



Rear-Admiral (Ret'd) Hon. J.V. Bainimarama, CF (Mil), OSt.J, MSD, jssc, psc

Prime Minister of Fiji and Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Sugar Industry

PARLIAMENTARY - WRITTEN QUESTION NO. 126/2019

QUESTION:

Hon Mosese Bulitavu to ask the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Sugar Industry - Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the progress of the allotment of extinct Mataqali lands between 2016 – 2019?

RESPONSE:

1. Mr. Speaker, My Government is dedicated to not only preserving and protecting native iTaukei land, as we have enshrined in the 2013 Constitution, but also to promoting new ways for it to become a stream of income for ordinary Fijians, their children and their grandchildren.

2. The Allotment of Extinct Mataqali Lands is guided under the provision of Section 19 of the iTaukei Land Trust Act 1940 which states:

“Section 19(1) - If any mataqali shall cease to exist by the extinction of its members its land shall vest in the Board, to be allotted to the qali of which it was a part or other division of the people which may apply for the same or to be retained by the Board or dealt with otherwise upon such terms as the Board may deem expedient”.

3. Prior to the iTaukei Land Trust (Amendment) Act No 12 of 2002, extinct Mataqali land were held by the State as “Schedule A”¹ Land.
4. On the 1st of December 2000, the Director of Lands published in Gazette Notice No. 1047 a full list of State Schedule A land which were transferred from the state to the iTaukei Land Trust Board.

¹ Schedule A is land that once belonged to a land-owning unit that has become extinct whilst Schedule B is land that was not claimed during the initial sittings of the then Native Land Commission in the early part of the 1900s.

5. A total of **1,060** parcels of extinct *Mataqali* land with a total area of up to **290,000** acres were placed under the trust of the iTaukei Land Trust Board to be allotted to iTaukei land owners. The details are summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1 – Parcels of Extinct Mataqali Land

Land Type	Number of parcels	Area in Acres	Area in Hectares
Schedule A land transferred from the State	844	223,581.52	90,480.23
Extinct Mataqali Lands vested in the Board	216	66,413.60	26,876.63
TOTAL	1060	289,995.12	117,356.86

6. For the period 2016 to 2019, the total number of 198 individual parcels of extinct Mataqali land were approved by the Board for allotment. From February 2019 to May 2019, an additional 21 allotment cases will be tabled for approval at the TLTB Board meeting at the end of May, 2019.

7. TLTB has already allotted a full 95 per cent of Schedule A lands. The process of Allotment is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

8. Mr. Speaker, Government is making good on its promises. More iTaukei land are being reverted back to iTaukei land-owning units, more land is being freed up for farming and development, and in effect, more money is in the pockets of tens of thousands of Fijian farmers and landowners.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.
