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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 16, 2011

TAKING TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL FIJI TO THE PEOPLE

(SUVA-Fiji) TRANSPARENCY International Fiji is set to launch its mobile outreach campaign in the Western Division this week, marking a series of creative and remarkable awareness initiatives by the anti-corruption organization.

The outreach will feature sessions for invited women and youth audiences in Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua and Rakiraki.

“The awareness campaign is really about canvassing supporting from the public and driving in people a passion for the fight against corruption and hopefully instilling in our western citizens the universal values of integrity, transparency, accountability and peace,” said Executive Officer, Koila Kabu.

“We at TI Fiji want everyone to be concerned about corruption and its adverse effects on the vulnerable and the poor. We believe that empowering women and youth with information and knowledge during the outreach sessions will help contribute to building a responsible citizenry that understands its roles and responsibilities in weeding out corruption and bribery,” Mrs Kabu said.

It is widely acknowledged that poor governance encourages corruption while corruption weakens the performance and integrity of governance. Both have direct negative impact on a nation’s development and prosperity.

Extensive research shows that foreign investment is lower in countries perceived to be corrupt, which further thwarts their chance to prosper. Experience worldwide shows that good clean governance is a necessary basis for sustainable prosperity for all.

Each town will have a Hindi and Fijian civic outreach session, touching on corruption in general, the values needed to fight it and the programmes and services of TI Fiji which the public can access.

TI Fiji is currently involved in the Open Budget Initiative (OBI), which is targeted at enhancing grassroots knowledge and skills for their vigilant monitoring of the national budget and its processes, with emphasis on transparency and accountability.

The Advocacy and Legal and Advice Centre (ALAC) is a programme that offers free legal advice to witnesses and victims of corruption while its Peace and Unity Project for youth, run in partnership with the ATH Vodafone Fiji Foundation World of Difference programme, involves the teaching of civic knowledge, skills and values.

The team also hopes to take the same mobile programme to Bua, Labasa, Savusavu and Taveuni in an effort to empower communities in the northern division.

Seven TI Fiji staff will be involved in the outreach initiative, conducted in the vernacular to help provide access to the grassroots and rural populations. It will begin on Monday (July 18) and end on Thursday (July 21)

Photo Captions:

Rewai: A typical TI Fiji outreach session in Lomanikoro, Rewa.

Nausori: Participants of an outreach session in Nausori Village, Taivelu, take part in a group activity.

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