



FIJI TEACHERS UNION NEWSLETTER

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GREETINGS

“There are beauty and power in unity.”
(Laila Gifty Akita)

In the spirit of solidarity and togetherness, we greet members of the Fiji Teachers Union!

We sincerely thank the existing members for being with us, and we welcome the new members to the FTU family!

FTU acknowledges its valuable members for preparing their students for the academic challenges that they will encounter in life.

Members must note that although both unions are invited by the Ministry of Education for discussions on industrial relations issues, something that was denied to us previously, we will not succumb to their demands and will continue to uphold the dignity of the teaching profession.

Brothers and sisters in union, FTU is indebted to you for your unreserved and unwavering support last year, and we will need the same for the overall success of Union activities this year.

FTU has a rich history- one which is based on the principles of dedication, commitment and calling a spade a spade. We wish every member a blessed and eventful term.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Fiji Teachers Union continues to remain vigilant and proactive in safeguarding the professional rights, welfare, and dignity of its members. During the first quarter of 2026, the Secretariat actively engaged with the Ministry of Education and other relevant authorities on several critical industrial matters affecting teachers.

Breach of Transfer Policy – Irregular and Untimely Teacher Transfers

The 2026 school year unfortunately began with numerous complaints from members

regarding irregular and untimely transfers. It was deeply concerning that the Human Resources Section of the Ministry was unable to complete the processing of transfers before the closure of schools in 2025. The sudden implementation of the *two-tour complete movement* further compounded the situation, catching many teachers by surprise.

In several cases, transfer letters were issued at the last minute, instructing teachers to relocate immediately. This situation was particularly prevalent in the Western Division. Upon being alerted, the Secretariat immediately intervened. While some members had already moved, the Union was able to successfully halt further movements where relocation had not yet taken place.

The Ministry has since been strongly reminded to strictly adhere to the established Transfer Policy to ensure fairness, transparency, and proper planning for teachers and their families.

Back-to-School Assistance (BTSA)

The Back-to-School Assistance initiative introduced by the current Government is a commendable measure that has greatly eased the financial burden on parents preparing their children for the new school year. While any major national initiative may experience initial challenges, the benefits of this assistance to thousands of families across the country are undeniable.

The Fiji Teachers Union encourages all members to continue supporting parents and students by assisting them where necessary to access this assistance. The Union is aware that a small number of students are yet to receive their entitlement and therefore appeals to school leaders and teachers to extend their support to those who may have missed out due to various circumstances.

Refraining from Corporal Punishment

The Fiji Teachers Union reiterates its firm position that corporal punishment has no place in our schools. Members must remain mindful that the **2013 Constitution of Fiji** and various international child protection laws safeguard children from all forms of violence. Teachers are role models and professionals entrusted with shaping young lives. Members are therefore strongly encouraged to adopt positive, constructive, and restorative approaches to discipline to create safe and supportive learning environments for all students.

Member Grievances

During the reporting period, the Secretariat received several grievances from members relating to transfers, salary upgrades, leave entitlements, attachments, and other employment matters. The Union acted promptly on these concerns and is pleased to report that most cases have resulted in positive outcomes for the members who are encouraged to continue raising issues through the Secretariat, preferably via email, so that matters can be documented and addressed effectively with the relevant authorities.

Vacancies 36/2025 – 41/2025

Members will recall that **102 vacancies** were advertised in November last year. A total of **1,726 applications** were received for these positions. However, concerns arose regarding the recruitment process when it was observed that different panelists used two separate assessment methods- some requiring candidates to deliver a five-minute presentation while others required applicants to sit for written tests. The Secretariat raised this matter strongly with the Panel Leader and the Permanent Secretary and conveyed its concerns to the Honourable Minister. As a result, the entire process has now been placed on hold indefinitely. In the meantime, all officers who were acting in these positions will continue to do so until further notice.

Customer Service Standards at MOE

The Secretariat has received increasing complaints from members regarding the level

of customer service provided by certain officers at the Ministry Headquarters. Teachers and school heads have expressed frustration over unanswered telephone calls and the lack of responses to official emails. While the Union continues to acknowledge the openness, professionalism, and commitment demonstrated by the Honourable Minister, the Permanent Secretary, and several members of the senior leadership team, it is unfortunate that this same standard of service is not consistently reflected at the operational level. The Secretariat has written formally to the Honourable Minister highlighting these concerns and has urged the Ministry to prioritise improved service delivery for teachers and school leaders.

Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Office

The Fiji Teachers Union Secretariat was honoured to be nominated to serve as a Judicial Officer representing workers in the **Arbitration Court**. The Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Office were taken on **Thursday, March 5, 2026**, before **Justice Chaitanya Lakshman**. This appointment reflects the confidence placed in the Union's leadership to represent the interests of workers at the national level and strengthens the Union's role in the broader industrial relations framework of the country.

2026/27 National Budget Submission

Preparations have commenced for the Fiji Teachers Union's **2026/27 National Budget Submission**. As in previous years, members and branches are invited to submit proposals or recommendations relating to the welfare of teachers and the advancement of the profession. These contributions will assist the Union in presenting a comprehensive and strong case to Government on matters affecting teachers and the education sector. Members must remember that this is an important year. All submissions must reach the Secretariat **no later than May 15**.

Civil Action Number HBC 32/2024

Members will recall that the High Court delivered a significant judgement on **March 3, 2025** in favour of the Fiji Teachers Union,

ruling that the so-called regularisation process was **ultra vires (illegal)**. Following the judgement, discussions were held between the unions and the Ministry of Education. Subsequently, the Ministry sought legal guidance from the Attorney-General's Office regarding the next course of action. The Ministry has now received correspondence from the Attorney-General's Office and further meetings with both teacher unions are expected soon to determine the appropriate way forward.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

After the success of last year's AGM and Annual Conference in Nadroga, this year's Annual Conference will be hosted by Ba branch at Xavier College. Ba hosted the Annual Conference in 2017 at the same venue.

The details of the conference are as follows:

- ❖ Date: Tuesday May 5 to Friday May 8
- ❖ Venue: Xavier College
- ❖ Theme: Teachers at the Heart: Driving Progress from the Start

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Tuesday May 5

9.00am	Pre-Conference Meeting
12.00pm	Sports Committee Meeting
4.00pm	Official Opening at Xavier College

Wednesday May 6

8.00- 8.30am	Registration of Delegates
8.30am	Annual General Meeting
11.00am	Morning Tea
11.30am	Annual General Meeting- Women's Wing
1.00pm	Lunch
2.30pm	Sports- Official Opening at Xavier College
7.00pm to 10.00pm	President's Night

Thursday May 7

8.00am- 8.30am	Registration
8.30am	FTU-CTCL AGM
11.00am	Morning Tea
11.30am to 1.00pm	Breakout Session
1.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Sports
7.00pm to 10.00pm	FTU-CTCL Social at Xavier College

Friday May 8

8.30am	FTU Sports
10.00am	Post Conference Meeting
5.00pm	Distribution of Journal Presentation of Prizes

BRANCH DELEGATES

Branch delegates should be appointed as per the FTU Constitution Section 32 Clauses 1-9. Branches are urged to bring the required number of delegates to the AGM. **Delegate registration is due to FTU HQ for vetting on Monday April 20.**

SPORTS

Branches are expected to prepare their teams well to participate in soccer, netball and men's and women's volleyball competitions. **Sports registration is due to FTU HQ for vetting on Monday April 20.** Branch Reps must ensure that correct player registration is done. Players, who are not registered, will not be allowed to play. Players, who are not members of FTU-CTCL, will also not be allowed to take part in the sports tournament.

BILLETING

Branch Chairpersons must liaise with the Executives of Ba branch for billeting. We urge members to take care of the school property if they are billeted in schools in Ba. **Bro. Nakul Deo Barman can be contacted on 2544395 for billeting.**

FTU AGM RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions, that have been received from the branches, will be presented and discussed during the AGM in Ba.

FTU JOURNAL

The Publicity Committee, under the guidance of the Chairperson, Bro. Vishal Raj Goundar, is working on the FTU Journal. Members are asked to write a one-page A5 article on this year's theme 'Teachers at the Heart: Driving Progress from the Start', sharing experiences and thoughts on the theme. **Articles must be emailed to HQ on ftu@connect.com.fj or to the Publicity Officer, Bro. Vishal Raj Goundar, on email address vishalrajvj@yahoo.com. by Friday April 17.**

FTU-CTCL SOCIAL

Members must note that this year's FTU-CTCL social/ dinner night will take place at Xavier College on Thursday May 7, beginning at 7pm and ending at 10pm. Dinner pass, which is the entry to the social, will only be issued to bonafide FTU-CTCL members. If a teacher is a member of FTU but not FTU-CTCL, then the dinner pass would not be issued.

BRANCH AGMs

All Branch Annual General Meetings will be completed within the month of March. The dates are as follows:

Branch	Date	Time	Venue
Rakiraki	06/03	4.00pm	Penang Sangam High School
Nadroga	07/03	10.00am	Cuvu College
Taveuni	07/03	10.30am	Taveuni Central Primary School
Nasinu	11/03	4.00pm	Rishikul Sanatan College
Navua	12/03	4.30am	Vashist Muni Primary School
Nadi	12/03	4.00pm	Nadi Sangam College
Suva	25/03	4.30pm	Dudley High School
Bua	14/03	10.00am	Korokadi Primary School

Savusavu	14/03	10.00am	Savusavu Secondary School
Levuka	14/03	10.30am	Levuka Public Primary School
Rewa	16/03	3.45pm	Vunimono High School
Tavua	25/03	3.45pm	Tavua District Primary
Ba	19/03	4.15pm	Saint Theresa's Primary School
Lautoka	20/03	4.00pm	Lautoka Central College
Tailevu	20/03	4.30pm	Tailevu North College
Labasa	21/03	10.00am	Khatri Hall

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

This year's International Women's Day was celebrated on **Sunday March 8**. The theme for this year's IWD celebration was "Go to Gain." This year's theme calls for action that can unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all and a feminist future where no one is left behind. Central to this vision is empowering the next generation- the youth, particularly young women and adolescent girls as catalysts for lasting change. We thank our branches for celebrating this special day. The National Women's Wing attended the IWD celebration at the FTU HQ on Friday March 13. The chief guest was Honourable Sashi Kiran.

NEW INSURANCE PREMIUM

Cover	Effective 01/01/26	Annual Premium
Single	\$46.00	\$1196.00
Family	\$57.00	\$1482.00

This includes a deductible of \$1000.00. Evacuation limit has been increased from \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00. Members must note that the FTU medical scheme is still an average of 30% cheaper than the current insurance market price.

YEAR PLANNER

The FTU year planner has been disseminated to the branches to be distributed to all the FTU members.

CHANGE OF BRANCH

FTU members, who have changed branches, are asked to notify the office, and fill the branch transfer form so that their membership records are updated.

UNION RENEWAL

Nasinu and Rewa branches conducted a professional development session for their members. The three principal officers enlightened members and briefed them on IR matters.

ARREARS- UNION SUBS

Members who continue to have arrears on their insurance premium must pay them.

CONCLUSION

“Unity to be real must stand the severest strain without breaking.” (Mahatma Gandhi)

Despite the trying times, as a Union, FTU has provided the best service to the membership in terms of industrial relations and social security benefits.

There have been challenges, but things have been done and results have been achieved.

FTU is optimistic about good days ahead, and we plead with our members to have patience.

FTU looks forward to the AGM and Annual Conference in Ba, and we urge members to come out in numbers.



FTU women members in Nadi united to celebrate women's day at Nadi Sangam



Smiles all around after Bua concluded its branch AGM



IWD celebration in the Hidden Paradise



IWD celebration at the FTU HQ organized by the Council of Pacific Education. The chief guest was Honorable Sashi Kiran

