



NEWSLETTER



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MSAF Joins IMO Training to Boost Marine Casualty Investigation in the Pacific

MSAF representatives attended a week-long IMO training in Nadi from February 17-21, 2025, to enhance Pacific nations' marine casualty investigation capacity.



MSAF Signs MOU with SIMA for Stronger Technical Cooperation

MSAF signed a Technical Cooperation MOU with SIMA on February 13, 2025, marking a key milestone in regional maritime safety collaboration.



Employee Spotlight: Nanise Rabe – From Junior Officer to Senior Role

Nanise Rabe joined the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) 13 years ago as a junior officer, unaware of the transformative journey ahead. In 2024, the 34-year-old from Nagigi village, Nasavusavu, Cakaudrove, earned her Master of Science in Maritime Affairs, specializing in Maritime Safety and Environmental Administration from the World Maritime University in Sweden. Over the years, Nanise has advanced through various roles at MSAF, marking a decade of growth and achievement.

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WELCOMING NEW TALENT: MSAF STAFF APPOINTMENTS FOR 2025



As we ushered in the New Year, the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) is pleased to introduce a group of dynamic and talented individuals to the team. Their skills, expertise and enthusiasm will undoubtedly contribute to our ongoing mission of ensuring maritime safety, compliance, and environmental protection across Fiji's waters.

We are pleased to announce the following new staff appointments:

Mr. Foo Leong – Senior Technical Trainer with the Human Resources, Learning and Development Team

Mr. Viliame Kotobalavu – Navigational Monitoring and Infrastructure Officer with the Safety Compliance and Response Team

Mr. Viliame Loganimoce – Small Craft Surveyor with the Ships Inspection Team

Ms. Kesaia Masirewa – Senior Marine Pollution and Environment Officer with the Safety Compliance and Response Team

Mr. Fiu Dominiko – Receptionist with the Human Resources, Learning and Development Team

Mr. Alifereti Tukana – Senior Flagstate Surveyor Engineer (Suva)

Mr. Watisoni Waqa – Coordinator/Trainer/Database Administrator

Mr. Laine Dauveiqaravi – Senior Flagstate Surveyor Engineer (Lautoka)

Mr. Ieruti Semota – Clerical Officer (Savusavu)

These appointments mark an exciting new chapter for MSAF as we continue to strengthen our workforce and capabilities across various departments. Each new team member brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and passion, which will be instrumental in advancing MSAF's commitment to the highest standards of maritime safety, compliance, and environmental protection.

ASSISTANT MINISTER TUINACEVA ENGAGES WITH MSAF DURING ORIENTATION TOUR



On 14th January 2025, the newly appointed Assistant Minister for the Ministry of Public Works, Meteorological Services, and Transport, Honourable Naisa Tuinaceva, officially began his Ministry orientation program in the Western Division. The program commenced with a briefing from the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF), focusing on budget updates, operational matters, and ongoing capital projects.

As part of his continued engagement with key stakeholders, Honourable Tuinaceva also visited the MSAF Headquarters in Suva on 30th January 2025. During this visit, he met with MSAF's Chief Executive Officer, CMDR Joweli Cawaki, and the senior management team to discuss the organization's current initiatives, achievements, and the challenges faced during the 2024–2025 financial year.

Hon. Tuinaceva commended the MSAF team for their dedication and assured them of the Ministry's commitment to exploring avenues of support to help address the issues raised. He also took a tour of the headquarters, interacting warmly with staff members who extended their hospitality and provided light refreshments during the visit.

Honourable Tuinaceva was sworn into office in early January 2025 and has since been actively familiarizing himself with the Ministry's departments and statutory bodies, reinforcing his commitment to strengthening public service delivery across Fiji.



Hon. Tuinaceva meets and greets MSAF staff based in Lautoka



Hon. Tuinaceva flanked by MSAF staff based in Suva in a group photo

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: NANISE RABE – FROM JUNIOR OFFICER TO SENIOR ROLE



Nanise Rabe first joined the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) 13-years ago, with the knowledge that she would be carrying out the duties of a junior officer. Little did she know, however, that her journey would soon take a transformative turn, elevating her to new heights of accomplishment.

In 2024, the 34-year-old lass from Nagigi village, Nasavusavu in Cakaudrove, graduated with her Master of Science in Maritime Affairs specializing in Maritime Safety and Environmental Administration from the World Maritime University (WMU) based in Sweden.

In today's Employee Spotlight, we bring you Nanise Rabe who has spent over a decade at MSAF and has also progressed into various roles throughout the years.

"Pursuing my studies abroad has always been my dream to assist me in my career," Ms. Rabe said. "As it would be the opportunity for exposure to diverse learning environments, understanding contemporary issues concerning maritime, understanding international laws and global best practices."

Ms. Rabe's entry into the programme at the WMU was made possible through the assistance of MSAF, which provided an opportunity for this programme after circulating the Expression of Interest amongst its staff.

Ms. Rabe said the activities in the maritime sector are evolving at a faster pace, thus she was inspired to be trained and gain updated knowledge to assist in implementing essential and effective tools suitable for the industry to well govern these activities.

At MSAF, she is currently employed as a Senior Shipping Officer since 2019. Her role reports directly to the Manager Qualifications & Licensing with the prime function to provide leadership and management of the shipping and seafarers' registration staff including advising on the requirements of the relevant legislations and final review/vetting, processing and issuance of the ships survey registration, certificates, licenses and permits.

"I must say that leaving my family behind to a totally new environment for 14 months is not easy, but it was possible through God," she reflected.

"Some of the challenges I faced includes navigating unfamiliar environments, adapting to different cultures, adapting to different educational systems while missing my family back home," she added.

Ms. Rabe, who is a Christian, attributes God as the backbone of her success and resilience in overcoming such challenges.

"I had learned to stay positive and focus on the purpose of going to study."

She says that while being a female in a leadership role in such an industry has its perks and growing recognition for women in the maritime industry, the challenges also exist.

"My experience in MSAF has a combination of both and I am thankful to God for this experience," she said.

"I know that through these challenges, He is also refining me. Challenges are part of life and regardless of where we work or live, challenges must be expected. I cannot control these challenges, but I can control how I respond to them. I have learned over the years that with God's help, I'm able to rise above these challenges and be resilient."

When asked about her advice to young women or aspiring leaders who hope to follow a similar career path, she said; "One of my favourite bible verses, says - commit your ways to the Lord for he shall direct your path. Secondly, maintain a positive spirit and have the right attitude/principles towards your personal and professional life."

"Do not forget the things you have been taught from home and from your church because these teachings have helped me in my career path, and I know it will help you too," she added.

"Life's journey is not always smooth, at times you may experience rough turns. Remember, this is part of your unique experience. Enjoy these moments because challenges shape our strength and resilience and help us to grow. Don't be afraid to step out beyond your comfort zone, continue to learn and broaden your experience and at the same time, learn from your setbacks. These will help you grow in your personal and professional life," she further said.

Nanise Rabe is married with a child and her hobbies include outdoor activities, meeting new people and socializing. MSAF is proud to support Nanise Rabe in her ongoing career and recognizes the incredible contributions she has made. We wish her continued success in all her future endeavours and look forward to seeing the amazing things she will accomplish. Our support remains with her as she continues to thrive and grow.

MSAF EMPOWERS LOCAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH BML TRAINING IN TAVEUNI AND RAKIRAKI



In a strong show of commitment to maritime safety and community development, the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) recently conducted Boat Masters Licence (BML) training programs in Taveuni, and Rakiraki.

On January 24th, 2025, the Minister for Health and Medical Services, Hon. Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu officiated the graduation ceremony in Somosomo Village, Taveuni. A total of 61 participants from various Taveuni communities graduated with their Boat Masters Licence.

“You are now equipped with the skills and knowledge to navigate our waters responsibly, ensuring the safety of everyone who relies on our seas,” Hon. Lalabalavu stated, congratulating the graduates. He reminded them that “safety at sea begins with each of you,” underscoring the importance of their roles in protecting lives and ensuring professional conduct on Fiji’s waters.

Simultaneously, a similar training initiative was held in Rakiraki from January 20th to 24th, where 24 Fijians, primarily from Volivoli Beach Resort and surrounding areas, earned their BML and Restricted Master of Engineer Class 6 (RME6) certifications. The closing ceremony, also held on January 24th, was attended by MSAF Deck-Surveyor Mr. George Vulakoro, who emphasized MSAF’s dual mandate of certifying boat operators and ensuring vessel compliance.

Mr. Vulakoro also highlighted the broader social benefits of such programs, noting that “this training will help young Fijians occupy their time wisely and keep them away from the criminal activities that have been prevalent on the news lately.”

The Rakiraki event was graced by the presence of Tui Navitilevu Ratu Emori Bolobolo, who presented certificates to the new boat captains, and Mr. Steve Darling, Director of Ra Divers Fiji, who supported the program’s objectives.

These parallel training sessions reflect MSAF's continued dedication to fostering a safer and more professional maritime workforce. By equipping Fijians with essential skills and qualifications, the authority is not only boosting safety standards but also enabling economic opportunities and resilience in local communities.

The newly certified boat captains now stand ready to contribute to the secure and efficient operation of marine vessels across Fiji's islands—a vital step in sustaining the nation's maritime heritage and growth.



Tui Navitilevu Ratu Emori Bolobolo joins a group photo with participants of the BML/RME6 training at Volivoli Beach Resort, Rakiraki



Participants of the BML/RME6 training at Volivoli Beach Resort in Rakiraki join staff of MSAF to a group photo

MSAF SIGNS MOU WITH SIMA FOR ENHANCED TECHNICAL COOPERATION



The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) has formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA) on 13th February, 2025, marking an important milestone in regional maritime safety collaboration.

The MOU, signed by MSAF's Chief Executive Officer, CMDR Joweli Cawaki, and SIMA's Director, Mr. Thierry Nervale, solidifies a commitment to strengthening technical cooperation in enhancing maritime safety standards across the Pacific region. The agreement focuses on capacity-building initiatives, the sharing of expertise, and ensuring effective coordination in fulfilling flag, port, and coastal state obligations.

This partnership will see both authorities working closely together to advance technical assistance, ensuring a more robust and resilient maritime sector. The MOU also sets the framework for further collaboration on training programs, regulatory compliance, and best practices in maritime safety.

Representatives from the Papua New Guinea National Maritime Safety Authority also joined in virtually.



MSAF AND ITAUKEI AFFAIRS PARTNER TO BOOST MARITIME SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs have taken an important step forward in strengthening their roles in safeguarding Fiji's waters and protecting the marine environment.

This collaboration was formalized on 20th February, 2025 in Suva, where MSAF Chief Executive Officer CMDR Joweli Cawaki and the Permanent Secretary for the iTaukei Affairs Board, Culture, Heritage, and Arts, Mr. Pita Tagicakirewa, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The MOU sets the foundation for a dynamic partnership aimed at advancing maritime safety across Fiji's waters. Both parties have committed to working together on licensing, awareness programs, and enhancing maritime safety training. They will also focus on improving clearance and compliance measures. Furthermore, the cooperation will extend to monitoring maritime activities in Fiji's waters to ensure safety and environmental protection.

This partnership emphasizes the development of skills, capabilities, and resources, while ensuring long-term, sustainable efforts toward strengthening maritime safety and environmental stewardship.

MSAF PARTICIPATES IN IMO TRAINING TO STRENGTHEN MARINE CASUALTY INVESTIGATION CAPACITY IN THE PACIFIC



Representatives from the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji recently took part in a week-long International Maritime Organization (IMO) training course held in Nadi from February 17-21, 2025, aimed at enhancing the capacity of Pacific nations to conduct marine casualty investigations.

As per IMO regulations, flag States are required to investigate very serious marine casualties and others as defined by relevant conventions involving their ships. The findings must be reported to the IMO through the GISIS online hub for shipping-related data.

The primary objective of these investigations is to identify potential improvements to current regulations, propose remedial actions, and improve the safety of seafarers and passengers while protecting the marine environment.

Twenty-six participants from 13 Pacific countries received training on vital topics such as the role of a marine casualty investigator, marine casualty definitions, State responsibilities, investigation procedures, mandatory standards, risk assessments, human factors, and effective analysis and reporting.

This training course marks the first-ever technical event of its kind in the Pacific, organized by the IMO in collaboration with the Government of Fiji, the Pacific Community (SPC), the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, and Singapore's Transport Safety Investigation Bureau.

Participating Countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

MSAF'S COMMITMENT TO MARITIME SAFETY



The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) has officially signed a contract with Dive Centre (Fiji) Pte Limited for the refurbishment of the Beqa Island – Nawamati Point Lighthouse, as part of MSAF's ongoing commitment to strengthening Fiji's maritime safety infrastructure.

The contract was formalised on 27th February, 2025 in Suva by MSAF's Chief Executive Officer, CMDR Joweli Cawaki, and the Director of Dive Centre (Fiji) Pte Limited, Mr. Charles Julian.

The successful completion of this project will align with MSAF's strategic goals to upgrade existing navigational aids with the goal of enhancing the safety of both local and international maritime traffic passing through Fijian waters.

MSAF BOARD AND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP



From March 5th-7th, 2025, the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) Board and Management held a focused workshop in Pacific Harbour.

The workshop centered on the Annual Costed Operational Planning and a review of the first year of the Strategic Plan. It provided an opportunity for key leaders to assess progress, align on objectives, and plan for the year ahead. The discussions were important in ensuring MSAF's continued commitment to boosting maritime safety and effectively advancing its long-term strategic goals.

The event was attended exclusively by Heads of Departments and members of the MSAF Board.

CELEBRATING WOMEN AT MSAF: HONOURING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025



On 7th March 2025, the women of the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) were proudly honoured in celebration of International Women's Day (IWD), a global occasion that highlights the valuable contributions women make in all sectors of society, including the maritime industry.

MSAF's Manager of Human Resources, Learning and Development, Ms. Matilda Atalifo, emphasized that while the involvement of women in the marine industry has grown significantly, there is still much work to be done—particularly in technical and leadership roles.

"Despite the progress made, we must accelerate this momentum by fostering a more inclusive work environment, ensuring equal access to education and career development, and proactively assisting women at every level, from entry-level roles to leadership positions," Ms. Atalifo shared.

She further highlighted that closing the gender disparity within the industry requires the implementation of work-life balance policies, stronger mentorship programs, and tailored capacity-building opportunities.

"Through proactively empowering women, we at MSAF can lead by example in the maritime sector, driving significant and lasting change that extends far beyond our organization," Ms. Atalifo added.

In recognition of the significance of IWD, the colour purple was prominently displayed, symbolizing justice and dignity, and representing the enduring power of equality and empowerment.

MSAF BOOSTS CAPACITY OF ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS THROUGH NATIONWIDE TRAINING



The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF), in collaboration with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), had launched a series of capacity-building programs aimed at strengthening the enforcement of Fiji's maritime laws. The initiative began with a two-day training program in Lautoka on 21st March 2025, and continued the following week in Suva with the In-house Regulators Training held on 27th March, 2025.

In Lautoka, eight Enforcement and Compliance Officers from MSAF participated in the training designed to boost their understanding of the legal framework surrounding marine infringement offences. The opening address was delivered by MSAF Board Director Mr. Savenaca Kadavi, who emphasized the significance of preparing officers to enforce the Maritime Transport Act 2013 and its subsidiary regulations.

"The work that we do in regulating and enforcing maritime safety has a direct and profound impact on the lives of our people, the environment, and the integrity of Fiji's maritime transport system," Mr. Kadavi said. He stressed that effective enforcement would lead to improved compliance with maritime laws, stronger protection of marine environments, and increased public trust in MSAF's regulatory capabilities.

The momentum continued in Suva with an In-house Regulators Training session involving ten MSAF officers. Officially opened by MSAF Chief Executive Officer CMDR Joweli Ratulevu Cawaki, the session reinforced the importance of the role played by enforcement officers in maintaining the safety, security, and sustainability of Fiji's maritime sector."

As we continue to develop the capabilities of our enforcement and compliance officers, it is important to recognize the significant responsibility we carry in safeguarding our maritime domain," said CMDR Cawaki.

He highlighted the authority vested in MSAF through the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji Act 2009 and the Maritime Transport Act 2013, which empower officers to issue marine infringement notices and take enforcement actions. Since June 2024, MSAF has issued 132 marine infringement notices, marking a significant step forward in the enforcement of maritime laws.

CMDR Cawaki stressed that the responsible execution of powers under the Act requires officers to possess strong skills in observation, documentation, and legal compliance. The recent trainings are a proactive step towards ensuring officers are well-equipped to carry out these duties.



Facilitators of the Lautoka In-house Regulators training Ms. Chanel Mavoa and Mr. Zenith Zunaid



Chief Executive Officer of MSAF CMDR Joweli Cawaki delivers his opening remarks at the In-house Regulators Training in Suva



Chief Executive Officer of MSAF CMDR Joweli Cawaki (middle) flanked by participants of the Suva In-house Regulators training in a group photo

FIJIANS IN KADAVU OBTAIN BOAT CAPTAIN LICENSE



A total of 117 Fijians are now newly licensed and certified boat captains after successfully graduating from a week-long training on Boat Masters License (BML) and Restricted Master of Engineer-Class 6 (RME6) in Kadavu on 21st March, 2025.

This training, facilitated by the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) and supported by the UK International Development and the United National Development Programme, saw participation from communities in Nabukelevu, Ravitaki, Sanima, Naceva, and Tavuki.

MSAF Chief Executive Officer CMDR Joweli Ratulevu Cawaki emphasized that with their newly acquired qualifications, these graduates are now officially recognized as seafarers under the Fiji Registrar of Seafarers. He extended his congratulations to them for their achievement.

During the ceremony, Mr. Cawaki was joined by Roko Tui Kadavu, Ratu Joji Banuve, to present the certificates to the proud graduates.

Looking ahead, the next training will take place in Kavala next week, benefiting participants from Yale, Nakasaleka, and Ono.

SECOND BML/RME6 TRAINING COMPLETED IN KADAVU



Fiji's maritime industry plays an important role in connecting our islands, supporting our economy, and ensuring the livelihood of many of our people.

This was highlighted by the Board Director of the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) Mr. Savenaca Kadavi while officiating at the certificate presentation ceremony for the Boat Masters License (BML) and Restricted Master of Engineer-Class 6 (RME6) at Kavala Village in Kadavu on 27th March, 2025.

"Whether it's the transportation of goods, the movement of people, or supporting the vital fishing industries that feed our nation, the role of boat masters and engineers is essential to the heart of Fiji's maritime industry," Mr. Kadavi said.

"This training is not just about gaining qualifications but about contributing to the safety of our maritime sector and protecting the lives of those who depend on it."

The training, which was facilitated by MSAF and supported by @UKFiji and @UNDP Pacific, saw a participation of 133 Fijians from various parts of Kadavu, particularly from the communities of Yale, Nakasaleka, and Ono. Of the 133 participants, about 122 successfully completed the BML program and 11 completed the RME6 program.

The training was held from 24th to 27th, March 2025.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 2025

To all MSAF Staff!

EVENT: 2025 Easter Celebrations

DATE: Thursday, 17th April 2025

TIME: TBC

VENUE: TBC



Contact Information:

Head office
PO Box 326, Suva
414 Victoria Parade, Level 4, Kadavu House,
Suva, Fiji islands.

Phone: +679 331 5266
info@msaf.com.fj

Connect With Us:



@FijiMaritime



@FijiMaritime



@maritime_fiji



@FijiMaritime



@FijiMaritime



www.msaf.com.fj

An underwater photograph looking up towards the surface. Sunlight rays penetrate the water from the top, creating a bright, shimmering effect. The water is a deep blue color, and the surface is visible at the top with some ripples and reflections.

Thank you
FOR READING!