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# PARTICIPANTS' PAPERS

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## COUNTRY REPORT - FIJI

*By Anare Bulainacagilaba\**

### I. INTRODUCTION

The level of crime associated with urbanization in a given society is affected by a number of social, political and economic factors. In a developing country such as Fiji, rising urban crime rates are associated with rapid urbanization, unemployment, relative deprivation, skewed distribution of economic resources, uneven development and cultural change to name a few.

As in many countries, crime in Fiji is primarily an urban phenomenon. The urban centres with higher concentration of population and businesses are affected by greater volume of crime and deviant activities than are the sparsely populated and physically isolated rural areas. The country's two cities of Suva and Lautoka and the towns of Labasa, Nadi, Ba, Rakiraki, Sigatoka, Labasa and Savusavu figure prominently in crime reports than the small villages in the interior of the mainlands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu including the remote islands.

### II. AIMS

This paper intends to provide the following as they apply in Fiji:

- (i) Current situation of crime associated with urbanization, countermeasures and problems experienced
- (ii) Effective measures for prevention of crimes associated with urbanization
- (iii) Effective measures for youths at risk
- (iv) Role of the community in an integrated approach (multidisciplinary approach) and establishment of an effective multi – agency cooperation and collaboration system

### III. CURRENT SITUATION OF CRIMES ASSOCIATED WITH URBANIZATION, COUNTERMEASURES AND PROBLEMS FACED

#### A. Current Crime Situation

The incidence of certain crimes in Fiji seems to be associated with a regional pattern in that apart from the lowly profiled white-collar crimes, predatory property offences such as robbery with violence, burglary, house breaking, larceny, unlawful use of motor vehicle, prostitution and drug abuse are more common in the urban centres. This is not unusual given the higher concentration of wealth and businesses in the urban areas. By contrast, the rural areas have higher rates of homicide, rape, suicide, domestic violence, arson, cultivation of marijuana and theft of farm animals.

#### 1. Types of Crime

##### (i) *Robbery with violence*

The Robbery incidence in Fiji has recorded a notable increase since 1999 (see Appendix, Table 1). However, in 2003 and 2004 up to the month of September, police recorded a decrease in number of robbery with violence cases from 629 to 612.

An alarming trend is the growing level of violence associated with these crimes. In 2002 and 2003 most Fijians were found to be the perpetrators of these crimes against victims who are mostly Indians. Fifty six percent of these offenders were unemployed in 2002 compared to sixty five percent in 2003. While there were an insignificant number of offenders associated with liquor most robberies were committed by males between the ages of 17 and 24.

Banks, prominent shopping centres and businessmen, fuel stations, foreign money exchanges, privately owned shops and private residences of prominent and high ranking people will remain priority targets for masked youths in groups armed with pistols and/or iron rods, cane knives, broken bottles and stones used merely to intimidate victims to relinquish their valuables.

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*(ii) Burglaries and house breakings*

Crimes of Burglaries and House Breakings both feature prominently in the news bulletin on a daily basis. Between 1999 and 2003, 836 cases of Burglaries and 1,355 House Breakings on average were recorded by offenders who were mostly unemployed male Fijians between the ages of 17 and 24 years (see Appendix, Table 2). Most Indians were victims of these crimes.

Most of these crimes occur when occupants are away or else break in when residents are asleep or engaged and distracted with other activities. The increased sophistication and professionalism of offenders of these crimes is quite evident. Wearing of gloves by perpetrators to avoid traces of finger or palm prints on the scene with accomplices as "look-outs" and/or "get-away" drivers is quite evident.

*(iii) Unlawful use of motor vehicles*

Auto theft, locally referred to as Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle is one of the fastest growing crimes in the country. Between 1999 and 2003, on average 338 cases of auto theft were recorded by police mostly involving unemployed male Fijians between the ages of 17 and 24 as offenders. Over fifty six percent of cases recorded in 2002 were associated with alcohol (see Appendix, Table 3). Mostly Indians were victims.

In most cases stolen vehicles are used as get-away vehicles in robbery cases or repainted and sold while others may be dismantled and their component parts sold separately. Perpetrators of these crimes are often highly skilled in auto-mechanics with intricate knowledge even to start car engines without the use of keys.

*(iv) Illegal drug use*

On average, police between 1999 and 2003 recorded 442 cases of illegal drug use. Most offenders of this crime are male Fijians from the ages of 25 and over with the youngest between the ages of 10 and 16. Marijuana cultivation in commercial quantities has increased substantially particularly in the Western Division of the country. In spite of stringent drug control laws, including a mandatory sentence for offenders, drug use is fast becoming a concern in view of its social and health consequences.

*(v) Larceny*

The most common form of Larceny committed in urban centres are those involving larceny from dwelling houses, larceny from persons and larceny from ships and docks. Police from 1999 to 2003 recorded an average of 802 such cases. Larceny from dwelling houses and persons made up the largest number of these cases. These crimes are mostly committed by unemployed male Fijians between the ages of 17 and 24 years. Over 53 of these cases were associated with alcohol in 2002.

*(vi) Prostitution*

Although prostitution is one of the oldest crimes, it is still one of the most common within the urban centres, which is understandable given the high concentration of working class people and businesses. Unlike in many parts of the world where prostitution is a legal thriving trade, the crime of prostitution in Fiji is quite insignificant in terms of the actual number of cases recorded and successfully prosecuted due to the usual lack of evidential proof to establish the crime. In most cases potential offenders would eventually be charged for Loitering in a Public Place at Odd Hours of the Night.

**B. Countermeasures**

The failure to prevent these crimes makes people feel unsafe. Rightly the community looks to its justice institutions, such as the police, for leadership and guidance in crime prevention. It relies on the police as a first responder when crimes are committed and rightly expects the rest of the system, including prosecutors, courts, prisons and social welfare services to do their part to ensure punishment is meted out and the perpetrator is then reintegrated back into the community.

**1. Police**

The enforcement role of the police includes the traditional repressive approach involving mass arrest of offenders from semi-urban and rural sectors of the communities including squatter and housing settlements. Criminal profiling that provides sufficient details and background information on habitual offenders have been quite effective in the identification and subsequent arrest of crime suspects. Included are other reactive policing strategies that ensure a sufficient level of police visibility at selected locations at certain times of the day. The recently introduced "No Drop Policy" for certain crimes, including those related to violence,

has been an effective deterrent.

Proactively, the Fiji Police have been currently engaged intensively in crime prevention activities soliciting the support and active participation of the wider community in the fight against crime. Such long term strategy has primarily targeted youths, being the most vulnerable members of the community. In Fiji, Crime Prevention committees, Parents, Church, Youth and other groups are spearheading programmes such as Police Youth Citizen Group, Youth In Sports *Programmes and the National Youth Volunteer Scheme* with one common purpose which is to engage youths and other vulnerable community members in worthwhile activities away from idleness and negative peer pressure.

However, policing efforts are usually hampered by severe shortage of resources in terms of budget, manpower, mobility and other equipment. The total approved annual budget for the Fiji Police for 2005 is \$59 million dollars representing a mere increase of \$1.5 million from 2004. The total police manpower establishment currently stands at 2,063 providing policing services to a population of over 800,000. From a vehicle fleet establishment of 149, over half have gone beyond their operational worthiness. Computers are still a rare commodity in the Fiji Police despite their unlimited access worldwide.

## 2. Prosecution & Courts

Prosecution of cases is conducted by the Police and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) with the latter usually handling the more serious and complex cases. Legal assistance would either be by private paid counsels, the government's Legal Aid Department or personal representation by the offender.

A common problem faced by the prosecution, and for that matter the police, is in terms of bail procedures often exercised by the courts. Habitual offenders of violent robbery crimes are sometimes granted bail when one or more cases against them are still pending in court. This usually creates a cycle of re-offending where an offender would have accumulated a significant number of related crimes before being finally tried. Backlog of unheard cases, state of injuries if any inflicted on an offender and the deplorable state of prison facilities are the factors usually considered seriously by the courts.

## 3. Correctional Institutions (Prisons)

The role of the Fiji Prison Service is the effective and efficient containment and rehabilitation of all convicted offenders and their successful re-integration into the mainstream of the community. However, a lesser degree of success as to the fulfilment of the latter of these roles has been achieved as the service is too focused towards containment and less on rehabilitation. This is potentially a staging point to high recidivism as offenders enter and leave prison confinement without any opportunity to either learn or rehabilitate themselves from their wrong doing or successfully integrate themselves back into their own communities.

Severe lack of resources in terms of funds, manpower, facilities and skills to carry out proper and professional rehabilitation services are the most significant problems apart from lack of consultation an/or coordination with other involved agencies.

# IV. EFFECTIVE MEASURES FOR PREVENTION OF CRIME ASSOCIATED WITH URBANIZATION

## A. Preventative Measures that can be taken by the Police and Prosecution

### 1. Diversionsary Programmes

The policy currently in existence whereby juvenile first-time offenders of minor crimes are not formally charged is a constructive policy that should be maintained. This can purposely avoid these young offenders being adjudicated and labelled as deviant, delinquent or criminal. Such labels tend to lead to repeat offences as the individual so tagged live out the labels that have been applied to them. When juveniles are diverted away from the criminal justice system and are entrusted to the care of parents and other guardians, these adults should assume an active role and make a concerted effort to steer these juveniles towards a productive and law-abiding life.

## 2. Mentor Programmes

A mentor programme could be established involving prominent members of the community interested in volunteering their time. These role models could provide personal and career guidance for first time offenders. The positive rapport and caring concern that could emerge from such relationships would further encourage youths to follow a law-abiding path and discourage deviant and criminal conduct.

## 3. Offender with Victim Mitigation Programmes

Opportunities for an offender of a crime to come face to face with the victim before the case is brought for hearing before the court are often quite impossible. Police and prosecutors are often quite hasty to investigate and have the perpetrator charged without allowing an opportunity for the offender to personally see the victim "eye to eye" as this will have a much more remorseful effect on the offender. Such programmes will instil a positive psychological effect not to re-offend and avoid such encounters that could be so emotional and humiliating.

## 4. Community Based Sentencing

Most offenders of urban related crimes are originally from close-knit families and established origin. They become involved in crime due to peer and other negative influences within a community completely new and foreign in terms of life-style and upbringing. Introducing a sentencing procedure where offenders are made to return to their place of origin will be an effective way to re-integrate an offender back into their own familiar community.

## **B. Reported Crime Mapping Analysis**

One of the major difficulties in effectively responding to reported crimes in Fiji is the lack of systematically compiled data on crime in the country. A related problem is the rudimentary manner in which the data is categorized. Until recently, much of the police data on crime were recorded by hand in notebooks and manually computed with calculators. While the computer has replaced the notebook and the calculator, crime data has been classified in basically the same manner for decades. Offenders and victims of crime continue to be classified into the major racial groups of "Fijian", "Indian" and "Other" and grouped by age under broadly defined categories of crime. Analyses of crime trends of spatial and temporal distribution are almost non-existent.

However, significant improvements are being made with the recent development of crime stats networking, although it is at its initial stage. Further, work on the Geographical Information System (GIS) has also commenced intentionally to improve police responses to reported crimes and ensure they are more objective and not sporadic as is currently the case.

## **C. Situational Crime Prevention**

White collar crime and predatory offences such as robbery, burglary and housebreaking are more common in the urban centres which is not unusual given the geographical layout of cities and towns. In some neighbourhoods in the country's urban centres, there is no physical boundary that separates the wealthy from the poor which makes the gap between the rich and the poor more visibly apparent leaving the wealthy as a source of envy and resentment and also makes them vulnerable to predatory property offences. Fiji has been left to face the consequences of poor urban planning.

The recent establishment of a Standards Commission, that will generally establish standards, will ensure that new buildings conform to required security standards, apart from other things.

## **D. Measures for Preventing Victimization**

There is a common perception that crime control is the responsibility of the government, the police, the prison services and other law enforcement agencies alone. However, every sector of society should play a role in the effort to control the level of crime in the country. Citizens, for example, should work jointly with law enforcement personnel to prevent and detect crime.

One way average citizens can avoid becoming victims of crime is by taking aggressive protective and preventive measures to secure their persons and property. Simple precautions such as avoiding carrying large amounts of cash on one's person and wearing expensive jewellery should be observed all the time. Business owners should exercise a high level of security when transporting cash from their business

premises. Homeowners should leave their homes secured with sufficient lighting and avoid leaving their cars unattended with the keys in them.

### **E. Crime Prevention by the Communities**

One of the most acclaimed community-based crime fighting programmes is the “Neighbourhood Watch Scheme”. This crime watch programme has been established in a number of residential areas throughout the country. Existing schemes should be strengthened by promoting wider community involvement in residential communities where participation in the programme has declined.

Young people are particularly prone to idleness and boredom during the school holidays. It is no surprise, then, that it is during the long summer holidays that juvenile offences are at their peak. The end of the school year should coincide with an increase in recreational, educational and volunteer programmes for young people. These programmes should be accessible to young people of all socio-economic backgrounds. Community organizations as well as private citizens can donate their time and resources to sponsor such activities and should view it as an investment in the nation’s future.

Churches and other religious organizations should take on a larger role in providing moral instruction for youths. There is some evidence that those that believe in a higher authority or higher being generally tend to feel a great sense of responsibility and accountability for their actions and believe they will suffer the consequences if they commit a crime, by divine retribution, if nothing else.

Parents and other family members have a critical role in moulding their children to be responsible and law-abiding. They should be more involved with their children and know what is happening in their lives and not smother them or otherwise interfere beyond what youths consider acceptable levels.

Collaboration and cooperation of other agencies are so vital. The Prison service in its rehabilitation role must be sustainable and will require support and assistance from outside agencies such as social welfare services, the communities, the churches, educational institutions and other employment agencies.

## **V. EFFECTIVE MEASURES FOR YOUTH AT RISK**

### **A. The Integrated Approach**

One of the strategic objectives of Fiji’s National Youth Policy under its Strategic Action Plan (2005 - 2008) is to respond to specific needs of “youth at risk” such as those with disabilities, displaced youth, sexual minorities, young women, ex-prisoners, street kids, wheelbarrow boys, shoeshine kids, the homeless and other vulnerable youths. Support and empowerment are being conducted through Awareness, Advocacy, Training, Counselling, Participation, Empowerment and Youth forums involving other agencies. Intended outcomes of these programmes are:-

- Empowered youth/ex-offenders
- Reduced number of youth/juvenile offenders
- Inclusive programmes for offenders/juveniles and delinquents
- Reduced number of inmates
- Accredited trade skills in prison complexes i.e. franchise with other productivity and tertiary institutions
- Inclusive programmes for underprivileged youths
- Reduced number of street/wheelbarrow and shoeshine kids
- Reduced number of youths/women on the streets

In Fiji, children at risk are placed under the care of the Director of Social Welfare Department. A Care and Cash Allowance grant of \$30-\$35 per child is given to families/guardians supporting children other than their

own. The allowance is also paid to residential homes who have taken into their care neglected, abused and orphaned children who are placed under the care of the Department of Social Welfare.

Financial assistance to poor and disadvantaged families is also provided for under the Family Assistance Scheme at \$30-\$100 on a monthly basis. Similarly, under the Poverty Alleviation Programme, a cash grant to the maximum of \$5,000 is provided to assist the homeless build their homes or other income generating projects. Grants to non-government organizations that supplement the role of social welfare are also provided.

### **B. Institutional Treatment for Youths**

The Social Welfare department administers two homes - the Boys Centre and the Mahaffy Girls Centre with the former catering to male juveniles offenders placed under the care of the Social Welfare and the latter for juvenile girls who are mostly victims of abuse. A number of programmed activities are run at the boy's centre including mechanics and woodwork. At the Mahaffy Centre, the girls are engaged in a home programme comprising of cooking/baking, domestic duties, crafts, gardening and crochet. In addition to the above, the inmates undergo learning experiences and participate in various other activities that contribute to their overall personal development. This includes recreational programmes that gives the girls the opportunity to participate in sports and religious activities, excursions and social events.

The departmental officers are gazzetted probation offices responsible for the supervision of probationers. Their responsibility is to befriend, advise and assist the probationer in his/her rehabilitation back into the community. They provide reports on the socio-economic background of an offender at the request of a magistrate to assist in deciding the appropriate sentence for a particular case.

### **C. Effective Community-Based Treatment for Youths/Juveniles**

The wider community can also assist in the rehabilitation of former inmates by helping to resettle them once they are discharged from prison. For example, employers in the private and public sectors must be encouraged to hire former inmates in gainful employment.

In order for the wider community to play a rehabilitative role, it must first change its attitude towards persons who have been incarcerated. In Fiji, as in many societies, individuals who have spent time in prison are often labelled as "ex-convicts". Many employers are suspicious of discharged prisoners and refuse to hire them. Members of the community refuse to associate with them and treat them as social outcasts. This social rejection and the denial of employment opportunities tends to build resentment and with it recidivism, or the resumption of criminal activities both out of frustration and the need for economic survival.

## **VI. ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE INTEGRATED APPROACH (MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH) AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE MULTI-AGENCY COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION SYSTEM**

### **A. Necessity, Planning and Implementation of an Integrated Approach (multidisciplinary approach) and Agencies In-charge**

#### **1. Necessity**

Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility – it is not something that is exclusively invested in policing responsibilities. Crime prevention can be as simple as locking the doors of your house or as complex as instilling right thinking attitudes and mores at home or at school, ensuring a sound moral foundation for our children.

Fiji is beginning to recognize crime prevention as an important area of policy and requires its justice agencies and institutions to come together and develop common and cohesive approaches that make people feel safe in their homes and on the streets. The current government, sectoral and community approach is too focused on efforts and expending of resources away from crime prevention and rehabilitation towards interventions focused on punishment, such as imprisonment. Prevention is not only better than cure but also cheaper, so Fiji has to spent more effort and money on keeping people out of prison than putting them in.

## 2. Current Situation, Initiatives and Planning

There is no national crime prevention/community safety strategy in Fiji. Attempts have and are being made to ensure law and order groups and agencies work together to combat crime. Although there is a Combined Law Agency Group (CLAG) established to improve coordination amongst law enforcement agencies, there is no cohesive strategy which drives home the responsibility every sector, person, community, group, business, agency and so on must accept to ensure crime is minimized and people feel safe to live and work in Fiji.

Currently, there is a very real and definite approach to crime prevention and community safety in Fiji under the Australian-Fiji Law and Justice Programme (AFLJP) that seeks a common understanding amongst justice agencies and institutions as well as the community and the rest of government towards a unifying objective. This programme seeks to demonstrate models of cooperation through the identification of common issues across the sector. These issues are addressed through mutual cooperation and commitment to ensuring the most effective outcomes for the community.

The programme identified key issues in existence from its initial problem analysis it conducted in 2003. Essentially they are:-

- No holistic strategy for community safety and crime prevention;
- Community awareness and understanding of their rights and responsibilities with respect to crime prevention and the operation of the justice system is limited;
- Lack of adequate deterrent by and respect for justice sector institutions;
- Declining confidence that the justice system can deliver equitable outcomes;
- Inadequate linkages, understanding, involvement and quality of contact between the community and the justice system; and
- High levels of recidivism.

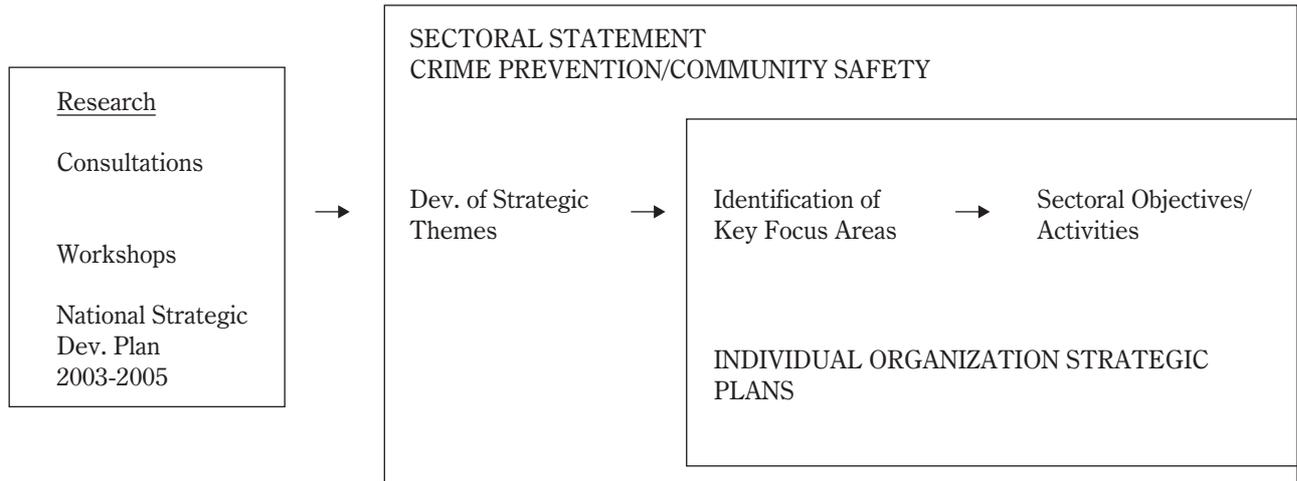
Under the programme four key output areas were identified as follows:

- Strategies and action plans for justice sector wide crime prevention and community safety be developed and implemented;
- Relevant organizations and agencies adopt the key focus areas of a justice sector wide crime prevention and community safety strategy;
- Awareness and education programme conducted to inform the community on justice sector approaches to crime prevention and community safety;
- Protocols developed which define responsibilities and implementation strategies in crime prevention and community safety

The intent of the above is to support the introduction of a holistic approach to crime prevention and community safety through the implementation of collaborative, sector-wide activities. The focus will be on development of a sector-wide approach to this issue that will include the introduction of common operating protocols, clarification of agency responsibilities and the development of a whole-of-sector strategy to pursue crime prevention and community safety in a mutually supportive manner with common objectives.

## 3. Implementation

The following is a description of how the Sectoral Statement on Crime Prevention and Community Safety statement was developed and how it will be translated into action in the future.



**Figure 1: Development Process for Sectoral Statement on Crime Prevention**

*(i) Research*

As part of the activities of the AFLJSP extensive research was undertaken to assess the current state of crime in Fiji and also the perceptions of crime and the community's attitudes towards the effectiveness of the sector as a whole:

- Twenty one Community Workshops throughout Fiji.
- Community Attitudes Survey conducted by the University of the South Pacific and commissioned by the AFJSP. Over 3,800 people surveyed nationally.
- Twenty eight major research reports and reviews conducted by four Advisers of the AFJLSP.
- Extensive consultations with stakeholders and counterparts over a period of eight months.
- Review of the National Strategic Development Plan 2003 - 2005.

*(ii) Strategic themes*

The research above provided an insight into the national mindset, needs and priorities of the population for crime prevention and community safety. There were a kaleidoscope of messages, some well defined, others subtle and unspoken. The task initially was to crystallize the messages into themes which adequately reflected the aspiration and needs of the general community for law and order, and justice.

The mining of the anecdotal comments and other information from all research and workshops in 2003 and 2004 is now documented. It is from comments like this and other research undertaken that authority to distil the Strategic Themes below was drawn.

This was not difficult to do as there was so much information available. The results were not unexpected and no doubt echoed the needs of most communities around the world – “*we just expect our Government to keep us safe from criminals and stop them committing crimes in the first place*”.

The Strategic Themes developed were:

- Promoting Respect for Human Rights
- Improving Sectoral Education and Training
- Developing Integrated Approaches
- Improving Management of the Criminal Justice System
- Improving Strategic Planning and Management
- Developing integrated Approaches

- Improving Juvenile Justice
- Supporting Community Involvement
- Improving Sectoral Transparency and Accessibility
- Enhancing Community Capacity to Respond to Crime
- Improving Community Education on Law and Rights
- Increasing Sectoral Professionalism and Ethics
- Improving Access to Professional Resources
- Preventing Entry to the Criminal Justice System
- Reducing Indigenous Fijian Rates of Imprisonment
- Improving corrections and rehabilitation

Many of these themes require interventions and support beyond the reach of the justice sector and health, education, communications and transport. The justice sector was required to select the areas where it could have the most or some impact.

These themes were also considered to be the most relevant in developing sectoral goals and objectives. In later workshops participants were asked to consider what it was the Justice Sector needed to focus on to be the most effective in meeting the goals of community safety and crime prevention.

*(iii) Key focus areas*

The Justice Sector is not solely responsible for the safety and security of the people of Fiji but is charged with the enforcement of the rule of law and the administration of justice.

It was decided to concentrate on *Key Focus Areas* (KFA) that target those areas that have the greatest effect in reducing crime and strengthening the administration of justice by analyzing the *Strategic Themes* in terms of what the Justice Sector is responsible for.

The Key Focus Areas identified were:

- Strengthening families at risk due to multiple persistent disadvantages (poor access to health, education, welfare and rural remoteness)
- Reducing offending and victimization
- Reducing violence in all levels of society
- Reducing the risk and impact of family violence
- Reducing the number of youth at risk of delinquency and offending
- Improving racial harmony through adherence to Constitutional mandates
- Improving justice sector performance through integration and cooperation
- Acknowledgement of the communities primacy as clients of the criminal justice system
- Increasing adherence to standards of professionalism and ethics
- Improving sectoral performance through effective planning and responsive management

The *KFAs* above are the drivers for the development of a sectoral statement which signals to the community that justice in Fiji is united in its efforts to enforce the law, dispense justice, and punish wrongdoers in an environment that is cognizant of the hardship and disadvantage of many and the need for interventions and diversions rather than incarceration.

*(iv) Sectoral objectives and activities*

The Strategic Themes and *KFAs* described above have been further analyzed and defined into 17 combined sectoral objectives.

These Sectoral Objectives enable individual agencies and institutions to action the themes and *KFAs* by including the Sectoral Objectives into their strategic and annual plans. Based on the Strategic Themes and *KFAs* the primary Sectoral Objectives arising out of the analysis of all research and consultations are:

- To respond to victims of crime, particularly in the area of family violence, in a manner which minimizes repeat victimization
- To promote crime prevention and law enforcement measures to reduce opportunities for offending
- To maintain a system of sanctions which effectively deters offenders
- To contribute to inter-sectoral initiatives aimed at improving support for “at risk” families and youth to reduce offending over the medium to long term
- To ensure adherence to Constitutional mandates on human rights and equality
- To ensure court processes are independent, fair, open, accessible, cost effective and responsive to the diverse needs of users
- To improve the integration of justice sector agencies in both policy development, planning and operational activities
- To implement an effective community policing system
- To improve the detection and apprehension of offenders through targeting resources
- To develop strategies and policies which promote adherence to high standards of professionalism and ethics
- To establish policies to reduce the over-representation of indigenous Fijians in conflict with the criminal justice system
- Improve support for victims of crime and their participation in the criminal justice system
- To ensure that relevant, timely, accurate information is available and accessible to support the needs of the criminal justice system
- To provide interventions and systems of offender management that contribute to reducing re-offending
- To support and promote community-based crime prevention initiatives
- To provide effective rehabilitation, including the need for strong community support
- To increase opportunities for greater access to justice

These objectives were work-shopped at the LJSCG and individual agency and institution heads/representatives agreed to incorporate the essence of relevant ones into their 2005/6 strategic and/or business plans. They will not necessarily be described in the manner above but will reflect the intention.

The Sectoral Statement was designed to promote and enhance the strategic direction set by the Government through the National Strategic Development Plan 2003-2005 Policy Objectives and Key Performances Indicators.

The statement focuses effort in areas of high strategic importance and provides a framework for coordinating agency policies and activities. This provides the overarching strategy for the criminal justice sector. It also extends beyond the sector by linking with social policy strategies.

Promoting crime prevention and safer communities through reducing offending and victimization requires long-term multi-agency approaches. In order to provide direction and co-ordination in making progress on the strategic goals, the Sectoral Statement sets out themes and key focus areas to assist in focusing effort and resources where they are likely to have the most impact.

The allocation of objectives by agency are:

Objective	Police	Prisons	Courts	DPP	Law Revision	Legal Aid	Solicitor General	Social Welfare
To respond to victims of crime, particularly in the area of family violence, in a manner which minimizes repeat victimization	X	X	X	X		X		X
To promote crime prevention and law enforcement measures to reduce opportunities for offending	X		X	X		X		
To maintain a system of sanctions which effectively deters offenders	X		X	X	X		X	
To contribute to inter-sectoral initiatives aimed at improving support for "at risk" families and youth to reduce offending over the medium to long term	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
To ensure adherence to Constitutional mandates on human rights and equality	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
To ensure Court processes are independent, fair, open, accessible, cost effective and responsive to the diverse needs of users			X					
To improve the integration of justice sector agencies in both policy development, planning and operational activities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
To implement an effective community policing system	X							
To improve the detection and apprehension of offenders through targeting resources	X							
To develop strategies and policies which promote adherence to high standards of professionalism and ethics	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
To establish policies to reduce the over-representation of indigenous Fijians in conflict with the criminal justice system	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Improve support for victims of crime and their participation in the criminal justice system	X		X	X		X		X

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To ensure that relevant, timely, accurate information is available and accessible to support the needs of criminal justice agencies	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
To provide interventions and systems of offender management that contribute to reducing re-offending		X						X
To support and promote community-based crime prevention initiatives	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
To provide effective rehabilitation, including the need for strong community support		X						X
To increase opportunities for greater access to justice				X	X	X	X	

*(v) Sectoral statement*

If the justice sector is to translate the research and identification of Strategic Themes and KFAs into something meaningful and actionable it must give a commitment to the community through a Sectoral Statement on its Objectives and Activities. These objectives and activities would form part of each organization's (police, courts, prisons, etc.) strategic plans for which they are annually held accountable by government. The statement needs to be precise, concise, relevant but easily understood, and absorbed by the general community.

It should be noted though that this strategy and statement comes from the formal justice sector of Fiji, i.e. those institutions and agencies that make up the sector responsible for law enforcement, administration and operation. It is NOT a statement from the conglomeration of bodies within Fiji that have a diverse general interest or function in the wider law and order role. In effect the statement would be a common set of objectives for the formal justice sector only.

At the Law and Justice Sector Programme Coordinating Group (LJSPCG) on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2004 senior representatives from all justice agencies and institutions came together and developed the Sectoral Statement on Crime Prevention and Community Safety. This was taken back to each organizations CEO and at a meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2004 again discussed and agreed to by all parties on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2004.

*(vi) The Statement*

The following text was constructed to become part of the public information brochure to be distributed nationally. It will be customized and delivered in ways that enable it to be easily absorbed and understood by the general community and will be published in English, Hindi and Fijian.

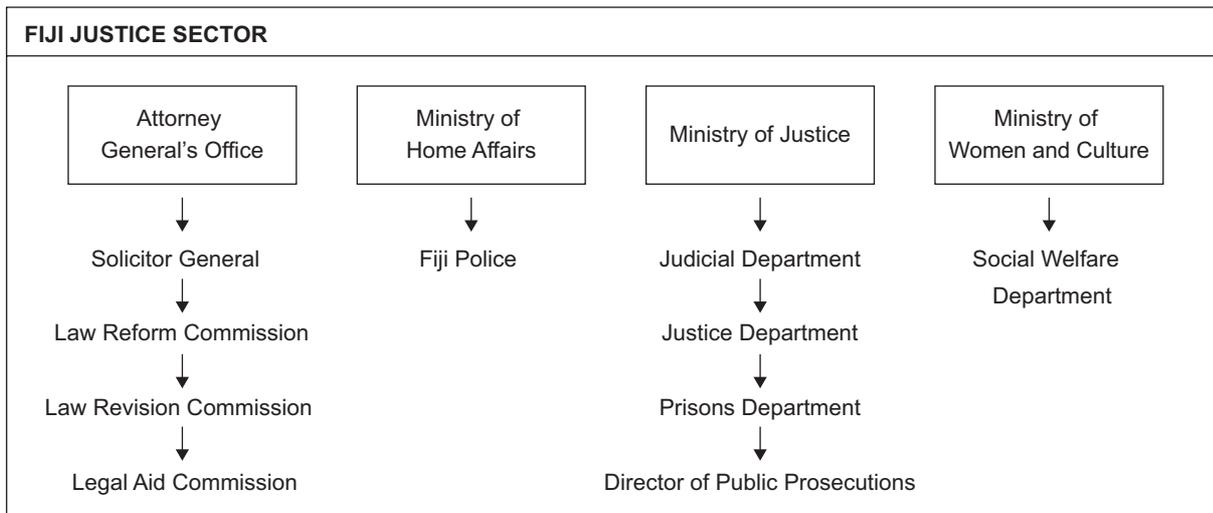
**CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY  
JUSTICE SECTOR OF FIJI**

**What is the Justice Sector in Fiji?**

The Justice sector of Fiji is the formal Government institutions and agencies mandated to administer justice and enforce the law in this country. The justice sector works together for the common good to uphold law and order and is accountable to the Government and the people of Fiji.

The principal responsibility of the Justice Sector is preventing crime and making the community safe to live and work in. It achieves this through vigilance, openness, fairness and impartiality.

Law and order is also a community responsibility undertaken at home, in private, in business and within the public sector



The Justice Sector is also a dynamic element of government which reflects community needs and values in its administration, planning and operations. It is concerned about injustices and seeks to remedy inequities in the system. It is independent from politics but interdependent within its own sector. It does not claim perfection but does seek to maintain high standards.

The community has stated a need to maintain respect for the law and also to recognize the importance of young people in Fiji. The Justice Sector seeks to respond to these calls and encourages reductions in the levels of violence, particularly family violence, and increasing opportunities for all young people to escape the cycle of poverty.

**What does it aim to achieve?**

1. To respond to victims of crime, particularly in the area of family violence, in a manner which minimizes repeat victimization.
2. To promote crime prevention and law enforcement measures to reduce opportunities for offending
3. To maintain a system of sanctions which effectively deters offenders
4. To contribute to inter-sectoral initiatives aimed at improving support for "at risk" families and youth to reduce offending over the medium to long term
5. To ensure adherence to Constitutional mandates on human rights and equality
6. To ensure court processes are independent, fair, open, accessible, cost effective and responsive to the diverse needs of users
7. To improve the integration of justice sector agencies in both policy development, planning and operational activities
8. To implement an effective policing system
9. To improve the detection and apprehension of offenders through targeting resources
10. To develop strategies and policies which promote adherence to high standards of professionalism and ethics
11. To establish policies to reduce the over-representation of indigenous Fijians in conflict with the

criminal justice system

12. Improve support for victims of crime and their participation in the criminal justice system
13. To ensure that relevant, timely, accurate information is available and accessible to support the needs of criminal justice agencies
14. To provide interventions and systems of offender management that contribute to reducing re-offending
15. To support and promote community-based crime prevention initiatives
16. To provide effective rehabilitation, including the need for strong community support
17. To increase opportunities for greater access to justice

The Justice Sector serves everyone and includes the community in all its forms - government, business and the general public.

**The Justice Sector will undertake to:**

- a. work cooperatively within the sector and with the community
- b. be more efficient and effective
- c. be the best in the region and a role model for other countries
- d. address the problems within the limited resources that are available
- e. measure our performance (through monitoring our performance to determine how effective we are)
- f. be responsive to changing circumstances and needs
- g. bring equality before the law
- h. listen to the community in terms of improving ourselves.

We want a safer and more secure Fiji which fosters inclusion and recognizes the multiplicity and diversity of talents, cultures and ideas that make Fiji a great country to live, learn and work.

**Crime Prevention and Community Safety**

Crime Prevention and Community Safety is everyone's responsibility. It can be as simple as locking your doors or as complex as instilling in your child the values which separate right from wrong.

Community safety is a state of mind. It is being able to walk down the street, night or day, whether you are a man, woman or child and not be in fear of violence or in apprehension of offensive or indecent behaviour.

This is where we want to be - even when it means sometimes getting it wrong. As long as we always try to get it right.

*(vii) Agency and organization adoption of key focus areas*

The development of the strategic crime prevention and community safety statement was a process of extensive consultations with the programme's key partners in the law and justice sectors. By nature of the process all stakeholders were kept informed of the development of the strategy and were asked to agree to key milestones along the way.

At the Law and Justice Sector Coordinating Group Meetings on 26th May, and 29th June 2004, partner organizations and agencies adopted the Strategic Statement of Crime Prevention and Community Safety and agreed to incorporate the essence of the key objectives into their plans.

To date this has already occurred with the strategic plans of the Fiji Police and Ministry of Women, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare where crime prevention outcomes have been linked directly to core business. As other agencies continue developing their plans they will absorb the key sectoral objectives into their plans.

**VII. CONCLUSION**

The duty of preventing crimes cannot be left entirely to the Police. It is clearly evident that a significant degree of success in this mammoth task can only be achieved through a combined approach involving all stakeholders adopting a common approach with a shared vision and objective. A society whose members live and move freely without any fear of crime will be the ultimate goal of such an approach.

**APPENDIX**

**Table 1: Recorded Crime Figures Associated With Urbanization In Fiji From 1999 - 2004  
(Up to Sept.)**

Offence	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 (figure up to Sept.)	2004 (up to Sept.)
Larceny	918	866	815	763	648 (514)	562
Burglary	982	861	838	773	727 (536)	592
Damaging Property	1,167	1,193	1,002	1,019	1,003 (753)	783
House Breaking, Entering and Larceny	1,325	1,569	1,331	1,320	1,230 (1002)	867
Robbery with Violence	719	858	623	794	833 (629)	612
Other Breaking Offences	1087	1112	829	923	811(624)	705
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle	352	412	294	305	326 (256)	255
Drug Offences	521	426	433	417	417 (326)	241
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,071</b>	<b>7,297</b>	<b>6,165</b>	<b>6,314</b>	<b>5,994</b>	<b>4,617</b>

**Table 2: Recorded Figures in 2003 of Offences by Age and Gender**

Offence	10-16 yrs		17-24 yrs		25 yrs and over		Total		Grand Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Larceny		7	11	132	18	82	27	221	250
Burglary		1	1	64	1	46	2	111	113
Damaging Property		3	12	198	38	377	50	578	628
House Breaking, Entering and Larceny		20	2	172	1	69	3	261	264
Robbery with Violence		8	2	189	-	154	2	351	353
Other Breaking Offences		16	-	131	1	62	1	209	210
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle		1	-	17	-	11	-	29	29
Drug Offences		6	10	149	20	230	30	385	415

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**Table 3: Figures Showing Offenders Associated With Liquor (AWL) From 2002 -2003**

Offence	2002			2003		
	AWL	Total	% AWL	AWL	Total	% AWL
Larceny	155	291	53 %	8	490	2 %
Damaging Property	96	184	52 %	2	113	2 %
House Breaking, Entering and Larceny	119	307	39 %	4	264	28 %
Robbery with Violence	87	307	28 %	6	353	2 %
Other Breaking Offences	76	182	42 %	1	210	0 %
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle	57	101	56 %	1	122	1 %
Drug Offences	198	390	51 %	2	415	0 %

**Table 4: Recorded Figures Showing Crime Offenders Who Were Unemployed (U/E) in 2002 and 2003**

Offence	2002			2003		
	U/E Offenders	Total	% U/E	U/E Offenders	Total	% U/E
Larceny	144	291	49 %	163	490	32 %
Burglary	86	184	47 %	81	113	72 %
Damaging Property	202	566	36 %	223	628	36 %
HBEL	152	307	50 %	177	264	67 %
Robbery with Violence	171	307	56 %	228	353	65 %
Other Breaking Offences	81	182	45 %	148	210	70 %
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle	38	101	38 %	81	122	66 %
Drug Offences	202	390	52 %	186	415	45 %

**Table 5: Recorded Figures Showing Racial Distribution of Crime Offenders**

Offence	2002				2003			
	Fijian	Indian	Others	Total	Fijian	Indian	Others	Total
Larceny	184	66	41	291	195	52	3	250
Burglary	137	16	31	184	90	19	4	113
Damaging Property	365	173	28	566	405	207	16	628
HBEL	234	46	27	307	204	54	6	264
Robbery with Violence	224	28	55	307	310	36	7	353
Other Breaking Offences	122	38	22	182	156	49	5	210
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle	70	17	14	101	106	15	1	122
Drug Offences	303	75	12	390	311	89	15	415
<b>Total</b>	<b>1639</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>2328</b>	<b>1777</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>2355</b>

**Table 6: Recorded Figures of Victim to Crimes by Race in 2002 & 2003**

Offence	2002						2003					
	Fijian	Indian	Others	Company	Govt.	Total	Fijian	Indian	Others	Company	Govt.	Total
Larceny	187	329	98			614	165	393	87	3		648
Burglary	157	547	69			773	163	446	113	3		725
Damaging Property	240	557	51	104	67	1019	269	583	64	62	25	1003
HBEL	428	714	178			1320	366	711	149	11		1237
Robbery with Violence	73	609	84	28		794	79	626	109	19		833
Other Breaking Offences	98	254	193	286	92	923	136	344	72	236	23	811
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle	45	214	31	15		305	35	256	27	8		326
Drug Offences					417	417					417	417
<b>Total</b>	<b>1294</b>	<b>3606</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>5965</b>	<b>1312</b>	<b>3570</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>6024</b>

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**Table 7: Recorded Crime Cases Detected in 2003 and 2004 (up to September)**

Offence	2003			2004 (up to September)		
	Total Cases	Cases Detected	%	Total Cases	Cases Detected	%
Larceny	648	233	34 %	562	151	27 %
Burglary	727	100	14 %	592	63	11 %
Damaging Property	1003	595	59 %	783	385	49 %
HBEL	1237	214	17 %	867	157	18 %
Robbery with Violence	833	225	27 %	612	145	24 %
Other Breaking Offences	811	152	19 %	705	125	18 %
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle	326	85	26 %	255	62	24 %
Drug Offences	417	394	94 %	241	223	93 %