

# NA DAUNIFIKA

April 2020, issue 5

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Office of the Auditor General Fiji



Audit Office Fiji



*The Auditor-General Mr. Ajay Nand and the Acting Secretary-General to Parliament Ms. Viniana Namosimalua*

Greetings and welcome to the April, 2020 issue of the “Na Daunifika”.

In this newsletter you will find the following articles:

- Parliament will now evaluate and appoint external auditors for the OAG
- OAG implements strategies in light of COVID-19
- OAG awards the best Post-Graduate Auditing student
- The Commonwealth Auditors-General Conference Postponed
- The AG chairs the 22<sup>nd</sup> PASAI Governing Board Meeting
- Recently tabled OAG report
- A new Strategic Direction for OAG
- Risk Management –Not as Complex as it sounds
- International Woman’s Day and Holi celebrations
- Meetings and Trainings Update
- Contribute to Audits in Fiji.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) and the Office of the Secretary General to Parliament to clearly demarcate the responsibility of the appointment of the External Auditors for the OAG on 11 February, 2020.

Prior to the execution of this MoA, the OAG advertised and evaluated the expressions of interest/tender submissions for the appointment of the External Auditors. At the conclusion of the evaluation process, the OAG submitted a recommendation to the Speaker of Parliament for endorsement.

The MoA was signed by the Acting Secretary-General to Parliament Ms. Viniana Namosimalua and the Auditor-General Mr. Ajay Nand at the Parliament Complex on 11 February, 2020.

On receipt of the recommendation, the Speaker of Parliament then endorsed the appointment of an External Auditor to audit the accounts of the OAG.

The Auditor-General Mr. Ajay Nand said, “Transferring this role to the Parliament will promote greater independence and transparency in the selection and appointment of the next External Auditor for the OAG”.

## OAG implements strategies in light of COVID - 19

OAG has come up with measures to best cope with the drastic effects of the Global Pandemic COVID-19 and be able to deliver its mandate to the Parliament.

The safety and well-being of its staff has always been a priority of the Office and as such safety equipment such as face masks, gloves, hand sanitizers and disinfectants have been made available.

OAG has also implemented a Work from Home Policy which has provided Staff with the flexibility to work in a contained and safer environment.

The Office was operating remotely from 4 April, 2020 – 14 April, 2020 in line with the directive from the Government to close all non-essential services.

Staff from the Nadi Office and the Suva Office were also affected by the lockdown however, these restrictions did not hinder the OAG to continue on its role.

## The Commonwealth Auditors-General Conference Postponed

The XXIV Commonwealth Auditors-General Conference is postponed till further notice.

OAG has made this decision in light of the COVID-19 global pandemic, keeping in mind the safety and wellbeing of all participants and stakeholders.

The Conference was to happen from the 26 – 28 May, 2020 at the Sofitel Resort & Spa in Denarau, Nadi.



## OAG Awards the best Post-Graduate Auditing student

The OAG has proudly sponsored the best Post-Graduate Auditing Student of the Fiji National University for the year 2019 with the “Office of the Auditor-General” award during the FNU graduation ceremony on 12 March, 2020.

The Deputy Auditor-General Mr. Sairusi Dukuno presented the Office Award to Mr. Bijen Singh who was the recipients for the Best Post Graduate Auditing Student for 2019. Mr. Singh graduated with a Master of Commerce in Accounting.

The Office has partnered with Fiji National University to strengthen public awareness on the roles and responsibilities of OAG.

A three-year Memorandum of Agreement between OAG and FNU was signed in October 2018 on award for the most outstanding postgraduate auditing student.



*The Deputy Auditor-General Mr. Sairusi Dukuno and Mr. Bijen Singh*

## The AG chairs the 22<sup>nd</sup> Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institution (PASAI) Governing Board meeting.

The Auditor-General, Mr. Ajay Nand attended a 2 day meeting for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) Governing Board meeting in Auckland, New Zealand from the 27 - 28 February, 2020.

Mr. Nand is the current chair of the PASAI Governing Board. The Governing Board discussed strategic, governance, and operational issues which included the proposed PASAI's Operational Plan 2020/21, related budget and updates to operations, policies and procedure.

The Governing Board sets Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institution's direction and oversees the activities of its Secretariat including the formulation of strategies and policies for the PASAI Secretariat.



*L-R: Ms Sarah Markley (Deputy Secretary-General, Director of International Engagement, NZ OAG), Mr John Ryan (Secretary-General, New Zealand Controller & Auditor-General), Mr Ajay Nand (Chairperson, Fiji Auditor-General), Mr Satrunino Tewid (Incoming Chair, Palau Public Auditor).*

## A new Strategic Direction for OAG



*The OAG Staff with the Consultants for the Strategic Plan at the Workshop*

The Office of the Auditor-General had a three day workshop for the development of its 5 year Strategic Plan at the Novotel Convention Centre, Lami from the 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

The OAG 2021-2025 Strategic Plan has been developed in consultation with the OAG Staff, clients and relevant stakeholders.

OAG 2021-2025 strategic plan is to be launched in June this year.

## Recently Tabled Auditor-General's Reports to Parliament

### January – April, 2020

The OAG reports are available on [www.oag.gov.fj](http://www.oag.gov.fj)

#### Parliamentary Paper number 11 of 2020:

#### Performance Audit on Management of Traffic Congestion

**Background:** This audit was carried out to assess whether the institutional framework for the management of Traffic Congestion along the Suva-Nausori corridor are adequate and effective.

#### This Report contains:

- The extent of implementing the existing and proposed frameworks and institutional arrangements in managing the road congestion problem along the Suva-Nausori corridor
- The efforts of the lead agencies in the form of congestion management strategies and initiatives are effective and efficient.
- whether monitoring and reporting arrangements over the implementation of the framework, strategies and initiatives are effective

## Risk Management – not as complex as it sounds

When we hear or talk about risk management we think about it as a difficult topic. Little do we realize that this is an exercise at the center of all our actions?

We take what is called calculated risk on a daily basis in everything we do based on our thought patterns and understanding. This is a part of the cultural and moral values which we surround ourselves with.

The Office is looking at complying with the International Standards that guide the risk management framework.

At OAG, risk management is still in its early days and the Risk and Compliance Officer Ms. Rajnita Singh has been creating awareness through the months of January and February, 2020.

Ms Singh states “Risk is everyone’s responsibility”. Six sessions of the first phase of the awareness training has been completed. She has also compiled a Web based session on risk culture and its importance.

Apart from the above mentioned efforts OAG has also approved an OAG Risk Management and Compliance Policy.

More trainings and workshops are planned for the rest of the year.



*Ms. Rajnita Singh with some members of the Corporate Services team during a Risk training session*

## International Women’s Day & Holi – Celebrations

The Office celebrated International Women’s Day and Holi the festival of colors in its unique tradition on 13 March, 2020. The International Women’s Day was celebrated internationally on 08 March 2020 while Holi the Hindu festival of colors was celebrated on 10 March 2020.

Staff from the Suva and Nadi Office participated in the celebrations by delivering speeches, presentations and exploring the significance of celebrating International Women’s Day and Holi. OAG is composed of 58% female staff.

Speaking about the International Women’s Day the Auditor-General Mr. Ajay Nand said, “OAG strongly supports equality and does not discriminate anyone based on gender, color, creed or religion etc”.

Women in OAG are encouraged to pursue excellence and to continually stride towards new heights in their career.



*OAG Staff striking a hand gesture for the woman’s day celebrations*

# Meetings and Trainings

## Public Accounts Committee Meeting

From January – March, 2020 the Office was represented during the Standing Committee on Public Accounts hearings held in various locations around Fiji.

The meetings at the Sigatoka Town Council Boardroom and at the Airports Fiji Limited premises was held on 21 January 2020 while the meeting at the Ba Town Council and the Rakiraki Town Council was held on 22 January 2020.

Similarly, the Bua Provincial Council meeting was held on 23 January 2020 whereas the Labasa Town Council meeting was held on 24 January 2020.

Two meetings were also held at the Parliament Precinct on 6 February 2020 and 19 March 2020.



*Audit Manager Ms. Makereta Dyer, The members of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts Committee and the representatives of the Bua Provincial Council.*

## Overseas trainings and meetings

The Auditor-General, Mr. Ajay Nand attended the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institution, Governing Board Meeting from the 27-28 February, 2020 in Auckland New Zealand. The workshop was on the Oversight of Pacific Finance Workshop 2019.

Mr. Nand is the current Chairperson of the PASAI Governing Board.



*The AG visited the Nadi Office staff in February 2020.*

## Local trainings and meetings

- Mr. Isikeli Guivalu attended the Records Management Training on 29 January, 2020 at the Ministry of Civil Service, Nasese.
- OAG Risk Awareness training was held for the Suva and Nadi Office in February, 2020.
- The Management and Staff participated in a 3 day Strategic Planning Workshop on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 12 -13 February, 2020 at the Novotel in Lami.
- Mr. Ashish Kumar attended the Records Management Training on 19 February, 2020 at the Ministry of Civil Service, Nasese.
- 12 Officers from various groups attended a Time Management Training offered by USP on 24 February, 2020 at the USP Workforce Training Campus in Suva.
- International Accounting Standards (19) which was an In House training held on the 26 February, 2020.
- Officers Ms. Unaisi Namositava and Ms. Jane Motufaga attended a two day, Fiji Business Excellence Award Submission writing Workshop in Suva.
- Ms. Sharon Dipitika attended a two day training on Social Media Marketing from the 9 – 10 March 2020 at the USP Workforce Training Campus in Suva.
- Ms. Loveleen Chetty, Ms. Malini Narayan and Ms. Ranjani Lata attended a training on Finance for Non-Finance on 14 March at USP.
- Mr. Mitieli Nawaqavou, Ms. Sulueti Cakau, Mr. Seremia Delana and Mr. Samuela Tupou attended the Fiji Institute of Accountants Technical Workshop from the 13 – 14 March at the Warwick Resort.



*Officers from the Suva and Nadi Offices participated in a Time Management training held at the University of the South Pacific TAFE Centre in Walubav Suva.*

Visit our website [www.oag.gov.fj](http://www.oag.gov.fj) to get more information on how you can be part of the National Audit process.



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