

MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association hosts 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

The Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association (FHTA), the voice of the tourism industry in Fiji, held its 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Radisson Blu Resort and Spa on Friday June 14, 2019. The AGM provided a platform for the Board of Directors to update members of the Association's activities over the past year and outline the plans for the Association in the coming 12 months.

Key activities in 2018-2019 included lobbying on behalf of its members on issues of tax, new leave allocations, training levies and the investment climate, signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Fisheries, raising awareness for members on changes in legislation and best practices and highlighting the environmental damage of unrestrained development and the need for better enforcement by responsible statutory bodies.

FHTA is looking to the 2019-2020 period to continue to promote the interests of its members but also to advocate on matters that benefit the tourism sector and therefore Fiji as a whole. Forging partnerships with other government bodies such as Investment Fiji and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment while maintaining the good relationships with Tourism Fiji and Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism is one of the aims of the Board to strengthen FHTA's input into national tourism strategies. FHTA is also aiming to increase the awareness and training sessions offered to members on themes that affect them, implementing its new strategic direction over the next 5 years and continuing to lobby for greater ease of business and lower cost of business.

The FHTA AGM reconfirmed the appointment of Board Directors whose terms had expired, for a period of three (3) years, ensuring continuity and retaining the expertise across all sectors of the tourism industry. The Board of Directors is led by President, Mr Dixon Seeto and is supported by a full Secretariat including Chief Executive Officer, Ms Fantasha Lockington.

President Dixon Seeto said that while the Association would like to see more development in the accommodation sector as this has been somewhat slow, they have also lobbied relevant agencies and Ministries to ensure that any development in tourism complies with environmental requirements to protect Fiji's pristine ecosystems.

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