

## Written Question 90/2020

Hon. Pio Tikoduadua to ask the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the progress of the Lautoka Botanical Gardens/Aquatic Centre project and specifically –

- a) What was the original time frame and budget for the Lautoka Botanical Garden Pool project when it was first decided upon?
  - b) What are the reasons for delay in delivery; and
  - c) What is the current time-frame and budget for delivery of the project?
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### 1. Initial Project Proposal

Mr Speaker Sir, around August 2015 Lautoka City Council determined to carry out a swimming pool project (the Project) at the Lautoka Botanical Garden site. The Project was for two swimming pools: a FINA compliant competition pool (50m x 8 lanes) and a community pool of 25m x 6 lanes.

The project, Mr. Speaker Sir, included the construction of associated facilities for the pool which includes one medical room, two sets of public convenience for male and female with access for physically challenged individuals, two sets of change rooms, a pool attendant's room, storage room and 1 ticket booth. The estimated cost for the initial Project design was \$2m.

### 2. Appointment of Project Manager/Consultant

Mr. Speaker Sir, a Project Manager/Consultant was appointed and a new Concept Proposal was undertaken. The new concept proposal now had the Project in a different location and included a 10 Lane Competition Pool, 4 Lane Warm Up Pool and 4 Lane Community Pool. The new concept further included construction of associated facilities for the pool, which included one medical room, two sets of public convenience for male and female with access for physically challenged individuals, two sets of change rooms, a pool attendant's room, storage room and a ticket booth.

### 3. New Concept Proposal

The budget for the new Concept Proposal after several site visits and site meetings was increased to \$7.8m.

This was due to the change in scope of works as outlined above:

- 10 lane Competition Pool
- 4 lane Community Pool

- 4 lane Warm Up Pool
- *Sports Village* with 1000 seater stadium

The Project was approved on 17 January 2017. Lautoka City Council and the Lead Consultant executed the Consultancy Agreement for the Swimming Pool Development on 18 December 2017 wherein the Project Cost had escalated to \$12.6m due to further changes in scope as follows:

- 10 lane Competition Pool
- 8 Lane Warm Up Pool
- 1 Children's Pool
- All to be at Olympic International Standard

#### 4. Timeline for Phase One Construction

Mr Speaker Sir, for the pools contractor, the original timeline for the construction of Phase One was 10 months, with a completion date of November, 2018. The planned timeline of the contractor selected to construct the associated facilities was 9 months from June 2018 to March 2019.

### **What are the reasons for delay in delivery?**

#### 1. Contractors for the Swimming Pool

Mr Speaker Sir, as mentioned above, there were two contractors engaged for the Lautoka Botanical Garden Swimming Pool project with two different timelines. They were to work on the same site but on different activities. The delay of the project implementation was due to a number of factors including natural disasters and material suppliers not able to meet the specified timelines and demand.

#### 2. Project Review by Lautoka City Council

The LCC in consultation with Ministry of Local Government began an urgent project review around December 2019. The said review on the delay in the project was completed in March 2020.

Mr Speaker Sir, the findings revealed that the Contractor for the buildings and associated facilities was not able to complete its contract by 18 March, 2019 citing wet weather, shortage of materials and delays in some progress payments by LCC as reasons for not being able to complete their contract on time.

#### 3. Extension of Time Frame

LCC gave the contractor for the buildings and associated facilities an extension of time by 6 months with effect from 19 March, 2019 to complete their contract. This meant that the

contractor for the buildings and associated facilities should have completed their contract by no later than 19 September, 2019.

The Swimming Pools have been constructed and have been commissioned. Nevertheless, 67% of the works for the buildings and related works are yet to be completed. The time given to the contractor for the buildings and associated facilities to complete their works expired on 18 September, 2019.

**What is the current time-frame and budget for delivery of the project?**

Assessment of the works at Lautoka Swimming Pool

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Ministry has been closely working with the Lautoka City Council on the issues surrounding the delay in the project completion.

LCC has hired a Quantity Surveyor to carry out an assessment of the works and to prepare new scope of work to complete the swimming pool project. Cost will be known after the tender is called on the new scope of work. The project is targeted to be completed by March 2021.