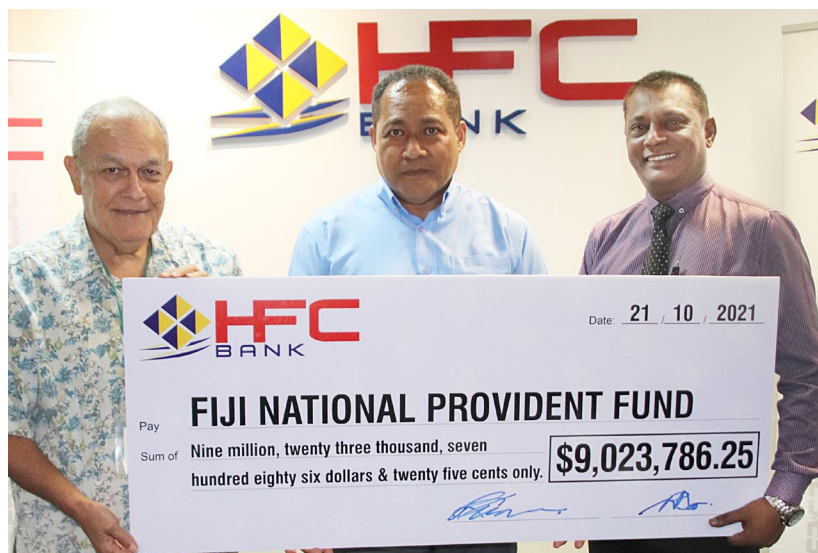
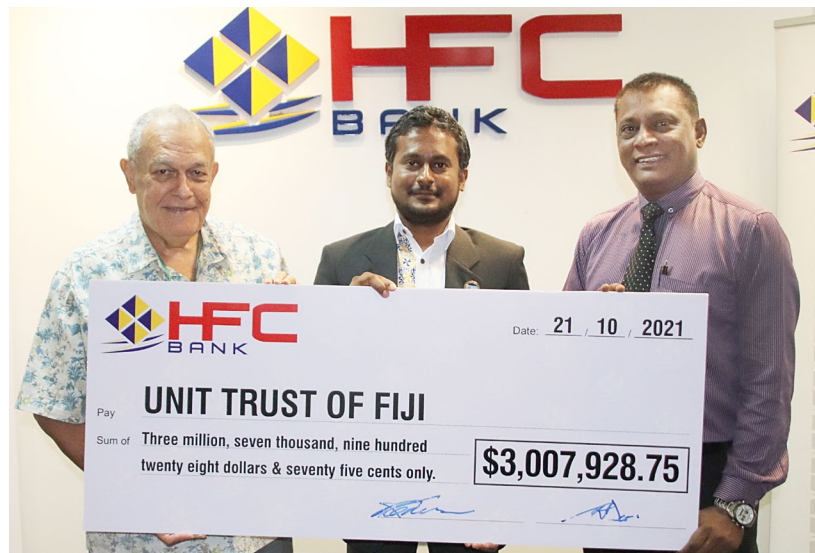


HFC Bank pays out \$12m dividend to Fijians



(L-R) HFC Bank Chairman Mr Tom Ricketts, FNPF CEO Mr Viliame Vodonaivalu and HFC Bank CEO Mr Rakesh Ram.



(L-R) HFC Bank Chairman Mr Tom Ricketts, UTOF Head of Finance & Investment Mr Mahipriya Meddepola and HFC Bank CEO Mr Rakesh Ram.

HFC Bank Chairman, Tom Ricketts proudly announced dividend pay-out of \$12.032m to the Fijian people through its respective shareholders. The Bank declared dividends of \$9.024m and \$3.008m to FNPF and UTOF which hold shareholding of 75% and 25% respectively.

"HFC Bank being the only locally owned commercial bank is delighted to pay-out the dividend despite the difficult and challenging covid environment." Chairman also commented, "...its pleasing to see that the Bank has performed remarkably well during this period and all our profits are retained and distributed to the Fijians."

During the financial year ending 30th June 2021, the Bank posted a Net Profit after Tax of \$15.040m, compared to \$9.025m last year. HFC Bank CEO, Rakesh Ram stated, "the improved performance has been underpinned by continued strong growth in lending assets and cross-sell aligning to the Bank's strategy to grow its corporate market share. This is evident from consistent growth in net lending book averaging \$100m for the last 4yrs.

The Bank's total assets reached \$1.416bn, a growth of 10% from \$1.288bn recorded in June 2020. The performance has been further strengthened by continued rationalisation of operations and aligning itself to the new normal.

As a growing commercial bank, it is imperative for us to identify our competitive edge. A further key area of strength is our Governance, Risk and Compliance platform, which is the forefront of everything we do at HFC Bank.

Ram further stated, "the Bank has also suffered significantly during covid with increased risk in asset quality from various hardship assistance to its customers. The underlying performance of the Bank has been greatly affected by this global pandemic which had a ripple effect on the economy."

This was an extraordinary year with special management of Credit provisions for covid affected assets. This has resulted in significant levels of provision levels for the Bank as a prudent management strategy and in line with IFRS accounting standards. Ram is optimistic about the economic recovery based on national vaccination rate which hopefully is expected to normalise businesses shortly and result in the improvement in the loan asset quality.

Ram also expressed deep gratitude to the Board, stakeholders, regulators and shareholders for their trust, guidance, and continued support during this most difficult time. Ram is extremely grateful to customers and staff who stood with HFC Bank and is pleased that the Bank delivered to the best of its ability.

As we welcome the new Financial Year 2021-2022, HFC Bank will continue to strengthen efficiency levels to ensure superior banking experiences for its customers.

