



Top: LTA Acting CEO Irimaia Rokosawa (right) and TLTB Interim CEO Solomon Nata (middle) sign the MOU as TLTB Board Secretary Salimoni Karusi (left) looks on. **Image: LTA**



LTA Acting CEO Irimaia Rokosawa (right) and TLTB Interim CEO Solomon Nata. **Image: LTA**



Right: TLTB Board Secretary Salimoni Karusi (left) and LTA Manager Corporate Governance Litea Tikoinayau witness the MOU documents. **Image LTA**

LTA, TLTB formalise MOU

THE Land Transport Authority (LTA) and the iTaukei Lands Trust Board (TLTB) formalised a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Suva on 19 January 2024, signifying a collaborative commitment to advance landowners' economic empowerment and foster strategic information sharing.

The MOU, a testament to the mutual dedication to fostering inclusive development, was signed by representatives of both organisations in a ceremony marked by enthusiasm for the collaborative potential it holds.

LTA Acting Chief Executive Officer Irimaia Rokosawa said the agreement established a framework for co-sharing vital information that would play a pivotal role in facilitating access to development opportunities and enhancing the economic par-

ticipation of landowners.

Key provisions of the MOU include the commitment of both parties to actively contribute towards the common goal of empowering landowners economically.

"By engaging in a collaborative exchange of information, the LTA and TLTB aim to bridge gaps and create synergies that will contribute to inclusive and sustainable development," Mr Rokosawa said.

"The cooperative effort outlined in the MOU aligns with the Fijian Government's Development Action Plan(s). Both the LTA and TLTB recognise the importance of playing supportive roles in cultivating creative business opportunities that resonate with the national development agenda."

Through this partnership, Mr Rokosawa said

the Authority and TLTB were focused on catalysing innovative ventures that not only adhered to governmental priorities but also contributed to the overall economic advancement of the Fijian people.

"The signing of this MOU marks a significant milestone in fostering stronger ties between the LTA and TLTB, laying the foundation for a collaborative and mutually beneficial relationship.

"It reflects a shared commitment to realising economic empowerment for landowners and underscores the organisations' dedication to advancing the socio-economic landscape of Fiji."

Under the MOU, both parties agree to provide and deliver the services required of landowners in a manner that was transparent, accountable and effective, in accordance with Fiji's applicable laws.

SAFETY LANE - Your bi-monthly window into the Land Transport Authority's initiatives. Stay informed about our latest road safety campaigns, evolving standards, and transformative developments. Join us in fostering safer roads for all.



LTA road safety officers monitor school bus loading.

Image: LTA

Road safety awareness vital

With the new school year set to reopen on January 29, the Land Transport Authority (LTA) continued its awareness drive for all road users to prioritise road safety, emphasizing the importance of adhering to speed limits and other crucial measures to ensure the safety of children on our roads.

LTA Acting Chief Executive Officer Irimaia Rokosawa said there was a need for heightened awareness during this period and the Authority was calling on all drivers and road users to be extra cautious, particularly in and around school zones.

“Ensuring the safety of our children is a collective responsibility. As we gear up for the start of the new school year, it’s crucial for drivers to be mindful of their speed and adhere to road safety measures.

“We want to create an environment where children can travel to and from school without any unnecessary risks,” Mr Rokosawa said.

He said drivers were urged to avoid speeding in school zones and to be particularly vigilant near school patrol signs. The authority is also emphasizing the importance of adhering to traffic signs, including those indicating reduced speed limits and school crossings.

In addition to this, drivers are reminded to watch out for children and pedestrians who may be crossing the road, especially from behind parked vehicles. At intersections and roundabouts, drivers are advised to exercise caution and be aware of their surroundings. With the influx of students and parents during school drop-off and pick-up times, increased vigilance is necessary to prevent accidents and ensure the smooth flow of traffic.

“LTA will be actively enforcing traffic laws, and we will not hesitate to apply penalties to those who flout the rules. The safety of our roads is paramount, especially when it comes to protecting our young pedestrians,” Mr Rokosawa added.

Authority intensifies joint enforcement operations



LTA and Police joint enforcement operations focus on keeping Fiji's roads safe. Image: LTA

In an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of road safety, the Land Transport Authority (LTA) is intensifying its public and community outreach efforts. This initiative is in conjunction with the joint enforcement operations between the Authority and Fiji Police Force throughout the month of January.

LTA Acting Chief Executive Officer Irimaia Rokosawa said the aim was to create awareness and instill responsible behaviour among road users, ultimately making Fiji's roads safer for all citizens.

With schools set to reopen on January 29, he said increased travel and traffic activities were expected as parents, students, and school staff commute to and from educational institutions.

“Our road safety education officers have been going out into public spaces and communities to educate the masses on the importance of practising road safety measures as drivers, pedestrians and passengers,” he said.

“These awareness programmes are currently underway in the Central-Eastern, Western and Northern divisions.

“With road safety at the forefront of our awareness agenda, the LTA and the Fiji Police Force are urging drivers, pedestrians, and passengers to actively contribute to the safety of our roads.”

Mr Rokosawa said the key message from the Authority was a simple yet powerful one: “Do the right thing. Choose to be safe for you and your loved ones.”

Company hands over crucial school patrol items

THE handover of crucial school patrol items from TotalEnergies Marketing (Fiji) Pte Limited to the Land Transport Authority on 6 February 2024 marked a pivotal moment in LTA's commitment to road safety, particularly for our precious schoolchildren.

LTA Acting Chief Executive Officer Irimaia Rokosawa received the timely boost from TotalEnergies Marketing (Fiji) Pte Ltd Managing Director Mr Dennis Michael Cuaycong at LTA headquarters in Valelevu, Nasinu.

“The importance of road safety cannot be overstated, and we acknowledge the critical role that school patrol items play in ensuring the well-being

of our youngest road users,” Mr Rokosawa said.

“The simple act of safely crossing the road can make a world of difference, and these items serve as essential tools in safeguarding the lives of our schoolchildren.”

Mr Rokosawa said the Authority would handover the school patrol items to 20 different schools across the three regions in Fiji – 10 schools in the Central-Eastern Division, three schools in the North and seven schools in the Western Division.

“We anticipate these items will impact about 5000-6000 students. We’ve been in regular communication with the recipient schools in terms of the maintenance of these school patrol items and

on a regular basis, in terms of our functions, road safety awareness and education programmes,” he said.

“Our teams undertake school visitations apart from community outreach on road safety awareness and education. We will also take stock of the items for each school in terms of its durability or if there is a need to look into replenishing these.”

Mr Rokosawa said the school patrol items would be distributed to recipient schools over the next two weeks.

He said TotalEnergies Marketing (Fiji) Pte Limited had exemplified corporate responsibility by extending a helping hand in this noble cause.



From left: Veiuto Primary School head of school Ken Kafoa, TotalEnergies Marketing (Fiji) managing director Dennis Cuaycong, LTA Acting CEO Irimaia Rokosawa and Nasinu Sangam Primary School assistant head of school Livia Rasoki. Image: LTA



LTA Acting CEO Irimaia Rokosawa (left) receives school patrol items from TotalEnergies Marketing (Fiji) Pte Ltd managing director Dennis Michael Cuaycong.

Image: LTA

LTA embarks on Digitization Journey

THE Land Transport Authority of Fiji (LTA) extended an open invitation to all stakeholders and the public to actively participate in shaping the future of customer service through its Digitization Journey.

The public consultation schedule kicked off on 24 January 2024 at LTA headquarters in Valelevu, Nasinu, and conducted at various LTA offices around the country thereafter until 15 February.

The Authority is embarking on an innovative and efficient path of service enhancement through the auto-

mation of its offerings.

The digitization journey is a transformative initiative aimed at redefining how LTA serves its community.

The goal is to make the overall experience smoother, more convenient, and inherently customer-centric.

“By embracing cutting-edge technology, LTA aims to elevate service standards and create a more responsive and adaptive transportation system for the people of Fiji,” said LTA Acting Chief Executive Officer Irimaia Rokosawa.

As a crucial part of this journey,



LTA's Digitization Journey aims to relevant customer service standards through the automation of offerings. Image: LTA

the Authority organised an engaging public consultation where the spotlight was on the public's opinions and insights.

This inclusive approach is de-

signed to capture the diverse perspectives of the community, ensuring that the services provided by LTA truly reflect the needs and expectations of the people.



Independent consultant Jude Rajkumar, left, engages with a member of the public during the public consultation on LTA's Digitization Journey. Image: LTA

Taxi Permit Issuance: LTA Board, Management address staff

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) recently became aware of a grave situation involving some of our staff members allegedly participating in a scam related to the improper issuance of taxi permits and number plates within the Western Division.

The LTA views this matter with utmost seriousness and wants to assure the public that the Authority will not tolerate any form of corruption or fraudulent activities within the organisation.

Preliminary investigations are already underway to delve into the specifics of the alleged improper issuance of taxi permits.

It is with deep disappointment to acknowledge that three LTA staff members are suspected to have colluded in this illicit operation. The LTA is committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity, and any breach of this trust is taken very seriously and will not be tolerated.

In response to this issue, the LTA has promptly reported the matter to the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC) through the directive of the Acting Chief Executive Officer.

FICAC has joined forces with the Authority to conduct an independent and thorough investigation into the allegations.

The Authority believes in complete transparency, and the collaboration with FICAC ensures that the investigation is unbiased and impartial.

As an immediate measure, the three LTA officers implicated in the alleged improper issuance of taxi permits have been suspended from their duties pending the outcome of the investigation. This is in line with our commitment to maintaining the integrity of the organisation while affording the accused officers due process.



LTA Board of Directors from right, Deputy Board Chairman Rajendra Prasad, Board Chairman Inosi Kuridrani, Director Etuate Koroi, Director Lui Naisara and Acting CEO Irimaia Rokosawa. **Image: LTA**



Inset (left): LTA Central-Eastern Division staff members.



Inset (right): LTA Deputy Board Chairman Rajendra Prasad addresses staff in Valelevu. **Images: LTA**

The improper issuance of taxi permits has had severe consequences. In response, an LTA retrieval team is actively working to recover and confiscate any improperly issued taxi permits and number plates linked to the implicated officers.

The Authority understands the gravity of the situation and are taking swift action to rectify the consequences of this illicit operation.

In light of this incident, the LTA is set to review and enhance internal systems, internal monitoring mechanisms, and implement robust risk mitigation strategies.

This proactive approach underscores the Authority's commitment to preventing similar incidents in the future, ensuring the reliability and security of its operations.

Furthermore, the issuance of taxi

permits will now be handled exclusively by regional managers and team leaders to restrict unauthorised access to the process.

The Authority will also explore the implementation of an electronic system for the issuance of permits to eliminate potential loopholes in the manual issuance process.

The LTA unequivocally condemns corruption and collusion, and remains committed to maintaining the trust and confidence of the public.

The Authority also understands the impact of this incident on the affected individuals and the broader community.

The LTA's paramount goal is to swiftly retrieve and confiscate all number plates and taxi permits that were obtained through improper

means linked to the implicated officers.

The Authority is intensifying efforts to identify and neutralise any additional individuals outside LTA who may have been involved in this collusion.

We remain resolute in our commitment to protecting the integrity of our transport system and maintaining the safety and trust of the public.

The Authority is urging the co-operation of all stakeholders and the public in reporting any sightings or knowledge of vehicles operating with suspicious or fraudulent permits.

○ *Excerpts from a Statement from the Office of the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Land Transport Authority on 31 January 2024.*

LTA expands services with new Nadi Express Office

THE Land Transport Authority (LTA) is pleased to announce the construction of its new Nadi Express Office at Jet Point, Martintar, currently undergoing refurbishment and fitout works by Vinz Work contractors. The project, which commenced on 22 January this year, is progressing well.

Honourable Minister for Transport Ro Filipe Tuisawau said the Nadi Express Office project was part of LTA's commitment to enhancing customer service and streamlining operations in response to the growing demand for services in the Western Division; especially in the high demand Nadi area with its high economic activity and airport operations.

He said the construction encompassed various refurbishment works, including state-of-the-art facilities and modern amenities to provide an improved customer experience.

"The Nadi Express Office at Jet Point in Martintar is strategically positioned to address the increasing foot traffic at the Nadi Back Road Office, which currently processes an average of over 27,000 transactions per month," the Honourable Minister said.

"The current operational scope of the Nadi Back Road Office encompasses an expansive area, spanning approximately 1,200 hectares, which extends from Sabeto to Momi, covering the Nausori Highlands and outer islands.

"This office efficiently manages the diverse needs of the region, boasting a base of 21,000 registered vehicles and an impressive 28,500 registered drivers."

Despite its commendable service, Honourable Minister Tuisawau said the Nadi Back Road Office faced a challenge in accommodating its clientele, with an average of 131 clients present at any given time. This indicates a burgeoning demand for its services, reflecting the vital role it plays in the community.

"The construction of the Nadi Express Office will ease the pressure and load of the Nadi Back Road Office while also avoiding overcrowding. This new express office is a vital component of LTA's efforts to provide additional support and



The new Nadi Express Office is located at Jetpoint, Martintar, Nadi. The office project is part of LTA's commitment to enhancing customer services. **Images: LTA**



enhance the overall service experience for the public.

It is envisaged that the new express office in Nadi will accommodate on average the processing of 8,000 transactions per month."

The new office will feature an expansive floor area of approximately 300 square metres, accommodating seven customer service booths and one inquiries counter.

With a seating capacity of around 87, the LTA Nadi Express Office aims to provide a comfortable and accessible environment for visitors.

Additionally, the facility will offer Defensive Driving Courses to enhance the convenience and accessibility of services for customers.

Honourable Minister Tuisawau said LTA's transformative Digitisation Journey was also a key initiative aimed at revolutionising customer service. The digitisation efforts seek to streamline services, reduce waiting times, and create a more convenient and customer-centric ap-

proach. By embracing digital technologies, the LTA aims to modernise its operations, ensuring efficiency and accessibility for the public.

"The Nadi Express Office is a testament of LTA's commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our community.

"This strategic addition aligns with the Authority's Digitisation Journey, ensuring that efficient and convenient services are provided to the public," Honourable Minister Tuisawau said.

The LTA acknowledged the dedication of the contractors and all parties involved in the construction process.

Their commitment and hard work contribute to the success of this project, bringing the Nadi Express Office closer to completion.

As the Nadi Express Office project progresses, the LTA remains focused on its mission to deliver top-notch services and a seamless customer experience.



LTA Road Safety Education team leader Rajesh Narayan distributes road safety information materials on Taveuni as part of ongoing roadside awareness. **Image: LTA**



LTA road safety officer Vani Ravula, left, shares road safety messages with Uraia Ratulevu as part of the Authority's community outreach at Navutulevu Village, Serua. **Image: LTA**



LTA Road Safety Education team distribute road safety information materials to business houses and firestations as part of ongoing public outreach and awareness. **Image: LTA**

Road safety education gains momentum

The Land Transport Authority's (LTA) road safety awareness activities highlight the substantial efforts made to promote road safety through various outreach programs targeting diverse groups within the community.

The importance of these initiatives cannot be overstated, given the potential impact on reducing traffic accidents, injuries, and fatalities.

From January 2023 to December 2023, LTA conducted 2,156 awareness activities, impacting 336,613 lives.

These activities included school education, public outreach, office outreach, and roadside awareness campaigns aimed at drivers, passengers, and pedestrians.

The comprehensive nature of these programs underscores their critical role in enhancing road safety.

LTA Road Safety Education Manager Watilala Fonu said school education and awareness programs, which reached 76,506 students in

2023 and 16,791 students from January to March 2024, were crucial for instilling safe road habits from a young age.

"By educating students early, the LTA is fostering a generation that prioritises road safety, potentially reducing future road-related incidents," she said.

"Public outreach efforts, impacting 29,236 people in 2023 and 2,628 people in the first quarter of 2024, are vital for raising awareness among the general public.

"These initiatives help to disseminate crucial safety information widely, ensuring that more people are informed about safe road practices."

In terms of office outreach, as many as 10,998 office workers were reached in 2023 and 5,078 in early 2024, targetting the working population, which often includes daily commuters. LTA ensures that a significant portion of road users receives important safety training, which can influence their commut-

ing behaviour positively.

"Driver roadside awareness campaigns are particularly impactful, reaching 30,624 drivers in 2023 and 9,512 drivers in the first quarter of 2024. Direct engagement with drivers on the road helps address risky behaviours and reinforce safe driving practices in real-time," Ms Fonu said.

"Passenger and pedestrian road-

side awareness efforts reached substantial numbers, with passengers (58,188 in both periods) and pedestrians (16,869 in both periods) being critical focus areas.

"These campaigns are essential for reducing accidents involving vulnerable road users who might not always be as vigilant or informed as drivers."

Community outreach awareness,

www.lta.com.fj



LTA Road Safety Education officers conducting roadside awareness. **Image: LTA**

impacting 107,764 people in both 2023 and 12,454 in early 2024, showcases the LTA's commitment to community-wide safety.

These initiatives foster a collective responsibility for road safety by involving entire communities and promoting a safer environment for all.

LTA's extensive and varied road safety awareness activities are fundamen-

tal to creating safer roads. Targeting specific groups such as students, office workers, drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and the general community, the LTA ensures a broad and inclusive approach to road safety.

This multi-faceted strategy is crucial for fostering a culture of safety, reducing accidents, and ultimately saving lives.

Enforcement operations ensure compliance

THE Authority's enforcement operations plays a critical role in upholding road safety regulations, standards, and traffic laws within communities. Conducted by the Land Transport Authority (LTA) in partnership with the Fiji Police, the Festive Season Joint Operations from 15 November 2023 to 31 January 2024 were pivotal in addressing traffic violations and enhancing road safety.

During this period, the LTA issued 11,075 Traffic Infringement Notices (TINs), 1,597 Defect Orders, and impounded 24 vehicles. These measures targeted frequent offenders through Show Cause hearings across the Central Eastern, Western, and Northern Divisions, emphasizing accountability and compliance.

The LTA's proactive stance, including the threat of license revocation for non-compliance, serves as a deterrent against repeated violations. The significant enforcement actions demonstrate a robust mechanism to maintain road safety and reduce infractions. Public involvement is also encouraged, with the LTA providing multiple platforms for reporting dangerous driving behaviours.

This collaborative approach enhances community vigilance and supports the authorities in their enforcement efforts.

The efficacy of these operations is evidenced by a 23% reduction in road fatalities from 1 January to 4 April 2024, compared to the previous year.

This statistic highlights the tangible benefits of rigorous enforcement and public cooperation in road safety initiatives. Such operations not only penalise non-compliance but also foster a culture of responsible driving, ultimately contributing to safer roads.

The ongoing commitment of the LTA to conduct Show Cause hearings and maintain stringent oversight further underscores the importance of continuous enforcement in achieving long-term road safety goals.



LTA enforcement officers in the Central Eastern, Western and Northern Divisions conduct daily inspections on Fiji's roads to ensure road safety and compliance with traffic laws and standards. **Image: LTA**

LTA secures portable motor vehicle weighing systems

THE Land Transport Authority (LTA) and Vantex Solutions signed a supply agreement in December 2023 for six sets of Portable Motor Vehicle Weighing Systems.

Vantex Solutions has been awarded the tender to provide these systems, which will significantly enhance the LTA's ability to monitor and control vehicle overloading across Fiji.

Overloading of vehicles causes accelerated and premature wear to road infrastructure, costing the Fiji Roads Authority and the Government hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in repairs and maintenance.

Additionally, overloading poses serious road safety risks, as overloaded vehicles have reduced maneuverability and longer stopping distances in emergencies.

The new weighing systems will be strategically distributed to enforcement teams throughout the country, ensuring widespread coverage and effective monitoring.

Their portability offers significant flexibility, allowing enforcement teams to target locations where overloading is most prevalent.

The LTA expressed gratitude to the Government for approving the necessary funds for this crucial project.

The implementation of these portable weighing systems is expected to improve road safety and reduce infrastructure damage, ultimately leading to more efficient use of government resources.

The introduction of these systems marks a significant step forward in the LTA's efforts to maintain road safety and preserve infrastructure integrity, benefiting both the economy and the public.



LTA Management with the team from Vantex Solutions in December 2023 at the signing of the supply agreement for six sets of portable motor vehicle weighing systems. **Image: LTA**



LTA staff in the Western Division engage in activities during the SOP workshop. **Image: LTA**

SOP training provides clear guidelines for staff

A SERIES of training sessions on Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Enforcement were held across three regions to improve the effectiveness of the authority's enforcement processes.

The sessions took place in the Central/Eastern Division from 25-27 October 2023; Western Division from 22-24, November 2023; and Northern Division from 24-26 January 2024. These SOPs outline essential policies, processes, and standards aimed at reducing errors, increasing efficiency and profitability, ensuring workplace safety, and providing clear

guidelines for issue resolution.

The focus was on the SOP for Vehicle Roadside Safety Checks, which guides authorized officers on setting up checkpoints, inspecting vehicles, and conducting necessary safety checks. The training aimed to bring clarity, consistency, and transparency to the enforcement processes while incorporating recent changes to enhance impact and efficiency.

A total of 79 participants attended the training facilitated by Manager Road Standards, Deo Reddy, and Training Coordinator Alumeci Korobiau.

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