

# New Korovou Fire Station



**Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment, Parveen Kumar Bala unveiling the design of the Korovou Fire Station.**

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment Honourable Parveen Kumar Bala officiated as the Chief Guest during the ground breaking ceremony of the new Korovou Fire Station which is located adjacent to the existing Korovou Fulton Hogan Highways Depot in Korovou on February 16.

Honourable Mr Bala said it was the milestone and proud moment for him to officiate at the ground breaking ceremony to construct the new Korovou Fire Station.

"This is yet another milestone and proud moment for me and the National Fire Authority (NFA) to witness this ground breaking ceremony for the construction of this first fire station to be built in Korovou.

"Three weeks ago we had the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of a new fire station in Savusavu to strengthen our response in the North and I am delighted that the NFA is continuing its expansion plans into the rural areas in support of Government's efforts towards the protection of its people, investments and the enhancement of economic growth and activities," Honourable Mr Bala said.

"I am happy that the NFA is committed to

fulfilling Government's promise to the people of Fiji and is turning promises into deeds.

"I note that NFA's Action Plans and objectives in the next five years continue to support Government's commitment to the people of Fiji which is also highlighted in the constitution to provide effective and efficient services to the people of Fiji irrespective of where they live," Honourable Mr Bala said.

The Minister said while the NFA has plans to build its internal capacity with the commencement of its new Headquarters later this year, it is pleasing to note that it has plans to build fire stations in Nakasi, Navua and Seaqaqa this year and in Rotuma, Nabouwalu, Vunisea, Lami and Nayavu in the next few years.

"Such foresight by the Board of the NFA will continue to receive support from the Government," Honourable Mr Bala said.

"Government is committed to ensuring that such essential services that are provided by the NFA are available to all Fijians irrespective of where they live and Government is committed to support NFA and fund such projects as the construction of

this new Station," Honourable Mr Bala said.

"We are delighted that the NFA is moving ahead in line with Government's development plans in taking their essential services closer to the communities so that they can respond to the needs of the communities efficiently and effectively. "Korovou, its people and visitors will soon benefit from the services that will be delivered from this new Fire station and the firefighters that will man this station," Honourable Mr Bala said. The Minister also thanked the land owning unit, the *Navunisalevu Nawaiabuta and the vanua of Nailega* for their partnership in this establishment of a fire station in Korovou.

"Without their support in granting lease to the NFA for this piece of land, the NFA would still be looking for a piece of land to build the fire station," Honourable Mr Bala said.

"I also would like to acknowledge the hard work of the NFA Board for steering the NFA strategic direction to stay aligned with Government's development plans and for ensuring continuous improvement in the delivery of our essential services to the people of this nation," The Minister added.



Savusavu Fire Station firefighters with the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment Parveen Kumar and other senior NFA officers during the new Savusavu Fire Station ground breaking ceremony in January this year.

## New fire station in Savusavu

A new fire station will be opened soon in Savusavu following the ground breaking ceremony of the new Savusavu Fire Station by the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment, Honourable Parveen Kumar Bala on January 30.

The new fire station is located opposite the Ratu Ganilau Park in Savusavu.

Honourable Mr Bala said the commencement of the new fire station in Savusavu is the important development in Savusavu.

"I am delighted that the National Fire

Authority is responding to Government's Look North Policy for the enhancement of essential services and facilities to cater for the expected hike in economic development in the North," Honourable Mr Bala said.

The Minister echoed that with its new Strategic Direction, the National Fire Authority is undergoing major reforms and introducing new objectives to meet the expectations of Government and the members of the community in providing an all encompassing Emergency Management Service.

"I believe that fire safety is one of the foundations upon which healthy and safe communities are built. The Government of Fiji is working on many fronts to address the various needs of the people of Fiji.

"This new Savusavu Fire Station project is the beginning of many important capital developments taking shape at the National Fire Authority.

Along with this new Savusavu Fire Station to be built this year, more fire stations will be constructed around the country with new fire stations to come up in Seqaqa, Korovou, Korolevu, Navua and Nakasi.

"With this important development, Government aims to ensure that the people of this nation are well looked after focusing on the delivery of essential services and encouraging more people to enter into business and contribute positively to the economy without any obstacles, especially from a fire disaster," Honourable Mr Bala added.

## New Station Officers ready to serve community



**Roveen Kumar**

It is a dream come true for me to manage the second largest Fire Station.

Lautoka is the second largest Fire Station in the country and this appointment is a proud moment for me.

I'm confident that I will achieve the expectations of NFA and drive NFA forward to serve the people of Lautoka with pride.

With twenty-two years of experience, Kumar is an aspiring station officer in NFA.

Kumar prior to his Station Officer appointment was the Sub-Officer and acted in the position of Station Officer for three years.

I thank the NFA for having faith in me and I am confident that I will fulfill all the objectives of this job as a Station Officer.



**Amena Wainibu**

I'm excited about this new role.

I was so much interested in applying for the STO post because of the environment and after acting on the post for the past years I am fully aware of the job description of an STO.

This will be my 19th year of service and I am so happy for this opportunity given to me.

I would like to acknowledge the great teamwork from my fellow officers which lead to me achieving my goal becoming a STO.

I will do my utmost best in leading the officers in serving the community of Sigatoka by providing effective and efficient emergency services.



**Nacanieli Bakeidaku with fellow graduates of USP’s Professional Diploma in Business Management.**

## **Proud moment for STO Valelevu**

It was a proud moment for the Station Officer (STO) Valelevu, Nacanieli Bakeidaku who graduated with Professional Diploma in Business Management from the University of the South Pacific (USP) on February 6 at

the FMF Gymnasium.

Mr Bakeidaku was among many students who graduated during the USP’s award ceremony for College of Foundation and Pacific Technical and further education.

“It was a proud moment for me to graduate in business management,” Mr Bakeidaku said.

“I have studied hard to reach this level and I would like to

thank my family and my colleagues for all their support. Mr Bakeidaku also thanked the National Fire Authority (NFA) for their support which has enabled him to complete his course.

“I thank the NFA for their support as this course will enable me to execute the learning from this management course towards the nature of my work as a station officer,” Mr Bakeidaku added.



The Northern Division staff with Mr Peleki Leweniqila during his farewell function at the Labasa Fire Station on February 11.

## Thirty-seven years for Peleki

National Fire Authority (NFA) staff in the Northern Division farewellled Divisional Fire Officer Northern Peleki Leweniqila at the Labasa Fire Station on February 11.

Mr Leweniqila retired from the NFA after thirty-seven years of service.

Chief Fire Officer Qionilau Moceitai speaking at the farewell function praised Mr Leweniqila for his dedicated service to the NFA.

“The NFA is proud of Mr Leweniqila for his dedicated service to the NFA.

“Mr Leweniqila played an

instrumental role in the setting up of two volunteer fire stations, Levuka, Taveuni Fire Stations and ensured that the reforms in the Northern Division are carried out successfully in the North.

Mr Leweniqila started his firefighting career with the Labasa Town Council Fire Brigade.

At that time, the fire service was operated by the municipal councils.

Following his dedicated service to NFA, Mr Leweniqila’s hardwork was recognized and he was pro-

moted to managerial positions.

In 1995 when the NFA took over the operations of the fire services around the country, Mr Leweniqila was promoted to the Officer-in-Charge of the Levuka Fire Station and then later he was appointed Station Officer of Taveuni Fire Station in 2008.

The pinnacle of Mr Leweniqila’s career with NFA was in 2013 when he was confirmed as the Divisional Fire Officer of the Northern Division until his last day in the office as Divisional head on January 31, 2015.

Bokobuka

# Sport

## NFA players star for Warriors

National Fire Authority (NFA) rugby players Leeroy Atalifo, Serupepeli Vularika and Nacani Wakaya played an important game for the TFL Fiji Warriors side in the World Rugby Pacific Challenge in Suva.

The trio were the stars for the Fiji Warriors side playing a pivotal game which resulted in the Fiji Warriors

side reaching the final of the Pacific Challenge where they lost to Argentine Pampas 17-9 in the final.

Chief Executive Officer John O'Connor congratulated the players on their achievement.

"It's a proud moment for NFA to see the players excel in sports.

"They played well for NFA last year which enabled the team to reach the final of the Suva Rugby Union Escott Shield competition," O'Connor said.

"We wish the players all the best in rugby as well as in their firefighting career with the NFA," O'Connor added.



Serupepeli Vularika scores a try for TFL Fiji Warriors against Japan A in the World Rugby Pacific Challenge match at the ANZ Stadium in Suva. Insets, Photo 1: Nacani Wakaya dives in to score a try against Samoa A. Photo 2: Leeroy Atalifo pose for a picture with his fellow team mate. Photos: Fiji Sun/FACEBOOK