



# Fiji Teachers Union Newsletter

(THE CHILD OUR HOPE)

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## GREETINGS

Warm greetings to all our valued members.

## 89<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019

Suva Branch is working tirelessly to make sure that all members receive the best of hospitality in the upcoming conference. The details of the conference are as follows:

**Host Branch: Suva**

**Dates: 23<sup>rd</sup> April – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**Venue: Rishikul Sanatan College**

**Theme: "Educational Reforms: Implications on Fijian Education"**



**Chief Guest: Dr. Neelesh Gounder**

*Dr Neelesh Gounder is currently a faculty member with the School of Economics at The University of the South Pacific. He received his doctorate in economics from Griffith University in Australia. Neelesh is also a Centre Associate at the Development Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University.*

*Neelesh is a recipient of the:*

*Australian Prime Ministers Award in 2013 by the then Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard*

*Greg Taylor Fellowship in 2017 by the Australian National University*

*He is also a member of the UNESCAP Expert Group on Macroeconomic Prospects and Policy Challenges in Asia and the Pacific, including Countries with Special Needs.*

*Neelesh is a committee member of Fiji Civil Society Public Policy Capacity Building Programme under the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and European Union 'Strengthening Non-state Actors (NSAs) Engagement in Regional Policy Development and Implementation Programme'. Dr Gounder is a trustee of Fiji Womens Rights Movement and an academic board member of the Sangam College of Nursing and Suva Sangam College.*

*He is also a columnist for The Fiji Times, mainly on political economy issues and regular commentator on Radio New Zealand and Radio Australia on regional issues.*

## CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE/DELEGATES

Branches are requested to bring large delegations to the 89<sup>th</sup> AGM in order to make a strong statement to the authorities on the numerous matters of grave concern on the diminishing status of teachers and workers at large in the country.



Branch Reps were reminded in the NE meeting to send in their branch delegates list to the HQ for verification.

## **BILLETING**

Suva Branch has presented the billeting arrangements in the recent NE Meeting. Branches can contact Bro Lingam on 8399482/9928024 for billeting arrangements.

## **FIJI TEACHERS UNION**

### **89<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

### **Programme for Official Opening**

**Wednesday 24/04/19**

**8.30 – 9.00am**

**Registration of Members**

**9.15am**

**Guests and members get seated**

**9.20am**

**Call to order - Arrival of Chief Guest**

**Observe 1 minute silence to pay respect to members who passed away during the year.**

**9.25am Universal Prayer**

**9.30am National Anthem**

**9.35am Garlanding / Welcome Dance**

**9.40am Welcome - Branch Chairman**

**9.45am**

**Presidential Address by Bro. Muniappa Goundar**

**Introduction of Chief Guest**

**9.55 am**

**Keynote Address and Opening of Conference**

**Chief Guest: Dr. Neelesh Gounder**

**Senior Lecturer School of Economic Faculty of Business and Economics  
University of the South Pacific**

**10.15am Concluding Remarks- General Secretary**

**10.25am Vote of Thanks**

**10.35am Morning Tea**

**11.00am Resume – AGM**

## **SPORTS**

As usual sports will be a major feature of the conference. Branches are expected to prepare the teams to participate in soccer, netball and men's and women's volleyball.

## **PUBLICITY MATTERS**

The February issue of the Newsletter was sent to all the school reps in the beginning of the term. Branches must keep their membership informed of current issues by sending regular Branch Newsletters.

Branch Secretaries are advised to send a copy of their branch newsletter to the HQ. The 2019 year planner was also sent to the Branches in early February for distribution to the members. If you have not received year planner then get in touch with your branch executives.

The Conference Journal is presently being put into shape and the Publicity Committee would like to thank those who have contributed articles towards the 2019 Journal.

## **FTUC – NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST**

Members would recall that the Interim Government had imposed the draconian ENI Decree to remove all the rights of Workers and Trade Unions.

The Public-Sector Unions were most affected. This attitude of the state continues, despite commitments made to the ILO to fully restore our rights.

## **Grievance of Public Sector Employees**

### **- Imposition of Individual Contracts**

This has effectively taken away the fundamental rights to collective bargaining and put workers at risk of losing their jobs at a month's notice. This is a direct violation of ILO Conventions 87 and 98 to which Government is a signatory to.

### **-JEE 2017**

### **-Entry Point salary reduced.**

Service not recognized. 1<sup>st</sup> year and 15<sup>th</sup> year teachers on same salary.

**-Executive Teacher** positions abolished unilaterally.

**-Disciplinary Guideline** giving unfettered powers to the Permanent Secretary to terminate teachers denying natural justice.

**-Increments** due on 1/1/2017 not paid. Strong suspicion tinkering with the grades under the guise of moderation. No increment to the entire



staff if whole schools score DC. **RIDICULOUS.**

FTUC is organizing a **National Day of protest on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019** to express our concern at the blatant breaches by the state.

All affiliates are expected to participate.

More details will be provided later.

### Members Insurance Premium

Members who need family cover please check your premium deductions. It should be \$17.31 per fortnight (\$450 per annum) Single Cover is \$13.46 per fortnight (\$350.00 per annum).

### Reunion - 1970 -1979 NTC (Now FNU (GRADUATES)

The above is being organized from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July at FNU Campus Nasinu. The contact person of the interested persons is Mani Lal (Phone: 9434086) AD Singh 9928098.

### NOTICE OF ELECTION OF FTU OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2019-2021

All financial members of the Union, whose names appear on the Electoral Roll, which closes on 29/3/19, are notified that Fiji Teachers' Union's National Election is scheduled for **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.**

*All positions, except for the position of the General Secretary, will be up for elections.*

### ELECTION CAMPAIGN REMINDER

Candidates, their campaign agents and members are reminded that campaign materials should be positive and free from malice and character assassination.

All candidates and their campaigners are further reminded that campaign materials should not be slanderous and defamatory.

The time and venues of the National Elections are as follows:

BRANCH	POLLING STATION	OPENS	CLOSING
Suva	FTU HQ	9am	2pm
Nasinu	Rishikul College	9am	2pm

Rewa	Vunimono Sanatan Primary	9am	2pm
Tailevu	Korovou Primary	9am	12pm
Rakiraki	Penang Sangam Primary	9am	12pm
Rakiraki	Vunikavikaloa Arya	9am	12pm
Tavua	Tavua Primary	9am	1pm
Ba	Ba Sangam Primary	9am	2pm
Lautoka	Lautoka Central Primary	9am	2pm
Nadi	Andrews Primary	9am	2pm
Nadroga	Sigatoka Methodist Primary	9am	2pm
Nadroga	Loma Primary	9am	2pm
Nadroga	Tuva Primary	9am	2pm
Navua	Vashist Muni College	9am	12pm
Labasa	St Mary's	9am	2pm
Labasa	Dreketi Primary	9am	2pm
<b>Labasa</b>	<b>Daku Bhartiya</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>12pm</b>
Labasa	Seaqaqa Cent. College	9am	12pm
Savusavu	Khemendra Central	9am	12pm
Taveuni	Bucalevu Secondary	9am	12pm
Bua	Lekutu Secondary	9am	12pm
Bua	Namau Primary	9am	12pm
Levuka	Levuka Primary	10am	3pm

## FINAL LIST OF CANDIDATES

1. The Fiji Teachers Union (FTU) have advised their intention to hold elections on Saturday 13th of April 2019 at the duly assigned Polling Venues from 9am - 3pm.

2. The final list of candidates are as follows:

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	No. of Positions for Election(1)	No. of Candidate Nominations Received (1)
Surname	First Names	Uncontested
Goundar	Muaniappa	1

<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	No. of Positions for Election (3) 1 Reserved for a Woman	No. of Candidate Nominations Received (5)
Surname	First Names	Contested
Kumar	Arvind	1
Sharma	Pranesh Praveen	1
Deo	Nakul Barman	1
Vidya	Singh(Woman)	1
Kumar	Rohitesh Sandeep	1

<b>ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY</b>	No. of Positions for Election (1)	No. of Candidate Nominations Received (2)
Surname	First Names	Uncontested
Lingam	Rajnesh Ishwar	1

<b>GENERAL TREASURER</b>	No. of Positions for Election (1)	No. of Candidate Nominations Received (1)
Surname	First Names	Uncontested
Shandil	Sashi Mahendra	1

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	No. of Positions for Election (3)	No. of Candidate Nominations Received (5)
Surname	First Names	Contested
Singh	Brij Bhan	1
Kumar	Sima Devika	1
Prakash	Madhur	1
Shankar	Dharmend	1
Kumar	Pratosh	1
Ali	Mohammed Feroz	1

<b>PERSONAL OFFICER</b>	No. of Positions for Election (1)	No. of Candidate Nominations Received (1)
Surname	First Names	Uncontested
Lal	Rameshwar	1

<b>PUBLICITY OFFICER</b>	No. of Positions for Election (1)	No. of Candidate Nominations Received (1)
Surname	First Names	Uncontested
Kumar	Manhar Prithvi	1

