



STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

REVIEW REPORT ON THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT'S 2012, 2013 AND 2014 ANNUAL REPORTS



**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
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CHAIRMAN’S FOREWORD

On behalf of the Social Affairs Standing Committee, I am pleased to present the Committee report on the assessment made to the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment’s 2012 to 2014 Annual Reports.

The Ministry is responsible for the formulation and implementation of Local Government, Urban Planning, Housing and Environment policies and programs. The Ministry also oversees the operations of the National Fire Authority, Housing Authority and Public Rental Board.

On 8th May, the Committee deliberated and reviewed the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment’s 2012 to 2014 Annual Reports and a presentation was made by the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Joshua Wycliffe.

The Committee noted that in 2014, the Ministry was recognised for its achievements at the Service Excellence Awards on three (3) major sectors which includes the good governance sector, economic development sector and socio-cultural sector.

The Committee also took note and applauds the Ministry’s achievements in 2014.

- The Construction of accommodation units for rural women vendors at the Suva, Nadi and Sigatoka markets;
- Introduction of the “First Home Owners” Grant aimed at assisting Fijians, own their first residential house; and
- Squatter upgrading projects, re-location and integrated income generating projects.

In 2014, the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment had received a total of 180 applications on the First Home Buyers initiative and out of the 180 First Time Home Buyers, 55 applicants were Males, 11 were Females and 114 combined with a total budgetary allocation of \$10million.

While scrutinizing the reports, the Committee noted that the three consecutive years from 2012 to 2014 was very challenging for the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment but despite all the challenges, the overall performance of the Ministry was commendable, however the Committee has put forward a few findings and recommendations which could enhance effective and efficient service delivery.

In closing, I take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Chairperson, Hon. Veena Bhatnagar and the Members, Hon. Salote Radrodoro, Hon. Ruveni Nadalo, Hon. Anare T. Vadei and alternate Members, Hon. Samuela Vunivalu and Hon. Alivereti Nabulivou for their contribution towards the scrutiny and formulation of this bipartisan Report.

With these words, on behalf of the Committee I commend this Report to Parliament.



Hon. Viam Pillay
Chairperson of the Social Affairs Standing Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs has conducted a review of the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment 2012, 2013 and 2014 Annual Reports and has few recommendations to be brought to the attention of the House:

Recommendation 1

Taking into consideration the tabling of 2012 to 2014 Annual Reports in 2018, the Committee recommends that in future there should be more timely presentation of Annual Reports.

Response from the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment

The Ministry fully agrees and is in the process of hiring specialists to drive the process – however, in the interim the Ministry has put together a special task force to complete the reporting process without delay.

Recommendation 2

Strengthening of Human Resource policies and recruitment processes to enhance workforce planning and succession planning within the Ministry.

Response from the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment

The Ministry has since, worked closely with the Civil Services Reform Unit and will also (additionally) appoint a senior Operations Manager to strengthen the workforce and succession planning processes.

Recommendation 3

Improvement of monitoring and collection process of rental arrears.

Response from the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment

This process has already commenced and a shared services model for collections is being employed and has started to show results. The Ministry will continue to strengthen the collection process through appropriate reporting and follow up systems.

Recommendation 4

Improvement of systems and processes to reduce processing time of applications such as on rezoning, subdivision, building development approvals, taxi base approvals etc.

Response from the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment

The Ministry has initiated and will complete a restructure with a strong impetus towards service delivery – the restructure will allow more personnel and systems (e-tracking) that are being employed to have live (real-time) updates on the application process and track their progress path.

The Ministry will provide updates as the program progresses.

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment are responsible for the formulation and implementation of Local Government, Urban Planning, Housing and Environment policies and programs. The Ministry also has responsibilities for the National Fire Authority, Housing Authority and Public Rental Board.

The Parliament at its sitting on 5th April, 2018 referred the 2012 to 2014 Annual Reports of the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs to scrutinize.

The review of the three (3) mentioned Annual Reports involved consultation, collation of information and data and a presentation from the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment which assisted the Committee members to fully understand the Ministry's operations, achievements and challenges encountered with those financial years.

On 8th May 2018, the Committee convened a meeting with the Officials from the Ministry to deliberate on its 2012 to 2014 Annual Reports. The discussions were basically focused on the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment's administration and gender breakdown, organization structure, functions, policies/programs in place, budgetary allocation, achievements and challenges faced.

The review report on the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment 2012 to 2014 Annual Reports contains the Committee recommendation, Committee findings, gender analysis and the conclusion.

FINDINGS

The Committee after its scrutiny for the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment 2012 to 2014 Annual Reports in consultation with the Ministry's management and identified the following findings:

1. Presentation of Annual Reports

The Committee noted that the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment was not submitting their Annual Reports on time. It will be effective to deliberate and scrutinise on real-time reports as it will have current issues which also justifies the budgetary utilisation level for that financial year.

2. Human Resources

The Committee noted that the delay submission of annual reports was caused by the Ministry's engagement on the civil services reforms as well as the delays in the recruitment process of its human resources who would be available to prepare these Annual Reports.

In this regard, there is a need for the Ministry to strengthen its human resources policies and recruitment processes to enhance workforce planning and succession planning within the Ministry.

3. Rental Arrears

The Committee noted that rental arrears collection was a challenge in those three years and the Ministry is responsible for the collection of those arrears. It is a need for the Ministry to improve its monitoring and collection processes to address this recurring issue in those three consecutive years.

4. Processing time of Applications

The Committee noted that in 2014, the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment had reviewed its legislations and these includes the Ozone Depleting Substances Act, Endangered and Protected Species Act, Local Government Act, Town and Country Planning Act and work on the process in the formulation of the National Housing Act.

Given the captioned issue, the Committee appreciates that the Ministry could consider in its review to further improve its systems and processes to reduce processing time of applications on the aspects of rezoning, subdivision, building development approvals, taxi base approvals and other approvals that are administered by the Ministry.

GENDER ANALYSIS

Gender is a critical dimension to parliamentary scrutiny. Under Standing Order 110 (2) where a committee conducts an activity listed in clause (1), the Committee shall ensure full consideration will be given to the principle of gender equality so as to ensure all matters are considered with regard to the impact and benefit on both men and women equally.

In 2014, the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment received a total of 180 applications on the First Home Buyers initiative program and out of the 180 First Time Home Buyers, 55 applicants were Male, 11 were Female and 114 were from both genders with a total budgetary allocation of \$10million.

CONCLUSION

The review of the Annual Reports from the year 2012 to 2014 for the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment was conducted in a comprehensive manner which covered all the required aspects.

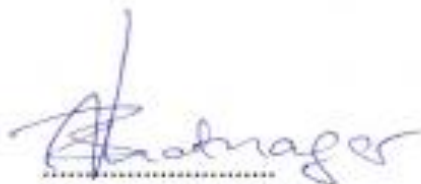
The response from the Ministry was acceptable and they managed to clarify on the issues raised by the Members during their presentation. Moreover, given the time that has lapsed, the Committee has still made a few recommendations for appropriate actions.

Overall, the Standing Committee on Social Affairs acknowledges and commends the Ministry on its performance.

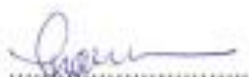
SIGNATURES OF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE



Hon. Viam Pillay
(Chairperson)



Hon. Veena Bhatnagar
(Deputy Chairperson)



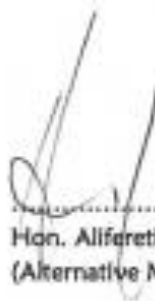
Hon. Salote Radrodoro
(Member)



Hon. Anare T. Vadei
(Member)



Hon. Ruveni Nadalo
(Member)



Hon. Alifereti Nabulivou
(Alternative Member)

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronyms	Meaning
SO	Standing Orders

APPENDIX 2: POWERPOINT PRESENTATION BY THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT AND WRITTEN RESPONSES TO COMMITTEE'S QUESTIONS

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

RESPONSE TO ANNUAL REPORT FROM 2012-2014

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

DATED 08/05/2018

2012
1. What were the total consolidated rental arrears as at 2012 (refer to page 8)?

In 2012, the total arrears is \$34,986,110.47

2. With reference to page 12, on the allocation of \$10 million for Waita City Housing Progress, what is the progress of this project and further elaborate on the allocation of funds?

- The Government gave a \$10 million grant for the Waita City Housing Project. Out of this, \$8 million was budgeted for the construction of the regional road and realignment of the Waitabuku water main and \$2 million was allocated of the Housing Authority Social Housing Policy.
- As of 7th May 2018, Housing Authority has design phase for Waita City Phase [200 acres]

3. Reference to page 12, please elaborate on how many people benefited from the Tacirua East, Nepani and Raiwai Housing projects.

Total number of people benefitting for the Tacirua East, Nepani and Raiwai PRB Estate is 2,055 households or 10,260 people. The breakdown of residential lot or rental housing units is shown in Table 1 below

Table 1: Total Number of People Benefitting from Tacirua East, Nepani and Raiwai PRB

Number	Housing Project	Total Number of Housing Units/Lots	Number household benefitted	Total Number of People Benefitting
1	Tacirua East Stage 2	1071	1071	5,355
2	Nepani	771	771	3,855
3	Raiwai PRB	210	210	1,050
	TOTAL	2055	2,055	10,260

2013

1. Percentage of collection

The average collection rate has improved to an average 75% compared to pre 2009 standing at an average 65%.

2. What has been the occupancy rate for Lagilagi Housing from 2013 to date?

- ▶ The total housing units in Lagilagi Housing Development is 152. The occupancy for Lagilagi Housing Development from 2013 to date is 81. The remaining 71 housing units of which 40 units was completed on March 2018. The remaining 31 unit is 75% completed.

3. The Auditors Report in 2012 and 2013 recorded an unreconciled variance of \$582,764 and \$358,893 respectively. Please explain.

- ▶ In relation to the qualification pertaining to the Department of Environment Main Trust Fund Account, the Ministry with assistance from FMIS had reconciled the Main Trust reconciliation from 2012 to July 2017. The accumulated variance of \$358,893 between the Departments Trust Fund account general ledger balance and the bank statement balance, the Ministry will submit the submission to Ministry of Economy to rectify the variance which had resulted from prior year's mispostings and adjustments. Also, will be liaise with the Westpac Bank to provide the Bank Statements prior from 2012 to undertake the reconciliation from the inception of the Main Trust Fund Account
- ▶ The Ministry will provide an update to the committee on the clearance of variance by end of May 2018.
- ▶ Measures taken to avoid the issue raised again
 1. Provision of FMIS training for Accounts Personnel
 2. In house capacity building training to motivate staffs on procedures and processes pertaining to reconciliations
 3. All reconciliations prepared are verified and signed copy of the reconciliation is submitted to Ministry of Economy
 4. All underline reconciliations are to be prepared on a monthly basis
 5. Closely monitor the works of the subordinates to ensure the procedures and processes are adhered to at all times.
 6. The Ministry is closely working with Ministry of Economy to adjust this variance

2013 - continue

4. What was the gender composition from 2012, 2013?

- 2012 there is not record with Registry as advised that the computer which contained the information for 2012 and back had crashed.

- 2013 [68 Male and 57 Female]

5. Why has there been staff turnover in 2013?

- ▶ A total of 6 staff
- ▶ DLG – 1 Secretary [Cristiana Ikanidrodoro (Resigned – Migration)]
- ▶ DTCP – 3 Project Officers [Sophie & Raijieli (Resigned – new employment with Min. of Itaukei Affairs and Ronileshwar Narayan (Resigned – new employment with Min. of Labour)]
- ▶ DOE – 1 Director [Jope Davetanivalu ((Resigned – new employment with SPREP)]
- ▶ DOH – 1 Engineer [Reene Duguivalu (Resigned – AusAid Scholarship)]

2014

1. What is the progress of the mangrove replanting project in Navitilevu Bay, Ra. (refer to page 16)?

- ▶ The replanting project was an outcome of an ADB funded project on 'Coral Triangle Initiatives' Project implemented in the Province of Ra. Nakorotuba, Rakiraki, Saivou, and Nalawa. Navitilevu Bay was identified as a demonstration site.
- ▶ The project outcome focused on improving management capabilities of coastal and marine stakeholders, empowering communities in applying best practices in ecosystem based management, and having legal and regulatory frameworks for institutionalizing effective integrated coastal management and ecosystem based management framework established by government.
- ▶ The replanting of mangroves along the degraded coastlines of Navitilevu Bay was aimed at helping communities restore the mangrove ecosystem, revive lost species and re-build resilience to climate change. Apart from the replanting, the project also assisted three nearby communities and their local primary school in setting up mangrove nurseries to help with on-going replanting by communities.
- ▶ The village Yaubula Management Committee was tasked to monitor the activities and report back to the Integrated Coastal Management Committee that was also set up under the project. The project was supported by Conservation International, an NGO through their replanting program in Vitawa, Togovera and Nasau.

2. On page 15, please elaborate more on the implementation of the new species included under CITES.

- ▶ The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an agreement developed between governments to ensure that international trade does not threaten a species survival. As the trade in wild animals and plants crosses borders between countries, the effort to regulate it requires international cooperation.
- ▶ CITES is applied to three Appendix-listed species. Appendix II lists species are allowed to be traded for commercial purpose but are strictly regulated while Appendix I lists species prohibited from any commercial trade.
- ▶ Fiji implements the CITES objectives through the national legislations **Endangered and Protected Species (EPS) Act 2002** and its subsequent regulation of 2003. The Act regulates any trade (export, import, re-export) of any species that are listed in the Appendices of CITES.
- ▶ The listing of sharks under Appendix II would mean that any trade in sharks whether dead or alive, as derivative or parts is allowed for commercial purposes but needs to be strictly regulated under national law. CITES is regulated through a permitting process administered by the Ministry of Environment under the EPS Act. The Act also requires any trader whether it's a person or company must register in order to trade in the species.

2014 - continue

3. What is the progress of the UGMAP earmarked for New Town Development i.e. Keiyasi, Nabouwalu and Seaqaqa (refer to page 17)?

❶ Keiyasi New Town Development

- Zoning Plan in 2014 and land acquired in 2015
- Currently under Planning & Design Documentation Phase.
- Subdivision Scheme Plan for Keiyasi has been approved in 2017
- Engineering Plans is currently being prepared with expected completion by July-August 2018 whilst the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is expected to be completed June-July 2018.
- Civil and construction works will commence thereafter.

❷ Nabouwalu New Town Development

- Zoning Plan in 2014 and land acquired in 2015
- Subdivision Scheme Approval in 2017 and Engineering Plans & Design in 2018.
- Groundbreaking and civil and construction works is expected to commence soon, awaiting Government Tender Board decision.

❸ Seaqaqa New Town Development

- Zoning Plan in 2014 and land acquired in 2015
- Land acquired in 2015 and lease agreement to be finalized by iTaukei Lands Trust Board (TLTB)
- Issue of sitting tenants on land earmarked for Bus Station and Market have also been a contributing factor to slow-processing of lease by TLTB.
- ▶ Note that all land for New Town Development (Keiyasi, Nabouwalu & Seaqaqa) had been acquired for processing in 2015. Documentations will only proceed upon issuance of lease to the Ministry.

2014 - continue

4. What is the progress of the sports integrated complexes in Vunidawa, Seaqqa and Rakiraki (government capital projects)?

- Nadi – Lautoka corridor road widening;
- New Nausori Hospital;
- Regional Police Academy;
- Note that all sports integrated complexes are projects by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister. MLGHE's role is through DTCP as facilitator in terms of subdivision approvals, all of which were granted in 11/12/2012. DTCP is also a major stakeholder to the building development process and by 2014, the Ministry of Youth and Sports were to submit concept plans as well as work on the required documents for compliance to subdivision conditions such as EIA.

Nadi – Lautoka corridor road widening:

This is the task of Fiji Roads Authority and MLGHE's contribution to the widening program is through planning and design process, where DTCP furnishes plans and information for consideration in the design.

New Nausori Hospital:

Rezoned in 2012 from Residential 'A' to Civic – Hospital, the Outline Building Development (Concept Plans) was for the New Nausori Hospital, valued at \$30million and Consented to in Principle in 28/01/2015

Regional Police Academy:

Considered in 2014 with further work needed. On 19/01/2013, the Director of Lands, as the consultants for the project were to furnish DTCP with a Concept Plan.

2014 - continue

5. On page 5, what is the progress of the amendment of the Local Government Act and whether the review includes 30% of women in the Council as mandated by CEDAW?

- ▶ a. Local Government Act Review final submissions have been prepared and key announcements on the way forward has been made during the 5th Municipal Local Government Forum held at the Albert Park, Suva in early March, 2018.
- ▶ b. The existing act made up of 15 parts with associated acts, by laws and regulations has been generally agreed to be repealed and replaced.
- ▶ c. The act review, as per records, shows that the act review has been a key reform, agreed by Councils and stakeholders from as early as 1990's
- ▶ d. Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment, had tasked the Local Government Committee to come up with possible terms of reference for the Act review in May, 2016.
- ▶ e. Following, in depth analysis and two rounds of preliminary consultations with Municipal Councils and stakeholders, the committee has forwarded terms of reference and observations to the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment in August, 2017. The terms of reference has been discussed at the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment and key announcements shall be made soon.

2014 - continue

6. What is the plan on the waste disposal management system for urban informal communities?

- ▶ The Ministry of Environment has been working with the Department of Local Government and the Rural Local Authorities to address the growing waste disposal problems. The Ministry has a draft an integrated waste management strategy for Fiji that it will be finalizing in the next month or so. The waste collection system is currently being trialed at 20 peri-urban and rural communities by the Department of Local Government. Depending of its effectiveness, this system could be replicated to other communities in Fiji.
- ▶ The Ministry of Environment is promoting the RRR (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) concept in communities to address the issue.

7. What is the total allocation for first home owners and how many people benefitted from this initiative?

- ▶ The total allocation for year 2014 is \$10 million.
- ▶ A total of 180 applicants benefitted from this initiative.
- ▶ The summary of the 180 applicants can be seen on the Table 2 below.

2014 - continue

Table 2: Number of First Home Owners benefitted from the First Home Owners Grant

		1st Time Homeowners Grant Summary for 2014		
	No	Total (\$)	Total (%)	
AVZ Bank				
1,000	9	45,000	2.05	
10,000	12	120,000	5.5	
Total	21	175,000	11.9	
Baroda				
1,000	3	10,000	0.7	
10,000	1	10,000	2.4	
Total	7	60,000	4.1	
BRBD Bank				
1,000	0	0	0	
10,000	1	10,000	0.7	
Total	1	10,000	0.7	
BSP Bank				
1,000	35	140,000	9.1	
10,000	14	140,000	9.1	
Total	49	380,000	19	
CDC Bank				
1,000	11	55,000	3.7	
10,000	15	150,000	10.3	
Total	26	305,000	13.9	
Housing Authority				
1,000	11	55,000	3.7	
10,000	60	600,000	40.5	
Total	71	655,000	44.6	
Westpac Bank				
1,000	1	35,000	1.7	
10,000	6	60,000	4.1	
Total	11	95,000	5.5	
Grand Total	180	1,470,000	100	
1,000 Grant	66	220,000	31.4	
10,000 Grant	114	1,140,000	77.6	
Grand Total	180	1,470,000	100	

Source: Department of Housing 2014

2014 - continue

8. What was the gender composition

Gender composition for the 180 applicants can be seen in the Table 3 below

Table 3: Gender Composition of First Home Buyers Beneficiaries

BANK	Male	Male & Female	Male	TOTAL
ANZ	6	15	1	22
BARODA	4	3	0	7
BRED	14	26	2	42
BSP	0	1	0	1
HFC	10	16	0	26
HA	21	43	7	71
WBC	0	10	1	11
TOTAL	55	114	11	180

Out of the 180 First Time Home Buyers, 55 applicants were Male, 11 were Female and 114 were of both gender.

9. What is the progress of the first home buyers grant program?

Since the inception of the First Home Buyers Grant in June 2014, a total of 1,481 First Home Buyers with total grant sum of \$11.735 million have been assisted under this scheme. Out of this, 862 first home buyers have been assisted through the \$10,000 grant for purchase the land and home construction and 619 First Home Buyers have been assisted with \$5,000.00 Grant for purchase their readily built residential home.

2014 - continue

10. Why is there a high turnover in the Special Administrator positions?

- ▶ a. As per Local Government Act-Cap 125 and policy of the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment Special Administrators are appointed by the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment.
- ▶ b. Appointment process and recommendation is managed by the Permanent Secretary Office and the appointment made in concurrence with the Minister responsible.
- ▶ c. Performance and general employment management are managed by the office of the Permanent Secretary.
- ▶ d. From 2014, there has been no changes terminations of Special Administrators and or Chief Executive Officers and review of three year performance is currently underway.

2014 - continue

11. On page 17, how many towns and city councils have access to GIS facilities?

- ▶ All municipal councils in Fiji have access to Geographical Information System (GIS) facilities by end of 2014, funded under the UPAP Implementation in empowering municipal councils.

12. Why wasn't EIA reports made available to the public? What is the cause of delay for the processing of EIA applications?

- ▶ Once the EIA report has been submitted to the processing authority, the EIA report must be made available at appropriate locations for inspection by the public during the review period as mandated under the Act.
- ▶ EIA reports are available for the general public outside the review period and the costs associated with the printing of the EIA report (per page) is listed in the Schedule 2 of the Environment Management (EIA Process) regulation 2007.
- ▶ Notices of the publication of the EIA report are usually given via radios or television stations and through newspapers that circulates in the area of the proposed development.
- ▶ There can be numerous factors contributing to the delays such as in some cases submissions made to the Ministry are incomplete, incorrect or may be invalid or consultants doing the EIA report are not registered with the Ministry which is a requirement under the Act.

2014 - continue

13. What is the progress of the formulation of the National Housing Act?

- ▶ The Department of Housing prepared a Cabinet Memorandum – Development of a National Housing Enabling Act and National Housing Board on the 21st May 2016.
- ▶ Housing Stakeholders Consultation Meeting was held on 13th September 2016 to discuss the Cabinet Memorandum.
- ▶ As part Cabinet Paper consultation process - The Ministry of Local Government wrote to the Office of the Solicitor General's Office on the 21st of September 2016 to seek their comments on the:
 - ▶ The process of formulation of the new Act; and
 - ▶ The Research Study on Fiji's Laws and Regulations that Impact on Housing sector performance.
- ▶ Meeting with the Solicitor General in November 2016, he assured the Department of Housing that he will peruse the Cabinet Memorandum because the Cabinet Paper has complicated issues that needs high-level of intervention.
- ▶ Are there any plans in place to review the Town and Country Planning Act, this is in terms of the public utilities structured within residential boundaries for new housing subdivisions and tenants restricted from constructing housing infrastructure over these utilities.

2014 - continue

13. What is the progress of the formulation of the National Housing Act?

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- ▶ Housing Stakeholders Consultation Meeting was held on 13th September 2016 to discuss the Cabinet Memorandum.
- ▶ As part Cabinet Paper consultation process - The Ministry of Local Government wrote to the Office of the Solicitor General's Office on the 21st of September 2016 to seek their comments on the:
 - ▶ The process of formulation of the new Act; and
 - ▶ The Research Study on Fiji's Laws and Regulations that Impact on Housing sector performance.
- ▶ Meeting with the Solicitor General in November 2016, he assured the Department of Housing that he will peruse the Cabinet Memorandum because the Cabinet Paper has complicated issues that needs high-level of intervention.
- ▶ Are there any plans in place to review the Town and Country Planning Act, this is in terms of the public utilities structured within residential boundaries for new housing subdivisions and tenants restricted from constructing housing infrastructure over these utilities.

2014 - continue

14. Are there any plans in place to review the Town and Country Planning Act, this is in terms of the public utilities structured within residential boundaries for new housing subdivisions and tenants restricted from constructing housing infrastructure over these utilities.

The Town Planning Act is under review and drafts sent to the Office of the Solicitor General in 2014 for Legal Drafting. Nationwide public and community awareness and consultation conducted from late 2015-2017 with itaukei communities in the 14-provinces from late 2017-2018. This is expected to be completed in June 2018.

Current regulations does not permit/allow construction over utility lines therefore any that is constructed is determined as an illegal development. The current penalties to illegal developments is \$1,000.00 whilst the proposed amendments incorporated in the review of town planning laws consists of a schedule to match the scope and nature of illegal development, commencing from \$25,000.00 and above.

15. Please explain on the 6 village housing schemes that has been written off.

- ▶ The Housing Authority considered and approved the written off six village housing scheme under Housing Authority Social Housing Policy in May 2014. The detail of village housing scheme assisted is listed in Table 4 below.
- ▶ The six village housing scheme had borrowed a housing loan for construction of
- ▶ Table 4 : Six Village Housing Scheme under Housing Authority Social Housing Policy

2014 - continue

Project	Housing Loan through Village Housing Scheme	Amount of loan paid and ratio to principal	Government Grant Utilized Amount (FJD)
Kalabo Village	Total Loan Amount: \$541,513.47 for construction of 7 concrete single house and 5 wood & iron dwelling with loan repayment of \$27,134 per annum over a period of 20 years with an interest rate of 11.5 %	\$905,326.97 [1.67]	\$127,475.71
Nawaka Village	Total Loan Amount: \$767,240.86 for construction of 13 concrete single house and village community hall with loan repayment of \$46,000.00 per annum over a period of 30 years with an interest rate of 11.5 %	\$1,544,192.62 [2.01]	\$43,729.66
Nasoso Village	Total Loan Amount: \$559,000.00 for construction of 12 concrete/wooden dwellings with loan repayment of \$30,714.16 per annum over a period of 20 years with an interest rate of 11.5 %	\$949,970.14 [1.69]	\$81,184.95
Nasomile Village	Total Loan Amount: \$145,032.00 for construction of 4x3 bedroom and 2x3 bedroom concrete single dwellings with loan repayment of \$18,133.00 per annum over a period of 25 years with an interest rate of 11.5 %	\$228,464.99 [1.71]	\$114,033.91
Nawaimaula Village	Total Loan Amount: \$179,572.00 for construction of 5x2 bedroom and larger dwelling with loan repayment of \$33,161.00 per annum over a period of 30 years with an interest rate of 11.5 %	\$363,792.13 [2.03]	\$52,836.96
Elavuka Village	Total Loan Amount: \$559,000.00 for construction of 6x3 bedroom with loan repayment of \$77,134.14 per annum over a period of 25 years with an interest rate of 11.5 %	\$942,478.96 [1.69]	\$170,623.05

Source: Department of Housing 2014

2014 - continue

16. What is the progress on the squatter settlement projects? How many people are benefitting from this project?

- The progress of the squatter settlement upgrading project and how many people are benefitting from this project is elaborated in Table 4 below
- Table 4: Progress of Squatter Settlement Upgrading Project and Number of People (678 people will benefit through the provisions of services [sealed road, sewer, water, fire hydrants, electricity and fully serviced residential lots and issuance of 99 years residential leases].)

Number	Project	Progress on the squatter settlement projects	Number of People Benefited
1	Ombar Settlement	100% G&D Construction Work Completed - sealed road - water - sewerage - fire hydrants - electricity - drainage	87
2	Orva Settlement	97.2% G&D Construction work completed - sealed road - water - sewerage - fire hydrants - electricity - drainage	102
3	Selousas	94% G&D Construction work completed - sealed road - water - sewerage - fire hydrants - electricity - drainage	87
4	Gakushi Central	100% G&D Construction Completed - paving of road - sewer line	247
5	Basemore Settlement	Subdivision Scheme Plan Engineering Plan Tender for G&D Construction Works	102
6	Makama	Subdivision Scheme Plan	87
7	Mamane	Project has suspended	0

2014 - continue

17. What is the progress on Waste Transfer Station (refer to page 16)?

- The proposed Location of the Transfer Station at Laqere was not agreed to by members of the adjacent local communities and therefore the Ministry of Environment has to consider looking for and acquiring an alternative site for the transfer station.

18. Why was 1,000 rubbish bins distributed to Nasinu residents when the problem was waste collection and disposal by the Council? What was the cost and why?

- Reason for the distribution of the Garbage Pans to ratepayers of Nasinu was under a solid waste management good practice initiative.
- The distribution has been seen as a successful project with ratepayers taking ownership of the program and using the pan to place kitchen waste on road side for collection.
- Collection system has improved with ratepayers taking ownership of kitchen waste management.

2014 - continue

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2014 - continue

21. How successful were the integrated agriculture squatter settlement program from 2012 to 2014?

- The success of the Integrated Agriculture and Squatter Resettlement Program from 2012 to 2014 is listed in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Success of the Integrated Agriculture and Squatter Resettlement Program from 2012 to 2014

Project	Success of the Integrated Agriculture and Squatter Resettlement Program
Lomaluvu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent Relocation of 7 squatter families from Jitu Estate, Nanuku and Wailea Settlement to Lomaluvu • Construction of 8 2 bedrooms house with solar lights and water tanks • Acquisition of 30 acres Agricultural lease • Purchase of Share of \$23,000 with Unit Trust
Vanukulu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of 200 acres of Agricultural lease • Construction of 1 2 bedroom wooden house • Relocation of one farmer from Lomaluvu to Vanukulu
Natvi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting of 10 acres of Sugar Cane • Planting of 100 Yel Tree with the expected maturity value of \$25 million • Acquisition of 15 acres of Agricultural lease • Purchase of 1.8 tonne car truck from Fiji Development Bank
Lomaluvu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Maumi Village under the ITaukei Affairs Act • Leasing of 10 acres Agricultural land • Community Saving of \$12,000 with Bank of Baroda

22. How effective is the enforcement of the Environment Management Act 2005?

Since last year, the Ministry of Environment has taken the necessary steps in enforcing EMA and the subsequent regulations. The Ministry is taking legal actions against the illegal operators (for gravel extraction, carrying out development activities without EIA approvals, dumping of waste, violating the conditions of the approvals) and is working closely with the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions. The Ministry is serious about enforcement of the EMA. The Ministry is putting in place SOPs. For the first time, four (4) officers of the Ministry are undertaking a 4 weeks Basic Prosecutions Course facilitated by the Office of the DPP. The Ministry has also been issuing Prohibition Notices to companies for non-compliance under the Environment Management Act 2005.

In addition to prosecution cases, there are at least 2 cases that are in front of the Environment Tribunal.

2014 - continue

23. What is the status of the Cuvu Squatter Settlement Upgrading Project (refer to page 14)?

Cuvu Settlement - 98% Civil Construction works completed - Road work is underway on Road 4 and 9 that lies within iTaukei land which has been acquired. Complete construction of four (4) Communal septic tanks and sewerage pumps and continuation of FEA electricity reticulation works which is near to full completion of the Project.

24. The Auditors Report in 2012, 2013 and 2014 recorded an unreconciled variance of \$582,764 and \$358,893 and \$593,940 respectively. Please explain.

- ▶ In relation to the qualification pertaining to the Department of Environment Main Trust Fund Account, the Ministry with assistance from FMIS had reconciled the Main Trust reconciliation from 2012 to July 2017. The accumulated variance of \$593,940 between the Departments Trust Fund account general ledger balance and the bank statement balance, the Ministry will submit the submission to Ministry of Economy to rectify the variance which had resulted from prior year's mispostings and adjustments. Also, will be liaise with the Westpac Bank to provide the Bank Statements prior from 2012 to undertake the reconciliation from the inception of the Main Trust Fund Account
- ▶ The Ministry will provide an update to the committee on the clearance of variance by end of May 2018.
- ▶ **Measures taken to avoid the issue raised again**
 1. Provision of FMIS training for Accounts Personnel
 2. In house capacity building training to motivate staffs on procedures and processes pertaining to reconciliations.
 3. All reconciliations prepared are verified and signed copy of the reconciliation is submitted to Ministry of Economy
 4. All underline reconciliations are to be prepared on a monthly basis
 5. Closely monitor the works of the subordinates to ensure the procedures and processes are adhered to at all times.
 6. The Ministry is closely working with Ministry of Economy to adjust this variance

APPENDIX 3: VERBATIM NOTES ON THE SUBMISSION MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

VERBATIM NOTES OF MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST WING), GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, THURSDAY 8th MAY, 2018 AT 2.10 P.M.

Submittee : Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment

In Attendance

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Joshua Wycliffe | - | Permanent Secretary |
| 2. Mr. Kolinio Bola | - | Director of Housing |
| 3. Mrs. Sandeep K. Singh | - | Director of Environment |
| 4. Mr. A. Khan | - | Director Local Government |
| 5. Mr. Nilesh Naidu | - | Manager HR/Administration |
| 6. Mr. Vula Shaw | - | Principal Accounts Officer Housing |
| 7. Mr. Ravind Prasad | - | Principal Town Planner |
| 8. Ms. Sainimili Bulai | - | Acting Senior Environment Officer |
| 9. Mr. Navin Chand | - | Manager Finance |

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- *Ni sa bula*, and a very good afternoon to all of you. Honourable Members, welcome back to the meeting. Today we have with us the representatives from the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment.

Basically thank you very much for availing yourselves to present to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs. On my left we have Honourable Anare Vadei and Honourable Rupeni Nadalo, on my right are the Honourable Samuela Vunivalu and Honourable Salote Radrodoro, The Secretariat team comprises of Susana and Savenaca Koro.

So, on behalf of the team we accord you a very warm welcome and we now move on with the presentation, please.

Today we will be deliberating or having a submission on the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Annual Reports.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Thank you, Deputy Chairperson and thank you, Honourable Members. Thank you for giving us the time and also an opportunity to come and place before you the responses to some of the questions raised.

So, there is a Power Point format that is up in the screen but as we go along, I will explain the responses that I have and be able to answer questions that I am asked. Sincere apologies, I just have the Director of Local Government, Mr. Azam Khan who has just joined us, he had a bit of an emergency so he was held up and he has just come and joined us.

So, I will be able to provide responses and I have with me some of my colleagues as well who will be able to pitch in.

The first question, if I am allowed to go through straight with it.

Deputy Chairperson, Question No.1, was about the consolidated rental arrears as at 2012?

The figures that I have been provided here was \$34,986,110.47.

This is from the Report of 2012 and as of Page 12 on the allocation of the \$10 million for Waila City Housing Progress, the question asked was about the progress made in this project and elaborate on the allocation of funds?

The Government gave a \$10 million grant for the Waila City Housing Project. Out of this, \$8 million out of that was budgeted for the construction of the regional road in Waila and realignment of the Wainibuku water main and \$2 million of that has been allocated to Housing Authority's Social Housing Policy.

MR. K. BOLA.- Madam Deputy Chairperson, to elaborate further on the \$2 million that was allocated to the Housing Authority Social Housing Policy, out of that \$2 million, Housing Authority had assisted more than 146 financially disadvantage housing customers with a total grant expended of \$1,024,191.99 that is the report that was submitted from Housing Authority.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- A kind reminder, after every question, if there are supplementary questions, Honourable Members please do raise your hands or do raise your voice or switch on your mics so that we know you have supplementary questions. Basically, that is the rule, after every question we do not want to answer every question and go back to supplementary questions at the end so basically after every question, if there are supplementary questions, Honourable Members please you are most welcome. Yes, Honourable Salote Radrodro.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Deputy Chairperson and thank you PS and the team for answering Question No. 1. But maybe the question was not made clear. I had asked that question just not for 2012, if you could also provide for 2013 and 2014, an accumulated, if that amount of \$34.9 million, what is the amount for 2013 and also what is the amount for 2014 as a cumulative arrears?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- So, we will get those details in writing and send it back.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Because the question is of statistical nature and obviously you can provide the answer later on.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Madam Deputy Chairperson, I raised that question I noticed that it was not reflected in the Annual Report; the cumulative arrears, it was not reflected in 2013 and 2014.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- One last detail, if we are able to go to Question No. 2, if there are no further questions on Question No. 1. As of 7th May that is yesterday, Housing Authority has designed phase for Waila City. The phase would cover 200 acres. Honourable Members, are there any questions on Question No. 2?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Just on the progress of the Waila City Housing. So, that is all you have for the progress as of yesterday?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- We have told how as of yesterday how that money has been allocated and what was the way forward as well.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you Honourable Members moving on.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Question No. 3 referring to Page 12 the question was to elaborate how many people benefitted from the Tacirua East, Nepani and Raiwai Housing projects. The total number of people benefiting from this whole thing is 2,055 households or approximately indicatively 10,260 people take an average of 5 per household. The breakdown of residential lots or rental housing units is shown on a tabulated form. I will just quickly read it out.

Number	Housing Project	Total Number of Housing Units/Lots	Number household benefitted	Total Number of People Benefitting
1	Tacirua East Stage 2	1,071	1,071	5,355
2	Nepani	771	771	3,855
3	Raiwai PRB	210	210	1,050
	TOTAL	2055	2,055	10,260

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- There would be still many more people are waiting on the list.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- I would not say many more except for Nepani where the civil design work is almost completion and then they can start selling it. Other than that, it is all completed as per my information.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Under this PRB provision, I mean they can ultimately own the unit or it is just for rental purposes?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Deputy Chairperson, a good question. What the Ministry is suggesting to the Government in this budget is have a rent to buy programme, that has not been done in Fiji so far but I have seen this elsewhere successfully. So the Ministry is suggesting to the Government in the upcoming budget that we do a testing model for one property where we do rent to buy scheme. So when they pay rent, part of the money goes towards the rent which is basically maintenance cost and the balance goes towards not a mortgaged deposit but a down-payment. So you are bringing down affordable housing even to the rental level and it has been favourably considered.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you PS. Any questions, Honourable Members?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Let me move on to 2013, the question is what is the percentage of collection? The average collection rate has improved to an average of 75 percent compared to pre-2009 standing at an average of 65. So we see a bit of a movement there from 65 to 75 percent rate of collection as we can see. Since there are no questions on that, I can move to two.

The question is, what has been the occupancy rate at Lagilagi Housing from 2013 to-date? The total housing units in Lagilagi Housing Development is 152, the occupancy of the Lagilagi Housing Development from 2013 to-date is 81.

The remaining 71 Housing Units of which 40 units have just been completed in March, they are allocating it right now. The Ministry is working with the service providers in being able to establish occupancy for these 40 units that have just been completed. The remaining 31 units are also almost completed, that is, 75 percent completed. So we hope to have this all done by the month of July.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- That means whatever has been completed has been let out, I mean they already occupied or you still have some?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- No, Ma'am, what is happening is, yes and no. Actually, the first phase is all done and the second phase 71 units are remaining out of which 40 has been completed and in the process of allocation. So the service provider is now putting people in place, we had different people who applied to the network. There is a service provider who will then allocate, so strictly speaking 40 units are being occupied since March.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have any idea of the number of applicants you received for Lagilagi Housing?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Unless the Director is able to answer that. We do not maintain the records, the records are maintained by the People Community Network (PCN) and we can find that out for you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- No that is okay, I thought you had it on hand. Because quite a number of times they have like a long list of applicants and then we cannot afford to accommodate everyone. So basically I thought if you were facing that challenge but you said that since the figures were with PCN, but somewhere along the line you would know whether that challenge is online.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- It is very, very true. Since this is a Social Committee what I can do is I can give you examples from a similar provider or some other situations. If we take Housing Authority, the waiting list is huge, it runs into thousands.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Yes.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- So I presume People Community Network will be the same. It is a very big excruciating social need; affordable housing. And that is just not Fiji, it is all over the world. The way we have tackled so far, we would in the coming budget increase such number of facilities, improve technologies and bring in technologies that will be faster and quicker.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- PS, sorry it is just out of the box. Maybe we have not asked that question but what about this similar sort of public housing provided, are you thinking of venturing out to the Western Division as well? I do not see many housing facilities in the Western Division. The other week, I visited Luvu Seaside and all those areas where people are living in squatters; a lot of squatter settlements. Is there something in the pipeline that you will be like....

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Yes, very much Madam. You are mentioning Luvu Seaside? We have squatter settlement projects that are going. The Director will be able to explain. We are giving out leases to people. There are also squatter resettlement town-wide, city-wide as well as informal settlement projects that are in place. The last time it was running into like 28 to 30 projects plus and I think we expect about 40 in total. I will let the Director briefly give you an update on that.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- One question that really upset me is when this lady comes and tells me, “so that means the Government will only assist those who have leases and already have properties and all. We, squatters were born there and will died there and still we have not had proper leases or anything to our credit. What about our land, it can be taken away?” I said. “it could be taken away for development purposes” but I do not know as yet. Thank you.

MR. K. BOLA.- Thank you, Madam Deputy Chairperson, to elaborate on the number of settlement upgrading programmes that we are currently undertaking for the Western Division. In the province of Nadroga, we have almost completed Cuvu State land settlement upgrading where we expect to issue about 151 leases. We are also acquiring *iTaukei* land opposite the junction of Cuvu and the Navoli Centre, we are currently acquiring the development lease there.

In terms of informal settlement upgrading along the Nadi to Sigatoka corridor, we almost completed the settlement upgrading for Ledrusasa where we expect to issue about 67 leases within this financial year. We also acquired a development lease in Korovuto which has been advertised for consultancy.

Between the Lautoka to Nadi corridor, we have a number of development leases issued through TLTB namely Delaivakarewa in Saweni, Nabare, Velovelo, Tukutora, Lovu Seaside, Field Four, Tore and also the biggest one is in Tomuka. So out of these, we have engaged a consultant to design a project management and construction supervision for Lovu Seaside, Field Four and Tomuka.

From the Nadi to Ba Ba corridor, we had acquired about three namely in Tauvegavega which is currently under consultancy and we are also advertising for consultancy for design project management for Saiyaro in Varavu and also in Valeiyaqoua. That is, Madam, in terms of settlement upgrading.

In terms of Public Rental Board (PRB) housing development, grants are being given to PRB for Simla for the construction of 48 rental units. Government have already given \$1 million last year and we are hoping to release the remaining grant of \$3.6 million just to cater for rental housing. In terms of Housing Authority development for public housing for provision of fully-serviced lots and mortgaged finance, there are about three major HA subdivisions in the Western Division namely Matavolivoli which is almost completed now. The one that is currently under construction is in

Tavakubu and also in Tavua which is also under construction now. So, basically that is what we have done so far, Madam.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you very much Mr. Bola. Actually, this is interesting. You had a question but I think Nadroga, it was answered, I could see. What do you mean by settlement upgrade? Does it involve electricity, water, roads and infrastructure? Can you just elaborate on that?

Madam Deputy Chairperson, basically informal settlement upgrading is onsite upgrading of settlements without relocations, with improvement of roads to seal standards (FRA standards), provision of water, sewerage, fire hydrants to service providers standards and electricity, proper drainage and provision of fully serviced residential lots. At the end of the development of civil work stages, eligible sitting tenants are issued with a 99-year residential leases whether it is on State land or *iTaukei* land.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- What about Crown land, that is basically coming under State land?

MR. K. BOLA.- Yes, Madam.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Because this particular people were talking about their Crown land and if they can have proper construction. So unless and until they have proper lease, can they have proper buildings and infrastructure?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- What is also good, Deputy Chairperson, is that they are able to access the first home buyers grant which is \$10,000. They are able to make use of that and get a brand new house built. As we have seen in social demographics, many of the informal settlements people do have fixed jobs so they are able to go to the banks and get loans. Housing Authority, there are many lenders today who are able to help them as well.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- If I am not wrong, but they have to have proper lease?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Yes. This lease we give is sufficient for them to access the grant.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- But majority of the squatters, this is a problem with them; the lease problem.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Yes.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Why?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- That is the basis.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, Honourable Vunivalu you have a question?

HON. S.B. VUNIVALU.- Thank you. Through you Deputy Chairperson, as you have mentioned that you do not have the list of those applying for the Lagilagi Housing but they are there. My question is, what criteria or how do you prioritise those requests for Lagilagi Housing?

MR. K. BOLA.- Honourable Vunivalu to answer your question Sir, the criteria is basically they have to be people's community serving members. One of the key criteria is for squatters to be eligible for Lagilagi Housing unit is basically they have to be a people's community serving members. Their income should be below the poverty threshold and they are *bona fide* residents of settlements around the Suva-Nausori corridor. Those are the three criterias but I can get from the provider the detailed criteria.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- It is more like a co-operative thing, People's Community Network has formed a co-operative among themselves. It has come in handy when, especially in the last year I have seen there are some people who have lost their houses to fire; fire victims but they have been lucky enough to be PCN members, so we have been able to push them in. I have known of two or three squatter families who are PCN members and who have been able to make use of this.

It is different to what Housing Authority does. Housing Authority gives you a land, serviced lot whereas this people already build it for you; PCN.

HON. S.B. VUNIVALU.- Deputy Chairperson, why I mentioned that is because along Grantham Road, there is a squatter settlement on the left, maybe Veiquwawa, if I am correct. Are they eligible to apply for that or do they have leases there? There is a big squatters there.

MR. K. BOLA.- Sir, to answer your question basically the development lease for the whole of Veiquwawa or Jittu Estate is being issued by Director Lands to the People's Community Network with the overall intention of upgrading the whole area of Jittu to provide decent and affordable housing to the squatter members.

HON. S.B. VUNIVALU.- For those in blocks?

MR. K. BOLA.- They will be given housing units, Sir, like high rise residential developments with housing units.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Sir, the squatters opposite Lagilagi Housing, they all will be developed?

MR. K. BOLA.- Yes, they will be entitled to.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Radrodro any questions?

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Deputy Chairperson. Just a clarification on those that have moved into Lagilagi, you have mentioned the criteria. But if you can clarify what we sort of have been told by some people that have applied that the rent is way above their affordability. These are the people that were like targeted, these are the targeted group for the Lagilagi Housing but because the rental is high, and they could not afford it, they have been sort of missed out and the housing is now taking in those that were not really targeted group for that housing in Lagilagi. It is because of the high rental and the low affordability rate by the target group. If you can clarify that.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Sure, Madam, we will look into it and put it in writing. We will have to speak to PCN and then get back to you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, PS and team for those answers. Please let us move on to the next question.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Thank you, Deputy Chairperson. The Auditor's Report of 2012 and 2013 recorded an unreconciled variance of \$582,764 and \$358,893 respectively.

Deputy Chairperson, this issue is a legacy one for the Ministry of Environment which has moved along and been housed under various other Ministries. Today, the Ministry of Environment stands on its own. So when it kind of slipped from one to another, there were issues of reconciliation. As of today, I can give you an update, the Ministry has been able to work behind as far as 2012. We are now going even further between 2012, even 2007 when the Environment Trust Fund was first installed. So what we are doing is, we are going as far as 10 years from now or 10 years from behind from now. So we will have to work with bank statements to reconcile them, some of the documentations have not been available so the key root to work through will be the bank statements. We are closely working with the Ministry of Economy in reconciling this. The Ministry will submit the submission to the Ministry of Economy after this to rectify the variance based on the statements that we have. We will then do until 2012 but we are further going five years behind that as well. The Ministry expects to have a final update to the Committee on the clearance of variance by the end of May.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you so much. Question No. 4.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- The question was, what was the gender composition from 2012 and 2013? The records that we have are very minimal in terms of the registry and as advised by our computer records. As far as 2012 is concerned, because there was a crash in the systems, I am told in 2012 in terms of finding out the gender composition. However, in 2013 the gender composition was 68 male staff and 57 female staff.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, that is not bad. I think we move onto 2014. What is the progress of the Mangrove Replanting Project in Navitilevu Bay (reference to page 16 of the 2014 Annual Report).

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- We have come a long way, Deputy Chairperson, in terms of replanting mangroves. The project here which was mentioned in Page 16 in Ra, it was an outcome of an ADB Funded Project on the "Coral Triangle Initiatives". The project was implemented in the province of Ra. Navitilevu Bay was identified as a demo site. The project outcomes focussed on improving management capabilities of the coastal and marine stakeholder groups, empowering the community groups in applying best practices for ecosystem based management and have a legal and regulatory framework for institutionalising effective integrated management of our coastlines and ecosystem based framework which the Government had established at that stage.

The replanting of mangroves, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, along the degraded coastlines of Navitilevu Bay was aimed at helping communities restore the mangrove ecosystems and revive lost species and rebuild resilience to climate change as mangroves play a key role with the resilience. Apart from replanting, the project was also assisted three nearby communities and their local primary school in getting up mangrove nurseries to help with the ongoing replanting by

communities. This was done with the view that we took mangrove care up unto the educational level, where the children are able to learn the importance of mangrove and climate change.

The village of Yaubula Management Committee was tasked to monitor their activities and report back to the Coastal Management Committee and the results were set up under the project. The project was supported by the NGO called “Conservation International”, through their replanting programme in Vitawa, Togovere and Nasau.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- We can move on to Question No. 3. I would rather focus on that as well.

HON. S.B. VUNIVALU.- My question is, these mangroves grow with some other kinds of plants. Do you also include them because they say that they have to grow with them, because they are the ones that cuts the waves and slows down the power of the tide? Do you include them when you do replanting?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Thank you, Honourable Vunivalu, a very valid point and a very valuable suggestion as well in your own question that you have asked. Not just Fiji, even the rest of the world has only come to appreciate what you have just said now in terms of the co-existence of the ecosystem of other secondary derivative plants along with the mangroves. I would not say infancy stage but we are at a much younger stage of the replanting programme. For instance, even the mangroves, we have only now kind of established how many mangroves, how do you replant them and what ratio. So we are aware of what you had said, the science of co-existence and how it cuts. Certainly that has being fed into our system but as of today if you ask me, it is only mangroves that get replanted not the co-existing eco plants.

However, it will not be entirely possible to go plant by plant to replant. There is a lot of backlash, even when you ask some of these people to replant one is to one. In fact we now go with a very stringent measure of six per one. So, every one mangrove they cut, we are ask six to be replanted, because of the death rate of plants and things like that. Yes, the answer is we do not do it now but we would be looking at ways and means of how this can be compensated as an overall programme.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, thank you. Honourable Nadalo?

HON. R.N. NADALO.- Thank you, through you Deputy Chairperson. Thank you PS. Apart from the projects in Viti Levu Bay, do you intend to do it around Fiji or what is the plan?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Yes, Sir, the answer is a resounding, yes, and the reason is when I say resounding is that, like I was just mentioning a moment ago, the ratio has now become 6:1, and the more and more investors both international and local investors come and try to remove mangroves to put up resorts. In fact, what we are now doing is working with the Ministry of Lands to identify communities where we can go and replant them and make sure that some of these coastlines do have plans. So, yes we will be working with other community groups around Fiji. I am also aware that Fiji Airways is working on a programme where they will be planting in communities around Fiji extra mangroves. Conservation International and a few other NGOs are working with the Ministry in terms of identifying communities where this can be planted.

It is not hard at all because there is so much of demand to remove mangroves that to make someone go and replant is very easy because without that, we now do not give any more EIAs out.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, PS.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Deputy Chairperson. We are talking about mangrove replanting but yet through the vehicle of development, we continuously remove mangrove.

I will give you a simple example. This is at the Muanivatu Settlement along Grantham Road. When that mangrove swamp has been removed due to development that is undertaking there, (in between Grantham Road, Fletcher Road and Rups building) this Muanivatu settlement have suffered a health hazard. This settlement still has pit toilets, so when the high tide comes, all the sewage is out in the open. When the tide recedes, it is all left there. They had brought this issue. So, I am just wondering. I hear of this replanting and yet we continuously remove mangrove because of developments. What is the Ministry's strategy in working together with development key players in our development? It is like one vicious circle, we remove and then we go and replant. How can we sort of, your Ministry work it out so there is some kind of balance? We do not have to go through all these mangrove removal and then replanting which is to me like a vicious circle.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Thanks for that question that you have just now mentioned. In fact, that probably was a case about 18 months or two years ago, we were talking about balance. We no longer even talk about balance and I am saying this with all humility.

Today's strategy by the Ministry is almost impossible to get an EIA to touch any of the mangroves. One is to six, a very pushy time where we have no other choice. That is like a very small percentage. We work with developers to say, no, not even one. As a part of the strategy, we have got something called the "Mangrove Management Committee" (MMC) which is chaired by the Ministry of Lands. What happens there is, the developer's application if they go for EIA goes to that end, the first approach is no cutting, not even one; you cannot even remove one. And then we work from thereon to see what can be done with the project without cutting. I mean, right now, I have got a few people who approached, a few major developers like Australians and Chinese who want to come in, we have just said, "no". You work with MMC to see how we can work your project around the mangroves.

Again, I will give examples from other countries which are even more vulnerable to us, Maldives is one which they say the whole country will go underwater in about 20 years' time from now.

I have worked myself in those countries where what we have done is, on mangroves have equal tourism properties which now sell for US\$5,000 to US\$6,000 a night.

As a strategy, this Ministry is trying to emulate and replicate those tourism models to people. The serious fact is that it is not possible for them to even remove one mangrove and if they have to, there is a very stringent process. Then comes the balancing part. The balance is the secondary option is if you really have to remove then let us say for every 100 mangroves, you are allowed to remove 20 or 30 percent and the remaining has to be allowed. We do not allow them to cut. Even for the 20

percent they remove, then six times more they have to replant. So, Madam, in response to your question, what we would do, that this is the strategy that the Ministry has adopted in the last 18 months.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Madam Deputy Chairperson, that does not seem to ring true to me because what about Nawi?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Well, we have not still given the EIA, Madam, we are fighting with them. They are trying, they are pushing, pushing and pushing and the matter is I am told in front of Mangrove Management Committee, I have met them thrice and that is the deal. The way it is now stuck is mangroves, they want to remove and we are saying no.

MS. S.K. SINGH.- That was the map that is in front of the Mangrove Management Committee. Regarding Nawi, the approval was given back in 2016, I think, EIA approved. But what we have done is to amend those approval conditions because there was no mention of the 1:6 that PS is talking about. In addition we have started charging the environmental bond. If a developer is developing and removing mangroves, we ask them to plant and if they do not then the environmental bond will be used to by the Ministry to do the replanting. So, those are the conditions we have varied for Nawi. The approval was given in 2016 so obviously, the only thing we could do was to amend it.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- We pulled it back and the developer came running, “why have you pulled back”, I said, “simple reason as the mangroves”, and the more awareness and consciousness of this is being raised, the more developers keep coming and accept for one or two, we normally find people compliant, but then like I said, there have been approvals given in the past, those we are pulling them back. Luckily the Act allows the Director to be able to amend that at any stage.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you Madam Deputy Chairperson. PS, we are trying to fight climate change and I mean the onus is really on the Department of Environment to be able to sort of have the support to be able to work with Government because Government is continuously pushing for development and at the same time also trying to fight climate change; it like a catch 22 kind of deal. We really look forward to the Ministry taking up that banner in having to look at the interest of Fiji as a nation in having to draw that kind of balance in terms of development and climate change and to the benefit of the people as a whole. Thank you.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- I agree.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you PS. From your answers we can tell that you are fighting that battle. No means no. Moving on, there is one slight question there on page 15 – Please elaborate more on the implementation of the new species included under CITES. So, basically I think we just quickly go through that too.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Sure, Madam Deputy Chairperson. Like mangroves, this is another very contentious topic as to which species are classified, which are not classified, which can be exported, which can be taken and a wide range of export as well as commercial aspects fit into the species issue be it corals, be it fish, sea, plants, trees, logging, et cetera. So, just overall to give an idea to the Committee, the CITES comes under the CITES management and there is an agreement

and an obligation developed between the governments to ensure the international trade does not threaten some of the species that are threatened for survival.

As the trade in animals and plants crosses borders between countries, the effort to regulate it requires cooperation between all countries who especially have signed and are obliged under the CITES management. The CITES apply to three Appendix-listed species. Appendix II lists species are allowed to be traded for commercial purpose but are strictly regulated because we see that there is a risk of threat for the species in the long term, not being able to survive. Appendix I would list species prohibited for any commercial trade for which you really cannot do it because it is threatened. A typical example would be of Fiji's unique iguana which is, I think I am told there are last few hundreds left in the country or in the whole world. So that is suddenly, no, no and it is prohibited and Fiji implements the CITES objectives through the National Legislations that we have, the Endangered and Protected Species (EPS) Act 2002 and its subsequent regulation in 2003. This Act will regulate any trade especially import and export of any species that are listed in the Appendices that I have just mentioned.

One of the major successes for Fiji was in the year 2017, we successfully, for the first time ever in the 41 history of CITES, Fiji was able to get a grand collision of all of EU to support and be able to list the shark species under Appendix II. This would mean that any trade in sharks whether alive or dead, as derivative or parts is allowed for commercial purposes but needs to be strictly regulated under Fiji's Law. CITES is regulated through a permitting process administered by the Ministry of Environment under the Act that I had just mentioned and this Act would also require any trader whether it's a person or company and they should register, so that is the way we regulate and we know who is doing what before they can start sending this Madam Deputy Chairperson. Open to any questions?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Members, do you have any questions on the endangered species? No, thank you.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- We continue in 2014, another question there was the progress on UG Map embarked for New Town Development that is Keiyasi, Nabouwalu and Seaqaqa.

Under the Keiyasi New Town Development:

- the Zoning Plan in 2014 was ready and then the land was acquired in 2015;
- it is currently under planning and design documentation phase;
- the subdivision was approved in 2017; and
- the engineering plans are currently prepared with expected completion by August 2018 whilst the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will also be completed by July 2018. So in July we expect the civil works and constructions works to start soon after that.

Nabouwalu New Town Development again:

- the Zone Plan was ready in 2014 and the land was acquired in 2015;
- the Subdivision Scheme Approval was received in 2017 and the plans and design in 2018; and

- the groundbreaking and civil construction works is expected to commence soon any time from today.

Seaqqa New Town Development:

- the Zone Plan in 2014 was ready and the land acquired again in 2015;
- the lease agreement was finalized by the *iTaukei* Lands Trust Board (TLTB); and
- the issue of sitting tenants (squatter tenants) on land earmarked for Bus Station and market have also been a contributing to slow processing of lease by the TLTB.

The land for New Town Development that I have mentioned just now has been acquired for processing in 2015. Documentations will only proceed upon issuance of lease to the Ministry.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- So overall looking at it, what is the timeframe you are looking at, the completion of these projects?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Are you able to answer this - the timeframe going from 2018? Roughly I cannot give timeframe, I can see he is hesitating, so the indicative time is like for instance the engineering plans are in 2018, the civil works should take about 18 months from thereon, approximately indicatively.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- (Inaudible)

HON. S. V. RADRODRO.- Thank you Deputy Chairperson. Just a question, what has been the major challenge in this Township Development because we are into our fourth year now, our Parliamentary session is almost gone and we have been hearing this right from 2015. I frequent Nabouwalu and I think it has really moved, so what has been the challenge? Even though there had been budgetary allocations allocated from 2015 up to this current budget, but there really has not been any improvement right from 2015 until now, even though we are talking about this 2014 Report. So I am just interested what has been the challenge in having to not progress these projects?

MR. S. SINGH.- Deputy Chairperson and Honourable Members, the challenge had been in the land acquisition and also the processes involved in development plans and calling for expressions of interest from several consultants for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and engineers who are carrying out the assessments of the plans and civil works. All those actually take some time in processing. So those are the major constraints.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- The bulk part is the acquisition that is where a lot of time is involved.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Deputy Chairperson, the land acquisition was done in 2015 so it is the clearing of plans, the approval or

MR. S. SINGH.- Yes, Madam. After the acquisition, we had to prepare the scheme plan and most of the works were done by consultants where a surveyor was involved, also an EIA consultant and a civil engineer. So in each phase, calling for expressions of interest and the process of selecting takes time.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- *Vinaka*, so it does take time. Yes, Honourable Vunivalu.

HON. S.B. VUNIVALU.- If I could add to that, maybe if I can help you out in regards to Nabouwalu, there is no flat land. It is just the seaside and mountains. That could be the

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Challenge.

HON. S.B. VUNIVALU.- Yes. Is that why it is late in progressing with the development there because there is only the wharf there in Nabouwalu and no flat area. All the Government stations there are built on the hills.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Flat areas certainly helps, Honourable Member, but like I said, once you acquire the land then there is technical assistance that is required and it is not coming easy to be able to get engineering designs. You sometimes go for proposals, you get one or two people maximum bidding for work like that. It has been a challenge. My colleagues just showed me a chart. I certainly did not want to show this as an excuse here, ... and I do not want us to sound as an excuse but the chart here talks about three years post-acquisition. It talks about the planning phase, the civil construction phase and the final completion but I do not want to go by the standard.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- All right, I understand PS. There is a lot of work involved behind the scenes before you actually go into the actual construction so thank you so much. You have got something there.

HON. R.N. NADALO.- Thank you, Madam Deputy Chairperson, through you, still on that UG Map, in your 2014 Report, page 17 the Nausori Urban Village Plan, that has been completed. I happen to see here that the plan for the five villages in Nadi is at draft stage. What is the current status of that?

MR. S. SNGH.- Honourable Member, the plans have actually been completed and they have been handed to the village for implementation.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. That is specifically talking about Nadi, he hails from Nadi. That is why he is more concerned about Nadi.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- So, are you saying that it has been handed over to the villagers?

MR. S. SINGH.- Yes, Sir.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- *Vinaka*. Thank you, Honourable Nadalo and thank you, Sir for the answer. All right, let us move on. Page 4.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Year 2014 continued. Question No. 4 is, what is the progress of the Sports Integrated Complex in Vunidawa, Seaqaqa, Rakiraki, Nadi – Lautoka corridor road widening, new Nausori Hospital and Regional Police Academy? We note that all sports integrated complexes are projects by the by the Ministry of Youth & Sports in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister. The Ministry's role is through the Director Town & Country Planning (DTCP) as a facilitator in terms of subdivision approvals, all of which were granted in 2012.

DTCP also is a major stakeholder to the building development process and by 2014, the Ministry for Youths & Sports were to submit concept plans as well as work on the required documents to comply with the subdivision conditions including the EIA. .

The Nadi to Lautoka corridor road widening, this is a task that will be undertaken by FRA and the Ministry's contribution to the widening programme is through again a planning and designing process. DTCP furnishes the plans and information for consideration in the design.

The new Nausori Hospital which was rezoned in 2012 from Residential 'A' to Civic – hospital, the Outline Building Development (Concept Plans) was for the new Nausori Hospital which was valued at \$30 million and consented to in principle.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- What is the status of this new Nausori Hospital now?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- We have approved in principle in 2015. It is up to them to take it up and run it from thereon.

Regional Police Academy, again: considering in 2014 for further work was needed. In 2013, the Director of Lands, as a consultant for the project were to furnish DTCP with a Concept Plan and we are waiting for that.

The next question Deputy Chairperson, if we are allowed to do, on page 5 the question is about the progress of the amendment of the Local Government Act, whether the review includes 30 percent of women in the Council as mandated by the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Local Government Act review final submissions have been prepared and key announcements are on the way forward have been made during the 5th Municipal Local Government Forum we had recently in March. The existing Act was made up of 15 parts and associated Acts, By-Laws, and Regulations have been generally agreed to and re-appealed and replaced. The Act was reviewed as per record shows that the Act review has been a key reform agreed by the Councils and stakeholders from as early as the 1990s.

The Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment has tasked the Local Government Committee to come up with the possible terms of reference for the Act review in May 2016. Following that an in-depth analysis and 2 rounds of preliminary consultations with the Councils and stakeholder groups were made, the Committee has forwarded the TOR and observations to the Ministry of Local Government in August 2017. The TOR have been discussed at the Ministry's Local Government, Housing and Environment and key announcements are expected to be made.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Deputy Chairperson. Way back in 2014, the Honourable Minister made a comment or commitment that the Local Government Election will be done soonest. Up until now, that still has not been conducted. Would the review of the Local Government Act be a major requirement to run the Local Government because as it is, with your explanation, it looks like you have failed your Minister by not undertaking the Local Government Act Review? If that is a main requirement to conduct the Local Government Elections? If you can just elaborate on that issue?

MR. A. KHAN.- Thank you, Deputy Chairperson, through you. Local Government has reviewed itself as being comprehensive. The new Terms of Reference that has been submitted by the Local Government Committee is around 22 key areas altogether, two involving the type of councils and in the current Act there are three types of Councils that could run a Council: one is certainly being elected council. The Local Government Act Review exercise has come to a stage where the Local Government Act Review Committee should be appointed soon and from there onwards the exercise should continue. As far as the elections goes, it is complementary “yes”. A Local Government Act Review will establish the mode of the new election for Municipal Councils including the town boundaries structure and whether there should be a town ward, whether there should be a one single constituency within the townships electing Council members and other areas including whether the ratepayers will elect a Mayor or where the conventional structure under the British system that is annual election of Mayor will continue. So we do agree that it is one area that will be addressed through this Local Government Act Review.

HON. S.V RADRODRO.- Deputy Chairperson, based on another relevant question to that, I will back track a bit on the rates of arrears. In 2012 it stated as \$34.9 million and it is a huge amount to be appearing as arrears and then 2013 and 2014 is not stated. In my thinking, it could be even much more if it is accumulative. I mean like you have to explain what is the challenge in not recovering those arrears and would the Local Government election, if conducted, would have helped in collecting those arrears and in exercising stronger compliance to be able to reduce your arrears? Would that be the case?

MR. A. KHAN.- Thank you Honourable Member, through you Deputy Chairperson. Prior to 2009 Local Government Review when it all started up with, the average collection per year including arrears was 65 percent. Post 2009 come 2012 we have started to average a Council yearly collection around 75 percent. So there has been an improvement and we are doing the same just like Auckland City Council. Auckland City is also at an average of 75 percent.

As far as the total overall debt, last year 31st December at the ending an estimated \$31 million in arrears stood for all municipal councils in Fiji. We do have a challenge, we note and these are to do with the residential areas where the rating structure is basically the same as that of the Domain areas. We have seen that there is a challenge for collection in Residential C and Residential D areas which are small lots and where the low income earners basically purchase properties and stay. But there again, we are using our own means available in within the Local Government Act to address and collect.

In addition to this we are coming up with a document to be discussed during the National Budget Consultation on means to further strengthen rates collection and to introduce other favourable systems to ensure that the rates collection system is improved upon within the Municipal Councils.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Deputy Chairperson, just another question on that, because I think this is all linked, like waste management on this waste collection. Just this week, I had a drive around Caubati, Waila, Vunisinu area, the Nasinu area and I tell you, you can even go and check it out, these huge, huge piles of rubbish all around the area and I just asked someone and they said, it was just because of the collection rate. So because of non-collection of rates, the residence are being

penalised by their waste not collected and it is all adding up to waste management problem in the areas.

I am not talking about kitchen rubbish, this is kitchen rubbish plus household and it is in big heaps. And now listening to your explanation, like to me, they are not being serviced because of non-payment of rates. I am just thinking, because why would the garbage truck not pick up all these rubbish? In my view it has got something to do with being rate payers which is reflected with a huge arrears that is in place. To me that all adds up to how the Council is being run and because maybe of the absence of the mayors of having an effective Council.

MR. S.K. SINGH.- Thank you Honourable Member and Deputy Chairperson through you. As far as solid waste management goes, it is compulsory to be collected by every Municipal Council irrespective of whether rates have been paid or not in this country by the law. We have had challenges in the Suva - Nausori corridor as far as collection goes and Government has been heavily investing. One of our key challenging areas has been Nasinu, because Nasinu itself, apart from the ratepayers, it is servicing 18 informal settlements. And in this whole corridor, Suva – Nausori, we have a total of 88 informal settlements with 7,200 households, which are also very much relying on the services provided by the Councils.

Government to subsidise has come up with a few new products including the provision of skip bins in specific areas, including the services provided now in the peri-urban areas through Municipal Councils. We have a new programme coming for Nasinu Town Council which will be effective from 1st September, after the delivery of four new trucks from Japan, which Government has funded. From there we will have a zero tolerance on green waste and kitchen waste being left on the roadsides and we will be having more monitoring officers.

If you would have read the media last week, we also have been getting support from embassies: people of Japan, people of India coming up now to assist in improving the solid waste management collection systems at Nasinu. Last week the Indian Government has given Nasinu Town Council a vehicle to simply move around to assist in the monitoring and via that Nasinu Town Council will have a full time environment enforcement team on the ground.

HON. S. V. RADRODRO.- Honourable Deputy Chairperson, just one last question. It is mentioned that the Local Government Act is still under review and if that is the case, back to the original question, is it possible that it could be relooked at to ensure that there is a 30 percent membership to be women? If you include that in the Act, you are also helping in satisfying the CEDAW requirement, but I notice that women will take note of this garbage collection issue, so just a request, since the Act is still under review if that could be considered?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you Honourable Member and thank you PS. I think Question No. 6 has been elaborated on, on waste management.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Yes, the waste has also been addressed. The Director did mention about the peri-urban collection as well.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, so we can move on.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- The next one Honourable Deputy Chairperson, is about the total allocation of First Home Buyers and how many people have benefitted from this programme? The total allocation for the year 2014 was \$10 million. A total of 180 applicants benefitted from this initiative. The summary of these applicants have been tabulated, it is up on the screen. If you have any questions, you can ask me on that. As of today, I am told there are more than 1,500 applicants who have benefitted from this programme.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We have got the table there, so please do go through it.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- There is also a question on gender composition. We shall address it along together with this.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Yes.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- There were totally 55 male buyers, 11 female, 114 joint buyers which makes up to a total of 180.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Let us move on to the next one.

Question No. 10 – Why is there a high turnover in the Special Administrator positions?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- That relates to the earlier question asked by the Honourable Member.

We talk about the high turnover in the Special Administrator positions:

- As per the Local Government Act Cap. 125 and policy of the Ministry of the Local Government, Housing and Environment Special Administrators are appointed by the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment;
- The appointment process and recommendations is managed by the Permanent Secretary office and the appointment is made in concurrence with the Minister responsible;
- Performance and general employment management are managed by the Permanent Secretary; and
- From 2014, it has stabilised, there are no changes or terminations to Special Administrators or Chief Executive Officers and review of three-year performance is currently underway.

So, one of those things that reflects from this response is performance monitoring and closely working with the Special Administrator has allowed us to arrest the turnover of Special Administrators as mentioned here.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, PS unless the Honourable Members have any other questions we will move in to Question No. 13 - What is the progress of the formulation of the National Housing Act?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Thank you, Deputy Chairperson.

- The Department of Housing prepared a Cabinet Memorandum - Development of a National Housing Enabling Act and National Housing Board on the 21st May, 2016;
- Housing Stakeholders Consultation Meeting was held in September 2016 to discuss the Cabinet Memorandum;
- As part of the Cabinet Paper consultation process, the Ministry wrote to the Office of the Solicitor- General on 21st September, 2016 to seek their comments on the:
 - The process of the formulation of the Act; and
 - The Research Study on Fiji's Law and Regulations that impact on the Housing sector performance.
- In meeting with the Solicitor-General in November 2016, he assured the Department of Housing that he will peruse the Memorandum because the Cabinet Paper has quite a few issues that could be complicated and will require higher level of interventions that will be provided;
- Are there any plans in place to review the Town and Country Planning Act as well? This will impact actually the public utilities structured within the residential boundaries of the housing subdivisions and of course, tenants were restricted from constructing infrastructure over these utilities.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Any questions, Honourable Members?

Question No. 15 - Please explain on the 6 village housing schemes that has been written off?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Yes.

- The Housing Authority considered and approved the writing off of 6 village housing scheme under the Housing Authority Policy in May. The detail of the village housing scheme assisted is listed in Table 4 as you can see;
- The six village housing scheme had borrowed housing loans for construction. You can see that it is tabulated with the village name there. If any questions, please go ahead and ask.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, it is tabulated. Honourable Members, just go through it and if you have any questions, we have spoken enough on waste management.

Question No. 17 -What is the progress on Waste Transfer Station.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Thank you, Deputy Chairperson. The proposed location at Laqere was not agreed by the members of the community. One of the Committee members from here was also present there during the meeting. It was disagreed by the community citing various information that they further required especially in terms of hygiene around where this was going to be located. There were models that were being proposed including having an underground facility, et cetera. So, the Ministry has now made a decision to move away from that proposal of putting up the transfer station at Laqere. As of now, the Ministry is liaising with the Ministry of Lands to another parcel of land. However, in terms of wherever we move, the community or the stakeholder groups that are impacted by a facility like this will have similar questions. So, the Ministry has prepared two or three technology options in how this can be done especially if it is about smell and hygiene. The

solutions currently available internationally include underground facilities which will have no impact in terms of hygiene, especially during the transfer stage.

Also no waste dumped or taken to the transfer station will remain there for more than 4 hours to 5 hours window for it to continue to stay and provide any form of inconvenience.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you PS. What is the progress of the enforcement of the Litter Decree?

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the Act, administering the Litter Act 2018 and the Amendment that followed in 2010 for the purpose of controlling offenders. The mandate on the people to enforce the Act are the Police Officers, Health Inspectors, Port Master, Deputy Port Masters, Port State Control Officers, Shipping Inspectors, Forest Officers, the Ministry of Environment Inspectors, Local Government staff, Land Transport officers, and any other public officers appointed by the Minister. Recently the Ministry of Environment has conducted refresher trainings throughout the year on enforcement and how it can be enforced. We have assigned a Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement with the 13 municipal councils so they also, their officials take care of this in their own backyard.

Last year alone there were 740 fixed penalty notices that were put and we also have run anti-litter campaigns as we are all aware of including the various mediums, TV advertisements, et cetera, and there are a few we have escalated up to DPP and prosecuted as well.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you PS, slightly on the noise pollution just a little bit.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- Noise is not regulated under the Environment Management Act from what I have checked. However, under the Environment Management Impact Assessment Regulation, that is, the EIA process, once the Ministry receives an application for a development activity during the scoping exercise, the officer in charge undertakes the inspection that is required, identify activities that can potentially have high noise and its impact on surrounding communities. So, if that is the case then they put in terms of conditions for approval that will mitigate these pollution factors that would come up.

The EIA Report on that particular development which could have potential pollution proposes ways and means to eliminate that issue or the noise pollution and normally the noise pollution is addressed by the Ministry of Labour.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you very much PS. Honourable Members, you can just read through, it is tabulated there the settlements and what all went to the integrated agriculture programmes. Thank you PS, for your much enlightening presentation through the questionnaire session and thank you Honourable Members for your question. Honourable Salote Radrodoro, you have a question?


HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Apologies, Madam Deputy Chairperson, just a final question. What has been the challenge by the Ministry? I note that your latest Annual Report is 2014. What has been the challenge in having to have this delay in submitting your reports? To me, it is a very important ministry so what could have been the challenge? Thank you.

MR. J. WYCLIFFE.- One of those things that we have worked on is, we are working through with the Civil Service Reforms and filling in additional staff that are required within the Corporate team and now we have in the last one year, eight months we have a full capacity that is coming up on board. So, we should be able to provide the reports regularly and on time.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Once again Honourable Members, thank you for your questions. PS and team thank you for availing yourselves, thank you for your time and indulgence.

The Committee adjourned 3.30 p.m.

APPENDIX 5: RESEARCH UNIT ANNUAL REPORTS SUMMARY

<div>  <div> PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI Research and Library Services </div> </div> <div> Annual Report Summary (2015) </div>				
Annual Report Summary-Ministry of Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment 2012, 2013 and 2014 Standing Committee on Social Affairs				
	2012	2013	2014	MPs Comments
Vision	Sustainable development towards a prosperous Fiji	A Prosperous Fiji	Excellence in urban and environment management for a Prosperous Fiji	
Mission	To promote and contribute to Fiji's Socio-Economic	A Prosperous Fiji To promote and contribute to Fiji's socio-economic growth through improved living standards, spatial equity and sustainable environmental services in partnership with stakeholders	To promote socio-economic growth towards resilient urban communities, good local governance and decent housing opportunities whilst sustaining ecosystem services	
Principal Activity	The Ministry is responsible for the formulation and implementation of local government and urban planning policies, housing policies through the integrated program and approach to eradicate poverty. Its Department of Environment is responsible for the development and implementation of policies for the protection and policing of the environment and its	The Ministry's core business and responsibilities in 2013 is carried out by the following Departments: Corporate Service Division - Implement policy decisions for the overall management of the Ministry's budgeting, planning, financial, accounting control and human resources. Local Government-Monitor the	The Ministry's core business and responsibilities in 2014 is carried out by the following Departments: Corporate Service Division - Implement policy decisions for the overall management of the Ministry's budgeting, planning, financial, accounting control and human resources.	
Prepared by: Mr. Subash Chandra Prasad, subashchandra.prasad@parliament.gov.fj 18 March 2018				



<p>sustainable use. The Ministry also has responsibilities for the National Fire Authority. To achieve this, the Ministry defines the core business and responsibilities of each department/unit for 2012 as follows:</p> <p>Corporate Services - Implementation of policy decisions for the overall administration of the Ministry's budgeting, planning, financial and accounting control and managing of human resources.</p> <p>Local Government- Monitor the performance of local government and National Fire Authority by providing advice to the Minister in terms of the Local Government Act Cap. 125 and National Fire Act (1995) and support services through the Permanent Secretary.</p> <p>Town And Country Planning- Responsible for the overall administration, planning and regulating of land use in Fiji</p>	<p>performance of Municipal Councils under the Local Government Act Cap. 125 Rev (2005) and Business Licensing Act Cap 204 Rev (2006) and National Fire Authority under the National Fire Act (1995).</p> <p>Town and Country Planning - Administer, plan and regulate land use in Fiji through the enforcement of the Town Planning Act Cap 139 and Subdivision of Land Act Cap 140 (1978)</p> <p>Housing -Administer housing policy with specific emphasis on upgrading and resettlement programmes and provision of capital grants and social housing subsidy.</p> <p>Environment -Formulate, coordinate and monitor the implementation of Fiji's national environmental policies, Programmes to enhance growth whilst ensuring sustainability in accordance with the Environmental Management Act</p>	<p>Local Government-Monitor the performance of Municipal Councils under the Local Government Act Cap. 125 Rev (2005) and Business Licensing Act Cap 204 Rev (2006) and National Fire Authority under the National Fire Act (1995).</p> <p>Town and Country Planning - Administer, plan and regulate land use in Fiji through the enforcement of the Town Planning Act Cap 139 and Subdivision of Land Act Cap 140 (1978)</p> <p>Housing -Administer housing policy with specific emphasis on upgrading and resettlement programmes and provision of capital grants and social housing subsidy.</p> <p>Environment -Formulate, coordinate and monitor the implementation of Fiji's national environmental policies, Programmes to enhance growth whilst ensuring sustainability in accordance with the</p>	
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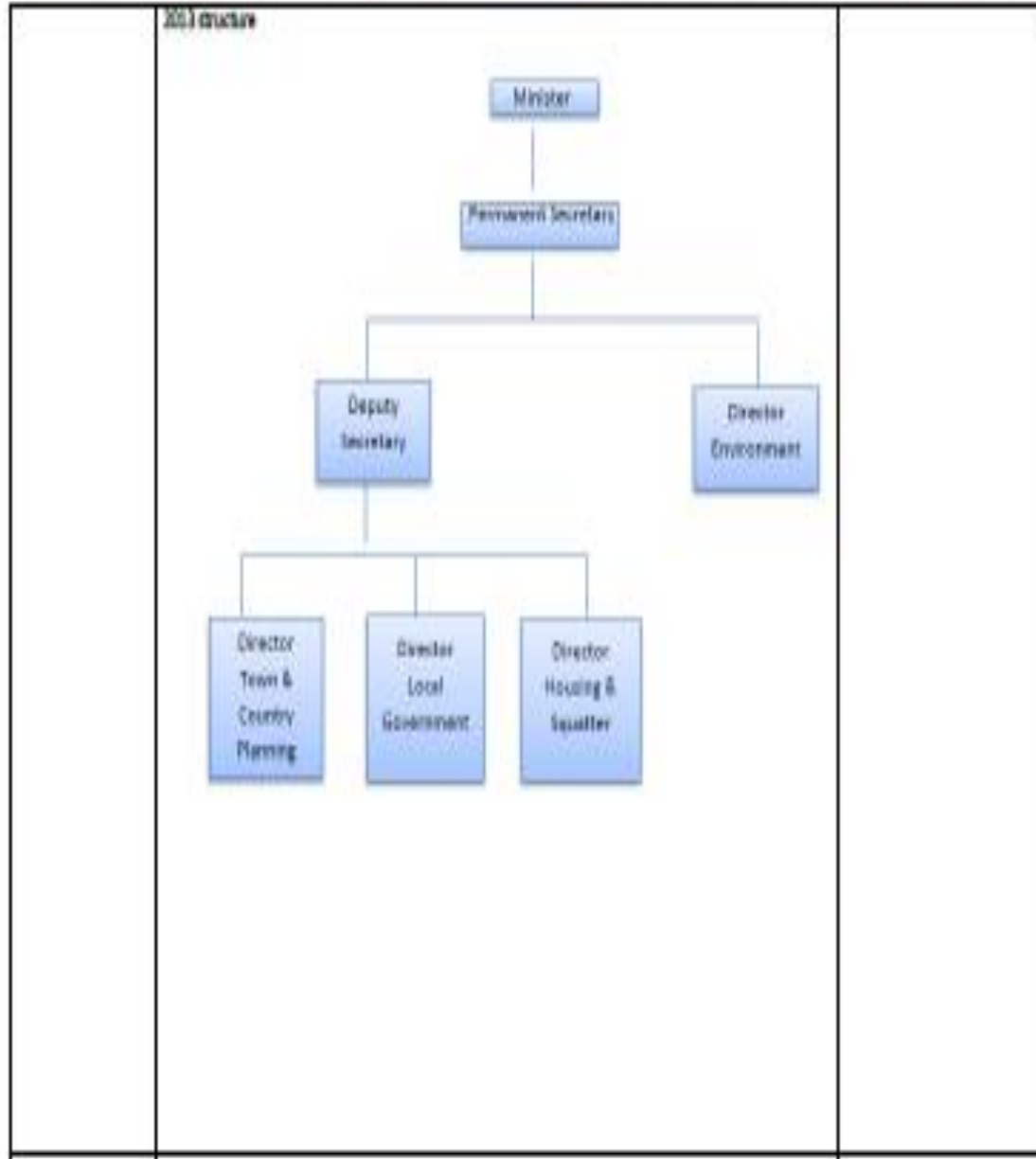


	<p>through the Town Planning Act Cap 139 and Subdivision of Land Act Cap 140.</p> <p>Housing And Squatter Settlements: Administer the provision of grants to social housing providers (Housing Authority, Public Rental Board and HART) and the development of National Housing Policy Programmes.</p> <p>Environment-Formulate coordinate and monitor the implementation of Fij's national environmental policies, programmes and legislations to ensure sustainable environment in accordance with the Coone Depletion Substances Act 1998, Endangered and Protected Species Act 2000, Environmental Management Act 2005 and Uttar Proclamation 2010.</p>	<p>2005, Coone Depleting Substances Act 1998, Endangered and Protected Species Act 2000, and Uttar (Amendment) Decree 2010 and Fij's Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) commitments.</p> <p>Project Management Unit (PMU) • Plan, facilitate, coordinate, monitor, evaluate, reviewing and report on all projects and major activities in the Ministry. It includes regular reporting on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, ACP, Cabinet Decisions and Capital Programmes.</p>	<p>Environmental Management Act 2005, Coone Depleting Substances Act 1998, Endangered and Protected Species Act 2000, and Uttar (Amendment) Decree 2010 and Fij's Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) commitments.</p> <p>Project Management Unit (PMU) • Plan, facilitate, coordinate, monitor, evaluate, reviewing and report on all projects and major activities in the Ministry. It includes regular reporting on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, ACP, Cabinet Decisions and Capital Programmes.</p>	
Act in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Act Cap. 125 • National Fire Act (1995) • Town Planning Act Cap 139 • Subdivision of Land Act Cap 140. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Act Cap. 125 Rev (2005) • Business Licensing Act Cap 204 Rev (2006) • National Fire Act (1995) • Town Planning Act Cap 139 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Act Cap. 125 Rev (2005) • Business Licensing Act Cap 204 Rev (2006) • National Fire Act (1995) • Subdivision of Land Act Cap 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ozone Depletion Substances Act 1996• Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002• Environmental Management Act 2005• Litter Prohibition 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subdivision of Land Act Cap 140 (1978)• Environmental Management Act 2005• Ozone Depletion Substances Act 1996• Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002• Litter (Amendment) Decree 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 140 (1978)• Environmental Management Act 2005• Ozone Depletion Substances Act 1996• Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002• Litter (Amendment) Decree 2010	
Organization structure	<p>2012 structure</p> <pre>graph TD; Minister[Minister] --> PS[Permanent Secretary]; PS --> DS[Deputy Secretary]; DS --> PMU[Project Monitoring Unit]; DS --> CS[Corporate Services]; DS --> LG[Local Government]; DS --> TCP[Town & Country Planning]; DS --> Housing[Housing]; DS --> Environment[Environment];</pre>			

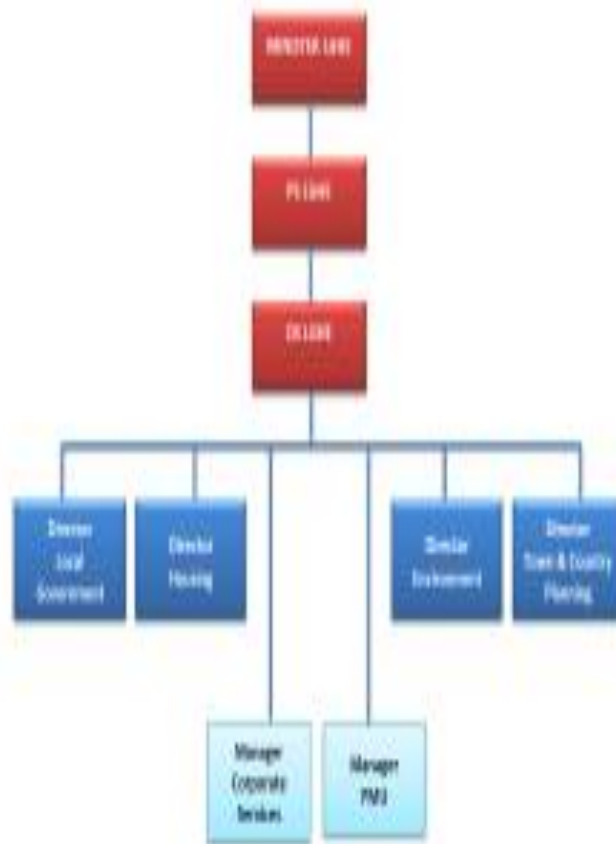
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2014 structure



Ministry
performance

QUARTERS	MINISTRY RATING
First	58.33%
Second	71.43%
Third	83.33%
Fourth	88.89%



Projects	The following are considered to be the key features of the Ministry's output for year 2012:	The following are considered to be the key features of the Ministry's output for year 2013:	The following are considered to be the key features of the Ministry's output for year 2014:	
	<p>1. Completion of the Old Land Dump Rehabilitation Project;</p> <p>2. Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol;</p> <p>3. Completion of the database for flora and fauna for Fiji's Biodiversity; and</p> <p>4. Continuation of squatter upgrading, re-location and integrated income generating projects.</p> <p>Local Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates Collection- A total of \$66,831,527.54 in rates was collected by 13 municipal councils. • Cash for Work Program- directly assisted the victims of the flood to rehabilitate their lives. The project benefitted 1,200 people from 29 villages in Rakiraki and Nadi. 56 tonnes of garbage and general waste was collected and the general clearing. 	<p>1. Appointment of new Special Administrators and improvement in revenue and rate collection by municipal councils.</p> <p>2. Town Schemes, Urban Growth Management Plans for the western and northern division, strengthening of technical departments with GIS and dramatic increase in facilitation of investments and development and drafting of amendments to town planning laws.</p> <p>3. Squatter upgrading projects, Re-location and integrated income generating projects</p> <p>4. Phase 2 of Naboro Landfill project, Faith Based Environment Stewardship Summit, Hosting of the Environment and Climate Change MSG Meeting and 9th Conference of Conservation of Nature.</p> <p>5. Launching of the Lagilagi</p>	<p>1. Construction of accommodation unit for rural women vendors at the Suva, Nadi and Sigatoka markets.</p> <p>2. Introduction of the "First Home Owners" Grant aimed at assisting Fijians own their first residential house.</p> <p>3. Squatter upgrading projects, Re-location and integrated income generating projects</p> <p>4. Engagement of an international consultancy firm for the design of the 2nd phase of Naboro Landfill and the signing of three projects (total funding of US\$8,968,928) under GEF S STRA to be implemented in 2015 for the protection of Fiji's natural resources.</p> <p>5. Obtaining of development consent from TLTB for the development of</p>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovation at the Suva Market- Major renovation and painting of 7 blocks at the market mall and is projected to cost \$60,000.00 • Renovation and extension to the Flagstaff Mini Market. • Completion of the Women's Vendor- an initiative of the Rakiraki Town Council. <p>Town and Country Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hausof Extension Town Planning Scheme was finally approved. • The final draft of the revision of Levuka Town Planning Scheme was submitted as one of the documents for qualification of Levuka being declared as a World Heritage Site to UNESCO. • The total value of major developments approved in the year is \$324.82 Million, which includes the multi-million dollar Casino and Convention Centre proposed in Denarau, valued at \$300 Million. <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Fiji 	<p>Housing Project, Natvi Sustainable Income Generation Project, and installation of electricity at the Villa Maria Settlement.</p> <p>Local Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suva Picnic Park Project commenced and was opened on 7th November. The new facilities are a first for the capital city. This project costs approximately \$1.3m. • Declaration of Levuka Town as a World Heritage Site. • Upgrading of Terry Walk, Suva City Council, a \$35,000 project. • Rakiraki Market Extension The \$250,000 extension is expected to benefit vendors. • Provision of Ambulance Services with the National Fire Authority. <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Wide Informal Settlement Upgrading Projects- The department administered 5 City Wide Informal Settlement Upgrading Project involving incremental upgrading projects to the sum of \$100,000 each 	<p>town centers in the northern and western division.</p> <p>Local Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates Collection- A total of \$31,382,685.38 rates were collected by 13 municipal. • Clean and Green Town Assessment- A yearly Clean and Green Town Performance Assessment was successfully implemented that culminated into an awards nights seeing councils being awarded prizes in the Large, Medium and small categories. • Nadi upgraded its market facilities with an additional 300 stalls along with a vendor hostel to accommodate 30 women; provision of disable friendly public convenience and the night market facilities. The washroom at the bus station was also upgraded. • The rehabilitated Naurua Landfill in Labasa. • Government allocated \$2.5 million for the construction of 2 fire stations in Korovou and Koroleva, purchase of 8 Fire Trucks worth \$218,000; 3 Ambulances worth \$165,000 and Fire Fighting Equipment's. 	
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	<p>endorsed the National Housing Policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT- This is a newly established unit endorsed by the Honorable Minister through Cabinet approval to efficiently and effectively manage the Global Environment Fund projects as per the Cabinet approval in 2011. 	<p>for infrastructure upgrading works including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) construction of homes for the elderly and disabled; (ii) sanitary facilities; and (iii) roads and drainage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching of Laglagi housing project phase 1. 	<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Wide Informal Settlement Upgrading Projects- In 2004, the department administered 5 City Wide Informal Settlement Upgrading Project involving incremental upgrading with funding of \$100,000 per project site for the following works: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) construction of evacuation center for flood prone settlement (ii) water pipes & sanitary facilities (iii) Roads and drainage. (iv) Footpaths and street lights • Opening of Rakivali PRD Housing Project. The project was made possible through a \$1million soft loan from the CDM bank of China through the Fijian Government as well as an additional \$0.3million grant by the Chinese Government to the PRD. 	
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were a total of about 13 organizations and government Departments including the Fiji Police Force, Statutory organizations, the municipal councils and other government Department that participated in the 2weeks Clean Up Campaign in the Central Division. 	<p>Town and Country Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Planning and Urban Growth Management- Phase 1 of the Urban Growth Management Plans (UGMAP) for Greater Western and the Northern Corridor has been completed concluding of land use surveys, research, consultation, data collation and spatial plans to reflect urban growth and development from Sigatoka to Rakivali in the Greater Western and the urban corridor linking Suva, Labasa. 		
Corporate Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of phase 2 of the Naboro landfill had reached a crucial stage. The year saw the finalisation of the technical tender document and the actual call for the design and build tender in October 2012. This is the first time since the 	<p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department also implements the following policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Solid Waste 	<p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mangrove Replanting Project – Naitidivu Bay Ra. • The Naboro Landfill 	



	<p>initial construction of the landfill (pre 2005) that tender has been officially called for the construction of a new landfill phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Funded Land Rehabilitation Project: The works at the Lami Rehabilitation site came to a close on the 23rd of April 2012 with a total cost of FJ \$4.5 million. 	<p>Management Strategy (2011-2014):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> II. Hydro chlorofluorocarbon Phase-out Management Plan; and III. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2011-2014). <p>• The following are some of the key highlights of the department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Hosting of the 2nd Environment and Climate; II. Change MSG Meeting; and III. 9th Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas IV. Fiji being recognized and appointed as a Conference of the Party Bureau Member for the Convention of Biodiversity and co-opted member of the Executive Committee of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer 	<p>Phase 2 works were completed. The works opened up a total of 140,000 cubic meters of airspace at the Naboro landfill and costs a total of \$2.9 million.</p> <p>Town & Country Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government (Capital) Projects and Policy Advice-DTCP plays a participative role in providing policy advice to a number of projects undertaken by government and this includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Sports Integrated Complex; Vunidawa, Seapaga, Rakindid, (ii) Proposed 4-lane road in Nadi and Nausori (iii) Proposed Airport Runway Extension – Nausori and Nadi International (iv) New Nausori Hospital (v) Regional Police Academy (vi) Nadi-Lautoka Corridor Road Widening 	
Financial Position (Company's)	<p>Total Revenue (Head 23)- \$4,694</p> <p>Total Revenue (Head 37)-</p>	<p>Total Revenue (Head 23)- \$170,263</p> <p>Total Revenue (Head 37)-</p>	<p>Total Revenue (Head 23)- \$22,867</p> <p>Total Revenue (Head 37)-</p>	

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	\$89,905	\$185,954	\$246,450	
	Total Expense (Head 23)- \$16,304,310	Total Expense (Head 23)- \$15,468,970	Total Expense (Head 23)- \$11,483,824	
	Total Expenditure (Head 37)- \$8,359,244	Total Expenditure (Head 37)- \$11,630,086	Total Expenditure (Head 37)- \$19,018,640	
	Main Trust Fund Receipts- \$3,847,352	Department of Housing-Main Trust Fund Receipts-\$243,855	Department of Environment- Total Receipts-\$2,958,271	
	Main Trust Fund payments- \$2,752,685	Department of Housing-Main Trust Fund payments-\$235,321	Department of Environment- Total Payments-\$2,180,227	
		Department of Environment- Total Receipts-\$3,473,364		
		Department of Environment- Total Payments-\$2,834,642		
Auditor's Opinion (Auditor General)	<p>Qualification</p> <p>The Department of Environment did not reconcile the True Trust Fund account balance with the bank statement balance during the year. An unreconciled variance of \$582,764 was noted between the Department's Trust Fund Account general ledger balance and the bank statement balance. As a result auditor was not able to ascertain that all receipts and payments had been accurately accounted for and disclosed in the True Trust Fund Account.</p>	<p>Qualification</p> <p>An unreconciled variance of \$358,093 exists in the Department of Environment Main Trust Fund Account bank statement balance and the General Ledger (FMIS) balance. As a result auditor was not able to ascertain that all receipts and payments had been accurately accounted and disclosed in the Main Trust Fund account.</p> <p>Qualified Audit Opinion</p>	<p>Qualification</p> <p>An unreconciled variance of \$592,940 exists in the Department of Environment Main Trust Fund Account between the bank statement balance and the general ledger (FMIS) balance. As a result auditor was not able to ascertain that all receipts and payments had been accurately accounted and disclosed in the Main Trust Fund Account.</p> <p>Qualified Audit Opinion</p>	



	Qualified Audit Opinion in the auditor's opinion	In auditor's opinion	In auditor's opinion	
	<p>a) Except for the matter referred to in the qualification paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies stated in Note 2, the financial performance of the Ministry of Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment for the year ended 31 December 2012.</p> <p>b) The financial statements give the information required by the Financial Management Act 2004 in the manner so required.</p> <p>Auditor has obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of his knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purpose of audit.</p>	<p>a) Except for the matter referred to in the qualification paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the government accounting policies stated in Note 2, the financial performance of the Ministry of Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment for the year ended 31 December 2013.</p> <p>b) The financial statements give the information required by the Financial Management Act 2004 in the manner so required.</p> <p>Without further qualifying the opinion expressed above, attention is drawn to that the Ministry did not reconcile the expenditure in the RMS general ledger as no expenditure ledger was maintained. The Ministry prepared its financial statements from the RMS general ledger. As</p>	<p>a) Except for the matter referred to in the qualification paragraph, the special purpose financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies stated in Note 2, the financial performance of the Ministry of Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment for the year ended 31 December 2014.</p> <p>b) The special purpose financial statements give the information required by the Financial Management Act 2004 in the manner so required.</p>	

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		<p>a result auditor was not able to ascertain the accuracy of the amounts stated in the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure.</p> <p>Auditor has obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of his knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purpose of audit.</p>		
Gender analysis	No information on gender analysis provided.			



Guiding questions

- 1) Please provide an explanation on why there has been a change in the Mission and Vision for the three years?
- 2) There has been structural change as well; would you please provide explanation on this?
- 3) Has the change in Mission, Vision and the organizational structure been effective?
- 4) There was a new unit (Project Management Unit) established in 2013, please elaborate on its core functions?
- 5) The Department of Environment had an audit issue on the reconciliation of the True Trust Fund account, which continued for the three years. Please state what the Ministry has done with regards to this issue.
- 6) There is no information provided on gender equality, would you explain how does the Ministry ensure gender equality at its work place?
- 7) How does the Ministry evaluate its service delivery (in terms of providing efficient & effective service) to its customers?
- 8) How does Ministry manage customer complaints?
- 9) What are some of the challenges faced by the Ministry and how have these been overcome?
- 10) Highlight some of the Ministry's future plans?

18 March 2018

Disclaimer

The Annual Report Summary was prepared to assist the Standing Committee on Local Affairs in its review of the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment 2012, 2013 and 2014 Annual Reports. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, it should not be taken as a certificate or authoritative advice in the Report. The Research and Library Team shall not be liable for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage of any kind arising from its use, and shall remain, when it is used, any information at any time without prior notice. The Research and Library Team accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties. Other personnel should be consulted in the review of the Report.