

Patel takes up FEA post

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FEA chief executive officer Hasmukh Patel shares his thoughts at yesterday's press conference

It is a major challenge to steer the country's electricity authority at a time of escalating fuel prices, says newly appointed Fiji Electricity Authority chief executive officer. Hasmukh Patel, who is no stranger to the authority, started work on August 1 on a three-year contract.

Mr Patel started his career with the FEA in 1976 as a graduate engineer based at the authority's head office then located in Lautoka.

With 30 years experience with the authority, Mr Patel said he knew the task would be a challenging one.

"It is a challenge especially the situation the world and Fiji is in right now with escalating fuel prices it is a real challenge to steer this organisation forward," said Mr Patel.

Mr Patel joined the private sector in 2005 and worked with Kasabias.

He said the aim of the authority was to invest in renewable energy schemes.

"We have to replace diesel generation," he said.

Mr Patel said the authority is spending huge amount of money on fuel and the aim was to reduce this usage. Mr Patel replaced Rokoseru Nabalarua who left FEA in January this year.

FEA chairman, Mr Nizam-ud-Dean, said that Mr Patel rejoins the authority at an important and challenging time.

"The organisation is moving ahead with a major power development programme of some \$500 million as it positions itself to meet the escalating operational cost of delivering the electricity service" he said.

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