

## Ministry Comments – DAM Report 2015

Audit Query no: 7.2.1

**Table 7.4**

Payee	Payment Details	Anomalies	Ministry's Response
Minister	Chq no.32088 dated 19/1/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Payment of Minister's daily allowance including the date of departure and arrival on official overseas travel;</li> <li>❖ Overpayment of \$500 to the Hon Minister as 'daily allowance'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Ministry acknowledges the error made in the calculation and payment of daily allowance to the Hon Minister during his official visit to PNG from 20 to 28 January 2015 to attend the MSG Meeting.</li> <li>❖ There was a misunderstanding on the effective date of the travel, hence the overpayment of daily allowance;</li> <li>❖ <b>The Hon Minister has reimbursed the overpaid amount of \$500.</b></li> </ul>
Minister	Chq.no.32500 dated 10/4/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Hon PM approved Hon. Minister's travel to a Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta from 20 to 23 before proceeding to Shanghai, China for medical checkup.</li> <li>❖ Hon Minister travelled to Seoul, Xiamen and Shenzhen on the margins of this trip was not part of the Cabinet approval, hence, payment of per diem was unauthorized.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Ministry acted on the approval granted by the Hon PM for Hon. Minister's trip, including the medical checkup in Shanghai.</li> <li>❖ Although the approval granted was not specifically for these trips, the Hon. Minister advises that it was more economical for him to have meetings with counterparts and PRC Government Officials to discuss key bilateral matters between the two countries while in China. The visit also included meeting with potential investors being assessed and recommended by the Mission for an audience with the Hon Minister.</li> </ul>

		<p>❖ Hon. Minister's travel schedule was departure from Nadi on 15/4/15 and return on 30/4/15. However, Minister returns to Fiji on 3/5/15.</p>	<p>Further to the above and as confirmed by Ambassador Filimoni Kau, the Hon Minister attended two meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2015. The meetings are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meeting Wook Lee – Chairman of W Foundation</li> <li>2. Meeting with Chairman Lee Sang Sung of GIMCO and President Kim Cheolmin of Seotaegu Energy.</li> </ol> <p>No approvals or details are available for Xiamen or Shenzhen.</p> <p>❖ The returning date to Fiji was amended in response to the number of meetings that was organized for the Hon Minister on the margin of this trip.</p>
Minister	Chq.no.32350 dated 6/7/17	<p>❖ The Hon Minister travelled to PNG from 6 to 13 September 2015 to attend the Pacific Islands Forum meeting.</p> <p>❖ However, the payment of daily allowance includes date of arrivals, resulting in overpayment of the daily allowance by \$250</p>	<p>❖ Approval was granted by the Hon. PM for the said trip, departing on 5<sup>th</sup> and returning on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015</p> <p>❖ <b>The Hon Minister has reimbursed the overpaid amount of \$250</b></p>
Minister	Chq.no.32867 dated 6/7/17	<p>❖ Hon PM granted approval for Hon Minister to attend an International Conference in Addis Ababa on <b>13 to 15 July 2015</b> before proceeding to Shanghai China for his medical checkup;</p>	<p>❖ The required approval from the Hon. PM was obtained for Hon Minister to attend the Conference in Addis Ababa, including the medical check-up in Shanghai, China.</p>

		<p>❖ Minister travelled to Seoul for 6 nights (20-24 July 2016) and New York for 4 nights (29/7/15 to 02/8/15). This was not approved by Cabinet;</p> <p>❖ Payment of perdiem while on medical checkup in Shanghai;</p> <p>❖ Overpayment of daily allowance to Hon. Minister by \$500 as it includes both the departure and arrival date.</p>	<p>❖ Although the six [6] nights spent by the Hon Minister in Seoul was not in the Cabinet approval, it is confirmed by the Fiji Mission in ROK through Ambassador Filimoni Kau that the Hon Minister attended a series of meetings from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2015 in Seoul, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meeting with ROK Minister for Foreign Affairs</li> <li>2. Meeting with KOICA Vice President</li> <li>3. Meeting with Korean Air President</li> <li>4. Meeting with DG Ministry of Strategic and Finance</li> <li>5. Meeting with Global Green Growth Institute</li> <li>6. Meeting with Green Climate Fund Executive Director</li> <li>7. Briefing with the Mission staff</li> </ol> <p>No details are available for New York.</p> <p>❖ Although the primary intent of the visit to Shanghai was for medical check-up, the Hon Minister continues to officially engage with Government Officials and representatives from other relevant stakeholders in China to discuss important bilateral issues and business/investment interests in Fiji. In light of this and considering that approval already being made for the trip, the payment of per diem is justifiable.</p> <p>❖ <b>The Hon Minister has reimbursed the overpaid amount of \$500.</b></p>
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Minister	Chq.no.33149 dated 3/9/15	❖ The Hon. Minister is not entitled to daily allowance on the date of departure and date of arrival on official overseas travel, hence, the Ministry overpaid the Minister for his daily allowance by \$500	❖ <b>The Hon Minister has reimbursed the overpaid amount of \$500</b>
Minister	Chq.no.33196 dated 15/9/15	<p>❖ The Hon. PM granted approval for the Hon Minister to attend the 2015 UNGA and associated meetings in New York from 22 September to 3 October 2015.</p> <p>❖ Hon Minister travelled to Seoul for 2 days from 4 to 6 October 2015 which was not approved by Cabinet.</p>	<p>❖ The required approval by the Hon PM was obtained for Hon. Minister to proceed on this trip as per copy of the approval.</p> <p>❖ For the two days [4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015] which was not approved by Cabinet, the Hon Minister was engaged in meetings organized by the Fiji Mission in Korea as confirmed by Ambassador Filimoni Kau. The following meetings was attended by the Hon Minister :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ROK Pics [SOM] briefing.</li> <li>2. Meeting with Hon Consul Chang Soon-heung.</li> <li>3. Meeting member of Parliament Uihwa, Chung.</li> </ol>
Commissar Viagens E Turismo LTDA	Chq no. 539 dated 20/02/2015 Chq no.540 dated 20/02/2015	❖ Fiji Embassy Brazil made a double payment of air ticket for the Ambassador amounting F\$11,650.36 on 20/02/2015. The Airline Company did not refund the double payment.	❖ The company-Commissar Viagens E Turismo LTDA has made the refund and has been received by the Mission [Brazil] vide Mission's bank statement dated 29/06/2016.refer Bank statement attached.

**Audit Query no: 7.2.3**

QUERY	DETAILS OF ANOMALIES	MINISTRY'S COMMENTS
Revenue Collected by overseas Missions	The overseas Missions are using revenue generated for its day to day operations. The revenues are not deposited into the consolidated fund account.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ The Ministry's Headquarters ONLY remit funds to Missions by lessening amount of revenue been collected by Mission in the previous period.</li><li>❖ The Ministry can only reflect current years [2015] administration fees into the current period.</li><li>❖ If we need to clear past years administration fees collections then adjustments can only be done to Equity allocations.</li><li>❖ However, the new posting format been imposed in 2016 should reflect revenue collected into revenue allocation.</li></ul>