



ITAUKEI AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

It is worth noting that although in 2016 the Ministry had unqualified documents this has not curtailed the Ministry from implementing new initiatives to improve relevant processes to address the various issues raised by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts including that of transparency and accountability in its every day dealings.

The following comments are made in relation to the following issues:

A. Back Log iTaukei Affairs Board

1. Summary of annuals accounts pending audit

- a. iTaukei Affairs Board – 16
- b. Provincial Councils - 208
- c. Total – 224

2. Annual Accounts Submission By Year

	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of Accounts Submitted	7	31	10	37
Total Accounts Submitted – 89 Pending - 135				

3. Audit Progress By Auditor General

- a. OAG has completed the audit conduct for 7 Provincial Councils (Ba, Bua, Cakaudrove, Lomaiviti, Macuata, Naiatsiri, Tailevu)
- b. Audit conduct completed for 40 accounts (38 PCs + 2 TAB)
- c. Pending – 49
- d. Joint meeting held with OAG on 07.03.2018 - OAG confirmed audit for Lau, Kadavu, Nadroga and Ra should be completed by July 2018. (24 Annual Accounts) while Ra, Rewa and Serua to be completed by September, 2018. (20 Annual Accounts) and TAB.

- e. Tailevu 2002-2007 received from OAG on 04.04.2018 for signing
- f. Naitasiri 1999-2007 management comments submitted to OAG on 03.04.2018

4. 2018 Annual Accounts Submission Targets (135 accounts)

Provincial council	Target Submission by 31.07.2018	No. Of FS	Progress (Draft Accounts)	Target Submission by 13.12.2018	No. Of FS
Ba	2008-2013	6	1	2014-2016	3
Bua	2008-2013	6	4	2014-2016	3
Cakaudrove	2008-2013	6	1	2014-2016	3
Kadavu	2008-2013	6	2	2014-2016	3
Lau	2008-2013	6	0	2014-2016	3
Lomaiviti	2008-2013	6	3	2014-2016	3
Macuta	2008-2013	6	2	2014-2016	3
Nadroga	2008-2013	6	2	2014-2016	3
Naitasiri	2008-2013	6	5	2014-2016	3
Namosi	2008-2013	6	2	2014-2016	3
Ra	2008-2013	6	3	2014-2016	3
Rewa	2008-2013	6	5	2014-2016	3
Serua	2008-2013	6	5	2014-2016	3
Tailevu	2008-2013	6	4	2014-2016	3
TAB	2008-2013	6	2	2014-2016	3
Total		90	41		45

- Target to submit 90 Annual Accounts (2008-2013) by 31.07.2018
- 41 accounts drafted awaiting finalization of 2007 accounts by OAG.
- 49 accounts – WIP
- Target to submit 45 Annual Accounts (2014-2016) by 31.12.2018

5. Strategies In Place

- i. Acquisition of a new integrated financial system for TAB and PCs. Expected to roll out in August 2018.
- ii. Recruitment of qualified accountant in the Finance Department
- iii. Training of Provincial Treasurers during Treasurers workshops on preparation of Annual Accounts
- iv. Close collaboration with financial institutions for Audit confirmations
- v. Set up of a Taskforce to work on annual accounts
- vi. Govnet Connectivity at all Councils
- vii. Purchase of system servers and hosted at ITC for data security and retention.

6. Challenges Faced:

- i. Unavailability of records
- ii. Non integration of financial system
- iii. Poor support services from WINBIZ financial system vendor (Prosystems)
- iv. Deployment of audit resources by OAG.
- v. Human resource constraint – lack of manpower.

B. UNSIGNED AGREEMENT WITH NATIVE RESERVE COMMISSION

(The Ministry should ensure that the grant agreement is signed in a timely manner prior to disbursing funds)

Ministry have agreed that Grant Agreement to be signed before beginning of a new Financial Year. And reflected in the MTA Financial Manual Part 3 Section 1.

C. SCHOLARSHIP BOND RECOVERY BALANCES NOT TRANSFERRED TO TSLB

Scholarship Bond recovery balances was transferred to Ministry of Economy in July 2017 (closing of 2016-2017 financial year) & GL account was also deactivated. Refer MOE batch # 04A241

D. DIVERSION OF FUNDS WITHOUT PROPER APPROVAL

MTA had requested 37676 from Head 50 for the purchase of Ministry equipment only \$24882 was utilised for this purpose and the balance to pay for NEC officer.

The MTA Financial Manual part 2.1.10 is to address this issue.

Conclusion

The MTA Financial Manual 2017-2018 is to address the issues raised. This includes capacity building and Good governance training for officials including training for the accounts officials.