



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

### Review of:

Film Fiji Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2014

Film Fiji Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2015



Parliamentary Paper No. 117 of 2019

*February 2020*

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*Published and Printed by the Department of Legislature, Parliament House, SUVA*

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## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP



### **Chairperson**

Hon. Viam Pillay MP  
Government Member

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### **Deputy Chairperson**

Hon. George Vegenathan MP  
Government Member

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### **Member**

Hon. Alipate Nagata MP  
Government Member

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### **Member**

Hon. Salote Radrodoro MP  
Opposition Member

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### **Member**

Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu MP  
Opposition Member

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## CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the report of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs on the annual review of Film Fiji for the period January - December 2014 and January - December 2015.

In accordance with its established Annual Report review process, the Committee examines Annual Reports of agencies, in order to investigate, inquire into, and make recommendations relating to the agencies' administration, legislative or proposed legislative programme, budget, functions, organisational structure and policy formulation. As part of this process, the Committee conducted public hearings to gather additional information.

The process has proven to be an effective means of gauging its progress and maintaining a high level of scrutiny of the agencies under review.

This review was made in accordance with Standing Order 109(2)(b) which mandates the committee to look into issues related to health, education, social services, labour, culture and media.

The review looked at nine key areas covering the period from January 2014 to December 2015, conducted into: Film Fiji's administration; structure; budgetary allocation; programmes and activities; policies; challenges; highlights; priorities for the coming years; and its implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

At this juncture, I also wish to thank the Acting Chief Executive Officer of Film Fiji, Mr Jone Tikoca, and his staff for their assistance in this review process. I also extend my gratitude to my Committee colleagues namely: Hon. George Vegnathan (Deputy Chairperson), Hon. Alipate Nagata, Hon. Salote Radrodoro, and Hon. Dr. Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu for their contributions as well as to Hon. Simione Rasova and Hon. Jale Sigarara for availing themselves as alternate members for those Members who were unable to attend the committee meetings. Finally, I thank the Secretariat, Ms. Sheron Narayan, Mr. Tevita Tuivanuavou, and Ms. Atelaite Leba for the assistance provided during the committee's deliberations.

I, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, commend the *Film Fiji 2014 Annual Report* and the *Film Fiji 2015 Annual Report* to Parliament and request all members of this August House to take note of the committee's Report.



**Hon. Viam Pillay**  
**Chairperson**

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

CEO	-	Chief Executive Officer
SDGSs	-	Sustainable Development Goals



## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs has conducted a review of the following Annual Reports:

- Film Fiji Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2014
- Film Fiji Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

The committee recommends that Parliament take note of its report.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The 2014 and 2015 Annual Reports of Film Fiji were tabled in Parliament during the August 2019 meeting and referred to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs for its scrutiny.

Standing Orders 109(2)(b) allows Standing Committee on Social Affairs to examine matters related to health, education, social services, labour, culture and media.

Furthermore, Standing Orders 110(1)(c) authorises the Standing Committee to *scrutinise the government departments with responsibility within the committee's subject area, including by investigating, inquiring into, and making recommendations relating to any aspect of such a department's administration, legislation or proposed legislative program, budget, rationalisation, restructuring, functioning, organisation, structure and policy formulation.*

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FILM FIJI**

Film Fiji is a Government statutory body that is constituted by law and operates in accordance with the Film Fiji Act 2002 whose primary function is to develop and promote the audio-visual industry in Fiji. Film Fiji is empowered under the Income (Film-making and Audio-visual) Incentives Regulations 2016 to administer incentives offered by the Fiji Government to prospective film makers who wish to come to Fiji to film their productions.

Film Fiji provides location services, administers the various incentives, grants film permits and facilitates necessary approvals from authorities such as the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service, Immigration and other government departments.

Another important function of Film Fiji is to set up a film school in Fiji.

## **ISSUES RAISED**

### **DELAY IN APPOINTMENT OF FILM FIJI'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

The committee notes that the position of Film Fiji's Chief Executive Officer has been vacant for over a year. Currently, the Manager Finance and Administration of Film Fiji is acting in the position of CEO and is responsible for the overall administration of the organisation.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the Chief Executive Officer position be substantively filled.

### **LAPSED ANNUAL REPORTS OF FILM FIJI**

The committee is concerned with the delay in the submission of Film Fiji's Annual Reports in accordance with Section 11 of the Film Fiji Act 2002. Film Fiji has had a lapse of three years in reporting on its functions and work done from 2016 to 2018.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Film Fiji prioritize the submission of all pending Annual Reports.



## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

We note that Film Fiji's Annual Reports make limited reference to the SDGs and do not specify which SDG each of its programmes and activities relate to.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Committee recommends that Film Fiji:
  - Change the format/layout of its Annual Reports to facilitate understanding of SDG information.
  - Explicitly link results with relevant/priority SDG goals and targets.
  - Include a section explaining how Film Fiji is prioritising action on the SDGs.
  - Report on the challenges faced with the implementation of the SDGs.
2. That Film Fiji work in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy for capacity building of staff to enable a better understanding of issues relating to the Sustainable Development Goals and its linkages to Film Fiji's work.

## **GENDER ANALYSIS**

Gender is a critical dimension to parliamentary scrutiny. Standing Order 110 (2) requires committees to consider gender equality and ensure that the impact on both men and women is explored in all matters.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That future Annual Reports present a breakdown of gender equality and participation in the positions held within Film Fiji.



## CONCLUSION

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs has fulfilled its mandate approved by Parliament which was to examine and review the following Annual Reports:

- Film Fiji Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2014
- Film Fiji Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

The principal activities of Film Fiji during the period under review were the development and promotion of the audio visual industry in Fiji. Therefore, the substantive appointment of Film Fiji's CEO is crucial to boosting investor confidence in Fiji's film industry locally and more importantly, abroad.

The review of Film Fiji's Annual Reports was conducted in a very tactful and comprehensive manner. This has enabled the committee for Social Affairs to submit to Parliament a more reliable and a cohesive report.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS' SIGNATURE

We, the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, hereby agree with the contents of this report:



Hon. Viam Pillay  
(Chairperson)



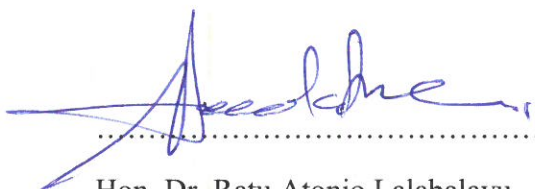
Hon. George Vegnathan  
(Deputy Chairperson)



Hon. Alipate Nagata  
(Member)



Hon. Salote Radrodro  
(Member)



Hon. Dr. Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu  
(Member)



Hon. Simione Rasova  
(Reserve Member)

## APPENDICES

### Witnesses

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The following witnesses gave evidence. Transcripts can be viewed on the Parliament website at the following link: <http://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-social-affairs/>

**Thursday 3 October, 2019**

#### Film Fiji

**Jone Tikoca**, Acting Chief Executive Officer and **Marica Vereakula**, Legal and Compliance Officer.

## **Published written evidence**

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Written evidence and supplementary information was received from Film Fiji and can be viewed on the Parliament website at the following link:  
<http://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-social-affairs/>