



FijiFIU

Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit

PRESS RELEASE

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RETIREMENT OF MR RAZIM BUKSH, DIRECTOR FIJI FIU

After a remarkable tenure of dedication and commitment, Mr Razim Buksh, the Director of the Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), is set to retire, leaving behind a big imprint in the nation's regulatory, financial system, and law enforcement landscape.

Mr Buksh has worked for the Reserve Bank of Fiji for the past 36 years in various executive and senior positions, and was appointed the Director of Fiji's Financial Intelligence Unit in January 2006.

Over the past three decades, Mr Buksh has demonstrated his excellent leadership skills, leading efforts to combat financial crimes and strengthen the confidence and integrity of Fiji's financial systems. His ambitious approach has been instrumental in positioning Fiji as a respected player on the international stage in the fight against money laundering, terrorist financing and other financial crimes.

Mr Buksh dedicated his entire career and loyal service to the Reserve Bank in diverse roles.

He climbed up the hierarchy as a technical officer in domestic market and currency operations, fraud investigator, senior bank examiner, and FIU team leader.

Mr Buksh was appointed the first director of the newly established FIU in January 2006, the position he held until his retirement. Mr Buksh was a member of the National Anti-Money Laundering Council and served as chairperson and member of several national and international working groups and committees.

Mr Buksh also received the Australian Prime Minister's Award in 2007 for an Executive Fellows Governance Program at the Australia and New Zealand School of Government. Mr Buksh is a FATF/APG qualified assessor and he has been part of the global AML/CFT assessment and review teams as a FIU and financial sector regulatory expert.

His contract will officially end on 31 December 2023. The Governor of RBF and the National AML Council will manage the appointment of the new director. As part of FIU's executive succession plan, Ms Caroline Pickering (FIU Manager Policy) and Ms Esther Sue (FIU Manager Intelligence) will act as director FIU from January 2024 until the substantive appointment is announced.

As Mr Buksh prepares to venture into a new chapter of his life, his colleagues express their gratitude for his contributions to Fiji's financial resilience. His retirement marks a new beginning as his footprint continues to guide the path towards a safer and more secure financial future for Fiji. His contributions to financial inclusion initiatives, border security, cybersecurity, anti-corruption, law enforcement, combating human trafficking and cybercrime, and the use of advanced data-mining technology are his other hallmark achievements.

Click to view copy of the press release, messages and pictures: [Press-Release-03-of-2023-Retirement-of-Mr-Razim-Buksh, Director Fiji FIU](#)

FIJI FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT

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MESSAGES ON THE RETIREMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FIJI FIU, MR. RAZIM BUKSH

Mr Buksh continues to receive acknowledgement of his long service to the country and his leadership and extensive contribution at national, regional and international levels, some of which are noted below:

Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF)

On behalf of the Board, Executive Management and Team RBF, the Governor of RBF, Mr Ariff Ali, extended his appreciation for Mr Buksh's long and dedicated service to the Bank and the Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit. The Governor wished him well for his future.

National Anti-Money Laundering Council (NAMLC)

The Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary for Justice and the Chairperson of the NAMLC, Mr Ropate Green Lomavatu, extended his sincere appreciation for Mr Buksh's contribution in the fight against money laundering and financial crimes. As the head of the Fijian delegation to the APG for the past 15 years, Mr Buksh has acted with passion and dedication, and under his leadership, Fiji achieved excellent compliance ratings with the global AML/CFT requirements. Mr Buksh has also contributed immensely to national and international coordination, information exchange, AML/CFT national risk assessment and capacity building programmes for Fiji. Mr Lomavatu said that Mr Buksh has earned high respect and recognition for his dedicated service, prudence and professionalism.

Association of Banks in Fiji & the Fiji Institute of Bankers (ABIF & FIB)

The ABIF chairperson and BSP Financial Group Limited Country Head, Mr Haroon Ali, said that as head of the FIU and as the AML/CFT regulator in Fiji, Mr Buksh had played a critical role in steering Fiji's AML/CFT policy, regulatory and compliance framework. Mr Buksh's guidance and support had greatly helped financial institutions build a strong AML/CFT implementation culture and compliance environment in Fiji. The ABIF and FIB would like to also acknowledge Mr Buksh's achievement as an "Honorary" Fellowship of the Institute for his distinguished and meritorious service to the Institute and to Fiji's banking and finance industry. Mr Buksh is currently the longest serving member of the FIB since January 1992. "My colleagues at ABIF join me in wishing Mr Buksh all the best in his future endeavours. We wish him all the best".

Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)

The APG Co-Chairs, Deputy Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police, Mr Ian McCartney, and Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of Canada's Department of Finance, Mr Julien Brazeau, expressed their sincere appreciation to Mr Buksh for his sustained and significant contribution to the APG from 2002 to 2023, including chairing APG working groups, participating in mutual evaluations, hosting APG events and contributing to making the APG a first class FATF-style regional body.

The Pacific Financial Intelligence Community (PFIC)

The PFIC Co-Chairs, Deputy CEO of AUSTRAC, Dr John Moss, and the Head of the Cook Islands Financial Intelligence Unit, Mr Walter Henry, expressed their deep appreciation to Mr Buksh for his extensive leadership contribution as a founding member of the Pacific Financial Intelligence Community (PFIC), during which time he championed operational and strategic engagement to combat AML/CTF threats, and pioneered the advancement of AML technology solutions in the Pacific region. The Co-Chairs of the PFIC wished Mr Buksh a bright and prosperous future.

The Global Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units (Egmont Group)

The Egmont Group thanks Mr Razim Buksh, Director of Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit, for his contributions as a member of the Egmont Group and congratulates him on his well-deserved retirement. Ms Elżbieta Franków-Jaśkiewicz, Interim Chair of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units said "Since Fiji FIU joined the Egmont Group in 2009, Mr Razim Buksh has been a vital member who has contributed significantly to the mission of our organization. Mr Razim Buksh was also a strong voice for the FIUs in Asia and the Pacific Region, for whom he acted as Regional Representative in the Egmont Committee. A successful intersessional meeting was held in Nadi, Fiji, hosted by the Fiji FIU in May 2016, thanks to the efforts of Mr Razim Buksh. We commend Mr Razim Buksh for his years of leadership and commitment to the Egmont Group of FIUs and to the individual, regional, and global efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing."

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