

HERITAGE AND ARTS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1



**Greetings, Bula,
Namaste and Noaia**

This Heritage and Arts newsletter aims to provide readers an opportunity to understand the primary role of the Department of Heritage and Arts. Browse through the pages of this first edition and familiarize yourselves with the different sections and the role they play in promoting culture in all its forms.

Department Vision

A National Identity that celebrates and promotes Fiji's cultural diversity and unique traditional culture in all it's forms.

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Department Mission

The Department in partnership with industry stakeholders will facilitate and lead the cultural development of Fijians by:

- ✓ Coordinating at the national level to direct and guide development in the culture and heritage sector.
- ✓ Developing national policy and overarching legislative framework.
- ✓ Preserving, promoting and developing cultural heritage in its movable, immovable, tangible and intangible forms.
- ✓ Developing and enhancing institutional linkages internally and externally.
- ✓ Developing cultural infrastructure.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

NATIONAL CULTURE DAY	ICH SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP	FIJI MUSEUM OPEN DAY
16 th September 2016.	17 th -21 st of October, 2016.	Last Saturday of each month

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR***Mrs. Lusiana Fotofili***

Bula vinaka! Noaia and Namaste to one and all. I am indeed privileged to pen a few words in this first edition of the Heritage and Arts Newsletter.

The Department of Heritage and Arts has grown over the years since its establishment in the year 2000 and is focused on the promotion and safeguarding of the diverse cultural heritage we possess and practice every day.

There is now greater collaboration and stronger networking with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, regional and international agencies as well as the cultural agencies on the preservation, conservation, protection and development of Fiji's rich indigenous and diverse cultural traditions which are fundamental to our identity and development as a nation. The Department is also establishing networks with the local communities and creating awareness to encourage their participation in our journey to maintain the diverse cultures and traditions we have in our beloved Fiji.

It is my hope that readers of this edition will immerse themselves with information provided and actively engage with us in our pursuit to promote and safeguard our Fijian identity.

May GOD bless you all.

Thank You.

**NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL POLICY CONVENTIONS OFFICER*****Mr. Sipiriano Nemani***

It gives me great pleasure to share few thoughts on this first edition of the Department's newsletter.

For me, a newsletter as such provides a space to give and receive IDEAS, lament STORIES, celebrate ACHIEVEMENTS, and elucidate on key lessons we can use to improve on our systems and processes and at the same time develop the culture sector in Fiji holistically.

As government's focal point to address national cultural issues, it is imperative therefore that stakeholders and likewise decision makers are informed of the explicit aims of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Post 2015 in that *no development can be sustainable without culture*.

This newsletter will serve to keep readers informed of successful experiences and case studies parallel to this aim both at the national and regional level.

Much has transpired however very little is known!

The Culture Sector in Fiji has a lot to share and the columns that will feature in forthcoming editions are testimony to this.

Wishing you all happy reading.

CULTURAL INDUSTRIES UNIT

The Cultural Industries section explores the correlation between culture and economics. It also enhances the use of culture as a vector for economic sustainability and development. This inculcates the concept of culture underpinning the participation of women in the development of the country, the involvement of youths as agents of cultural revitalization and continuity, and also using culture as a tool for income generation, contributing to national poverty alleviation.

The section also plays a key role in the disbursement and monitoring of grants to its flagship agencies. These include Fiji Museum, Fiji Arts Council and the National Trust of Fiji with four multicultural centres in Suva, Nausori, Labasa and Ba.



Back (L – R): Ms. Shobhna Devi (*Administrative Officer – Multicultural Centres*), Ms. Ulamila Liku (*Culture Industry Assistant*)
Front: Mr. Maciusela Raitaukala (*Senior Cultural Enterprises Officer*)

CULTURE & EDUCATION, PLANNING AND TRAINING UNIT

This unit is an essential component in setting long term strategies and goals for the Department proper and the culture sector in general (planning); its responsibility also encompasses training, culture and education which is a pivotal aspect of capacity building and knowledge enhancement for position holders in the promotion and safeguarding of culture and heritage at the school level. The unit is involved in various educational activities from reviewing the culture strategy meetings, roadshows, research on integration of physics in formal education curriculum, school cluster weekly programs and the coordination of various cultural festivals. Another key role of the unit is the development and implementation of planning programmes for the Department and the culture sector so that all activities are aligned to the overall government strategies, plans and activities. The training unit is also tasked with researches relevant to the up skilling of officers that focuses on improving performance and output.



L – R: Mrs. Lusiana Fotofili (*Director*), Mr. Vereniki Nalio (*Senior Cultural Development Officer*)

INSET: Ms. Rosalia Muavesi (*Clerical Officer - Planning and Training*)



CULTURAL STATISTICS UNIT

Cultural Statistics refers to the measurement of culture. It is premised on measuring the production of cultural goods and services. The aim of the unit is to develop a cultural statistics framework for Fiji. The purpose is to help Fiji monitor and grow the value of culture. For decades, activity of the culture sector in Fiji is considered informal and is of the least of priority in terms of national development. The identification of national cultural indicators to measure cultural activities and contribution to Fiji's economic progress underpins the work of the unit.



BACK L – R: Mr. Eroni Waqairagata (*Cultural Statistics Assistant*), Mr. Meli Tokaibai (*Cultural Statistics Officer*), Mr. Sunia Marayawa (*Senior Policy and Communications Officer*).
FRONT: Mr. Sipiriano Nemani (*Principal Policy and Conventions Officer*)

MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE UNIT

The unit is the parent arm of the department responsible for staffing, overall management and efficient and prudent use of allocations for the department provided for in the annual budgetary provisions for the sector. The Unit has important roles for the department in ensuring that efficient corporate services are provided; developing and promoting effective monitoring and evaluation systems to assess service deliveries and ensuring financial accountability and transparency is practiced within the department.



BACK L – R:
Mrs. Kula Saro (*Administrative Officer*),
Mrs. Laisa Vuto (*Executive Officer*), Ms. Asenaca Raturubuli (*Clerical Officer – Registry*).
FRONT: Mrs. Lusiana Fotofili (*Director*).
INSET: Mr. Fifita (*Driver*), Mrs. Lobua (*Secretary*)

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE UNIT



BACK L – R: Mr. Sunia Marayawa (*SPCO*), Mr. Sipiriano Nemani (*PPCO*).
FRONT: Ms. Sereana Tadrau (*Clerical Officer – Intangible Cultural Heritage*)

The importance of intangible cultural heritage is not the cultural manifestation itself but rather the wealth of knowledge and skills that is transmitted through it from one generation to the next. The social and economic value of this transmission of knowledge is relevant for minority groups and for mainstream social groups within a state, and is as important for developing states as for developed ones. Fiji has ratified the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in

2010 pledging its full support to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage elements for all communities in Fiji. The unit works closely with regional and international agencies in the promotion and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. There are five broad domains that ICH is focused on and the unit is responsible for the identification and inventorying of these elements and adopting safeguarding measures to ensure its viability.

MULTI CULTURAL CENTRES

The Multi-Cultural Centers are semi-government institutions located around the country and receive their annual grant from government through an MOU signed between the Chairperson of the Committee for each Centre and the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts. One of the principal tasks of the Department is to see through that all Centers have a fully-fledged Committee to oversee its operation. This inculcates the appointment of new members and the review of appointment of previous members. The Centers are managed by their respective Committees which consist of

prominent private sector individuals in society who volunteer to become members. The members advice on matter pertinent to the running of the centers, while the Administrators who manage the centers utilize its Annual Corporate Plan as a tool to set the direction and activities for implementation in a financial year. The students are mainly young people from rural and urban communities in the various centers. Large percentages are students from the various schools around the towns. The tutors are mainly experienced members of the community who have demonstrated exceptional capabilities in the different genres of the art.



The Multicultural Centres committee with the department and agency reps.

POLICY, CONVENTIONS AND GIS UNIT



BACK L – R: Mr.Sipiriano Nemani (*PPCO*), Ms. Amelia Dreketirua (*GIS Assistant*), Ms.Aerina Rounds (*GIS Assistant*), Mr.Jovesa Matakasa (*GIS Officer*).
FRONT: Mrs.Alumita Romanu (*Policy & Convention Assistant*)

The unit looks after protection protocols, policies to enhance visibility of culture sector, community empowerment enhanced through the implementation of the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention and the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the incorporation of cultural heritage matters in national, regional and international development plans and agencies.

The development of policies, strategies and plans are pivotal in setting the direction for the culture sector, the department and its implementing agencies. This also includes the immersion of culture in national, regional and international development plans, conventions and

treaties. Currently, the unit is in the process of finalizing the National Cultural Policy and others. The Geographical Information System team is also under the auspices of the Policy Unit and is responsible for research and update of the national cultural heritage list, production of digital thematic heritage maps, development and maintenance of a geodatabase amongst others.

SALVAGING OF THE HERITAGE TOWN

The devastation of Tropical Cyclone Winston caused havoc across the Fiji Islands on the 19th – 20th of February. The historical port town of Levuka was one of the worst affected area. The Department of Heritage and Arts took the initiative to carry out a rapid assessment and a salvaging exercise to provide a clear direction on the measures to undertake to maintain the heritage significance of the built heritage in Levuka.

The rapid assessment team worked in Levuka from the 25th to the 27th of February and recommended that rehabilitation and restoration be pursued with immediately. The Department of Heritage and Arts and its partner agencies, the Fiji Museum, Fiji Arts Council and the National Trust of Fiji agreed to embark on a salvaging exercise from the 22nd of March to the 2nd of April noting the danger of Levuka being delisted from the World Heritage Listing.

The salvaging team within its capacity deployed officers to Levuka as its first phase in the restoration process. The team worked closely with officers and inmates from the Fiji Corrections Services salvaging materials that could be reused and having them stored in a secure and safe place. Temporary conservative measures were also undertaken to prevent the heritage sites from further deterioration.

A Post Disaster Needs Assessment was sponsored by UNESCO engaging regional and international heritage experts to assess the status of Levuka and elements of heritage and cultural significance.



THE WORLD HERITAGE TEAM

L – R: Mrs. Lusiana Fotofili (*Director*),
Mrs. Anaseini Kalougata (*Senior World Heritage Officer*).
INSET: Mrs. Vaciseva Latibeqa (*World Heritage Assistant*)

The Salvaging Exercise



For any comments on this newsletter please email sunia.marayawa@govnet.gov.fj or call on 3316955/3316956.