

New record dividend to Government

FIJI Ports Corporation Ltd broke its previous record when, at the recent Annual General Meeting, a dividend cheque of \$2.8 million was presented to the Attorney General and Minister for Public Enterprises, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said that the dividend, based on 50% of the net profit after tax, shows an increase over previous financial years; \$2.6 million in 2010, \$1.7 million in 2009, and \$875, 000 in 2008.

He said that despite



Attorney General and Minister for Public Enterprises, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, (right) receiving the record dividend cheque from Fiji Ports Chairman, Mr David Kolitagane, (left) while Fiji Ports CEO Mr Vajira Piyasena looks on.

challenges faced by Fiji Ports, “We believe that by way of exploring various other

ventures in Fiji and beyond, we can position Fiji as a significant port player in the

South Pacific.”

“Fiji Ports handles 95% of all the nation’s trade in terms of exports and imports, and provides employment to at least 450 people in Suva, Lautoka, Levuka and surrounding areas,” said Mr Sayed-Khaiyum, highlighting the importance of the company to Fiji’s economy.

Fiji Ports is a wholly-owned government commercial company, with subsidiary companies, Ports Terminal Ltd and Fiji Ships & Heavy Industries Limited.

Ports a part of the supply chain

HAVING identified key importers and exporters, Fiji Ports is reaching out in order to maximise the services the company can offer to these clients.

Customer dialogue

“Fiji Ports is entering into dialogue with our larger, ultimate customers, with a view to becoming an integral part of their supply chains,” said Ports CEO Vajira Piyasena.

He said that this new development would require Fiji Ports to coordinate closely with such companies on their shipping and production schedules.

“Fiji Ports manpower and machinery schedules will consider the needs of these larger companies. In return, Fiji Ports will be able to access

the technical support of these companies that have quality assured, efficient systems in place,” he said.

Changes welcome

Mr Eminoni Kurusiga, General Manager Port Operations, welcomes the changes that this would bring, saying that it is outdated to think that Ports works in isolation.



Informal discussions about supply chains have taken place between the CEO of Fiji Water, Mr Rokoseru Nabalarua (left) and Fiji Ports CEO Mr Vajira Piyasena.

“Understanding and meeting the needs of importers and exporters is essential. Efficiencies come into play, and in terms of the export and import of goods, Fiji Ports is the interface between sea and land; part and parcel of the supply chain,” he said.

“We need to consider what importers and exporters are trying to achieve in meeting their schedules. For example, a vessel may be booked to pass through the Panama Canal. If that time is missed because of late loading, they have to go to the end of the

queue, and this impacts cargo delivery dates at the ports of destination.”

Bulk goods

Mr Kurusiga said that another consideration is the importing of bulk goods, as importers may charter a vessel only several times a year to bring the raw material into the country. The importer has only a limited time-frame for the vessel to be alongside the wharf for the unloading to take place.

The intention is to include Ports’ crane operators and workers in groups that work with the key customers as a part of their supply chains, as it will lead to greater accountability and their taking ownership of scheduling.

Smaller customers will continue to be served efficiently by Fiji Ports, liaising with Shipping Agents, Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders on their behalf.

Acting Harbour Master for Lautoka

AS well as being responsible for overseeing the operations of Lautoka Port in his new role as Acting Harbour Master Lautoka, Captain Penitiko Cabenagauna Yauvoli will also continue to carry out piloting duties, as he has done for nearly five years.

Captain Yauvoli said primarily his role is to work towards the goals set by the Ports' Board and management, but there are also challenges to be met in keeping up with changing technologies and modern operating modes.

"Tackling these challenges means that Lautoka Port will provide the best business environment for the greater

port users, such as shipping agencies, ships' principals, border agencies, as well as other stakeholders. Doing so ensures that growth and sustainability are ultimately achieved," said Captain Yauvoli, who brings his vast knowledge and practical experience of the maritime industry to meet these challenges. Captain Yauvoli obtained his Master Class 1 qualification from the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania in 1988.

From 1999 until August 2005, he held the position of Deputy Port Master – Suva, with the then Maritime and Ports Authority of Fiji. During

the restructure that saw Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd come into being, Captain Yauvoli held the post of Port Master.

He was then transferred to Fiji's maritime regulatory authority, then called the Fiji Islands Maritime Safety Authority (FIMSA), since renamed the Maritime and Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF).

After close on two years with the Authority, Captain Yauvoli returned to Fiji Ports in 2007 as a pilot. This new appointment at Lautoka sees him replace Captain Harvey Pranjivai, who resigned earlier this year.

Captain Yauvoli, who hails from the "beautiful, evergreen



Capt Penitiko Yauvoli is ready to reach goals and meet challenges.

and pear-shaped island of Koro in the Lomaiviti group," said that he has settled well into Lautoka, his "home away from home."

New managerial position



Isikeli Waqa brings years of experience to Fiji Ports

ISIKELI Waqa has been appointed as Manager Mechanical Services and Special Projects at Fiji Ports.

Mr Waqa brings 25 years of engineering experience to this newly-created position, which requires him to communicate with suppliers, and oversee the maintenance and repair of all gear and machinery needed for the movement of cargo and containers around the wharf area.

He is introducing a Fleet Planned Management System using software developed by AMTRAX, New Zealand that will assist him in managing his responsibilities. These include the training of his workforce, as well as scheduling the day-to-day operations of machinery on the Kings Wharf.

Mr Waqa, whose engineering experience was gained aboard ocean-going vessels, said that his biggest challenge has been adjusting to land-based vehicles after a life spent with ships' engines and shipboard systems.

Holding a Masters degree in Maritime Affairs from the World Maritime University in Malmo, Sweden, a Bachelor of Engineering in Ocean Engineering from the Australian Maritime College, and completing his Class 1 & 2 Course in Marine Engineering at the Sydney TAFE in New South Wales, Mr Waqa is well-equipped to meet such challenges.

"Working with the men in the department is very similar to working with seafarers. There is a degree of stress and a high risk factor. In both cases, the men are working in confined spaces, with heavy, potentially dangerous machinery. The stevedores and machine operators on the wharf are well aware of the occupational health and safety issues that are a part of their work," said Mr Waqa.

Staff learn from China trip



Mr Samu Delana, Mobile Crane Operator/Relieving Supervisor Suva Port, Mr Jolame Saukuru, Stevedoring Supervisor Lautoka Port, and Ms Makereta Muakalou, Operation Clerk Lautoka Port, visited the Beilun Port in Ningbo in China to observe the operation of seaport services.

"A country's economy can be transformed by port logistics, and this can be achieved through the good management of the facilities and resources already available."

Jolame Saukuru, Port of Lautoka's Stevedoring Supervisor said this was the main lesson that he and his colleagues brought back after three weeks in China, where they were guests of the Chinese Government's Ministry of Commerce.

Mr Saukuru, Mr Samu Delana, Mobile Crane Operator/Relieving Supervisor, of Suva Port, and Operation Clerk, Ms Makereta Muakalou, from the Port of Lautoka, attended a seminar organised by, and held at, the

Ningbo Polytechnic College in Zhejiang Province. This included visits to Blue Dragon Logistics and the ports of Beilun, Shanghai, Tianjin and Xiamen.

The focus of the seminar was the importance of the effective functioning and operation of seaport services such as bonded logistics, port equipment and facilities, container transportation and port information systems.

"Sea ports nowadays play an important role as key nodes in the supply chain, so they are regarded as a part of a cluster of organisations, in which different logistics and transport operators are involved in bringing value to the final customers," said Mr Saukuru.

Proof of progress for FSHIL

THE commitment of Fiji Ships & Heavy Industries to meeting International Standards Organisation (ISO) 9001 certification guidelines, a company strategic objective for 2012, has resulted in a significant improvement the work environment.

These photos demonstrate some of the changes in appearance and safety standards, as well as access to information, that have taken place in the FSHIL offices, workshops and on the slipway.

"This is thanks to the efforts of the staff, who have cleaned, organised, sorted and

labeled in the interests of improving their effectiveness in carrying out their work," said Ms Makereta Taoi, FSHIL Human Resources Officer.

She said that each department identified areas that needed attention, and the projects to be carried out.

"These projects were internally audited and monitored by the steering committee, who had previously received training with the assistance of the National Productivity Training Department of the Fiji National University's workshop and training programme," said Ms Taoi.



Forklift skills for safer operations



Forklift operators must be aware of load capabilities and speed limits for their machinery.

BY providing skills-based training to forklift operators, Fiji Ports is reducing the potential for damage to machinery, cargo and containers.

"Forklift operator training on Suva's Kings Wharf saw 16 Ports' employees, joined by two from the Kiribati Ports Authority, learn about speed limits, the load capability of the forklift and the weight of the cargo.

"The course covered safety aspects of forklift operation, such as being aware that if there is not enough available space for movement, the best option is to stop an operation and inform the supervisor," said Ports Training Officer Mr Anare Leweniqila.

The course comprised two days of theory and three days of field training and assessment, with the participants becoming certified, to New Zealand-standard, forklift operators.

24/7 for stakeholders operations

THE plans to make Fiji Ports more customer focussed will necessitate the re-alignment of its operations with other stakeholders' work practices to meet the demands of a 24/7 port operation.

The Kings Wharf and the Ports workforce made the transition to a 24/7 operation quite some time ago, but being able to put this into practice has been hampered by other stakeholders working to a five day, 40 hour week.

Mr Eminoni Kurusiga, General Manager Port Operations said the actual operation and physical

movement of cargo could take place on Saturday and Sunday depending on the customers' requirements and no additional cost will be involved.

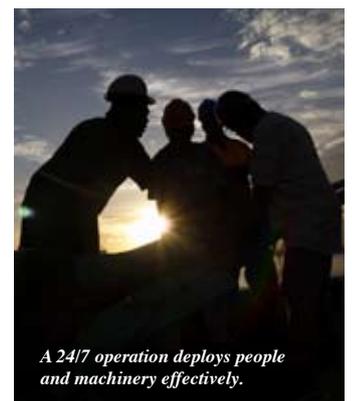
He said that as long as all duty had been paid on incoming cargo, Customs could stamp documents on a Friday afternoon. This could apply to all stakeholders such as Customs, Biosecurity, Quarantine and the Department of Health, that deal in documentation.

Recently the Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority went 24/7, and there is no overtime involved.

"Once documentation is stamped, Ports can take delivery, maximising the use of manpower and machinery. A 24/7 operation doesn't necessarily mean overtime hours. Ports employees will be paid the applicable allowances provided the provisions in their terms and conditions of work are met.

"Should meals and transport become necessary, Ports would charge at cost. It is a matter of deploying people and machinery effectively so no extra cost is incurred," Mr Kurusiga said.

He said that in the past,



A 24/7 operation deploys people and machinery effectively.

overtime payments were paid to Ports employees as the result of working overtime, but this was not in some way related to the terms and conditions of employment, which are the guiding principle covering all circumstances when workers are deployed.

Internal audits at Suva and Lautoka

SUVA Port's Assistant Ports Facility Security Officer Jone Tawake recently conducted an internal audit of the Lautoka Port, followed by an internal audit of the Suva Port by Emosi Navusolo Ports Facility Security & Safety Officer, Lautoka Port.

These audits were carried out as the practical component of the recent training that Captain Jeke Vakararawa, Senior Port Facility Security Officer, conducted for the officers, which, he said, fulfilled more than one purpose.

"The process is an opportunity to gauge and assess the abilities of the officers as a part of their performance assessment. Issues



Mr Emosi Navusolo, Ports Facility Security & Safety Officer, Lautoka Port (left) and Suva Port's Assistant Ports Facility Security Officer Jone Tawake during the theory component of the training in internal auditing.

of transparency are addressed by each auditing the port that the other works at, and the training and the audits will feed into the five yearly external audit that falls due later this year."

Captain Vakararawa said that an improved management

system was used in the audit process.

"This system could also be used in other areas such as safety or cargo-handling, and could be used for the benefit of the whole organisation of Fiji Ports," he said.

Oil spill training

AN oil spill can cause far-reaching ecological and financial impacts that no maritime nation wants to see happen.

Fiji Ports and FSHIL recently joined with local stakeholders for training in order to be prepared in the unlikely event of such a disaster taking place.

The training, which took place in consultation with the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Maritime New Zealand, which have been involved in the Review of the National Spill Contingency Plan (NATPLAN).

"There have been a series of oil spill training workshops,



Participants lower a disc skimmer that will separate oil from seawater and pump the oil into inflatable tanks.

in line with the new Maritime and Transport Decree that is currently under review,' said Ms

Makereta Taoi, FSHIL Human Resources Officer. "

She said that FSHIL appreciated the opportunity to be part of the workshops and training. It was well attended by 30 participants, including other stakeholders such as the National Fire Authority, Fiji Navy, major oil company personnel, Ministry of Transport, and Port Denarau.

Ms Taoi said that the way forward for Fiji Ports and its subsidiaries is to develop a Tier 1, Oil Spill Response Contingency Plan that "would ensure that the response system and procedure put in place would prepare for the efficient mobilisation of a response action, should there be an oil spill within the vicinity of Fiji Ports."

Staff News

A very warm welcome to the following new staff: **Mary Smith Mausio**, who joined Fiji



Ports in the Finance Division and has since taken up the position as **PA to the CEO; Semaema Kunavore, Assistant Accountant**, with the **Finance Department** and to **Isikeli Waqa** to the new position of **Manager, Mechanical Services and Special Projects**.

Congratulations to Hetna Nand, promoted to **Accountant Finance Department** and to **Mechanic Department** staff members **Nilesh Sharma, Auto Electrician**, promoted to **Foreman**, and **Paul Robinson**, who has been promoted from Supervisor to **Senior Supervisor**, as well as to the **Pilotage Department's Capt. Peni Yauvoli** who has been promoted to **Acting Harbour Master, Lautoka**.

Fiji Ports farewells GM Finance, Asit Sen and wishes him well for the future. **Farewell and best wishes** in their future undertakings also go to **Stevodore Taione Guyaco** who took early retirement, to **RWW Levuka Wharf Attendant Tuvuki Namualevu** who reached the retirement age of 60, and to **Tony Mausio Mechanic Department Electrical Technician** and to **Elimi Tawake, PTL Accountant Finance** who have both resigned.

FAMILY FUN-DAY

THE annual Fiji Ports Family Fun-Day took place despite the on-set of heavy rain that forced a change to some of the planned events.

Amongst the highlights of the day were the rescue demonstrations and the Smoke House, provided by the Fiji Fire Authority, and the Zumba sessions with enthusiastic participants of all ages joining in.

