



# **OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2019 – 2020**

Parliamentary Paper No. 82 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 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 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 31 July, 2020.

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

The 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2020 also marked the completion of extensive refurbishment works at State House, a major achievement for the Office of the President and stakeholders.

State House refurbishment works which commenced in 2018 were necessary to maintain the historical integrity of the Presidential residence originally known as Government House. The upgrade was also the first broad refurbishment of the national heritage building since it was constructed in 1929.

The Office acknowledges His Excellency the President in ensuring that works on State House were completed during his term.

State House received a number of dignitaries in the period under review. These included the New Zealand Prime Minister The Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern. The courtesy visit by the Honourable Prime Minister was an opportunity to reconnect with one of our important Pacific allies to advance shared goals. President Konrote also received the President of the State of Israel, His Excellency Mr. Reuven Rivlin on February 20, 2020. This visit by President Rivlin was important as it marked the first visit by an Israel Head of State in over three decades. It elevated our shared commitment and mutual interests with the State of Israel. The visit was an opportunity to acknowledge our peacekeepers who have served in the Golan Heights, Lebanon, and Egypt.

The Office continues to facilitate the President's engagements within Fiji and abroad and continued support rendered to the President and the Office of the President, from all across Government in particular the Office of the Prime Minister.

**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 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 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 Constitutional 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 including the Judicial Services Commission, Constitutional Offices Commission, the Electoral Commission, and Disciplinary Tribunals for Constitutional Offices and Judicial Offices. 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.



## FY 2019-2020 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: President's Constitutional Role – 2019-2020**

| No. | Date  | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | 4/09  | Signed the contract for the Director of Public Prosecutions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2   | 12/11 | Opened the 2019-2020 Parliamentary Session and hosted the State Reception                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3   | 1/06  | Courtesy Call by the Prime Minister Honourable Rear Admiral (Ret'd) J.V. Bainimarama                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 4   | 20/07 | Courtesy Call by the Prime Minister Honourable Rear Admiral (Ret'd) J.V. Bainimarama                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 5   |       | <p><b>PRESIDENTIAL ASSENT</b></p> <p><b>Between 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020, President Konrote assented to the following Acts:</b></p> <p>Act No. 24 of 2019 – Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy (Amendment)(No.2) Act 2019</p> <p>Act No. 25 of 2019 – Civil Aviation Reform (Amendment) Act 2019</p> <p>Act No. 26 of 2019 – Maritime Transport (Amendment) Act 2019</p> <p>Act No. 27 of 2019 – Telecommunications (Amendment) Act 2019</p> <p>Act No. 28 of 2019 – Excise (Amendment)(No.2) Act 2019</p> <p>Act No. 29 of 2019 – Corrections Service (Amendment) Act 2019</p> <p>Act No. 30 of 2019 – Land Transport (Amendment) Act 2019</p> <p>Act No. 1 of 2020 – COVID-19 Response Bill 2020</p> <p>Act No. 2 of 2020 – Tax Administration (COVID-19 Response) (Amendment) Act 2020</p> <p>Act No. 3 of 2020 – Income Tax (COVID-19 Response) (Amendment) Act 2020</p> <p>Act No. 4 of 2020 – Value Added Tax (COVID-19 Response) (Amendment) Act 2020</p> <p>Act No. 5 of 2020 – Stamp Duties (COVID-19 Response) (Amendment) Act 2020</p> <p>Act No. 6 of 2020 – Customs (COVID-19 Response) (Amendment) Act 2020</p> <p>Act No. 7 of 2020 – Customs Tariff (COVID-19 Response) (Amendment) Act 2020</p> <p>Act No. 8 of 2020 – Fiji National Provident Fund (COVID-19 Response) (Amendment) Act 2020</p> <p>Act No. 9 of 2020 – Public Health (COVID-19 Response) (Amendment) Act 2020</p> <p>Act No. 10 of 2020 – Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Act 2020</p> <p>Act No. 11 of 2020 – Employment Relations (Amendment) Act 2020</p> <p>Legal Notice No. 46 and 47 – Commencement Notice</p> <p>Act No. 12 of 2020 – 2020-2021 Appropriation Act 2020</p> <p>Act No. 13 of 2020 – Tax Administration (Budget Amendment) Act 2020</p> |

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|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Act No. 14 of 2020 – Income Tax (Budget Amendment) Act 2020<br>Act No. 15 of 2020 – Value Added Tax (Budget Amendment) Act 2020<br>Act No. 16 of 2020 – Stamp Duties (Repeal) Act 2020<br>Act No. 17 of 2020 – Service Turnover Tax (Repeal) Act 2020<br>Act No. 18 of 2020 – Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy (Budget Amendment) Act 2020<br>Act No. 19 of 2020 – Airport Departure Tax (Budget Amendment) Act 2020<br>Act No. 20 of 2020 – Customs (Budget Amendment) Act 2020<br>Act No. 21 of 2020 – Customs Tariff (Budget Amendment) Act 2020<br>Act No. 22 of 2020 – Excise (Budget Amendment) Act 2020<br>Act No. 23 of 2020 – Reserve Bank of Fiji (Budget Amendment) Act 2020<br>Act No. 24 of 2020 – Accident Compensation (Budget Amendment) Act 2020<br>Act No. 25 of 2020 – Local Government (Budget Amendment) Act 2020<br>Act No. 26 of 2020 – Telecommunications (Budget Amendment) Act 2020<br>Act No. 27 of 2020 – Fiji National Provident Fund (Budget Amendment) Act 2020<br>Act No. 28 of 2020 – Business Licensing (Repeal) Act 2020<br>Act No. 29 of 2020 – Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (Budget Amendment) Act 2020 |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Executive & Judicial Appointments

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

His Excellency the President's official and ceremonial roles are governed by the Constitution. These include the appointment of Constitutional Officers of members of Commissions, the appointment and swearing-in of Judicial Officers, and the commissioning of Diplomats

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 – 2019-2020**

| No. | Date  | Details                                                                                             |
|-----|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | 12/08 | Swearing-in of Honourable Mr. Justice Madan Bhimarao Lokur as Judge of the Supreme Court            |
| 2   | 2/09  | Swearing-in of Honourable Justice Alan Stuart                                                       |
| 3   | 31/10 | Swearing-in of Mr. Joseph Daurewa as Resident Magistrate                                            |
| 4   | 17/04 | Swearing-in of Honourable Faiyaz Siddiq Koya as Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport |
| 5   | 1/07  | Commissioning of Mr. Amenatave Yauvoli as Ambassador to the United States of America                |

## 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 attending 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- 2019-2020**

| No. | Date  | Details                                                                                                   |
|-----|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | 15/08 | Courtesy Call by Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto, Commander, RFMF                                            |
| 2   | 29/08 | Courtesy Call by Col. Manoa Gadai, Commander Land Force, RFMF                                             |
| 3   | 24/09 | Courtesy Call by Lt. Col. Jack Moceica, Deputy Secretary Defence                                          |
| 4   | 25/09 | Luncheon aboard French Frigate <i>F734 Vendemiaire</i>                                                    |
| 5   | 27/09 | Courtesy Call by Captain Marc Moreau, Commanding Officer, French Naval ship FS <i>Vendemiaire</i>         |
| 6   | 27/09 | Courtesy Call by Captain Marc Moreau, Commanding Officer, FS <i>Vendemiaire</i>                           |
| 7   | 28/09 | Attend the Joint Naval Exercise at sea between Fiji Navy and French Navy                                  |
| 8   | 28/09 | Reception on board Spanish Navy Frigate F104 Mendez Nunez                                                 |
| 9   | 4/10  | Launch of Poppy Appeal                                                                                    |
| 10  | 6/11  | Courtesy Call/ Briefing by Lt. Col. Jack Moceica, Deputy Secretary Defence regarding 2019 Remembrance Day |
| 11  | 7/11  | Visit PLA Navy Training ship <i>Qi Jiguang</i>                                                            |
| 12  | 20/11 | Chief Guest at the RFMF and Fiji Police Force Unarmed Combat Academy Annual Graduation Ceremony           |
| 13  | 8/11  | Visited the PLA Navy Training Ship, <i>Qi Jiguang</i>                                                     |
| 14  | 25/11 | Attend Reception aboard HMAS <i>Adelaide</i>                                                              |
| 15  | 26/11 | On-board the <i>HMAS Adelaide</i> helicopter                                                              |
| 16  | 2/12  | Courtesy Call by Lt. Col. Jack Moceica, Deputy Secretary Defence                                          |
| 17  | 6/01  | Courtesy Call by Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto, Commander, RFMF                                            |
| 18  | 3/04  | Courtesy Call by Lt. Col. Moceica, Deputy Secretary Defence                                               |
| 19  | 27/05 | Courtesy Call by Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto, Commander, RFMF                                            |
| 20  | 18/06 | Courtesy Call by Courtesy Call by Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto, Commander, RFMF                           |
| 21  | 18/06 | Courtesy Call by Lt. Col. Moceica, Deputy Secretary Defence                                               |
| 22  | 23/06 | RFMF Infantry Day Celebration (walk from Colo-i-Suva to RFMF Camp)                                        |
| 23  | 25/06 | Courtesy Call by Lt. Col. Rokoura, Commanding Officer 3FIR                                                |

## Diplomatic Relations

***To strengthen 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 nations 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) enables the country representative to formally engage in the responsibilities as their nation's accredited diplomatic representative to 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 international and Fiji missions to discuss issues of national interest.

In addition to honouring invitations extended by Diplomatic Missions, the President receives and hosts visiting Heads of State, Heads of Government, Foreign Ministers or Dignitaries on Official visits. 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.

Among the visiting dignitaries this year were the President of the State of Israel, His Excellency Mr. Reuven Rivlin (20/02) and the New Zealand Prime Minister The Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern (25/02). President Konrote welcomed the President of the State of Israel. The renewal of ties between Israel and Fiji was an opportunity to further deepen diplomatic relations. President Konrote further acknowledged Fiji's role in UN peacekeeping missions to Israel, his first deployment being to the Middle East in June of 1978.

Following the courtesy call by The Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern, His Excellency the President honored the occasion with a symbolic planting of a palm tree on State House premises. President Konrote is an advocate of the Fiji Government's four-million-trees-in-four-years campaign, which is part of Fiji's boarder effort to combat climate change and promote sustainable forestry practices.



Strengthening diplomatic relations - H.E. President Konrote honoured the President of the State of Israel H.E. Reuven Rivlin by hosting a State Dinner at the Pullman Resort, Nadi, on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020, welcoming the Israeli President on his first-ever visit to Fiji. Photo: Koby Gideon/GPO.



A symbol of growth - The President His Excellency Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji K. Konrote and The Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, engaged in tree planting following PM Ardern's courtesy call at State House (25/02). **Photo: Department of Information.**

**Table 4: Presentation of Diplomatic Credentials – 2019-2020**

| No. | Date  | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | 22/08 | His Excellency Mr. Alexey V. Pavlovsky, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Fiji                                                                                                        |
| 2   | 12/09 | His Excellency Mr. Sujiro Seam, Ambassador of the European Union to Fiji                                                                                                                                 |
| 3   | 19/09 | His Excellency Mr. Ta Van Thong, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Fiji (received by Acting President, Acting Chief Justice Mr. Kamal Kumar; President Konrote on duty travel in Tonga) |
| 4   | 3/10  | His Excellency Mr. Jean-Francois Fitou, Ambassador of the Republic of France to Fiji                                                                                                                     |
| 5   | 14/11 | His Excellency Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Holy See to Fiji                                                                                                              |
| 6   | 23/12 | His Excellency Mr. Joseph James Cella, Resident Ambassador of the United States of America to Fiji                                                                                                       |
| 7   | 6/02  | His Excellency Mr. Michael Mathias Aroi, High Commissioner of the Republic of Nauru to Fiji                                                                                                              |
| 8   | 24/06 | Farewell Call by Her Excellency Ms. Melanie Hopkins, British High Commissioner (followed by official lunch)                                                                                              |

**Table 5: Diplomatic Corps – Courtesy Calls, Farewell Calls, Lunches, Dinners & Receptions – 2019-2020**

| No. | Date  | Details                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | 5/08  | Farewell Call by His Excellency Mr. Sujiro Seam, Ambassador of the French Republic to Fiji                                                                   |
| 2   | 13/08 | Courtesy Call by Ms. Mary Meita, First Secretary, High Commission of the Republic of Kiribati                                                                |
| 3   | 18/08 | Reception - 73 <sup>rd</sup> Independence Anniversary, Republic of India                                                                                     |
| 4   | 19/08 | Farewell Call by His Excellency Mr. Abel Gutterres, Non-Resident Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to Fiji                                |
| 5   | 27/08 | Hosted luncheon for High Commissioners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>His Excellency Yogesh Karan</li> <li>His Excellency Luke Daunivalu</li> </ul> |

|    |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>His Excellency Filimone Waqabaca</li> </ul>                                                                                                                       |
| 6  | 29/08 | Reception – National Day of Malaysia                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 7  | 6/09  | Courtesy Call by His Excellency Mr. Lin Duo, Member of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and CPC Gansu Provincial Secretary                                                                 |
| 8  | 16/09 | Courtesy Call by Her Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands                                                                                                    |
| 9  | 4/10  | Reception – National Day, Republic of Korea                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10 | 14/10 | Courtesy Call by His Excellency Mr. Masahiro Omura, Ambassador of Japan to Fiji                                                                                                                          |
| 11 | 4/11  | Courtesy Call by His Excellency Mr. Masahiro Omura, Ambassador of Japan to Fiji                                                                                                                          |
| 12 | 7/11  | Courtesy Call by Ambassador Solo Mara, Secretary-General, Pacific Islands Development Forum                                                                                                              |
| 13 | 25/11 | Courtesy Call by the Asia/Pacific Regional Scout delegation                                                                                                                                              |
| 14 | 10/12 | Courtesy Call by Ambassador Esala Teleni                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 15 | 16/01 | Farewell Call by His Excellency Mr. Mathew Verghese, High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Fiji                                                                                              |
| 16 | 20/01 | Courtesy Call by His Excellency Mr. Isikeli Matakito, Fiji's Ambassador to Japan                                                                                                                         |
| 17 | 24/01 | Reception – Commonwealth of Australia Day                                                                                                                                                                |
| 18 | 25/01 | Reception – Republic of India's 71 <sup>st</sup> Republic Day                                                                                                                                            |
| 19 | 6/02  | Reception – Waitangi Day                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 20 | 12/02 | Courtesy Call by His Excellency Mr. Lionel Rouwen Aingimea, President of the Republic of Nauru, and His Excellency Mr. Michael Mathias Aroi, Resident High Commissioner of the Republic of Nauru to Fiji |
| 21 | 20/02 | Hosted State Dinner for His Excellency Reuven Rivlin, President of the State of Israel, Pullman Resort, Nadi                                                                                             |
| 22 | 25/02 | Courtesy Call by The Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand (followed by tree planting)                                                                                          |
| 23 | 14/05 | Bilateral telephone call with Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC (Ret'd), Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia                                                                                 |
| 24 | 24/06 | Farewell Call by Her Excellency Melanie Hopkins, British High Commissioner; hosted lunch for H.E. Hopkins                                                                                                |
| 25 | 30/07 | Reception – 40 <sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary, Republic of Vanuatu                                                                                                                               |



H.E. Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa was accorded a 25-person guard of honour prior to presenting his letter of credence to President Konrote at State House (14/11). **Photo: Department of Information.**

## Overseas Engagements

The President with the support of Government continues to contribute to Fiji's holistic development as a modern and progressive Nation in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 national interests. The President's attendance at international events and fora underscores Fiji's commitment to international cooperation and enhancing partnerships.

During the 2019–2020 FY, President Konrote undertook two international engagements. In solidarity with the people of the Kingdom of Tonga, the President His Excellency Major-General (Re'td) Jioji K. Konrote and Her Excellency the First Lady Sarote Konrote attended the State funeral of the late Honourable Samuela 'Akilisi Pohiva, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga.

In October 2019, the President attended the enthronement ceremony of the Emperor of Japan, His Majesty Crown Prince Naruhito. The engagement included attendance at the banquet hosted by the Prime Minister of Japan. Diplomatic relations between Fiji and Japan was established after Fiji gained independence in 1970. President Konrote's presence at the enthronement ceremony was an opportunity to further align Fiji's historical link with the Government and the people of Japan.

**Table 6: Overseas Engagements – 2019-2020**

| No. | Date       | Details                                                                                                                          |
|-----|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | 18/09      | Duty Travel Abroad – Tonga<br>Attended the State funeral for the late Prime Minister of Tonga Honourable Samuela 'Akilisi Pohiva |
| 2   | 22/10-3/10 | Duty Travel Abroad – Japan<br>Enthronement ceremony of His Majesty Crown Prince Naruhito as Emperor of Japan                     |



His Excellency the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konrote and the First Lady Sarote Konrote joined world leaders to honour the enthronement of His Majesty Crown Prince Naruhito as Emperor of Japan (22/10).

**Photo: Department of Information**

## Community Engagements

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

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

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 further reinforced national togetherness through public engagements, receiving courtesy calls and visits from members of the community or the *Vanua*, and attending meetings with stakeholders.

His Excellency continued to advocate at multiple speaking engagements on the importance of wellness and overall wellbeing while raising awareness on the prevalence of NCDs in Fiji, youth and women empowerment, and poverty alleviation. During the 2020 prefects' induction at Natabua High School in Lautoka, His Excellency highlighted the importance of leadership roles and its alignment to cultivating positive attitudes in the context of a school environment.

The concept of peace, inclusivity and unity were also high on the President's speaking agenda.

His Excellency the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji K. Konrote 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.

As a champion of backyard gardening, President Konrote launched the Backyard Gardening Programme in Labasa in October 2019. Nutritional wellness and sustainable food sources are interests that President Konrote encourages and promotes in light of rising NCDs in Fiji. The President channeled the awareness of NCD concerns and the importance of overall wellbeing through intentional and joint national efforts via his public speeches.

To mitigate impacts of climate change, His Excellency continued to encourage the planting of trees, supporting Government's four-million-trees in-four-years campaign.

**Table 7: National Engagements – 2019-2020**

| No. | Date  | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | 20/08 | 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health                                                                                                                       |
| 2   | 23/08 | Handing over and opening of the State House wellness gym                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3   | 3/09  | Fiji Law Society International Bar Association Annual Convention                                                                                                                                         |
| 4   | 4/09  | Annual Lopta fundraiser prayer breakfast                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 5   | 25/09 | Launch of Fiji National Rugby League logo – Fiji Bulikula                                                                                                                                                |
| 7   | 9/10  | National address for Fiji Day                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 8   | 10/10 | Fiji Day celebration, Albert Park                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 9   | 10/10 | Hosted Reception for Fiji Day, State House                                                                                                                                                               |
| 10  | 15/10 | Launch Backyard Gardening Programme in Vanua Levu                                                                                                                                                        |
| 11  | 16/10 | National launch of World Food Day                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 12  | 31/10 | Launch Ministry of Health and Medical Services FoodSwitch Fiji App                                                                                                                                       |
| 12  | 2/11  | Fiji Business Excellence Awards                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 14  | 21/11 | Celebratory event to honour JP Bayly Trust milestone achievements                                                                                                                                        |
| 15  | 5/12  | Christmas Vakaviti Art Exhibition                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 16  | 12/12 | Tree planting at Hilton Resort, Nadi (prior to Rotuma travel)                                                                                                                                            |
| 17  | 8/02  | Prayer Breakfast hosted by Farmers Association                                                                                                                                                           |
| 18  | 21/02 | Prefects badging ceremony, Natabua High School, Lautoka                                                                                                                                                  |
| 19  | 28/02 | Fiji Development Bank's 2019 National Small and Medium Enterprise Awards                                                                                                                                 |
| 20  | 10/03 | Opening of the Inaugural Conference of the South Pacific Society of Lifestyle Medicine                                                                                                                   |
| 21  | 13/03 | Inaugural Ministry of Health and Medical Services Multi-sectoral Health and Wellness Forum                                                                                                               |
| 22  | 8/05  | National message for Rotuma Language Week 2020                                                                                                                                                           |
| 23  | 25/06 | President Konrote receives Thank You Certificate and championship report from Dr. Robin Mitchell- President, Oceania National Olympic Committee, and Ms. Della Shaw-Elder- President, Weightlifting Fiji |
| 24  | 10/07 | Handing over of Borron House to Construction Implementation Unit, Ministry of Economy                                                                                                                    |
| 25  | 24/07 | Reguregu to the late former First Lady Adi Salaseini Kavunono Uluivuda                                                                                                                                   |
| 26  | 25/07 | Funeral church service for the late former First Lady Adi Salaseini Kavunono Uluivuda                                                                                                                    |



Badging prefects at Natabua High School (21/02), President Konrote highlighted the importance of instilling a sense of duty, responsibility and achievement among student peers. **Photo: Fiji Television.**

**Table 8: I-Tatau Presentations**

| August 2019 – 2020 July |       |                                                                       |
|-------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No.                     | Date  | Details                                                               |
| 1                       | 8/08  | Handball Fiji National Women Athletes                                 |
| 2                       | 26/08 | Fijian Drua team                                                      |
| 3                       | 2/09  | Flying Fijians                                                        |
| 4                       | 5/09  | Republic of Fiji Military Forces rugby team for the Defence World Cup |
| 5                       | 13/09 | Fiji Airways Sevens rugby team for the 2019/2020 HSBC Sevens Series   |



The Fiji National Women's Handball team were reminded of the opportunity to gain experience at the international level during their *i-tatau* to the President at State House (8/08).  
Photo: Department of Information.



A keen follower of rugby, President Konrote recalled his experience as rugby player during the *i-tatau* (5/09) by the RFMF rugby team to the International Defence Rugby competition in Japan. Photo: Department of Information.

**Table 9: Visitations from Schools and Communities – 2019-2020**

| No. | Date  | Details                                                                                 |
|-----|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | 24/09 | St. Joseph the Worker Primary School                                                    |
| 2   | 30/09 | Nauru Primary School                                                                    |
| 3   | 7/10  | Circular Head Christian School, Tasmania                                                |
| 4   | 31/10 | Muaira District School                                                                  |
| 5   | 5/11  | Davuilevu Methodist Primary School                                                      |
| 6   | 6/11  | Saint Joseph the Worker Primary School                                                  |
| 7   | 7/11  | Early childhood and primary school students of Shantiniketan Pathshala, Naitasiri South |
| 8   | 22/11 | Nakorotubu District School                                                              |
| 9   | 23/12 | Christmas carols by the Corrections Voices of Hope                                      |
| 10  | 27/02 | Saioni Methodist Church                                                                 |
| 11  | 2/06  | Seventh Day Adventist youth                                                             |
| 12  | 20/07 | Formal communication of funeral information on former First Lady Adi Kavunono Uluivuda  |



The President encourages schools, members of the community, and agencies to visit State House. Pictured here are students, teachers and guardians from Nakorotubu District School, Ra, on an excursion to State House to visit the President (November 2019). The visit was one of several following the completion of major refurbishment works to the Presidential residence. **Photo: Department of Information.**

**Table 10: Courtesy Calls on the President & Hosted Events – 2019-2020**

| No. | Date  | Details                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | 5/08  | Courtesy Call/ debrief on Rotuma duty travel by Mr. Luke Moroivalu, Commissioner Eastern; Dr. Isimeli Tukana, National Advisor Non-Communicable Disease, and Mr. Fatiaki Misau |
| 2   | 6/08  | Courtesy Call by Mrs. Elizabeth Erasito, Director, National Trust of Fiji                                                                                                      |
| 3   | 7/08  | Courtesy Call by SSP Mahen Mishra, Director Traffic, Fiji Police Force, and Mr. Samuel Simpson, Chief Executive Officer, Land Transport Authority                              |
| 4   | 8/08  | Courtesy Call by Mr. Pene Baleinabuli, Permanent Secretary for Forestry                                                                                                        |
| 5   | 12/08 | Courtesy Call by Ms. Bernadette Welch, Permanent Secretary for Health and Medical Services                                                                                     |
| 6   | 14/08 | Courtesy Call by Mr. David Kolitagane, Permanent Secretary for Agriculture                                                                                                     |
| 7   | 14/08 | Courtesy Call by Mr. Joel Abraham, Chief Executive Officer, Fiji Competition and Consumer Commission                                                                           |

|    |       |                                                                                                                                                               |
|----|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8  | 16/08 | Courtesy Call by Honourable Vijay Nath, Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport                                                                   |
| 9  | 21/08 | Courtesy Call by Mr. Luke Moroivalu, Commissioner Eastern                                                                                                     |
| 10 | 21/08 | Courtesy Call by Dr. Hans Diehl, Clinical Professor of Preventative Medicine, Loma Linda University, United States of America                                 |
| 11 | 26/08 | Courtesy Call by Dr. Ifereimi Waqainabete, Minister for Health and Medical Services                                                                           |
| 12 | 2/09  | Courtesy Call by Mr. Don Natabe, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Fiji National Rugby League                                                                   |
| 13 | 24/09 | Courtesy Call by Col. Jack Moceica, Deputy Secretary Defence                                                                                                  |
| 14 | 26/09 | Courtesy Call by Reverend Fesaitu Maraseu                                                                                                                     |
| 15 | 27/09 | Courtesy Call by Professor Deryck Scar                                                                                                                        |
| 16 | 1/10  | Courtesy Call by Mr. Josefa Navuku, Commissioner Central                                                                                                      |
| 17 | 1/10  | Courtesy Call by Mr. Joel Sahai, Trustee, JP Bayly Trust                                                                                                      |
| 18 | 2/10  | Courtesy Call by Mr. Manasa Lesuma, Permanent Secretary for Defence and National Security                                                                     |
| 19 | 14/10 | Courtesy Call by Mr. Inoke Tuiwainunu, Acting Commissioner Eastern                                                                                            |
| 20 | 30/10 | Courtesy Call by Ms. Deborah Weiss, Permanent Secretary for Communication and Information                                                                     |
| 21 | 1/11  | Courtesy Call by Mr. Yogesh Karan, Permanent Secretary – Office of the Prime Minister, Sugar Industry and Immigration                                         |
| 22 | 20/11 | Courtesy Call by His Excellency Mr. Coly Seck, President of the Human Rights Council                                                                          |
| 23 | 3/12  | Courtesy Call by Ms. Sabrina Iqbal Khan, Senior Counsel for Human Rights                                                                                      |
| 24 | 4/12  | Courtesy Call by Mr. Inoke Tuiwainunu, Acting Commissioner Eastern                                                                                            |
| 25 | 11/12 | Courtesy Call by Mr. Paserio Furivai, Chairman, Fiji Rotuma Association (impending travel to Rotuma, engagements include meeting with Rotuma Council members) |
| 26 | 24/12 | Courtesy Call by Acting Chief Justice Honourable Justice Kamal Kumar                                                                                          |
| 27 | 24/12 | Courtesy Call by Mr. Sorovale, Divisional Planning Officer Eastern, and Gagaj Manav, Chairman Rotuma Council                                                  |
| 28 | 6/01  | Courtesy Call by SSP Livai Driu, OC Police Mobile                                                                                                             |
| 29 | 7/01  | Courtesy Call by Dr. Anirudha Bansod, Chief Executive Officer, Post Fiji                                                                                      |
| 30 | 9/01  | Courtesy Call by Mr. Joketani Cokanasiga, former Minister of Defence                                                                                          |
| 31 | 14/01 | Courtesy Call by Mr. George Goundar, Chief Executive Officer, Goundar Shipping Limited, and Mrs. Goundar                                                      |
| 32 | 17/01 | Courtesy Call by Mr. Karia Christopher, Chairman Rabi Council of Leaders                                                                                      |
| 33 | 21/01 | Courtesy Call by The Reverend Fereimi Cama, Bishop of Polynesia                                                                                               |
| 34 | 22/01 | Courtesy Call by Mr. Simone Sorovale, Divisional Planning Officer Eastern                                                                                     |
| 35 | 22/01 | Courtesy Call by All Nation Christian Fellowship Missionaries                                                                                                 |
| 36 | 28/01 | Courtesy Call by Mr. Philip Temo, Consultant, and Mr. Shah – Ministry of Economy                                                                              |
| 37 | 10/02 | Courtesy Call by Archbishop of York, The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr. John Tucker Mugabi Sentamu                                                    |
| 38 | 13/02 | Courtesy Call by Mr. Mosese Ratubalavu, Reserves Commissioner, I-Taukei Land Trust Board                                                                      |
| 39 | 14/02 | Courtesy Call by Ms. Irena Nayacalevu, Acting Director, Department of Lands                                                                                   |
| 40 | 2/03  | Courtesy Call by Mr. Isikeli Tikoduadua, Chairman of Special Administrators, Suva City and Lami Town Council                                                  |
| 41 | 5/03  | Courtesy Call by His Excellency Dr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the 74 <sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly (followed by tree planting)     |
| 42 | 11/03 | Courtesy Call by Mr. Ritesh Dass, Permanent Secretary for Agriculture                                                                                         |
| 43 | 18/03 | Courtesy Call by Professor Sushila Chay, Vice Chancellor, University of Fiji                                                                                  |
| 44 | 26/03 | Courtesy Call by Mr. Vitale Varo, Commissioner Eastern; and Mr. Jeremaia Ubitau, District Officer Rotuma                                                      |
| 45 | 31/03 | Courtesy Call by SSP Mahesh Mishra, Director Traffic, Fiji Police Force                                                                                       |
| 46 | 2/04  | Courtesy Call by Ms. Kelera Savu, First Secretary to Fiji's Ambassador to Japan                                                                               |

|    |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 47 | 7/04  | Courtesy Call by Honourable Dr. Ifereimi Waqainabete, Minister for Health and Medical Services                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 48 | 24/04 | Courtesy Call by Honourable Inia Seruiratu, Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing and Commissioner of Police, Brigadier-General Sitiveni Qiliho                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 49 | 27/04 | Courtesy Call by Mr. Rashmi Aslam, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 50 | 13/05 | Courtesy Call by Honourable Speaker of Parliament, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 51 | 27/05 | Courtesy Call by Deputy Commissioner of Police, Rusiate Tudravu, and Chief Operations Officer ACP Abdul Khan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 52 | 3/07  | Courtesy Call by Na Turaga na Tui Suva, Mr. Sanaila Mudunavosa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 53 | 21/07 | Courtesy Call by Mr. Vitale Varo, Commissioner Eastern; Mr. Inoke Tuiwainunu, Divisional Planning Officer; and Mr. Jeremaia Ubitau, District Officer, Rotuma                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 54 | 29/07 | Hosted lunch for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Vitale Varo, Commissioner Eastern</li> <li>• Mr. Inoke Tuiwainunu, Divisional Planning Officer Eastern</li> <li>• Mr. Jeremaia Ubitau, District Officer, Rotuma</li> <li>• Mr. Aisake Taito, CEO I-Taukei Trust Fund Board</li> <li>• Mr. Alfred Wiliame, Rotuma Project Coordinator, I-Taukei Trust Fund Board</li> </ul> |

## 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.

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, 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 make 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.

The College of Honour members in the financial year 2019-2020 period were:

1. Dr. Akanisi Kedrayate (Chairperson)
2. Brigadier-General (Ret'd) Apakuki Kurusiga
3. Mr. Nesbitt Hazelman
4. Mr. Michael Yee-Joy
5. Mrs. Sabita Gandhi

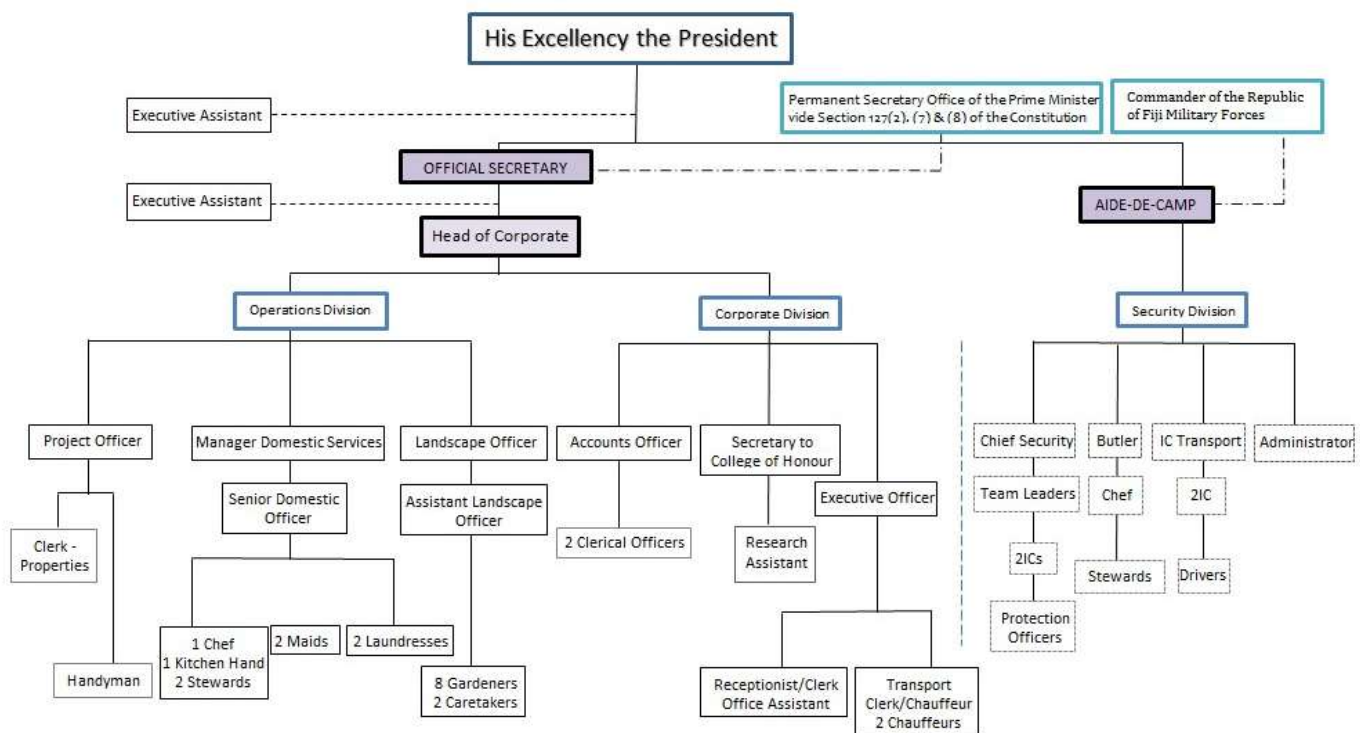
The Office of the President as the Secretariat to the College of Honour, with the College of Honour, facilitates investiture ceremonies to recognise the effort(s) of extraordinary Fijians and friends of Fiji who have contributed to their industry, profession or community or for acts of profound bravery.

The investiture ceremony scheduled for 31st March 2019 was deferred to a later date.



College of Honour member Mr. Nesbitt Hazelman (*front left*) shares a light moment with Mr. Murray McCully, former Minister of Foreign Affairs for New Zealand during the investiture ceremony in July 2019 at State House. **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 and the First Family's personal welfare, 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.

During the FY 2019 – 2020, 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 Domestic team of the Office of the President ensures that the President's guests are nourished and comfortable. From small visitations like the Voices of Hope Choir and the Fiji Corrections Services (*as pictured*) to larger events such as State Receptions, the Domestic staff are present to execute the floor plan, serve guests, and facilitate the President's requirements for any given engagement.

**Photo: Department of Information.**

## Properties and Landscape

The 2019–2020 fiscal year marked a period of significant progress in the enhancement and modernization of the State House estate. Central to this achievement was the completion of the major renovation of the State House—an initiative valued at over FJD 7.3 million and the first comprehensive upgrade since its establishment in 1928. Key components of this project included the installation of disability-access electronic chairs at the main entrance, demonstrating the institution's commitment to accessibility and inclusivity.



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*The Construction and Implementation Unit of the Ministry of Economy took over the custodianship of Borron House in July 2020 in a ceremony officiated by His Excellency the President Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote. Borron House is a national heirloom that has welcomed numerous diplomats over the years from Heads of Missions to Royalty. Borron was converted into a State House by the Government about three years ago, a result of impending refurbishment works to the official residence of the Head of State. Photo: Department of Information*

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The renovation works were officially handed over by the Grace Road Group in July 2019, enabling His Excellency the President, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote, to take residence in September 2019.

Complementing the main works, the upgrade of the official gymnasium and swimming pool—implemented by China Railway Group 5—was successfully completed and commissioned in October 2019. Additionally, the relocation of administrative staff from the aging office building to Quarters 79 was completed in September 2019, ensuring a safer and more conducive working environment.

Landscape enhancement works were undertaken concurrently, with the transformation of traditional flower beds into sustainable rock-lined features from the main gate through the slope area. The upgrading of the State House gardens and the Stone Garden near the Conservatory were also finalized in alignment with the renovation timeline, greatly improving the aesthetic and environmental quality of the compound.

Project execution experienced constraints arising from weather variability, procurement delays for specialized heritage-compatible materials, and the need for simultaneous coordination of multiple contractors across property and landscape development streams.

The year underscored the value of integrated project planning, early stakeholder consultations, and strengthened monitoring mechanisms to avoid delays and maintain cost efficiency. Collaborative engagement between structural and landscape teams also proved essential in achieving cohesive and timely outcomes.

Future priorities will focus on implementing a preventive maintenance framework for all State assets, enhancing accessibility features, and adopting sustainable landscape designs utilizing indigenous

plants and improved irrigation systems. Continued modernization of staff facilities and long-term asset management planning will remain central to preserving the State House as a secure, functional, and nationally symbolic estate.

## **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, the management of the Office vehicle fleet.

## **Human Resource Management**

### **Staffing Establishment**

The agency had an approved staff establishment which 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**

Staff of the Office of the President were given the opportunity to take short-term courses during this FY. The fire warden and OHS and fire safety training and the first aid training were mandatory sessions for all staff. Additional opportunities included training for customer service etiquette, Microsoft excel, ethics/values and anti-bribery, as well as classes on the role of executive secretaries.

### **Wellness**

The President recognizes wellness as an integral part of employee productivity. Throughout the FY 2019 - 2020, His Excellency led by example taking the lead role in wellness walks as well as encouraging inter-agency recreational sporting activities.

### **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.



Infrastructure works to State House were necessary to improve standards of safety, functionality, and sustainability. Upgrades included the complete overhaul of the adjoining Conservatory. In the interim, Quarters 79 was suitably converted for Presidential occupation. **Photo: Department of Information.**

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
For the year ended 31 July 2020

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**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

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# OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Promoting Public Sector Accountability and Sustainability through our Audits



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P. O. Box 2214, Government Buildings  
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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

#### Opinion

I have audited the Financial Statements of Office of the President (*the Office*), which comprise the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, Appropriation Statement, Statement of Losses, for the financial year ended 31 July 2020, and notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements of the Office of the President are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004 and the Finance Instructions 2010.

#### Basis for Opinion

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

#### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance 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 2004 and Finance Instructions 2010, and for such internal control as the management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Office's financial reporting process.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (cont'd)

- 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 the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management of the Office of the President.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Sairusi Dukuno  
**ACTING AUDITOR-GENERAL**



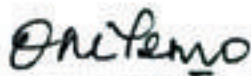
Suva, Fiji  
25 March 2022

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

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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 2020; and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act, Finance Instructions 2010.



Kiti Temo  
Official Secretary



Krishneel Kumar  
Manager Finance

Date: 24/03/22

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

|                                    | Notes | 2020<br>(\$)     | 2019<br>(\$)     |
|------------------------------------|-------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>                    |       |                  |                  |
| <b>State Revenue</b>               |       |                  |                  |
| Commission                         |       | 1,579            | 2,012            |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>               |       | <u>1,579</u>     | <u>2,012</u>     |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                 |       |                  |                  |
| <b>Operating Expenditure</b>       |       |                  |                  |
| Established Staff                  |       | 786,924          | 801,233          |
| Unestablished Staff                |       | 274,783          | 265,427          |
| Travel & Communications            |       | 514,437          | 459,240          |
| Maintenance & Operations           | 3(a)  | 541,771          | 788,747          |
| Purchase of Goods and Services     | 3(b)  | 412,834          | 782,770          |
| <b>Total Operating Expenditure</b> |       | <u>2,530,749</u> | <u>3,097,417</u> |
| <b>Value Added Tax</b>             |       | 96,495           | 137,226          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>           |       | <u>2,627,244</u> | <u>3,234,643</u> |

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
 APPROPRIATION STATEMENT  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

| SEG | Item                         | Budget<br>Estimate<br>(\$) | Changes<br>(\$) | Revised<br>Estimate<br>(\$) | Actual<br>Expenditure<br>(\$) | Carry<br>Over<br>(\$) | Lapsed<br>Appropriation<br>(\$) |
|-----|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
|     | Operating Expenditure        |                            |                 |                             |                               |                       |                                 |
| 1   | Established Staff            | 811,512                    | (21,278)        | 790,234                     | 786,924                       | ---                   | 3,310                           |
| 2   | Government Wage Earners      | 262,137                    | 21,278          | 283,415                     | 274,783                       | —                     | 8,632                           |
| 3   | Travel & Communication       | 577,477                    | (63,038)        | 514,439                     | 514,437                       | —                     | 2                               |
| 4   | Maintenance & Operations     | 404,806                    | 137,336         | 542,142                     | 541,771                       | —                     | 371                             |
| 5   | Purchase of Goods & Services | 488,054                    | (74,298)        | 413,756                     | 412,834                       | —                     | 922                             |
|     | Total Operating Expenditure  | 2,543,986                  | —               | 2,543,986                   | 2,530,749                     | —                     | 13,237                          |
|     | Capital Expenditure          |                            |                 |                             |                               |                       |                                 |
| 8   | Capital Construction         | ---                        | ---             | ---                         | ---                           | ---                   | ---                             |
|     | Total Capital Expenditure    | ---                        | ---             | ---                         | ---                           | ---                   | ---                             |
| 13  | Value Added Tax              | 132,335                    | —               | 132,335                     | 96,495                        | —                     | 35,840                          |
|     | TOTAL EXPENDITURE            | 2,676,321                  | —               | 2,676,321                   | 2,627,244                     | —                     | 49,077                          |

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

### STATEMENT OF LOSSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

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#### Loss of Money

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

#### Loss of Revenue

There was no loss of revenue recorded for the year ended 31 July 2020.

#### Loss (other than money)

There was no reported loss (other than money) recorded for the year ended 31 July 2020. The Board of Survey was conducted by the Office twice and the following items worth \$63,907.63 were recommended for write off:

| Category         | Cost<br>(\$) |
|------------------|--------------|
| Office equipment | 63,907.63    |

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 March 2020 and 17 August 2020.

## **OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

### **NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

#### **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), conducting state visits and active community engagement programme.

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 President's 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.

The Office's operating budget supports the President's Constitutional functions and state visits and community engagements. It also covers the upkeep and maintenance of the presidential properties in Suva, Deuba and Lautoka and the administration of the Fijian Honours and awards system, which aims to recognise the efforts of both Fijian citizens and non-citizens who contribute to Fiji's development as a nation.

#### **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.

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020**

**NOTE 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued...)**

**(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) Revenue Recognition**

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

**NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS**

- a) The Maintenance and Operations costs decreased by \$246,976 or 31% in 2020 compared to 2019. This is due to the one off cost in 2019 for 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.
- b) The Purchase of Goods and Services costs decreased by \$369,936 or 47% in 2020 compared to 2019. This is due to the one off cost in 2019 for the Royal visit whereby the Office had to host 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        | 109,000        | SEG 4        | 39,000         |
|              | —            | —              | SEG 5        | 70,000         |
|              | <b>Total</b> | <b>109,000</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>109,000</b> |
| DV0102       | SEG 3        | 10,000         | SEG 3        | 89,200         |
|              | SEG 5        | 136,724        | SEG 4        | 53,600         |
|              | —            | —              | SEG 5        | 3,924          |
|              | <b>Total</b> | <b>146,724</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>146,724</b> |

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued...)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2020

NOTE 4 APPROPRIATION CHANGES (continued...)

| Virement No. | From         | Amount (\$)   | To           | Amount (\$)   |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| DV0103       | SEG 3        | 10,000        | SEG 4        | 52,586        |
|              | SEG 4        | 10,501        | SEG 5        | 38,796        |
|              | SEG 5        | 70,881        | —            | —             |
|              | <b>Total</b> | <b>91,382</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>91,382</b> |
| DV0104       | SEG 5        | 6,000         | SEG 4        | 6,000         |
|              | <b>Total</b> | <b>6,000</b>  | <b>Total</b> | <b>6,000</b>  |
| DV0105       | SEG 1        | 20,660        | SEG 1        | 20,660        |
|              | SEG 2        | 28,860        | SEG 2        | 28,860        |
|              | <b>Total</b> | <b>49,520</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>49,520</b> |
| DV0106       | SEG 3        | 25,533        | SEG 4        | 23,052        |
|              | SEG 4        | 19,660        | SEG 5        | 35,534        |
|              | SEG 5        | 13,393        |              |               |
|              | <b>Total</b> | <b>58,586</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>58,586</b> |
| DV0107       | SEG 3        | 4,011         | SEG 3        | 1             |
|              | SEG 4        | 16,220        | SEG 4        | 11,451        |
|              | SEG 5        | 2,363         | SEG 5        | 11,142        |
|              | <b>Total</b> | <b>22,594</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>22,594</b> |
| DV0108       | SEG 3        | 1,715         | SEG 3        | 8,020         |
|              | SEG 4        | 7,763         | SEG 4        | 5,791         |
|              | SEG 5        | 6,693         | SEG 5        | 2,360         |
|              | <b>Total</b> | <b>16,171</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>16,171</b> |
| V01001       | SEG 1        | 15,468        | SEG 1        | 9,000         |
|              |              |               | SEG 2        | 6,468         |
|              | <b>Total</b> | <b>15,468</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>15,468</b> |
| V01002       | SEG 1        | 19,760        | SEG 1        | 900           |
|              | SEG 2        | 5,000         | SEG 2        | 23,860        |
|              | <b>Total</b> | <b>24,760</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>24,760</b> |
| V01002       | SEG 2        | 4,050         | SEG 1        | 4,050         |
|              | <b>Total</b> | <b>4,050</b>  | <b>Total</b> | <b>4,050</b>  |