



Issue 13  
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# BOKOBUKA NEWS



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**John O'Connor**  
Chief Executive Officer

Ni sa bula vinaka and I welcome you to this last issue of our newsletter **Bokobuka News** for 2014.

We have come to the end of 2014 and I must sincerely thank you for your hard work, commitment, passion and loyalty to NFA that enabled us to come so far.

This year alone NFA has achieved a lot in the enhancement of our human capital capacity and service delivery to our communities. Some of our notable achievements this year are:

- Enhancement of our individual capital capacity building as our staff have undergone firefighting and emergency rescue training locally through our in-house training courses and at local tertiary institutions as well as with overseas fire

services.

- New firefighting equipment and fire vehicles were purchased. The NFA purchased two brand new ambulances from UK along with ten fire vehicles from Australia to improve its services delivery to the people of Fiji.

- In house training courses have been conducted on a monthly basis by the training department with the assistance of registered trainers and institutions to continue up-skilling NFA's human resources capabilities.

The NFA also took another significant step with the consultation process for the review of the National Fire Services Act 1994. A series of consultation took place this year with the members of the public in different centres around the country and with the stakeholders to get their views on it.

Another important event that eventuated this year was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Jakarta Fire Service in relating to manpower development and exchange visits of experts.

To-date, the number of structural fires stands at one hundred and forty-two as compared to one hundred and twenty in 2013.

As we look forward to welcome 2015 and the challenges it will bring, 2015 will be a very important year

for NFA.

Firstly it will be an human year in the major areas such as our human resources and capital development.

These developments will be in form of the new fire stations to improve our services deliveries to our communities.

Already works have been started for the construction of fire stations in Korolevu, Korovou and Savusavu.

Our dear colleagues, I take this opportunity to acknowledge you all for your hard work and tireless effort in serving the people of Fiji and NFA with your commitment, passion and loyalty.

On behalf of the Board and Management our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all staff for your support, good will and kind heart that allowed us to continue to uplift our standard of service to the members of the community.

With New Year festivities upon us, let us all be more proactive and I would like to remind you all of the importance of fire safety. It is imperative that we take extra care and pay more attention to fire safety and help minimize fire incidents from happening at our homes, business and communities.

Until the next issue of our newsletter in the New Year, I wish you all a fire save New Year celebrations.



**NFA staff pictured with Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment Honourable Parveen Kumar after receiving the new Scania Fire Truck at the NFA Headquarters.**

## New Scania Fire Truck for NFA

The **National Fire Authority (NFA)** received a new Scania Multipurpose Fire Truck from the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment Parveen Kumar at the NFA Headquarters in Suva on December 31.

The Scania Fire Truck being the first Fire Truck of this type purchased by the NFA was handed over to the NFA during the handing over ceremony.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment Parveen Kumar said he is delighted to hand over the specialized Scania Multipurpose Fire Trucks to the National Fire Authority.

"The purchase of the Multipurpose Fire Trucks is an important Government funded project for the people of this nation.

"We recognize that a key enabling agent to realize this expectation is the need for capital improvements to infrastructure, vehicles and equipment and my Ministry is particularly delighted with this purchase because for the first time in the history of NFA, we have been able to purchase this new Multipurpose Scania Fire Truck," Mr Kumar

said. The purchase of such specialized fire and ladder trucks will allow NFA to respond effectively to oil, chemical and high rise building fires.

This new Multipurpose Fire Truck was purchased from Frazer Fire Ltd, NZ at a cost of F\$800,000. The truck is fitted with the latest available fire fighting technologies and has a 4000 litre water capacity, 1000 litre foam capacity and is also installed with the latest road accident rescue equipments. It has a monitor installed on top of the truck which will allow for effective oil, chemical and other related fires. The truck also has a monitor in front of the truck which can be used for property and vehicle fires.

Mr Kumar added that the Government and his Ministry will continue to provide an enabling environment that will support the National Fire Authority to achieve its full potential in delivering an efficient and effective emergency response and rescue service for fire, ambulance and other emergencies.

As Minister responsible for the Fire Service we are constantly monitoring such government funded projects to ensure that these funds are well used and continue to keep our communities and environment safe from fire emergencies," Mr Kumar added.

## Management workshop highlights 2015 importance

The last management workshop for 2014 was held on December 30<sup>th</sup> at the National Fire Authority (NFA) Headquarters in Suva.

NFA CEO John O'Connor said the workshop was an important one for the NFA.

“The workshop was held to discuss our plans for 2015 to ensure the effective delivery of our services to the members of the community.

Mr O'Connor also highlighted a major em-

phasis for 2015 is the need for the NFA to reinvigorate the fire safety awareness at Divisional levels so that all the members of the community have access to information on fire safety to drive a change in mindset and attitude towards fire safety in order to reduce fires in 2015.



Divisional heads with Chief Fire Officer Qionilau Moceitai during the Management workshop at the NFA Headquarters.

## Firefighters test their skills

### National Fire Authority (NFA)

Firefighters around the country competed in the National Inter Station Fire Drill Competition at the NFA Headquarters in Suva.

This is the first time the drill has been conducted at national level and is another milestone in the reforms of NFA.

The roles carried out by firefighters have evolved and include Road Accident Rescue, Urban Search and Rescue, Flood Water Rescue, Natural Disasters, Hazardous Material Response and Paramedic Response as such during the year, we have continued with training development programs to prepare our men and women for the expanded role.

The Station drill involved crews from all the Station pitting their skills against each other in the different emergency skills required to be able to perform their task effectively and efficiently.

There were inter-watch drill competitions held in each station and the winner from each station proceeded to the National Drill Competition which was held on December 19 in the Suva Fire Station.

NFA CEO John O'Connor said this National Drill Competition was an important event for its firefighters.

"During this drill competition, firefighters were tested on fire and emergency incident response," Mr O'Connor said.

"The purpose of having this National Station Drill Competi-

tion is to test the firefighters competency levels to ensure they are in line with modern fire-fighting standards and techniques.

"Having this competition will also prepare the firefighters for challenges in the nature of their work as emergency responders so that they are able to perform their duties effectively during fire and emergency response.

"This competition is not just any other ordinary competition but a very important practical assessment for NFA as we are able to determine the level of skills and knowledge at the different Fire Station. The competition also allowed us to identify areas of development for next year," Mr O'Connor said.

Valelevu Fire Station won the competition.



**Nadi Fire Station Fire Team preparing for the Confined Space Rescue Drill during the National Inter-Station Fire Drill Competition at the NFA Headquarters in Suva.**

# Old capital gets a boost



**Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment, Parveen Kumar received the Fire Truck key from the Japanese Ambassador to Fiji, His Excellency, Takuji Hanatani during the handing over ceremony in Levuka Town Hall, Levuka.**

It was a joyous occasion for Fiji's old capital Levuka as they received a Cabbage Compactor Truck, Ride-On Lawn Mower and a 4x4 Fire Truck donated by the Government of Japan.

In an handing over ceremony at the Levuka Town Hall on Thursday October 30, 2014, Japanese Ambassador to Fiji His Excellency Mr. Takuji Hanatani said they are proud to hand over the new Garbage Truck, Ride-On Lawn Mower to the Levuka Town Council and the Fire Truck to the National Fire Authority.

"The Government of Japan funded these vehicles through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme.

"The new vehicles will improve the environment sanitation and the firefighting capacity in Levuka." "This will enable us to promote the well-

being of the people of Levuka as well as facilitate the protection of its historical heritage," Ambassador Hanatani said.

Ambassador Hanatani said the donation of the vehicles to Levuka also signifies the historical ties which Japan has with Fiji and especially Levuka over the years with such important development. "These projects will further deepen the ties between the people and governments of Japan and Fiji,

"The Ambassador said. Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment Honourable Parveen Kumar said the three vehicles boost Levuka's capacity building. "We are thankful to the Government of Japan for this assistance.

It will assist the Levuka Town Council and the NFA in their capacity building and an effective

services deliveries to the people of Levuka," Honourable Mr Kumar said.

"We thank the Government of Japan for donating the three vehicles in the uplifting of our services.

"These are two important projects for the people of Levuka in the preservation of our environment and well-being of our communities in Levuka.

"The Ministry will ensure that the three vehicles are well look after and also in other areas in the protection of our national heritage.

"These are very important developments in Levuka and we also like to ensure the commitment of the Government and my Ministry with better services deliveries to our communities," Honourable Minister said.

## Pacific Harbour boost

The **National Fire Authority (NFA)** received a major boost in its station upgrading project with the funding assistance provided to the Pacific Harbour Fire Station by the Sustainable Mahogany Industries Limited Company enabling the NFA to upgrade the Pacific Harbour Fire Station and its facilities.

With the current developments taking place under its reforms, Sustainable Mahogany Industries Limited's \$5000 donation on Friday towards the expansion of the Pacific Harbour Fire Station complement the developments taking place of the fire stations this year.

NFA CEO John O'Connor thanked Sustainable Mahogany Industries Limited for their assistance.

"This assistance is timely which will boost the service and capability of the Pacific Harbour Fire Station.

" The NFA is currently carrying out development works to improve the fire stations services delivery which supports the reforms of the NFA and we are thankful to

get this timely donation to further assist NFA in its capacity and infrastructure development initiatives over the next five years under the Strategic Planning Framework," Mr O'Connor said.

This year, NFA has already completed major infrastructure developments of the fire station and improvements of the facilities to better serve our community and we are fortunate that we are able to get this timely donation at this important phase to assist us in our quest to benchmark our services delivery with modern developments.

Pacific Harbour Fire Station is the volunteer fire station serving the community of Pacific Harbour and its nearby community and this donation by one of the major stakeholder in Pacific Harbour has really boosted the morale of the Pacific Harbour volunteer firefighters.

Mr O'Connor said they are thankful to get such important support from ardent stakeholder in the Pacific Harbour community which has always rallied their support

to help the community and this strengthens the friendship between the community and the fire station.

"Community support is vital and we are thankful to get such important support from our local community which gives a boost to our services delivery," Mr O'Connor said.

"This funding assistance will help NFA to expand its Pacific Harbour Fire Station which includes the extension of the dormitory and other upgrading works of the Pacific Harbour Fire Station.

Sustainable Mahogany Industries Limited Operations Manager Phillip Molloy while handing over the five thousand dollars cheque to the NFA said they are delighted to help NFA.

"The company is delighted to assist in such important developments.

"We are happy to assist our Fijian community and it's a proud moment for us to give back to the community.



**Sustainable Mahogany Industries Limited Operations Manager Philip Molly handing over the cheque to the Divisional Fire Officer Central/Eastern Timoci Nakaruru at their office in Pacific Harbour.**

## NFA Commitment award

It was a proud moment for the National Fire Authority (NFA) during the Fiji Business Excellence Awards (FBEA) at the Sheraton Resort in Denarau on November 8.

NFA received the Commit-

ment to Business Excellence Award during the FBE Awards night.

Chief Executive Officer John O'Connor said the NFA is proud of its recognition.

"To receive such an award among the companies who were short-listed is a great achievement for the NFA.

"It is the hard work of our staff and strategic planning and

leadership of our Board and the Management which has enabled the NFA to get such a recognition," Mr O'Connor said.

The FBEA awards night is held every year to recognize the achievements of businesses for their business excellence.

Air Terminal Services was the winner of the top award walking away with the President's Award at the FBE Awards night.

## OHS training for NFA staff



**Participants of the OHS Training Course at the NFA Headquarters**

National Fire Authority (NFA) staff in the Central/Eastern and Northern Division Fire Stations attended the Occupational Health and Safety Module 1 & 2

Training Course at the NFA Headquarters in Suva from December 10-12.

The OHS course was conducted to further develop the staff capabilities in OHS.

"OHS is very important to ensure the safety of our staff in NFA and this training will upskill the knowledge and capabilities of our staff in OHS," CEO John O'Connor said.

"We hope that what the staff have learnt during the three days of training will broaden their knowledge in OHS as well as further identify areas and improvements in their respective departments and fire stations to ensure the NFA continue to practice the OHS practices under the OHS rules and regulations to ensure the safety all the time."

The OHS Training was conducted in conjunction with Service Pro training provider.

# BokoBuka Sport

## Tabuarua in top form in France Division Two

Former firefighter Leone Tabuarua is in top form in the French Division Two competition in

France.

Tabuarua is currently playing for the US Dax side in the French Division Two competition.

“I am happy with my new club and I am enjoying every bit of it,” Tabuarua said.

“The competition is

tough and so far I am happy with my performance since joining the side this year,” Tabuarua said.

The former national 7s and Flying Fijians rep played good game since joining the club and has vowed to do his best in 2015.



Leone Tabuarua (standing third from the right hand side on the third row) pictured with his US DAX team mates.