

**SPEAKING NOTES ON POWERPOINT PRESENTATION AT THE
BALI PROCESS WORKSHOP AT EH SIAM CITY HOTWL
BANGKOK, THAILAND ON 20TH TO 22ND APRIL, 2005.**

SLIDE 1

Introduction – acknowledgement of invitation

SLIDE 2

Order and scope of the presentation

SLIDE 3

Explain briefly the 4 legislations administered by the DOI

SLIDE 4

Background of the movement of the DOI to show its effect on lax legislations and the non-proactive stance up until 9/11 and the Bali bombings.

SLIDE 5

1. Passport Legislation passed on 1st October, 2002 but because of limited qualified legal draftsperson in Fiji we have just finalized Regulations for it and acknowledge the assistance of DIMIA in the Immigration Regulation work being carried, which completed stakeholders yesterday. A final draft is expected in a few weeks and the new can formalize both the Passport and the Immigration Acts.
2. New Passport Act empowers Immigration to refuse a minor (under 21yrs) a passport if not properly authorized by parents. Also, those with criminal records (including fraudsters) may be refused a passport.
3. Passport provisions which are reviewable under appeal to the Minister responsible include 2 above, and the cancellation of existing passports because of security reasons.
4. Director of Immigration may cancel valid passports if they lost, stolen or the holder is a security risk if allowed to travel. It is hoped that information sharing in these activities can be shared out to all concerned agencies in real time.
e.g A Fiji citizen now back in Fiji, was issued two Fiji passports and three Australian passports. We must cancel her passport, when this Act comes into force. She used others B/C in Fiji and pretended to be an aboriginal woman in Australia.

SLIDE 6

1. Fiji Immigration currently has a web-based Oracle IT System which was just migrated from a legacy VAX system. This new IT system is more users friendly and is accessed via the Fiji government IT Department (ITC) website. We are now able to access reports on our operations for analysis, if and when we need to. We are lucky as a government department because all staff have 24/7 access to the internet. The first of many reports we are currently analyzing is our lost and stolen passport listings
2. We lost 387 Diplomatic passports in 1998. We have posted these passports in the WATCHLIST. I am not aware of it being released to any other Agency abroad. That is a big GAP to ensure Fiji travel document integrity. What should we have done? Is there a dedicated database to send it to or is the current practice of advising Foreign Affairs enough?
My own experience with other lost passport advice from Foreign Affairs like the 653 reported stolen Ethiopian passports were to treat it as a matter of secondary importance to our operation and something that only congests our system! That is until the serious issues arising today on TC, such as trafficking and people smuggling and terrorism surfaced!
3. Our watchlist is one big listing of alerts from criminal, domestic issues, lost/stolen passports, tax evaders, absconders etc.... The lost and stolen passport issues should be viewed separately and I am currently working on that, i.e. lost/stolen issued passports and stolen blank passport books (I believe that a Fiji blank book will never be used in Fiji, but it may be used in Africa, where no knowledge of the stolen books exist). This is a logical choice. How do we advise our African brothers?
4. Fiji Immigration is ready and willing to share these lost passport and future lost and stolen travel documents with approved and authorized agencies through the PIDC.

SLIDE 7

1. Fiji Immigration can appoint regional Immigration Officers to act on behalf of Fiji Immigration in the new Immigration Act in recognition of the regional issues arising out of our concerns and also the lack of expertise in many areas of Immigration work
2. We have provisions for API/APP in the legislation
3. We can publicize names and photos of wanted illegal immigrants to ease the enforcement provisions.
4. We do not have provisions for information sharing with organizations outside the region, but we hope to fix that in the draft Regulations currently being negotiated. It is not so complicated as we do not have Privacy laws but have a very vocal and proactive Human Rights Commission. We have to tread carefully!

SLIDE 8

Conclusion to highlight privacy issues on information sharing and the medium to share information in real time. A secure integrated IT solution would be good but who will host it and the process and procedures for reporting and feedback to sourcing organizations will be a concern>