

# 3 FIR killing probe still on

INVESTIGATIONS into the deaths of Counter Revolutionary Warfare Unit soldiers during the mutiny in the Fiji Military Forces in 2000 are ongoing.

However, the trial of those implicated has yet to be convened and it is unclear whether it will be held at all this year.

Fiji Military Forces spokesman Neumi Leweni yesterday said the army was following its legal advisers and was first handling the mutiny cases before it investigated how the Third Fiji Infantry Regiment retook Queen Elizabeth Barracks



WO1 Leweni completed.

Mr Leweni said investigations were

after rebels overran the compound on November 2, 2000.

Warrant Officer 1 Leweni said the cases were definitely going to be heard.

However, he said the cases would have to wait until those cases being dealt with now had been

continuing. He said the loyalist soldiers alleged to have murdered the special forces troopers were still working.

The army, Mr Leweni said, would not be able to divulge any further information as it could jeopardise its investigations.

A wife of one of the CRW officers killed in the aftermath of the retaking of the military headquarters, said the army was quick to investigate and implicate those who had supposedly been involved in the mutiny.

However, she said, they were taking their time investigating those soldiers who had

murdered their husbands and fathers in cold blood.

She said it was not fair as some of the CRW soldiers who had died were innocent, had not been involved in the mutiny and had had no idea of what had occurred as they had not been in camp when the mutiny took place.

She said it was unfortunate the murdered soldiers had been forgotten as were their children and wives.

She said the Fiji Military Forces had previously prided itself in being a family through good times and bad.

## Locals apply for top cop job

THE race for the position of Commissioner of Police is heating up after the Public Service Commission received a good number of applications.

Commission director for human resources management Filimoni Kau yesterday confirmed that several applications had been received from local applicants.

It is understood that among the applicants is the Commissioner of Prisons, Aisea Taoka, senior police officers and a number of senior army officers.

Mr Kau said the interest in one of the top jobs in the country has been good and the PSC would be looking into each of the applications with a lot of interest.

He said careful consideration would be accorded to each and every applicant and each would be judged according to the regulations of the commission.

On whether an expatriate had applied for the position, Mr Kau said as far as he was aware there were no overseas applications.

But he did not rule out the possibility the position could be offered to an expatriate.

He said this would only happen if they were not able to find a suitable person in Fiji.

He said so far the applicants who were applying for the job were "quite capable people".

Meanwhile, former Commissioner of Police Isikia Savua is expected to take up his posting as Fiji's Ambassador to New York by next week after which incumbent envoy Amraya Naidu would return to Fiji.

Mr Naidu has been tipped to take up an advisory position within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dealing with aid and other matters of national interest.



Contender ... Aisea Taoka.



Watch out ... Habib Khan of Nasinu, in a pharmacy in Suva. Now the Lower House is to debate the importation of sub-standard drugs into Fiji.

## Bills to look at fake drugs

MITHLESHNI GURDAYAL

TWO Bills are to be tabled in the House of Representatives this year to effectively address the issue of fake and counterfeit drugs.

The Bills are the Pharmacy Bill and the Persons and Therapeutics Bill.

Yesterday, Government's Chief Pharmacist Peter Zinck said the first Bill would address the issue of who could own a pharmacy and a wholesale pharmacy business.

"To an extent it restricts the ownership of pharmacies only to

pharmacists. The ownership of a wholesale pharmacy does not require that you be a pharmacist," he said.

"The second Bill sets a broad framework for the process of drug registration.

"A rigorous process of assessment and evaluation that will ensure that any drug being imported into the country is safe, efficacious and of good quality."

Mr Zinck said this process of registering drugs would ensure that there was a thorough assessment in authenticating the level of documentation and validating on all

processes used to manufacture a drug.

He said there was a need to review the existing Pharmacy and Poisons Act, "which is little outdated".

"Fiji is a developing country and is vulnerable to the problem of counterfeit drugs - Fiji is considered semi-regulatory in terms of having a system of administering pharmaceuticals and food affairs," he said.

"The legislative framework and supporting infrastructure that is necessary in ensuring this problem is addressed thoroughly are lacking."

## Immigration laws face major review

A COMPREHENSIVE review of Fiji's immigration legislation is in the pipeline.

This is to rectify the inadequate legislation to deal with refugees, asylum seekers, people smugglers, drug traffickers and terrorists.

Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration Jocketani Cokanasiga said Government aimed to include specific provisions to criminalise people smuggling and trafficking in persons.

"As part of this proposed legislation we will include appropriate provisions to deal with the perpetrators, offenders and the victims," Mr Cokanasiga said.

He said the tough stance was justified and timely. Mr Cokanasiga said Fiji was a member of the inter-governmental body Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Person and Migrants.

The APC was initiated in 1996 with the aim of promoting dialogue and exploring opportunities for greater regional cooperation on matters relating to population movements, including refugees, displaced persons and migrants.

"We should get a lot of help from this body in regard to strengthening our laws," he said.

He said Fiji was working with neighbouring countries in fighting organised crime. The change in laws is timely, especially in light of reports that Fiji is being used as a transit point by terrorists and possible attacks on Fiji.

## 'Watch yourself on the Internet'

PEOPLE should limit the disclosure of personal information while surfing sites on the Internet, the Consumer Council of Fiji has warned.

The council yesterday said a comparative study by Consumers International, the global federation of 263 consumer organisations, had found that measures put in place by governments to protect people's privacy were not adequate.

"Consumers International's research showed that many European and American Internet sites aimed at consumers fall woefully short of international standards on data protection," the Consumer Council said.

The council said the research further found:   
 □ Just over two thirds of sites collected some sort of personal information and almost all of

these sites asked for details that made it easy to identify and contact the person;

□ The vast majority of the sites gave users no choice about being on the site's own mailing list or having their name passed on to affiliates or third parties; and

□ Only 10 per cent of the sites targeting children asked them to get their parents' consent before giving out personal information or to tell their parents afterwards.

"Such things could introduce people to fraudsters, sex offenders and even criminal-minded people.

"Privacy is recognised as a fundamental human right yet we have found that too many companies collect a lot of unnecessary, very personal information about their customers - and because of inadequate implementation,

and existing government measures, people don't have control over their data," Anna Fielder, Consumers

International development and transition economies director, said.

She said they had advised governments, including Fiji, to put in place laws to ensure users were given control over the collection, use and disclosure of personal information and that such information, if collected, was not circulated.

Fiji recently came under the spotlight after defamatory information was posted to people's personal email accounts and circulated over the net.

Government had assured it was working towards protecting Internet users, with police warning people against it.

## Video unit man back on the job

THE Principal Information officer at the Film and Television Unit who had earlier been suspended following allegations of corruption and abuse of office has been recalled to work.

Alipate Mataitoga yesterday started work again at the unit despite investigations into the allegations continuing.

Principal Information Officer at the Ministry of Information Suzie Grey yesterday confirmed Mr Mataitoga had started work on Monday.

Mr Mataitoga was suspended last November following allegations that he had used equipment at the unit for personal gain.

It was alleged Mr Mataitoga and two other temporary officers had been paid money for jobs done but not all of this had been accounted for.

The other two temporary officers implicated have been sacked by the unit.

They were James Bhagwan and Taitusi Ginabai.

Public Service Commission director for human resources management Filimoni Kau yesterday said Mr Mataitoga was recalled to work as his leave had expired.

Mr Kau said the permanent secretary for Information, Emi Rabukawaqa, had requested that the PSC conduct an independent investigation into the allegations.

The report on the unit has been completed and has been handed to the PSC which will look into the report and carry out an independent assessment before it decides what action, if any, will be appropriate to take.