



**DRAFT POLICE BILL 2020 NATION WIDE PUBLIC CONSULTATION
LAUNCHED AT GRAND PACIFIC HOTEL- HON. MINISTER FOR
DEFENCE INIA SERUIRATU**

“The Public Consultation phase is extremely important, because we need to adequately capture and take into consideration the interests, concerns and voices of every Fijian”. These were the words echoed by the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing Honourable Inia Seruiratu when launching the Nationwide consultation for the Draft Police Bill 2020 at the Grand Pacific Hotel this morning.

Present during the event were New Zealand High Commissioner His Excellency Mr Jonathan Curr and the United Nations Development Programme Representative of which they had made remarks as well. This event would not have been possible without the support rendered by the United Nations Development Program and the New Zealand Government.

The Hon. Minister highlighted in his address the challenges faced by the global community such as terrorism, the threat of weapons of mass destruction, drug trafficking, transnational organised crime, environment degradation, and ethnic, religious and racial conflicts were evident around the globe and Fiji was no immune. He further added that this nationwide public consultation of the Draft Police Bill is necessary in order to identify and incorporate public’s views on the future of a modern Police Force.

The public consultation will be conducted in two streams; online and face-to-face.

The Online submissions which commenced today - Wednesday 3rd March, 2021 will run for a period of 30 days targeting urban centers such as towns and cities who have full access to internet. The face-to face consultation

commences on Monday 8th March, 2021 for members of the public residing in rural areas who have limited or no internet access at all. Each consultation will commence with an awareness on the new provisions in the Draft Bill before the participants are invited to make their submissions.

The expected target audience for this consultation is at least 5000 – 10,000 persons and will roll out in 21 centers across Fiji ending on 30th April 2021.