







# Issue 2

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# **Editorial**

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# Board Chairperson's Message



Vijay MAHARA

Board Member Water Authority of Fiji
Board Director Fiji Ports Corporation Limited

Hello and welcome to the second edition of The Connect, I hope you all liked reading Land Transport Authority's first issue of the news magazine.

I hope that the contents covered in the first issue were resourceful to the readers.

Some of the recent major activities of LTA have been, new taxi permit applications, priority taxi permit hand over, Agreement signing with Vodafone.

One of the major highlights of the year and for LTA has been the new taxi permit applications and processes, which is better explained in this issue.

I am glad that the LTA news magazine is able to disseminate the needful information to all the stakeholders of LTA.

The magazine is aimed at ensuring regular communication with one and all so that we are better able to inform our customers and also create a safer road for all Fijians and provide efficient customer services.

On this note, I wish to convey my sincere thanks to you all for reading our magazine and providing us with positive feedbacks that have been an encouragement to the team at LTA.

# Chairperson

Vijay Maharaj

# Editor-in-Chief's Message



Navilesh **CHAN**E

General Manager Legal, Policy & Business Development
BA, LL.B. PDLP. PGDip. Gov. MA. Accredited Mediator - ACDC & IAMA - Aust

Bula and welcome to The Connect, the second issue of our bi-monthly news magazine. I'm delighted to bring you this issue that will provide you with the latest happenings at the LTA.

Before going onto the details of this issue, I would like to thank everyone for welcoming our magazine and providing us with positive feedbacks that has motivated my team to do more.

As we go along, we will continue to bring you with more news stories and articles related to the progress of LTA, our new services and road safety tips and messages.

In this issue, you will find a wide range of events that had unfolded in the month of May and June. It includes enforcement and awareness issues on road safety, the new system of taxi permit application and more details on the Accident Compensation Commission of Fiji.

In this issue, we have also profiled the ACCF chief executive, Parvez Akbar and outlined his plans for the future of ACCF.

I thank you once again for your interest with our magazine and wish you a good read!

# **Editor-In-Chief**

Navilesh Chand

**About Us:** The Transport Control Board (TCB) was established in 1955 to control, regulate and administer road service licenses for the operation of bus services. The TCB consisted of a Chairman and four members who were appointed by the Governor then, Sir Ronald Garvey.

The beginning of the new transport industry necessitated the release of functions and responsibilities for registration, and licensing of motor vehicles and drivers of the Principal Licensing Authority in 1962 by the Commissioner of Police, to the Controller of Transport & Civil Aviation. This formed the basis of the establishment of the Department of Transport and Civil Aviation, the latter, being the responsibility of Colonial Secretary up to that point in time.

The need to improve financial management and operation efficiency through effective management systems led to the merger of the functions and operations of the Transport Control Board (TCB), Central Traffic Authority (CTA) and Principal Licensing Authority (PLA) under the administrative arm of the then Department of Road Transport.

The Land Transport Authority was established under the Land Transport Act 1998 persuant to section 6, a body corporate with perpetual succession. The Land Transport Act had also then established a series of Regulations for its regulatory operations and continues to have subsequent ammendments to the land transport laws to ensure modernised service delivery

# 15 Professional Vehicle Inspectors Graduate

Integrity and safety were the key message delivered to the newly graduated 15 professional vehicle inspectors.

The LTA recently signed contracts with eight automotive companies to be the Authorised Motor Vehicle Inspection Agencies therefore, the 15 graduates have good opportunities to explore their careers with them.

The inspectors who graduated from the Fiji National University, were reminded of this at their graduation ceremony in May.

With the outsourcing of vehicle inspections by LTA there is a demand in the job market for qualified vehicle inspectors.

The outsourcing of vehicle inspections is a step forward for LTA in providing convenience to customers.

Moreover, this enables LTA to better utilize human resources and assets in other areas.

In years to come, LTA intends to fully outsource vehicle inspections so only Public Service Vehicles and heavy vehicles will be inspected at LTA offices.

Millennium Lautoka

Quick Stop

Kings Way

The eight motor vehicle inspection agents are:

- Asco Motors
- Carpenters
- Motor Management
- Dee Ace
- Millennium Nadi,

These agencies are:

- · Asco Motors Labasa
- · Carpenters Motors Lautoka
- Motorex Nadi
- Kia Motors Suva.

Why Outsource Vehicle Inspection?

- Decentralize inspections to private and commercial vehicle. This would mean customers will have the ease of visiting these vehicle inspection agencies in their close proximity.
- Have less vehicles processed by our vehicles examiners, hence vehicle inspection turn around time is improved.
- Increase efficiency in LTA's vehicle renewal and wheel tax adminstration processing by the Customer Service Officers.
- Creating job opportunities for Fijians with relevant qualifications and experience, therefore adding to our economy.
- Improving the services given by stakeholders, hence empowering the automotive industry in Fiji.

In June, four more motor vehicle inspection agencies were contracted by LTA.



LTA Graduate Engineer Razik Khan, General Manager Technical Operations Faiyum Ali, Fiji National University Head of School for Transport Etuate Koroi and Fotu Yavala with the 15 new vehicle inspectors in Samabula, Suva.



Vehicle owners sometimes modify their vehicles to give them an exclusive appearance, to improve their performance, to add desired features or change or alternate engines/suspensions.

There are also owners who modify their vehicles to suit the specific purpose. Whatever, the reason, it is very important for vehicle owners to be aware and mindful of the consequences such alterations may have on their vehicles.

Any changes, alteration, replacement or substitution that is inequivalent to the original (from the manufacturer) type, make, model and year of manufacture of vehicle is termed as modification.

Moreover, illegal modification of vehicles in the past have led to the malfunction of the vehicles and fire incidents.

Vehicle owners are advised that as per Regulation 38 (1) of the Land Transport (Vehicle Registration and Construction) Regulations 2000, modifications to the following features of a motor vehicle may be made only with prior approval from the Land Transport Authority:

- a. Suspension;
- b. Length of the chassis;
- c. The part of the chassis where the chassis number or vehicle identification number appears;
- d. The forks or the frame of a motor cycle;
- e. Wheel base and track;
- f. Number of axles;

- g. Steering or steering geometry;
- h. Brakes:
- i. The number of seating positions;
- j. Increasing the Unladen mass, Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) or Gross Combination Mass (GCM) by more than 50kg;
- k. Emission control equipment including exhaust system; and
- Engine if such modification or engine substitution were such as to change the vehicle's engine capacity or performance substantially.

The following documentations must be submitted with the application for motor vehicle modification to the LTA:

- a. A plan on the work to be carried out;
- b. Specifications;
- c. Photographs; and
- d. An Engineers certificate.

During the modification phase, certified LTA Officers will conduct stage inspections to ensure compliance to the approved plan and final approval of the modification will be given upon final inspections at the LTA inspection center.



- Heat
- Vibration
- Material Fatigue / Malfunction
- Failure in the Electrical System
- Inadequate Maintenance

# **Note to all Bus Operators:**

- Ensure that bus drivers are familiar with the bus they are driving
- Ensure that the bus is equiped with fire safety tools
- Fleet maintenance must be done regularly and thoroughly
- Any bus modifications must be done with prior approval from the Authority.
- Conserve energy Reduce smoke emissions

# For more information Contact:

Central Eastern: 339 2166 estern: 666 1177 8811833

0800 334 2886

Email: online@lta.com.fi Web: www.lta.com.fj

**Text Free to Complaints** 

From Management & Staff of LTA

# Promoting Fuel - Conserving

# Eco - Driving

Vehicle emissions are among many other contributing factors that damages our environment.

Therefore, a timely message to all drivers to consider eco-driving, importantly at all times and protect the environment from damages caused by vehicle emissions.

Eco-driving is the practice of driving in such a way to minimize fuel consumption and the emission of carbon dioxide or in other words vehicle smoke.

# Here are tips for fuel and conserving eco-driving:

# 1.Accelerate Gently

Think 'eco-start' when you accelerate— Increasing your speed at a relaxed pace, to 20km/hr in 5 seconds, boost fuel efficiency by 10%. Gentle acceleration also contributes to safer driving.

# 2. Maintain a Steady Speed and Keep your Distance

Maintain a suitably steady speed for safe and fuel-efficient driving. Tailgating leads to unnecessary acceleration/ deceleration, resulting in 2% and 6% lower fuel efficiency.

### 3. Slow Down by releasing the Accelerator

Releasing the accelerator when recognizing the need to slow down (e.g., at changing traffic lights) stops the fuel supply, resulting in a 2% gain in fuel efficiency. Use your engine's braking function whenever appropriate, including on downhill

# 4. Don't warm up or idle your engine

Today most passenger cars don't require warming up, so start off slowly right after turning on the ignition. When waiting or loading/unloading, make a habit of turning your engine off instead of letting it idle.

# 5. Check your Tire Pressure regularly

Driving on tires which have the air pressure of 50kPa(0.5kg/cm2) lower than it should decrease fuel efficiency by 2% in urban areas and 4% in suburban areas. Timely replacement of engine oil and items such as oil filters and air cleaner elements also contributes to increased fuel efficiency.

# 6. Reduce your Load

Onboard weight is a key factor in fuel efficiency performance. Driving with 100kg of unnecessary onboard weight causes a 3% loss in fuel efficiency. Another factor is your vehicle's aerodynamic drag which you can reduce by removing exterior rack equipment.

It is also very important to note that warming up a vehicle engine is necessary only in extremely cold climates or after long periods of non-use, stepping on the brake pedal repeatedly during engine shutdown for auto start vehicles may diminish braking power and excessive shutting down and restarting may drain the batteries, resulting in engine start-up failure.

Source: Japan Automoblie Manufacturers Association



# 43 Fijians Get P



The Land Transport Authority, handed-over 43 priority taxi permits to successful applicants last month.

The priority taxi permits were officially handed over to the recipients by the Acting Prime Minister and Attorney-General, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum at the Albert Park in Suva.

A 60-year-old, Kishore Kumar, was among the 43, who received the permit.

Mr Kumar of Nausori received his taxi permit after a long wait since he had applied, but he thanked Government and LTA for the reforms and initiatives which were made to the new process for the issuance of New Taxi Permits,

"I appreciate the Government of the day that justice has finally prevailed, I have struggled so much for the taxi permit, I can earn on my own," Mr Kumar said.

"I can now be independent; I have two children who are both married with their family however I prefer being self-sufficient."

Mr Kumar had been a plumber for the then Public Works Department (PWD) for 40 years, when he had applied for a taxi permit.





# riority Taxi Permits

Upon retirement Mr Kumar took up part time farming along with driving a taxi to make ends meet.

"I no longer have to work for someone else, I can work very hard with my own taxi, unlike before where I had to work into late night to meet the demand of the operator," Mr Kumar added.

Meanwhile, Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said the new criteria is speared towards empowering people who come from low income families.

People who have less than \$20,000 annual combined household income will get priority in the permit process.

He said applicants can now expect a new level of transparency and accountability within LTA processes on how taxi permits are issued.

Additionally, Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said 18 months ago, the Government created a number of regulations setting out very clearly what one needed to fulfill to meet the criteria for a taxi permit in most transparent manner. Part of the new regulations call for permits based on specific taxi zones.

The LTA had identified 34 zones and applicants for new permit need to reside in one of those zones. six zones are in the Central division, 18 in the Western division, six in the Northern and four in the Maritime.









So far this year, the Land Transport Authority has received 582 complaints through its 582 text platform.

As per figures released by the LTA Enforcement Department, 290 texts were received from the Western Division while 238 texts were received from the Central/Eastern Division and 54 from the Northern Division.

LTA is pleased to see members of the public become increasingly aware of the road rules and regulations in place.

Meanwhile, LTA has also noted a steady decrease in number of complaints received via text Central/Eastern Division and 54 from the Northern Division.

The decrease is equivalently encouraging as it also depicts that drivers have become more vigilant and law abiding.

LTA continues to encourage members of the public to text to **582** or email **complaints@lta.com.fj** 



More than 400 staff of the Land Transport Authority have undergone medical screenings.

LTA, over the years, has been working closely with the Ministry of Health in organizing medical screenings across the country.

This screenings indeed enables LTA to understand and cater the health needs for staff as health and wellbeing of all our staff is important to achieve a productive work environment.

Through the employee medical screening, a worker can be helped to overcome a minor health problem or possibly diagnose some serious health issues early which may be necessary for medical treatment.

Advise on healthy living can bring about long-term-life-enhancing benefits as well.

Consequently, LTA will benefit from supporting the health and wellbeing of the workforce, as this will ensure staff health and improve overall productivity.

Always Keep Receipts

Often bus commuters do not keep their e-ticketing receipts with them while on a bus journey.

If one is not provided with a receipt after an e-ticketing transaction is completed by the bus driver, one must demand for it as this will be the evidence of the transaction.

Land Transport Authority is concerned of some passengers who do not carry their receipts with them.

Whilst enforcement operations LTA has found that passengers do not carry receipts which in some cases have landed them a fine.

When passengers do not carry their receipt, they fail to keep a proof that they have paid their fare for the destined journey.

According to the Regulation 8 Sub-Regulation (5) of Electronic Fare Ticketing Regulation 2017, all passengers must carry evidence of payment for omnibus fare. Basically, all passengers must carry the receipt issued as the proof that they have paid the right fare.

Retaining the receipt enables passengers to check the balance in their e-transport cards.

"There have been cases where passengers are not aware they have insufficient funds in their e-transport cards and are refused the journey, this can be avoided if they retained their receipts," said Faiyum Ali, LTA's General Manager Technical Operations.

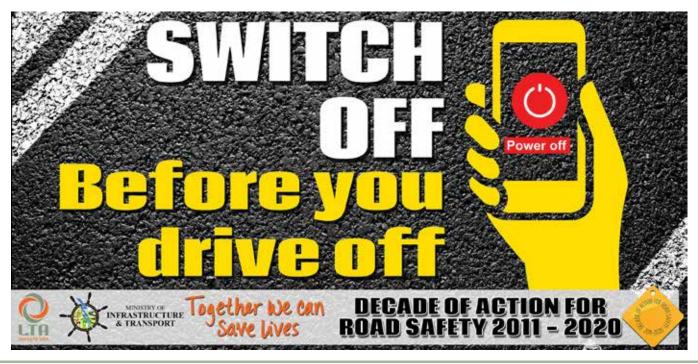
Meanwhile for the month of May the following enforcement issues were recorded pertaining to the E-ticketing.



# Tin Issuance for E-ticketing YTD

Offence	CE	West	North	Total
Damage manipulation or interference				
with operation of bus card reader	0	0	0	0
Disposable card	2	0	6	8
Omnibus drivers liability	1	0	1	2
Charging Incorrect Fare	0	2	0	2
Passengers not paying fares	0	0	1	1
Paying other persons fare with				
subsidised card	0	1	9	10
Payment of Omnibus fares	54	54	9	117
Total	57	57	26	140

The Authority urges members of the public to report any such unlawful practice to our text platform 582.



# Fiji Leads The Low Emission Develop

Fiji is one of the small island states that have taken lead in the fight against climate change globally.

Taking the Presidency at the COP23, Fiji is further strengthening its commitment to leading the world by example in its fight against climate change.

Land transport is the highest sectorial contributor to emissions in the country and as of 2011, land transport emissions in Fiji were approximately 58 percent.

Therefore, in order to assist the Fijian Government and the globe to combat the negative impacts of climate change and create an environment friendly and sustainable Fiji, the Land Transport Authority has also implemented various initiatives.

LTA has undertaken initiatives in partnership with relevant stakeholders to promote environment friendly transport sector.

# LTA initiatives to create a sustainable and green Fiji

**Promoting Public Transport** – LTA is constantly engaging with the Fiji Bus Operators Association (FBOA) to stress on the importance of good bus service and compliance to standards.

LTA also has a fully functional Quality Assurance Maintenance System (QAMS) which is utilized to monitor bus operators which are divided in three phases. This is a self-management system whereby the operators are required to keep their equipment, staff and records up to date which is then inspected by LTA on periodic basis.

Additionally, as a new initiative, the LTA Board has approved bi-annual inspections for buses more than 20-year-old for effective monitoring and compliance.

Having the public transports in good standards will not only attract daily commuters but save money for the vehicle owners and thus, save our environment.

LTA believes quality is the best method of promotion and good quality public transport will ensure increased popularity in public.

Emission Test – Carried out by LTA during annual inspections using emission testing equipment to measure the thickness of smoke. Smoke testers are also mandatory equipment for Authorized Motor Vehicle Inspection Agencies (AMVIAs) and they, the AMVIA, use this equipment during vehicle inspections. Additionally, there is a portable smoke tester which the enforcement team will be trained on for roadside checks.



Attorney-General, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum with participants of LEDS workshop in May. Source: Azaria Fareen



Import restriction on vehicles below Euro 4 – Mandated by Fiji Revenue & Customs Service (FRCS) and monitored by LTA whereby vehicles which are not Euro 4 complaint are not imported or registered. This is also monitored by JEVIC during the pre-import inspection for LTA. Euro 4 is the emission standard which dictates emission levels in vehicle whereby vehicles prior to Euro 4 standards have higher emission levels.

**Hydrogen Fuel Generating system** – LTA supervised the University of the South Pacific's (USP) engineering project which looked at the feasibility study to develop a fully/semi renewable hydrogen gas generating system for hydrogen-powered vehicles.

# ment Strategy (LEDS) In The Region





Hydrogen is a clean fuel and its storage does not require batteries which makes it more sustainable and this project was aimed at identifying areas in Fiji where a fully/partially solar powered system could be implemented.

The research intent was to gather data and analyze so that any future implementation can be accommodated. Currently, the research is not utilized as Fiji is yet to get a hydrogen-powered vehicle.

**Emission monitoring project** – JEVIC currently monitors emission from used vehicles imported from Japan using visual inspection through the 10 second rule. This ensures quality imports in the country.

Apart from these, currently the LTA is engaged with the University of the South Pacific on a project namely, Electric vehicle charging system. This engineering project was proposed by LTA and which looks at the feasibility study to develop a fully/semi renewable electric vehicle charging station.

This research will assist investors/individuals planning on setting up charging stations as it explores the probability of having a hybrid renewable/grid supplied system.

The project is expected to be completed in November.

Fiji's Climate Division is also taking forward the preparation of national Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) as part of the Paris Agreement.

The LEDS which are being prepared for Fiji with technical assistance from Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) are expected to provide a framework for decarbonisation over the long-term through 2050.

Speaking at the First LEDS workshop in May, the Attorney-General, Minister for Economy and the Minister responsible for Climate Change, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, stressed on the threat carbon emissions posed.

"Carbon emissions that are a direct result of human activity pose an existential threat to the health of our climate," said Mr Sayed-Khaiyum.

"While Fiji, as a small island state with a population of less than one million, is already among the world's lowest carbon-emitting countries, we are committed to leading the world by example through the development of an ambitious LEDS."

The Fiji LEDS will be the first LEDS for a Pacific (Small Island Developing States) SIDS. Development of Fiji's LEDS will support Fiji's Presidency leading into COP24 and further exemplify Fiji's commitment to the Paris Agreement.

The overall aim of developing Fiji's LEDS is to enhance the Fijian Government's ability to plan for decarbonisation of its economy by providing a framework and a pathway for a progressive revision and enhancement of targets under its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 2030.

Taking up this project will place Fiji in the lead to setting a pathway to a low carbon future and will be able to effectively plan and reduce its greenhouse gas emission and contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

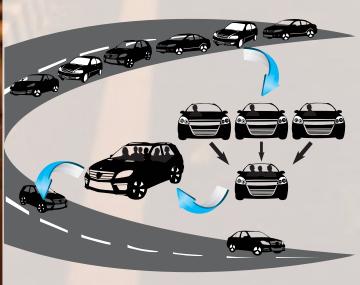
The workshop was attended by the Land Transport Authority, Standards and Engineering team.



# "Share the Ride to arrive on Time!"

# **What is Carpooling?**

Carpooling is the shared use of a car by drivers who park their cars at home and share rides with other commuters



According to a survey done along the Suva — Nausori corridor in 2016, more than 75% of private vehicles travelling on our roads during peak periods comprise of either the driver only or just one passenger

Help in reducing traffic congestion, say YES to CARPOOLING!!





One of the easiest means of communication in today's era is SMS.

SMS- very simple and effective to reach target audience platform, will now be the efficient means of notifying motorists of their traffic offences.

For this reason, Land Transport Authority signed an agreement with Vodafone Fiji at the LTA Head Office in Valelevu Nasinu, in June.

The Land Transport Authority, Board Chairperson, Vijay Maharaj and Vodafone Acting Chief Executive Officer, Ronald Prasad had signed the agreement to reaffirm their commitment to this new initiative which was in-line with LTA's goals, to increase customer service efficiency.

Mr Maharaj said the provision of Vodafone's SMS Service will allow LTA to notify drivers and vehicle owners that they have an infringement recorded under their names. "Basically, if a driver or a vehicle owner has been captured by one of our red light/speed cameras, the respective person will receive

a text message immediately to notify them to visit the nearest LTA office to clear their fines," Mr Maharaj explained.

The initiative is in line with the Land Transport (Traffic) Regulations 2000 which gives provisions for customers to be notified as soon as possible.

"Previously, what used to happen was that our red light/speed cameras would capture an offence and the vehicle owner would be sent a letter via post, and often the customers would miss deadline by the time they received the Traffic Infringement Notice with this new system in place drivers or offenders will have no excuse that they were not notified," Mr Maharaj said.

As part of the service, Vodafone will be providing LTA with access to Media Platform to facilitate the SMS Reporting Services.

This service is not only limited to drivers offending by red light/speed cameras but it will be for all TINs issued manually by enforcement officers as LTA will be working to ensure drivers or vehicle owners are notified in a timely manner.

With the introduction of the new service, Mr Maharaj is also advising all drivers to visit their nearest LTA office and update their contact details so that the notifications will reach the right customer as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Mr Prasad, said Vodafone was excited to partner with LTA for the SMS platform, "a solution that will aid the LTA in better communicating with their stakeholders, particularly, their customers".

"This platform is simple to use and very effective in terms of reaching the target population," Mr Prasad said.



Road safety is life safety. While driving one must abide by the road safety rules diligently because wearing seat belts can save lives.

Unfortunately, failure to wear seatbelt was the top offence recorded by the Land Transport Authority for the first quarter of 2018.

A total of 1115 Traffic Infringement Notices (TINs) were issued to drivers/passengers for not wearing seatbelts. Majority of the TINs were issued in the Central/Eastern and Western division.

LTA is urging drivers and passengers to be responsible and fasten up as seat belts can save lives.

# Reasons to Wear a Seat Belt

When one is behind the wheel, his/her actions will affect him/her, others or anyone else who happens to be on the road near you.

Therefore, one way uphold safety is to always wear seat belt when the car is in motion.

While seat belts can save life, it can specifically aid one in the following manner:

a. Prevent one from being thrown out of the vehicle;

- **b.** Prevent one from hitting the windshield;
- **c.** Prevent one from banging around the vehicle or hitting the steering wheel, door, etc; and

Air bags are considered to be more effective when d. the drivers and passengers are wearing seat belt as it will maintain a position in which the air bag can protect a person in any case of uncertainty.

In addition, seat belts can act as best defensive in cases of:

- a. Road perils;
- **b.** Antagonistic drivers;
- c. Unfocussed drivers;
- d. Impaired drivers and
- e. Largely staying safe.

# It's the Law

Land Transport (Traffic) Regulations 2000, Regulation 27 (1) (a) requires people to wearseatbelt in a motor vehicle that is in motion.



Together we can save lives

# Vehicle Examiners Undergo Training



Participants of the training at the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development in Nadave

18 Vehicle Examiners of Land Transport Authority underwent a two-day training in May.

The training was aimed at further enhancing and strengthening LTA's enforcement on vehicle examination.

The examiners who underwent the training at the Nadave Training Centre, had an opportunity to broaden their technical knowledge on vehicle examination.

Consequently, participants were informed and updated on current and new practices related to vehicle inspections.

The training focused on Left Hand Drive Vehicles, Statutory Written Off Vehicles, Usage of Trade Plates, Weight Exemptions, Welding Defects, JEVIC, Vehicle Structures and most importantly Enforcement issues.

Qualified LTA training instructors conducted the training.







Together we can Save lives

# New Taxi Permit Ap









Those who have experienced the new processes involved in the application of taxi permits, have labelled the processes, transparent and efficient.

After the uplifting of the taxi permit freeze in January 2018, the Land Transport Authority, began receiving new taxi permit applications for the Nadi 1, Nadi 2 and Lautoka 1 transport zones from 31 May 2018 at the Girmit Center in Lautoka.

Hundreds of applicants who experienced the processes at the Center, revealed that they were happy and keen at making their applications, knowing that they received a fair chance of applying.

Shamsher Gull, 48 of Field 40 in Lautoka, said LTA had done good awareness on the requirements, criteria and processes involved in the application of new taxi permits and therefore, most came prepared.

Mr Gull, who is a farmer, said, "I know that there will be a barrel draw and God knows who will have their names called out, but at least a fair chance has been given to those who are in need."

Moreover, a retired construction worker, Niko Turagakula, 50, said he was optimistic of his application.



# plications A Success



"My application went through several checks, before it was finally processed and this shows how rigid this process is. I thank the LTA for implementing such criteria for issuing of new taxi permits," Mr Turagakula said.

Mr Turagakula added that he was unemployed for past three months and the new taxi permit, if awarded to him, will be a source of income for him and his family.

LTA has also acknowledged the applicants for being considerate and patient with the new processes and despite the large number of crowd, LTA was successful in processing the applications for a period of three weeks.

The Girmit Center attracted hundreds of people interested in the application, however, only those who complied with the criteria actually had their applications processed, for the final decisions on their applications will be made by the Independent Taxi Permit Review Committee.

LTA will advertise the call for new taxi permit applications in the other transport zones, later.









# LISTING OF TRANSPORT ZONES FOR TAXI PERMIT

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) wishes to advise the members of the public that the New Taxi Permit Applications will be considered from the respected Transport Zones. There are currently a total of 34 Transport Zones.

Pursuant to Land Transport (Public Service Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 Regulations 5B (1) "The Chief Executive must determine transport zones in Fiji and a reasonable quota for taxi permits to be issued for each transport zones, (2) A taxi permit issued under Division 2 must be issued in respect of a transport zone".

All members of the general public are informed that once the LTA **CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS** in any of the below mentioned zones, should there be a need for taxi permit, then only the members of the general public from that particular zone can make an application.

For further information or clarification on the above please contact Manager Regulations, on 33471202 or email:

peni.komainavoka@lta.com.fi

**Disclaimer-** Please note that your application will be determined by the Review committee however this does not quarantee that you will obtain a permit as the issuance of the permit is subject to draw as per the Land Transport (Public service vehicle) (Amended) Regulation 2017.



Contact us on Tel: 339 2166 or Toll Free: 0800 334 2886 Email: online@lta.com.fj or Visit our website: www.lta.com.fj

The curr	ent id	entified Transport Zones are as follows:
ZONE		AREAS COVERED
		Central Boundary
Suva	:	Suva City and Nausori Bridge Roundabout Suva City, Samabula, Nabua, Laucala Bay, Raiwaqa, Vatuwaqa, Nasese, Center-Point, Laucala Beach Estate, Tamavua, Kalabu, Nasinu, Makoi, Narere, Nakasi, Colo-i-Suva, Sawani, Toga, Koronivia
Nausori	:	Nausori Town and Naiborebore Nausori Town, Rewa, Noco, Tailevu, Bau, Naitasiri, Lomaivuna
Lami Navua I	:	Suvavou, Lami Town, Namaka Harbor, Kalokolevu. Kalokolevu, Nabukavesi, Lobau, Navua Town
Navua 2	·	Tokotoko, Navua Town Onwards upto Taunovo bay
Serua		Western Boundary
Nadroga		Taunovo bay, Galoa, Korovisilou, Vunaniu, Namaqumaqua, Crusoe Retreat upto Navutulevu Namatakula, Komave, Korolevu, Votua, Votualailai, Tagaqe upto
Sigatoka I		Namada Vatukarasa, Malevu, Korotogo, Laselase upto Sigatoka Town
Sigatoka 2	•	Sigatoka Village, Volivoli, Yadua, Naevuevu, Cuvu, Rukurukulevu, Voua, upto Togovere
Sigatoka 3	•	Semo, Nabau, Kabisi upto Momi Bay Junction
Nadi I Nadi 2	•	Momi Bay Junction, Yako upto Nadi Town Bridge
Nadi 2	•	Nadi Town Bridge, Namotomoto, Navoci, Nakavu, Saunaka, Nadi Airport, Martintar, Namaka, Votualevu, Naisoso, Sabeto, Lomolomo
Lautoka 1	•	Barara, Lomolomo, Veiseisei, Saweni, Lauwaki, Wairabetia, Velovelo,Taperia, Natabua, Field 40, Navutu, Lautoka City
Ba I	•	Wainitio Creek, Nailaga, Koroqaqa, Nailaga, Nasolo upto Ba Town
Ba 2	•	Ba Town, Vadravadra, Sorokoba, Sasa upto Tavua Town
Tavua Rakiraki I		Tavua Town , Tavualevu, Korovou Village, Rabulu, Yaqara, Draniivi, Togovere, Vatukoula Tuidreke, Vunitogoloa, Naivuvuni, Narewa, Vitawa upto
Rakiraki 2		Tuidreke, Vunitogoloa, Naivuvuni, Narewa, Vitawa upto Navutulevu Navutulevu, Malake Junction, Nakorokula, Navolau No. 2 and
Rakiraki 3	•	upto Navolau No. I Navolau No. I, Naiserelagi, Barotu, Tobu, Nalalawa,
Korovou I		Rokovuwaka
Korovou 2	-:	Naiborebore, Veinuqa, Naileqa, Waidalice, Korovou Town Korovou Town, Dakuivuna, Natokalau, Wailotua
Korovou 3	•	Korovou Town, Mataculai,, Burerua, Lodoni, RKS, Natovi, Dawasamu upto Lawaki
Korovou 4	•	Malabi, Nasautoka, Nabouva, Nayavu, Wailevu, Nalega, Nabita
		Northern Region
	,	
Labasa	•	Labasa Town, Tabia, Yalava, Korotubu, Vatudova, Qelewaqa, Bocalevu, Tabucola, Wailevu Village, Lajonia, Tuatua, Delailabasa, Naseakula Village, Vatunibale, Low Coast, Bulileka Village, Boca/Urata, Lovelove, Dreketilailai, Vunivau, Basoga, Namoli, Valelevu, Vunikavika, Soasoa, Vuinika, Malau, Vuo Village, Nagigi, Matailabasa, Naleba, Nacula, Naqai, Waisavulu, Tovata, Benau, Naduna, Vunimoli, Waiqele, Navakasigani,
Labasa	•	Labasa Town, Tabia, Yalava, Korotubu, Vatudova, Qelewaqa, Bocalevu, Tabucola, Wailevu Village, Lajonia, Tuatua, Delailabasa, Naseakula Village, Vatunibale, Low Coast, Bulileka Village, Boca/Urata, Lovelove, Dreketilailai, Vunivau, Basoga, Namoli, Valelevu, Vunikavika, Soasoa, Vuinika, Malau, Vuo Village, Nagigi, Matailabasa, Naleba, Nacula, Naqai, Waisavulu, Tovata, Benau, Naduna, Vunimoli, Waiqele, Navakasigani, Seniwaloa, Caralevu, Nakama, Yaudigi village, Siberia, Emily, Tadravula, Korowiri Village, Vunicuicui  Korosomo, Korovuli, Qaraniqoli, Vudibasoga, Navakasobu, Naduri, Sasa, Saivou, Nakabuta, Courokovi, Vesidrua village,
		Labasa Town, Tabia, Yalava, Korotubu, Vatudova, Qelewaqa, Bocalevu, Tabucola, Wailevu Village, Lajonia, Tuatua, Delailabasa, Naseakula Village, Vatunibale, Low Coast, Bulileka Village, Boca/Urata, Lovelove, Dreketilailai, Vunivau, Basoga, Namoli, Valelevu, Vunikavika, Soasoa, Vuinika, Malau, Vuo Village, Nagigi, Matailabasa, Naleba, Nacula, Naqai, Waisavulu, Tovata, Benau, Naduna, Vunimoli, Waiqele, Navakasigani, Seniwaloa, Caralevu, Nakama, Yaudigi village, Siberia, Emily, Tadravula, Korowiri Village, Vunicuicui  Korosomo, Korovuli, Qaraniqoli, Vudibasoga, Navakasobu, Naduri, Sasa, Saivou, Nakabuta, Courokovi, Vesidrua village, Forestry Quarters, Nasuva, Nakavika, Nanivuda, Savuilutu, Kawakawavesi, Mangru Residence, Nacereyaga village,
Seaqaqa	•	Labasa Town, Tabia, Yalava, Korotubu, Vatudova, Qelewaqa, Bocalevu, Tabucola, Wailevu Village, Lajonia, Tuatua, Delailabasa, Naseakula Village, Vatunibale, Low Coast, Bulileka Village, Boca/Urata, Lovelove, Dreketilailai, Vunivau, Basoga, Namoli, Valelevu, Vunikavika, Soasoa, Vuinika, Malau, Vuo Village, Nagigi, Matailabasa, Naleba, Nacula, Naqai, Waisavulu, Tovata, Benau, Naduna, Vunimoli, Waiqele, Navakasigani, Seniwaloa, Caralevu, Nakama, Yaudigi village, Siberia, Emily, Tadravula, Korowiri Village, Vunicuicui  Korosomo, Korovuli, Qaraniqoli, Vudibasoga, Navakasobu, Naduri, Sasa, Saivou, Nakabuta, Courokovi, Vesidrua village, Forestry Quarters, Nasuva, Nakavika, Nanivuda, Savullutu, Kawakawavesi, Mangru Residence, Nacereyaga village, Naravuka village, Narailagi, Batiri  Vuadomo, Nakoso, Vatulele, Bagaraki, Urata, Jerusalemi, Monfort, Naqere, Moliwawa, Savudrodro, Yaroi, Naverea, Daku, Matalaqere, Korovesi, Cousteau Resort, Ruaqoli settlement, Mumu Resort, Koro Sun, Waivunia, Sigasiga, Vivili, Namale, Naidi village, Naqaqa, Nabaka, Nukubalavu, Nacekoro,
Seaqaqa	•	Labasa Town, Tabia, Yalava, Korotubu, Vatudova, Qelewaqa, Bocalevu, Tabucola, Wailevu Village, Lajonia, Tuatua, Delailabasa, Naseakula Village, Vatunibale, Low Coast, Bulileka Village, Boca/Urata, Lovelove, Dreketilailai, Vunivau, Basoga, Namoli, Valelevu, Vunikavika, Soasoa, Vuinika, Malau, Vuo Village, Nagigi, Matailabasa, Naleba, Nacula, Naqai, Waisavulu, Tovata, Benau, Naduna, Vunimoli, Waiqele, Navakasigani, Seniwaloa, Caralevu, Nakama, Yaudigi village, Siberia, Emily, Tadravula, Korowiri Village, Vunicuicui  Korosomo, Korovuli, Qaraniqoli, Vudibasoga, Navakasobu, Naduri, Sasa, Saivou, Nakabuta, Courokovi, Vesidrua village, Forestry Quarters, Nasuva, Nakavika, Nanivuda, Savuilutu, Kawakawavesi, Mangru Residence, Nacereyaga village, Naravuka village, Narailagi, Batiri  Vuadomo, Nakoso, Vatulele, Bagaraki, Urata, Jerusalemi, Monfort, Naqere, Moliwawa, Savudrodro, Yaroi, Naverea, Daku, Matalaqere, Korovesi, Cousteau Resort, Ruaqoli settlement, Mumu Resort, Koro Sun, Waivunia, Sigasiga, Vivili, Namale, Naidi village, Naqaqa, Nabaka, Nukubalavu, Nacekoro, Airport/Buca, Delainavaqiqi  Nabouwalu village, Navave, Vuya village, Namau, Waitovure,
Savusavu Nabouwalu	•	Labasa Town, Tabia, Yalava, Korotubu, Vatudova, Qelewaqa, Bocalevu, Tabucola, Wailevu Village, Lajonia, Tuatua, Delailabasa, Naseakula Village, Vatunibale, Low Coast, Bulileka Village, Boca/Urata, Lovelove, Dreketilailai, Vunivau, Basoga, Namoli, Valelevu, Vunikavika, Soasoa, Vuinika, Malau, Vuo Village, Nagigi, Matailabasa, Naleba, Nacula, Naqai, Waisavulu, Tovata, Benau, Naduna, Vunimoli, Waiqele, Navakasigani, Seniwaloa, Caralevu, Nakama, Yaudigi village, Siberia, Emily, Tadravula, Korowiri Village, Vunicuicui Korosomo, Korovuli, Qaraniqoli, Vudibasoga, Navakasobu, Naduri, Sasa, Saivou, Nakabuta, Courokovi, Vesidrua village, Forestry Quarters, Nasuva, Nakavika, Nanivuda, Savuilutu, Kawakawavesi, Mangru Residence, Nacereyaga village, Naravuka village, Narailagi, Batiri  Vuadomo, Nakoso, Vatulele, Bagaraki, Urata, Jerusalemi, Monfort, Naqere, Moliwawa, Savudrodro, Yaroi, Naverea, Daku, Matalaqere, Korovesi, Cousteau Resort, Ruaqoli settlement, Mumu Resort, Koro Sun, Waivunia, Sigasiga, Vivili, Namale, Naidi village, Naqaqa, Nabaka, Nukubalavu, Nacekoro, Airport/Buca, Delainavaqiqi  Nabouwalu village, Navave, Vuya village, Namau, Waitovure, Wairiki, Nawaca  Nabavatu, Nakanacagi, Matasawalevu, Valelawa
Savusavu  Nabouwalu  Dreketi	•	Labasa Town, Tabia, Yalava, Korotubu, Vatudova, Qelewaqa, Bocalevu, Tabucola, Wailevu Village, Lajonia, Tuatua, Delailabasa, Naseakula Village, Vatunibale, Low Coast, Bulileka Village, Boca/Urata, Lovelove, Dreketilailai, Vunivau, Basoga, Namoli, Valelevu, Vunikavika, Soasoa, Vuinika, Malau, Vuo Village, Nagigi, Matailabasa, Naleba, Nacula, Naqai, Waisavulu, Tovata, Benau, Naduna, Vunimoli, Waiqele, Navakasigani, Seniwaloa, Caralevu, Nakama, Yaudigi village, Siberia, Emily, Tadravula, Korowiri Village, Vunicuicui  Korosomo, Korovuli, Qaraniqoli, Vudibasoga, Navakasobu, Naduri, Sasa, Saivou, Nakabuta, Courokovi, Vesidrua village, Forestry Quarters, Nasuva, Nakavika, Nanivuda, Savuilutu, Kawakawavesi, Mangru Residence, Nacereyaga village, Naravuka village, Narailagi, Batiri  Vuadomo, Nakoso, Vatulele, Bagaraki, Urata, Jerusalemi, Monfort, Naqere, Moliwawa, Savudrodro, Yaroi, Naverea, Daku, Matalaqere, Korovesi, Cousteau Resort, Ruaqoli settlement, Mumu Resort, Koro Sun, Waivunia, Sigasiga, Vivili, Namale, Naidi village, Naqaqa, Nabaka, Nukubalavu, Nacekoro, Airport/Buca, Delainavaqiqi  Nabouwalu village, Navave, Vuya village, Namau, Waitovure, Wairiki, Nawaca  Nabavatu, Nakanacagi, Matasawalevu, Valelawa  Daku, Lagalaga, Nakelikoso  Maritime Boundary  Taveuni Island (hotels, government station, health center,
Savusavu  Nabouwalu  Dreketi  Wainikoro	•	Labasa Town, Tabia, Yalava, Korotubu, Vatudova, Qelewaqa, Bocalevu, Tabucola, Wailevu Village, Lajonia, Tuatua, Delailabasa, Naseakula Village, Vatunibale, Low Coast, Bulileka Village, Boca/Urata, Lovelove, Dreketilailai, Vunivau, Basoga, Namoli, Valelevu, Vunikavika, Soasoa, Vuinika, Malau, Vuo Village, Nagigi, Matailabasa, Naleba, Nacula, Naqai, Waisavulu, Tovata, Benau, Naduna, Vunimoli, Waiqele, Navakasigani, Seniwaloa, Caralevu, Nakama, Yaudigi village, Siberia, Emily, Tadravula, Korowiri Village, Vunicuicui  Korosomo, Korovuli, Qaraniqoli, Vudibasoga, Navakasobu, Naduri, Sasa, Saivou, Nakabuta, Courokovi, Vesidrua village, Forestry Quarters, Nasuva, Nakavika, Nanivuda, Savullutu, Kawakawavesi, Mangru Residence, Nacereyaga village, Naravuka village, Narailagi, Batiri  Vuadomo, Nakoso, Vatulele, Bagaraki, Urata, Jerusalemi, Monfort, Naqere, Moliwawa, Savudrodro, Yaroi, Naverea, Daku, Matalaqere, Korovesi, Cousteau Resort, Ruaqoli settlement, Mumu Resort, Koro Sun, Waivunia, Sigasiga, Vivili, Namale, Naidi village, Naqaqa, Nabaka, Nukubalavu, Nacekoro, Airport/Buca, Delainavaqiqi  Nabavatu, Nakanacagi, Matasawalevu, Valelawa  Daku, Lagalaga, Nakelikoso  Maritime Boundary  Taveuni Island (hotels, government station, health center, jetty, airport and villages)  Ovalau Island (Levuka Town area, hotels, government station,
Seaqaqa Savusavu Nabouwalu Dreketi Wainikoro Taveuni	•	Labasa Town, Tabia, Yalava, Korotubu, Vatudova, Qelewaqa, Bocalevu, Tabucola, Wailevu Village, Lajonia, Tuatua, Delailabasa, Naseakula Village, Vatunibale, Low Coast, Bulileka Village, Boca/Urata, Lovelove, Dreketilailai, Vunivau, Basoga, Namoli, Valelevu, Vunikavika, Soasoa, Vuinika, Malau, Vuo Village, Nagigi, Matailabasa, Naleba, Nacula, Naqai, Waisavulu, Tovata, Benau, Naduna, Vunimoli, Waiqele, Navakasigani, Seniwaloa, Caralevu, Nakama, Yaudigi village, Siberia, Emily, Tadravula, Korowiri Village, Vunicuicui  Korosomo, Korovuli, Qaraniqoli, Vudibasoga, Navakasobu, Naduri, Sasa, Saivou, Nakabuta, Courokovi, Vesidrua village, Forestry Quarters, Nasuva, Nakavika, Nanivuda, Savuilutu, Kawakawavesi, Mangru Residence, Nacereyaga village, Naravuka village, Narailagi, Batiri  Vuadomo, Nakoso, Vatulele, Bagaraki, Urata, Jerusalemi, Monfort, Naqere, Moliwawa, Savudrodro, Yaroi, Naverea, Daku, Matalaqere, Korovesi, Cousteau Resort, Ruaqoli settlement, Mumu Resort, Koro Sun, Waivunia, Sigasiga, Vivili, Namale, Naidi village, Naqaqa, Nabaka, Nukubalavu, Nacekoro, Airport/Buca, Delainavaqiqi  Nabouwalu village, Navave, Vuya village, Namau, Waitovure, Wairiki, Nawaca  Daku, Lagalaga, Nakelikoso  Maritime Boundary  Taveuni Island (hotels, government station, health center, jetty, airport and villages)

# Criteria for New Taxi Permit Applications

The criteria for the new taxi permits applications as per the requirements under the Land Transport (Public Service Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations for an applicant to be eligible to go into a barrel draw for taxi permit are as follows:

- a) The application complies with the regulation 5C:
  - (5C: A person seeking the issuance of a taxi permit must apply to the Chief Executive within 14 days from the date of the last advertisement and must do so in accordance with the process set out in this Division);
- b) The application is in the prescribed form (available at the LTA offices);
- c) The application is accompanied by the prescribed fee;
- d) The applicant is a natural person;
- e) The applicant is a Fijian citizen;
- f) The applicant resides in the transport zone for which the application will be made;
- g) The applicant has never been convicted of an offence under Part 12 B, 16 or 17 of the Crimes Act 2009 or a similar provision of a repealed law or a law or repealed law of another jurisdiction;
- h) The applicant does not hold and has never held a taxi permit;
- i) Each member of the applicant's household does not hold and has never held a taxi permit and
- j) The total annual income of the members of the applicant's household does not exceed \$20,000

LTA has appointed an Independent Taxi Permit Review Committee consisting of 5 members from following background:

- a) A legal practitioner as defined in the Legal Practitioners Act 2009;
- b) A representative from the ministry responsible for strategic planning;
- c) A representative of the tourism industry;
- d) A representative of the transport industry and
- e) A general representative of the private sector.

According to the Land Transport (Public Service Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations, the Independent Committee must reject an application if the applicant is not eligible under the sub-regulations as mentioned above or fails to complete the application or provide the information as requested by the Independent Committee.



For any furthur queries please contact Tel: 334 7143/ 999 4461 or Toll Free: 0800 334 2886 Email online@lta.com.fj or Visit our Website: www.lta.com.fj







shared the meaning of Islamic greetings and significance of the fasting in the month of Ramadan while drawing parallels from other religions of Christianity and Hinduism.

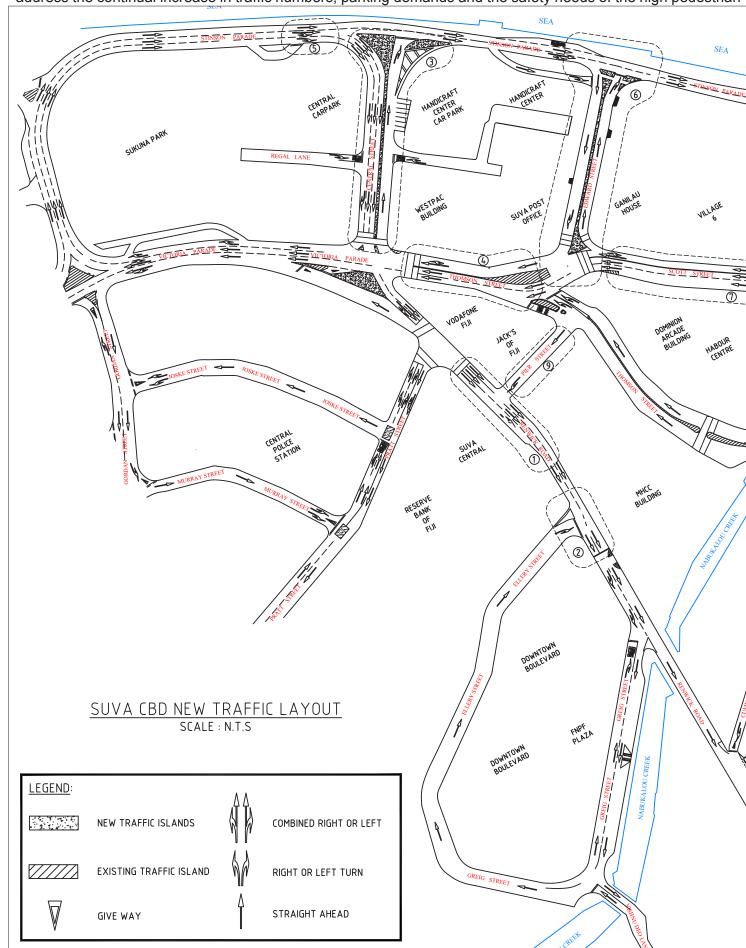
Meanwhile, LTA General Manager Legal, Policy and Business Development, Navilesh Chand won prize for best dressed male, while his Admin Officer, Nomai Mataunicere won the prize for best dressed female. It was a sheer coincidence as they said, but the motive was none the less same, to celebrate Eid. The program concluded with food and the famous Eid dessert, Sewai.





# SUVA CITY CENTRE LAYOUT PLAN

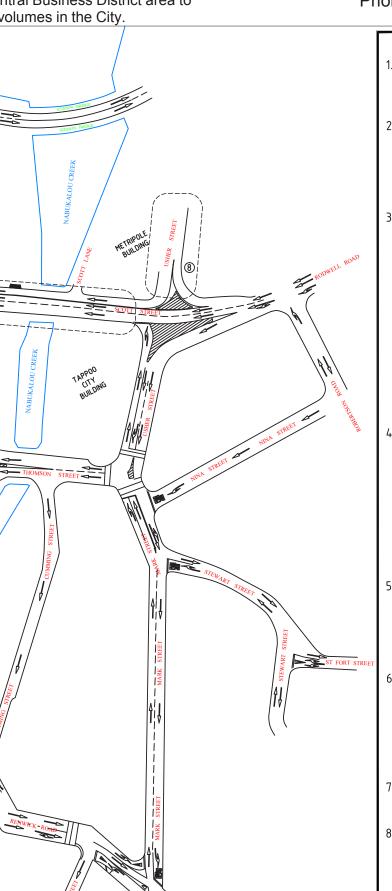
Following the opening of the Stinson Parade Bridge the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) is undertaking changes to the These changes include an additional through lane onto the Stinson Parade Bridge and associated changes to the and Edward Streets. Further changes include an additional lane in Renwick Road with one-way traffic movement Pratt Street. In the new Financial Year, the FRA will be undertaking further detailed traffic studies of the Suva Ce address the continual increase in traffic numbers, parking demands and the safety needs of the high pedestrian



Suva City traffic movements.
e traffic lane directions on Central
is through Renwick Road past
ntral Business District area to
volumes in the City.



Phone: 3100114 or email: info@fijiroads.org



### NOTES

### 1. RENWICK ROAD

- NEW LAYOUT CONSISTS OF TWO THROUGH LANES FROM CENTRAL STREET WITH ONE-WAY TRAFFIC ONLY
- 2. ELLERY STREET INTERSECTION TO RENWICK ROAD
- ONLY RIGHT TURN WILL BE ALLOWED FOR EXIT FROM ELLERY STREET ONTO RENWICK ROAD.
- LEFT TURN AT THE EXIT ONTO RENWICK ROAD WILL BE DISCONTINUED TO ALLOW FOR THE TWO LANES AS STATED IN POINT 1.

# 3. CENTRAL STREET

- NEW LAYOUT CONSISTS OF FOUR (4) TRAFFIC LANES ONE (1) VICTORIA PARADE BOUND, TWO (2) RENWICK
   ROAD BOUND AND ONE (1) STINSON PARADE BOUND
   FROM THOMSON STREET.
- A NEW TRAFFIC ISLAND IS BEING CONSTRUCTED TO SEPARATE THE TRAFFIC LANES WITH OPPOSITE DIRECTIONAL FLOW (ALSO TO PROVIDE PEDESTRIAN REFUGE).
- THE TRAFFIC ISLANDS AT STINSON PARADE INTERSECTION AND VICTORIA PARADE INTERSECTION IS BEING MODIFIED TO INCREASE 2-LANE TRAFFIC THROUGH STINSON PARADE AND TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEW TRAFFIC LAYOUT STATED ABOVE.

# 4. THOMSON STREET

- ALL THREE (3) TRAFFIC LANES WILL BE ONE-WAY VICTORIA PARADE BOUND.
- THE EXISTING TRAFFIC ISLANDS AT THE EDWARD STREET & SCOTT STREET INTERSECTION WILL BE MODIFIED TO ALLOW FOR THE THIRD THROUGH LANE FROM SCOTT STREET.
- THE EXISTING ISLAND AT THE CENTRAL STREET INTERSECTION WILL BE MODIFIED TO ALLOW FOR A THIRD LANE INTO VICTORIA PARADE.

# 5. STINSON PARADE

- ADDITIONAL LANE ADDED (HARRIS ROAD BOUND) AT THE CENTRAL STREET INTERSECTION.
- CENTRAL STREET BOUND LANE FROM EDWARD STREET WILL BE DISCONTINUED TO ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL LANE TO HARRIS ROAD (AS PER ABOVE).

### 6. EDWARD STREET

- A NEW TRAFFIC ISLAND IS BEING CONSTRUCTED TO SEPARATE THE TWO LANE (ALSO TO PROVIDE PEDESTRIAN REFUGE).
- ENTRY WILL BE FROM STINSON PARADE (THOMSON STREET BOUND) AND SCOTT STREET (STINSON PARADE BOUND).

# 7. SCOTT STREET

 ALL THREE (3) TRAFFIC LANES WILL BE ONE-WAY THOMSON STREET AND VICTORIA PARADE BOUND.

### USHER STREET

- CLOSED OFF TO ALL THROUGH TRAFFIC.
- AGREED FOR SUVA CITY COUNCIL MARKET DELIVERY
  AND CAR PARK USE ONLY (TO BE KEPT CLEAR OF ANY
  PERMANENT STRUCTURES FOR EMERGENCY ACCESS
  USE WHEN REQUIRED).

# 9. PIER STREET

- ENTRY WILL BE FROM THOMSON STREET AND EXIT INTO RENWICK ROAD.

# Safety begins with YOU.

# **#Be The Better Driver**

Together we can save lives





Parvez began his career in 1995 as a Barrister and Solicitor in Fiji where he worked as a lawyer in various areas of the law, at all levels, including personal injuries law. He initially worked for a firm and later established his own practice. From 2002 he worked in New Zealand, specialising in Employment Law, ACC and Health and Safety. He has successfully provided advice, support and representation at various levels in his specialist area, including Mediation, Employment Relations Authority, Employment Court and as assisting Counsel in the Court of Appeal.

He is admitted to the High Courts of New Zealand, Australia and Fiji. Parvez was Senior Solicitor in the Employers & Manufacturers' Association, NZ (EMA) Legal team until 2011 where he provided legal support to a diverse group of businesses ranging from small employers to larger national, trans-Tasman and global organisations.

After 7 years at EMA Legal he took up the opportunity to join Westpac New Zealand as Head of Employment Law, Employment Relations and Health, Safety & Wellbeing. In this role he provided strategic guidance to the business, employment law advice and representation, health and safety and ACC advice, and oversaw a significant improvement in the safety performance.

He was later appointed Head of Employment Relations, and Safety & Wellbeing at NZ Post Group, providing legal and strategic advice, support and representation to the business on Employment Law, Employment/

Industrial Relations, Health and Safety and ACC matters. Parvez was successful in establishing a stable Employment Law environment and saw the safety performance and culture improve considerably during his watch.

Having successfully undertaken external and in-house roles, Parvez established his own employment law practice - NZER Consulting Limited, where he provided advice, representation, coaching and training in his specialist area.

In January 2018 Parvez commenced his role as the first Chief Executive Officer of the recently established Accident Compensation Commission, Fiji.





# 1. What made you join ACCF, what are your views on ACCF?

I began my working career as a lawyer in Nadi in various areas of the law. This also included working in the area of personal injuries and deaths, where I represented victims of motor vehicle accidents. I always felt the previous system was not fair and that victims of motor vehicle accidents faced unreasonable hurdles in their pursuit of compensation.

So when I saw that Fiji had introduced a better way to compensate motor vehicle accident victims and that there was an opportunity to lead ACCF, I decided to share my experience in this area gained in both in Fiji and New Zealand, and applied for the role of CEO.

The Accident Compensation Commission of Fiji (ACCF) has been established for the purpose of ensuring victims of accidents occurring on or after 1 January 2018 are compensated fairly and efficiently. The new law (the Accident Compensation Act 2017) ensures much greater accessibility to the public to compensation at a time of need. No longer do innocent victims have to prove fault of motor vehicle drivers, and victims do not have to engage lawyers or battle with insurance companies. Some of the recent payouts are examples of situations where the driver was not at fault and under the old law the families of the deceased would not have received any compensation.

# 2. How has your work with ACCF been so far?

My work with ACCF has been very rewarding in terms of being able to serve Fijians during a time of need. It is quite satisfying to help people obtain compensation in a manner which ensures a simple, cost free and fair process. I look forward to doing my very best to continue to assist and support Fijians who find themselves in need of compensation following an accident.

# 3. What is your "mission" being the CEO of ACCF, what motivates you at your position?

My mission as the CEO of ACCF is to ensure that ACCF is well resourced and operating as an excellently run entity that is able to make a difference to the lives of Fijians involved in accidents.

In doing so, I ensure that I put people first, work with honesty, integrity and transparency, focus on efficiency and ensure we work as one team.

I am motivated by my goal to serve fellow Fijians. To achieve this, it is important to ensure the success of ACCF as an entity, and the empowerment of our team, who in turn will ensure Fijians receive the excellent service they deserve.

# 4. What are the future prospects of ACCF?

The Accident Compensation scheme currently provides compensation to victims of motor vehicle accidents. We are now expanding the scheme to incorporate other areas where compensation would be payable. Going forward ACCF is going to incorporate work-related injuries and deaths in its scope as well as school injuries.

# 5. Please add any additional comment?

ACCF commenced operations in January 2018 and it was only in May that we managed to employ two team members. Even with such a small team, we have managed to process applications in a timely manner. We will now be growing the team further as the volume of applications increases. ACCF is also grateful to key stakeholders who have provided direct support and assistance to us, such as LTA and RBF.



# ACCF makes second payment

Two more families who had lost their loved ones in road accidents, received compensation from the Accident Compensation Commission, Fiji in June.

The 47 year-old George Mawi, lost his wife, Patricia Rokoua-Mawi in a motor vehicle accident in Galoa, Serua in February this year.

Ms Rokoua-Mawi was travelling to the West when the vehicle she was traveling in collided with a truck costing her life.

Mr Mawi said he was unable to come to terms with his loss and was unable to muster the courage to apply for the compensation under the Accident Compensation Act 2017.

"We will put this into good use to honour those who have left us," Mr Mawi told the invited guests at the payout.

"I realised that we are one of the first ones to be receiving this scheme and that has made me want to create awareness to the public out there."

He added that the compensation received will be used for the education of his children.

On the other hand, Ameo Matavutuka lost his 10-year-old son when he ran across the road and got hit by a bus in Namosi.

Mr Matavutuka said the compensation will be used for the education of his six other children.

Speaking at the second payout function, ACCF chief executive, Parvez Akbar emphasized the importance of road safety education and the need for everyone to take responsibility.

"We can never overemphasize the importance of road safety. Road safety is not just a matter for Government, the Land Transport Authority, Fiji Police Force or ACCF, but we should all take responsibility," Mr Akbar said.

Meanwhile, the Honourable Attorney-General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum commended ACCF for being able to process and handout compensation with efficiency.

Within months of its evolution the Accident Compensation Commission of Fiji (ACCF) has compensated three families to up to \$225,000 combined payout.

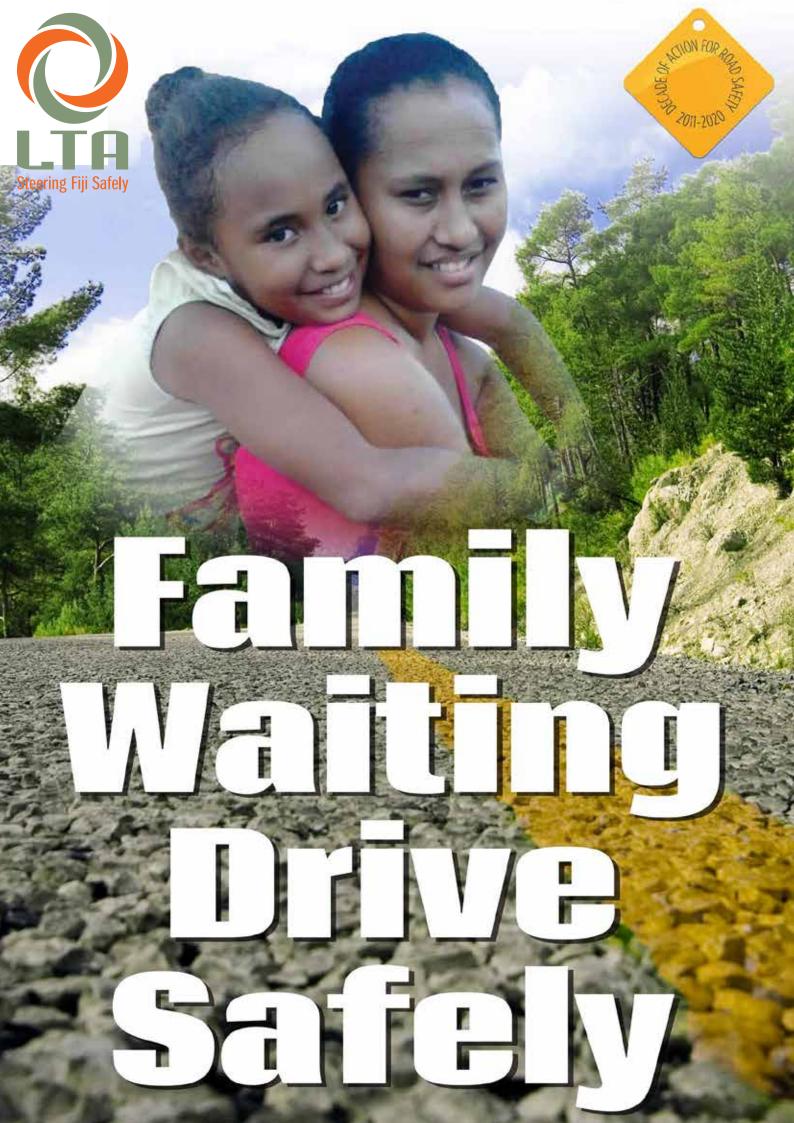
ACCF with only a team of three, handles and process numerous applications in a day.







The Commission was formed after the Accident Compensation Act 2017 was passed in Parliament last year.



# Reflection: Gold Card

The Fiji Revenue and Customs Service Gold Card Services was established in 2012, following a Government announcement that "priority and privileged services will be accorded to those companies that are compliant in the matters of Taxation and Customs".

The membership is valid for 2 years, however, the Chief Executive Officer of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service reserves the right to terminate or renew "Gold Card Membership".

Subsidiaries of Gold Card members also have access to Gold Card Services.

Gold Card Services include

Provide innovative solutions to all Tax and Customs enquiries;

- Expedite processing of tax clearance, tax returns, stamp duty documents, applications for registration for all tax types and review of assessments;
- Expedite assessing and amendment of Single Administrative Document (SAD);
- Accept Tax and Customs payments via online banking, EFTPOS (Debit and Credit Cards), Cheques and Cash;
- Facilitate referrals within all Revenue and Customs business units;
- Provide privileged services with Revenue and Customs stakeholders

In addition to these services, through our partners Gold Card Members also have access to the following;

# 1. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Personal baggage duty free allowance of up to \$2,000.00 excludes liquor and tobacco.

International Departures and Arrivals – priority check-in, baggage collection and escort services by Fiji Airports Limited personnel

Tabua Club membership with Fiji Airways allowing:

- Business class lounge access
- Priority check-in and baggage tags
- Extra baggage allowance
- Use Tabua Club cards to enjoy benefits
- For more information, visit www.tabuaclub.com for details

# 2. OTHER PRIVILEGED SERVICES ACCESSIBLE TO GOLD CARD HOLDERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Fiji Airports Limited: Express lane services for baggage collection and escort services
- Biosecurity Authority of Fiji: Express lane priority services for all inspection and clearance services
- Department of Immigration: Priority services for passports and permits
- Fiji Airways: Priority check-in at the Tabua Club counter
- Land Transport Authority: Express lane priority services for all LTA services
- · Go Advertising: Our official advertising partner

FRCS had an existing MOU with LTA and for information sharing purposes this Gold Card initiative was extended to LTA for priority services to Gold Card members. This same group would also be LTA's top customers. This partnership is an innovative way within Government departments to share information and also appreciate the contribution which our taxpayers/customers had contributed to the government coffers.





LTA, FRCS Gold Card Partner

# SPEEDING KILS SLOW DOWN Steering Fiji Safely



Together we can Save Lives