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PRESS RELEASE

### **New Board Appointments**

The Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Hon. Faiyaz Koya recently welcomed the newly appointed Board Members of the Consumer Council of Fiji.

While addressing the newly appointed Board, Hon. Koya thanked the Members for their commitment to guiding the Council to create a fairer marketplace in Fiji.

“Creating a marketplace where the rights and interests of consumers are not only protected but proactively empowered is an important priority for the Fijian Government. These appointments will ensure that the Council has the requisite industry expertise to guide them in achieving this objective,” the Minister stated.

Hon. Koya emphasized that the new Board’s expertise, abilities and decades of experience will be an advantage and encouraged them to make a difference during their tenure.

The new members are:

#### **Chairperson - Mr Mohammed Gani**

Mr Gani has more than 19 years of extensive commercial experience. He is currently the Country Manager-Fiji & the Pacific Islands at Brother International (NZ) Ltd. He spent nine years at the Telecom Fiji Ltd Group, his last position being the National Manager Retail & Customer Service. He holds multiple qualifications in the fields of Business, Engineering, Finance, Management and IT. He has a Masters in Business Administration (USP), Masters In Commerce (USP), Masters In Governance, Post Graduate Diploma in Management & Public Administration, Post Graduate Certificate in Financial Administration, Post Graduate Diploma in Governance and Bachelor of Electronics Engineering (Pakistan). He is also a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Mr. Gani has sheer interest in community development work and places a special focus in youth’s personal development where he dedicates a substantial amount of his spare time. Mr Gani has been a Council Board Member for the past six years.

#### **Ms Elizabeth Jane Algar**

Ms Elizabeth has over 15 years combined senior executive experience in corporate services. Elizabeth manages strategic, finance, HR development, asset, general administration and property management. As a management consultant, strategic business advisor, mentor and trainer, Elizabeth has completed projects for Palladium, Cardno, iTaukei Affairs Board, IUCN and RFMF to name a few. Prior to this Elizabeth was also Chairperson for Nasinu and Nausori



Town Councils. She has also worked at International Red Cross, APTC and Air Pacific. She holds a Masters in Business Administration from USP.

### **Mr David Edward Solvalu**

Mr Solvalu is a lawyer by profession and has over six years' experience specializing in Legislative Drafting, Policy Reform and Revision, and Legal Research. He has played an integral role in the development of major pieces of Fijian legislation, including the Trademarks Act 2021 and Climate Change Act 2021, and has extensive experience in the reviewing and amending of laws – including the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission Act 2010, Companies Act 2015 and the Land Transport Act 1998.

Mr Solvalu holds a Bachelor of Law Degree, Professional Diploma in Legal Practice, and Professional Diploma in Legislative Drafting – all from the University of the South Pacific. He is the Chief Legal Counsel at the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission. Before joining FCCC, Mr Solvalu practised at Howards Lawyers, the Office of the Attorney-General, and the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji. He also serves on the Film Control Board and the Board of Assets Fiji Pte Ltd.

### **Mr Shelvin Karan**

Mr Karan is the Manager of Domestic Conditions at the Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF) and has over 14 years of experience as a Macro Economist with experience in Fiji and the region. Apart from the RBF, he has also worked at the International Monetary Fund's Pacific Office as a Local Economist. Mr Karan has a Master of Commerce and Bachelor of Arts from the University of the South Pacific.

### **Ms Anabel Ali**

Ms Ali is currently the Group Financial Controller and Company Secretary at Fiji Fish Marketing Group Company Ltd and its 11 related entities in the hospitality, investment and fishing industries – a position she has held for the past five years. Prior to this, Ms Ali served as the Manager of Audit and Assurance and Business Advisory Services for ten years. She is also a member of CPA Australia, the Australian Institute of Company Directors and Leadership Fiji.

Ms Ali has a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting & Financial Management and Public Administration and Business Management from the University of the South Pacific and Postgraduate in Accounting from CPA Australia.

Meanwhile, the Council CEO Ms Seema Shandil says that it is critical for the Board to have representatives and expertise from different background and sectors – which is evident with these new appointments.

“The Council Management and staff are excited with the appointment of the new Board. We are at a very critical juncture of redefining our goals, objectives and overall strategic direction; in line with the continuously changing consumer landscape. Therefore, this timely appointment of tactful and knowledgeable Board members will be instrumental to ensure the Council effectively sets a new direction in the interest of Fijian consumers,” added Ms Shandil.



(L to R: Mr David Solvalu, Mr Mohammed Gani, Ms Seema Shandil, Hon Faiyaz Koya, Ms Elizabeth Algar, Mr Shelvin Karan, Ms Anabel Ali)



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**Seema Shandil**  
**Chief Executive Officer**