



GPO Box 12642, Suva, Fiji Tel: (+679) 3304702 Fax: (+679) 3303530
Website: www.transparencyfiji.org

PRESS RELEASE

Suva, Fiji

07 May 2013

For immediate Release

Transparency International (TI) Fiji holds annual meeting

Transparency International (TI) Fiji believes the government should be transparent, accountable and participatory at national level to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals which Fiji signed at the United Nations.

Chairman Apisalome Tudreu made the appeal after the organisation's annual meeting in Suva last week where he reported to members on TI Fiji's activities especially focusing on priorities in the current financial year.

With MDGs coming to an end in 2015, Transparency International, the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption, stresses effective and just governance in its outlook on the global agenda post 2015.

"Transparency International continues to advocate at national and international forums and through local chapters, at different community settings, that open, accountable and participatory governance will help improve people's lives and contribute significantly to reducing poverty over the next decades," said Tudreu.

“Especially apparent around the world since 2011, corruption has become a common feature in the grievances behind social upheaval – whether in the Arab Spring or the March Against Wall Street, and elsewhere.”

TI International proposes that, because of its crucial importance in the world today and in the future governance should be adopted as a stand-alone goal – with measurable, intermediate and progressive targets -- in the development process beyond 2015.

TI Fiji which has recently been reaccredited as a national chapter by the Transparency International headquarters in Berlin suggests a set of target recommendations which are essential for achieving effective and just governance. These recommendations deal with citizen engagement, rule of law, fiscal transparency, and transparent and accountable procurement processes.

Mr Tudreu said that values which will guide the work of TI Fiji in the next years include openness, accountability and participation in governance.

TI Fiji annual meeting also voted in two (2) people new members into the Board of Directors: Nanise Nagusuca, a former civil servant and assistant Minister who is working with women at community level, and Nirenjeev Kumar, management accountant at South Pacific Stock Exchange in Suva.

Other directors are Professor Rajesh Chandra, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific (USP); Dr Donasiano Ruru, a lecturer in the School of Education, at USP; Mrs Janine Penjueli, Marketing Manager at Westpac Banking Corporation and Venkat Ramani a Charter Accountant.

Mr Tudreu said: “We feel that awareness and concern about corruption and interest in promoting integrity continues to deepen in our society through our joint efforts with other agencies and institutions and the community.”

In the coming months, TI Fiji will strengthen the following programmes:

- (i) an Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre which addresses complaints from citizens who claim to be victims of corruption, and conducts research to apply the experience gained, for effective advocacy and reform;
- (ii) a Youth Integrity Promotion programme, by applying the findings and recommendations from a recent youth integrity survey involving 1,000 young people;
- (iii) a TI Pacific Network Strengthening Programme on accountable governance, local and regional networking and institutional capacity building;
- (iv) participation in independent international integrity assessments such as the Periodic Review on the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), the TI Corruption Perception Index, the Corruption Barometer and the Budget Transparency Survey;
- (v) collaboration with the community, civil society organizations, regulatory and integrity promoting institutions as well as the education and professional training bodies;
- (vi) and advocacy for commitment by leaders at all levels to transparency and accountability in this time of national transition, towards effective and sustainable democratic governance

Ends

For more information, please contact:

Kasim Nazeem

Communications Officer

Transparency International Fiji

Phone: 3304702 (office)

Email: co@transparencyfiji.org

Website: www.transparencyfiji.org