



LAWS OF FIJI

CHAPTER 210

RESERVE BANK OF FIJI

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TABLE OF PROVISIONS

PART I—PRELIMINARY

SECTION

1. Short title
2. Interpretation

PART II—CONSTITUTION

3. Establishment of Reserve Bank and transfer of assets and liabilities
4. Principal purposes of Reserve Bank
5. Offices, branches, agents and correspondents

PART III—CAPITAL, PROFITS AND RESERVES

6. Capital
7. Profits
8. General Reserve

PART IV—BOARD, MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES

9. Board, its powers and responsibilities
10. Membership of the Board
11. Appointment of Governor
12. Directors
13. Disqualification
14. Appointment to fill a vacancy
15. Duties of the Governor
16. Meetings of the Board
17. Power to appoint Deputy Governor, officers and employees
18. Conflicts of interest
19. Secrecy
20. Personal immunity of directors, officers and employees

PART V—CURRENCY

21. Monetary unit
22. Sole right to issue currency
23. Defacement of notes
24. Legal tender
25. Manufacture and characteristics of bank notes and coins
26. Power of recall
27. Issue, withdrawal and exchange of currency
28. Recovery of lost, stolen, mutilated or otherwise damaged currency
29. Counterfeit currency

**PART VI—EXTERNAL RESERVE, FOREIGN EXCHANGE
OPERATIONS AND REVALUATION RESERVE ACCOUNT**

- 30. External Reserve
- 31. Value of External Reserve
- 32. Operations in gold and foreign exchange
- 33. Limitations
- 34. Revaluation Reserve Account
- 35. External value
- 36. Exchange rates

**PART VII—RELATIONS WITH BANKS AND CREDIT
INSTITUTIONS**

- 37. Opening accounts for banks and credit institutions
- 38. Operations with account holders
- 39. Determination of rates
- 40. Required reserves of banks and credit institutions
- 41. Regulation of interest and credit
- 42. Foreign exchange position
- 43. Minimum holdings of unimpaired liquid assets
- 44. Local assets ratio

PART VIII—SUPPLY OF INFORMATION

- 45. Supply of information
- 46. Extension of any time limit for provisions of documents and information

PART IX—RELATIONS WITH AND FOR THE GOVERNMENT

- 47. Reserve Bank to be banker, fiscal agent and depository to the Government
- 48. Agent for the administration of Acts relating to banking and exchange control
- 49. Advances to Government or statutory corporations
- 50. Acquisition of evidence of indebtedness issued by the Government
- 51. Credit to the Government and statutory corporations
- 52. Policy directives
- 53. Depository and fiscal agency of international financial institutions and supranational organizations

PART X—ACCOUNTS AND STATEMENTS

- 54. Financial year
- 55. Accounts
- 56. Publication of accounts and annual report and monthly return

PART XI—GENERAL

- 57. Exemption from Government taxes and duties
- 58. National Bank of Fiji and Fiji Development Bank
- 59. Prohibited activities
- 60. Banking Act
- 61. Prohibited names
- 62. Bank holidays

PART XII—REPEAL

- 63. Repeal and saving

Act No. 14 of 1983

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE RESERVE BANK OF FIJI AS SUCCESSOR
TO THE CENTRAL MONETARY AUTHORITY OF FIJI AND FOR
PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH

[1 January 1984*]

PART I—PRELIMINARY

Short title

- 1. This Act may be cited as the Reserve Bank of Fiji Act.

Interpretation

- 2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—
 - “bank” has the meaning given to it by the Banking Act; *(Cap. 212.)*
 - “banking business” has the meaning given to it by the Banking Act;
 - “Board” means the Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank established under section 9;
 - “credit institution” has the meaning given to it by the Banking Act;
 - “currency” means bank note, currency note or coin;
 - “director” means a member of the Board;
 - “Deputy Governor” means the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank appointed under section 17;
 - “dollar” means the currency established under section 21;
 - “financial institution” has the meaning given to it by the Banking Act;
 - “Governor” means the Governor of the Reserve Bank appointed under section 11;
 - “Reserve Bank” means the Reserve Bank of Fiji established under section 3;
 - “statutory corporation” means a body corporate established under any written law, other than a law relating to the formation and registration of companies.

* See Legal Notice No. 103 of 1983.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), it is hereby declared that, for the purposes of this Act, the Fiji Sugar Corporation Limited shall be deemed to be a statutory corporation.

PART II—CONSTITUTION

Establishment of Reserve Bank and transfer of assets and liabilities

3.—(1) The Reserve Bank of Fiji is hereby established in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(2) The Reserve Bank shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal. It shall be capable of entering into contracts, suing or being sued in its own name and shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, have power to acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property. The Reserve Bank shall have power to make such expenditure as it deems necessary for the proper discharge of its functions.

(3) The assets and liabilities and contractual rights and obligations of the Central Monetary Authority of Fiji established under the Central Monetary Authority of Fiji Act, 1973* are hereby transferred to the Reserve Bank and any currency issued or deemed to have been issued under the Central Monetary Authority of Fiji Act, 1973* shall be deemed to have been issued by the Reserve Bank.

(4) Any reference in any Act, subsidiary legislation, instrument or document to the Central Monetary Authority of Fiji shall, unless inconsistent with the subject matter, be deemed and be taken to refer to and mean the Reserve Bank.

Principal purposes of Reserve Bank

4. The principal purposes of the Reserve Bank shall be—

- (a) to regulate the issue of currency, and the supply, availability and international exchange of money;
- (b) to promote monetary stability;
- (c) to promote a sound financial structure; and
- (d) to foster credit and exchange conditions conducive to the orderly and balanced economic development of the country.

Offices, branches, agents and correspondents

5. The Reserve Bank shall have its head office in Suva or such other place as the Minister may determine and may establish branches within Fiji, appoint agents and correspondents within Fiji and abroad, and, with the approval of the Minister, establish offices abroad.

PART III—CAPITAL, PROFITS AND RESERVES

Capital

6.—(1) The authorized capital of the Reserve Bank shall be \$5,000,000 which may be increased from time to time by any amount proposed by the Board and approved by the Minister.

(2) There shall be issued to the Government, upon the establishment of the Reserve Bank, an initial amount of \$2,000,000 of capital stock and any subsequent amount proposed by the Board and approved by the Minister.

* Act No. 1 of 1973.

(3) The initial amount of capital stock issued to the Government shall be deemed to be fully paid by reason of the extinction of the capital stock of the Central Monetary Authority of Fiji, and any subsequent amounts of capital stock issued shall be paid up in full by the Government at the time of issue or may, if the Minister so elects, be credited as fully paid by debit to the General Reserve established under section 8.

(4) All capital stock of the Reserve Bank, as and when subscribed, shall be for the sole account of the Government, shall not be transferable or subject to encumbrance and no reduction of capital shall be effected except by an amendment to this Act.

(5) The Minister, notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, shall cause to be transferred to the ownership of the Reserve Bank non-negotiable non-interest bearing securities issued by the Government from time to time for such an amount as is necessary for the purpose of preserving the paid-up capital from any impairment whenever, in the opinion of the Board, the assets of the Reserve Bank are less than the sum of its liabilities and paid-up capital.

Profits

7. The net profits of the Reserve Bank for any financial year shall be determined by the Reserve Bank after meeting all current expenditure for that year and after making provisions for—

- (a) bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, and contributions to staff and pension funds;
- (b) any other purposes as the Board may deem necessary.

General Reserve

8.—(1) The Reserve Bank shall establish a General Reserve to which shall be allocated at the end of each financial year of the Reserve Bank—

- (a) 100 per cent of the net profits of the Reserve Bank whenever the General Reserve does not exceed 50 per cent of the authorized capital of the Reserve Bank;
- (b) 50 per cent of the net profits of the Reserve Bank whenever the General Reserve exceeds 50 per cent of the authorised capital of the Reserve Bank until the General Reserve is equal to the authorized capital of the Reserve Bank;
- (c) 25 per cent of the net profits of the Reserve Bank or such lesser sum as may be necessary to increase the General Reserve to twice the authorised capital of the Reserve Bank whenever the General Reserve exceeds 100 per cent but does not exceed 200 per cent of the authorized capital of the Reserve Bank:

Provided that the General Reserve may be increased beyond such amount at such rate and to such extent as may be agreed between the Minister and the Reserve Bank.

(2) After appropriate allocations have been made to the General Reserve under subsection (1), the remainder of the net profits for the financial year shall be applied to the redemption on behalf of the Government of any securities held by the Reserve Bank which have been issued in accordance with subsection (5) of section 6.

(3) The balance of the net profits for the financial year remaining after all allocations and applications under subsections (1) and (2) have been made shall be paid to the Consolidated Fund as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year.

(4) No deduction under subsection (2) shall be required to be made nor shall any payment under subsection (3) be made if, in the judgment of the Board, the assets of the Reserve Bank are, or after the deduction or payment, would be, less than the sum of its liabilities and paid-up capital.

PART IV—BOARD, MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES

Board, its powers and responsibilities

9.—(1) There shall be a Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank, composed in accordance with section 10, which shall be responsible for its policy and affairs.

(2) The Board shall have powers—

- (a) to make by-laws with the approval of the Minister for the conduct of the business of the Reserve Bank;
- (b) to make regulations with the approval of the Minister generally for giving effect to the purposes of this Act;
- (c) to issue directives for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

Membership of the Board

10. The Board shall be composed of 7 directors, namely—

- (a) the Governor;
- (b) the Permanent Secretary for Finance; and
- (c) 5 other members.

Appointment of Governor

11.—(1) The Governor shall be a person of recognized experience in financial matters, and shall be appointed by the Minister for a period of not less than 3 or more than 5 years but shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(2) The remuneration and other terms and conditions of employment of the Governor shall be as determined from time to time by the Higher Salaries Commission.

Directors

12. The members of the Board, other than the Governor and the Permanent Secretary for Finance—

- (a) shall be appointed by the Minister from among persons of recognized standing in agricultural, commercial, financial, industrial or professional matters; and
- (b) shall hold office for a period not exceeding 3 years but shall be eligible for re-appointment; and
- (c) shall be entitled to such fees and allowances as are determined by the Board and approved by the Minister.

Disqualification

13.—(1) No person, other than the Permanent Secretary for Finance, shall serve on the Board who is at the time of his appointment or later becomes—

- (a) a member of either House of Parliament;
- (b) a director, officer or employee of a corporation (other than the Reserve Bank) engaged wholly or mainly in banking business; or
- (c) a public officer.

(2) A director, other than the Permanent Secretary for Finance, may resign his office on giving notice in writing to the Minister.

(3) No person shall be appointed or remain a director—

- (a) who becomes or has anywhere been declared bankrupt and has not been discharged;
- (b) who has anywhere been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty;
- (c) who has, in the case of a person having professional qualifications, been disqualified or suspended from practising his profession by the order of any competent authority made in respect of him personally by reason of his misconduct;
- (d) if the Minister, after consultation with the Governor, is satisfied that he is incapable of carrying out, or is guilty of serious misconduct in the performance of, the duties of his office.

Appointment to fill a vacancy

14. If a director dies or resigns or otherwise vacates his office before the expiry of the term for which he has been appointed, another person shall be appointed at the earliest opportunity, and in any event within 30 days, to fill the vacancy and shall hold office until the date when the appointment of the person in whose place he was appointed would have expired.

Duties of the Governor

15.—(1) The Governor shall—

- (a) serve as Chief Executive Officer of the Reserve Bank responsible to the Board for the execution of its policy and the management of the Reserve Bank;
- (b) except as may otherwise be provided in this Act, the by-laws of the Reserve Bank or the resolutions of the Board, have the power to act, contract, sign instruments and documents on behalf of the Reserve Bank and, pursuant to the resolutions of the Board, delegate any of these powers to the Deputy Governor or to other officers of the Reserve Bank.

(2) The Governor shall devote the whole of his professional services to the Reserve Bank and shall not, without the approval of the Minister—

- (a) receive any salary or supplement thereto from any source other than the Reserve Bank;
- (b) occupy any other office or employment, whether remunerated or not, except as nominee of the Reserve Bank except that he may—
 - (i) act as a member of any statutory board, committee or commission established by the Government;
 - (ii) become a governor, director or member of the board of any international financial institution of which Fiji is a member.

(3) In the event of the absence or incapacity of the Governor from whatever cause arising, the Deputy Governor appointed in accordance with section 17 shall have and may exercise all the powers and functions of the Governor in accordance with subsection (1).

(4) In the event of both the Governor and the Deputy Governor being unable for any reason to carry out their duties, the Minister may after consultation with the Board appoint another director, an officer of the Reserve Bank or any other person who is qualified for appointment as a director under this Act, to act as Governor for the time being; and any person so appointed shall, so long as his appointment continues, have all the powers and functions of the Governor.

(5) Any person, other than a director, who is appointed under this section to act as the Governor shall while so acting be deemed to be a director.

Meetings of the Board

16.—(1) The Board shall meet as often as the business of the Reserve Bank may require but not less frequently than 10 times in each year and so that there shall not be an interval greater than 2 months between 1 meeting of the Board and the next meeting.

(2) Meetings of the Board shall be convened, and notice given, in accordance with by-laws to be made and, in addition, the Governor or in his absence the Deputy Governor shall convene a meeting of the Board after receipt of a written request by any 2 directors or whenever, in his judgment, he deems it necessary.

(3) At all meetings of the Board, the Governor, or in his absence such director as the other directors present may select, shall preside.

(4) In the absence of the Governor, the Deputy Governor will participate in Board meetings and shall have the right to exercise a vote.

(5) 4 directors, of whom 1 shall be the Governor, or in his absence the Deputy Governor, shall form a quorum at any meeting and, unless otherwise provided in this Act, decisions shall be adopted by a simple majority of the votes of the members present except that, in the event of an equality of votes, the Governor, or in his absence the director presiding, shall have and exercise a second or casting vote.

(6) The Deputy Governor shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Board but, except in the circumstances specified in subsections (4) and (5), shall not cast a vote at any meeting of the Board and shall not be regarded as a member for the purpose of forming a quorum.

(7) No act or proceeding of the Board shall be invalidated merely by reason of the existence of a vacancy or vacancies among the directors.

(8) All acts done by a person acting in good faith as a director shall be as valid as if he were a director notwithstanding that some defect in his appointment or qualification be discovered.

Power to appoint Deputy Governor, officers and employees

17. Subject to the provisions of the Higher Salaries Commission Act, the Board may appoint and employ, at such remuneration and on such terms and conditions as it may determine, an officer of the Bank to be Deputy Governor and such other officers and employees as the Board considers necessary for the efficient functioning of the Reserve Bank.

(Cap. 2A.)

Conflicts of interest

18.—(1) No director shall act as a delegate of any commercial, financial, agricultural, industrial or other interest, or receive or accept directions therefrom in respect of duties to be performed under this Act.

(2) All directors shall fully disclose to the Board any commercial, financial, agricultural, industrial or other interests with which they may at any time be directly or indirectly connected and shall refrain from voting on any matter related thereto which becomes the subject of Board action:

Provided that such an interest, if so disclosed, shall not disqualify the interested party for the purpose of constituting a quorum.

(3) No director nor any officer or employee of the Reserve Bank shall accept any gift or advantage for himself or, in his behalf, for persons with whom he may have family, business, or financial connections if the acceptance thereof would result, or give the appearance of resulting, in a diminution of his impartial devotion to his duties under this Act.

Secrecy

19.—(1) Except for the purpose of the performance of his duties or the exercise of his functions or when lawfully required to do so by any court or under the provisions of any written law, no director, nor any officer or employee of the Reserve Bank shall disclose to any person any material information relating to the affairs of the Reserve Bank or of any bank or credit institution or other person which he has acquired in the performance of his duties under this Act.

(2) Any person contravening the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$200.

Personal immunity of directors, officers and employees

20. No director, officer or employee of the Reserve Bank shall be personally liable for an act or default of the Bank done or omitted to be done in good faith and without negligence in the course of the operations of the Bank.

PART V—CURRENCY

Monetary unit

21. The monetary unit of Fiji is the dollar, divided into 100 cents.

Sole right to issue currency

22.—(1) The Reserve Bank shall have the sole right of issuing currency in Fiji and no other person shall issue currency or any documents or tokens payable to bearer on demand having the appearance of or purporting to be currency.

(2) Any person contravening the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 14 years.

Defacement of notes

23.—(1) No person shall, without the authority of the Reserve Bank, deface any bank note or currency note by means of any writing, printing, stamp, mark or erasure.

(2) Any person contravening the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding \$100.

Legal tender

24.—(1) Currency issued, or deemed to have been issued, by the Reserve Bank shall be legal tender in Fiji—

- (a) in the case of notes, for the payment of any amount;
- (b) in the case of coins, if the coins have not been tampered with—
 - (i) in the case of coins of denominations in excess of \$1, for the payment of any amount;
 - (ii) in the case of coins of the denomination of \$1 or less, for payment of an amount not exceeding 50 times face value.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, a coin shall be deemed to have been tampered with if it has been impaired, diminished or lightened (other than by fair wear and tear) or has been defaced, whether or not the coin has thereby been diminished or lightened.

Manufacture and characteristics of bank notes and coins

25.—(1) The Reserve Bank shall arrange for the printing of bank notes and the minting of coins and for all matters relating thereto, and for the security and safekeeping of unissued currency and for the custody, disposal and destruction, as necessary, of plates, dies and retired currency.

(2) The Reserve Bank, with the approval of the Minister, shall determine the denominations, composition, form, design, content and material of its currency.

(3) The characteristics of currency to be issued by the Reserve Bank shall be published in the Gazette.

Power of recall

26. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 24, the Reserve Bank shall have power, on giving notice in the Gazette and in 1 newspaper published and in general circulation in Fiji, to call in, for the purpose of withdrawing from circulation, any currency issued or deemed to have been issued by the Reserve Bank on payment of the face value thereof, and any such currency so recalled shall, on the expiration of the time limit specified in the notice, cease to be legal tender:

Provided that the holders of any currency shall be entitled at any time to claim payment from the Reserve Bank of the face value thereof.

Issue, withdrawal and exchange of currency

27. The Reserve Bank shall issue, reissue and exchange on demand and without charge currency which it has issued or which is deemed to have been issued by it:

Provided that—

- (a) in the event of the unavailability of a requested denomination, the Reserve Bank may deliver currency of available denominations which most nearly approximate those requested;
- (b) a charge may be made for the issue or the reissue of any particular currency that the Minister has specified by notice made under paragraph (b) of the proviso to section 31.

Recovery of lost, stolen, mutilated or otherwise damaged currency

28.—(1) No person shall be entitled to recover from the Reserve Bank the value of any lost or stolen currency, except under the terms of any waiver expressly executed in respect of the assumption by the Reserve Bank of risks incidental to shipments of currency.

(2) The conditions under which mutilated or otherwise damaged currency may be exchanged or refunded at partial or face value shall be determined by the Reserve Bank.

Counterfeit currency

29. The Reserve Bank shall assist in the enforcement of any law related to the counterfeiting of currency in Fiji and certification by a duly authorized officer of the Reserve Bank that an item in question is or is not genuine shall be *prima facie* evidence of the fact in any legal proceeding in Fiji.

**PART VI—EXTERNAL RESERVE, FOREIGN EXCHANGE
OPERATIONS AND REVALUATION RESERVE ACCOUNT**

External Reserve

30. The Reserve Bank shall maintain an External Reserve consisting of all or any of the following on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine—

- (a) gold;
- (b) foreign exchange in the form of currency or bank balances held abroad;
- (c) any internationally recognized reserve asset, including—
 - (i) the reserve tranche position of Fiji in the General Department of the International Monetary Fund; and
 - (ii) the holding of any special drawing rights by Fiji;
- (d) bills of exchange and promissory notes denominated in foreign currency and payable at any place outside Fiji;
- (e) treasury bills issued by foreign governments specified from time to time by the Board;
- (f) securities issued or guaranteed by foreign governments, supranational organizations, international financial institutions or any foreign public, municipal or local authority specified from time to time by the Board;
- (g) such other external assets as the Board, with the approval of the Minister, shall specify.

Value of External Reserve

31. The value of the External Reserve, provided for in section 30, shall be not less than an amount equal to 50 per cent of the total demand liabilities of the Reserve Bank including currency in circulation but excluding non-interest bearing notes issued to international financial institutions:

Provided that the Minister may, on the recommendation of the Board, authorize the Reserve Bank—

- (a) to alter the minimum reserve to such higher or lower proportions not being less than 25 per cent and for such periods of time not exceeding 12 months as may be specified by him by notice in the Gazette;
- (b) not to take into account in assessing the total demand liabilities of the Reserve Bank for the purposes of this section, such particular currency in circulation as may be specified by him by notice in the Gazette.

Operations in gold and foreign exchange

32. The Reserve Bank may—

- (a) buy, sell or deal in gold or silver coins or gold bullion or other precious metals as defined in the Mining Act; (Cap. 146.)

- (b) buy, sell or deal in foreign exchange using for these purposes any of the instruments commonly used in such banking transactions;
- (c) buy, sell or deal in treasury bills and other securities issued or guaranteed by foreign governments, supranational organizations, international financial institutions or any foreign public, municipal or local authority specified from time to time by the Board;
- (d) open and maintain accounts with central banks and other banks and financial institutions abroad;
- (e) open and maintain accounts for, and act as agent or correspondent for, foreign central banks, monetary authorities, commercial banks, foreign governments and agencies, supranational organizations and international financial institutions;
- (f) borrow foreign exchange; and
- (g) establish foreign credits.

Limitations

33. The Reserve Bank shall, in connection with the operations enumerated in section 32, deal only with banks and credit institutions doing business in Fiji, the Government, statutory corporations, foreign governments or their agencies, supranational organizations, central banks, monetary authorities, commercial banks, international financial institutions, foreign public, municipal or local authorities and members of a recognized overseas stock exchange.

Revaluation Reserve Account

34.—(1) The gains or losses arising from any change in the valuation of the Reserve Bank's assets or liabilities in, or denominated in, gold or foreign currencies or any internationally recognized reserve asset as a result of alterations of the exchange rate of the currency of Fiji, or of any change in the values of those assets or liabilities with respect to the currency of Fiji, shall be credited or debited to a Revaluation Reserve Account and neither profit nor loss arising from any such change shall be included in the computation of the annual profit or loss of the Reserve Bank.

(2) Any net loss arising from any such change referred to in subsection (1) shall be set off against any credit balance in the Revaluation Reserve Account and, notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, if such balance is insufficient to cover that loss, the Government shall cause to be transferred to the ownership of the Reserve Bank non-negotiable non-interest bearing securities issued by the Government to the extent of any deficiency.

(3) Any credit balance in the Revaluation Reserve Account at the end of each financial year of the Reserve Bank shall be applied, on behalf of the Government, to the redemption of all securities issued and outstanding under subsection (2) of this section and subsection (5) of section 6; one fifth of the remaining balance shall be paid to the Government to be used for such purposes as the Government, after consultation with the Reserve Bank, may decide:

Provided that, when the remaining balance does not exceed \$100,000 it shall be paid in full to the Government.

(4) No credit or debit shall be made to the Revaluation Reserve Account except in accordance with the provisions of this section.

External value

35. The external value of the Fiji dollar shall be determined, from time to time, in a manner proposed by the Reserve Bank and approved by the Minister and which has due regard to the obligations which Fiji has assumed in accordance with the provisions of any international monetary agreement to which it is a party or to which it has adhered.

Exchange rates

36.—(1) The Reserve Bank may determine the rate at which Fiji currency may be exchanged for the currency of any other country.

(2) Any person who exchanges any Fiji currency for the currency of any other country at a rate other than the rate determined under subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to both.

PART VII—RELATIONS WITH BANKS AND CREDIT INSTITUTIONS

Opening accounts for banks and credit institutions

37. The Reserve Bank may, under such terms and conditions as the Board may determine—

- (a) open accounts for, and accept deposits from, banks and credit institutions doing business in Fiji; and
- (b) open accounts with, and place deposits with, banks and credit institutions doing business in Fiji.

Operations with account holders

38. The Reserve Bank may—

- (a) for its own account and for holders of accounts with it, issue drafts and effect any other kinds of remittance payable at its own offices or at the offices of any agent and correspondent;
- (b) purchase from, sell to, discount and rediscount for, holders of accounts with it bills of exchange and promissory notes drawn or made for *bona fide* commercial, industrial, or agricultural purposes, bearing 2 or more good signatures of which 1 shall be that of a bank or credit institution and maturing within 183 days from the date of their acquisition by the Reserve Bank;
- (c) for its own account, issue, sell or place bonds, certificates, notes and similar instruments and purchase such instruments from account holders;
- (d) grant to holders of accounts with it advances for periods not exceeding 183 days—
 - (i) secured by—
 - (aa) instruments specified in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section; or
 - (bb) warehouse warrants and documents of title issued in respect of staple commodities or other goods duly insured:
Provided that the Reserve Bank shall determine the maximum percentage of advances in relation to the current value of those commodities or goods; or
 - (cc) holdings of any assets which the Reserve Bank is permitted to buy, sell, or deal in under section 32; or

- (dd) notes, bills, stocks, securities or other evidence of indebtedness issued or guaranteed by the Government or any statutory corporation, subject to the provisions of section 51;
or
(ii) secured by such other assets or on such terms and conditions as the Board may specify.

Determination of rates

39. The Reserve Bank shall determine and publicly announce from time to time its minimum rates for discounts, rediscounts, advances, loans or overdrafts, and may determine different rates for various classes of transactions or maturities.

Required reserves of financial institutions

40.—(1) The Reserve Bank may, by written notice to the principal place of business in Fiji of each financial institution and by publication in the Gazette, specify the reserves required to be maintained against deposits and other similar liabilities which may be specified for this purpose. Those reserves shall be maintained by way of cash holdings or deposits with the Reserve Bank or by both in such proportions as the Reserve Bank may specify.

(2) The Reserve Bank may fix rates of interest to be paid to financial institutions on all or part of any reserves required to be maintained under subsection (1).

(3) The Reserve Bank may specify different reserve ratios for different classes of deposit and other similar liabilities and may specify the method of their computation:

Provided that—

- (a) the Reserve Bank shall not require a financial institution to hold a total amount of reserves in excess of 25 per cent of the total deposit and other similar liabilities to which reserve ratios have been made applicable;
- (b) the initial specification of, or any increase in, the required reserve ratios shall be effective only after at least 30 days' notice thereof has been given and shall not relate to a period prior to the initial date of notice;
- (c) the Reserve Bank may determine that the requirements of this subsection may be met by meeting the specified reserve ratio on the basis of averages of daily reserve holdings over such period as the Reserve Bank may specify;
- (d) the specified reserve ratios shall be uniform for all financial institutions within the same category.

(4) The Reserve Bank may impose on any financial institution which fails to maintain required reserves in the appropriate ratio specified under this section a penalty not exceeding one-tenth of one per cent per day on the amount of deficiency in the financial institution's reserve holdings until the deficiency is corrected.

Regulation of interest and credit

41.—(1) The Reserve Bank may, with the approval of the Minister, specify by publication in the Gazette and by written notice to the principal place of business in Fiji of each financial institution—

- (a) the maximum or minimum, or maximum and minimum, rates of interest payable in respect of deposit and other similar liabilities and the method of computation thereof;

- (b) the permissible purposes, aggregate ceilings, maximum amounts beyond which the approval of the Reserve Bank is necessary, the maximum maturities, and maximum and minimum rates of interest chargeable in respect of—
- (i) the making of advances, whether by loans or overdrafts and investments;
 - (ii) the discounting of bills of exchange, promissory notes and other commercial or financial paper;
 - (iii) the issuing of letters of credit;
 - (iv) the granting of acceptances and other forms of credit;
- (c) the manner of disclosure to the public and to—
- (i) each depositor in a financial institution, the effective annual interest rate payable in respect of deposits made therewith;
 - (ii) each person to whom credit is extended, the terms of obtaining such credit including the effective annual interest rate payable in respect thereof.
- (2) The Reserve Bank, in its notices under this section, may—
- (a) differentiate in respect of the items specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) between—
 - (i) banks;
 - (ii) credit institution; and
 - (iii) other creditors,and between members of the classes referred to in sub-paragraphs (ii) and (iii) of this paragraph; and
 - (b) establish different criteria for different purposes under paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1).
- (3) The Reserve Bank may specify, by written notice to the principal place of business in Fiji of each financial institution and by publication in the Gazette, the minimum cash margin or security required in respect of the items enumerated in paragraph (b) of subsection (1):
- Provided that any increase in the said minimum cash margin or security required shall only be effective after at least 30 days' notice thereof has been given and shall not relate to a period prior to the initial date of notice.
- (4) With the approval of the Minister, the provisions of subsection (1), (2) and (3) may be made applicable by the Reserve Bank, by publications in the Gazette and by written notice, to any person having as a principal object of his business the extension of credit.
- (5) The Reserve Bank shall have authority to examine the accounts, books, and papers of any person who it has reason to suspect is extending or has extended credit in violation of subsection (4) and the refusal to submit those accounts, books and papers shall be *prima facie* evidence of a violation.
- (6) Any financial institution in wilful violation of subsection (1), (2) or (3) may be required to pay to the Reserve Bank for each violation a penalty not exceeding \$2,000.
- (7) Any person to whom the provisions of subsection (1), (2) or (3) have been made applicable pursuant to subsection (4) shall be guilty of an offence if—
- (a) that person is in breach of this section; or
 - (b) that person supplies false information or fails to furnish, within a specified time, any information required by the Reserve Bank to satisfy it that that person is complying with this section.

- (8) Any person guilty of an offence under subsection (7) shall be liable—
- (a) in respect of an offence under paragraph (a) thereof, to a fine not exceeding \$2,000; or
 - (b) in respect of an offence under paragraph (b) thereof, to a fine not exceeding \$200 for every day during which the offence continues.

Foreign exchange position

42. The Reserve Bank may determine—

- (a) the maximum amount of the working balances which financial institutions may hold in foreign currencies generally or in any specified currency; and
- (b) the maximum amount of indebtedness in foreign currencies generally or in any specified currency which financial institutions may incur.

Minimum holdings of unimpaired liquid assets

43.—(1) (a) Every bank shall, in relation to its operations in Fiji, maintain such minimum holding of unimpaired liquid assets as may, from time to time, be specified by the Reserve Bank and published in the Gazette, so however that the minimum shall be the same for all banks and shall not exceed 35 per cent of deposit and other similar liabilities.

(b) Every credit institution shall, in relation to its operations in Fiji, maintain such minimum holding of unimpaired liquid assets as may, from time to time, be specified by the Reserve Bank, and published in the Gazette, so however that the minimum shall be the same for all such credit institutions and shall not exceed 35 per cent of deposit and other similar liabilities.

(2) The Reserve Bank shall determine the method of computing the amounts of unimpaired liquid assets to be held by financial institutions.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "unimpaired liquid assets" means all or any of the following—

- (a) Fiji currency;
- (b) balances held with the Reserve Bank, excluding required reserves specified under section 40;
- (c) instruments issued, sold or placed under paragraph (c) of section 38;
- (d) treasury bills of the Government;
- (e) securities issued or guaranteed by the Government or by any statutory corporation and which mature in not more than 10 years;
- (f) net claims on or net balances held with other banks in Fiji other than items in course of collection;
- (g) bills of exchange eligible for rediscount by the Reserve Bank;
- (h) such foreign exchange, in the form of currency or bank balances held abroad as the Reserve Bank may approve for this purpose; and
- (i) such other assets as the Reserve Bank may specify.

(4) Any financial institution which fails to comply, within such reasonable time as the Reserve Bank may fix, with any requirement of subsection (1) shall be liable to pay, on being called upon to do so by the Reserve Bank, a penalty interest charge not exceeding one-tenth of one per cent of the amount of the deficiency for every day on which the deficiency continues.

Local assets ratio

44. A financial institution shall maintain assets consisting of such claims payable in the currency of Fiji and other assets situated in Fiji in such minimum proportion of its deposits and other similar liabilities payable in Fiji as the Reserve Bank may specify.

PART VIII—SUPPLY OF INFORMATION

Supply of information

45.—(1) A financial institution shall furnish to the Reserve Bank such information regarding its business, or that of any related company in Fiji or elsewhere, as the Reserve Bank may require for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Reserve Bank may require a certificate from the auditor of the financial institution verifying the accuracy of any information furnished under subsection (1).

(3) Every director and every manager of a financial institution which fails to provide the required information or a certificate from its auditor after a reasonable period of notice shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding \$500 for every day during which the offence continues.

(4) If information provided under this section is false in any material particular, every director and every manager of the financial institution shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

(5) Any person who is prosecuted in respect of any offence under this section shall have a good defence if he proves that the offence was committed without his consent or connivance and that he exercised all such diligence to prevent the commission of the offence as he ought to have exercised, having regard to his position in the financial institution in respect of which the offence was committed.

(6) In subsection (1), "related company" means any body corporate which is or has at any relevant time been the financial institution's subsidiary or holding company or a subsidiary of its holding company or a holding company of its subsidiary.

Extension of any time limit for provision of documents and information

46. At the request of a financial institution, the Reserve Bank may extend any period within which the financial institution is, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, obliged to furnish any document or information.

PART IX—RELATIONS WITH AND FOR THE GOVERNMENT

Reserve Bank to be banker, fiscal agent and depository to the Government

47.—(1) The Reserve Bank shall be the banker and fiscal agent of the Government and shall be the depository of Government funds:

Provided that—

(a) the Reserve Bank may also act in such capacities to any Ministry or Department of Government or any statutory corporation; and

(b) the Government may maintain balances with and generally use the services of financial institutions on such terms and conditions as may be agreed between the Reserve Bank, the Minister and the parties concerned.

(2) The Minister may request the Reserve Bank to render advice and to furnish reports on matters relating to the purposes of the Reserve Bank.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Reserve Bank to inform and advise the Minister about any matter which in the opinion of the Reserve Bank is likely to affect the achievement of its purposes.

Agent for the administration of Acts relating to banking and exchange control

48. The Reserve Bank shall exercise, as agent for the Government, such powers or functions under any law for the time being in force relating to exchange control and the regulation of financial institutions in Fiji as may be delegated to it by the Minister.

Advances to Government or statutory corporations

49.—(1) The Reserve Bank may grant temporary advances to the Government or any statutory corporation in respect of temporary deficiencies of current budget revenue, subject to repayment within 6 months following the end of the financial year in which they were granted, at such rates of interest as the Board may determine.

(2) If at the end of any financial year, any advance remains unpaid within the period provided for by subsection (1), that advance shall be taken into account when determining the maximum advances that may be made under that subsection in the following year.

(3) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the Reserve Bank is expressly authorized to make advances to the Government, on such terms and conditions as may be agreed between them, in respect of subscriptions and other payments resulting from, or incidental to, the membership of Fiji in any international financial institution, the participation of Fiji in any account thereof or any transactions and operations undertaken in connection therewith.

(4) The Reserve Bank shall be consulted by—

(a) the Minister, on the occasion of the preparation of the Government's budget, to the end of reaching an understanding on the total amount of credit that may be expected to be extended by the Reserve Bank to the Government during the following financial year;

(b) the Government, its institutions, agencies, statutory corporations and local government bodies at any time that either domestic or foreign credit operations are contemplated; in the event that, in the opinion of the Board, such operations individually or collectively appear to be of a magnitude inappropriate to prevailing economic conditions, the Reserve Bank shall report to the Minister drawing attention to the situation and recommending measures to rectify the situation.

Acquisition of evidence of indebtedness issued by the Government

50. The Reserve Bank may buy, sell or deal in notes, bills, stocks, securities or other evidence of indebtedness issued or guaranteed by the Government or any statutory corporation, which were publicly offered for sale or form part of an issue which is being made to the public at the time of acquisition by the Reserve Bank and which mature in not more than 20 years.

Credit to the Government and statutory corporations

51.—(1) Except in accordance with this section and sections 38, 49 and 50, the Reserve Bank shall not, directly or indirectly, make advances to the Government or to any statutory corporation or acquire the notes, bills, securities or other

evidence of indebtedness of, or guaranteed by, the Government or any statutory corporation or establish credits for the Government or any statutory corporation:

Provided that this section shall not operate to prevent the acquisition by the Reserve Bank of securities in accordance with subsection (5) of section 6 and subsection (2) of section 34 or its making advances in accordance with subsection (3) of section 49.

(2) The total amount of outstanding advances made by the Reserve Bank to the Government or to any statutory corporation and of the holdings by the Reserve Bank of notes, bills, securities or other evidence of indebtedness of, or guaranteed by, the Government or any statutory corporation exclusive of credit permitted under subsection (5) of section 6 and subsection (2) of section 34 and of the amount of credits established for the Government or any statutory corporation shall, at no time, exceed 30 per cent of the average annual ordinary revenue of the Government, except as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

(3) For the purposes of this section—

(a) the ordinary revenue of the Government shall include revenues from taxes, levies, duties, and fees, rents, profits and income from any investment or undertaking by the Government and any contribution to the revenue of the Government from any statutory corporation but shall not include loans, grants, other forms of economic aid or capital raised;

(b) the average of the annual ordinary revenue shall mean the average of the annual ordinary revenues for the 3 financial years immediately preceding for which accounts are available.

(4) If, in the opinion of the Board, the limitation provided in subsection (2) appears to be in danger of being exceeded, the Reserve Bank shall submit to the Minister a report containing such recommendations as it deems appropriate to remedy the situation. The Reserve Bank shall make further reports at intervals not to exceed 3 months until such time as, in its opinion, the situation has been rectified.

(5) If the limitation provided for in subsection (2) is reached, the Reserve Bank shall forthwith notify the Minister of the fact and shall permit no further increase, whether directly or indirectly, in the Reserve Bank's advances and holdings referred to in subsection (2):

Provided that the Minister may direct the Reserve Bank to permit temporary further increases in the total of the advances, holdings and credits referred to in subsection (2) subject to an overall limitation of 40 per cent of the average annual ordinary revenue of Government for a period not exceeding 6 months and the Reserve Bank shall thereupon give effect to that policy while the direction remains in operation.

Policy directives

52. The Minister may, after consultation with the Board, issue to the Reserve Bank such written directives of a general nature as may be necessary to give effect to the economic policies of the Government, and the Reserve Bank shall comply therewith.

Depository and fiscal agency of international financial institutions and supranational organisations

53. The Reserve Bank shall, upon designation by the Minister, serve as the depository and fiscal agency of, and the institution through which dealings shall be

conducted with, international financial institutions and supranational organizations of which Fiji is a member.

PART X—ACCOUNTS AND STATEMENTS

Financial year

54. The financial year of the Reserve Bank shall coincide with the financial year of the Government.

Accounts

55.—(1) The accounts of the Reserve Bank shall be audited by auditors appointed annually by the Board with the approval of the Minister.

(2) In its accounts, the Reserve Bank shall not be required to include the face value of any particular currency in circulation that the Minister has specified by notice made under paragraph (b) of the proviso to section 31.

Publication of accounts and annual report and monthly return

56.—(1) The Reserve Bank shall, within 3 months after the close of each financial year, transmit to the Minister—

(a) a copy of the annual accounts certified by the auditors; and

(b) a report of its operations during that year.

(2) The Reserve Bank shall cause a copy of the annual accounts to be published in the Gazette.

(3) The Minister shall cause a copy of the annual accounts and the report of operations to be laid before Parliament at the next meeting subsequent to the submission thereof.

(4) The Reserve Bank shall, as soon as may be after the last Wednesday of each month, make up a return of its assets and liabilities as at the close of business on that day and send a copy of the return to the Minister and publish the return in the Gazette:

Provided that, where a Wednesday is a public holiday, returns shall be as at the preceding working day.

PART XI—GENERAL

Exemption from Government taxes and duties

57. The Reserve Bank shall be exempt from all Government taxes and duties on its profits, purchases, operations, capital, property transactions and documents.

National Bank of Fiji and Fiji Development Bank

58.—(1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the National Bank of Fiji Act, the provisions of this Act apply to the National Bank of Fiji.

(Cap. 213.)

(2) After due consultation with the Fiji Development Bank, any section or subsection of this Act may be made applicable by the Minister to that Bank upon a finding by the Reserve Bank that it is engaging as a substantial part of its business in the acceptance of deposits of money from the public.

Prohibited activities

59. The Reserve Bank shall not—

(a) engage in trade, purchase the shares of any corporation or company, including the shares of any banking company or otherwise have an

ownership interest in any commercial, agricultural, industrial, or other undertaking except such interest as the Reserve Bank may acquire in the course of satisfaction of debts due to it:

Provided that all such interests so acquired shall be disposed of at the earliest suitable opportunity;

- (b) purchase, acquire or lease real property except so far as the Reserve Bank shall consider it necessary or expedient for the provision or future provision of premises for the conduct of its business and for the housing of, and amenities for, its staff and similar requirements incidental to the performance of its functions under the provisions of this Act:

Provided that the Reserve Bank may let real property or premises not immediately required for the conduct of its business or for the housing of and amenities for its staff and similar requirements.

Banking Act

60. The Reserve Bank shall not be subject to any of the provisions of the Banking Act. (Cap. 212.)

Prohibited names

61. Save with the written consent of the Minister on the recommendation of the Reserve Bank, no bank shall hereafter be licensed under the Banking Act by a name which includes any of the words "Central", "Fiji", "Fijian National", "National", "Reserve" or "State" or their equivalent in any other language.

(Cap. 212.)

Bank holidays

62.—(1) If the Reserve Bank considers it necessary or expedient in the public interest, it may by order declare any day a non-business day for financial institutions.

(2) Without prejudice to subsection (1), the Reserve Bank may in the event of hurricane, earthquake or other natural disaster declare in such manner as it considers appropriate any day a non-business day for financial institutions, which declaration may relate to any part of or to the whole of Fiji.

(3) Any day declared to be a non-business day under this section shall be regarded as a bank holiday for the purposes of the Bills of Exchange Act.

(Cap. 227.)

PART XII—REPEAL

Repeal and saving

63. The Central Monetary Authority of Fiji Act, 1973 is repealed:

Provided that all subsidiary legislation made thereunder and in force at the time of coming into force of this Act shall be deemed to have been made under this Act and shall continue in force until other subsidiary legislation shall be made by virtue of this Act.

Controlled by Ministry of Finance

CHAPTER 210
RESERVE BANK OF FIJI

SECTION 9—RESERVE BANK OF FIJI BY-LAWS*

TABLE OF PROVISIONS

BY-LAW

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Meetings of the Board
4. Minutes
5. Declarations
6. Governor
7. Places at which minutes, etc., are to be kept
8. Common seal
9. Signing of documents, etc., to which common seal is not affixed

Schedule—Forms of Declaration

Legal Notice No. 168 of 1974

Short title

1. These By-Laws may be cited as the Reserve Bank of Fiji By-Laws.

Interpretation

2. In these By-Laws, unless the context otherwise requires, "member" means a member of the Board.

Meetings of the Board

- 3.—(1) Not less than 10 days' notice shall be given of each meeting of the Board and such notice shall be delivered to every member at the address appearing

* These By-Laws, originally cited as the Central Monetary Authority of Fiji By-laws and made under the Central Monetary Authority of Fiji Act (No. 1 of 1973), are continued in force by the Reserve Bank of Fiji (s.63) and must be read subject to the provisions of that Act. Pursuant to s.3(4) of the Reserve Bank of Fiji Act, references to the Reserve Bank of Fiji have been substituted for references to the Central Monetary Authority of Fiji throughout the By-laws.

in the Reserve Bank's records as his address for the delivery of notices and other communications from the Reserve Bank:

Provided that—

- (a) it shall not be necessary in the case of an emergency to give such 10 days' notice but instead in the case of such emergency as much notice as is possible in the circumstances shall be given to each member who is in Fiji at the time of giving of the notice; and
- (b) the accidental or unavoidable omission to give any notice to any member or the non-receipt of such notice by any member shall not of itself invalidate any act or proceeding of the Board.

(2) No persons other than members and the person appointed to record the minutes of the meeting shall attend a meeting of the Board:

Provided that the Board may authorise the presence of any person at any meeting or a part of any meeting.

Minutes

4.—(1) The Board shall cause minutes of its meetings to be recorded and there shall be included in such minutes—

- (a) details of the names of all members present at the meeting;
- (b) all resolutions passed at the meeting;
- (c) details of the appointment of all officers, employees, agents and correspondents made by the Board.

(2) A copy of the minutes of each meeting shall be delivered to each member so to be received by them not later than the date on which notice is given of the next succeeding ordinary meeting of the Board.

(3) The minutes of a meeting shall, after they have been approved by the Board, be signed by the Governor when he is presiding at such meeting, at the next succeeding ordinary meeting of the Board.

Declarations. Form I of Schedule

5.—(1) Every member shall, on his appointment or reappointment to the Board sign a declaration in the form set out as Form I of the Schedule affirming his allegiance and service to the Reserve Bank and pledging himself to observe strict secrecy respecting all transactions of the Reserve Bank.

Form II of Schedule

(2) All officers and employees of the Reserve Bank shall be required to sign a declaration in the form set out as Form II in the Schedule affirming their allegiance and service to the Reserve Bank and pledging themselves to observe strict secrecy respecting all transactions of the Reserve Bank.

(3) Any person who contravenes any matter contained in or covered by his declaration shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding \$200.

Governor

6. The Governor shall be in charge of the day-to-day management and conduct of the Reserve Bank's affairs and operations in accordance with the policy of the Board and shall, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, also be responsible for—

- (a) generally supervising the organisation and operation of all agencies of the Board;

- (b) causing true accounts or records to be kept of all transactions entered into by the Reserve Bank and of all the assets and liabilities of the Reserve Bank and of all securities or articles entrusted to or held by the Reserve Bank;
- (c) causing to be compiled, transmitted and published the reports and statements referred to in section 56 of the Act;
- (d) the safekeeping of all the assets of the Reserve Bank and of all securities or articles entrusted to or held by the Reserve Bank;
- (e) the discharge by officers and other employees of the Reserve Bank of their duties;
- (f) the supervision of arrangements relating to the issue and redemption of notes and coin and of all matters connected with the form, design, composition and content of notes and coin.

Places at which minutes, etc., are to be kept

7. All minutes, books and records of or relating to the Reserve Bank or to the Board shall be kept at the Head Office of the Reserve Bank or at such places as the Board may from time to time determine:

Provided that any such minute book or record may be temporarily removed from the Head Office or such other places on the authority of the Governor.

Common seal

8.—(1) The common seal of the Reserve Bank shall be kept in the custody of the Governor or of his nominee.

(2) The common seal shall only be affixed to documents effecting major transactions and only then on the authority of a specific resolution of the Board.

(3) The affixing of the common seal to any document shall be done in the presence of at least 2 members of the Board.

(4) Each time the common seal is affixed to a document an attestation clause in the following form shall be included adjacent to the place at which the common seal is affixed and shall be signed by the 2 members of the Board who witness the affixing:—

“The common seal of the Reserve Bank of Fiji was affixed hereunto on the.....day of....., 19..... in accordance with a resolution of the Board passed on theday of..... 19....., in the presence of—

.....a Member of the Board
.....a Member of the Board”.

Signing of document, etc., to which common seal is not affixed

9. The Governor shall be empowered to sign all documents relating to all aspects of the Reserve Bank's business and to delegate to other officers of the Reserve Bank such powers of signing in respect of such documents as the Board may from time to time resolve.

Prohibition from engaging in trade and employment or other duties

10. No officer or employee of the Reserve Bank shall engage directly or indirectly either as a principal or as a servant or agent in any trade, profession, business or occupy any other office or accept any other employment, whether remunerated or not, without the specific written prior permission of the Governor.

SCHEDULE
(By-Law 5)

FORM I

DECLARATION OF ALLEGIANCE AND SECRECY BY MEMBERS

I,....., being appointed a member of the Reserve Bank of Fiji, do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that I will faithfully perform the duties of member and that I will to the best of my ability uphold the interests of the Reserve Bank of Fiji and that both during my service as a member of the Reserve Bank and after the termination thereof I will observe strict secrecy respecting all the affairs and transactions of the Reserve Bank and all matters relating thereto and that I will not directly or indirectly reveal any of the matters or any information which may come to my knowledge in the discharge of my duties or because of my membership unless I am authorised to do so by the Board of members of the Reserve Bank or unless I am lawfully required to do so by a competent authority.

Dated this.....day of....., 19.....

Witness to the signature of the said
Signed.....
Signed.....

FORM II

DECLARATION OF ALLEGIANCE AND SECRECY BY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

I,....., do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that I will faithfully perform all duties assigned to me and that I will to the best of my ability uphold the interests of the Reserve Bank of Fiji and that both during my service with the Reserve Bank and after the termination thereof I will observe strict secrecy respecting all the affairs and transactions of the Reserve Bank and all matters relating thereto and that I will not directly or indirectly reveal any of the matters or any information which may come to my knowledge in the discharge of my duties or as a result of my employment unless I am authorised to do so by the Board of members of the Reserve Bank or unless I am lawfully required to do so by any competent authority.

Dated this.....day of....., 19.....

Witness to the signature of the said
Signed.....
Signed.....

SECTION 9—RESERVE BANK OF FIJI REGULATIONS*

TABLE OF PROVISIONS

REGULATION

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Plates
4. Supervision of printing
5. Custody of stocks
6. Numbering of notes
7. Banks may authenticate parcels
8. Issue of currency
9. Classification and disposal of redeemed currency
10. Disposal of coin

Legal Notice No. 106 of 1978

Short title

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Reserve Bank of Fiji Regulations.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—
“sealed parcel” means a parcel, package, box, bag or container purporting to contain a number of currency notes or coin, all of 1 denomination, bearing a label recording the number and nature of the contents, and, in the case of new currency notes, their serial numbers, authenticated by the printers in the case of currency notes, the manufacturer in the case of coin, any bank under the provisions of regulation 7 or any person acting under the authority of these Regulations, securely bound and sealed in such a manner as to preclude removal of the label or any of the contents.

Plates

3. The plates from which currency notes are printed shall be prepared by and the custody thereof entrusted to a person selected by the Board.

* These Regulations, originally cited as the Central Monetary Authority of Fiji Regulations and made under the Central Monetary Authority of Fiji Act (No. 1 of 1973), are continued in force by the Reserve Bank of Fiji (s.63) and must be read subject to the provisions of that Act. Pursuant to s.3(4) of the Reserve Bank of Fiji Act, references to the Reserve Bank of Fiji have been substituted for references to the Central Monetary Authority of Fiji throughout the Regulations.

Supervision of printing

4. The Board may delegate to any person the duty of supervision of the printing of currency notes, or may accept the supervision of the designated printers security organisation if a paper balance certificate is supplied by the printers for each separate printing.

Custody of stocks

5. Stocks of unissued, redeemed and withdrawn currency in the hands of the Reserve Bank shall be kept in secure fireproof vaults:

Provided that working stocks of currency may be kept at the offices of the Reserve Bank up to a limit decided by the Governor.

Numbering of notes

6. All currency notes shall be numbered consecutively in series distinguished by prefixes in such a manner as will ensure that not more than 1 note of any 1 design or denomination bears the same number.

Banks may authenticate parcels

7. The Reserve Bank may authorise any bank licensed under the provisions of the Banking Act to authenticate sealed parcels of currency. (Cap. 212.)

Issue of currency

8.—(1) Currency redeemed and selected for re-issue, shall be issued in preference to new currency.

(2) As far as possible, new currency notes shall be issued in the order of their serial numbers.

(3) New coins shall be issued in the sealed parcels in which they were received by the Reserve Bank.

(4) Currency redeemed and selected for re-issue may, if in sealed parcels authenticated under the provisions of regulation 7 or by any person acting under the authority of these Regulations, be issued in such sealed parcels.

Classification and disposal of redeemed currency

9.—(1) All redeemed currency notes shall, as soon as possible after receipt by the Reserve Bank be classified either for re-issue or for destruction.

(2) All mutilated currency notes shall be referred to the Reserve Bank which shall decide whether the full amount or any portion thereof shall be paid.

(3) All redeemed mutilated and withdrawn currency notes selected for destruction shall as soon as convenient be destroyed by incineration or such other method of destruction approved by the Board. Such destruction shall be carried out in the presence of 2 officers of the Reserve Bank appointed by the Governor.

(4) After any currency notes have been destroyed, a certificate to that effect shall be signed by the officers appointed under paragraph (3).

Disposal of coin

10. All withdrawn, worn or damaged coin not required for the Reserve Bank's own purposes, shall be disposed of by sinking them in the sea or by sale for their metal content to any person approved by the Board.

SECTION 25—CHARACTERISTICS OF COINS

DESCRIPTION AND COMPOSITION OF COINS

Legal Notice No. 21 of 1975

The characteristics of coins forming part of the currency of Fiji are as follows:—

Denomination	Composition	Standard Weight		Remedy Allowance
		Imperial Weight	Metric Weight	
100 dollar	Gold and Alloy (.500 fine)	(Grains) 505.00 (Maximum) 484.00 (Minimum)	(Grams) 32.72 (Maximum) 31.36 (Minimum)	Nil
25 dollar	Silver and Alloy (.925 fine)	759.00 (Maximum) 741.00 (Minimum)	49.17 (Maximum) 48.01 (Minimum)	Nil
1 dollar	Silver and copper.	436.364	28.28	} A weight not exceeding the weight of 1 piece in every 40 pieces
1 dollar	Copper and nickel.	436.364	28.276	
50 cents	Copper and nickel.	240.000	15.55	
20 cents	Copper and nickel.	174.545	11.310	
10 cents	Copper and nickel.	87.272	5.655	
5 cents	Copper and nickel.	43.636	2.828	
2 cents	Copper, tin and zinc.	60	3.888	
1 cent	Copper, tin and zinc.	30	1.944	

GENERAL FORM AND DESIGN OF COINS

- (a) The obverse side of each coin bears the standard effigy of H.M. Queen Elizabeth (by Arnold Machin R.A.).
- (b) The designs on the reverse side of the coins are as follows:—
 - \$100 coin—an effigy of King Seru Cakobau (milled edge).
 - \$25 coin—an effigy of King Seru Cakobau (milled edge).
 - \$1 (Independence Commemorative Coin)—the Great Seal of the Kingdom of Fiji (plain edge but with incused lettering “1874 Cession—10 October—Independence 1970”).
 - \$1 coin—Fiji Coat of Arms, surrounded by a symbolic representation of an hibiscus flower (milled edge).
 - 50 cents coin—DRUA, sailing canoe (equilateral and equiangular dodecagon shape, twelve sided, plain edge).
 - 20 cents coin—Tabua, ceremonial whale’s tooth, with plaited cord (milled edge).
 - 10 cents coin—ULA TAVATAVA, wooden throwing club (milled edge).
 - 5 cents coin—LALI, Fiji drum (milled edge).
 - 2 cents coin—FAN (plain edge).
 - 1 cent coin—TANOVA, Yaqona (Kava) communal mixing and serving bowl (plain edge).

SECTION 25—CHARACTERISTICS OF COINS

DESCRIPTION AND COMPOSITION OF COINS*

Legal Notice No. 1 of 1977

Denomination	Composition	Standard Weight		Remedy Allowance (Grams)
		Imperial Weight (Grains)	Metric Weight (Grams)	
1 dollar.....	Silver and Alloy (.925 fine)	484.58	31.40	0.67
50 cents	(.925 fine)	268.52	17.40	0.55
20 cents	(.925 fine)	192.90	12.50	0.46
10 cents	(.925 fine)	96.45	6.25	0.28
5 cents	(.925 fine)	48.15	3.12	0.18
2 cents	(.925 fine)	66.36	4.30	0.23
1 cent	(.925 fine)	33.18	2.15	0.15

GENERAL FORM AND DESIGN OF COINS

(a) The obverse side of each coin bears the standard effigy of H.M. Queen Elizabeth (by Arnold Machin R.A.).

(b) The designs on the reverse side of the coins are as follows:—

\$1 coin—Fiji Coat of Arms, surrounded by a symbolic representation of an hibiscus flower (milled edge).

50 cents coin—DRUA, sailing canoe (equilateral and equiangular dodecagon shape, twelve sides, plain edge).

20 cents coin—TABUA, ceremonial whale's tooth, with plaited cord (milled edge).

10 cents coin—ULA TAVATAVA, wooden throwing club (milled edge).

5 cents coin—LALI, Fiji drum (milled edge).

2 cents coin—FAN (plain edge).

1 cent coin—TANOVA, Yaqona (Kava) communal mixing and serving bowl (plain edge).

* These coins form the proof set of Fiji coins struck in sterling silver for numismatic purposes.

SECTION 25—CHARACTERISTICS OF COINS

DESCRIPTION AND COMPOSITION OF COINS

Legal Notice No. 11 of 1977

Denomination	Composition	Standard Weight		Remedy Allowance (Grams)
		Imperial Weight (Grains)	Metric Weight (Grams)	
10 dollar	Silver & Alloy (-925 fine).....	470.70	30.50	0.70
1 cent	Copper, tin & zinc.	30	1.944	A weight not exceeding the weight of 1 piece in every 40 pieces

GENERAL FORM AND DESIGN OF COINS

- (a) The obverse side of each coin bears the standard effigy of H.M. Queen Elizabeth (by Arnold Machin R. A.).
- (b) The designs on the reverse side of the coins are as follows:
 \$10 coin—Fiji Coat of Arms, surmounted by Crown with words "SILVER JUBILEE OF ACCESSION 1952-1977" (milled edge).
 1 cent coin—Head of Rice with words "GROW MORE FOOD" (plain edge).

SECTION 25—CHARACTERISTICS OF COINS

Legal Notice No. 48 of 1979

DESCRIPTION AND COMPOSITION OF COINS

Denomination	\$250	\$20	\$10
Composition	.9 Gold .1 Silver	.925 Silver .075 Copper &/or Cadmium	.925 Silver 0.75 Copper &/or Cadmium
Standard Diameter (Millimetres)	34	42	38.61
Standard Metric Weight (Grammes)	33.437	35	28.28
Weight Tolerance (Grammes)	+0.420 -0.000	+0.712 -0.000	+0.600 -0.000

N.B. The weight tolerances are based on an average of a sample of 33 pieces in respect of gold coins, and a sample of 50 pieces in respect of silver coins.

GENERAL FORM AND DESIGN OF COINS

- (a) The obverse side of each coin bears the standard effigy of H.M. Queen Elizabeth (by Arnold Machin R.A.).
- (b) The designs on the reverse side of the coins are as follows:
- (i) \$250 coin—Design of Banded Iguana
 - (ii) \$ 20 coin—Design of Golden Cowrie
 - (iii) \$ 10 coin—Design of Pink-billed Parrot Finch

(NOTE:—This additional note does not form part of this Legal Notice but is given by way of explanation only. The \$250 gold coin and the \$20 and \$10 silver coins herein described are the 3 Fiji coins to be issued under the World Wildlife Fund Conservation Coin Collection).

SECTION 25—CHARACTERISTICS OF COINS

Legal Notice No. 107 of 1979

DESCRIPTION AND COMPOSITION OF COINS

Denomination	Composition	Standard Weight		Remedy Allowance
		Imperial Weight	Metric Weight	
50 cents.....	Copper and Nickel.....	(Grains) 240.00	(Grams) 15.55	A weight not exceeding the weight of 1 piece in every 40 pieces

GENERAL FORM AND DESIGN OF COINS

- (a) The obverse side of the coin bears the standard effigy of H.M. Queen Elizabeth (by Arnold Machin R.A.).
- (b) The design on the reverse side of the coin is as follows:—
50 cents coin—depicting sugar cane and the words and figures “1879 Girmit 1979” and “Sugar for the World” plus “50 cent”.

(NOTE—This additional note does not form part of this Legal Notice but is given by way of explanation only. The 50 cents coin described herein is the “Girmit” Special Coin, in proof and uncirculated condition as well as for ordinary circulation, to commemorate the Centenary of the arrival of Indian Indentured Workers in Fiji).

SECTION 25—CHARACTERISTICS OF CURRENCY NOTES

Gazette Notice No. 1164 of 1980

With effect from 24 June 1980, the issue commenced of new design Fiji currency notes having the characteristics set out in the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

1. Denominations: \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20.
2. Size (all denominations): Approximately 15.6 cm × 6.7 cm.
3. Basic Colours:
 - \$1—Brown
 - \$2—Green
 - \$5—Orange
 - \$10—Purple
 - \$20—Blue
4. Front (all denominations):
 - (a) Portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II;
 - (b) Fiji Coat of Arms.
5. Issuing Authority:
Reserve Bank of Fiji.
6. Signatures:
 - D. J. Barnes—Chairman
 - H. J. Tomkins—General Manager
7. Backs—Vignette Subjects:
 - \$1—Suva market
 - \$2—Sugar harvesting
 - \$5—Fish drive
 - \$10—Spear dance
 - \$20—Temple (Bure Kalou).
8. Front and Back (all denominations):
See—through Subject—carved mast-head (Domodomo).

SECTION 25—CHARACTERISTICS OF CURRENCY NOTES

Gazette Notice No. 1749 of 1983

With effect from 1 September 1983, the issue commenced of Fiji currency notes having the characteristics specified in Gazette Notice No. 1164 of 1980 modified as follows:—

- (a) Basic colour \$1—Grey-green
- (b) Signatures (all denominations):
 - D. J. Barnes—Chairman
 - S. Siwatibau—General Manager.

SECTION 31—NOTICES

Legal Notices Nos. 16 of 1975, 133 of 1976, 30 of 1979

The Reserve Bank of Fiji* has been authorised not to take into account in assessing the total demand liabilities of the Reserve Bank for the purposes of section 31—

(1) \$100 gold coins and \$25 sterling silver coins minted in commemoration of the centenary of the signing of the Deed of Cession.

(2) \$100 gold coins and \$25 sterling silver coins dated 1975 and bearing the effigy of Ratu Seru Cakobau on the reverse side.

(3) Fiji coins being struck for the Conservation Coin Collection under the World Wildlife Fund, that is, \$250 Gold Coins dated 1978 bearing the design of the banded Iguana on the reverse, and \$20 and \$10 Silver Coins dated 1978 having the Golden Cowrie and the Pink-billed Parrot Finch on the reverse of the coins respectively.

SECTION 36—RATE OF EXCHANGE

Legal Notice No. 50 of 1975

With effect from 7 April 1975, the rate of exchange between Fiji Currency and United States Currency will be determined daily on the basis of a weighted basket of the currencies of Fiji's major trading partners.

SECTION 48—DELEGATION OF POWERS

Legal Notices Nos. 8 of 1976, 9 of 1976

The Minister has delegated to the Reserve Bank of Fiji* the exercise, as agent for the Government, of his powers and functions—

(a) under the Exchange Control Act, other than any power to make orders or to give authority for a search warrant, without divesting himself of such powers and functions;

(b) under the Banking Act. All applications, returns, statements, accounts or information required to be submitted to him under the provisions of the Banking Act shall be transmitted to the Reserve Bank*.

(Cap.212.)

* The references to the Reserve Bank of Fiji replaces the original reference to the Central Monetary Authority of Fiji. See s.3(4) of the Reserve Bank of Fiji Act.

SECTION 53—DESIGNATION AS OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY

Legal Notice No. 142 of 1973

The Minister has designated the Reserve Bank of Fiji*, to serve as the Government of Fiji's official depository of international financial institutions of which Fiji is a member.

SECTION 53—DESIGNATION AS FISCAL AGENT

Legal Notice No. 173 of 1976

The Reserve Bank of Fiji* has been appointed to serve with effect from 17 December 1976 as the Government of Fiji's fiscal agent for the purposes of the International Monetary Fund.

Controlled by the Ministry of Finance

* The reference to the Reserve Bank of Fiji replaces the original reference to the Central Monetary Authority of Fiji. See s.3(4) of the Reserve Bank of Fiji Act.