

The Fiji Times

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Joana Naqoca performs during the Kaila! Star Search semi-final at Village 6 cinemas in Suva last night.

Picture: JOVESA NAISUA

Power-packed event

By VISHAAL KUMAR

A JAM-PACKED crowd was treated to power-packed performances during the Kaila! Star Search semi-final at Village 6 cinemas in Suva last night.

Families, friends and supporters of the six singers and four dancers came out in numbers to cheer the contestants.

The Panda thrilled the audience with an energetic and lively dance

before singer Lydia Taukafa, who saved the best for the last, gave a vibrant performance.

Five contestants will make it to the final which will be held on August 12 at the Vodafone Arena in Suva. The five names will be published in *The Fiji Times* tomorrow.

■ Watch videos of last night's Kaila! Star Search semi-final on *The Fiji Times* online Facebook page.

Parties defend reports

'Document open for viewing, reporting'

By TEVITA VUIBAU

POLITICAL parties have defended the rights of media organisations to report on the Office of the Auditor-General's (OAG) reports after criticisms of *The Fiji Times* reporting on the same.

Their comments come after Public Accounts Committee chairman and Government MP Ashneel Sudhakar launched a verbal salvo against the newspaper at a press conference on Wednesday night for allegedly "undermining the role of the PAC through their reporting".

The PAC is responsible for scrutinising the OAG reports and gathering further comments on anomalies noted by the OAG.

Mr Sudhakar said in some cases

the PAC findings absolved civil servants of any wrong doing. But yesterday, leaders of political parties voiced their disagreements with the comments saying the Auditor-General's reports were a public document open to viewing by the people and reporting by the media.

National Federation Party leader Professor Biman Prasad said *The Fiji Times* and other media organisations were doing justice to the people by highlighting the issues raised by the OAG in a public document.

Social Democratic Liberal Party leader Sitiveni Rabuka echoed similar sentiments saying the OAG reports were public documents and there could be no prejudice involved in the media reporting it.

Fiji Labour Party leader Mahendra Chaudhry said the media had the right to report directly from the Auditor-General's annual reports without having to wait for the Public Accounts Committee to complete its own scrutiny of these reports.

Fiji United Freedom Party leader Jagath Karunaratne said reporting on the OAG's reports were in fact the utmost service that a media organisation could possibly do for the public in opening their eyes about the Government they have chosen and elected with trust and faith.

■ More reactions on Pages 2 and 3

What do you think?



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