



UNWOMEN applauds Fiji's efforts

By Online Editor

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UN Women assistant secretary-general, John Hendra

Fiji was among other countries worldwide to mark the launch of the report “Progress for the World’s Women: In Pursuit of Justice” yesterday.

It was a milestone for the United National Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Pacific regional office, which hosted stakeholders from government and NGO agencies last night.

The celebration took place at the Holiday Inn Suva with a cocktail to welcome the UN Women assistant secretary-general John Hendra to the country.

Speaking at a press conference Hendra said the report would be an important tool.

“This document entails all lessons learned and will be a reference point for countries that include Fiji and a benchmark that will challenge and is affirming government’s role in the empowerment of women,” he said.

“The report reflects global concern with the slow pace of change. It is no longer acceptable to live in a world where young girls are taken out of school and forced into early marriage, where women’s employment opportunities are limited, and where the threat of gender-based violence is a daily reality at home, in the street, at school and at work.”

Hendra said the report marked success.

“The campaign to establish UN Women which is part of a larger international drive to promote gender equality, empower women and demand an end to sexual violence,” he said.

“This launch will help us carry out our role worldwide that would not have come about without relentless advocacy

Meanwhile, the United Nations has revealed Fiji has done reasonably well in ensuring that women receive adequate services to deal with sexual offences.

Regional Program Director for the Pacific Regional office of UNWOMEN Elizabeth Cox said this had been possible as a result of advances in the Police Force.

“There was quite a lot of work done in the police force in co operation with the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre to increase women’s access to justice to ensure that they get a better response with complaints and the way in which those cases are handled.”

She said the sensitivity and roles of senior women in the police force had assisted in establishing services and getting justice done in relation to sexual offences.

SOURCE: FIJI LIVE/PACNEWS