



Ministry of Lands & Mineral Resources

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25th May, 2017

Hon. Ashneel Sudhakar
Chairman, Public Accounts Committee
Parliament of Fiji
Government Buildings
SUVA

Dear Sir,

Re: Response to Supplementary Questions

Reference is made to your letter dated 24th April, 2017 on the above captioned subject.

Please find attached the Ministry's response to queries from the Public Accounts Committee.

With Respect,

Malakai Finau (Mr)
Acting Permanent Secretary For Agriculture and
Permanent Secretary For Lands And Mineral Resources

<p style="text-align: center;">PAC SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MLMR MANAGEMENT RESPONSE</p>
<p>The Audit noted that the Ministry was provided legal advice in 2011 which indicated that State is the rightful owner of dredged sand material and that the sale and use of sand material for commercial and development purposes can be determined by the Minister of Lands or the Director of Lands.</p> <p>The Audit could not confirm as there was no evidence to indicate this whether the Ministry together with other relevant agencies have explored or developed any structured approach on the sale and/or utilisation of sand excavated from the dredging of the rivers.</p> <p>From information gathered and sited during the audit and by using the special rate of \$4.00 per cubic meter approved by Cabinet in 1997, the audit determined that substantial revenue could be derived from the excavated sand if managed appropriately. The market rate may be substantially higher than \$4.00 per cubic meter used in the calculation.</p> <p><u>Audit Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need for proper and structured approach to proper management and utilization of sediments excavated from the dredging of the rivers. ▪ PROVIDE STATUS UPDATE OF THE ABOVE. 	<p>The Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources will work with the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that a proper structured approach is implemented for the proper management of sediments excavated from the dredging of rivers.</p>