



Fiji Parliament Support Project

*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Final Project Quarterly Report

01 January – 31 March 2017

Prepared for the Project Steering Committee

Funded by:



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Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of activities undertaken by the Fiji Parliament Support Project (FPSP) in the period January – March 2017. In 2016, the FPSP Steering Committee agreed that the FPSP project should be extended by 3 months to allow for implementation of final project activities and expenditure of final project funds.

Quarter 1, January - March 2017 was the final quarter of FPSP implementation while it is also the first quarter of implementation for Phase II of the project. This report covers only the final quarter of FPSP. A separate report has been developed which covers activities implemented under the first quarter of project implementation for Phase II of FPSP. Therefore, the list of activities included in this report is limited.

The focus of project activities in the final stages of FPSP continued to be aimed at strengthening the institution rather than the ‘parliament creation’ activities that were prominent in 2014 and 2015.

A summary of activities implemented during this quarter is listed below. Please note that these are activities implemented and funded by FPSP only and concurrently to this a separate list of activities was being implemented through funding of the FPSP Phase II:

Dates	Events	Status
7 Feb	Handbook launch	Implemented
21 Feb	FPSP Steering Committee	Implemented
6 March	Committee Clerks training	Implemented
5 March	Procedural Workshop for MPs on wording motions & questions	Implemented
10 March	Committee Clerks training	Implemented
13 March	Launch Gender Analysis Toolkit	Implemented
13 March	Attendance of Committee staff member to Australia Parliament Inter-Parliamentary Study Program	Implemented
15 March	Launch of Cards, Scripts for Schools	Implemented
17 March	Media – Parliament Roundtable	Implemented
28 March	Speakers Debate – NCDs	Implemented

In addition to the above, preparation for a number of other activities and launches were put in place. Notably, the launch of the new website and parliament app for smartphones developed by FPSP is scheduled to be held in Q2 of 2017.

Project Summary

The Fiji Parliament Support Project (FPSP) is a three-year project designed to provide support to the Parliament of Fiji in two inter-linked phases. The first phase from January-September 2014 provided support to the Government of Fiji and the Fiji Parliament as it prepared for the resumption of parliamentary democracy. The second phase of support started soon after the national election on 17th September 2014 and will continue until December 2016. This second phase is aimed at supporting the Parliament to undertake its legislative, oversight and representation functions.

The project is managed and implemented by UNDP. A Project Steering Committee has been set up to function as the overall management structure for the project and will oversee transparency, accountability and efficiency of the project operations as well as assess opportunities, risks and political challenges and link the project to other relevant Government and development partners initiatives. From January 2014 to September 2014, UNDP liaised with the Office of the Solicitor General as the main government focal point for any support to the Fiji Parliament in the absence of a Secretary General to Parliament. Following the appointment of the Secretary General to Parliament and Speaker in September 2014, UNDP has been liaising with the Office of Secretary General and Speaker for any support to the Fiji Parliament.

The project is supported and funded by the European Union, Government of Japan, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and UNDP. In addition, the project also receives ‘in kind’ technical support from the Australian Parliament’s Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships programme (PPP).

Intervention

The project is designed as outlined in the FPSP project document, has an overall objective, a specific objective, expected outcomes and project activities.

a. Overall Objective

The overall objective is to contribute to the transition to democracy and the rule of law in Fiji.

b. Specific Objectives

To contribute to the preparation of the Fiji Parliament for its resumption in 2014 and to ensure that the systems and processes are in place to provide for a parliament that can efficiently and effectively undertake its legislative, oversight and representative roles, with a view to strengthening good governance and development outcomes in Fiji.

c. Expected Outcomes

Outcome 1: The re-established Parliament of Fiji has the capacity to effectively scrutinize draft laws, oversee the executive branch of government and represent citizens;

Outcome 2: The Parliament of Fiji is recognised as an inclusive place for dialogue and a venue that reflects the interests of all citizens.

d. Project Activities

Activity 1: Support the establishment and capacity building of the Parliament of Fiji to effectively scrutinise legislation, oversee the executive and represent citizens.

Activity 2: Support the Parliament of Fiji to foster inclusive dialogue processes and the active engagement of citizens.

Key Achievements

The following are the key achievements by FPSP in its final quarter of implementation:

Activity 1: Support the establishment and capacity building of the Parliament of Fiji to effectively scrutinise legislation, oversee the executive and represent citizens.

Output 1.1 - Parliament as an Institution Strengthened

Activity 1.1.2 Capacity Development provided to Parliament Secretariat and Secretary General

Committee Clerks Training (Two sessions – first on 10th March and second on 13th March)

The Secretary General agreed to ‘refresher training’ workshops of two days for the Committee Unit staff of Parliament and UNDP agreed to organise and facilitated these sessions. The first session (10th March) was for newly arrived staff; the second (13th March) was for more experienced staff present since the establishment of Parliament.

The workshop’s objective was to enable delegates to understand the basic procedures for the ‘core’ parliamentary functions as set out in the key procedural documents; to be able to identify and to



refer

in detail to the technical rules governing these matters; and to introduce them to the breadth of skills and knowledge required of a parliamentary procedural official. In so doing, this would help place their committee unit functions in context.

A total of 18 Committee staff (11 female and 7 male) received training from UNDP at these sessions. A full report on the training including evaluation feedback is available from the project team.

Attendance of Fiji Parliament staff at Australia Parliament Inter-Parliamentary Study Program

The Australian Parliament’s Inter-Parliamentary Study Program brings together parliamentary staff from around the world to:

- Learn about the procedures and practices of the Australian Parliament

- Share knowledge, ideas and experiences of parliamentary processes and administration
- Reflect on their own parliamentary practices and how they can be developed
- Establish networks for ongoing information sharing among parliamentary staff

The FPSP project contributed to the travel costs to allow senior Committee Officer Komal Khushboo to attend.

Activity 1.1.3: Support to the formulation of parliamentary procedures, processes and policies.

The project has been working with the Parliament to develop a practical publication explaining the way that the Parliament works. The handbook provides a broad overview of the procedures in the parliament and the roles of key personnel in Parliament.



The handbook is useful in the context of understanding the various steps and stages of passing a law in parliament, how MPs undertake their oversight roles, understanding the rights and responsibilities of Members of Parliament and outlining how to effectively engage citizens in the work of Parliament.

A copy of the handbook can be found on the Fiji Parliament website or can be obtained from the project team.

Output 1.2 – Members of Parliament knowledgeable about participatory law-making, oversight processes and representation.

Activity 1.2.1: Capacity development for newly elected members of Parliament developed and implemented.

Launch of gender analysis toolkit (12th March 2017)

During 2016, FPSP worked with the Fiji Parliament to develop a toolkit to provide assistance to committee members and staff when scrutinising legislation. The Parliament Standing Orders make it mandatory to consider the impact of legislation on both men and women equally. However, Committees have struggled





in implementing this requirement. The toolkit is designed to be a practical toolkit to assist Committees in their analysis.

The launch was held at Parliament on 12th March. The Speaker of Parliament, UNDP Resident Representative Osnat Lubrani and HE Andrew Jacobs speaking on behalf of the project donors, all spoke at the official launch which received widespread

coverage in the local media.

A copy of the gender toolkit is available on the UNDP and Fiji Parliament websites or can be provided by the project team.

Procedural Workshop for MPs on wording motions and questions (6th March)



The workshop held for all Members and selected staff was on the issue of the wording and drafting of parliamentary questions and motions. The workshop was held on Monday, 6 March 2017 at the Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva and was attended by Members and caucus staff from Fiji First, SODELPA and NFP, the Secretary-General and her Deputy, Director, Legislation and staff from the Tables Office.

UNDP acted as the principal facilitator and Wayne Tunnecliffe through PPP funding as the main resource person. The sessions covered the broad overview of the purpose of parliamentary questions and motions, using examples from numerous Parliaments to demonstrate both good and bad practice in relation to their drafting and commenting on issues that arose and answering questions during the day. The workshop was designed to be largely interactive with numerous video clips from the Australian House of Representatives, UK House of Commons, New Zealand House of Representatives and the Scottish Parliament.

Output 2.1: Members of Parliament are knowledgeable about coalition-building and negotiation skills and actively engage in dispute resolution.

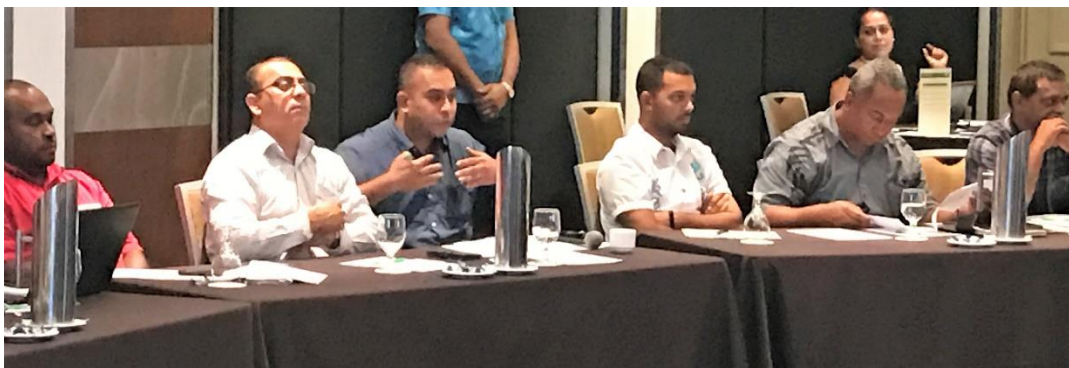
Activity 2.1.1: Caucus Support and Dialogue

Media training on parliamentary reporting and Parliament-media roundtable discussions (16th – 17th March)

On 16-17 March 2017, the project in conjunction with the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS), held a successful two-day forum on issues surrounding parliamentary reporting in Fiji.

It follows on from training for journalists in April 2016 organised by PACMAS with UNDP support that focused on the workings of the national parliament, and practical workshops on the challenges faced by parliamentary reporters, especially during the budget process. The 2016 training also included an element of on the job mentoring for journalists during a parliamentary sitting week.

Day 1 focussed on training for the media on parliamentary reporting while Day 2 saw the first-ever roundtable between MPs, the Parliamentary Secretariat, and journalists to discuss their concerns. The purpose of this activity was to allow a safe space for the three different stakeholders – media, Members of Parliament, Parliament Secretariat – to raise issues of concern and start a dialogue aimed at creating an understanding on their respective roles and the way in which all



stakeholders must work together to make the Fiji Parliament work more effectively.

17 media executives and

parliamentary reporters that had been identified by PACMAS attended the roundtable. The Parliament Secretariat was represented by the Secretary General the Deputy Secretary General and the Parliament media officer. Six Members of Parliament from Fiji First, SODELPA and NFP attended as well as two caucus staff.

A full report on the activity is available from the project team.

Output 2.2: Parliamentary Engagement with Citizens is Strengthened.

Activity 2.2.1: Support for General Public Outreach.

Launch of schools civic education materials (15th March)

On 15th March, the project launched civic education materials. The project has been working with the Parliament to develop education resources on the Parliament for schools. One set of information cards contains eight laminated cards with Activities and a Teacher's guide. Each card contains information relating to an aspect of the work of Parliament including:



- What is Parliament?
- How do we choose who will represent us?
- How does Parliament work?
- How does Parliament make laws?
- How does Parliament give people a voice in law-making?
- What is Parliament's role in making decisions about money?
- How is Government answerable for the decisions it makes?
- How can I participate in the work of Parliament?

The teacher's guide provides focus questions for each card and a glossary of Parliamentary terms. These Cards are intended to be used for both primary (Year 5 – 8) and secondary (Year 9 – 10) schools. Following the launch, the Information Cards will be distributed to all secondary throughout Fiji. The cards will also be made available online on the Fiji Parliament website. These cards were developed with the kind support of the New Zealand Parliament Education Services.

Speaker's Debate on SDGs and Key Development Issues (27th March)

On Monday 27th March, the seventh in the series of Speaker's Debates on SDGs and key development issues was held in Suva. The topic of the debate was – “Is it time for Fiji to toughen rules on junk food and drink to combat the diabetes and heart disease crisis?”.

The panel consisted of the Minister, an Opposition MP, a representative from the World Health



Organisation, an academic from FNU and a representative from Coca Cola.

Over 300 members of the public attended the event and the debate was also livestreamed to allow those living outside Suva to join the debate.

Project Management

The final project steering committee of the Fiji Parliament Support Project was held on 21st February. The project team, provided updates to the steering committee members on the work undertaken by the project and also provided an analysis of the way that the Fiji Parliament has developed and changed since the project began.

The project steering committee noted that the project still needs to undertake an evaluation and an advertisement has been developed to hire an independent consultant to undertake this terminal evaluation.



Annex 1:

DRAFT Financial Summary of the Expenditure Fiji Parliament Support Project for the period: 01 January – 31 March 2017.

Outcome 1: The re-established Parliament of Fiji has the capacity to effectively scrutinize draft laws, oversee the executive branch of government and represent citizens		
Output 1.1: Parliament as an Institution Strengthened		
Activity 1.1.1	Infrastructure and Hardware support provided.	\$ -
Activity 1.1.2	Capacity Development provided to Parliament Secretariat and Secretary General.	\$1,701.68
Activity 1.1.3	Support to the formulation of parliamentary procedures, processes and policies.	\$2,243.78
Output 1.2: Members of Parliament knowledgeable about participatory law-making, oversight processes and representation.		
Activity 1.2.1	Capacity Development for newly-elected Members of Parliament developed and implemented.	\$3,941.49
Activity 1.2.2	Research and Analysis of the Parliamentary Service strengthened.	\$2,607.56
Activity 1.2.3	Capacity building for MPs and Committee to address relevant human development issues.	\$917.19
Activity 1.2.4	Technical support and capacity development provided in law-making and oversight for Select Committees and the Public Accounts Committee.	\$5,069.28
Outcome 2: The Parliament of Fiji is recognised as an inclusive place for dialogue and a venue that reflects the interests of all citizens		
Output 2.1: Members of Parliament are knowledgeable about coalition-building and negotiation skills and actively engage in dispute resolution.		
Activity 2.1.1	Promoting coalition-building and dialogue	\$ 5,309.56
Activity 2.2.1	Support for General Public Outreach	\$23,678.08
Activity 3.1.1	Effective technical advisory services (P4, NOB, G5); Office Costs & Communication	\$13,996.42
TOTAL Expenses as of 31 March 2017		US\$59,465.04

Please note these figures are draft and subject to revision and final confirmation.