

Good afternoon, everyone and a warm welcome to all our staff here at the Commission Headquarters and our colleagues from Lautoka and Labasa. I would also like to send my Diwali greetings to the people of Fiji joining us via our live-stream.

On behalf of our Acting Commissioner, Ms Lavi Rokoika, and the Legal Department, I extend heartfelt greetings as we come together to mark the festival of Diwali, the Festival of Lights.

Diwali literally means “a row of lights”. At its core, it symbolises the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil. In many traditions, homes are lit with lamps, and people renew their lives and relationships in a spirit of hope and unity.

Here at the Commission, we have had a busy season: from our recent public events, outreach efforts, and the strengthening of trust in the communities we serve, your dedication and professionalism have not gone unnoticed. You have each contributed to upholding integrity, transparency and service to everyone in Fiji.

As we celebrate Diwali today, I would like us to reflect on 3 key messages that resonate both with the festival and our work together:

1. Light and clarity

Just as the lamps of Deepawali drive away darkness, our work drives away uncertainty. In the legal department, your careful diligence, clarity in process and commitment to fairness bring light to complex matters.

2. Renewal and unity

This festival invites us to renew our spaces, our relationships and our personal commitment. Let us take this moment to reaffirm our unity across departments, across cultures, and across the diverse communities of Fiji.

3. Hope and responsibility

The triumph of good over evil is not just a legend: it is a call to action. In our roles we carry responsibility: to serve the public interest, to listen, to act, to deliver. Deepawali reminds us that hope is meaningful only when paired with purposeful action.

So as we share our meal today and enjoy the fellowship of our colleagues, let us carry forward the spirit of Deepawali into our work: to be beacons of fairness, guardians of trust, and partners in progress for all in Fiji.

May your celebrations be joyful, your families be safe, and your commitment to service renewed.

Thank you, dhanyavaad and Happy Diwali to you all.