



PRESS RELEASE

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FICAC Joins National Effort to Tackle Tax Crimes

The Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC) today joined key enforcement, regulatory, and legal agencies in the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to officially establish the Tax Crimes Taskforce.

The signing ceremony took place at the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) Complex in Nasese, Suva.

Chair of the FRCS Tax Crimes Taskforce, Mr. Nitin Gandhi, welcomed the Chief Guest, Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business, Hon. Esrom Immanuel, along with heads and representatives of partner agencies.

He described the event as a milestone that strengthens Fiji's financial integrity, compliance systems, and inter-agency collaboration.

Hon. Immanuel acknowledged the close cooperation already taking place among FICAC, the Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit, Ministry of Immigration, Fiji Police Force, Land Transport Authority, Ministry of Justice, Office of the Solicitor-General, and the FRCS.

Mr. Gandhi said the milestone signing was the result of a shared vision and months of dedicated collaboration.

"The Taskforce was established in response to the growing need for a coordinated, multi-agency approach to tackling tax crime and financial misconduct," he said.

"Since its inception, the Taskforce has worked diligently to build relationships, share intelligence, and strengthen enforcement mechanisms."

Mr. Gandhi noted that several significant cases have already been formally referred to FICAC for prosecution, including VAT fraud schemes, individuals falsely acting as tax agents, and the submission of fraudulent tax returns.



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He also acknowledged the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), both part of the Taskforce's governance group.

“Although unable to sign the MOU due to legal constraints, their continued involvement and support remain vital to the collective mission.”

Mr. Gandhi added that the Taskforce's work also extends to investigating unexplained wealth and recommending legislative reforms to ensure Fiji's tax laws remain responsive, robust, and aligned with emerging risks and international best practices.

FICAC Acting Commissioner, Ms. Lavi Rokoika, said the signing represents a renewed commitment by all partner agencies to protect Fiji's financial and governance systems.

“This MOU brings agencies closer together under a unified framework to enhance information-sharing, joint investigations, and accountability,” she said.

“It highlights that corruption, tax evasion, and hidden wealth are interconnected issues that require coordinated efforts, combining law, intelligence and technology to make a real difference.”

Ms. Rokoika added that through the Taskforce, agencies are building a stronger network of trust and accountability, one that ensures every taxpayer, investor, and citizen can have confidence that public funds are safeguarded.

END



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