

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Volume 2: Audit Report on the General Administration Sector Audit for 2015 Accounts

1. Part A: FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Please provide general comments on the following:

11.1 Audit Opinion

The breakdown of the variance is reflected in the monthly reconciliations which comprises of the following:-

Extra Debits -		681.00
Adjustment by MOE-		<u>784, 441.06</u>
		785, 122.06
Less: Unpresented Cheques-	52, 657.06	
Extra Credit (Direct Deposits)-	<u>6, 087.54</u>	<u>58, 744.60</u>
Variance		<u>726, 377.46</u>

11.2 Statement of Receipts and Expenditure

There was slight increase in the Revenue Collection as the Fine Enforcement Unit (FEU) staff were successful in recovering some of the arrears.

There was decrease in the total expenditure because:-

- We did not have to pay for the vessel hire for the year's Island Court Sittings;
- There was less Capital Purchase; and
- Capital construction did not take place, especially Lautoka High Court and the Relocation of Ba Magistrate's Court.

11.3 Appropriation Statement

Of the \$12, 690, 725 which was unutilised, capital construction was the major funds not utilised which was \$9, 686, 916. Lautoka High Court Extension was one of them which had \$7, 000, 000 provision, the Relocation of Ba Magistrate's Court which was worth \$1, 000, 000 and the Upgrading of Existing Court Complexes which was \$1, 430, 367. Operating Funds Unutilised was \$1, 320, 618 out of which the Established staff were \$970, 259 as some posts were not filled.

11.4 Trust Fund Account Statement of Receipts & Payments

There is no issue here as no irregularity was noted by the Auditors.

2. **PART B: AUDIT FINDINGS**

Please provide an update on the following:-

11.5 Anomalies noted in Main Trust Fund Account

The breakdown of the variance of \$726, 377 was stated in the reconciliation as mentioned at (11.1).

The Ministry of Economy still has not provided the monies which they had adjusted vide Journal Voucher despite the Department writing to them. All relevant documents were provided but still to date we have still not received any positive response from them.

The Department has a ledger where the balances ties up with the FMIS balances. It is only the actual reconciliations which is behind i.e. the detailed breakdown of monies owed by the Department and to whom is not stated. These reconciliations had not been done by the staff who were employed by the Department in the 1980's. Had they done their job we would not be in the situation we are currently in.

Nevertheless, we are trying our best to carry out the reconciliations but it is not an easy task. The reconciliations are behind by 24 years and it is quite difficult to complete the backlog. The current staff are trying their best and to date they have managed to complete the reconciliations till 31st December 1993.

The Department intends to employ extra staff as a project to carry out the reconciliations but because of lack of office space this project could not be implemented.

11.6 Significant Arrears of Revenue

As mentioned in the previous years, the Department does not have the authority nor the control over the execution process as this is mainly vested with the Police department. However, the Department has been working closely with the Police Department through our Fine Enforcement Unit in the collection of the outstanding arrears.

It is envisaged that by the end of this year, the outstanding arrears will significantly reduce due to the new Land Transport Authority (LTA) Amendment Act 2017 which requires that by 17th April, 2017 any pending Traffic Infringement Notice case in court including those yet to be registered are deemed to be withdrawn. These cases therefore will be returned to LTA.

11.7 Long Outstanding Balance in Operating Trust Fund Account

Adjustments have been made in this Operating Trust Fund Account in April 2017 amounting to \$153, 620.56. The current balance in this account to date has reduced to \$13, 046.65. This will be verified and adjusted in due course.

The monies in this account had accumulated over the years which was mainly for photocopy charges and other funds which should have been receipted in the Revenue Allocation in the first place.

FNPF and other premium accounts are credited to different allocations which are paid out correctly and in a timely manner.

11.8 Unutilized Capital Budget

The Department is working closely with the Ministry of Economy's new Construction Implementation Unit (CIU) to facilitate the projects.

The CIU is managing the projects for the Judicial Department directly with the Ministry of Economy (Procurement, Strategic Planning & Budget office) and liaising directly for Project Administration to ensure that the capital projects are implemented and funds utilized appropriately within the given fiscal year.

The MoIT were previously handling the two major projects for Judicial Department but now these projects has been transfred to the CIU.

New Lautoka High Court Complex

Part A of the tender has been completed for Design Documentation, Planning and Permit Approvals.

Part B of the Tender for Construction is to be facilitated by CIU.

New Ba Court

The Tender for appointment of a Lead Consultancy for the New Ba Court has been withdrawn by Procurement Office due to the lapse in the validity period of the bids. A new Tender will be advertised for appointment of a Lead Consultant for Provision of Design, Documentation, Project Supervision and Managemnt Services of the new Ba Court at Badrau Subdivision Clopcott.

A new Ba court tender will be facilitated by CIU.

Rural and Small Town Court Houses

The Vunidawa and Taveuni Court House Upgrade Projects has been completed by the Contractors. These Courts are now fully functional and operational.

Upgrading of Existing Court Complexes.

Various Upgrade and Extension work was undertaken to our Court Houses around the country to bring up the standard of the Court facilities and also accommodate the increase in operational needs of the Courts.

Of the \$2.5 million allocated for the Upgrading of Existing Court Complexes we managed to utilise 57% (\$1,069,632.81) of the total funds within the fiscal year.

- **Government Building Renovations**

Renovations and upgrade works to High Court # 1, 5,6 and 9, Hon CJ's Chamber, Drivers Room, Hon CJ's Carport, Staircase at Family Court wing, COA and High Court Civil wing, High Court Library fitouts, Floor tiling ground level of High Court wing, New Aluminium Windows, Waterproofing works at COA and MCT Civil Registry. Total Project Costs at \$322,997.00

- **Alteration and Extension of Nadi Court House**

Construction works at Basement Level for 1 new Magistrates Chamber, 1 Family Court Room, Assessors Room, Stats Room, Baliff Office, Exhibit/ Filing Room, Storage Room, Public waiting area and Public Convenience for Male/ Female. Construction works at at Upper Level for new Magistrates Court Room # 3 and Chamber, new Secretary's Room, Family Court Registry and new Public Convenience Male/Female . Total Project Costs at \$ 358,156.00. Additional Renovation Work for Cell Block and Roof at \$82,043.75.00

- **Renovation Works at Lautoka High Court**

Renovation & Upgrade Works to the existing Lautoka High Court Public Washroom Male/Female, Staff Washroom Male/Female and High Court Library, Upgrade Ceiling & painting for 2 Court Rooms and Tiling Works, Upgrade of Roofing and Painting Exterior Painting at Lautoka High Court, Tiling of Passage Corridor and painting works at Lautoka High Court. Total Project Costs at \$159,157.00

- **Renovation Work at Rakiraki Court House**

Total Project Costs at \$50,906.00

- **Renovation Works at Tavua Court House**

Total Project Costs at \$49,879.74