

'We need more hotel rooms'

By FELIX CHAUDHARY

FIJI needs one new hotel a year to take advantage of Fiji Airways fleet upgrade and expansion and the expected increase in visitor arrivals, says national carrier managing director and CEO Andre Viljoen.

In response to comments made by the Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association about the need to ensure that increased air capacity into the country was supported by room numbers and capacity, Mr Viljoen said Fiji Airways upgrade and expansion was leading by example.

"That is the message we have been giving out — if we are growing the airline by eight per cent a year, we need a new hotel a year in the country," he said.

"Otherwise at some point, we will run out of accommodation. That is why we are leading by example because we are Fiji's ambassador around the world.

"People's first encounter with Fiji is Fiji Airways. So that is why we want to set a standard that sets the example for everyone."

Mr Viljoen said Fiji Airways scooping the Skytrax Best Airline Staff Australia Pacific award, achieving 4-star Skytrax rating and being ranked in the top 20 in the World's Best Airline Cabin Crew 2019 was testament to the high standards the airline had set to ensure quality passenger experience.