

# TUTAKA

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY एकता

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Citizens' Constitutional Forum Ltd - CCF

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LEFT CCF CEO Mr. Mataitawakilai congratulating a team mate during the 2017 ICERD Tag Rugby Festival held in Nausori. Photo: Gregory Ravo

Bula vinaka everyone and welcome to another exciting year and thank you for reading the CCF Tutaka Newsletter 1st Edition of 2017!

CCF began the year with some unforeseen staff turnovers that saw the resignation of our Legal Officer Supreena Naidu, followed by the departure of Programme Manager Kenneth Cokanasiga. In March, Legal Researcher Payal Reddy was forced to resign due to medical reasons.

Their departure was felt by the organization due to their experience and contribution over the past years, but that did not stifle the team spirit and effort as we stayed put together by continuing to deliver results beyond expectations.

The highlight of the first three months of 2017 was our work on ICERD Day Celebration. We decided take this activity outside our comfort zone in Suva and to reach out to other communities using a different methodology in raising awareness on Racism and Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Fiji. CCF was fortunate to establish a partnership with Rugby Academy (Fiji) and its Founding Director, former Flying Fijians and professional rugby player Mr. Seremaia Bai to reach out to 4 secondary schools in Nausori area to conduct rugby clinics and raise awareness on racism and how to address it. The targeted schools were Lelean Memorial School, including their Rugby Academy, Sila Central School, Vunimono

High School, and Shreedhar High School. The activity ended with an ICERD Tag Rugby Festival at Ratu Cakobau Park in Nausori with representatives of these 4 schools on 25th March 2017.

CCF wishes to acknowledge the Ministry of Education for their assistance from the beginning when they approved our request to work with the target schools on this issue. Racial discrimination and ethnicity issues are still prevalent in Fiji. We need a collective effort to raise awareness on these issues. CCF is working hard to raise awareness so people can talk about it and address it rather than sweeping it under the carpet as a 'sensitive' subject.

We also successfully rolled out our Civic Education Workshops targeting Ra, Naitasiri and Cakaudrove Province from February. Also, we have begun preparation for the Inter Tertiary Moot Court Competition that is schedule for September 2017, by hosting a lunch for the 2016 Mooters and getting feedback from them on how we can improve this year's activity.

Meanwhile, everyone is talking about the 2018 Elections now. As in the Fiji Constitution, election can take place between April and September 2018. Despite the inhibiting Section 115 on the Electoral Act 2014 to NGOs who wants to conduct voter education; the next twelve months will be very interesting and we will monitor closely the electoral process and how that will ensure a free, fair, and credible 2018 election.

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# Activity map for Quarter 1, 2017



CCF's Education team continued to create more awareness on understanding and being more active in working towards a democratic Fiji.

Conducting the workshops in selected areas along the three provinces; Cakaudrove, Naitasiri and Ra, the Education team continue to gather interesting views from the participants on their understanding of citizenship, governance and democracy.

The team completed two follow up workshops in Waila Indo Fijian community, Nausori and Vaidoko village in Ba. Both communities

shared common views on how they benefitted from the workshop.

Mrs Lalita Kumar of Waila Indo Fijian community "Thank you CCF, you have taught us many things, our human rights, the right way to do our club and where to take our problems. We have raised our drainage problem with the advisory councilor"

Mr. Semi Wainiaqolo of Vaidoko village in Ba "I now know that I can make submissions to the National Budget for our request to be considered and to also our responsibilities as members of a club in our village"

There were many interests shown on ways to prepare village proposals, the proper procedures to follow and also making submissions to the National budget.

The participants also made recommendations where there was a need for more awareness to assist and empower them in conducting developments in their own communities.

The project is supported by the European Union, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Conciliation Resources.

Vunimono Secondary School  
Asian/Oriental theme

Lelean Memorial School  
Fijian Theme

Shreedhar Secondary School  
Indian Theme

First Tribe Vunimono  
Generic design

Sila Central High School  
Greek/European Theme

Lelean Memorial School  
Polynesian Theme

Team CCF  
African Theme



# ICERD TAG RUGBY FESTIVAL 2017

By Communications Team

The Citizens' Constitutional Forum commemorated this year's ICERD celebration with a month long programme of ICERD clinics, ending with an ICERD Tag Rugby Festival. The activity was a first for the organisation to use sports as a unifying and advocacy tool, of which CCF is very content with having witnessed the response and enthusiasm of the students that participated. CCF partnered with former flying Fijian, Seremaia Bai and his newly founded Rugby Academy of Fiji in this year's ICERD activity.

The 2017 ICERD activity featured a number of ICERD clinics conducted at 5 different schools in the greater Nausori area educating students on the values of multiculturalism and unity aligned to the theme of the activity, "Give a Red Card to Racism." The theme, which blends the "Red Card", a sports jargon with fighting racism, tries to illustrate CCF's aim of promoting multiculturalism and eliminating racial discrimination in Fiji, and in our schools through this activity.

CCF opted to have the activity focused on the Nausori area for a number of reasons. Firstly, to raise awareness on the issue of Racism in Nausori as most activities on the issue are usually held in Suva, and the team believed it was about time to take the ICERD day celebrations out of the capital city. Secondly, since it was the first time for CCF to run such an activity involving school students and sports, CCF wanted to be able to properly facilitate the activity but is hoping to widen its scope of participating schools in the coming years.

CCF is thankful to the European Union and BFDW (Brot Fur Die Welt) that funded the ICERD activity for 2017. CCF is also grateful to the Ministry of Education for the opportunity to work with the selected schools and also thanks the various teachers and students of Lelean Memorial School, Shreedhar Secondary School, Vunimono Secondary School, Sila Central High School and Rugby Academy Fiji for their kind participation and support throughout the course of the activity.

## The Clinics



The International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) day was commemorated





with a different approach compared to the past few years that the Citizens' Constitutional Forum would usually have.

This year CCF aimed to create more awareness using Tag Rugby as our tool. We selected four schools in the Nausori area and carried out clinics before the day of the event which was to be celebrated on March 25th.

During the clinics we had an hour presentation on (ICERD) and how we could fight racism, our presentation included videos and class interactions that also brought out a lot of answers from the students. Questions were given to students to answer as a group where they all contributed, students then selected a member to present their answers. Many came with interesting solutions and it was very good to hear what they had to say about ways they could fight racism and their understanding to the question.

At the beginning of the presentation majority of the students were



somewhat reserved and held back but as we discussed further into the topic the students began to feel relaxed and honest about their thoughts on Racism. We were very happy to see solutions and testimonials from the students about their thoughts on the workshop.

On the day of the celebration it was pleasing to see that most of the students turned up for the festival, from different ethnic groups and played together as a team. There were no prizes since everyone was a winner on the day of the competition.

CCF believes that the approach of sports used as a tool to carry our message "Give A Red Card to Racism" had a great impact since sports is one of the things that unites Fijians. We look forward to creating more awareness on fighting racial discrimination and other issues that affects us as a nation.

The ICERD clinics saw an average of 30 students participating per clinic at the selected schools. Students learnt about the convention and its origins.

Videos of multiculturalism and peace was also a key part of the clinics. Each clinic rounded off with an introductory session to tag rugby, facilitated by Rugby Academy of Fiji's very own Mr. Vueti Tupou.

The tag rugby session was a practical session of the clinic as students had already learned about multiculturalism from the earlier presentations. Students of different races and backgrounds then teamed up and tried their best to work together to outscore their opponents. The tag rugby sessions included boys



# The Sugar Industry Conundrum

By Research Team

During the last few months, a series of developments that were taking place pertaining to the Sugar Industry triggered substantial debate and rightly so.

The appointment of the new Chief Executive Officer for Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) Mr. Graham Clark brought a glimmer of hope for the industry after the controversial tenure of his predecessor Mr. Abdul Khan. The Citizens' Constitutional Forum had reiterated its call for the authorities to investigate Mr. Khan on allegations of misuse of office and gross mismanagement and we are pleased

that the Ministry of Sugar is expediting on this issue.

The recent announcement by the FSC Board to permanently close the Penang Mill in Rakiraki will no doubt have an impact on the cane-belt economy of Rakiraki. CCF takes into cognizance the Government's continued efforts to foot the cartridge costs of the delivery of cane to Rarawai Mill. However, it is essential that the authorities instill confidence and assure cane growers in Ra that their voices are being heard and provisions being made to mitigate the closure of the mill.

The expiry of the European Union's

preferential price on sugar this September is another impending challenge that the Government of the day will have to grapple with. With the rejection of a bipartisanship approach proposed by NFP in the last sitting of Parliament, CCF believes that collective voices needed to be taken into account in order to find solutions for this struggling industry. With the Sugar Industry taking an important foothold in the draft National Development Plan, the sustainability and viability of the industry is essential to ensure it effectively serves the needs of its stakeholders.

## CCF's role in addressing racism in Fiji

By Chief Executive Officer: Sara Bulutani Mataitawakilai

CCF is a leading NGO that works on raising awareness on multiculturalism and elimination of racial discrimination in Fiji. We believe to address and eliminate racial discrimination in Fiji, we need to talk about it and bring it to the surface to be addressed like how the issue of domestic violence and climate change is taking the centre stage in Fiji at the moment.

Ethnicity is still an issue in Fiji and will always be because we are a nation of diverse ethnicities. Racism has been sidelined as a 'sensitive' or taboo subject in Fiji. We are still a long way to ensure a genuine co-existence between different ethnic groups for a sustainable peaceful island nation. It is evident in our day to day lives when racial smirks are passed on to an individual or group of another ethnic group. Any incorrect framing of speech or statement on the issue often creates discussions.

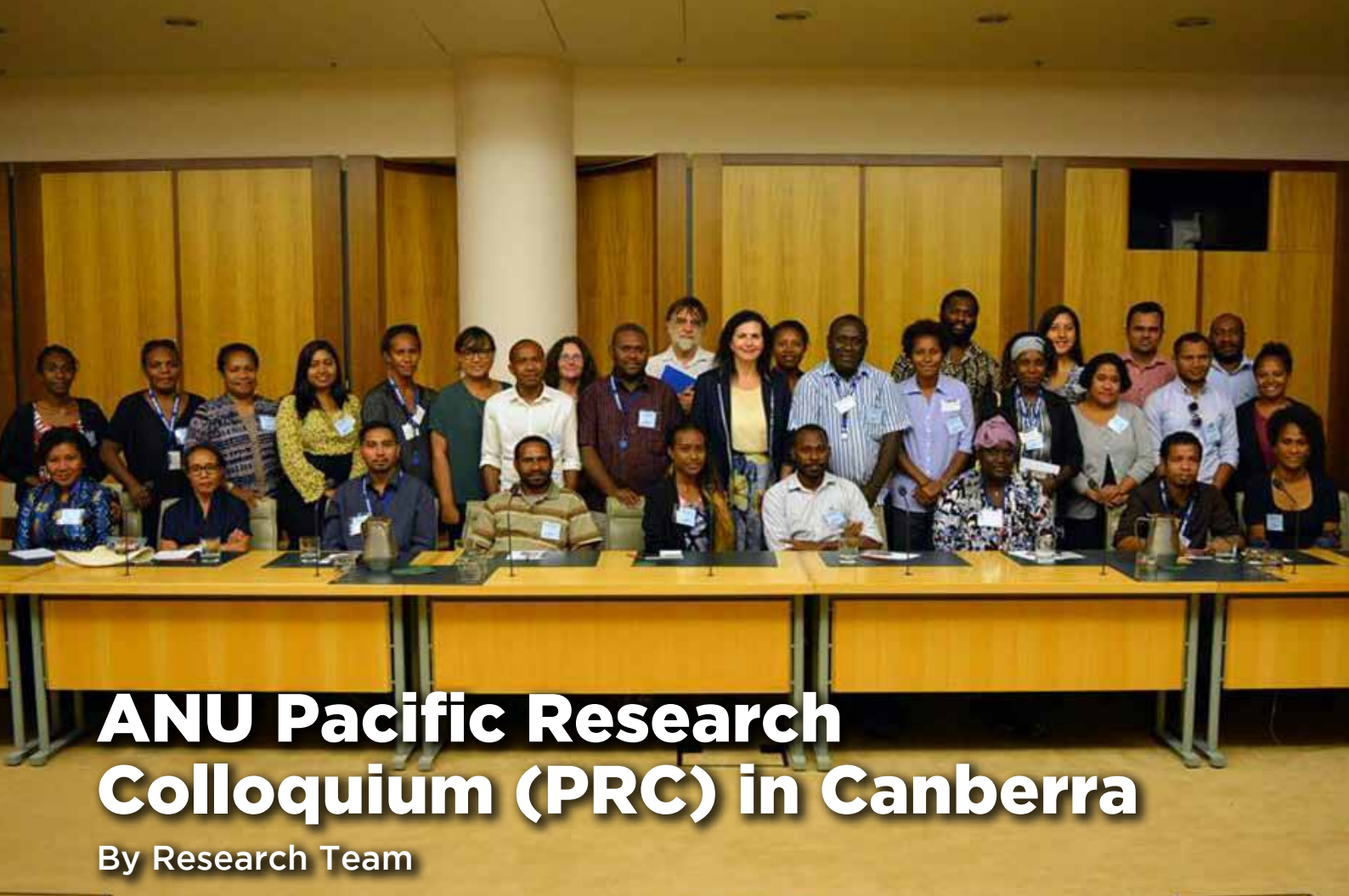
Ethnic division and racial discrimination in Fiji lies on the will of our national leaders and government to address it. It will be always an issue if leaders are not genuine in addressing racial discrimination. Worse still, if leaders come up with reforms and policies under the façade of equality without consulting those that will be affected than racism will always emerge. Far too long, the issue of racism has been centred on I-Taukei and the Fijians of Indian descendants. Other minority groups such as those of Solomon descendants, Chinese descendants, Banabanas, and others are left out along with their needs and issues. It is therefore critical that when we talk about elimination of racial discrimination and promoting equality, we have to ensure that the Rights of the



Staff and a friend of CCF pose with our noble banner blue. Illustration: Gregory Ravoia  
Indigenous people and the Rights of the Minority Groups have recognition.

As Secretariat of the ICERD Working Group, CCF at this juncture is formulating the Shadow Report on the International Conventional on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). We are urging the Government to expedite its submission of the State Report to the CERD Committee in Geneva. Our failure to do so is an indication of our weak commitment to address racism at home.

Our failure to genuinely address racism in Fiji will allow the reoccurrence of issues such as bullying in schools and the workplace, economic deprivation, poverty, hatred towards another ethnic group, and socio-political and economic instability for generations to come. It is a problem that Fiji needs to address as a nation, starting from the homes of every citizen to the national level debates and forums.



# ANU Pacific Research Colloquium (PRC) in Canberra

By Research Team

Participants of the ANU Pacific Research Colloquium. Photo: Supplied

The Citizens' Constitutional Forum Research Officer Mr. Aman Nath attended the Pacific Research Colloquium (PRC) at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra, Australia from January 30 to February 10, 2017. The PRC was organized by the ANU's State, Society and Governance in Melanesia.

The fundamental objectives of the PRC were to empower potential Pacific researchers on the tenets of research methodologies and for participants to deliver their research paper presentations and networking with scholars and fellow colleagues alike.

The first week of the PRC saw introductions and seminar presentations by ANU scholars whilst the second week sees research paper presentations by participants and exercising their roles as discussants.

Aman delivered a research paper presentation on the Political Conflict and Resolution in Fiji: A Case Study of the Muaniweni Refugees and also acted as a discussant reviewer for a fellow participant's paper. The PRC co-conveners' commended Mr. Nath's



Anawaita MAtadrada, Aman Nath and Genevieve Jiva. Photo: Supplied

research paper amongst the runners-up and was awarded for the best group presentation.

Mr. Nath is grateful to the ANU SSGM for the great opportunity and privilege to attend the PRC for two weeks which enabled him to acquire sound research tenets, network with fellow participants, academics and scholars alike and visit to the Parliament House

including meeting with the Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific Hon. Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells.

A total of 25 participants attended the PRC from the Pacific region which includes Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, East Timor and West Papua. Three participants represented Fiji.







# Moot Court follow up

By Communications Team

Participants from USP and FNU with CCF CEO Bulutani Mataitawakilai during the moot court follow up session. Photo: Gregory Ravoii

The Citizens' Constitutional Forum was happy to host the two participants from last year's moot court competition; the University of the South Pacific and Fiji National University to lunch to acknowledge their effort during the event in 2016.

The 2016 moot court competition that was successfully held in the Fiji High Court Room 2, Suva on 16 September 2016 attempted to improve awareness and generate interest of human rights law and practice amongst law students. Most importantly to highlight the practical implications of human rights law on the Right Holders claiming their rights and the Duty Bearer's obligation to comply with human rights law.

Best mooter, University of the South Pacific student Ziyaz Parvez said that the competition was an opportunity to improve and practice human rights law. "The moot court gave me an opportunity to test human rights law and improve my advocacy skills, it was a very interesting experience and I hope that there will be more opportunity for us and the public to witness this event," he said.

Many of the participants described the moot court as a bridge between the knowledge and the practical experience. The overall purpose of improving student's awareness and



Akanisi Vakawaletabua of FNU with CCF Legal Researcher Payal Reddy. Photo: Gregory Ravoii

interest in human rights law and practice was partly CCF's vision for hosting such events. Further, to create a demand and market for well trained human rights lawyers as the likely consequences for a healthy and robust human rights law and practice in Fiji and the Pacific Region.

The follow up session that was held at the CCF office also allowed us to hear constructive feedbacks and recommendations from the participants that will greatly assist us in preparation for the next moot court competition this year.

# ADVOCACY GALLERY



**VUNIMONO**



**LELEAN**



**SHREEDHAR**



**RUGBY ACADEMY FIJI**



**TEAM CCF**



**SILA**





# ICERD TAG RUGBY FESTIVAL 2017

#ICERD #TeamGCF #GiveARedCardToRacism



# Our Team

## About CCF

The Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF) is a non-government organization based in Suva with more than 20 years of experience in community education and advocacy on Fiji's Constitution, democracy, human rights and multiculturalism.

## Our Vision

To build a nation in which people live together in equality, justice and peace, respecting the rule of law under the Constitution that guarantees democracy and human rights.

## Our Purpose

To empower the people of Fiji to participate in and demand good governance, democracy human rights and multiculturalism.



Thank you for reading the Tutaka. We would like to hear from you. Send us your feedback or comments to [media1@ccf.org.fj](mailto:media1@ccf.org.fj)

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