

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TOWARDS THE COMMISSION IS ASSURED - AG

It was an auspicious occasion for the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC), as it was not only the Induction Training for its Officers after a lapse of seven (7) years but also the launch of the Strategic Plan for the next five (5) years from 2024 – 2029 at the RB Harbourpoint in Lami on Monday 12 February 2024.

The Induction Training was opened by the Acting Deputy Commissioner, Ms Francis Puleiwai with the Honourable Attorney - General and Minister for Justice Siromi Turaga as the Chief Guest for the event.

In his key note address, the Honourable Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Siromi Turaga stated that the Government fully supports the Commission. "Your government willingly and ready to support and assist FICAC, recognize the central role FICAC plays in Fiji's anti-corruption efforts which is only made possible through the individual and collective efforts of staff of FICAC and the leadership of the Deputy Commissioner", said Honourable Attorney General.

"Let me reassure you, you have my full support and that you're going to provide the same level of trust, corporation and assistance that you have vested in your previous Commissioner and those before him to the current

Acting Commissioner', stated Honourable Attorney General.

The Honourable Attorney General also mentioned FICAC being the forefront of Fiji's anti-corruption efforts and is responsible for not only combatting corruption but promoting integrity as well.

"This morning (Monday, 12 February 2024) I would like to acknowledge and applaud FICAC's efforts in working diligently to investigate, prosecute and prevent corrupt practices which not only protect our nation's resources but also upholds the principles of fairness and justice. FICAC plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the integrity of our public institutions and preserving the trust of our citizens. FICAC's vision of "Ensuring the People of Fiji live a life free of corruption" is one that deeply resonates with aspirations and the anti-corruption efforts," said the Honourable Attorney General.

In the welcoming address, Acting Deputy Commissioner Ms Francis Puleiwai stated that it was an honour in having the

Attorney-General present during the opening of the Induction Training.

"Your presence here today signifies the Government's unwavering commitment to fighting corruption, upholding transparency, accountability and the rule of law and upholding the highest standards of integrity in our nation", said Ms Puleiwai.

Ms Puleiwai stated that the annual induction served as a platform for existing FICAC Officers and the new recruits to share knowledge, solidify their commitment to FICAC's mission and equip them with the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding in order to be able to excel in their respective roles.

Ms Puleiwai urged the Officers to approach the Induction Training with an open mind, and to remain vigilant in the fight against corruption. "The ever-evolving landscape of corruption demands constant adaptation and innovation. This training program will provide us with the tools and strategies we need to stay ahead of the curve and effectively combat this complex issue.", said Ms Puleiwai.

The FICAC Officers were reminded to uphold the highest ethical standards, to embrace diversity and inclusion, to foster collaboration and teamwork, to be adaptable and innovative and most importantly to never lose sight of the human impact.

"At the Commission, we are guided by the core values of integrity, professionalism, accountability and collaboration. These values are the bedrock of our success, and I urge all of you to uphold them in everything you do", said Ms. Puleiwai.

As custodians of hope and champions of Justice, the FICAC Officers were reminded to wear their badge with pride and dignity, to carry out their duties with integrity and to never lose sight of the purpose in which the Commission was established which was to build a nation where there is no room for corruption, where justice always prevails and where the People of Fiji can live a life free of Corruption.

The week-long Induction Training concludes on Friday, 16 February 2024.

FICAC LAUNCHES STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2024 - 2029

The Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC) has launched its Strategic Plan for the next five (5) years from 2024 to 2029.



FICAC Acting Deputy Commissioner Ms Francis Puleiwai with the Honourable Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Siromi Turaga launching the FICAC Strategic Plan.

The launch of the Strategic Plan was officiated by the Honourable Attorney - General and Minister for Justice Siromi Turaga during the annual Induction Training for FICAC which took place at the RB Convention Centre in Lami on Monday, 12 February 2024.

During the launch of the Strategic Plan, Acting Deputy Commissioner Ms Francis Puleiwai said that the Strategic Plan was not just a document but a declaration of war against the insidious cancer of corruption that threatens to erode the foundations of society.

"This plan is not just us, the FICAC. It is yours, the citizens who demands a just and equitable society, it belongs to every business owner who yearns for a level playing field, every public servant who strives for ethical conduct, and every young person who dreams of a future untainted by corruption", said Ms Puleiwai.

Ms Puleiwai stated that the Strategic Plan outlines FICAC's unwavering commitment to prevention, enforcement, education and collaboration. Over the past five (5) years, FICAC has made significant strides in enhanced detection and investigation, prevention and education as well as strengthening institutional framework.

With the theme of "**Strengthening our Commitments Against Corruption**", the Strategic Plan outlines the five key focus areas and comprehensive strategies which emphasizes on proactive risk identification and mitigation, targeted enforcement actions, building a culture of integrity, strengthening partnerships, continuous improvement and innovation.

The first key focus area on Organisation Transformation to Leverage Performance, FICAC intends to enhance its investigative

capacity, strengthen case management systems and adopt data driven approaches for decision making.

The second key focus area on Effective Contribution to Good Governance aims at how FICAC will actively work with Government agencies, civil societies, private sectors and the youth to promote Good Governance practices and prevent corruption.

The third key focus area is on Realising prospects under mandates and it looks at educating the public against the evils of corruption as well as focusing on recovering stolen assets.

Fostering greater collaboration and support is the fourth key focus area of the Strategic Plan. It is aimed at strengthening partnerships with law enforcement agencies, regional and international anti-corruption commissions

and organisation to share best practices and leverage collective expertise in the fight against corruption.

The fifth and final key focus area is on Creditable Public Image and FICAC aims to build and maintain its public image through transparency, accountability and open dialogue with the general public addressing concerns and earning their trust.

In her concluding remarks, Ms Puleiwai stated that the fight against corruption is a continuous journey and requires a collective effort. "We urge all stakeholders, including Government Officials, businesses, civil society organisations and the public including you to join hands and work together in implementing this Strategic Plan and creating a brighter future for Fiji", said Ms Puleiwai.