Primary School, Motusa Primary School, Christ the King Primary School - Meet with students, community • Tree planting with students, civil servants, members of the community • Talanoa with communities • Inspect newly built Rotuma Hospital and generator house • Prefects induction – Rotuma High School • Meet with Rotuma Island Council
23	10/03	Episcopal Ordination of The Reverend Fereimi Cama as the 7th Bishop of Polynesia

24	21/03	International Day of Forests 2019, Sigatoka
25	25/03	Opening Reception of the Pacific Women in Power Forum for women members of Parliament in the region
26	2/04	Opening of the 28 th Meeting of the INTOSAI Working Group on IT Audit
27	24/04	Chaired the Fiji Scouts Association annual general meeting (H.E. is Chief Scout)
28	25/04	Launch Backyard Gardening Programme coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture (President Konrote champions backyard gardening)
29	25/04	Participates in tree planting and sowing seeds for a backyard garden at Ms. Premila Lata's residence, Bangladesh Settlement, Tavua
30	23/05	Dinner hosted by the Fiji Institute of Accountants Council and Congress Organising Committee
31	24/05	Fiji Institute of Accountants 47 th Congress
32	29/05	Open Board meeting for International Weightlifting
33	6/06	2019 International Weightlifting Federation Junior Championship – medal ceremony and dinner
34	21/06	Re-dedication of State House following major refurbishment
35	21/06	Reguregu for the late Honourable Filipe Bole
36	28/06	Visited Nadrau, Nadarivatu - Met with civil servants, Nadarivatu Government Station - Visit Nadrau Nursing Station - Visit Nadrau Primary School
37	30/06	Attend Synod closing mass
38	6/07	Red Cross Society Kings and Queens Charity Ball (H.E. is Patron of Fiji Red Cross)

Table 9: I-Tafau Presentations – 2018-2019

No.	Date	Details
1	20/08	Fiji Under-20 Rugby
2	31/08	Fiji Airways Drua Rugby
3	24/09	Vodafone Fiji Under-18 and Under-16 Rugby teams
4	26/09	Team Fiji to the 2018 Youth Olympic Games
5	15/10	Fijian Sevens team to the 2018-2019 HSBC World Series
6	29/10	Vodafone Vanua 15s
7	1/11	Fiji Airways Men's 7s
8	21/11	Basketball Fiji to the International Basketball Federation men's World Cup qualifiers and Oceania Under-15s Championship
9	28/01	Team Fiji representatives to the Special Olympics for children and adults with intellectual disabilities
10	15/04	Team Fiji (Touch Rugby) to the 2019 Touch Rugby World Cup, Malaysia
11	16/04	Fiji Under-20 rugby team to the Oceania U20 Rugby Championship, Australia
12	27/06	Team Fiji to the 2019 Pacific Games, Apia, Samoa
13	3/07	Fiji Pearls netball team to the Netball World Cup, England
14	11/07	Flying Fijians 15s to the Pacific Nations Cup and World Cup



Her Excellency the First Lady Sarote Konrote in a tree planting exercise with students during President Konrote's duty travel to the island of Rotuma. **Photo: Department of Information.**

Table 10: Community Outreach – 2018-2019

No.	Date	Outreach Location
1	10/12- 11/12	Nabouwalu Hospital (Vanua Levu)
2	10/12- 11/12	Lomani Au Children's Home (Vanua Levu)
3	10/12-11/12	Golden Age Home (Vanua Levu)
4	3/05	Combined clean-up between Office of the President staff and Namosi Provincial Office
5	28/06-29/06	Meet civil servants in Nadarivatu (Vanua Levu)
6	28/06-29/06	Visit Nadrau Primary School (Vanua Levu)
7	28/06-29/06	Visit Nadrau Nursing Station (Vanua Levu)

Table 11: Visitations from Schools and Communities – 2018-2019

No.	Date	Details
1	19/12	Saioni Church Choir
2	1/01	Fara – Sigoas and Hafahanua groups
3	25/07	Christian Mission Fellowship Kindergarten



Pupils of Christian Mission Fellowship Kindergarten visited State House in July. **Photo: Department of Information.**



The Fiji Under-20 rugby team presented its *i-tatau* to the President His Excellency Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote at Borron House (August 2018). **Photo: Department of Information.**

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.

Chancellor of the Order of Fiji

As Chancellor of the Order of Fiji, His Excellency has been a beacon of unity, in advocating the philosophy of inclusivity and 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, 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 submissions and advises the President on matters regarding the Fiji Honour System.

Awareness activities for the financial year 2018-2019 period included talkback shows in the *i-Taukei* and Hindi languages, dissemination of nomination forms to the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management for onward transmission to the Divisional Commissioners, and publishing of the call for nomination advertisements in the English and vernacular newspapers. Relevant stakeholders were informed through outreach activities namely the Fiji Government Services Expo in Keiyasi, Navosa, and Vaturova, Cakaudrove.

The College of Honour members in the financial year 2018-2019 period were:

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



Following the 2018 General Elections, Mrs. Premila Kumar's election into the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji resulted in an opening for a female member to fill the vacant position. In July 2019, the membership of the College further reduced due to the demise of Mr. Dixon Seeto. However, the departure of two members of the College did not hinder its operations in supporting the President as Chancellor of the Order of Fiji. A quorum of three members was maintained as per the Honours and

Awards Act, 1995, Part II 9(7). The Secretariat was then tasked to locate suitable candidates to fill the vacant positions.

The Office of the President as the Secretariat to the College of Honour, with the College of Honour, facilitated investiture ceremonies to recognise the effort(s) of extraordinary Fijians and friends of Fiji, who have contributed to their industry, profession or community or for acts of profound bravery.

The President His Excellency Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji K. Konrote expressed that the investiture ceremony held in June 2019 was another testament of Government's commitment to ensure that the culture of appreciation and its recognition of individual's selfless contributions to nation building continues to be acknowledged and justly rewarded

There was one **Order of Fiji** investiture ceremony held on 12th July 2019.

Table 12: 2018-2019 Order of Fiji Honour Roll

COMPANION OF THE ORDER OF FIJI (CF) <i>For eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree in service to Fiji or to humanity at large.</i>
Honourable Murray Stuart McCully (Honourary) (Former New Zealand Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade)
OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF FIJI (OF) - <i>For distinguished service of a high degree to Fiji or to humanity at large.</i>
Mr. Anthony Bruce Whitton
MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF FIJI (MF) - <i>For meritorious service in a particular locality or field of activity or to a particular group.</i>
Mr. Narendra Prasad
MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF FIJI (MOF) - <i>For service worthy of a particular recognition.</i>
Mr. Lorosio Jope Qiriamo
Mr. Lepani Raisowalu
Mr. Daya Ram
Mr. Raymond Mukesh Mano Mani Reddy
Pastor Rocco Leo
Mr. Kameshwar Prasad
Mr. Isaia Saukuru
Mr. Rajesh Kumar Patel
Mr. Praveen Chandra Naidu
BRAVERY MEDAL - <i>For acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances.</i>
Mr. Samueli Sautamata Ritova
Mr. Sakaraia Koroi
Mr. Emosi Delaibatiki



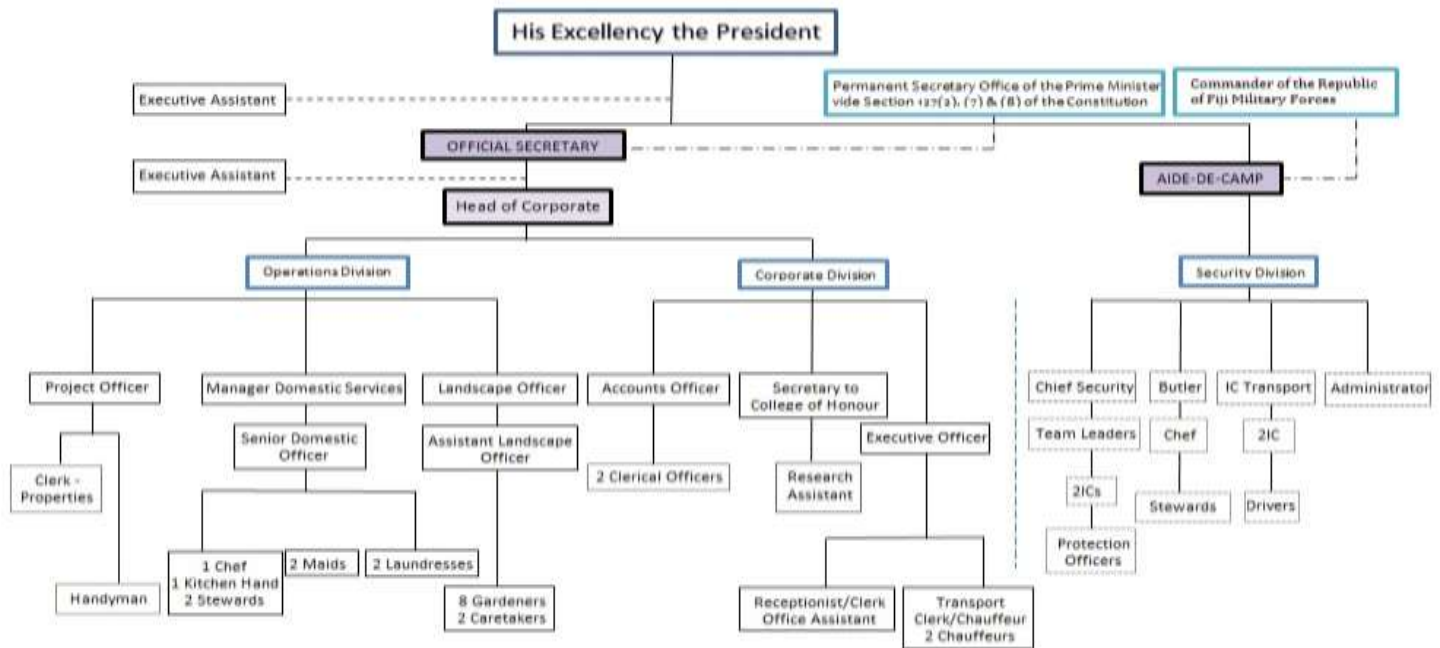
Mr. Anthony Bruce Whitton - Officer of the Order of Fiji.
Photo: Department of Information.



His Excellency the President greets guests following the investiture ceremony (12.07).
Photo: Department of Information

Additionally, His Excellency conferred posthumously the Global Health Leadership Award to Fiji's former Speaker of Parliament and health advocate Dr. Jiko Fatafehi Luveni. The award was presented to her husband Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Inoke Luveni, who accepted the award on behalf of the family. The conferment was in recognition of her significant contributions to health and to politics. The recognition was at the 72nd World Health Assembly, from the World Health Organization. The award recognizes those who have championed the cause of health, successfully influenced political agendas, and contributed to raising awareness on health issues globally.

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 and the 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 and 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 2018-2019 FY, Borron House was the venue for ceremonial engagements for the President as major refurbishment works began at State House.

During the FY 2018 – 2019, 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.

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 and monitoring and evaluation of capital projects.

During the 2018–2019 fiscal year, the Office of the President placed significant focus on the completion of the major renovation of State House — a landmark undertaking since its original construction in 1928. This extensive project, valued at over FJD\$7.3million, represented a milestone in the preservation and modernization of one of Fiji's most historic and symbolic national properties.

The renovation works were successfully completed, and the official handover ceremony was conducted by Grace Road Group in July 2019.

Concurrently, the landscape enhancement initiative was strategically implemented to complement the refurbished State House. The transformation project involved the conversion of traditional flower beds into sustainable rock-lined gardens, beginning from the main entrance and extending across the surrounding slopes.

These works were completed parallel with the main renovation schedule. Upgrading works were completed concurrently on the surrounding gardens, including the Stone Garden adjacent to the

Conservatory. Collectively, these achievements have significantly enhanced the visual appeal, environmental sustainability, and long-term maintenance efficiency of State House premises, aligning with the overall vision of preserving national heritage while promoting modern standards of excellence.

The renovation works faced several challenges. These included delays in the procurement of specialized materials required to preserve the historical integrity of State House. Coordination between multiple contractors and compliance with heritage conservation standards also required careful oversight, resulting in extended project timelines and cost pressures. Unpredictable weather conditions and limited availability of suitable landscaping materials temporarily affected progress.

Balancing aesthetic improvements with sustainable design and maintenance consideration required continuous technical adjustments throughout the project. The project highlighted the importance of early stakeholder engagement and clear communication between implementing agencies, contractors, and oversight bodies. Establishing a robust project monitoring and reporting framework proved essential in managing risks and ensuring accountability throughout major capital works.

The experience reinforced the value of integrating landscape planning into the early stages of structural renovation projects. Continuous consultation with horticultural and environmental experts enhanced both design quality and long-term maintenance outcomes.

Future maintenance and renovation efforts will focus on adopting a preventative maintenance programme to preserve the integrity of State assets and minimize major repair costs. A systematic asset management framework will also be developed to guide long-term property upkeep and sustainability.

Moving forward, landscape development will emphasize sustainable and low-maintenance designs that align with Fiji's climate conditions. Further greening initiatives will include the introduction of indigenous plants, improved irrigation systems, and continued enhancement of State House's visual and environmental appeal.

Corporate

The Section provides corporate services for the Office of the President which include Finance, and all aspects of Human Resources Management (HRM). 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 agency had an approved staff establishment of 39. This included 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 engaged its staff in a range of upskilling and refresher courses this FY.

This year, the HR unit organized training on defensive driving with the Land Transport Authority, and a session on excellence awards and quality circles. Writing standard operating procedures, fundamentals of internal audit, writing reports and proposals, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZ MFAT) protocol visits and drivers VIP training, OHS modules 1 and 2, archiving and records management, China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong, basic DDC training, fire warden, OHS and fire safety training between August 2018 and July 2019.



President Konrote is a keen gardener, regularly attending his backyard garden at State House.
Photo: Office of the President.



A ritual for President Konrote - wellness walks through to Namosi combined with cleanup exercises.
Photo: Office of the President.

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 2019

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2019

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

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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 2019, 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.

Other Matters

1. The Office used the accountable advance allocation to procure goods and services totalling \$111,947 that should have been funded from the operating budget. Although the charges were later regularized to the respective expenditure allocation, the practise adopted is not in compliance with Section 10 of Office of the President Finance Manual and a deliberate use of the accountable advance allocation for purpose other than its intended purpose.
2. Internal controls over procurement and payment processes were generally found to be weak. This is in respect of not calling of tenders for procurement of goods and services above \$50,000, not issuing local purchase orders, not obtaining quotations and the charging of expenditures to the incorrect expenditure allocations. These internal controls weakness 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
06 July 2020

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

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 2019; and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act Finance Instructions 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016.


Jiko Rasqosoqo
Official Secretary

Date: 07/07/2020


Krishneel Kumar
Manager Finance

Date: 03/07/20

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

	Notes	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
RECEIPTS			
State Revenue			
Commission		2,012	1,086
Total Revenue		<u>2,012</u>	<u>1,086</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Operating Expenditure			
Established Staff	3(a)	801,233	706,157
Unestablished Staff	3(b)	265,427	214,635
Travel & Communications		459,240	486,845
Maintenance & Operations	3(c)	788,747	466,224
Purchase of Goods and Services	3(d)	782,770	202,864
Total Operating Expenditure		<u>3,097,417</u>	<u>2,076,725</u>
Value Added Tax		137,226	51,838
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>3,234,643</u>	<u>2,128,563</u>

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**APPROPRIATION STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019**

SEG	Item	Budget Estimate (\$)	Changes (\$) Note 4	Revised Estimate (\$) a	Actual Expenditure (\$) b	Carry Over (\$)	Lapsed Appropriation (\$) (a-b)
	Operating Expenditure						
1	Established Staff	786,460	36,561	823,021	801,233	—	21,788
2	Government Wage Earners	247,010	18,764	265,774	265,427	—	347
3	Travel & Communication	1,113,900	(654,658)	459,242	459,240	—	2
4	Maintenance & Operations	483,400	310,961	794,361	788,747	—	5,614
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	496,400	288,372	784,772	782,770	—	2,002
	Total Operating Expenditure	3,127,170	—	3,127,170	3,097,417	—	29,753
	Capital Expenditure						
8	Capital Construction	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total Capital Expenditure	—	—	—	—	—	—
13	Value Added Tax	188,437	—	188,437	137,226	—	51,211
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,315,607	—	3,315,607	3,234,643	—	80,964

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

STATEMENT OF LOSSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

Loss of Money

There was no loss of money recorded for the year ended 31 July 2019.

Loss of Revenue

There was no loss of revenue recorded for the year ended 31 July 2019.

Loss (other than money)

There was no reported loss (other than money) recorded for the year ended 31 July 2019. The Board of Survey was conducted by the Office and the following items worth \$2,542 were recommended for write off:

Category	Cost (\$)
Office equipment	2,542

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Economy approved the write off of the unserviceable asset reported in the Board of Survey report on 25 October 2019.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

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.

His Excellency is also Fiji's lead advocate and Champion in the national campaign to promote a fit and healthy nation. The Office also facilitates the Presidents engagements with specific audiences and the general public to help reduce non-communicable diseases, a serious health crisis affecting the Fijian people.

The President promotes Fiji to the international community by formally receiving the newly appointed Foreign Head of Missions who are accredited to Fiji, receiving visiting dignitaries including Head of States, Heads of Government, and leaders of International Organisations and by visiting other countries for special occasions and to move forward Fiji's strategic foreign policy priorities.

(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.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued...) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

(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 2018 and the financial statements for the year ended 2019 are both for a twelve months period.

d) Revenue Recognition

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

NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS

- a) The Established Staffs expenditures increased by \$95,076 or 13% in 2019 compared to 2018. This is due to the filling of four vacant positions, job evaluation exercise and the annual performance assessment payments.
- b) The Government Wage Earners costs increased by \$50,792 or 24% in 2019 compared to 2018. This is due to the job evaluation exercise and the annual performance assessment payments.
- c) The Maintenance and Operations costs increased by \$322,523 or 69% in 2019 compared to 2018. This is due to the Royal visit whereby the Office needed to invest in upgrading and maintenance works for Boron House for the courtesy call and as a contingency plan for the Royals to be accommodated.
- d) The Purchase of Goods and Services costs increased by \$579,906 or 286% in 2019 compared to 2018. This is due to Royal visit whereby the Office had hosted a State Dinner, facilitate a Special Investiture and also in furnishing the newly renovated State House.

NOTE 4 APPROPRIATION CHANGES

There was 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 3	200,000	SEG 4	80,000
			SEG 5	120,000
	Total	200,000	Total	200,000
DV0102	SEG 3	200,000	SEG 4	150,000
			SEG 5	50,000
	Total	200,000	Total	200,000

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued...)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

NOTE 4 APPROPRIATION CHANGES (continued...)

Virement No.	From	Amount (\$)	To	Amount (\$)
DV0103	SEG 2	1,080	SEG 2	1,080
	Total	1,080	Total	1,080
DV0104	SEG 3	158,203	SEG 4	113,953
	SEG 4	52,879	SEG 5	138,019
	SEG 5	40,890		
	Total	251,972	Total	251,972
DV0106	SEG 1	19,541	SEG 1	56,663
	SEG 2	1,920	SEG 2	20,123
	SEG 3	55,325		
	Total	76,786	Total	76,786
DV0107	SEG 3	30,000	SEG 5	30,000
	Total	30,000	Total	30,000
DV0108	SEG 1	2,237	SEG 1	2,237
	Total	2,237	Total	2,237
DV0109	SEG 3	17,987	SEG 3	8,158
	SEG 4	8,439	SEG 4	57,067
	SEG 5	46,709	SEG 5	7,910
	Total	73,135	Total	73,135
DV0110	SEG 3	1,301	SEG 4	6,588
	SEG 4	32,159	SEG 5	34,250
	SEG 5	7,378		
	Total	40,838	Total	40,838
DV0111	SEG 4	2,626	SEG 4	126
			SEG 5	2,500
	Total	2,626	Total	2,626

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued...)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

NOTE 4 APPROPRIATION CHANGES (continued...)

Virement No.	From	Amount (\$)	To	Amount (\$)
DV0112	SEG 4	670	SEG 5	670
	Total	670	Total	670
DV0113	SEG 1	560	SEG 2	560
	Total	560	Total	560