



Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka, OBE, MSD, OStJ  
Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Climate Change and Environment,  
Civil Service, Information and Public Enterprises

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## Decisions made at the Cabinet Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Suva  
Fiji

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
2.00pm

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The decisions made at the eighth meeting of the Peoples' Coalition Cabinet include the following:

### 1. National Infrastructure Investment Plan

Cabinet endorsed the **National Infrastructure Investment Plan (NIIP)**.

The NIIP consolidates infrastructure projects across all sectors into a single plan.

Projects are screened and prioritised based on their assessed benefits and strategic alignment to Fiji's development strategies and objectives, to provide a list of "priority projects for further development."

The Plan sets a funding strategy for these priority projects to identify potential sources of investment before more detailed economic appraisal and business cases are developed ahead of final budget submissions.

The Plan has been developed by the Ministry of Finance with assistance from the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility.

### 2. The National Energy Policy 2023–2030

Cabinet approved the National Energy Policy 2023 – 2030.

The Policy was formulated after an extensive review of the earlier energy policies and aims to support the effective development of Fiji's energy sector.

The Policy supports Government's commitment to providing access to affordable, reliable, secure, and sustainable energy services to all Fijians through a safe and efficient transition of Fiji's energy systems, transport, and infrastructure from its existing reliance on imported fossil fuels to low carbon and renewable-energy based technologies.

The implementation of the Policy will be overseen by the National Energy Policy Steering Committee chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Public Works and Meteorological Services, and Transport.

### **3. Review of the Forest Act 1992**

Cabinet approved the review of the Forest Act 1992.

The Act primarily focuses on forest and forest produce.

Policies pertaining to forest conservation and sustainable forest management have developed over the years, but the Act does not quite sufficiently address these developments.

The review is to update present deficiencies in guidelines and processes to align with national developments particularly in the climate change space, our treaty commitments, and international best practices.

The review will be led by the Ministry of Forestry and informed by a comprehensive consultation process with all relevant stakeholders.

### **4. Review of the Petroleum Act 1938 and Regulations**

Cabinet approved the review of the Petroleum Act 1938 (Act) and Regulations.

The Act provides for the private sector to supply, transport and store fuel.

The 85-year-old law, first enacted as a colonial ordinance in 1938, is archaic and outdated.

The Act requires updating to meet modern-day challenges in the petroleum sector including market and technological developments, national and global climate change commitments and to remove certain lack of clarity in the existing Act.

A Technical Working Group including key stakeholders will be formed to guide the direction of the review.

### **5. Fiji to participate in a new Community of Practice for Social Protection in Pacific Island Countries**

Cabinet approved Fiji's participation in the **Community of Practice for Social Protection in Pacific Island Countries**.

Social protection is an important dimension in the reduction of poverty and multi-dimensional deprivation.

The Community of Practice is a network for Pacific policy makers and practitioners to share knowledge, experience, and expertise with an emphasis on how social protection programmes are conceptualised, developed, and implemented in a Pacific context.

## **6. Memorandum of Understanding between the American Society for Testing and Materials and the Department of National Trade Measurement and Standards**

Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the American Society for Testing and Materials International (ASTM International) and the Ministry of Trade, Cooperatives and Small Medium Enterprises through the Department of National Trade Measurement and Standards.

The MOU will allow the Ministry to seek the assistance of ASTM International to improve medical sector related standards or any other relevant sector standards, to support our public health system and the medical sector as a whole.

ASTM International is one of the largest standards developing organisations in the world.

## **7. Fiji Delegation to 111<sup>th</sup> International Labour Conference 2023**

Cabinet has approved Fiji's delegation to the upcoming 111<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference that will take place in Geneva, Switzerland from 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The annual conference brings together government, worker and employer representatives of ILO member States. During this conference, broad labour policies are adopted by the ILO.

Our delegation will be led by the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Hon Agni Deo Singh.

He will be accompanied by Felix Anthony from Fiji Trade Union Congress, as the worker representative and Mr. Kameli Batiweti from Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation as employer representative, and government officials.

## **8. Hosting the International Maritime Organisation Regional Office for the Pacific Region**

Cabinet has approved the establishment of the **International Maritime Organisation** Regional Office for the Pacific Islands. The Office will be hosted at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Office in Suva.

The International Maritime Organization is a United Nations specialised agency to promote safe, secure, environmentally sound, efficient and sustainable shipping through cooperation.

The Regional Presence Office will enhance the International Maritime Organisation's capacity to outreach and deliver technical assistance to the region, and encourage greater coordination of existing regional maritime assistance programmes between donors and other organisations.

It will also improve the Organisation's understanding of the special needs of Small Islands Developing States and least developed countries in the region.

## **9. Establishment of the Office of the International Civil Aviation Organisation Liaison Officer for the Pacific Small Island Developing States**

Cabinet agreed that Fiji host the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Liaison Officer for Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS).

The arrangement will be formalised through the execution of a Host Country Agreement with ICAO.

ICAO intends to enhance support to the PSIDS to deliver safe, secure, and sustainable international civil aviation, through its Liaison Officer.

The Liaison Officer is expected to enable coordination and cooperation as well as strengthen communication and knowledge sharing between ICAO and the PSIDS, Pacific Aviation Safety Organisation, Pacific Islands Forum, and other United Nations entities.

## **10. Establishment of Universal Postal Union Sub Regional Office in Fiji**

Cabinet approved the establishment of the Universal Postal Union's sub-regional office in Suva.

The Universal Postal Union is a specialised agency of the United Nations. It safeguards the interest of postal operations all over the world and is the primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players.

Post Fiji Limited is a member of the Universal Postal Union.

The establishment of a sub-regional office in Fiji will enhance the Universal Postal Union's ability to provide member countries in the Pacific Region with technical assistance for the development and modernisation of their postal services.

A host country agreement with the Universal Postal Union will be signed to formalise the arrangement.

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