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NFA, Jakarta Fire signed MOU



Chairman Commander Francis Kean shake hands with Vice Governor of Jakarta, Mr Basuki Purnama following the signing of the Memorandum of Under-

The Chairman of the National Fire Authority and Permanent Secretary for Works, Transport and Public Utilities, Commander Francis Kean, on 22 September 2014, signed a MOU on Fire Services and Disaster Handling with the Vice Governor of Jakarta, Mr Basuki Purnama.

The signing of the MOU with the Jakarta Department of Fire and Disaster Handling is another milestone in the development and reforms of NFA. The signing is also of great timing since the NFA is reviewing its legislation to include an all-encompassing emerging

role including Disaster Handling which the Department of Fire and Disaster Handling of Jakarta have been doing over the years.

The MOU will guide the two Fire and Emergency Services in areas relating to manpower development, exchange visits of experts.

Commander Kean in his brief address at the Jakarta Municipality indicated his gratitude to Vice Governor Basuki Purnama and his staff for making possible through the MOU the skills upgrade among other benefits given the extent of the responsibility that their

Jakarta counterparts have been used to, from the traditional fire fighting chores to the general disaster mitigation efforts that firemen are being called to address these days. Commander Kean highlighted that NFA had a lot to learn from our counterparts in Jakarta. We will be interested in understanding their structure and response arrangements. There are about 20 million people who live in the City of Jakarta, taking into account vehicle numbers, it would be interesting learn how they ensure effective and efficient response.

Commander Kean took the opportunity to congratulate and wishing both Vice Governor Basuki Purnama and Governor Mr Joko "Jokowi" Widodo every success, the latter assuming the Presidency of Indonesia from October 20 and the former taking over as Governor of Jakarta. He also thanked the Fiji Government for its oversight and support in the development of such vital relationship in the Region.

Commander Kean was joined at the signing ceremony by Mr John O'Connor, CEO of the National Fire Authority and staff of the Fiji Embassy.

As a result of the signing of the MOU, NFA Fire Officers and Firefighters will be expected to undergo specialized training in Jakarta. Further, there is expected to be technical cooperation between the two Fire and Emergency Agencies



Sigatoka Family Funday

Sigatoka Fire Station had its Family Funday at the Sigatoka Fire Station on Fiji Day holi-

day.

Chief Guest at the event was the Divisional Fire Officer Western Waisea Mateiwai.

Mr Mateiwai commended the Sigatoka Fire Team for their hard-

work and reminded the firefighters the importance of having a Funday at the Fire Station.

“Station Family Funday is important to recognize and thank our families for their unwavering support.



Headquarters staff in their Fiji Day attire.

Fiji Day celebration at the HQ

The National Fire Authority (NFA) Headquarters staff celebrated the Fiji Day in style.

As usual, the staff, organized a colourful attire this year with a morning tea to celebrate the Fiji Day.



Firefighter course ends

Qualified Firefighter training

course for the Central/Eastern firefighters ended at the NFA Headquarters on Thursday October 9.

The Qualified Firefighter course was

conducted to assess the firefighters skills and competency levels before they are promoted to the Qualified Firefighter rank.

Structural Fire Statistics by Division

Central/Eastern		Western		Northern		Total
Suva	12	Lautoka	11	Labasa	3	
Valelevu	10	Nadi	9	Savusavu	2	
Nausori	10	Sigatoka	3	Taveuni	3	
Navua	1	Ba	4	Seaqaqa	3	
Pacific Harbour	3	Tavua	3			
Levuka	0	Rakiraki	2			
Sub Total	36		31		10	77

Structural fires increase

The National Fire Authority (NFA) has recorded 77 structural fires from January to July 2014. Out of the 77 structural fires, 23% structural fires have been attributed to suspicious and arson cases and the other 47% were caused by other causes of fire which can be attributed to carelessness.

Grass/bush/rubbish and cane fires on high

The NFA CEO is calling on the support of the members of the community in the prevention of bush and grass fires after the returned from a visit to the Northern Division.

"During the visit, we witness huge bush and forest area on fire and it was not possible to control that fire because of lack of access," Mr John O'Connor said.

"We also witness huge areas of pine, bush and grass areas already on fire.

"Infrastructure such as wooden electrical poles were partly burnt as a result of the out of control bush and grass fires. In one such out of control bush fire, the weather radar in Labasa was at risk of being destroyed by the fire but the firefighters were able to stop the fire damaging this very important asset.

It was also noted that large pine forests has been affected by such out of control bush and grass fires.

Due to the prolonged dry season, large areas of grass and bushes were noted to be very dry and the NFA CEO is urging members of the community to refrain from throwing lit cigarette butts and match sticks on the road side.

"The grass and bush areas were so dry that a small spark will set these grass and bush areas on fire and it will be very difficult to control these fires because of the strong windy conditions," Mr O'Connor said.

Bush, grass, cane and rubbish fires are now becoming a great concern for NFA as it continues to threaten lives and properties.

Into the month of August, NFA has attended to more than five hundred rubbish, bush, cane and grass fires..

Nadi and Lautoka have recorded the highest number of bush, grass, rubbish and cane fires for the month of August.

The NFA is really concern with this huge increase in bush, rubbish, grass and cane fire incidents considering that we are experiencing prolonged dry and windy conditions.

"Attending to these bush, grass, rubbish and cane fires takes up much of NFA resources as these fires cover huge area and controlling these fires is a huge challenge," Mr O'Connor said.

"The bush, grass, rubbish and cane fires is a fire risk to properties and has resulted in two properties in Lautoka and Labasa being destroyed lately and we don't want any family to go through this painful experience of losing their house as a result of a out of control bush, rubbish, grass and cane fires," Mr O'Connor said.

"It is our humble plea to members of the community to stop burning bush, grass, cane and rubbish fires during the current dry season. Meanwhile Mr O'Connor is also urging members of the community to be mindful of fire safety at home following the increase in the number of house fire incidents in the last few days.

"We all use fire ignition sources at our homes everyday as such the risk of a fire happening at our home is a reality and we must always be vigilant and take extra care to prevent a fire from starting," Mr O'Connor said.

Energy Saver

TO achieve the best practices in National Fire Authority (NFA), NFA has appointed Energy Saver Monitors to reduce energy consumption.

The Energy Saver Monitor group comprised of representatives of the Departments at the NFA Headquarters in Walu Bay, Suva are appointed to monitor the energy consumption in NFA.

The NFA has also entered in the Department of Energy organized Energy Saver Competition in order to be recognized for the energy conservation.

CEO John O'Connor thanked the NFA Energy Monitors for their hard work.

"The formation of the Energy Monitors at NFA will assist NFA a lot in energy conservation.

"Such initiatives are important for any organization to achieve best practices," Mr O'Connor said.

"Energy Management is also part of the strategies which NFA has implemented over the years in its capacity building initiatives.

NFA Energy Saver Representative, Sanjeshni Devi, said they are delighted to enter in this year's Energy Saver competition.

"This is the first time to enter in the Department of Energy organized Energy Saver competition for organizations.

"NFA is committed to conservation of energy since it will reduce our bills and also assist in reducing carbon emissions.



Energy Saver Representative, Sanjeshni Devi, showing the initiative taken by the Energy Saver Team towards energy consumption at the NFA Headquarters.

Green watch tops



Photo 1: Nadi Fire Station Inter-Watch teams.

Photo 2: Fire Team competing in the inter-watch drill competition.

Green watch won the Nadi Fire Station inter-watch drill competition on September 19 at the Nadi Fire Station.

Green Watch edged Red Watch by one point to win the inter-watch drill competition with 3points.

The win has resulted in Green Watch qualifying to compete in the Western Division inter

-watch drill competition later this year where the winner will qualify for the national drill competition for the firefighters in Suva.

In the drill competition, Inter-Watch teams are assessed on the firefighting skills which includes Knots and Lines, Paramedics Scenario, Stretcher Lashing and firefighting Drills.





Action between Police Blues and the National Fire Authority final at the ANZ Stadium in Suva. Police Blues won 18-15.

Fire went down firing against defending champions

Police Blues retained the RC Manubhai Suva Rugby Union (SRU) Escott Shield title after defeating Fiji Bitter National Fire Authority (NFA) 18-15 at the ANZ Stadium, Suva.

It was one of the best Escott Shield final with both sides displaying excellent performance.

SRU president Commander Francis Kean praised the per-

formance of both teams in the final.

“Both teams played well and we commend them for their level of performance.

Commander Kean thanked the sponsor the RC Manubhai for their kind sponsorship.

“We would like to acknowledge the support of our sponsor RC Manubhai and our co-

sponsors MH, Fulton Hogan Highways, Carpenters Motors, Novotel and our media partners as well for their kind support to make this competition a successful one.”

Meanwhile Fiji Bitter Army takes the third place after defeating Covenant Brothers 15-13.