

FIJI PARLIAMENT SUPPORT PROJECT (FPSP)



The Fiji Parliament Support Project (FPSP) was initially a three-year project implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

From January to September 2014, FPSP provided support to the Government of Fiji and the Fiji Parliament as it prepared for the resumption of parliamentary democracy. Following Fiji's national election on 17 September 2014, the project provided support to the Parliament in undertaking its legislative, oversight and representation functions.

In 2016, it was agreed to develop a new phase of UNDP support to the Fiji Parliament.

FPSP Phase II is a 4 year project (2017-2020) that builds on progress made during the first phase.



UNDP's support to the Fiji Parliament has been funded by the European Union and the Governments of New Zealand, Australia and Japan.



Fiji Parliament Support Project

FPSP

Phases I & II



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STRENGTHENING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES IN FIJI

Sustainable Development Goal 16 is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

FPSP's overall objective is to contribute to the transition to democracy and strengthen rule of law in Fiji. Specifically, it aims to ensure that systems and processes are in place to provide for a parliament that can efficiently and effectively undertake its legislative, oversight and representative roles. In doing so, the project supports the broader objective of strengthening good governance and development outcomes in Fiji.



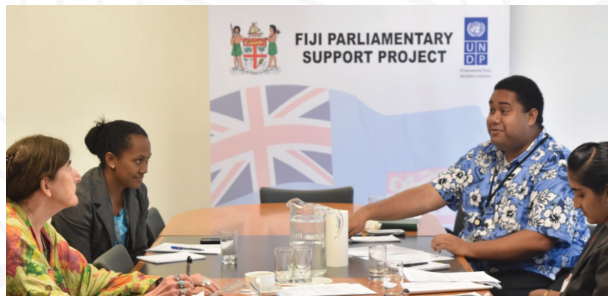
Ms Viniana Namosi,
Secretary-General of the Fiji Parliament:

"As Secretary-General, I have witnessed the positive impact this project has had on the workings of our institution. Parliament staff are more confident and relaxed in carrying out their tasks, in large part because of the continued attachments, exposure and practice they have benefited from.

The technical assistance provided has encouraged our committees to operate more effectively. Civic engagement and civic education have improved, and we look forward to strengthening this further in the future."

PARLIAMENT STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Since a significant number of Parliament staff had no previous work experience in Parliament, there was an urgent need to equip the secretariat with skills and knowledge on their new roles.



Staff undergoing procedural training

Through FPSP, a Professional Development Programme was set up for Parliament staff, including workshops in Fiji, placements and short term secondments with other Parliaments, participation in relevant regional and global training events and courses, and placement of advisers and experts from abroad in Parliament to mentor and assist staff.

TAKING PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE

FPSP has been assisting Parliament in developing and implementing a civic education and outreach programme. The programme has included school visits to raise the profile of the Parliament, educate, inform and encourage community development with Parliament. The programme has included visits to villages, outlying islands, schools and communities around Fiji.

At the request of the Honourable Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni, FPSP launched a series of Speaker's Debates on the Sustainable Development Goals and key development issues.

These Debates are public events at which the Hon. Speaker presides over a panel discussion, followed by a Q&A, on a Sustainable Development Goal of particular relevance to Fiji.

Speaker's Debates have been organised on a range of topics including gender-based violence, climate change, education and economic growth.

BUILDING THE CAPACITIES OF MPs

Key to ensuring that the Fiji Parliament is effective in implementing its legislative, oversight and representation functions is the capacity of MPs. Following on from an initial induction programme for MPs after the September 2014 election, FPSP has rolled out a professional development programme for MPs consisting of trainings, workshops, conferences, attachments in other Parliaments and field visits.



Members of Parliament on a field visit during the workshop on Extractive Industries

STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENT COMMITTEES

Standing Committees in the Fiji Parliament have both legislative and oversight functions. FPSP has been working with the Fiji Parliament to provide training to Committee members and Committee staff as well as dedicated technical assistance. During phase I of project support, the main focus of support was the work of the Public Accounts Committee with additional support being rolled out to the other Standing Committees.