

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

2023 / 2024
ANNUAL REPORT

Parliamentary Paper No. 40/2026

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VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

VISION

A Stronger and Prosperous Fiji through Excellence in Foreign Service

MISSION

To advance Fiji's interests through the Effective Formulation and Implementation of its Foreign Policy

VALUES

- **Accountability**
- **Honesty**
- **Commitment**
- **Loyalty**
- **Courtesy**
- **Professionalism**
- **Integrity**
- **Transparency**

ABOUT THE REPORT

This Annual Report is aligned to the Financial Regulations within the Fijian Civil Service and details the Ministry of Foreign Affairs performance(s) and commitment(s) in the focus areas during the 2023-2024 financial year.

In Summary, the Annual Report includes the following:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Organizational Structure;
- The three (3) Strategic Priority Areas, Strategic Goals; and
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Achievements and Results aligned to the Operational Plan for the 2023/2024 financial year.

The Annual Report also includes activities that show the shift in priorities given the implications of COVID-19 pandemic.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REFERRAL LETTER FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

Date: 31 July, 2026

Honourable Sakiasi Ditoka
Minister for Foreign Affairs & External Trade
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & External Trade
87 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Nasese
Suva.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the Financial Management Act of 2004, I hereby submit the 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for your information and presentation to Parliament.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raijeli Taga
Permanent Secretary

PERMANENT SECRETARY'S FOREWORD

It is with great honour that I present the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Annual Report for the financial year 2023–2024. This report reflects the Ministry's steadfast commitment to advancing Fiji's national interests through principled diplomacy, strategic partnerships, and effective implementation of foreign policy.

The year under review was marked by significant progress across our three strategic priority areas: Sovereignty, Security, and Prosperity. Guided by these pillars, the Ministry engaged meaningfully at bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels to safeguard Fiji's territorial integrity, reinforce comprehensive security, and expand our economic space.

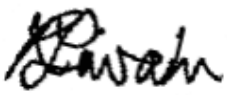
Under the pillar of Sovereignty, the Ministry continued to champion global advocacy for climate justice, reaffirming Fiji's leadership in climate negotiations at COP28 and supporting regional initiatives such as the Pacific Zone of Peace. Fiji's principled positions at the United Nations and other international platforms reflected our enduring commitment to multilateralism, international law, and the protection of small island developing states.

On Security, the Ministry strengthened collaboration with partners on issues including maritime safety, cybersecurity, and peacekeeping. Fiji's voice was amplified in regional and global security dialogues, ensuring that the unique vulnerabilities of the Pacific remained central to international decision-making. The Ministry also supported the safety and welfare of our citizens abroad during global crises, reaffirming our responsibility to Fijians both at home and overseas.

In advancing Prosperity, the Ministry worked to expand Fiji's economic diplomacy through deeper engagement with key partners and international organisations. The accession to global agreements such as the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement, the launch of Fiji's second Voluntary National Review on the SDGs, and strengthened cooperation with development partners underscored Fiji's commitment to inclusive and sustainable growth.

The Ministry's achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff across headquarters, missions, and embassies, whose professionalism and resilience continue to elevate Fiji's standing in the global arena.

As we move forward, the Ministry remains committed to safeguarding Fiji's sovereignty, promoting security, and fostering prosperity for all Fijians. I commend this report to all stakeholders as a record of the Ministry's work and as a reaffirmation of our vision for a stronger, more prosperous Fiji through excellence in foreign service.

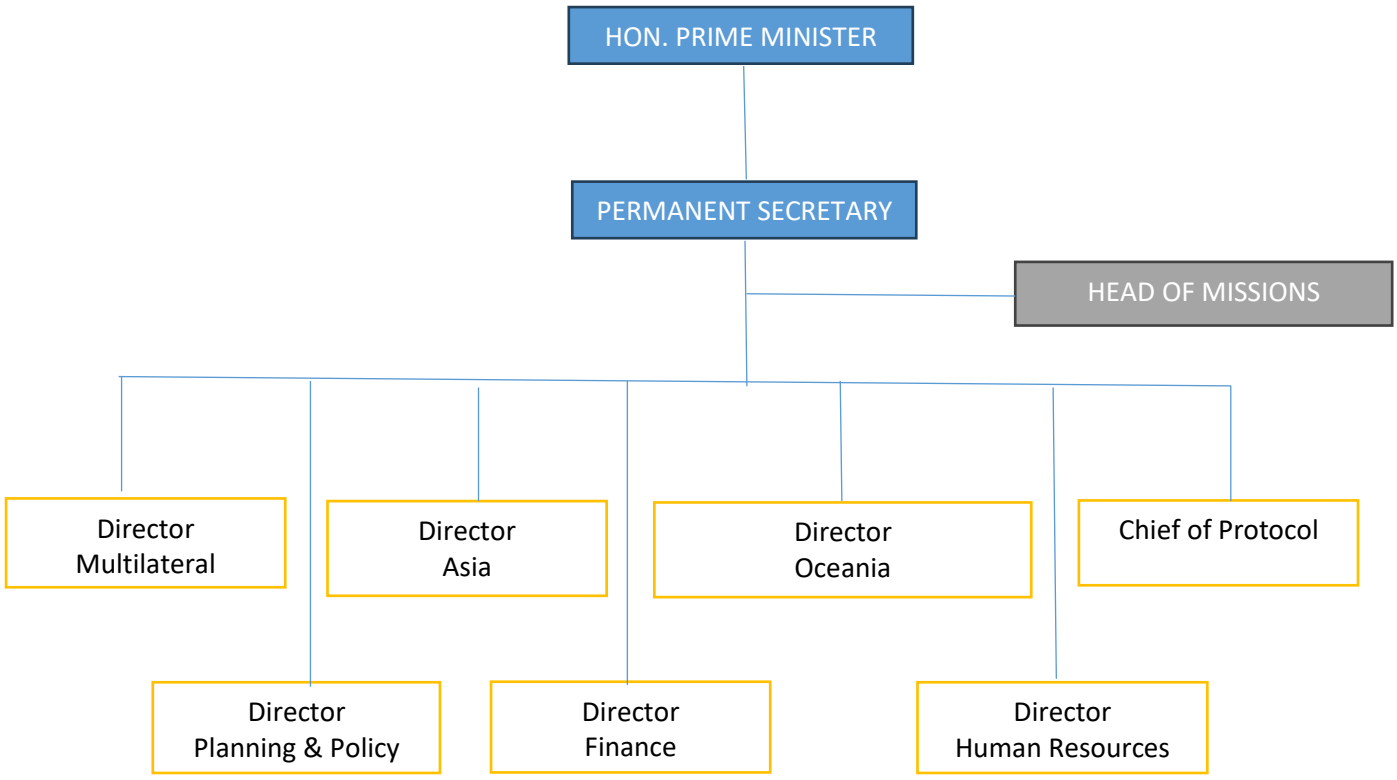


Dr. Raijeli Taga
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
BBNJ	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
COP28	28th Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC)
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EU	European Union
ICJ	International Court of Justice
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MSG	Melanesian Spearhead Group
OACPS	Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
PALM	Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPC	Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WTO	World Trade Organization

2023/2024 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM



Dr. Lesikimacuata Korovavala
Permanent Secretary



Mr. Josefa Tuima
Director Asia



Mrs. Keleni Seruvatu
Director Multilateral



Ms. Laite Ratuvuki
Director Oceania



Mr. Paulo Daurewa
A/Chief of Protocol



Mr. Antonio Ravai
Director Policy



Mr. Luke Ravusoni
Director Finance



Mrs. Manjula Shah
Director Human Resources

BUREAU AND DIVISIONAL REPORTS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its 2023-2024 Annual Report, highlighting Fiji's commitment to its three strategic priority areas

1.0 **Sovereignty**
2.0 **Security**
3.0 **Prosperity**

This report outlines six strategic goals that reinforce Fiji's leadership in advancing its national interests:

- **Territorial Integrity**
- **Identity, Relations, and Affinity**
- **Comprehensive Security**
- **Expanding Fiji's Economic Space**
- **Improving Quality of Life**

These priorities reflect Fiji's dedication to safeguarding its sovereignty, strengthening international partnerships, and fostering sustainable growth for its people.

1.0 MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS (EUROPE, AFRICA, SOUTH AMERICA & CARIBBEAN) BUREAU

Executive Summary

The Multilateral Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made significant strides in 2023-2024 reflecting a strong commitment to global leadership and multilateral partnerships.

Key activities focused on climate action, disarmament, and regional solidarity within the Pacific and national committees and work championed by the Bureau; the Maritime Affairs Coordinating Committee and the International Atomic Energy Agency national counterparts.

Advocacy for PSIDS was also prominent, with efforts to mobilize support for climate resilience initiatives. Partnerships with Germany and 'the Agence Française de' Development were reaffirmed to boost climate adaptation, biodiversity, and gender equity.

Throughout multilateral meetings and topics, Fiji reaffirmed its commitment to multilateralism and upholding international law. 2023-2024 also saw Fiji deepen its bilateral engagements with the European continent through high level visits, participation in regional meetings in Europe and more engagement in projects and dialogues. This deepening of relations culminated in Germany establishing its Embassy in Fiji.

Strategic Priority 1: Sovereignty

1.1 Territorial Integrity

Intended Outcome: strengthen Fiji's sovereignty and global influence through strategic multilateral leadership, equitable climate finance advocacy, and the promotion of a regional "Zone of Peace."

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
High-Level Engagement with UN Secretary-General	Reaffirmed Fiji's commitment to multilateralism, justice, and human rights; secured UN recognition of Pacific-specific geopolitical and economic challenges.
Participation in Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministerial Meeting (Samoa CHOGM 2024)	Formalized support for the "S.A.M. O A" approach and the Blue Charter; secured commitments for digitization support and regional resilience programs.
National Statement at UN Climate Ambition Summit	Elevated Fiji's frontline vulnerability status; advocated for the National Adaptation Plan and the necessity of climate-resilient agriculture.
Bilateral Engagement with IOM (COP28)	Strengthened collaboration on the Pacific Climate Mobility Framework; advanced negotiations for debt-free climate finance related to human displacement.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Co-Chairing of the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance	Positioned Fiji as a global lead in climate diplomacy; influenced the establishment of equitable targets and board representation for the Loss and Damage Fund.
National Statement at COP28 Leaders' Summit	Advocated for the "Pacific Zone of Peace" and a gender-responsive transition; pushed for a global mandate to double adaptation finance by 2025.
Clarification Statement on UNGA Resolution (77/247) & ICJ Presentation	Upheld the integrity of international legal frameworks; clarified Fiji's principled stance on respecting binding agreements regarding the Occupied Palestinian Territory
53rd Independence Anniversary & "Pacific Zone of Peace" Initiative	Promoted national unity under the "Rebuilding Fiji Together" theme; successfully socialized the regional peace initiative at the international level.
Multilateral Election Support (UN, ICAO, HRC, CEDAW)	Successfully cast votes and extended formal endorsements for key international bodies, ensuring Fiji's active role in global governance and human rights.





HPM Sitiveni Rabuka Participation in Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministerial Meeting (Samoa CHOGM 2024)
[Source: Fiji Government]

1.2 Identity, Relations, and Affinity

Intended Outcome: Elevate Fiji's international standing and national resilience by deepening strategic bilateral ties and leveraging multilateral partnerships for sustainable development and social cohesion.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
High-Level Engagements at 78th UNGA & US Presidential Reception	Reaffirmed Fiji's commitment to UN principles; strengthened strategic ties with the U.S. as a key development partner in security, fisheries, and trade.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Strategic Dialogue with UNDP (Suva & New York)	Secured a USD $35 million allocation for the Multi-Country Programme (2023–2027); validated a regional portfolio of USD $350 million for blue economy and governance.
Pacific SIDS High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change (Suva)	Unified regional positions for COP28; socialized the urgent need for a dedicated fund for early warning systems and the relocation of 42 high-risk villages.
Consultations with UNRCO & OHCHR	Aligned the Fiji Country Implementation Plan with national SDGs; reinforced institutional capacity for human rights policy reform and democratic values.
Launch of UN Social Cohesion Program	Operationalized peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts supported by the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund to rebuild community trust.
UN Day Celebration & 53-Year Partnership Milestone	Commemorated long-standing cooperation; ensured Pacific voices are integrated into multilateral processes and the 2030 Agenda.
Reaffirmation of OACPS-EU (SAMOA) Agreement	Safeguarded development aspirations in sugar, agriculture, and fisheries; stabilized Fiji's influence within the OACPS-EU framework.
Participation in 68th IAEA General Conference	Contributed to resolutions on nuclear safety and safeguards; advocated for the "Sovereign Equality" of all member states and the status of Palestine.
PRUNOG Accreditation to the Swiss Confederation	Formally expanded Fiji's diplomatic footprint in Europe via the Geneva Mission; enhanced socio-economic and bilateral cooperation with Switzerland.
High-Level Bilateral Missions with Republic of Kosovo	Commemorated 11 years of relations; progressed MOUs on Policing and Diplomatic Consultations; explored peacekeeping and public safety training.
Inaugural Netherlands National Day Commemoration in Fiji	Formalized cooperation on water resilience and nature-based solutions; strengthened alignment on upholding the international rules-based order.
US-Pacific Fellowship (Johns Hopkins University)	Upskilled mid-career professionals in leadership and US-Pacific policy in Washington, DC, supporting the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific.



HPM Sitiveni Rabuka and United Nations Resident Coordinator Multi-Country Office in Fiji Mr. Dirk Wagener at the Launch of UN Social Cohesion Program. [Source: Fiji Government]



Assistant Minister Honourable Lenora Qereqeretabua at the Inaugural Netherlands National Day Commemoration. [Source: Fiji Government]



HPM Sitiveni Rabuka High-Level Bilateral Missions with Republic of Kosovo [Source: Fiji Government]

Strategic Priority 2 - Security

2.1 Comprehensive Security

Intended Outcome: safeguard Fiji's people, environment, and maritime boundaries through a holistic security framework that integrates climate resilience, regional peacebuilding, and modernized defense partnerships.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Introduction of the 'Zone of Peace' at UNGA	Successfully aligned Fiji's security narrative with the Boe Declaration and the 2050 Strategy, securing international buy-in for a demilitarized Blue Pacific.
Operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund (COP28)	Played a lead negotiating role for the G77+China to formally adopt the fund, securing initial global pledges totalling US$310.5 million.
Ministerial Statement on Climate Security & UAE Consensus	Formalized national commitment to transitioning away from fossil fuels and secured a seat on the Loss and Damage Fund Board for strategic fund disbursement.
Establishment of the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility	Developed a coordinated, rights-based approach to climate-induced displacement, addressing the relocation needs of high-risk coastal communities.
First National Workshop on BBNJ Agreement	Built multi-stakeholder consensus on the "High Seas Treaty," clarifying roles for the conservation of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.
Inaugural Partnership Dialogue under the Samoa Agreement (Fiji-EU)	Replaced the Political Dialogue with an annual framework; advanced cooperation on transnational crime, cybersecurity, and maritime domain awareness.

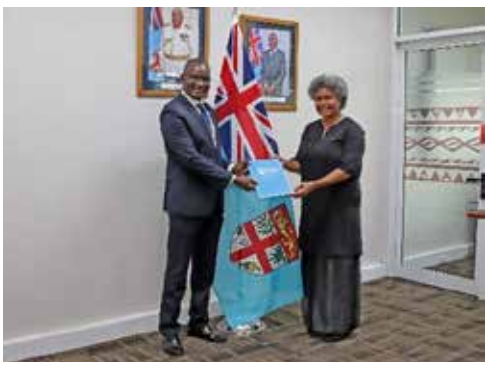
Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Establishment of the German Embassy in Suva	Marked 50 years of relations with a historic permanent mission; realigned German ODA to focus on Fiji's climate resilience and vocational training.
Fiji-UK Defense and Maritime Security Consultations	Secured UK support for the National Defense Policy review and the expansion of the Blackrock Peacekeeping Camp; 25 Fijians graduated from Pirbright Training.
Maritime Decarbonization Roadmap with IMO	Committed to 100% fleet decarbonization by 2050; secured the establishment of a Suva-based IMO Regional Office for technical and legislative support.
Bilateral Security & Peacekeeping Missions (Nigeria, France, Argentina)	Shared peacekeeping expertise (UNIFIL); explored agriculture and sports diplomacy (Argentina) and defense engagement under France's Indo-Pacific Strategy.
Strategic Partnership with WFP & ESCAP	Secured a USD $49.3 million Multi-Country Strategic Plan for food security; advanced the SDG 7 roadmap and financial inclusion for women.
Historic Appointment of First Female Military & Police Advisor (MPA)	Appointed Colonel Siliva Vananalagi to the UN Mission in NY, reinforcing Fiji's commitment to gender inclusion in the global security sector.



Operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund
[Source: Fiji Government]



First National Workshop on BBNJ Agreement
[Source: Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs]



The presentation of credentials by the WFP Country Director and Representative for the Pacific Multi-Country Office Mr. Alpha Bah to the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua.
[Source: Fiji Government]

Strategic Priority 3 Prosperity

3.1 Expanding Fijis Economic Space

Intended Outcome: modernize Fiji's economic architecture and trade frameworks through global intellectual property integration, sustainable fisheries management, and strategic mobilization of diaspora and climate-aligned investment.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Accession to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property	Formally deposited instrument at WIPO; secured international IP protection across 180 member states, enhancing investor confidence in Fijian patents and trademarks.
Launch of Fiji's Second Voluntary National Review (VNR)	Successfully documented progress on the SDGs in partnership with the UN; recognized for inclusive consultations and high-quality data accessibility.
Acceptance of WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies	Became the first Pacific Island nation to ratify the agreement; secured access to technical assistance via the Fish Fund to eliminate IUU fishing and protect marine resources.
Participation in UNCTAD Workshop on Green Industrial Policy	Aligned national industrial policies with the Climate Change Act; advanced strategies for renewable energy investment and green financing via public development banks.
Bilateral Consultations with UK Secretary of State for Climate	Secured UK technical assistance for Fiji's Climate Change Office and the £500 million Blue Planet Fund for adaptation and blue bond development.
Engagement with UNICEF Executive Director	Reaffirmed collaboration for child-centered sustainable development; secured commitments for humanitarian and technical support for children in remote and climate-vulnerable areas.
Participation in 3rd EU-Indo Pacific Ministerial Forum	Advanced the Samoa Agreement framework with 27 EU member states; strengthened regional stability through the promotion of the "Zone of Peace" initiative
Royal Audience at Buckingham Palace	Reaffirmed historical and military ties with the British Crown; signalled a renewed era of bilateral relations and deeper Commonwealth engagement ahead of CHOGM 2024.
Strategic Dialogue with Tony Blair Institute for Global Change	Explored collaboration on technology partnerships and economic resilience on the sidelines of COP28.
European Diaspora 'Talanoa' Sessions (Brussels)	Engaged Fijian communities across Europe; promoted investment opportunities and socialized new immigration laws allowing descendants to reside in Fiji permit-free.




Fiji's envoy in Geneva, Ambassador Luke Daunivalu, formalized the Government's commitment by handing over the Paris Convention accession document to Mr. Daren Tang, Director General of WIPO.
[Source: Fiji Government]




HPM Sitiveni Rabuka Participation in 3rd EU-Indo Pacific Ministerial Forum
[Source: Fiji Government]

3.2 Improving Quality of life

Intended Outcome: Strengthen Fiji's institutional capacity and social wellbeing through targeted high-level partnerships, specialized technical training, and the integration of Pacific priorities into global development agendas.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
UNDP High-Level Mission to Fiji	Reaffirmed strategic alignment on governance and climate action; initiated the exploration of innovative development strategies following UNGA 78 consultations
High-Level Consultation with UNICEF Executive Director	Secured commitment for a National Action Plan on Child Wellbeing; advanced pending child justice and protection legislation to address climate-induced displacement
UN Under Secretary-General (UN-OHRLLS) Official Visit	First official visit to Fiji; strengthened coordination for the SIDS4 Conference and aligned Fiji's national goals with the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Participation in 4th SIDS Conference (Antigua & Barbuda)	Successfully advocated for the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS); pushed for the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) and equitable debt sustainability.
Commonwealth Bilateral Meeting on Climate Adaptation	Leveraged the Commonwealth Blue Charter to lead the Ocean and Climate Change Action Group; secured technical support for digital upskilling via the AI Consortium.
Establishment of Fiji-UK Strategic Communications Partnership	Formalized a bilateral framework for professional development and capacity building in public communications to enhance government transparency.
Fiji-Switzerland Development Consultation	Expanded vocational and educational scholarship programs; secured Swiss funding pathways via SPREP and the Green Climate Fund for disaster resilience.
Brazil Technical Mission & G20/COP30 Engagement	Secured invitation to join the Taskforce on G20; established technical cooperation in the sugar and ethanol industries to drive renewable energy goals
Germany-Fiji Sports Diplomacy Initiative	Launched plans for a new football facility in Lautoka; promoted youth empowerment and gender inclusivity through support for the "Future Kulas" (U15 Girls).
Cuba-Fiji Medical and Healthcare Cooperation	Expanded the scholarship program for Fijian doctors; formalized a new MOU covering geography, oceanology, and socioeconomic development.




United Nations (UN) Under Secretary-General and High Representative, Ms. Rabab Fatima, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, United Nations Resident Coordinator Multi-Country Office in Fiji Mr. Dirk Wagener for an official visit to Fiji. [Source: Fiji Government]



A courtesy visit paid by the Deputy British High Commissioner in Fiji, Her Excellency Nicola Noble and UK Government officials to the Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr Lesikimacuata Korovavala for the establishment of Fiji-UK Strategic Communications Partnership [Source: Fiji Government]

2.0 ASIA BUREAU (ASIA, MIDDLE EAST & RUSSIA)

Executive Summary

The Asia & Middle East Bureau 2023-2024 fiscal year was marked by significant diplomatic engagements at the national, regional and international level culminating in a series of high-level diplomatic engagements, meetings and visits between Fiji and countries in Asia and the Middle East region. These engagements aim to strengthened bilateral ties and promote dialogue on key regional and global issues from climate change, renewable energy, security, health, trade, investment education and socio-economic development and other related issues.

The Bureau's diplomatic engagements, challenges and achievements were guided by the strategic directions outlined in the Fiji White Paper policy, focusing on sovereignty, security, and prosperity. That commits the Bureau to advancing our national interests and strengthening partnerships in these vital regions. The Bureau also extensively engaged with the various countries of accreditation in Asia and Middle East region based on their strength and comparative advantage.

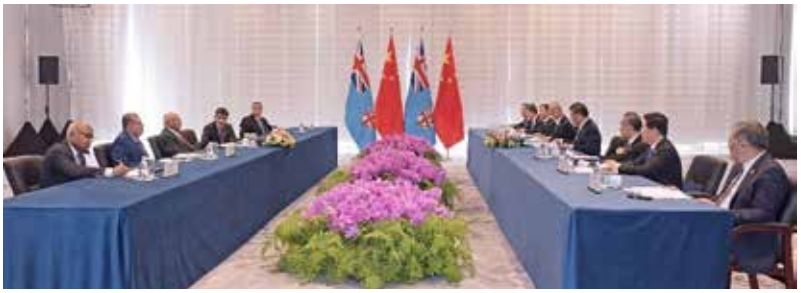
Briefly highlighted below are some of the key achievements for the Bureau during the 2023-2024 fiscal year based on the key priorities of the Ministry. This section of the Annual Report seeks to capture and highlight these engagements successfully covered by the Asia Bureau.

Strategic Priority 1: Sovereignty

1.2 Identity, Relations and Affinity

Intended Outcome: Enhance Fiji's national development and regional leadership through elevated strategic partnerships, diversified infrastructure financing, and strengthened people-to-people diplomacy across the Indo-Pacific.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Bilateral Summit with President Xi Jinping (APEC, San Francisco)	Elevated Fiji–China relations to a strategic partnership; reaffirmed the One-China Principle and aligned China's Global Initiatives with Fiji's "Zone of Peace."
Bilateral Dialogue with President Joko Widodo (10th World Water Forum, Bali)	Commemorated 50 years of diplomatic ties; secured commitment for the Demonstration Farm and Regional Training Centre in Rakiraki.

HPM Sitiveni Rabuka Bilateral Summit with President Xi Jinping (APEC, San Francisco)
[Source: Fiji Government]

Strategic Priority 2 - Security
2.1 Comprehensive Security

Intended Outcome: Fortify Fiji's national security and socioeconomic resilience through strategic maritime defense partnerships, youth-inclusive climate leadership, and high-impact international development cooperation.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Bilateral Meeting with Japan's Special Envoy (April 2024)	Operationalized Japan's Official Security Assistance (OSA) program, securing specialized maritime security equipment to bolster Fiji's border and ocean defense
Youth-Led Climate Advocacy at COP28	Positioned youth as central to the Climate Change Act 2021; launched a joint report on climate finance opportunities for youth-led grassroots initiatives.
Participation in 11th Asia Pacific Forum (APFSD), Bangkok	Shared outcomes of Fiji's 2nd Voluntary National Review; advocated for the "Pacific Zone of Peace" and aligned national goals with the UN "Pact for the Future."
Consular and Law Enforcement Mission (Indonesia)	Enhanced transnational crime-fighting capabilities through the IMOSC program at JCLEC; ensured the welfare of Fijian maritime personnel abroad.
Strategic Partnership with KOICA (Korea)	Advanced a USD $60 million investment portfolio focusing on renewable energy (Green Islands), healthcare (Healthy Islands), and digital literacy (Smart Islands).



Assistant Minister Honourable Lenora Qereqeretabua Bilateral Meeting with Special Envoy of the Japanese Prime Minister and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Masahiro Komura.
[Source: Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs]

Strategic Priority 3 Prosperity

3.1 Expanding Fijis Economic Space

Intended Outcome: Diversify Fiji's economic partnerships and maximize trade, investment, and climate finance opportunities through strategic engagement with key Asian, Middle Eastern, and Commonwealth partners.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Bilateral Consultation with Nepal (Non-Resident Ambassador)	Reaffirmed collaboration in UN Peacekeeping Missions; explored new avenues for cultural diplomacy and defense security cooperation.
Economic Cooperation Dialogue with Thailand	Identified high-value opportunities in sugar, agritourism, and fisheries; secured Thailand's commitment to support Fiji's canned tuna export industry.
High-Level Meeting with UAE Foreign Minister (New York)	Advanced renewable energy collaboration (solar); confirmed plans for the establishment of a UAE Foreign Mission in Suva to deepen development ties.
Diplomatic Engagement with Japan (Ambassador Michii)	Reaffirmed USD 1.6 billion in historical development support; emphasized economic growth via the resumption of direct Nadi-Narita flights.
Appointment of High Commissioner to India (HC Jagnnath Sami)	Leveraged 40 years of sugar industry expertise to drive trade diplomacy; secured Fiji's representation at the International Sugar Organisation (ISO).
Carbon Market MOU with Singapore (Paris Agreement Art. 6.2)	Formalized a partnership for emissions reduction projects; secured Singaporean technical assistance for Fiji's carbon credit transfer framework



Appointment of High Commissioner to India (HC Jagnnath Sami) [Source: Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs]

3.2 Improving Quality of Life

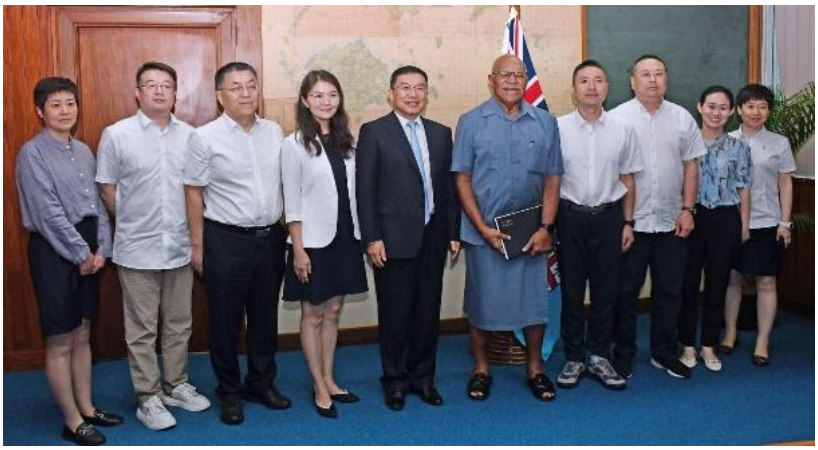
Intended Outcome: Elevate the standard of living for all Fijians by securing high-value education scholarships, modernizing rural infrastructure, enhancing maritime security, and fostering inclusive green economic growth through global partnerships.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Bilateral Consultation with Nepal (Non-Resident Ambassador)	Reaffirmed collaboration in UN Peacekeeping Missions; explored new avenues for cultural diplomacy and defense security cooperation.
Economic Cooperation Dialogue with Thailand	Identified high-value opportunities in sugar, agritourism, and fisheries; secured Thailand's commitment to support Fiji's canned tuna export industry.
Visa Exemption & Political MOU (UAE)	Signed a landmark agreement for 90-day visa-free travel for all passport types; established a formal mechanism for regular political consultations.
3rd Singapore-Pacific High-Level Visit	Secured support via the Singapore Cooperation Programme for climate adaptation, smart water management, and digital service delivery.
Education Infrastructure (Indonesia)	Commissioned an FJD $2.9 million block of 16 new classrooms and labs at Queen Victoria School, funded entirely by Indonesia.
Fiji–Japan Village Connect Exchange	Delivered a community-based sports and cultural program in the Mamanuca Islands; promoted youth development and sustainable tourism.
Saudi Arabia Scholarship Initiative	Secured 11 fully funded scholarships for Fijian students to attend leading universities in Saudi Arabia, focusing on capacity building.
Agricultural Placements (Israel)	Launched an internship program for 13 students from Navuso Agricultural Technical Institute to undergo 10 months of paid training in Israel.
Economic Expansion with Malaysia	Recorded a 69.64% increase in bilateral trade (Jan–May 2023); strengthened defense and technical cooperation through the MTCP program.
KOICA Knowledge Sharing (Korea)	Reaffirmed a US$100 million historical investment in climate resilience and health; facilitated Master's degree studies for senior civil servants.
Vanua Levu Road Feasibility Study (China)	Commenced a study for an FJD $300 million project to upgrade 80km of rural roads and 22 bridges, benefiting 61 communities and 15 schools.
Maritime and Fisheries Support (Japan)	Received FJD $17.5 million in ODA for a new Fisheries Research Vessel, ice machines, and heavy machinery to support sustainable livelihoods.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
IPEF Landmark Agreements (Singapore)	Signed the Clean Economy, Fair Economy, and IPEF Agreements to mobilize financing for clean energy technologies and anti-corruption.



HPM Sitiveni Rabuka and H.E. Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh, the UAE's Minister of State to the UAE Cabinet, officially signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Mutual Exemption of Entry Visa Requirements. [Source: Fiji Government]



HPM Sitiveni Rabuka and His Excellency ZHOU Jian, the Chinese Ambassador to Fiji at the Vanua Levu Road Feasibility Study (China) [Source: Fiji Government]

3.0 OCEANIA BUREAU (OCEANIA & NORTH AMERICAS)

Executive Summary

The Oceania and North Americas Bureau focuses on deepening Fiji's bilateral relations within the region while working towards enhancing Fiji's leadership role in the Pacific.

The year 2023-2024 saw a number of high-level engagements, bilateral dialogues and regional collaborations including Prime Minister Rabuka's first official Guest of Government visit to Australia as well as the first official visit to Fiji by New Zealand Prime Minister, Hon. Christopher Luxon. The increasing number of engagements reinforced Fiji's ties with its longstanding traditional partners. The Ministry also actively participated in key platforms such as the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Pacific Community (SPC).

It was also a particularly important year for the region as Prime Minister Rabuka first tabled the proposal of an 'Ocean of Peace' to Pacific Island Forum (PIF) Leaders. Grounded in the *Pacific Way,* the Ocean of Peace provides a response to the growing geopolitical tensions in the region while focusing on sustainable development, peacebuilding, mediation and the peaceful resolution of conflicts or disagreements. The proposal gained support amongst Pacific Leaders and the concept will be further developed for consideration at next PIF Leaders meeting.

Overall, 2023-2024 was a full year that was focused on bolstering Fiji's regional presence and influence while driving economic growth and sustainable development.

Strategic Priority 1: Sovereignty

1.1 Identity, Relations and Affinity

Intended Outcome: consolidate Fiji's role as a preeminent leader in Pacific regionalism, Fiji aims to secure a peaceful and integrated "Blue Pacific" through strategic regional architecture and bilateral partnerships that protect and empower its citizens at home and abroad.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Commissioning of new Roving Ambassador to the Pacific	Reinforced Fiji's leadership in Pacific diplomacy and security.
Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting (FFMM), Suva	Annual Regional Ministerial meeting, discussions focused on the need to advance the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan, regional economic and security priorities and the revitalized gender equality declaration.
Bilateral Leadership Dialogue with Nauru	Discussions centered on the "Ocean of Peace" concept while also exploring opportunities to strengthen economic resilience, labor mobility, and transnational crime prevention ahead of the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
MSG Foreign Ministers Meeting	Reaffirmed solidarity and finalized the 2024 Work Program and Budget in Vanuatu, while confirming Fiji's readiness to assume the MSG Chairmanship to lead regional governance and sub-regional unity.
Appointment of MSG Special Envoys for West Papua	Formally appointed high-level ministerial envoys to engage in direct diplomatic dialogue with Indonesia regarding the ongoing human rights and socio-political situation in West Papua.
Diplomatic Expansion in Niue, Samoa, and Cook Islands	Formalized accreditation to the Cook Islands; expanded diplomatic visibility and cooperation in tourism and trade across Polynesia.
Repatriation Operation (New Caledonia)	Successfully evacuated 12 Fijian nationals during civil unrest via coordinated efforts with Australia, New Zealand, France, and the SPC.
U.S – Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Summit	Maximized high-level leadership dialogue with the United States to structurally strengthen the U.S.–Fiji strategic partnership and address shared regional and global challenges. Consolidated diplomatic consensus with the U.S. as a critical ally to advance collective Pacific investments in climate change mitigation, maritime security, and sustainable economic development. Reaffirmed long-term bilateral commitments to promote shared prosperity, leveraging personal diplomatic connections to reinforce the enduring friendship between Washington and the Blue Pacific continent.
Official Visit by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Hon. Luxon	Welcomed the New Zealand Prime Minister on his first official visit, marking a pivotal milestone as both nations approach 55 years of formal diplomatic relations. Held high-level bilateral talks relating to trade, labour mobility via the Recognized Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme, health, security, and climate adaptation frameworks. Political commitments made to refreshing the Duavata Partnership.
Visit by the Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand, Winston Peters	Welcomed New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister to advance the Duavata Partnership framework, structurally anchoring joint targets for regional security, climate change, economic resilience, and regional security.
Visit by the Maori King	Facilitated the historic first official visit of the Māori Monarch to Fiji, conducting high-level state meetings with the President and Prime Minister to successfully elevate indigenous connections and cultural diplomacy across the Blue Pacific.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Fiji – Australia Senior Officials Meeting	Reaffirmed foundational commitments to regional peace, security, and economic recovery under the newly elevated and renewed Vuvale Partnership framework. Solidified Fiji's strategic backing for Australia's bid to host the UN Climate Change Conference (COP31), ensuring a unified Pacific platform to influence global climate policy.
HPM Guest of Government visit to Australia	The Prime Minister, Hon. Sitiveni L. Rabuka conducted his first Guest of Government visit to Australia, aimed at strengthening bilateral ties under the Vuvale Partnership. The visit included high-level meetings, community engagements, and the signing of a renewed Vuvale Partnership Agreement with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. PM Rabuka also met Fijian seasonal workers under the PALM Scheme. The visit highlighted Fiji's commitment to deeper cooperation in labour mobility, infrastructure, health, education, and regional peace.



Assistant Minister Honourable Lenora Qereqeretabua participates in the Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting (FFMM), Suva. [Source: Fiji Government]

Strategic Priority 2 - Security

2.1 Comprehensive Security

Intended Outcome: To safeguard Fiji's sovereignty and regional stability by modernizing maritime and cyber defenses, institutionalizing the "Ocean of Peace" vision, and leading rights-based regional responses to climate-induced mobility.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Bilateral Defense Meeting (Australia)	Reaffirmed cooperation in border control, maritime security, and intelligence; integrated the Blackrock Camp and Bushmaster vehicles into peacekeeping support.
High-Level Cyber Security Dialogue (Canberra)	Secured participation in Australia's e-visa pilot program and advanced collaboration on digital infrastructure and software security.
Endorsement of the "Zone of Peace" (PIFLM52)	Achieved regional backing for a the 'Ocean of Peace' initiative aligned with the 2050 Strategy to be further developed in the coming year.
Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility	Formalized a people-centered, rights-based approach to address climate-induced displacement and secure safe relocation pathways.
Acquisition of 2nd Guardian-Class Patrol Boat	Bolstered maritime surveillance to combat IUU fishing and transnational crime within Fiji's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).



HPM Sitiveni Rabuka and Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Hon. Richard Marles Bilateral Defense Meeting (Australia). [Source: Fiji Government]



HPM Sitiveni Rabuka and Minister for Defence Industry and International Development and the Pacific Hon. Pat Conroy at the HMAS Stirling Naval Base in Perth for the acquisition of 2nd Guardian-Class Patrol Boat. [Source: Fiji Government]

Strategy Priority 3: Prosperity

3.1 Expanding Fijis Economic Space

Intended Outcome: Drive sustainable national prosperity, Fiji aims to establish itself as a resilient Pacific hub by modernizing critical infrastructure, expanding labor mobility, and securing high-value regional investments through strengthened trade and development partnerships.

Key Outputs / Activities	**Results Achieved**
Renewed Vuvale Partnership Agreement (Australia)	Signed a renewed framework for deeper cooperation in labor mobility, infrastructure, health, and education amongst other areas of cooperation during the PM's official visit.
Ports & Cybersecurity MOUs (Australia)	Secured a grant for the Lautoka Port Master Plan to revitalize shipbuilding; established joint incident response and workforce upskilling frameworks.
Targeted Trade Goals with New Zealand	Set a bilateral goal to reach $2 billion in two-way trade by 2030; recognized record-breaking trade levels of $1.36 billion in 2023.
Aviation & Education Investment (Australia)	Launched the AUD $100 million Australia-Pacific Partnerships for Aviation; pledged to quadruple Australia Award scholarships for Fijian students by 2025.
Climate & Economic Reform Funding (New Zealand)	Secured NZ $20 million in climate finance, NZ $15.3 million for agricultural adaptation, and NZ $7.5 million for Fiji's economic reform program.
FFA Country Partnership Agreement	Formalized regional solidarity in managing migratory fish stocks and reviewing national fisheries legislation for long-term sustainability.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Diaspora Engagement and Bilateral Cultural Mission in Rarotonga	Convened a high-level dialogue with the Fijian community in the Cook Islands to leverage the diaspora as a strategic bridge for people-to-people diplomatic connections. Reinforce bilateral cultural alignment and mutual regional respect through traditional state-level welcome protocols and engagements with Cook Islands traditional chiefs.
Fiji Engagement with Diaspora in the United States to Strengthen Service Delivery and National Connection	Conducted a diplomatic mission and *talanoa* (open dialogue) session with the Fijian diaspora in Los Angeles. Discussions focused on national development initiatives and opportunities to upgrade consular service delivery, trade linkages, and civic connectivity across North America.
Fiji Business and Investor Talanoa in Sydney	Encouraged the Fijian diaspora in Australia to actively invest in national development sectors during a high-level business *talanoa* forum in Sydney. Discussions focused on easing regulatory barriers and bureaucratic bottlenecks for former citizens looking to bring capital back into Fiji.



The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka and the Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific, and Minister for Defence Industry, Hon. Pat Conroy MP signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) on Port infrastructure and Services and Cyber Security Cooperation. [Source: Fiji Government]

3.3 Improving Quality of Life

Intended Outcome: Enhance the daily lives of Fijians by securing modernized public services, expanding professional development opportunities through regional training, and ensuring national resilience through robust diplomatic and developmental alliances.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Elevation of Vuvale Partnership (Australia)	Secured support for ePassport rollout, streamlined visa access, and obtained 14 Bushmaster vehicles for peacekeeping; reinforced First Nations engagement.
USAID Regional Mission Opening (Suva)	Signed the Bilateral Framework Agreement that would see the establishment of a permanent mission to oversee programs across nine Pacific nations.
Development MOU with Samoa	Formalized the development cooperation agreement that provides an avenue to discuss potential joint initiatives in health, energy, and infrastructure.
Pacific Diplomatic Training Programme (NZMFAT)	Upskilled five Ministry staff and 23 regional participants in diplomatic tradecraft, foreign policy, and the ocean-climate nexus.
Pacific Community (SPC) annual governance meetings	Discussed SPC's technical support to Fiji that is in alignment with 26 of the 29 goals in Fiji's National Development Plan, focusing on integrated science and innovation.
Development MOU with Cook Islands	Signed the MOU on Development Cooperation that would formalize exchanges in a number of areas including labour mobility, trade and investment.
Bilateral Dialogue with Solomon Islands	Held talks on potential reviewing the Air Services Agreement to boost connectivity and proposed joint deployments for regional humanitarian assistance.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Staff graduated from the completion of five (5) weeks training undertaken through Second Cohort of the Pacific Diplomatic Training Programme (NZMFAT). [Source: Fiji Government]

4.0 PROTOCOL & CONSULAR DIVISION

Executive Summary

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Fiji through the Protocol and Consular Division is responsible for the administration of all provisions of the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations to ensure that all Diplomatic Missions, Consulates, and their members within the country function efficiently and in compliance with the relevant legislations.

The Division manages and is responsible for the appointment of Fiji diplomatic and consular representatives overseas, as well as Fiji representatives to Inter-Governmental Organizations. It works closely with the Office of the President in facilitations of all requests for Agrément for all resident Heads of Missions and Non-Resident Missions based in Canberra, Australia and Wellington, New Zealand to present credentials to the President of the Republic of Fiji. In the same regard, it also is responsible for and executes requests for Agrément for Fiji's Heads of Missions to our overseas missions, including having the Heads of Missions commissioned as well to take up posting.

This year saw the re-opening of Fiji's missions to Papua New Guinea and the posting of its Head of Mission.

Additionally, the Division is responsible for planning conferences and meetings hosted by the Ministry, as well as executing official international visits at the Ministerial level. It represents Fiji on all Inter-Agency Committees to plan and execute State, Official, and Working visits to Fiji, along with State and Official funerals and other ceremonies for the State.

It manages the process of acquiring visas for officials traveling on government business and provides protocol guidance and assistance to Fiji's Missions, Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

The Division is responsible for and handles the notification process for courtesy calls, facilitates all high-level officials that travelled in an official capacity, as well as processed requests for the landing of state aircraft and the entry of vessels in Fiji's waters for research, maintenance, replenish of supplies, training, or for humanitarian purposes.

It continues to plan and coordinate the execution of incoming correspondence to pertinent Departments and other Ministries, and processes requests for the loan of flags of foreign countries providing guidance on all flag use and display.

The primary roles remain to be the timely provision of Protocol and Consular Services to all Fiji missions abroad, all resident and non- resident diplomatic missions and Honorary Consuls accredited to Fiji which was classified under the following:

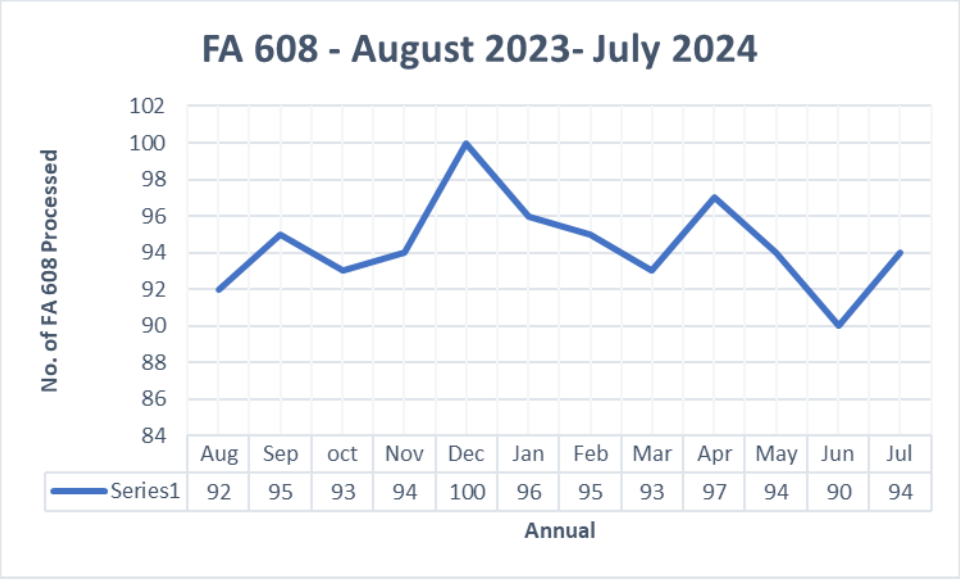
- 12 Fiji Missions abroad
- 22 Diplomatic Missions in Suva
- 20 Regional & International Organizations in Suva; and
- 18 Honorary Consuls based in Suva.

The Division is also responsible and facilitates repatriation requests of Fiji nationals abroad through the respective missions as and when it is needed.

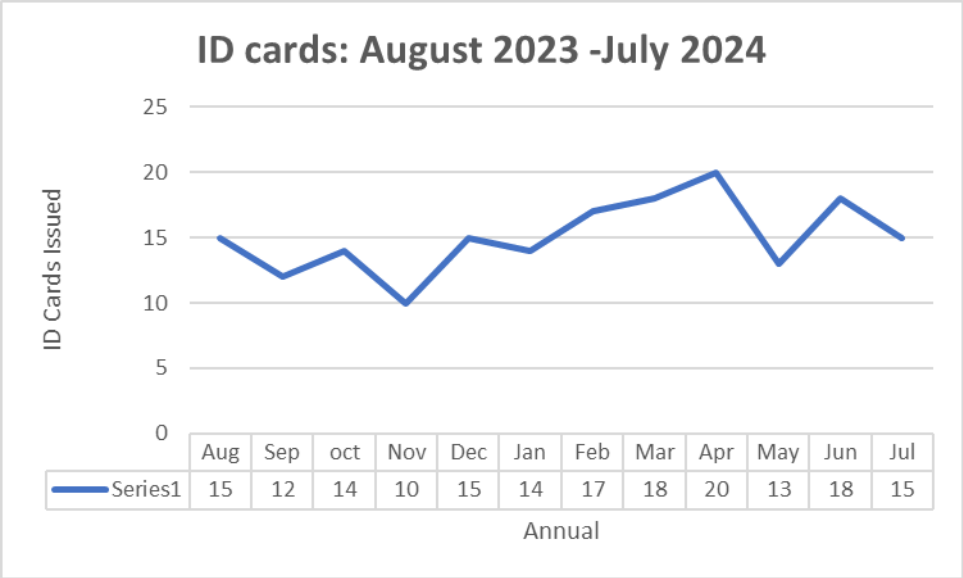
ADMINISTERING OF CONSULAR PRIVILEGES & IMMUNITIES



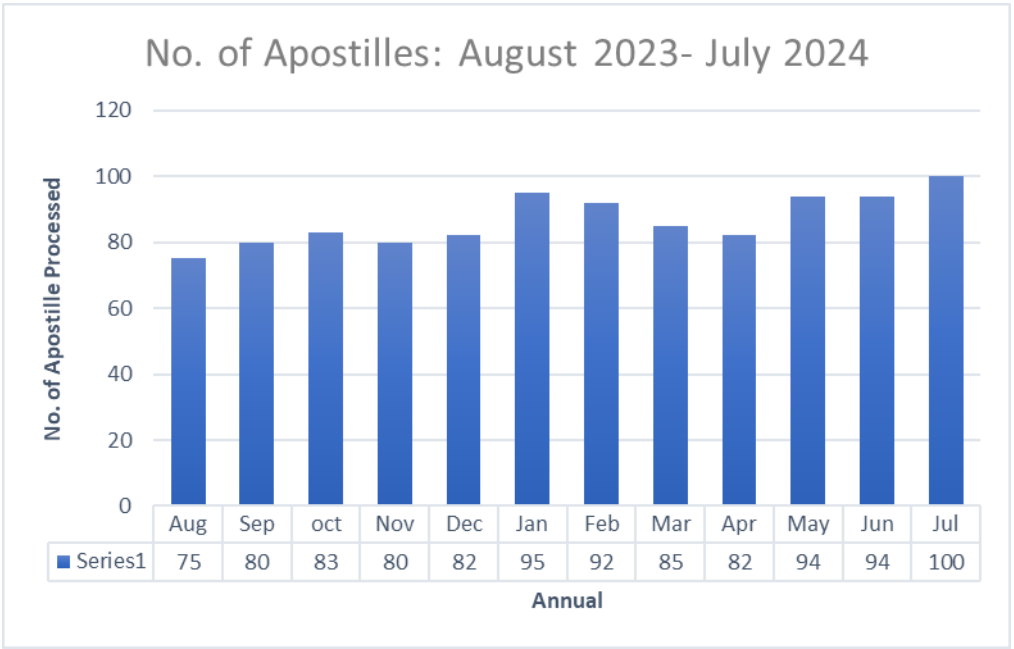
This graph indicates the continuous relative increase in travel and arrival into Fiji by Diplomats and the new appointments made for posting from respective headquarters. It clearly shows a boost to economic activity upon the commencement of official duties in this new financial year.



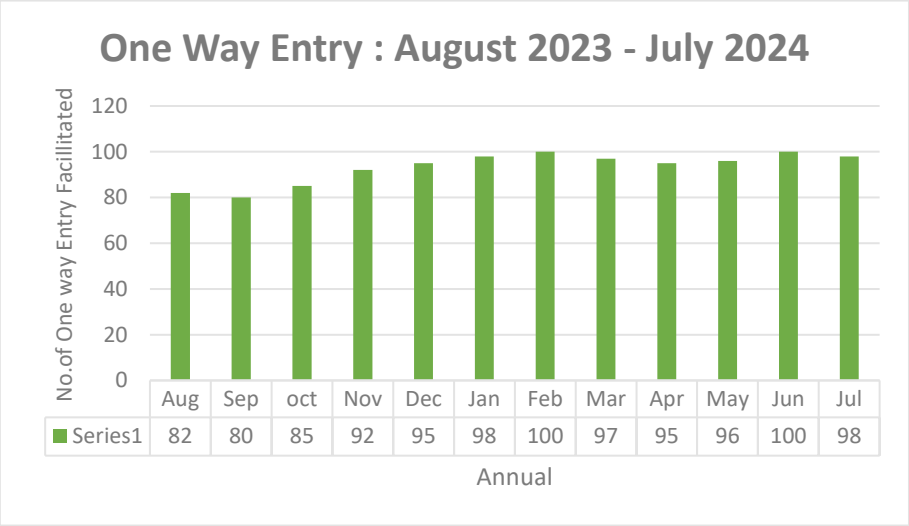
The request for Duty Free purchases through the FA 608 forms by the Diplomatic corps is a privilege for the Diplomatic Community. Missions have a certain quota for each quarter and are guided by the Division in terms of their requests. The Division continues to thoroughly assess and scrutinize all duty-free requests in close collaboration with the Fiji Customs and Revenue Services. For this period requests have remained between 90 – 100 requests and that shows an increase as the respective missions utilized their quota to better carry out their responsibilities and in sourcing vehicles, resources accordingly. This privilege is also used by international- and regional organisations and development partners on their requests for medical supplies, equipment and tools for development or aid purposes.



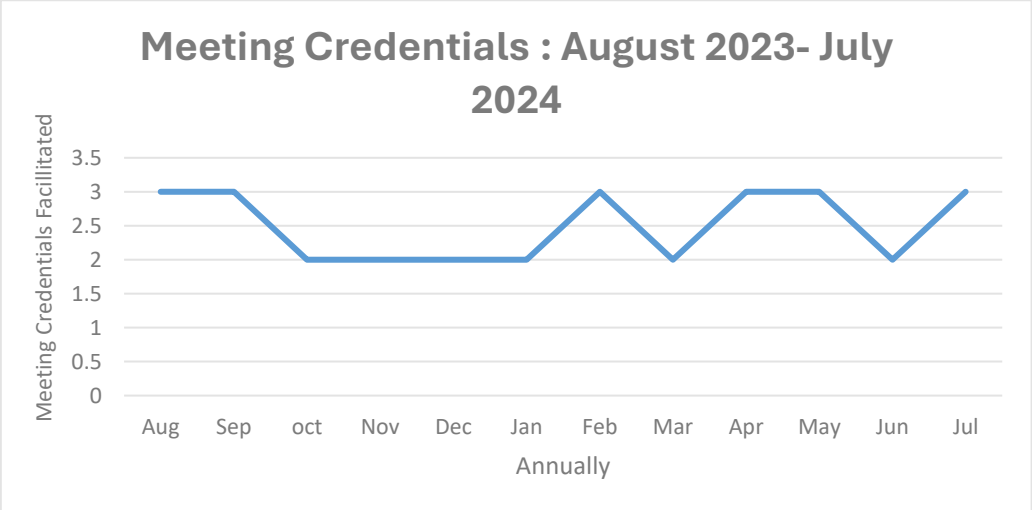
ID cards are issued as part of the establishment of a mission or upon the arrival of new diplomats into the country. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Protocol Division to issue all diplomats an updated ID card that includes their designation and the Schedule that they are entitled as per the Vienna Convention. The request for ID Cards is considered residence permits for the respective holders and is a form of identification. The card is presented upon request whilst diplomats are in country and must be returned to MFA by the embassy upon final departure from the Republic of Fiji. Members of Diplomatic, Consular Missions, and Office of International Organizations are required to apply for an ID with MOFA no more than two weeks after they have taken up their posts in the country. For this period, there continues to be a demand for issue of ID Cards from diplomats arriving and taking up post on a monthly basis which is reflected in the graph.



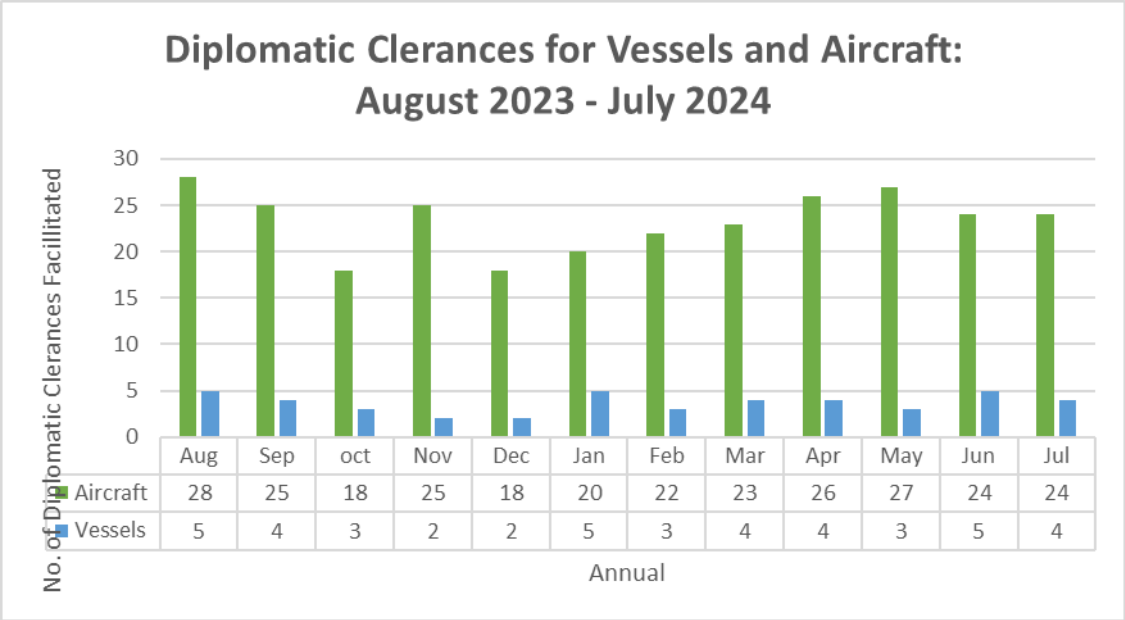
An apostille is a certificate that authenticates a public document (like a birth certificate, diploma, or court order) alligned to the Hague Apostille Convention. It is used in foreign countries on international document exchange by verifying the signature, seal, or stamp of the official who issued it. It's a single certification, that confirms the document's origin, not its content's truthfulness, issued by a designated authority in the document's country. The process of legalizing and authenticating public documents through an apostille is a function that only MOFA is mandated by law to provide. The Division is responsbile for the issuance of apostille stamps both to local and overseas applications provided the document orignates from instiutions and organisations in Fiji. As reflected in the graph, there continues to be an increase in Fiji Nationals requiring their documents to be apostilled which is an indication of the moveent of Fiji Nationals abroad as well for studies, migrating or for business. This shows as well that there is a healthy influx of Fijians going abroad that need their documents apostilled.



One-way entry permit is issued to Diplomats who are arriving to undertake paid employment in Fiji. These are fixed term positions that require the prior approval of the Ministry. At the end of their tenure, the diplomat organizes his exit and the permit together with the appropriate visa is rescinded upon departure. The graph highlights the number of one-way entries that had been processed for each month. The graph clearly shows the consistent increase in the issue of one-way entries indicating confidence in doing business by our international and regional counterparts. It also reflects the increase in staff member recruitments in respective missions, international and regional organisations in Fiji.

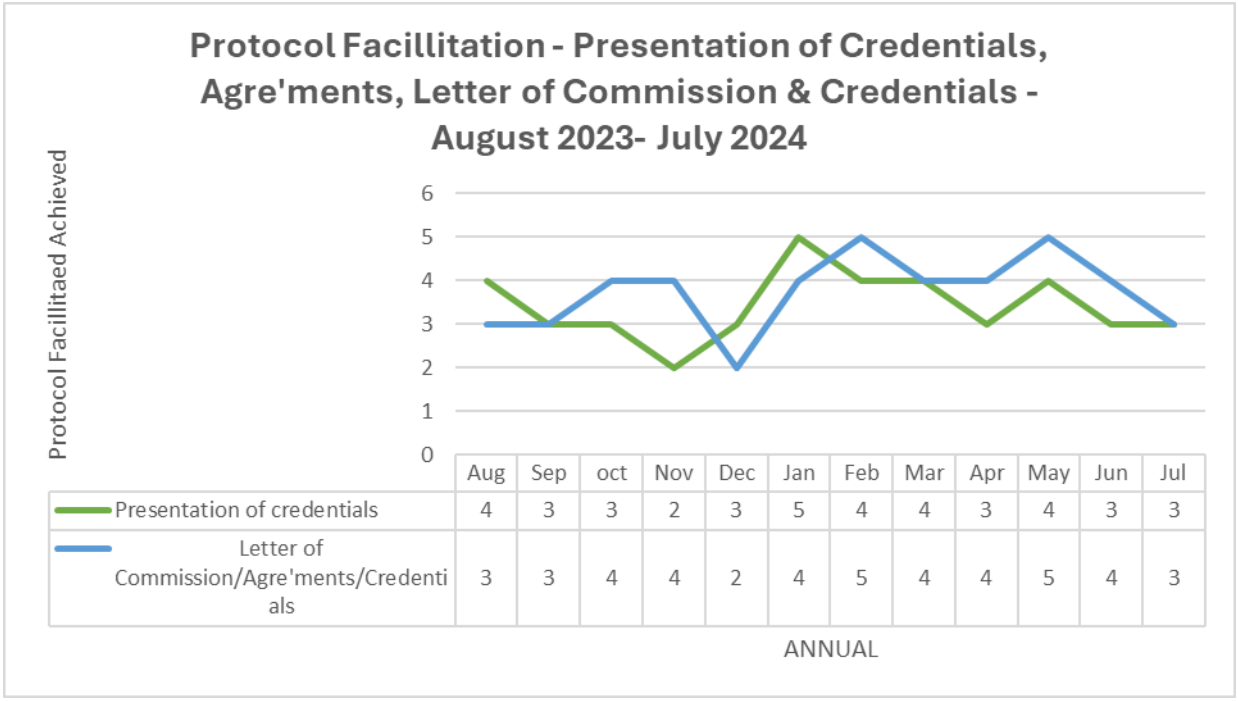


The Preparation of Meeting credentials is another function that is entrusted to the Protocol Division. The meeting credential continue to be prepared, endorsed by the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and conveyed to the meeting organisers. This endorsement provides the delegation with the mandate to negotiate, decide and endorse issues on behalf of government during these important meetings abroad. The consistent increase for this financial year highlights our commitment and representation to these important meetings and in promoting Fiji's interests. Most of these meetings are Annual meetings that Fiji has consented to due to our commitments to these international forums and conferences.



	Aug	Sep	oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Aircraft	28	25	18	25	18	20	22	23	26	27	24	24
Vessels	5	4	3	2	2	5	3	4	4	3	5	4

This Diplomatic clearance ensured that the foreign aircraft or marine vessel can pass through foreign airspace or territorial waters without encountering diplomatic or political obstacles. The process of obtaining diplomatic clearance involved communication and coordination with the diplomatic missions or embassies of the countries that are requesting for this privilege. The Protocol Division has to consult its stakeholders, namely the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF), Ministry of Defence, Fiji Navy, Fiji Ports, Republic of Fiji Military Forces and Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources. The Division facilitates and issues the diplomatic clearance after due diligence is attended to. The graph shows the number of clearances provided in a month. There are more aircraft clearances request received daily and weekly basis compared to vessels as they need to have requested for these 6 months prior to arrival. The aircraft clearances also include diplomatic clearance on rescue operations and training operations for Navy and Military aircrafts.



A significant formal and substantive ceremony for the Head of State of a nation is acknowledging a new Ambassador/High Commissioner with credentials, Approving Agrément requests and Commissioning Fiji's appointed Heads of Missions to our respective missions abroad. It is only after this ceremony that a new Head of Mission is acknowledged as the official representative of their country. The ceremony fully validates the authority of the new Head of Mission and affirms recognition of the country and government that was represented. As a result, the presentation of credentials by Head of Mission is the same as the formation, maintaining mutual interest, and strengthening of a diplomatic alliance between two nations. The protocol surrounding the ceremony has great symbolic and practical significance. The graph shows the number of these important ceremonies that were facilitated in a month for the Financial Year.

5.0 HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

Executive Summary

The Human Resources Division is an internal support service responsible for managing the Ministry's human capital to achieve its strategic and operational objectives. The Division ensures compliance with governance obligations, strengthens corporate policies and procedures, and promotes professional and efficient workforce management across Headquarters and Missions.

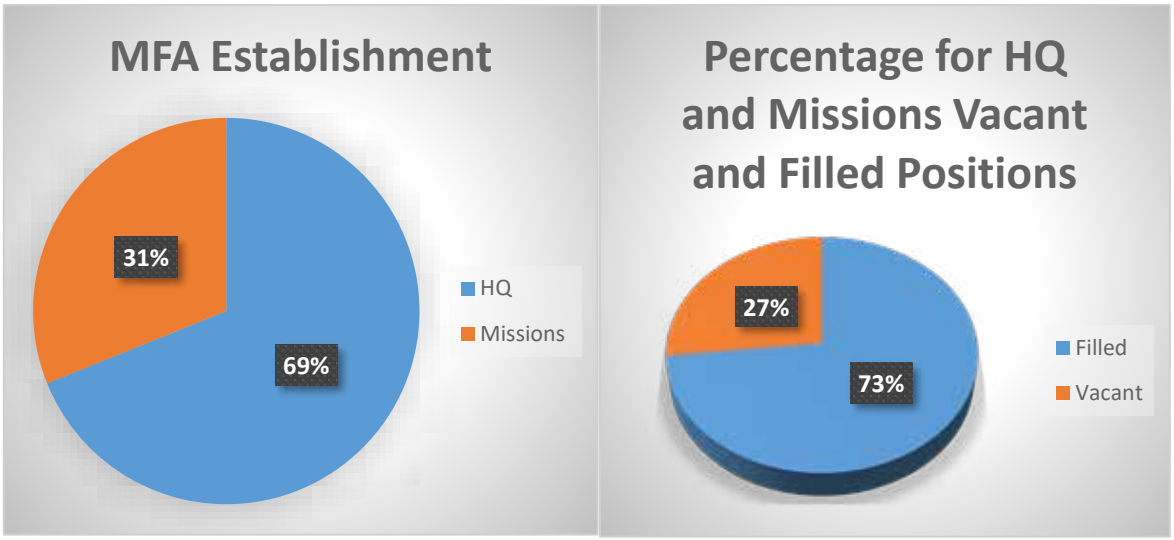
The Ministry acknowledges the critical role of human resource management in enhancing productivity, accountability, and professionalism within the workforce. Continuous review and development of HR policies and procedures were undertaken during the 2023–2024 financial year to align with evolving government reforms, institutional priorities, and global best practices.

The Human Resources Division continued to support the Ministry in implementing workforce planning, staff development, performance management, recruitment, appointments, and training initiatives to ensure effective service delivery both at Headquarters and across Fiji Missions abroad.

Staff Establishment and Workforce Management

The Human Resources Division continued to manage staffing requirements across Headquarters and Missions to ensure operational efficiency and continuity of service delivery.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has an approved establishment of 135 positions, of which 99 positions were substantively filled, and 36 positions remained vacant across both Headquarters and Missions during the 2023–2024 financial year. The graph below illustrates the overall workforce strength of the Ministry for the reporting period, highlighting the distribution of filled and vacant positions.



Out of its total establishment, **27% of the positions remained vacant during the 2023–2024 financial year.**

The Ministry continues to implement strategic workforce planning measures to ensure that service delivery to its diverse customers is not disrupted or compromised due to staff attrition, which is a common challenge in many organizations. Efforts are focused on maintaining continuity of service through timely recruitment, internal mobility, acting appointments, and capacity building initiatives to ensure operational efficiency across Headquarters and Missions.

The Division focused on strengthening workforce stability through timely recruitment, acting appointments, and internal transfers to address staffing gaps and support organizational restructuring.

Appointments and Staffing Movements (2023–2024)

The Ministry recorded a total of 65 staffing movements during the reporting period.

Type of Appointment	Total
Acting Appointment	21
New Appointment	28
Resignation	9
Termination	1
Sideways Transfer	6
Total	**65**

Key highlights include:

- 28 new appointments were processed to strengthen capacity across Headquarters and Missions.
- 21 acting appointments ensured continuity of leadership and operational functions.
- 6 sideways transfers supported internal mobility and effective workforce utilization.
- 9 resignations and 1 termination were recorded during the reporting period.

The Human Resources Division ensured all appointments complied with Ministry of Civil Service guidelines, Ministry policies, and established governance frameworks.

Efforts were made to minimize service disruption by expediting recruitment processes and ensuring smooth transitions in staffing arrangements.

The table below illustrates the total number of staff employed by the Ministry at the end of the 2023-2024 Financial Year:

Headquarters/Mission Establishment	Gender		Vacant	Filled	Grand Total
	Female	Male			
Headquarters Establishment					
Executive Support Unit	3	4	4	7	11
Media & Communication Unit	2	2	0	4	4
Policy Research & Development Division	1	1	1	2	3
Protocol & Consular Division	4	5	4	9	13
Human Resources Division	8	3	1	11	12

Headquarters/Mission Establishment	Gender		Vacant	Filled	Grand Total
	Female	Male			
Finance Division	4	2	6	6	12
Multilateral Division	6	1	4	7	11
Asia Division	2	2	4	4	8
Oceania Division	3	0	2	3	5
Roving Ambassador	1	2	1	3	4
Government Wage Earners	1	9	0	10	10
Total in HQ	**35**	**31**	**27**	**66**	**93**
Missions Establishment					
Abu Dhabi Mission	0	2	1	2	3
Beijing Mission	1	2	0	3	3
Canberra	0	1	2	1	3
Geneva	1	3	0	4	4
Jakarta	1	2	0	3	3
Kuala Lumpur	0	0	3	0	3
London	2	1	0	3	3
New Delhi	0	3	0	3	3
New York	1	2	1	3	4
Tokyo	2	1	0	3	3
Washington	1	2	1	3	4
Wellington	1	2	0	3	3
Papua New Guinea	2	0	1	2	3
Total in Mission	**12**	**21**	**9**	**33**	**42**
GRAND TOTAL	**47**	**52**	**36**	**99**	**135**

Of the 99 filled positions, the Ministry's workforce reflected a slightly male-dominated composition, with 52% male and 47% female representation. The Ministry remains committed to being an equal opportunity employer and continues to promote gender balance across all levels of staffing. Efforts are being made to ensure that recruitment, training, and workforce development initiatives provide fair and equitable opportunities for both genders, particularly in the filling of vacant positions in future, to support inclusive and balanced representation across Headquarters and Missions.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Training and staff development remained a key priority for the Ministry during the 2023–2024 financial year, as part of its commitment to building a competent, professional, and globally responsive workforce.

The Ministry continued to invest in staff learning and development to enhance diplomatic, administrative, and technical capabilities.

Overseas Training

During the reporting year:

- 57 staff attended overseas training programmes
- 33% male and 67% female participation

Major training partners included:

- New Zealand Diplomacy Training Programme for Pacific Island Countries
- People's Republic of China (CELAP and Diplomatic Training Programmes)
- Australia
- United Kingdom
- Singapore
- South Korea
- India

Key highlights:

- 39% of participants attended the New Zealand Diplomacy Training Programme
- 21% attended training in China
- Training focused on diplomacy, leadership, governance, and public sector management

These overseas programmes strengthened diplomatic skills, leadership capacity, and international engagement competencies of staff.

Local Training and Capacity Building

The Ministry also prioritized local training and institutional capacity development.

- 46 staff attended local training programmes
- 40% male and 60% female participation

Training providers included:

- Ministry of Civil Service
- Fiji National University (FNU)
- University of the South Pacific (USP)

- Ministry of Finance

Training areas included:

- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)
- Fire Fighting
- Chinese Language
- Microsoft and ICT skills
- Legal and financing frameworks
- Public sector capacity building workshops

These programmes enhanced technical skills, administrative efficiency, and workplace safety awareness.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

During the 2023–2024 financial year, the Human Resources Division focused on:

- Strengthening workforce planning and recruitment
- Supporting staff professional development
- Promoting gender-balanced participation in training
- Enhancing leadership and diplomatic capacity
- Improving staff mobility and deployment
- Ensuring compliance with public service regulations
- Supporting Ministry strategic and operational priorities

The Division continued to work closely with the Ministry of Civil Service, Public Service Commission, and development partners to improve HR systems and capacity development initiatives.

CONCLUSION

The 2023–2024 financial year was marked by significant progress in strengthening human resource management within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Key achievements included:

- Effective management of 65 staffing movements
- Strengthened workforce through 28 new appointments
- Continued investment in overseas and local training
- Enhanced gender-balanced participation in capacity building

- Improved workforce stability and operational efficiency

In addition to the above the HR Division also work on the following activities:

Key Outputs / Activities	**Results Achieved**
Signing of Condolence Book (Late HC to PNG)	Hosted the diplomatic corps to honour the late High Commissioner's distinguished military and diplomatic service; reinforced regional solidarity.
Ministry Academic Recognition Event	Celebrated six staff members for attaining advanced degrees (Masters in Law, Politics, IT, and Commerce), advancing the Ministry's technical expertise
2024 Civil Service Medal Investiture	Honoured 11 long-serving Foreign Affairs staff with national medals for exemplary service and commitment to Fiji's global interests
International Day for Women in Diplomacy	Recognized the leadership of over 24 Fijian women diplomats serving globally in critical areas like climate change and human rights.

The Human Resources Division remains committed to developing a professional, capable, and responsive workforce that supports Fiji's foreign policy objectives and diplomatic engagement.

The Division will continue to focus on workforce development, recruitment efficiency and strategic human resource planning to support the Ministry's long-term goals.

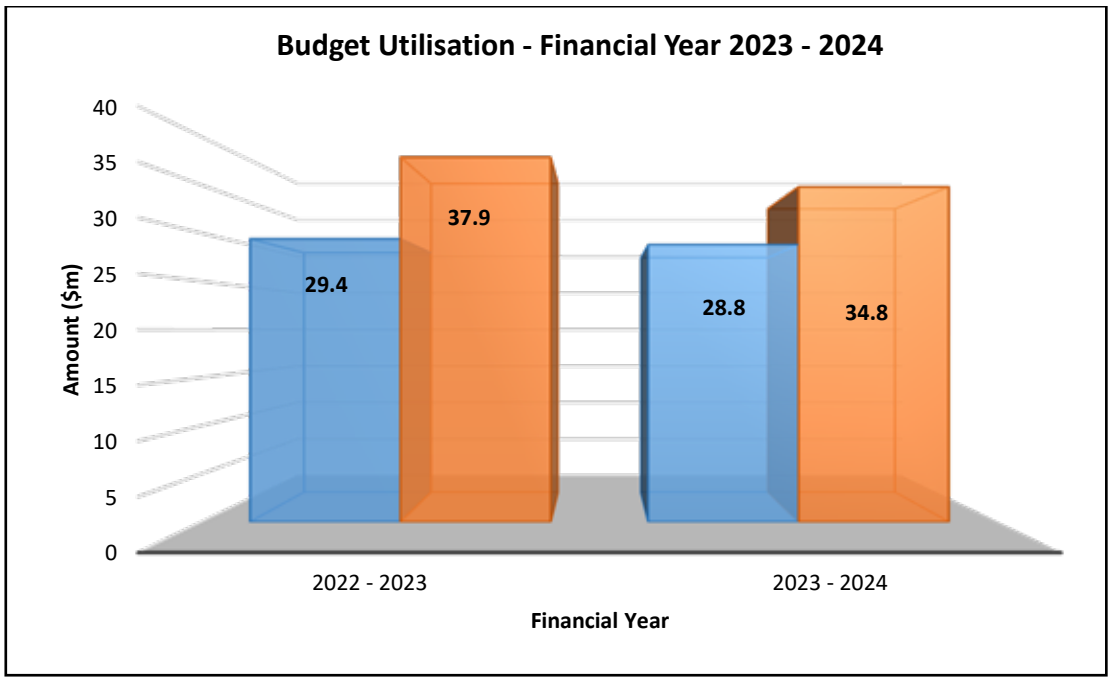
6.0 FINANCE DIVISION

Executive Summary

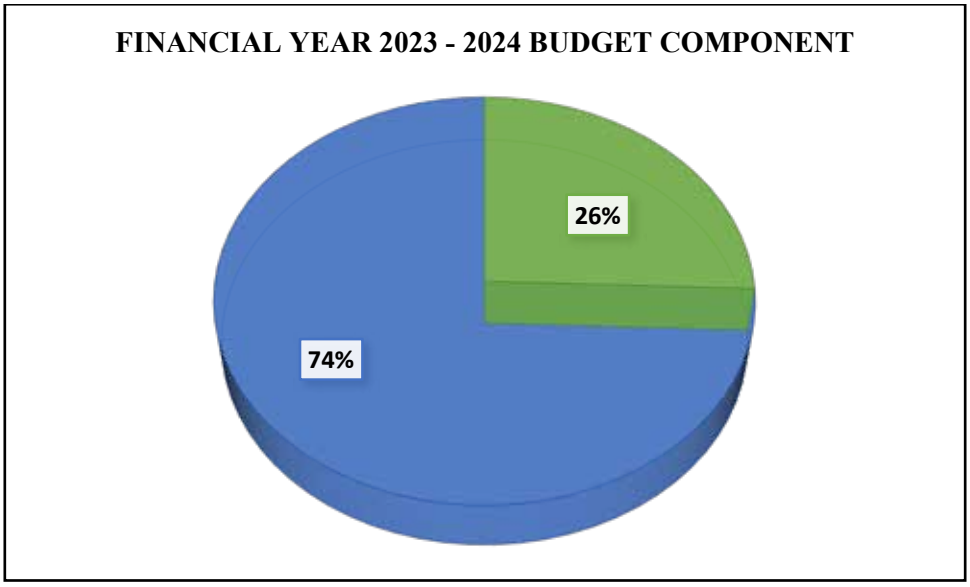
The Division exercised prudent management of financial resources, ensuring that all expenditures and revenue collections were conducted in strict compliance with the provisions of the Finance Instructions, the Finance Manual (2019), and the Public Service (Diplomatic and Consular Services) regulations. Furthermore, the Division safeguarded transparency and accountability by efficiently and effectively updating all transactions into the Government's Financial Management Information System (FMIS). These measures reinforced sound financial governance and strengthened confidence in the integrity of the Division's operations.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Budget Overview for Financial Year 2023-2024

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs had received a total budget of $37.9 million for the 2023-2024 financial year compared to $29.9 million for the 2022-2023 financial year. Total budget utilization for the year ending 31st July 2024 was at 92%. The Column Charts below illustrate the financial expenditure summary for 2023/2024 fiscal year:



Approximately 74% of the Ministry's budget was allocated towards its 'off-shore' operations through the Overseas Missions and the remaining 26% is for its on-shore operation or Headquarters.



ASSET MANAGEMENT UNIT

Annual Board of Survey (BOS)

The BOS for the financial year 2023-2024 was conducted at Headquarters and in the Fiji Diplomatic Missions abroad. The following locations were surveyed:

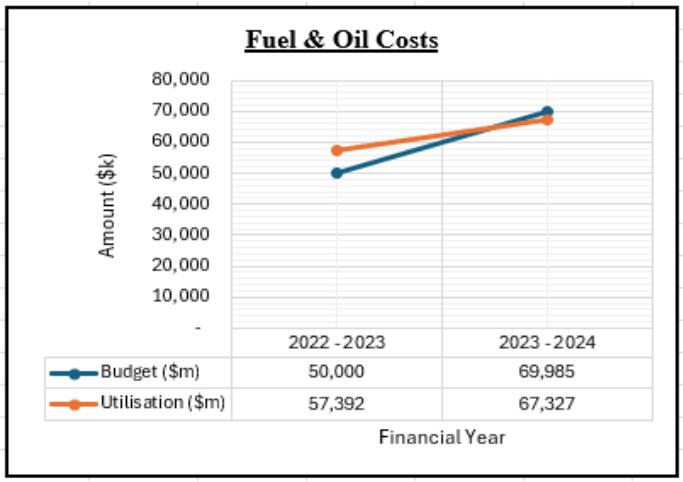
1. Abu Dhabi
2. Beijing
3. Canberra
4. Geneva
5. Jakarta
6. London
7. New Delhi
8. New York
9. Tokyo
10. Wellington
11. Headquarters-Suva and Nadi office.

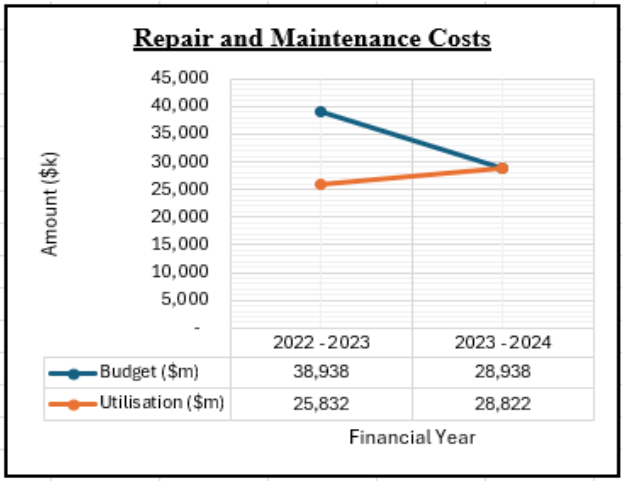
The 2023-2024 BOS report was approved and received from the Ministry of Finance within its financial year. The items written off had a total value of $644,239.

Vehicle and Transport

A total of 11 vehicles (HQ) were engaged to facilitate Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the 2023-2024 financial year. A vehicle was designated for the Permanent Secretary and the remaining ten (10) were used for Ministry staff and VIP operation(s) in HQ.

The total fuel consumption for 2023-2024 financial year was $67,327 and repair and maintenance cost was $28,822 which totals to $96,149. The Chart below shows the financial years comparison in the consumption of fuel and the maintaining of HQ vehicles to the previous financial year (2022 – 2023).





Mission: Estimated Value of Assets (F$)

A major challenge for the Ministry has been the management of its offshore budget component, specifically Overseas Missions, which accounted for over 74 percent of the Ministry's total budget. Internal controls within the Missions were generally found to be weak, thereby posing risks to effective financial oversight. Ensuring stronger financial practices, enhanced efficiency, and full compliance with established regulations remains a continuing challenge in our pursuit of prudent management of all financial resources allocated to the Ministry.

WAY FORWARD

Better coordination between Headquarters and each of our diplomatic Missions abroad was critical for the effective management of the Ministry's financial resources. The Ministry, through its Finance team, was exploring options that facilitated the adoption of electronic platforms (FMIS) as a practical means of doing business. Apart from encouraging the use of electronic platforms, strengthening of the Ministry's internal audit mechanism was critical in supporting the Ministry's effort of an improved compliance and adherence to financial policies and regulations.

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
Promoting Public Sector Accountability and Sustainability through our Audits

Level 1, Modyl Plaza
Karsanji Street, Vatuwaqa
P. O. Box 2214, Government Buildings
Suva, Fiji

Telephone: (679) 8921519
E-mail: info@auditorgeneral.gov.fj
Website: www.oag.gov.fj

File: 347

20 August 2025

The Honourable Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka
Prime Minister & Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises
New Wing Government Buildings
SUVA

Dear Sir,

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 JULY 2024

The audited financial statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year ended 31 July 2024 together with my audit report on them are enclosed.

Particulars of any errors and omission arising from the audit have been forwarded to the Management of the Ministry for necessary actions.

Yours sincerely

Finau Seru Nagera
AUDITOR-GENERAL

cc: Dr. Raijeli Taga, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Suva

Encl.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the Ministry) which comprises the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, Appropriation Statement, Statement of Losses for the financial year ended 31 July 2024, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

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

Basis for Opinion

I have conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Ministry in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountant's *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.

Other Matter

internal control issues were generally found to be weak. This was in respect to the lack of supporting documents for expenditures and the double posting to the general ledger and revenue listing. These internal control weaknesses, if not addressed promptly, may result in material misstatement and financial losses in the future.

Other Information

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

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

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

When I read the Annual Report, if I conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

Responsibilities of the Management and Those Charged with Governance for Financial Statements

The Management are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004 and Finance Instructions 2010, and for such internal control as the Management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Ministry'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:

- 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 Ministry's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management of Ministry.

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.

Finau Seru Nagera
AUDITOR-GENERAL

AUDITOR-GENERAL FIJI

Suva, Fiji
20 August 2025

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

We certify that these financial statements:

(a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for year ending 31 July 2024; and

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

Dr. Raijieli Taga

Permanent Secretary

Luke Ravusoni

Director Finance

Date: 19/8/2025

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

	Note	2024	2023
RECEIPTS		$	$
State Revenue			
Operating revenue		779	990
Total State Revenue		**779**	**990**
Agency Revenue			
Miscellaneous revenue		1,041,780	567,437
Rev from carriage of freight		428,776	424,276
Total agency revenue		**1,470,556**	**991,713**
TOTAL REVENUE		1,471,335	992,703
EXPENDITURE			
Operating costs			
Established Staff		9,135,472	9,290,784
Government Wage Earners		3,165,468	2,641,029
Travel & Communications		2,855,395	2,160,330
Maintenance & Operations		8,687,252	8,392,070
Purchase of Goods & Services		1,377,384	1,100,012
Operating Grants & Transfers		4,833,233	4,413,899
Special Expenditure		3,379,230	466,151
Total Operating Costs		**33,433,434**	**28,464,275**
Capital expenditure			
Capital Construction		1,222,737	268,640
Total Capital Expenditure		**1,222,737**	**268,640**
Value Added Tax		**171,239**	**81,945**
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		34,827,410	28,814,860

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
APPROPRIATION STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

SEG	ITEM	Budget Estimate $	Appr. Changes $	Revised Budget $	Actual Expenditure $	Carry-Over $	Lapsed Appro. $
	OPERATION COSTS						
1	Established Staff	10,635,692	(1,363,540)	9,272,152	9,135,472	---	136,680
2	Government Wage Earners	2,814,042	483,810	3,297,852	3,165,468	---	132,384
3	Travel & Communications	1,394,863	1,540,098	2,934,961	2,855,395	---	79,566
4	Maintenance & Operations	7,143,791	1,719,674	8,863,465	8,687,252	---	176,213
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	1,255,406	233,832	1,489,238	1,377,384	---	111,854
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	5,314,083	(471,248)	4,842,835	4,833,233	---	9,602
7	Special Expenditures	4,680,000	(639,266)	4,040,734	3,379,230	---	661,504
	TOTAL OPERATIING COSTS	33,237,877	1,503,360	34,741,237	33,433,434	---	1,307,803
	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE						
8	Capital Construction	2,200,000	(500,000)	1,700,000	1,222,737	---	477,263
9	Capital Purchase	---	---	---	---	---	---
10	Capital Grants & Transfers	---	---	---	---	---	---
	Fines, Charges, Pub Debt						
	TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	2,200,000	(500,000)	1,700,000	1,222,737	---	477,263
13	VALUE ADDED TAX	2,501,120	(2,153,360)	347,760	171,239	---	176,522
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**37,938,997**	**(1,150,000)**	**36,788,997**	**34,827,410**	---	**1,961,587**

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
STATEMENT OF LOSSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

1. Loss of Money

There was a loss of Money with the amount of $19,888 recorded for the year ended 31st July, 2024.

2. Loss of Revenue

There was no loss of Revenue recorded for the year ended 31st July, 2024.

3. Loss of Fixed Assets

There was no loss of assets for the year ended 31 July 2024. The Board of Survey for the financial year 2023-2024 was carried out and the following items worth $644,239 were recommended for write-off which was approved by the Ministry of Finance.

MISSION / HEADQUARTERS	AMOUNT ($)
Fiji High Commission - Wellington	19,150
Fiji Embassy Tokyo	75
Fiji High Commission – New Delhi	9,161
Fiji Embassy Abu Dhabi	475,985
Fiji Embassy Washington	47,370
Permanent Representative to the United Nations – New York [PRUN – NY].	11,650
Headquarters- Suva	80,848
Total	**644,239**

NOTE 1: REPORTING ENTITY

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs promotes Fijian interests in other nations and on the world stage. This includes a broad range of activities from providing consular services to Fijians living overseas to organising high level visits to Fiji.

The Ministry develops and carries out Fiji's foreign policy and manages Fiji's relationships with other nations and with multi-national and sub-regional organizations like the United Nations and the Melanesian Spearhead Group. The Ministry is focused on securing the maximum benefits for Fiji from these relationships.

NOTE 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting / Presentation

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

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

(b) Accounting for Value Added Tax (VAT)

All expenses and revenue are VAT exclusive. The Ministry on a monthly basis takes out VAT output on total money received for expenditure from Ministry of Finance Strategic Planning, National Development & Statistics. VAT input on the other hand is claimed on payments made to suppliers and the sub-contractors for the expenses incurred.

The VAT payment as per the Statement of receipts and Expenditures relates to VAT input claimed on payments made to suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred. Actual amounts paid to FRCS during the year represent the difference between VAT Output and VAT Input.

(c) Comparative Figures

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

(d) **Revenue Recognition**

Revenue is recognized when cash is actually received by the Ministry.

Administration Fees is charged by the Overseas Missions for providing services such as processing of passports and visas, birth certificates and police clearance. All fees are retained by the Ministry; however most of the normal fees and charges for the above services are posted to the respective agencies FMIS general ledger.

NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS

(a) The Total Revenue collected increased by $478,632 or 48% in year 2024 as compared to 2023. This was majorly attributed to the increase in miscellaneous revenue collected during the year. This miscellaneous revenue consists of the normal fees and charges collected for other agencies from the Overseas Missions that needs to be reflected in the General Ledger

(b) The Total Expenditure increased by $6,012,550 or 21% in year 2024 as compared to 2023. The increase in expenditure is attributed to the re-opening of the two (2) new Missions. The two (2) new Missions are Fiji High Commission in Papua New Guinea and Fiji Embassy in Washington. The costs incurred consists of the appointment and deployment of Diplomats, the establishment and operating costs of the new Missions. It is also noted the increase is also attributed to the Capital construction in which the Fiji Government properties refurbishment took place in the Fiji High Commission in London, Canberra and Wellington in the last Quarter of the financial year.

NOTE 4: SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS

There was a savings of 28% noted for the financial year in the Capital Construction with the estimated budget provision of $2.2m. In which most of the construction activities took place in the 4th Quarter of the financial year, leaving more savings available for redeployment.

NOTE 5: APPROPRIATION CHANGES

In terms of appropriation changes, the following Virements were processed as follows:

The Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs approved the following transfer of funds during the financial year ended 31 July 2024:

VIREMENT NO.	FROM	AMOUNT ($)	TO	AMOUNT ($)
DV0801	Repair & Maintenance	10,210	Lease and Rent	10,210
DV0802	UNDP Regional Office	47,700	Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission	47,700
DV0803	UNDP Regional Office	23,000	International Criminal Court	23,000
DV0804	FNPF	85,000	Lease and Rent	85,000
DV0805	UNDP Regional Office	23,010	China G77	23,010
DV0806	UNDP Regional Office	16,000	Office books, periodical and publication	$16,000
DV0807	Various	115,000	Various	115,000
DV0808	Various	50,200	Various	50,200
DV0809	Lease and Rent	37,683	Lease and Rent	37,683
DV0810	Various	116,000	Various	116,000
DV0811	International Law of the Sea	14,000	International Red Cross	14,000
DV0812	Various	150,000	Travel	150,000
DV0813	Colombo Plan	38,069	Subsistence – FE Geneva	38,069
DV0814	Various	842,290	Various	842,290

The Permanent Secretary and the Honourable Minister for Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development & Statistics had approved the following transfer of funds during the period.

VIREMENT NO.	FROM	AMOUNT ($)	TO	AMOUNT ($)	APPROVED BY
V08001/24	FNPF	$6,000	Wages	$6,000	PS
V08002/24	Various	$145,300	Various	$145,300	PS
V08003/24	Various	$462,490	Various	$462,490	PS
V08004/24	Various	$2,768,090	Various	$2,768,090	HM

The Cabinet approved the re-deployment of funds from Head 8 via Cabinet Decision 250/2024

REDEPLOYMENT NO	TRANSFER FROM	TRANSFER TO	AMOUNT ($)
RED 01	HEAD 08	HEAD 41	981,801
RED 01	HEAD 08	HEAD 43	168,199
	Total		**1,150,000**

NOTE 6: BANK ACCOUNTS MAINTAINED BY MISSIONS

For the year ending 31 July 2024, there were altogether 13 overseas bank accounts for the ten (10) existing Fiji Overseas Missions. From these 10 Missions, seven (7) have one (1) bank accounts each and these are for Fiji Embassy Abu Dhabi, Fiji High Commission Canberra, Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Missions (PRUN) - New York, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United and Other International Organisation (PRUNOG) - Geneva, Fiji Embassy Tokyo, Fiji High Commission London and Fiji High Commission Wellington. The remaining three (3) Missions have two (2) bank accounts each and these are Fiji Embassy Jakarta, Fiji Embassy Beijing and Fiji High Commission New Delhi.

A total of $1,939,261 was recorded in the FMIS General Ledger under SAG51 for the year ending 31 July 2024.