

PRESS BRIEFING BY LAVI ROKOIKA (MS)
Acting Commissioner

Good morning, and thank you for joining us.

Today's press briefing provides a public account of how the Commission has discharged its statutory mandate since 1 June 2025, when I assumed office. It outlines the Commission's work, its enforcement and prevention approach, and the systems through which it ensures independence, fairness, and accountability.

This briefing does not deal with individual cases. It is intended to provide the public with a clear and transparent understanding of the Commission's work at an institutional level.

Mandate, independence, and institutional integrity

The Commission's mandate is to prevent, investigate, and, where appropriate, prosecute corruption, while strengthening integrity systems and public confidence in the rule of law.

In carrying out this mandate, the Commission is required by law to act independently and on the basis of evidence. Decisions are made through established legal and operational processes, not on the basis of personalities, political considerations, or external pressure.

To safeguard independence, the Commission operates under structured disclosure and recusal mechanisms. Where any matter could reasonably give rise to a perception of conflict of interest, the appropriate disclosure is made and the decision-making process proceeds without that person's involvement. These safeguards exist precisely to ensure impartiality and public confidence.

Focus since June 2025

Since June 2025, the Commission has focused on strengthening its foundations. This has included improving internal systems, ensuring that investigations and prosecutions meet the legal standards required by law, and implementing the Commission's improved Strategic Plan.

A central principle guiding this work is fairness, and readiness must prevail over volume.

Complaints and case management activity

Between June and December 2025, the Commission received 108 complaints, of which 81 have been assessed. Following assessment, matters were either referred for investigation or closed where they did not meet the legal threshold required to proceed.

Across the divisions:

- In the Central and Eastern Division, investigative teams closed 168 cases and referred 7 matters to the Police, including the clearance of long-standing files dating back to 2007.
- In the Western Division, 14 new files were opened and 43 files were closed.
- In the Northern Division, 11 new files were opened and 13 files were closed.

Today, the Commission has 268 active investigation files, with 104 pending in the Western and Northern Divisions and 164 in the Central and Eastern Division.

All correspondence must be addressed to the Acting Commissioner and sent to the FICAC Headquarters

Matters before the courts

The Legal Division currently has 172 matters pending in Court, with the oldest file being a 2013 matter. Since assuming office, 14 charges have been filed, reflecting the Commission's focus on proceeding only where there is sufficient admissible evidence to meet prosecutorial standards.

Not every complaint becomes an investigation, and not every investigation results in prosecution. This is not inaction; it is the proper and lawful application of evidentiary thresholds and prosecutorial discretion.

Prevention, public discourse, and due process

Alongside enforcement, the Commission continues to prioritise prevention through integrity-strengthening work with public institutions, as well as public awareness and education programmes.

The Commission recognises that members of the public are entitled to express their views, including comments on social media. At the same time, it is important to understand that the Commission cannot proceed to court on the basis of speculation, rumours, or unverified information circulated online. Proceedings can only be commenced where there is admissible evidence capable of meeting the legal threshold required by law.

The Commission asks for public patience as it carries out its work thoroughly, independently, and in accordance with the law.

Looking ahead

Looking forward, the Commission remains committed to building a faster, more disciplined, and more transparent anti-corruption system. The focus will remain on timely investigations, trial-ready prosecutions, and stronger prevention through improved systems, partnerships, and public engagement.

The people of Fiji can be assured that the Commission will continue to act independently and without fear or favour.

Closing

The Commission thanks the people of Fiji for its engagement and cooperation.

A limited number of questions will now be taken, subject to the requirements of the law and ongoing proceedings.

Thank you.

~ENDS~