



Newsletter



MSAF Delivers BML and RME6 Training for Resort Staff

The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) successfully conducted a Boat Master Licence (BML) and Restricted Master/Engineer Class 6 (RME6) training programme for staff of Malolo Island Resort, Likuliku Lagoon Resort, and the Ahura Resorts Conservation Foundation. Held in Nadi from 24–28 November 2025, the week-long programme brought together 42 participants for an intensive and practical learning experience.

The training covered a wide range of topics essential to Maritime Safety and Regulatory Compliance. These included the legal and regulatory framework under the STCW Convention, Maritime Transport Act (MTA) and Shipping Registration Act (SRA), vessel survey and registration requirements, and Coasting Trading Licence obligations. Participants also received training in safety procedures, proper outboard motor handling, navigational rules, weather interpretation, environmental protection responsibilities, and enforcement measures, including Infringement Penalties and associated compliance requirements.

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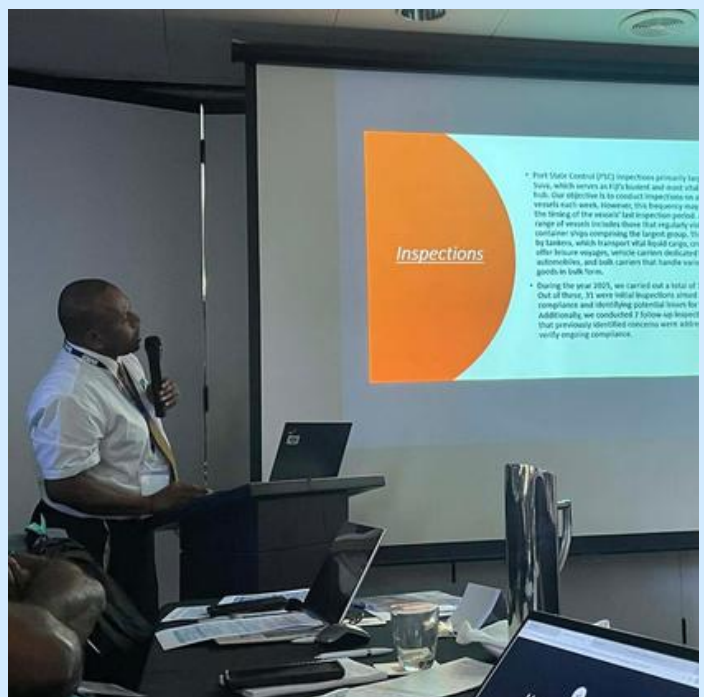
During the closing session, Resort Manager of Malolo Island Resort, Mr. Sakaraia Vonotabua, highlighted the importance of the training in ensuring safety at sea and expressed appreciation to MSAF for delivering this vital programme for resort staff.

MSAF has commended Malolo Island Resort, Likuliku Lagoon Resort, and the Ahura Resorts Conservation Foundation for their proactive commitment to maritime safety and for investing in the upskilling of their personnel.

“The training is vital in ensuring safety at sea, and we appreciate MSAF for delivering this important programme for resort staff.”
 – Mr. Sakaraia Vonotabua, Resort Manager, Malolo Island Resort

MSAF Strengthens Port State Control

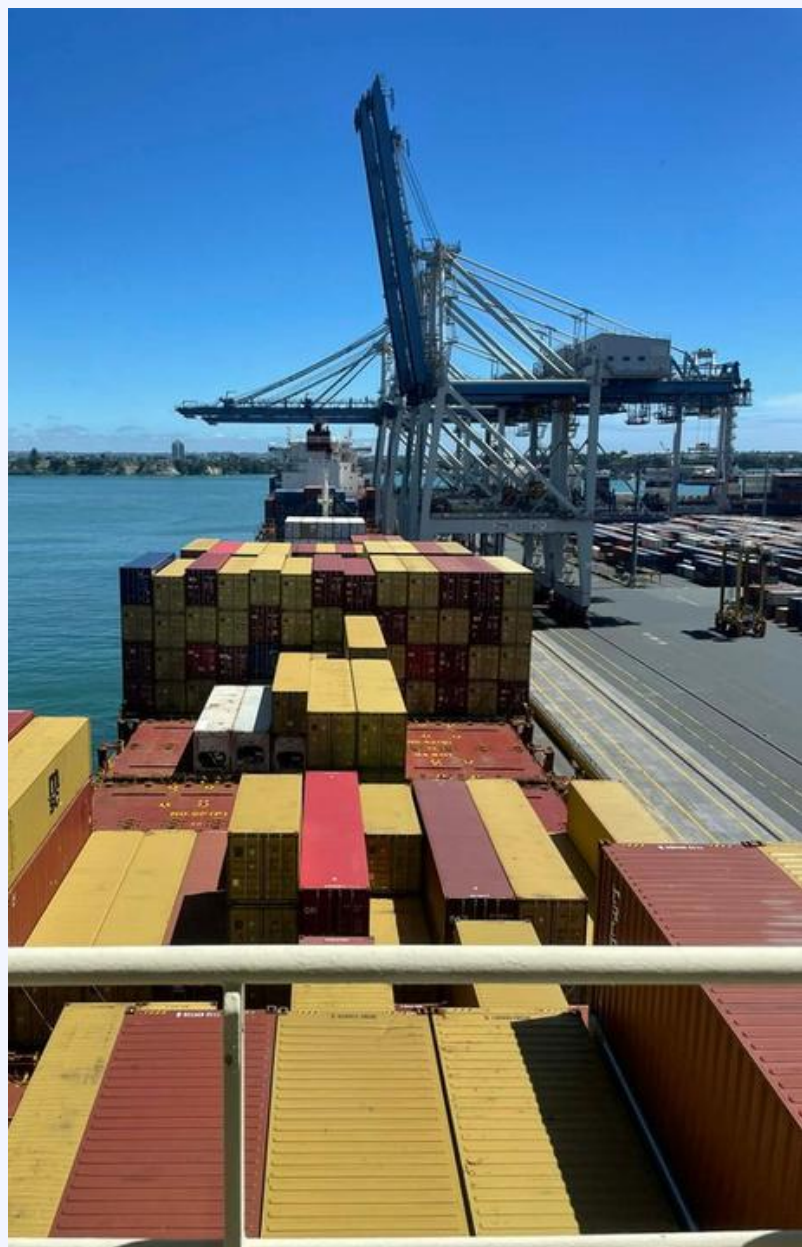
The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) strengthened its institutional capacity in Port State Control (PSC) through its participation in the regional IMO SMART-C Leaders Port State Control training workshop, held from 8–10 December 2025 in Auckland, New Zealand. The workshop brought together regional maritime administrations to strengthen leadership, technical expertise, and harmonized implementation of PSC regimes. MSAF was represented by Mr. Misaele Vakaceguidelana, Senior Port State Control Officer, who attended the training on behalf of the Authority.



MSAF's participation strengthened its understanding of the development, implementation, and enforcement of Port State Control policies in alignment with International Maritime Organization (IMO) instruments and international best practices. The knowledge and insights gained from the training were expected to support the Authority in further strengthening regulatory frameworks, inspection procedures, and compliance mechanisms across Fiji's ports.

The workshop was delivered under the IMO SMART-C Leaders Project and funded by the Republic of Korea. It was co-hosted by the IMO and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), in partnership with Maritime New Zealand. Government-nominated officials from Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) participated, providing valuable opportunities for regional engagement and the sharing of practical approaches to common Port State Control challenges.

Through its involvement in this programme, MSAF continued to build organisational capability, strengthen maritime safety oversight, and uphold international maritime standards. The outcomes of the training were to be shared internally to support the consistent application of Port State Control practices and to further strengthen maritime safety and environmental protection in Fiji and the wider Pacific region.



Regional Maritime Programme in Busan Concludes with Final Steering Group Meeting



The KIMFT Pacific Islands Maritime Masterplan Programme, held in Busan, South Korea from 8 to 17 November 2025, concluded with the Final Steering Group Meeting, forming part of ongoing regional efforts to strengthen Maritime Education and Training (MET) across the Pacific.

The programme and final meeting brought together representatives from the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF), the Pacific Centre for Maritime Studies (PCMS), and partner Pacific Island countries including Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu, alongside technical partners from the Korea Institute of Maritime and Fisheries Technology (KIMFT) and Korea Maritime Consultants (KMC).

Fiji was formally represented by the MSAF through Mr. Penaia Votadroka, Working Group Chairman/Coordinator; Captain Pene Manueli, Steering Committee Chairman; and Ms. Paulini Rabele, Working Group Member. The delegation was supported by PCMS. MSAF contributed actively and constructively to discussions throughout the programme, including the final meeting.

The Final Steering Group Meeting provided an opportunity for members to review progress to date, exchange technical perspectives, and discuss next steps for continued regional collaboration. Discussions focused on strengthening coordination mechanisms, boosting information sharing, and maintaining alignment with international maritime training standards.

The programme's conclusion reflects MSAF's continued engagement in regional maritime cooperation initiatives and its role in supporting dialogue and collaboration among Pacific Island partners.



MSAF Strengthens Marine Environmental Protection Through Regional Training in Vanuatu



As part of its ongoing commitment to protecting Fiji's marine environment and strengthening regulatory oversight, the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) participated in a regional MARPOL Annex V training workshop held in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 1 to 3 December 2025.

The training focused on the prevention of marine pollution from garbage under MARPOL Annex V, bringing together maritime administrations and key stakeholders from across the Pacific region. Participants engaged in technical presentations, case discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions covering shipboard garbage management, port reception facilities, compliance monitoring and enforcement approaches.

MSAF was represented at the workshop by Mr Lalit Chand, an Engineer Surveyor with the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF), who participated in technical discussions aimed at strengthening national implementation and compliance with MARPOL Annex V requirements. The training provided valuable insights into regional challenges and best practices, supporting MSAF's efforts to strengthen environmental compliance and surveyor capability.

MSAF's participation in the Port Vila workshop highlights the Authority's continued investment in capacity building, regional collaboration and the effective implementation of international maritime environmental standards to safeguard Fiji's marine environment.

Rewa Participants Earn Boat Master Licences



Twenty-four Fijians from Rewa successfully earned their Boat Master Licences (BML) after completing a three-day training programme conducted by the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) in Naivilaca Village from 19–21 November 2025.

Facilitated by MSAF officials, the training focused on strengthening maritime safety by equipping participants with the essential skills and knowledge required for the safe operation of vessels in Fiji's waters. The programme covered key areas of seamanship, safety regulations, and responsible boat operation.

Speaking at the official closing ceremony, MSAF Manager Ships and Inspection, Mr. Seson Komaisoso, commended the participants for their dedication and commitment throughout the training. He highlighted the responsibilities that come with holding a Boat Master Licence, reminding participants that safety at sea must always remain a top priority.

Mr. Komaisoso emphasised that with their training completed, participants now had a clear understanding of what was expected of them as licensed operators and encouraged them to uphold the highest safety standards at all times.

The closing ceremony was also attended by the Naivilaca Village Headman, Mr. Inosi Navunicagi, who joined in acknowledging the achievements of the new licence holders.

MSAF Recognised at Ministry End-of-Year Celebrations



The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) was honoured at the Ministry of Public Works, Meteorological Services, and Transport's End-of-Year celebration, where the Authority received an award in recognition of its dedication to service and ongoing contributions to the sector.

MSAF also joined fellow Commercial Statutory Authorities, including the Land Transport Authority (LTA), the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA), and the Water Authority of Fiji (WAF), in the Ministry's Christmas church service. The gathering provided an opportunity to reflect on achievements over the year and to mark the close of another successful year through fellowship and thanksgiving.



MSAF Supports Pinktober Awareness



The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) proudly joined the national Pinktober campaign, dedicating time to raising awareness about breast cancer and showing support for individuals and families affected by the disease.

As part of the initiative, MSAF was honoured to host Ms. Karolina Tamani, Clinical Nurse Manager of the Fiji Cancer Society, alongside a cancer survivor. Both speakers shared valuable insights on cancer awareness, early detection, and the importance of community support in the fight against breast cancer.

MSAF extends its sincere appreciation to the Fiji Cancer Society for their continued advocacy and tireless efforts toward promoting a healthier Fiji. The session served as a meaningful reminder of the role awareness and education play in saving lives and supporting wellbeing within our communities.



MSAF Staff Trained as Fire Wardens



The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) continued to strengthen its commitment to workplace safety as nine staff members completed Fire Warden Training conducted by the National Fire Authority at MSAF Headquarters in Suva.

The training equipped participants with essential knowledge on fire behaviour, emergency evacuation procedures, individual roles and responsibilities during emergencies, and the correct use of fire safety equipment. The session aimed to ensure staff were well prepared to respond effectively and confidently in the event of a fire or other emergency.

Speaking during the training, Acting Manager Qualifications and Licensing, Mr. Penaia Votadroka, emphasized that fire safety extends beyond compliance requirements. He noted that it is a shared responsibility to safeguard the workplace, colleagues, and members of the public who visit the Authority.

Mr. Votadroka also highlighted the critical role of designated Fire Wardens in maintaining preparedness, initiating early response, and supporting the safe evacuation of staff during emergencies.

Celebrating Fiji Day at MSAF Headquarters



The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) Headquarters was filled with colour and cheerful energy as staff came together to celebrate Fiji Day 2025 and the nation's 55th anniversary.

In true island spirit, staff proudly wore their bula attire, adding a vibrant touch to the office and reflecting the unity and pride shared across the country on this special day.

The celebration was made even more enjoyable with a delicious meal spread, giving staff the opportunity to relax, connect, and share in the joy of the occasion.

The gathering served as a reminder of the strong sense of community within MSAF and the importance of celebrating national milestones together.



Diwali Celebrations Light Up MSAF



The spirit of Diwali was brought to life at the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) as staff came together to celebrate the Festival of Lights in vibrant style. The workplace was transformed with colour and warmth as team members dressed in beautiful traditional Hindu attire, creating a joyful and festive atmosphere throughout the day.

Adding to the celebrations, staff were treated to a delightful selection of festive treats, making the occasion even more enjoyable. The gathering reflected the joy of togetherness, the richness of cultural traditions, and the beauty of shared celebration within the MSAF family.

The celebration served as a meaningful reminder of the value of diversity and unity in the workplace, as MSAF joined in wishing everyone a Happy Diwali.

MSAF Headquarters Staff Celebrate Christmas



The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) hosted its headquarters staff to a festive Christmas Party held at the Ginger Kitchen at the Fiji Museum. The evening provided an opportunity for staff to come together in a relaxed and celebratory setting to mark the close of the year.

Staff took part in a Secret Santa gift exchange and enjoyed a night filled with good food, lively music, and fun. The celebration reflected the strong sense of camaraderie within the MSAF team and served as a fitting way to celebrate another successful year.



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