

Executive Summary

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2025-2029 is founded on the vision of Empowering the People of Fiji through Unity. This vision is translated through 3 pillars, namely economic resilience, people empowerment and good governance. The ultimate goal is to improve social wellbeing and bring greater prosperity to the people and the nation. The people will be at the centre of development and the NDP therefore is configured as a Plan for the people. The Plan is intended to be inclusive and to ensure that no one is left behind from mainstream progress and prosperity of the nation, which resonates with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

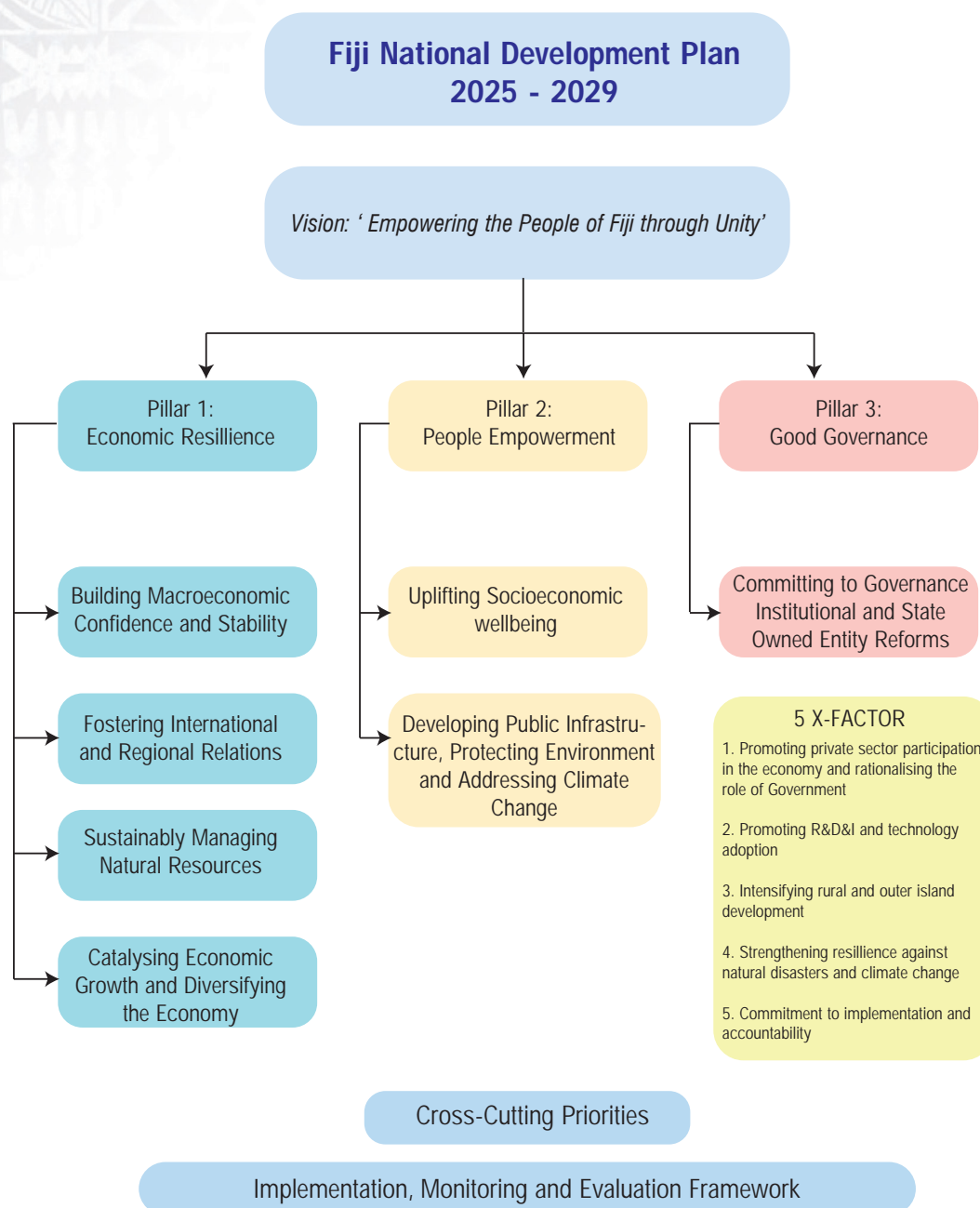
This is manifested through the extensive engagements and consultations that were undertaken to understand the concerns and issues confronting the people across the country, which began with the National Economic Summit in April 2023. This was followed by Technical Working Group meetings with all stakeholders including the private sector, civil society organisations (CSOs), academia and multilateral and bilateral development partners to obtain input and feedback on specific areas of development. This culminated in the face-to-face consultations with over 21,000 people across the 4 divisions of Fiji which was well represented by women and youth who provided feedback and ideas on what they want the Government to do.

The Plan distinctly specifies the outcomes to be achieved in the first 3 and 5 years. During the first 3 years, there will be greater emphasis on getting the basics right including improving access to clean drinking water, improving drainage, upgrading and maintaining rural roads, and increasing access to healthcare that will touch people's lives and tangibly improve wellbeing. It will also focus on impactful quick wins to catalyse and propel economic growth, while mitigating against highly probable downside risks including the impact of natural disasters and climate risks.

This document also presents Fiji's Vision 2050, a 25 year long-term vision for Fiji. The vision outlines the long-term development goals based on the aspirations of the people on how they see themselves and picture Fiji in 25 years. The long-term vision will guide the future short and medium-term plans for Fiji. The Plan is guided by 6 principles, namely an inclusive and participatory approach, sustainable economic recovery, good governance, mitigating the impacts of climate change and protecting the environment, informed by evaluation and data and leaving no one behind.

The Plan takes into account Fiji's international obligations under the United Nations and other international and regional bodies and conventions. The Plan has consciously aligned itself to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are relevant to Fiji and where data is available. The NDP also mainstreams cross-cutting priorities including gender balance, community empowerment, addressing climate change, upholding moral and ethical values, good governance and the commitment to political stability which are imperative to achieving holistic and balanced development.

The NDP framework flows from the vision and is supported by 3 Pillars which encompass 7 Focus Areas. The NDP also presents 5 X-Factors within the Focus Areas which are transformational, impactful and reset the nation's development trajectory. The Plan is underpinned by cross-cutting priorities and supported by an implementation, monitoring and evaluation framework.



Pillar 1: Economic Resilience

Focus Area 1: Building Macroeconomic Confidence and Stability

Fiji is forecast to experience a broad-based growth of 2.8% in 2024, 3% in 2025 and 2026 following the economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic and rebound in tourism and related sectors in the medium-term. However, downside risks have increased with the fragile global economy, rising global commodity prices, increasing cost of doing business and loss of domestic skilled workers. Labour market conditions remain tight as demand for labour continues to rise reflecting growth in economic activity coupled with increased worker emigration. Outlook for inflation and foreign reserves is expected to be within the comfortable range over the short to medium-term, however with considerable downside risks to external balance. During the Plan period, the focus will be to strengthen macroeconomic stability by narrowing the trade deficit in the balance of payments, achieve price stability through a prudent monetary and fiscal policy, and improve the fiscal position through a more judicious expenditure strategy that is consistent with revenue and debt strategy. Monetary policy will focus on maintaining low and stable inflation and an adequate level of foreign reserves.

Focus Area 2: Fostering International and Regional Relations

Fiji's foreign policy is underpinned by 3 pillars which are sovereignty, security and prosperity.

Together the 3 pillars highlight Fiji's relationships and strategic interests, marshal efforts to alleviate poverty, build bridges to market access and enhance development. The goal is to strengthen sovereignty, security and prosperity through strong relations and meaningful engagement so that the people achieve prosperous and worthwhile lives. Sovereignty will include safeguarding Fiji's territorial integrity, promoting Fiji as a regional hub, and responsible participation in bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation to enhance trade and investment. Security will entail promoting democracy, accountable government, rule of law and human rights as well as strengthening security alliances with countries of similar value and system and embracing regional security arrangement and cooperation. In terms of prosperity, the strategy, among others is to seek out poverty alleviation opportunities, improve the economic position of indigenous Fijians, and explore development cooperation and diplomatic engagement for trade expansion, new markets, foreign direct investments and new funding streams.

Focus Area 3: Sustainably Managing Natural Resources

The sugar industry will be enhanced through the implementation of cogeneration projects, developing climate resilient cane varieties, undertaking research and development and attracting youth into sugar farming, improving quality and standards in line with international requirements, promoting intercropping, down streaming into higher value products, and expanding export markets. The non-sugar sector will be aligned to meet food and nutritional security needs and strengthening commercial agricultural production. It will focus on crop diversification and developing improved varieties of food crops and livestock. The non-sugar sector will also serve to improve the livelihood and income of farming households. In addition, the NDP will promote commercial agriculture for major commodities by improving access to land and financing, adoption of modern technology and mechanisation and provision of quality planting materials.

In forestry, the focus will be to develop and sustainably manage Fiji's forest resources by encouraging private sector participation. The marine resources sector offers an opportunity to diversify the economic base. The NDP will promote the sustainable management of offshore and inshore fishing, review of legislations, and enhancement of related infrastructure. It will promote greater private sector participation in inshore and offshore fishing as well as aquaculture.

Recognising that access to land is an essential asset to support economic activities and social wellbeing, the NDP outlines several strategies to improve access to land including the review of institutions and legislations, fast-tracking lease applications and initiating iTaukei land legislation reforms. There is a need to adopt a holistic approach to mineral and groundwater resource management by balancing economic development with environmental preservation and social welfare. The focus during the Plan period will be to promote sustainable development of groundwater resources and review legislations and regulations to strengthen compliance and monitoring of mineral exploration and quarrying activities.

Focus Area 4: Catalysing Economic Growth and Diversifying the Economy

The NDP will promote greater private sector participation across all sectors to become the driver of economic growth. In this regard, the Government will reduce policy and regulatory impediments to private sector investment, create a conducive ecosystem for efficiency-seeking investment, reduce bureaucratic red tape, address labour and talent constraints and improve access to land. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) will be given special attention to increase their contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through initiatives to improve access to finance, capacity building and transition of more businesses to formal economy.

X Factor 1: Promoting Private Sector Participation in the Economy and Rationalising the Role of Government

Rationale: The real GDP growth of Fiji has averaged about 2-3% over the last decade, performing below its growth potential. Private sector participation in the economy has been limited to only a few sectors of the economy. In many cases, private sector participation has been constrained by heavy regulatory and bureaucratic burden, and high cost of doing business. Further, the Government is involved in several economic sectors through State Owned Entities (SOEs), which at times crowds out private investment. Promoting and facilitating private sector investment across all sectors of the economy and rationalising the role of Government in economic activities has the potential to open new space for private investment, increase efficiency and productivity and unleash Fiji's economic growth and elevate it to a higher growth trajectory.

What will be done? Under the NDP, the Government will consciously create a conducive ecosystem for both domestic and foreign private sector investment in the economy. The Government will create a conducive ecosystem by reducing policy and regulatory impediments, reducing bureaucratic red tape, addressing labour and talent constraints, improving access to land and consider appropriate incentives. The MSMEs will be given special attention to increase their contribution to GDP particularly by improving access to finance, capacity building, and transition of more businesses to formal economy. The Government will also open new opportunities for private sector investment in areas which have been predominantly under the ambit of the Government such as public infrastructure and amenities, housing, healthcare and tertiary education and skills training including through Public Private Partnership and other modalities. The Government will concertedly rationalise its participation in the economy through SOEs by gradually divesting, where appropriate.

The Plan incorporates goals, policies and strategies that will diversify the economic base and enhance productivity. Whilst we enhance Fiji's trade and economic position globally, as well as strengthening the tourism sector, it will facilitate expansion into manufacturing, non-sugar crops and livestock agriculture, and other service industries. More importantly, this will diversify Fiji's economy. The NDP will bolster the tourism sector through better promotion and marketing, create new tourism products and activities, address skill gaps, enhance tourism related infrastructure including transportation, accommodation, ports and airports, and improve safety and security.

The outsourcing industry will be promoted by availing better infrastructure including proper workspaces and Information and Communication Technology (ICT), competitive tax incentives, diversifying markets, moving into higher value segments, and strengthening the policy and regulatory framework particularly for data protection and cybersecurity. The construction sector will be revitalised to increase its contribution to the economy and among the initiatives are a review and enforcement of several related legislations, addressing the skills gap, enhancing environmental and climate resilience standards, and promoting entrepreneurship.

Financial services will also be an important source of economic growth besides ensuring adequate liquidity and credit growth. This will be facilitated through the modernisation of related legislations, further developing the capital market, expanding the insurance industry, digitalising financial services, promoting financial inclusion, and improving access to finance for MSMEs.

The manufacturing sector will see value addition through greater research and development, introduction of new technologies and innovation, moving into higher value products and improving access to markets. Research and Development and Innovation (RDI) will be given renewed emphasis to facilitate the adoption of advance technologies and innovation across all sectors to increase productivity and output by providing the policy and institutional framework, improving access to funding and enhancing research and development capability and capacity.

There will be renewed focus on commercial agriculture and agro-processing. This will be facilitated through the Commercial Agriculture Taskforce that is overseeing a number of commercial initiatives with private sector investors in the development of the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector and to the achievement of the development goals. This will create new opportunities and open new market for exports, employment creation, generate revenue and promote economic diversification.

X Factor 2: Promoting Research and Development and Innovation and Technology Adoption

Rationale: Currently, there is minimal RDI activities being undertaken in both public and private sectors. Generally, there is lack of understanding on the importance, benefits and returns from RDI. Given the onset of the 4th Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0), which is being driven by digitalisation, Fiji needs to adopt and apply these technologies in all aspects of its operation and development. RDI and application of technology across all sectors of the economy as well as service delivery will increase productivity, raise incomes, open new opportunities for investment, create new high value jobs, and open the path to move up the value chain and diversify the economic base, which is crucially needed to build economic resilience in Fiji.

What will be done? The Government in consultation with the private sector will create and implement the policy, strategy and institutional framework for RDI and promote technology adoption. RDI initiatives will focus in strategic areas that are consistent with development priorities such as in agriculture and in potential areas in the manufacturing and services sector as well as in environmental conservation and disaster risk management. There will be special attention on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and harnessing its benefits. The Government will also consider appropriate incentives, funding modalities and capacity building to support RDI.

Pillar 2: People Empowerment

Focus Area 5: Uplifting Socioeconomic Wellbeing

The NDP takes a holistic approach towards uplifting the social wellbeing of the people which will include addressing poverty, education, healthcare, affordable housing, urban development, empowering women, and the protection of children and people with disability. Poverty alleviation will be an important agenda under the NDP where it reaffirms the Government's commitment to reduce the incidence of poverty to 18% by 2030. In this regard, the NDP focuses on developing income-generating opportunities, promoting financial inclusion, affordable housing, national insurance and social protection under the Integrated National Poverty Eradication Programme. It will also empower the vulnerable and disadvantaged through social protection including family assistance, social pension schemes and bus fare concessions. Education and skills training will be an important component of poverty alleviation efforts.

Acknowledging the importance of education as a driver to bring upward social mobility, the Government will continue with its policy to ensure universal access to education by providing free primary, secondary and tertiary education. The focus under the NDP will include enhancing the quality of education at all levels, strengthening the provision of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), and revitalising Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and lifelong learning to increase employability and meet the requirements of the labour market.

In healthcare, the emphasis will be to improve access to quality healthcare services. This will include expanding primary and secondary healthcare and improving effectiveness of healthcare delivery through a multi-sectoral approach to risk management, improving early detection for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and strengthening resilience to climate change and natural disasters. Healthcare related infrastructure and equipment will be modernised, and maintenance will be strengthened. Access to clinical health services will be improved through the decentralisation of services and use of ICT.

In terms of housing, the NDP aims to increase house ownership and address the issue of informal settlements. In this regard, the NDP will provide several modalities to increase the supply and access to affordable, decent and climate-resilient housing, particularly for the low-income group including through strata title housing, increase in home insurance, allocation of appropriate land for housing development, and encouraging private sector participation. Informal settlements will be upgraded through the provision of basic services.

The NDP pays special attention to marginalised communities such as women, children, youth and people with disabilities. The Plan promotes greater participation of iTaukei in development by economically empowering them through enhancing skills, encouraging greater participation in business, reviewing the role of iTaukei Institutions to increase their effectiveness, and improving their overall wellbeing. Women will be empowered by facilitating greater participation in formal and informal employment, increase in leadership positions in government, private sector and civil society, addressing violence against women, improving access to life cycle healthcare and strengthening the policy and legal framework for gender balance. Protection of children will be strengthened through review of legislation. The welfare of people with disability will be improved by facilitating their greater participation in decision-making and providing friendly public facilities and infrastructure.

Urban development is an integral part of improving the social wellbeing of people, as approximately 58% of the population reside in urban areas and is increasing due to migration from rural areas. Fiji's approach to urban development is inclusive, and focuses on spurring economic activities, enhancing liveability, harmonising with environmental sustainability, and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change. Among the strategies are enhancing service delivery through the review of legislation for management and creation of townships, land-use planning and promoting private sector investment in urban development as well as incorporating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures in urban centres.

There will be renewed emphasis on rural and outer island development to ensure that there is balanced development across all areas and to bridge the gap between the rural and urban areas. Measures will be taken to improve connectivity and accessibility through better roads and jetties and provide basic infrastructure including bridges, seawalls, electricity, water, drainage, transportation and communication. Constructing, upgrading and maintenance of rural roads will be given priority to improve mobility and facilitate access to markets. Growth of the rural economy will be emphasised by promoting sustainable and resilient resource-based economic activities. Disaster risk reduction will be mainstreamed in all aspects of rural and outer island development.

X Factor 3: Intensifying Rural and Outer Island Transformation

Rationale: Development in the rural and outer island areas have lagged, and the rural-urban gap has widened although slightly less than half of the population reside in the rural and outer islands. The incidence of poverty is also higher in rural and outer islands compared with the urban areas. Access to basic facilities such as clean drinking water, electricity, proper sanitation and sewerage, and internet connectivity is still lacking. Transport and mobility is also an issue due to the poor condition of rural roads, bridges and jetties and inefficient modes of transportation. Schools in many of these areas also need upgrading of buildings and facilities and access to proper healthcare facilities is also a challenge. Many of these areas are also more vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters and climate change. These conditions have also caused an increase in rural to urban migration.

What will be done? The NDP will intensify efforts and will allocate greater resources for rural and outer island development to ensure that there is balanced development across all regions and to bridge the gap between the rural and outer island, and urban areas. Measures will be taken to improve connectivity and accessibility through better roads and jetties and provide basic infrastructure including bridges, seawalls, electricity, water, drainage, transportation and communication. Constructing, upgrading and maintaining rural roads will be given priority to improve mobility and facilitate access to markets. Growth of the rural economy will be emphasised by promoting sustainable and resilient resource-based economic activities. Measures will also be taken to improve the condition and quality of schools and access to healthcare. Disaster risk reduction will be mainstreamed in all aspects of rural and outer island development.

Focus Area 6: Developing Public Infrastructure, Protecting Environment and Addressing Climate Change

The NDP aims to systematically improve accessibility, quality and efficiency of infrastructure as it is imperative to support growth and enhance the standard of living of the people. In terms of transport, the Government seeks to achieve an integrated and eco-friendly transport system that is efficient, sustainable and safe. In this context, it will undertake upgrading and proper maintenance of roads, port and wharves, rural airstrips, airport runways and associated infrastructure as well as outer island bridges and jetties. Public transportation including Maritime will be made more efficient and safety will be prioritised. The transport sector will be gradually decarbonised with the promotion of electric vehicles, and re-fleeting Government vessels and domestic aircrafts that are energy efficient. An assessment of Fiji's air access infrastructure, current routes and pricing will be undertaken to improve access and affordability.

In the energy sector, the aim is to transform the sector to become more resilient, resource-efficient, reliable and environment-friendly. Among the strategies are increasing access to affordable, reliable and renewable energy sources, providing a supportive regulatory framework for private sector participation, upgrading electricity infrastructure and enhancing energy efficiency by expanding coverage of minimum performance standards to more electric products and increasing compliance with energy efficiency requirements in construction.

Increasing access to clean drinking water in both the urban and rural areas will be a priority under the Plan. In this regard, water sector planning and water resource management will be strengthened including the formulation of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan and review of water tariff. The institutional and legal framework will be reviewed to ensure equity in the provision of water and sanitation services, and long-term sustainability in the provision of freshwater resources and catchment security will be emphasised.

Mitigating the impact and increasing preparedness to climate change is given importance in

the Plan considering Fiji's geographic location and its topography. The Plan sets out several strategies including climate change adaptation and mitigation measures such as integration of climate change projections and disaster risk reduction across all sector plans, increasing ecosystem protection and natural resource redundancy and the migration to renewable energy sources. Capacity development and leveraging of sustainable financing sources will be strengthened to increase preparedness to climate change and disaster risk reduction.

X Factor 4: Strengthening Resilience against the Impacts of Natural Disaster and Climate Change

Rationale: Fiji due to its geographic location and topography is highly exposed and vulnerable to the impact of natural disaster and climate change. Tropical Cyclone (TC) Winston which brought significant property loss and set back economic and social progress, underscoring the urgency to take a comprehensive approach to build Fiji's resilience and mitigate against these events. The Government acknowledges that measures to strengthen resilience and minimise the impact from these events must be taken in parallel with strategies to promote economic growth and social wellbeing to safeguard development gains.

What will be done? The NDP places critical importance and emphasis on strengthening resilience to natural disasters and climate change and introduces a comprehensive policy and strategy framework with various innovative approaches. Among them are mainstreaming climate resilience and disaster risk reduction measures in development planning including in infrastructure, spatial and sector planning. There will also be enforcement of stricter compliance to related standards and codes. The Government will increase investment in adaptation measures as well as increase national capability to undertake risk foresight for early detection of these events. The commitment of the Government to this issue is manifested in the setting up of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). The NDMO will develop a joint action plan for climate change and disaster risk reduction, develop a Disaster Risk Financing Policy which will include innovative financing solutions as well as strengthen the multi hazard warning system by taking a people centred approach.

Pillar 3: Good Governance

Focus Area 7: Committing to Governance, Institutional and State-Owned Entity Reforms

The NDP emphasises the need for strengthening governance and undertaking institutional reforms to support and ensure the holistic, effective and efficient implementation of the Plan. It will encompass civil service reforms, Rule of Law and Justice, State Administration and Parliament, and SOEs. Civil service reforms will include improvement in service delivery, skill and capacity building, performance and strengthening transparency and accountability. Among the strategies that will be pursued to strengthen the rule of law are reviewing the regulatory framework, maintaining sovereignty and territorial integrity, improving the efficiency and transparency of the judicial system, improving the capacity of the policing system and upholding human rights. Initiatives will be put in place to strengthen the Parliamentary process to promote sustainable democracy, its legislative capability and accountability. With respect to SOEs, the focus of reforms will be to enhance their performance, rationalise to allow greater private sector investment, and improve their overall governance, transparency and accountability.

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

The NDP includes a comprehensive Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation (IME) framework with targets and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to ensure effective implementation of the policies and strategies to achieve the development outcomes. Where relevant, the targets and KPIs are aligned to the SDGs. The IME framework also includes a transparent reporting mechanism to ensure accountability. The Government will be accountable to report quarterly on the implementation progress and an annual report card on the achievements.

X Factor 5: Commitment to Implementation and Accountability

Why? A plan defeats its purpose if it is not implemented, and its progress not monitored. This has been the fate of many national and sectoral plans, not exclusive to Fiji alone. Good governance requires that there be institutionalised platforms for people to hold the Government accountable to deliver on its commitments. An IME framework is essential to ensure timely implementation of policies and strategies, optimise resource allocation,

improve the effectiveness of programmes and enable stakeholder engagement and feedback. It will enable corrective measures to be taken in a timely manner to ensure outcomes are achieved.

The NDP is underpinned by an integrated IME framework which will be set up to keep track of the quarterly and yearly implementation of the Plan. The policies and strategies are accompanied by high level outcomes which were identified in consultation with the implementing Ministry, and which will also be the KPIs of the respective Permanent Secretaries. Based on these outcomes, the Ministries will develop credible and realistic outputs. The implementing Ministries will be required to report on a quarterly and annual basis on the progress of implementation of the respective policies, strategies, and programmes. To institutionalise the IME, a Cabinet Sub-Committee on IME is proposed, and this will safeguard taxpayer's funds, optimise resource utilisation and maximise policy impacts.

Vision 2050

The Vision 2050 for Fiji which is enveloped within the NDP portrays the long-term aspiration of the people and how they see themselves in 25 years. It is built on Fiji's inherent strengths and the potential to break boundaries and reach new growth frontiers. The Vision is intended to define the way forward and to set in motion the journey to transform Fiji into a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable nation. In 2050, Fiji aspires to be a high income and advanced economy, a regional leader in technology and innovation in areas where it has competitive advantage, have modern and efficient infrastructure, is environmentally astute, boasts a society with high moral and ethical values, rich culture and heritage as well as entrenched in high standard of governance and excels in sports.

The fruition of this Vision for Fiji will totally depend on the single-mindedness and commitment of all Fijians to work on the building blocks towards attaining the Vision. To make this journey, Fijians must dare to unlearn and relearn, pioneer into new areas, embrace new work processes, innovation and technology, commit to governance and institutional reforms, and have zero tolerance for corruption. Most importantly, there must be a strong commitment to maintain peace, security and stability. This Vision will be realised through the roll out of the medium-term national development plans.



National Development Plan 2025-2029: Selected Targets

Indicator	Target
Pillar 1: Economic Resilience	
Average Annual Growth Rate (%)	4 - 5
Net Fiscal Deficit (% of GDP)	2.5
Debt (% of GDP)	74.0
Forest area as proportion of Total Area (%)	64
Investment to GDP (%)	20
Contribution of Manufacturing to GDP (%)	21
Visitor Arrivals (number in million)	1.5
Contribution of MSMEs to GDP (%)	22
Adults owning Bank Accounts (%)	95
Mobile Network Coverage (% of population)	96
Pillar 2: People Empowerment	
Incidence of Poverty (%)	18
Informal settlements formalised and upgraded (number)	6
Net Enrolment rate for Early Childhood Education (%)	100
Rural Population with Electricity Access (%)	93
Rural Population with Access to Clean and Safe water in Adequate Quantities (%)	67
New Sealed roads in Rural Areas (kilometres)	500
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.8
Women Participation in Board directorship in Public and Private sector (%)	50
Access to clean and safe water in Adequate Quantities (% of total population)	88
Renewable Energy share in Electricity Generation (%)	100
Pillar 3: Good Governance	
Corruption Perception Index (PCI)	60
Civil Servants (number)	25,000

