



STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

REPORT ON THE PETITION OF NAVISABASABA VILLAGE, NADROGA



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
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Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to present the Report of the Social Affairs Standing Committee on the Petition for Parliament to review the land related requests by Mataqali Leweinadroga of Navisabasaba village in Nadroga. This report was compiled through hard work and commitment from members of the Parliament's Standing Committee on Social Affairs.

The Report consolidates and examines all the stakeholders input which involved the Ministry of I-Taukei Affairs (I-Taukei Lands and Fisheries Commission), Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, I-Taukei Land Trust Board and the public on the land issue for Navisabasaba village.

In the last quarter of 2015, the Committee had undertaken a wide range of inquiry on this land issue which booked 28th – 29th October, 2015 for this exercise. The Committee agreed on a work plan to conduct interviews and received submissions from people of Navisabasaba village, Nadroga with the assistance of the relevant Government agencies.

Similarly, the Committee had conducted 2 days consultations with site visits at Navisabasaba village from the 3rd – 4th November, 2015 and obtained additional and detailed information from the villagers on the land issue that was raised in the petition.

In this report, the Committee makes 3 recommendations to the Parliament that cover the areas that would be able to resolved the land issue in Navisabasaba village and also will have an impact on other related issues that was raised by the people of Navisabasaba.

On behalf of the Honourable Members of the Committee, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all those government agencies that made a submission and attended oral presentation during our Consultation in Suva and also in Navisabasaba village, Nadroga. The strength and depth of the Committee's inquiry rests with the voluntary commitment and time of the Yavusa, Mataqali and the Tokatoka that makes their submission and appearing before the Committee during the consultation. This was also evident on the quality of submissions received and presentation made by relevant government agencies during the consultation, which candidly provided their opinions and advice to the Committee.

I also wish to extend my thanks to the Honourable Members that were involved in the production of this bipartisan report: my Committee colleagues Hon. Salote Radrodro MP (Deputy Chairperson), Hon. Veena Bhatnagar MP (Member), Hon. Vijay Nath MP (Member) and Hon. Anare Vadei MP (Member).

I would also like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of the alternate Members who sat during the consultations, Standing Committee meetings, and finalisation of the recommendations and the compilation of this report. The following alternate membership arose pursuant to Standing Order 115(5):

1. Hon. Ruveni N. Nadalo (Alternate Member for Hon. Veena Bhatnagar)
2. Hon. Ratu Sela Nanovo (Alternate Member for Hon. Salote Radrodro); and
3. Hon. Dr. Brij Lal (Alternate Member for Hon. Vijay Nath)

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to those parties who made submissions to the Committee and appeared as witnesses during the public hearings. The Committee appreciates their substantial efforts. Some of the people appeared before the Committee includes:

1. Mr. Viliame Seuseu Burenivalu – Roko Tui Nadroga Navosa
2. Mr. Ilesia Delasau – Assistant Roko Tui Nadroga Navosa
3. Mr. Sekove Tagive – I-Taukei Lands and Fisheries Commission
4. Mr. Ilesia Tulagi - I-Taukei Lands and Fisheries Commission
5. Mr. Ilaitia Navunisaravi – Lands Department, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources
6. Mr. Sanjesh Kumar - Lands Department, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources
7. Ms. Ema Natadra – I-Taukei Land Trust Board
8. Mr. Alivereti Momo – Leader of Mataqali Leweivedrala, Tokatoka Korobitu, Yavusa Leweiqere, Navisabasaba village, Nadroga
9. Mr. Mesulame Rakuro – Leader of Mataqali Leweinadroga, Tokatoka Nakabasi, Yavusa Louvatu, Navisabasaba village, Nadroga
10. Mr. Kini Ligabulu – Leader of Yavusa Leweiqere, Mataqali Leweinasalavadra, Navisabasaba village, Nadroga

Finally, I wish to also acknowledge the work of the Committee Secretariat and the Committee Research Officer for the secretariat support provided to the Committee until the finalisation of this Committee Report.

I commend this report to the Parliament.



Hon. Viam Pillay
Chairperson

Recommendations

This report outlines key recommendations that cover the issue raised in the petition and also other related issues that were received during the consultation. The Committee recommendations are as follow:

Recommendation 1:

For short term solution, that is for relevant government departments which includes Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Fisheries and Forests; Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources; Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment; and Ministry of I-Taukei Affairs to conduct a comprehensive ground survey across Navisabasaba village boundaries and provide necessary advice, training and capacity building to the village on how to utilize their available piece of land and sea which are within their village boundaries and these include housing setups in the village, farming, development of its natural resources for commercial purpose and how to sustain water supply in the village.

Recommendation 2:

That the I-Taukei Land Trust Board (**I-TLTB**), the Roko Tui Nadroga Navosa, the Fiji National Provident Fund (**FNPF**) and the village of Navisabasaba to meet and discuss the breach of lease condition by FNPF and the option to return the land to the Landowning Unit of I-TLTB so that the landowners (Navisabasaba village) could apply to use this land for village boundaries extension including farming.

Recommendation 3:

That the village of Navisabasaba to follow the proper procedure and process in applying for Agriculture lease and their Agriculture lease application to be considered for approval by the relevant government departments.

List of acronyms:

I-TLTB	I-Taukei Land Trust Board
FNPF	Fiji National Provident Fund
I-TLFC	I-Taukei Lands and Fisheries Commission
SO	Standing Orders

Introduction

Background

Using the legislative powers provided to the Committee, this report examines the Petition tabled by Hon. Viliame Gavoka for Parliament to review the land related requests that was made by Mataqali Leweinadroga of Navisabasaba village in Nadroga. .

The Report is divided into three Chapters:

- **Chapter One** covers the role and responsibilities of the Committee and the inquiry process undertaken.
- **Chapter Two** focuses on the Petition, the purpose of the Committee's consultations in Suva and the summaries of all submissions; and
- **Chapter Three** details the Committee's deliberations and analysis of submissions received, followed by Recommendations to Parliament.

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs Committee

The Committee is a standing committee of the Fijian Parliament and was established under Section 109 (2) (b) of the Standing Orders (SO) of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji. The Committee comprises five Honourable Members, drawn from both the Government and the Opposition parties.

The Committee's legislative functions are to examine matters related to health, education, social services, labour, culture, media and their administration.

On Monday 24th August 2015, Honourable Viliame Gavoka had introduced a Petition for Parliament to review the land related requests by Mataqali Leweinadroga, Navisabasaba village, Nadroga. The Parliament resolved that the Petition be committed to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs to examine and report it back to Parliament.

Procedure and Program

The Committee wrote to the relevant government agencies, seeking submissions and to appear before the Committee on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th October, 2015 to brief the Committee on this land related request.

Committee Members

The members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs are as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Hon. Viam Pillay | - | Chairman |
| 2. Hon. Salote Radrodro | - | Deputy Chairman |
| 3. Hon. Veena Bhatnagar | - | Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services |
| 4. Hon. Vijay Nath | - | Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport |

5. Hon. Anare Vadei - Member of Parliament

During the Standing Committee's meetings, the following alternate membership arose pursuant to Standing Order 115(5):

1. Hon. Ruveni N. Nadalo - (Alternate Member for Hon. Veena Bhatnagar);
2. Hon. Mikaele Leawere - (Alternate Member for Hon. Salote Radrodro);
3. Hon. Ratu Sela Nanovo - (Alternate Member for Hon. Salote Radrodro); and
4. Hon. Dr. Brij Lal - (Alternate Member for Hon. Vijay Nath)
5. Hon. Balmindar Singh - (Alternate Member for Hon. Vijay Nath)

PETITION FOR PARLIAMENT TO REVIEW THE LAND RELATED REQUESTS BY MATAQALI LEWEINADROGA OF NAVISABASABA VILLAGE, NADROGA

The Committee received a submission from the Ministry of I-Taukei Affairs (I-Taukei Lands and Fisheries Commission) on 28th October, 2015. On 29th October, 2015 and further received two (2) submissions and heard oral presentation from leaders of the four (4) Mataqali of Navisabasaba village at Nadroga Navosa Provincial Office before moving to Navisabasaba village on the 3rd to 4th November, 2015.

Key themes raised in submissions and at public hearings

The Yavusa Louvatu which consisted of Mataqali Leweinadroga, Tokatoka Nakabasi of Navisabasaba village had signed the petition and was supported by the another Yavusa known to be Yavusa Leweiqere which are consisted of three (3) Mataqali, these includes Mataqali Leweinasalavadra, Leweiqere and Leweivedrala. The purpose of the petition is for Government to allocate a piece of land for village boundaries extension.

The submissions that were presented to the Committee are outlined in the following subsection.

Oral and Written submissions received

The purpose of the consultation by the Committee was to receive more written and oral submissions to ascertain first-hand information from the relevant Government departments and the wider population of Navisabasaba village on the request for village boundary extension.

The consultation which was conducted in Suva by the Committee was solely for Government departments to give their views on the status of the land request that was previously made by the Navisabasaba village regarding the ownership of the land, size of land owned by each Mataqali/Tokatoka and the number of people currently living in the village and registered member of each Tokatoka/Mataqali. The consultation provides the Committee the idea on how to resolve the land issue that are faced by the people of Navisabasaba.

The Committee heard three (2) oral and received five (5) written submissions from the relevant Government departments which include the I-Taukei Land and Fisheries Commission, I-Taukei Land Trust Board (I-TLTB) and the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources which are summarised below.

**Submission One: Mr. Vananalagi, Chairman of the I-Taukei Land and Fisheries Commission
Ministry of I-Taukei Affairs**

The brief made by the Chairman of the Lands and Fisheries Commission had highlighted the following issues:

- i. In 28th May, 2015 the village population of Navisabasaba was around 300 in its last demarcation back in 28th May, 2014 which was located beside the Tuva River.
- ii. Currently, 2 Yavusa are occupying the village. The **Yavusa Louvatu** consisted of **Mataqali Leweinadroga, Tokatoka Nakabati** and the **Yavusa Leweiqere** consisted of **Mataqali Leweinasalavadra, Leweiqere** and **Leweivedrala**. **Mataqali Leweinasalavadra** consisted of two *Tokatoka*; ***Tokatoka Yalomarawa, Tokatoka Vunanunu***. **Mataqali Leweiqere** consisted of two *Tokatoka* - ***Tokatoka Muanivanua*** and ***Tokatoka Tivoli***. The third *Mataqali* in the *Yavusa* Leweiqere is **Leweivedrala**, which consists of two *Tokatoka* - ***Tokatoka Mauti*** and ***Tokatoka Korobitu***.
- iii. The Committee noted that the ownership of land where the village is currently located was owned by the **Tokatoka Nakabati, Mataqali Leweinadroga**. The land was given by the Yavusa Louvatu to Tokatoka Nakabati for their use and also to preserve.
- iv. **The piece of land is a Reserved Claim No. 308, known as Lot 10 with an area of 26 acres on Map L/24. Parts of the 26 acres were under lease land well before it was claimed as a reserve for Tokatoka Nakabati.**
- v. It was noted that the request that was received earlier from the villagers was to extend or relocate the village and this request was supported by the Commission's demarcation team back in 2014 because of the following:
 1. The increase in the village population
 2. Land available for extension is prone to flooding
- vi. The remaining land that was within the village boundary of 26 acres was leased. The only land that was adjacent to the village for village extension was owned by the State known as **CG986**. The options that was brought forward by the Department to resolve the land issue faced by people of Navisabasaba:
 1. The village of Navisabasaba to request Government for a piece of land within the CG 986 to be used for village extension.
 2. People of Navisabasaba to apply for lease in CG 986 once any lease expires.
 3. The lease for those who leased within the village boundary of 26acres not to be renew given the need by village members.
- vii. In view of the issue raised, it was recommended by the Chairman of the i-Taukei Land and Fisheries Commission for the Committee to discuss with other relevant Government departments such as the i-Taukei Land Trust Board (TLTB) and the Department of Lands to discuss the best way forward. To resolve the issue raised.

Submission Two: Mrs Ema Natadra, Regional Manager South West and Mr. Mosese Ratuvolau, Reserves Commissioner, I-Taukei Lands Trust Board (ITLTB).

- i. I-TLTB raised that Tokatoka Nakabasi had requested the extension of the village boundaries. The Committee noted that the Tokatoka Nakabasi got only one piece of land which was Lot 10 in Map L24 out of the 26 acres allocated for the village boundaries. Last year, the I-TLFC (*i-Taukei* Lands and Fisheries Commission) had conducted a survey on the proposed extension of the village boundaries and it was raised during the survey that the whole of Lot 10 to be put aside for village extension. I-TLTB had received this land issue information from I-TLFC.
- ii. The map had a graphical representation of the information that was given to I-TLTB. The yellow part of the map shows the boundary of Lot 10 and the Reserve part lot except for the areas that were highlighted in green. The green portion of the land was the area that was excluded from the Reserve during the reservation that was done in 1940s. Also noted that the other map shows and captured the existing leases on that Lot 10. There were three existing leases which are still active today. In a Tourism Lease, Natadola which was located at the bottom of the lot and further on top there was a Residential Lease.
- iii. It was also noted from the map which was attached on their PowerPoint slide presentation was the existing structures – the current location of the village in comparison with the village boundary within Lot10. The area that was free, this was the area that was leased to Natadola Resort. The yellow area on the map was the area that was proposed by I-TLFC to be set aside for Village Reserve which was the whole boundary of that area.
- iv. In regards to statistics, the total area which was owned by the Tokatoka Nakabasi was 26 acres which comes to about 9.71 hectares. The Reserve land was 9.7124 hectares while the outside Reserve which was highlighted in green occupied 0.8094 hectares. The total leased and reserve areas were about 6.3279 hectares while the area outside the Reserve lot was 0.1704 hectares. The balance of the area left by this Landowning unit was 3.3845 hectares in Reserve and about 0.6390 outside Reserve.
- v. The Committee also noted that I-TLTB had done an analysis on this Land Owning Unit (LOU) which was similar to what was done to all the LOUs when ITLTB want to do a De-Reservation or a lease and the details was on page 6 of the slide (attached). In summary, the land available was 0.6390 hectares. The surviving members of this LOU were 48 which come to about 0.0133 hectares. The balance of Reserve Land which was 3.3845 hectares, the surviving members of 48 were like 0.0705 hectares.
- vi. The second option highlighted would be to allocate lease from Maro Crown Grant 986. Crown Grant 986 was a State Freehold land. It was owned by the State and administered by the Director of Lands. For any leasing on the land, the approval was given by the Director of Lands. The I-Taukei Land Trust Board does not have the power over this land other than a Section in the I-TLT Act which gave the powers to the Minister to set aside a portion of the State land for *i-Taukei* reserve purposes.
- vii. It was noted on the submission made by the Land Owning Unit (LOU) that there were some free land, unused land available on that Freehold lot but I-TLTB cannot confirm that, only the Director of Lands would know that. There could be an existing lease but lessees are not using the land.

- viii. The Committee noted that members of *Mataqali Lewainadroga, Tokatoka Nakabati* does not own enough land for their own use or their maintenance from the land that they currently own. The proposed way forward that was made by I-TLFC was to review their proposal on village extension. The option was to arrange with other LOUs if they could reserve some part of their land for this particular purpose since Tokatoka Nakabati commitment in giving their land for village setup which everyone was using.
- ix. A suggestion that was raised by I-TLTB as way forward would be for Director of Lands Department to look into all the vacant lots that the LOUs had and then consider issuing of leases to village members only to those that express their interest.

Submission Three: Ms. Preetika Prasad, Director of Lands and Mr. William Singh, Assistant Director of Lands, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources

- i. The concern highlighted by the Director of Lands on the option of lease allocation was based from the land on Maro CG986. CG986 which was previously owned by the Colonial Sugar Refinery was purchased by the Director of Lands back in 1974 as CT5149.
- ii. The totalled Lease land was 996.5648 hectares (ha) which were under State Land nowadays without a title. Now within that land, approximately 231 lots leases and they were mainly for agricultural and residential purposes. But few were put aside for commercial purpose and one or two lots for religious and education as well. There was a lot allocated for school as well.
- iii. Out of these 231, approximately about 157 already had existing leases on them and the rest which were about 74 was almost expired. These expired leases were either in the process of renewal or expiring.
- iv. In regards to the application that was received by the Department from the *mataqali*, it was recorded that about 19 applications were received which covered over Lot 11 of N1943. The Department had records of applications received in 2010 and at that time, that lot was already leased out which was occupied nowadays. The lease that was expired in 2013 and after the expiry date, the Department of Lands had issued a tenancy at will to the lessee who was caught up in the middle of doing sub-division of that land, so even that piece of land was not available at the moment.
- v. The Department of Lands had responded to the 9 applicants who had applied for lots, informing them the reasons why their application was unsuccessful due to various reasons which includes that the land was already leased out. One response highlighted that the lot requested was leased out to the Rahmatullah Khan Memorial School.
- vi. It was noted that the *mataqali* Lewainadroga had leased out about 6.39 hectares (ha) of their own land which is adjacent to this CG986. Now in regards to leasing of land, the option was for those lots which were already expired or for those which could be re-enter or land which were available for leasing.
- vii. The Lands Department had officially launched its standard operation manual. The manual was an internal document and it guides the Department by providing procedures that would be followed by the Department for the administration of all the State land. Under the SOP, when and if any State land becomes available for leasing, which than be advertise and the only

exception, if there would be special circumstances under the operations manual, it would be related to the powers of the Minister under the State Land Act. Some of the examples of special circumstances would be, if the need arises for essential services such as, if the National Fire Authority requires land or if a diplomatic agreement like the MSG land that is near the Queen Elizabeth Drive which based under the humanitarian grounds, but they would all come back to special powers by the Minister. Otherwise, all land would be advertised.

- viii. The Department of Lands had submitted that if any prices of land under the CG become available, and even if it is expired, there had a renewal process which was in place to be followed. Should it become available, then the Department was going to follow the appropriate procedure and the land would be advertised. It was noted that once the land were advertised any person could apply and if they fall under the standard criteria under that advertisement than they would be considered for interview.

Submission Four: Mr. Viliame Burenivalu Seuseu, Roko Tui Nadroga Navosa, Provincial Office Nadroga Navosa

- i. The Roko Tui Nadroga Navosa briefed the Committee on the village profile of Navisabasaba and highlighted the following issues:
- Total village Population – 302
 - Distribution of Age group in Navisabasaba village:
 - Year 0-12: male-3, female-5
 - Year 1-5: male 21, female 8
 - Year 6-14: male 32, female 25
 - Year 15-21: male 17, female 18
 - Year 22-35: male 34, female-22
 - Year 36-65: male 50, female 52
 - Year 66y and over: male 1, female 2
 - There were total of 156 males in the village.
- (a) In accordance with the Fijian Affairs Act, the Roko Tui Nadroga Navosa highlighted few issue that the Committee need to consider in a village setup, especially for Navisabasaba village:
- Village itself was overpopulated;
 - The space between the dwelling houses must be 18 feet from the other dwelling house. That was the distance that should be in the village, and this was not true in Navisabasaba, because of space available.
 - The space from the dwelling house to the village should be 8 feet per distance, and 10 feet away from the next house, and this was again not true for Navisabasaba village.
 - The Fijian Affairs Act does not allow a large number of people to stay in one dwelling house which was evident in Navisabasaba village. Also noted that the law does not allow two or more families to stay in one dwelling house.
 - Roko Tui also highlighted that the Fijian Affairs Act says that the last house must be 30 feet away from the village boundary which was breached by Navisabasaba village.

Submission Five: Mr. Alifereti Momo (Mataqali Representative), Leader of Mataqali

Leweivedrala, Yavusa Leweiqere

Listed below are some of the comments made by Mataqali Leweivedrala regarding the land that were requested for village boundary extension:

- The Mataqali Leweivedrala only got 4 acres of land;
- The available Mataqali land was not that big but it the mataqali had fully utilized for their subsistence farming; and
- The Mataqali was not able to move to another location given that there was no other land available for them.

Submission Six: Mr. Mesulame Rakuro (Mataqali Representative), Leader of Mataqali Leweinadroga, Tokatoka Nakabati, Yavusa Louvatu

The Mataqali Leweinadroga had made its submission and informed the Committee some of the issue that the Committee need to note and consider:

- The Mataqali representative was the son of late Tui Nasoni of Navisabasaba village, Nadroga;
- The Mataqali owned 26 acres of land which were being occupied to establish the village;
- It was noted that the Mataqali land had 12 acres available but currently being leased and 9 acres were used by the Mataqali for farming and also to build their dwelling house.
- The Fiji National Provident Fund and other Indo-Fijian families were lessees of the 12 acres Mataqali land
- The Mataqali had requested Government to assist them in providing another piece of land since their numbers were increased from the past years and they need to build their dwelling house and a land for farming and most importantly to meet the Village by laws that coming up as the Fijian Affairs Act.

Submission Seven: Mr. Kini Ligaburu (Mataqali Representative), Leader of Mataqali Leweinasalavadra, Yavusa Leweiqere

The Mataqali Leweinasalavadra had also made its submission and highlighted the following issues:

- The Mataqali owns 7.5 acres of land;
- The 40 people that were members of the Mataqali had occupied their 7.5 acres of land;
- The Mataqali had raised the same problem that was raised by other Mataqali which was the imbalance of population and the available land for their dwelling house and farming area;

Committee deliberations on the Petition

The Committee had received submissions and deliberated on key issues that were raised in the petition. The details of the deliberation and input from the key stakeholders are tabulated below:

Standing Committee Members	Question	Response from Relevant Government Departments
Wednesday 28th October, 2015 – I-Taukei Lands and Fisheries Commission of the Ministry of I-Taukei Affairs		
Hon. A.T. Vadei	This is a petition made by this <i>mataqali</i> and what has been explained to us is that the land adjacent to the village that they are staying in, is owned by Government, so they need to raise this concern with the Government or we discuss the extension of the village in consultation with the Department of Lands.	Response from I-Taukei Lands and Fisheries Commission – Mr. Vesikula Mr. Chairman, that is correct. The village members will need to request the Government because that is the only land available adjacent to the village for their village extension.
Hon. A.T. Vadei	What I am after, this land is only for leasing, if they are going to extend the village, how about their burial ground? Is it part of the village boundaries?	Response from Mr. V. Vesikula - Honourable Chairman, I am not sure about the burial ground. I believe that the burial ground is within the current location of the village. So, in terms of the increase in the population, they might need a new burial ground as well so that is why it is important to address the concerns raised by the Navisabasaba Village for village extension.

Standing Committee Members	Question	Response from Relevant Government Departments
<p>Hon. Ratu S.V. Nanovo</p>	<p>Just to add on to that, Mr. Chairman, the explanation given by the Chairman of NLC as the way forward to this petition is clearly defined by him. I think that is the way forward for us. There are three recommendations given by him, out of which we can explain to the people of Navisabasaba and once they agree on which way forward they want, then we put it forward to the Parliament.</p>	<p>Response from Mr. V. Vesikula - The request comes from the village so that includes <i>Tokatoka</i> Nakabasi and the other <i>mataqali</i> that are also living in the same village, which are members of the <i>Yavusa</i> Leweiqere.</p>
<p>Hon. Ruveni N. Nadalo</p>	<p>Just a clarification on this, it says here <i>Tokatoka</i> Nakabasi. We need to clarify, is this the whole of Navisabasaba or just <i>tokatoka</i> alone who are requesting this.</p>	
<p>Hon. Ratu S.V. Nanovo</p>	<p>According to the petition that was raised is the concerns outlined herein of the <i>Mataqali</i> Leweinadroga from Navisabasaba Village, it does not say <i>Mataqali</i> Leweiqere or</p>	<p>Response from Mr. V. Vesikula - Mr. Chairman, may I correct my answer to the question raised that, it is raised by <i>Mataqali</i> Leweinadroga which includes <i>Tokatoka</i> Nakabati.</p>

Standing Committee Members	Question	Response from Relevant Government Departments
<p>Hon. Ruveni N. Nadalo</p>	<p>I think this one we might need to take it down to the village level, because I clearly remember this <i>Mataqali</i> Leweinadroga. They had a piece of land consisting of about 28 acres and they have sold it to FNPF.</p> <p><i>Tokatoka</i> Nakabasi.</p>	<p>Response from Mr. V. Vesikula - Mataqali Leweinadroga?</p> <p>Response from Mr. V. Vesikula - I do not have any information about the point raised by the Honourable Member, but as far as I am concerned, the land where the village is located is owned by <i>Mataqali</i> Nakabasi. So, for any land sold, I cannot inform the Committee.</p>
<p>Hon Viam Pillay (Chairman)</p>	<p>They already had about 28 acres of land which they already sold it to FNPF, is that so?</p> <p>I believe what is being raised by the Honourable Member that this <i>Mataqali</i> which is actually asking for more land, had the land and have already sold it. Their piece of land has been sold so they are now asking for more land.</p> <p>Mr Chairman, maybe it is wise that we will have to go down to that level, to check and advise them on what we have heard from the Chairman of the <i>iTaukei</i> Land and Fisheries Commission.</p> <p>Yes, I agree, can you also give the Committee in writing whatever you have informed us, because we need as much information as possible. As we are dealing with land and the Committee does not know everything that is the very reason we are asking</p>	<p>Response from Mr. V. Vesikula - Chairman, I cannot answer that question whether any land was sold by the <i>mataqali</i>. The only information I can give to this Committee is that the current land where the village is located is owned by <i>Mataqali</i> Leweinadroga, <i>Tokatoka</i> Nakabasi. For any land sold, I cannot guarantee the Committee.</p>

Standing Committee Members	Question	Response from Relevant Government Departments
	information from the department.	
Hon. Ratu S.V. Nanovo	Mr. Chairman, maybe it is wise that we will have to go down to that level, to check and advise them on what we have heard from the Chairman of the iTaukei Land and Fisheries Commission.	<p>Response from Mr. V. Vesikula - Mr Chairman, may I ask the Committee that I will submit the report before the end of this week (by Friday) to the Secretariat.</p> <p>Response from Mr. S. Kaunisela</p>
Hon Viam Pillay (Chairman)	Yes, I agree, can you also give the Committee in writing whatever you have informed us, because we need as much information as possible. As we are dealing with land and the Committee does not know everything that is the very reason we are asking information from the department.	<p>(Permanent Secretary for I-Taukei Affairs) - Mr Chairman, you have rightly said, I think the petition is written without much information but the claimants are from the communities without any further backup information for us to actually ascertain whether the claim is really genuine or not.</p> <p>In that case, with this new information that has come up that they had the land, they sold the land, now they want more land, if that is true, then I would advise that Honourable Ratu Nanovo's viewpoints be taken where we need to go down to the ground and fully ascertain how genuine this petition is rather than take it at face value.</p> <p>I think that would be the best way to go about it and from then, the options or the way forward that has been proposed could then be taken on which option would be the best option to be taken by the members of the communities and</p>

Standing Committee Members	Question	Response from Relevant Government Departments
		upon your recommendation.
Hon. A.T. Vadei	Mr. Chairman, I just want to contribute to the discussion. First, can we have the approved plan by the <i>iTaukei</i> Land and Fisheries Commission about where the <i>Tokatoka</i> land is, we gather all that information then we can go down to the village level and ascertain some of the aspects of the concerns raised. From the legal document that we have, we can rightly know and identify where this <i>Tokatoka</i> land is and how much land they have within that village boundary.	

Standing Committee Members	Question	Response from Relevant Government Departments
Hon Viam Pillay (Chairman)	Thank you Mr. Kaunisela for your advice which has been noted. I believe that is the very reason we need so much information and I think the best way is for the Committee to go down and get more information. So, if the Ministry could also accompany us to Navisabasaba Village, so that on the ground we are given the right information that will assist the Committee in making its report back to Parliament. Otherwise without knowing things if we are there on the ground, without having the right people on the ground to advise us, then still we will be not on the right track.	Response from Mr. V. Vesikula - Sir, I suggest that the other stakeholders too can accompany the Committee that includes TLTB and the Lands Department.
Hon Viam Pillay (Chairman)	Yes, I agree. TLTB will be here tomorrow to advise the Committee. We will also ask them to accompany the Committee including the Lands Department. So, I believe when all of us are there, then we can make the right decision and report back rightly to Parliament.	
Hon. B. Singh	Mr Chairman, just to add upon the other stakeholders intervention and getting information from stakeholders, I also request if Mr. Vesikula could submit a thorough report as he had alluded that by end of this week. This is a good information for us before we embark on other avenues.	

Standing Committee Members	Question	Response from Relevant Government Departments
Hon. A.T. Vadei	In addition to that Mr. Chairman, also we can seek the PS's approval in using the Roko Tui in the Nadroga Division to assist us because they are in a proper position in the protocols.	Response from Mr. S. Kaunisela - Mr Chairman, certainly yes. Normally the <i>Roko Tui</i> will be the conduit to the communities and we will inform them prior to the Committee's visit to assist.
Thursday 29th October, 2015 – I-Taukei Lands Trust Board (ITLTB)		
Hon Viam Pillay (Chairman)	From what you have explained to us, it means they only have 26 acres of land. Navisabasaba Village alone has 26 acres of land. So, how many mataqali are there in Navisabasaba Village? Just one question, Navisabasaba Village, do they have any other piece of land which they have already sold to FNPF? How many acres of land has been given for lease? But the land that belong to this Tokatoka. What I was trying to ask is, does this <i>Tokatoka</i> had other land which they already leased to Natadola?	Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau (Reserves Commissioner, ITLTB) - Yes. Not the village, but the LOU. Four mataqali. They own Lot 10 which is 26 acres. The people around this area have been giving their land for lease to Natadola, Tourism Lease. We do not have the current details for all the other LOUs we only have the information on Lot 10. Yes, the only ones that are committed to the leases are the ones we have listed, the three leases.
Hon Viam Pillay (Chairman)	Only 26 acres from the beginning? Who owns that land?	Response from Ms. Ema. Natadra (ITLTB Regional Manager South West) - The total NLC lot area is 26 acres. The total lease area within Reserve is tabulated there - 6.3279 hectares. The outside Reserve is 1.1704 hectares. It is very less but it is quite significant because of the increase increasing number of the LOU members right now, which my colleague has already

Standing Committee Members	Question	Response from Relevant Government Departments
		<p>presented on the other side, the Land Need Analysis on the outside Reserve, which is 0.0133 hectares which is equivalent to 133 square metres (m²) per member.</p> <p>No, only three.</p> <p>Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau - Yes, from the beginning when they had the original Native Lands Commission. They had no other parcel but this Lot then.</p> <p>Response from Ms. Ema. Natadra - Lease to Natadola is only one - the Tourism Lease. Yes, that is according to our record.</p> <p>Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau - Part of this Lot 10 is leased to the <i>mataqali</i> which is shown here on this map, that shaded part where Natadola Nursery is that is showing there, that is ta part lease as well, to Natadola.</p>
<p>Hon Viam Pillay (Chairman)</p>	<p>The owners are the Navisabasaba villagers, how many acres?</p> <p>No, I understand about Lot 10. What I am asking is, apart from Lot 10, the lease which has been given to Natadola, who is the owner of those leases?</p> <p>Not this village?</p> <p>Some from this <i>Tokatoka</i>?</p>	<p>Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau -</p> <p>That Lot 10 is the only land that they own.</p> <p>There are other LOUs all over this place.</p> <p>Yes, some from this village.</p> <p>Yes, from Navisabasaba Village but not from this Tokatoka. From</p>

Standing Committee Members	Question	Response from Relevant Government Departments
	<p>How many acres is that?</p> <p>Whole of that is Lot 10?</p> <p>So, out of Lot 10, they have given the lease to Natadola?</p> <p>So, they have given out two leases?</p> <p>Had they not given that lease, they would have had enough land.</p>	<p>this <i>Tokatoka</i>, the only lease that they gave to Natadola is the one that is marked there.</p> <p>Response from Ms. Ema. Natadra - Sir, 6.2247 hectares, that is for Natadola lease.</p> <p>Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau - Yes, Natadola and there is a Residential Lease on top.</p> <p>Response from Ms. Ema. Natadra – Two</p> <p>Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau - Yes, one is this one.</p> <p>Response from Ms. Ema. Natadra - Yes, sort of.</p> <p>Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau - That is about more than 12 acres, the one leased to Natadola Nursery.</p>
Hon. M.R. Leawere	<p>Mr Chairman, I want to ask the Presenters whether the village Reserve, does it include the burial ground as well? What I am worried about is the number of people on top of the ground, which will be equivalent to the number of people at the bottom of the ground.</p> <p>Not their burial ground?</p>	<p>Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau - This village extension is where they could build their houses, the actual village boundary, where they live.</p> <p>Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau - No.</p>
Hon. Ratu S.V. Nanovo	<p>In the Navisabasaba Village, there are a few other <i>mataqali</i> in that village, apart from <i>Tokatoka Nakabasi</i> so the land only belongs to <i>Tokatoka Nakabasi</i> in which the village is located at the moment.</p> <p>The other <i>mataqali</i> or other <i>yavusa</i> in there, they have land as well which are</p>	<p>Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau - Yes, that is right.</p> <p>Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau - They have their own land but they have their houses on</p>

Standing Committee Members	Question	Response from Relevant Government Departments
	<p>outside...</p> <p>Yes. <i>Tokatoka Nakabasi</i> sacrificed all their land to the village, while the other <i>mataqali</i> within the village have their own land outside also.</p>	<p>this land.</p> <p>Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau - Yes, they have the surrounding land but I am sorry we did not prepare that, we will provide it later if you want it.</p>
Hon. A.T. Vadei	<p>So that we can have a holistic approach on this issue.</p> <p>Just a request to the TLTB, if they can provide the number of <i>Mataqali</i>? How many <i>Mataqalis</i> are there in Navisabasaba and how many acres of land these <i>Mataqalis</i> owned apart from the <i>Tokatoka</i>? Apart from the 26 acres of land, how many villagers are there?</p>	<p>Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau - We will give a list of all the <i>Mataqalis</i> in the village and the land that they owned.</p> <p>Mr. Chairman, based on the assessment of the need basis, there is a need over there for the <i>Tokatoka</i> Nakabati to be given additional land, based on your need analysis.</p>
Hon Viam Pillay (Chairman)	<p>I understand that there is a need but we also have to acknowledge that these <i>Tokatoka</i> have already been given two pieces of land for lease, that is why they are short of land now. Now this <i>Tokatoka</i> already was accommodating three other villagers whereas they have their land outside that area. If they all have been in their own piece of land, this issue would not have come to this Committee but just because the structures are already there, according to the information they need that but had the planning been done in the right way in the first place, than things would have been different. As of the petition, we will be going down to Nadroga and look into this as a</p>	<p>Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau - The <i>iTaukei</i> Lands Commission is going out to all the villagers in Fiji, looking at the extension to the villagers. They are doing it for all the villagers in Fiji, not just Nadroga. There are instances, like in Serua where the particular landowning unit, where the village is, they want to put the people outside. Tell them to go and use their own land rather than using their land for the village. So, what the <i>iTaukei</i> Lands Commission is trying to do now, is to formalise the boundary of the village and put some kind of proclamation so that the</p>

Standing Committee Members	Question	Response from Relevant Government Departments
	<p>Committee.</p> <p>Any other questions from the Members? We will need your written information as far as the number of villagers inside.</p> <p>The land, apart from the 26 acres is the reserve that they have. Though they have made their houses within these 26 acres but what the land they have outside belongs to these villagers.</p>	<p>landowners would not chase the people outside. Make it a legal boundary, that is why they are doing all these extension to cope for the future increase.</p>
Hon. A.T. Vadei	<p>Mr. Chairman, the question is that, how many more requests or the needs from the province of Nadroga that you have received regarding the extension of village boundaries?</p>	
Hon Viam Pillay (Chairman)	<p>Beside these 26 acres, the other <i>Mataqalis</i>, if the boundary can be extended on that side, where they have the reserve, that will not solve this problem instead of going to this side, where the land is owned by the State.</p>	<p>Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau - Yes, when the TLC Commission goes out to the villagers, the villagers determine where they want to extend the village rather than the Commission. This area if you can see from the map here, it is close to the river and close to the road. They would want to congregate along the road and close to the river rather than moving further inland. So, really the choice of where their village should extend is up to those people in the village.</p>
Hon Viam Pillay (Chairman)	<p>Yes, but in this case where they are asking for the land, it is the State land, whereas they have their own reserved land. So, if they have their own</p>	<p>Response from Mr. M. Ratuvolau - Yes, and that is why we are suggesting that maybe TLC should review their proposed</p>

Standing Committee Members	Question	Response from Relevant Government Departments
	reserved land towards the river or towards the road, then the choice of theirs is right.	village extension. Maybe move it up to the area up there, where the village is extending up there rather than moving it down.
Hon Viam Pillay (Chairman)	<p>Why I am trying to say this, I understand the villagers need more space, there are four villagers there, they have some reserve which is not near to the river or to the road but the land which they are asking is State land and if it was their own land, the Committee would have made the recommendations very easily. There are some legal aspects on this, which the Lands Department and the TLTB have to look into it. As you were saying in the beginning, there are some instructions given as far as that land is concerned.</p> <p>Sir, thank you very much for the information. We will need your written information if that can be given to our secretariat and if we are going to Nadroga then we will also request your team if we need any assistance on our way to the village or to see the boundaries or to see the reserve. So, we will request if you can also provide the assistance to the Committee, when we will be down in Nadroga. Thank you very much for your time, Sir.</p>	
Thursday 29th October, 2015 – Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources		
Hon. Viam Pillay (Chairman)	Thank You, Director. According to the Petition, the request here is the whole of this CG land for the village extension, whereas you have briefed us that there is 151 existing lease and 74	Response from Department of Land – Director Lands, Ms. P. Prasad - Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Standing Committee Members	Question	Response from Relevant Government Departments
	leases which are either under process for renewal or expiry. So, I believe all those land will go for lease under Lands Department?	
Hon. Viam Pillay (Chairman)	The way the Petition has come up, it seems they are thinking that this land is all empty.	Response from Ms. P. Prasad - No, it is not most definitely not empty, Mr. Chairman.
Hon. Viam Pillay (Chairman)	<p>The other information we were provided with by iTLTB is on the leasing part of their land. They did inform the Committee that about six point something hectares of land were leased to Natadola and there is a residential lease there as well.</p> <p>The other information is that these 26 acres which they are occupying is occupied by four <i>Mataqalis</i> whereas the other three <i>Mataqali</i> have their own Reserves where they have available land on their side. However, the Committee wishes to go down to Nadroga and look at the village boundary and as briefed by TLTB, they have their land available on the other side, but they are requesting the land that is under Lands Department which is already occupied.</p>	
Hon. A. T. Vadei	Mr. Chairman, we are now concern of the villagers of Navisabasaba. I am thinking of the Buy-Back Policy which has not been taken up by this Government because that piece of land, CG, was taken up by the Colonial Refinery during that time. Now, it is a concern for Navisabasaba to have some place to stay. Sir,	Response from Mr. W. Singh- Mr. Chairman, the Buy-Back Scheme was introduced by the SVT Government under Mr. Rabuka and currently this Government has no scheme as such. Until this Government changes its policy, we cannot do anything.

Standing Committee Members	Question	Response from Relevant Government Departments
	whether that Buy-Back Policy is another option for them to buy back the land?	
Hon. Ratu S. Nanovo	Mr. Chairman, I take this opportunity to thank the team for their explanation given which is very clear and reinforces the explanation given by ITLTB which clearly shows us the way forward. Based on the information given to us by the Lands Department, I think it is only proper us when we go down to the village, we have to advise them or their representative coming with us on their procedures. We cannot do much, but they must know the procedures so once the land becomes available only then, so that will take time. They cannot wait until that time. Mr. Chairman, the other option that we should be looking at is the option through ITLTB, just assessing the two together. For my side, I think that is the way forward from here.	
Hon. Ruveni N. Nadalo	Have you identified who are the original owners of this Crown Land?	Response from Mr. W. Singh - Mr. Chairman, I do not have that information right now but we can find it if the Committee wants.
Hon. Viam Pillay (Chairman)	We request that information be provided to our Secretariat.	Response from Mr. W. Singh - Thank you, we will do that.
Hon. Ratu S. V. Nanovo	Mr. Chairman, may be it is also proper at this moment to advise the Department of Lands as well when are we planning to go down so that they can provide all those information prior to the trip down to the Village?	
Hon. Viam Pillay	I have already advised the Secretariat	Response from Mr. W. Singh -

Standing Committee Members	Question	Response from Relevant Government Departments
(Chairman)	to do the planning. Hopefully, we will be visiting this community next week. Therefore, if the information can be provided before Monday or Tuesday, is that possible?	Mr. Chairman, it is possible

Gender Issues

Under SO 110(2), where a committee conducts an activity listed in clause (1), the committee ensures full consideration will be given to the principle of gender equality so as to ensure matters considered with regard to the impact and benefit on both men and women equally. The Committee considered range of issues regarding the land requested by the people of Navisabasaba which would have equal benefits for women and men and this is evident when they were given the same opportunity to provide comments during the consultation process. In particular, the Committee invited both women and men of Navisabasaba village to give submissions during the Consultation exercise in Navisabasaba in Nadroga.

Conclusion

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs has fulfilled its mandate approved by Parliament which was to examine the Petition of Navisabasaba village, Nadroga. The Committee had conducted a round of consultations with relevant Government agencies, Nadroga Navosa Provincial Office and the 4 Mataqali of Navisabasaba village to receive submissions from all stakeholders.

The Committee is a bi-partisan one and contributions from both sides have provided the final report, closely supported by the Secretariat.

The responses were overwhelming and the input was from a good cross-section of society. The submissions were received orally and also in written form during the Committee's public hearing.

In undertaking the consultations, it was found that Navisabasaba village had forced to request for more land due to the increasing no. of people living in the village, the current village location and farming sites which were threatened by flooding and also an area for farming.

Also noted, that the current village boundaries which has 26 acres of land were reduced due to the three (3) active leases which currently occupied the 12 acres of land within the village boundaries.

The Committee has assembled few recommendations as the result of the overall public submissions made to the Committee. The Committee's was primarily focused on the issue raised in the Petition view but also seek other stakeholders view on the land issue in Navisabasaba village and best way to resolve the issue.

In summary, after examined the petition and conducted the consultations and physically visited the village boundaries and each piece of land that was owned by each Tokatoka of the 4 Mataqali, it was confirmed that the village of Navisabasaba is really in need for a piece of land for village boundary extension and farming. Finally, the consideration and action made to the recommendations would absolutely meet the needs of the people on the ground in Navisabasaba village.

SIGNATURES OF MEMBERS AND ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS



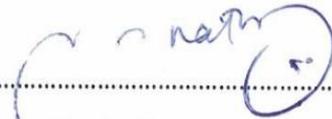
.....
Hon. Viam Pillay
(Chairperson)



.....
Hon. Salote Radrodoro
(Deputy Chairperson)



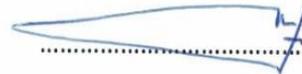
.....
Hon. Veena Bhatnagar
(Member)



.....
Hon. Vijay Nath
(Member)



.....
Hon. Anare Vadei
(Member)



.....
Hon. Ruveni Nadabe Nadalo
(Alternate Member)



.....
Hon. Dr. Brij Lal
(Alternate Member)



.....
Hon. Ratu Sela Vuinakasa Nanovo
(Alternate Member)

03 / 02 / 16

.....
(Date)

APPENDICES

**APPENDIX 1: PETITION FOR PARLIAMENT TO REVIEW THE LAND
RELATED REQUESTS BY MATAQALI LEWEINADROGA,
NAVISABASABA VILLAGE, NADROGA**

Appendix 1: Petition for Parliament to Review the Land Related Requests by Mataqali Leweinadroga, Navisabasaba village, Nadroga

This form is to be used by Honourable Members to submit petitions



Petition

Member's certificate of endorsement

In my opinion, the attached petition is respectful, does not promote disharmony, and is deserving of presentation

Signature: Viliame Gavoka

Name of member submitting the petition: Hon Viliame Gavoka

I wish to present this petition to Parliament on the following date: Monday 24 August 2015

Date Submitted: 18/8/15

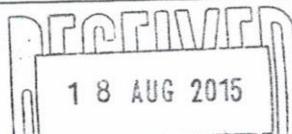
Attach this form to the petition

For staff use only

Date and time received: _____

Name of person receiving the form: _____

Petition must be attached to this form.





OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION
Parliament House
SUVA

18 August 2015

Speaker of Parliament
Parliament of Republic of Fiji
Suva

Dear Madam Speaker,

Re: Petition for Parliament to Review the Land Related Requests by Mataqali Leweinadroga, Navisabasaba Village, Nadroga

Pursuant Standing Order 37 of Parliament, submitted herewith is a petition for presentation to Parliament for due consideration.

This petition calls for the Parliament of Fiji, to direct, according to relevant powers within the Standing Orders, that a relevant committee review the concerns outlined herein of the Mataqali Leweinadroga from Navisabasaba Village, Nadroga and for wide and inclusive consultation with all relevant stakeholders, particularly the yavusa members, towards implementing a holistic and sensible solution for these concerns.

Members of the public and particularly those from the relevant Mataqali and villagers of Navisabasaba Village, Nadroga have signed this petition and we submit approximately 100 signatures. Please refer to attachments for signatures.

We submit this petition for your further action in accordance with Standing Order 37.

Should you have further queries in relation to this petition, please do not hesitate to contact either the undersigned or Ms. Laisani Qaqanilawa on Ext. 3812522.

Sincerely,

Hon Viliame Gavoka
Member of Parliament

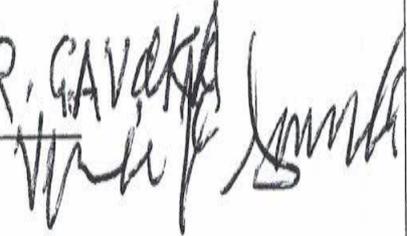
PARLIAMENT HOUSE

**Public Petition for Parliament to Review the Land Related Requests by Mataqali
Leweinadroga, Navisabasaba Village, Nadroga**

<p>BACKGROUND</p>	<p>This petition is submitted on behalf of the members of Mataqali Leweinadroga, Yavusa Louvatu, Tokatoka Nakabasi, of Navisabasaba Village, Nadroga and covers two separate matters explained below.</p> <p>Members of the yavusa are part of the yavusa Louvatu, the yavusa of the Turaga Na Ka Levu who is based in the chiefly village of Cuvu, Nadroga. By way of background, the Yavusa Louvatu of Navisabasaba who are originally from Sila in Cuvu, through relationships established in the past have held the chiefly position of Tui Nahoni, the leading chiefly household of the vanua of Nahoni. The Vanua of Nahoni comprises of the villages of Navisabasaba, Batiri, Togobula and Vusama. The concerns highlighted below are those petitioned by the yavusa.</p> <p><u>Concern 1: Village boundaries extension</u> The government has completed its village boundaries survey of Navisabasaba Village, Nadroga. The recommendation following this survey is that the current village boundaries be extended to accommodate for the population growth within the village. The new boundary now pegged extends and encroaches onto land owned by the Yavusa Louvatu, Mataqali Leweinadroga and Tokatoka Nakabasi. Yavusa members are concerned that the boundary expansion will disadvantage them given their yavusa land (26 acres), is hardly sufficient to cater for the present and future needs of the current 100 mataqali members.</p> <p><u>Concern 2: Option for lease allocation of land from Maro CG986</u> CG986 is a large piece of land and is adjacent to the land currently occupied by Yavusa Louvatu (as in above). The majority of leases on this land has expired with the land left vacant for a number of years now. In some cases, lease owners have migrated overseas. Various yavusa members have since 2010 applied for lease for various land allocations through the Director of Lands with full documentation completed and requisite fees paid to the Department of Lands. However, till to date, no action has been taken by the Department nor responses received by Yavusa members.</p>
<p>WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR:</p>	<p>In this respect, "We the undersigned, hereby, petition the Parliament of Fiji to direct, according to relevant powers within the Standing Orders, and for the relevant committee to review the concerns outlined and requests petitioned above and for wide and inclusive consultation with all relevant stakeholders, particularly the yavusa members, towards implementing a holistic and sensible solution for these concerns.</p>
<p>WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU SIGN:</p>	<p>We would like this petition submitted in Parliament at the August Parliamentary Sitting of 2015 so we request that on collecting all the signatures you send this petition form to the following address in a sealed envelope before or on Friday 14 August, 2015.</p> <p align="center"> OPPOSITION CHAMBERS PARLIAMENT OF FIJI GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS SUVA </p> <p>BY PLACING YOUR SIGNATURE AND DETAILS ON THIS DOCUMENT YOU HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD AND AGREE TO THE TERMS OF THIS PETITION SET OUT ABOVE AND ALSO THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. THAT YOU CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE EITHER 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER. 2. THAT YOU HAVE NOT BEEN COERCED OR FORCED TO PROVIDE YOUR SIGNATURE AND DETAILS THIS PETITION. 3. THAT STRICTLY NO MONEY OR DONATION IN KIND HAS BEEN OFFERED OR EXCHANGED FOR YOUR SIGNATURE. PLEASE NOTE: THAT WE, AS A GROUP INITIATING THIS PETITION

DO NOT AND WILL NOT CONDONE OR ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH CONDUCT OR LOSSES INCURRED AS A RESULT.

4. THAT YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE PETITION WAS READ AND/OR EXPLAINED TO YOU IN THE LANGUAGE YOU ARE MOST FAMILIAR WITH.

Name of Signature Collector: VILIAME R. GAVOKA 

Phone Contact: 9723339

For any urgent queries email: bill_gavoka@yahoo.com or laisani_q868@yahoo.com

APPENDIX 2: VERBATIM

Appendix 2: Verbatim

VERBATIM REPORT OF INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS, HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM (WEST WING), PARLIAMENT COMPLEX, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, ON WEDNESDAY, 28th OCTOBER, 2015 AT 10.00 A.M.

In-Attendance

Ministry of i-Taukei Affairs

- Mr. Savenaca Kaunisela - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of I-Taukei Affairs
- Mr. Vananalagi Vesikula - Chairman of the I-Taukei Lands and Fisheries Commission
- Mr. Tomasi Volau - Director Corporate Services
- Mrs. Luisa Kamakorewa - Manager Monitoring Services
- Mrs. Finau Niumataiwalu - Senior Accounts Office

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We welcome you. We are looking forward for you, Sir, to take us along with the Annual Report, and also provide us with the information, as far as there is a petition, in regards to a land issue in Nadroga.

First, I will ask you to take us through the Annual Report and then we will break for tea, and after that we will proceed with the petition. I will now give you the floor.

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman and honourable Members. Before I start this morning, the team here at the front will be talking about the Ministry's 2014 Annual Report. The Chairman of the *iTaukei* Lands and Fisheries Commission will be answering to the queries later on.

First, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee, to present to you our 2014 Annual Report. At the outset, I wish to highlight that the Ministry of *iTaukei* Affairs has continued to make significant progress in the delivery of services in 2014 towards improving the wellbeing and good governance of the *iTaukei* people.

On the strategic direction first of all, on page two of the Report, we have the Vision, Mission and the Values of the Ministry which I will not take you through in details of that.

On the Strategic Planning documents, the Ministry has put in place this Strategic Plan for 2015-2018, likewise the Annual Corporate Plan for 2015 and also it was in 2014, Divisional Business Plans and Individual Work plans for the individual staff.

On the main purpose, on page nine of the Ministry's 2014 Annual Report, I am sure it is quite clear that we are providing the link to other *iTaukei* institutions which includes the *iTaukei* Affairs Board that directly manages the administration and affairs of the 14 Provincial Councils as stipulated under the *iTaukei* Affairs Act, (Cap. 120). Therefore, our core business is to develop, implement and monitor policies and programmes for the good governance and wellbeing of the *iTaukei*.

On the 2014 priority, Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, is to improve our service delivery and responsiveness through joint forums, planning with other stakeholders and we have improved training of our staff.

On the legislation, on page nine of the Annual Report, we have our responsibilities which are entrenched in the following legislations that have been listed there;

- a) *iTaukei* Affairs Act (Cap. 120);
- b) *iTaukei* Lands Act (Cap. 133);
- c) *iTaukei* Land Trust Act (Cap. 134)
- d) *iTaukei* Development Fund Act (Cap 121);
- e) *iTaukei* Trust Fund Act 2004, and also I might like to include as well
- f) Fisheries Act (Cap. 158).

On the major issues for 2014, Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, the rugged terrains and inclement weather, landowning units disputes, Election campaign and low attendance by landowning units to demarcation survey and village boundary discussions, this led to the delaying on the implementation work programmes for villages in some provinces. Well, of course, this required some reprioritising activities which is now taken in 2015.

On the performance and activities in 2014, the Ministry had a successful year in achieving most of the performance targets as detailed in Section 3 of the Annual Report. These targets are set at a challenging level in order to drive continued improvements.

On improving service delivery, the Ministry was proud to successfully host the Inaugural National *iTaukei* Resource Owners Committee Workshop at Nadave, and this Workshop led to greater understanding of and will pave the way and set the foundation on Access Benefits Sharing (ABS) procedures to ensure fair and equitable benefits arising from genetic resources for the communities.

More importantly, the introduction of the concept of Free Prior and Informed Consent to strengthen community and government partnership when pursuing developments in the provinces.

The Ministry also wants to engage in community consultation, roadshow process and collaborated with the Ministry of Maritime Services to develop new roadshow programmes that sets out the importance of considering our major stakeholder when making decisions about *iTaukei* matters.

The Ministry also continued commitment to volunteers, was reflected during the year when we recruited NEC volunteers to fast-track the computerisation of the *Vola Ni Kawa Bula*, which I must say is almost completed right now.

In partnership also with the local authorities, the Ministry continues to undertake safety drills organised by the Ministry's OHS Committee with our landlord and Fire Authority.

In terms of overall performance, the Ministry contributed to the delivery of service towards the nine targeted outcomes of the Roadmap for Democracy, Socio and Sustainable Development (RDSSSED) achieving an excellent performance of 95.65 per cent for its Third Quarter.

The Outlook for the future over the next four years from 2014, the Ministry will concentrate on improving performance and accountability, particularly the new *iTaukei* Roadshow and public consultations which is currently underway, and this was spill over from 2014.

The implementation of best management practice to ensure operations are consistent and aligned to the RDSSSED, and in compliance with all current legal instructions.

The strengthening of the Divisions Business Plan to also focus on the review and success, and carrying out of impact assessment on the Programmes, Projects and Policies that have been in place, and now the Ministry can make a difference to improving the Reporting and Monitoring Framework.

Honourable Members, on the divisional responsibility on page five to page six, very briefly the Ministry comprises of five major work units, namely; Corporate Services Division which is involved in the corporate governance, and that includes Finance and Accounting, Human Resource Management, Staff Establishment, Appointments, Board Meetings, Disciplinary Actions, Asset Management, Registry Function, Transport Management, Productivity, Research and Training Units and also Monitoring and Executive Support.

The second division is the Land and Fisheries Commission. This deals with dispute resolutions and dealing with traditional titles, land and fisheries boundaries et cetera, the administration of the *Vola ni Kawa Bula*, entries and deletions, awareness programmes and also the major projects that are also

listed here. I may like to say very briefly the demarcation of *iTaukei* lands, surveying of demarcated *iTaukei* lands, demarcation of village boundaries and also the computerisation of the *Vola ni Kawa Bula*. These are major projects within this division.

On the *iTaukei* Lands Tribunal, this is also a very important unit within the Ministry and deals with the rulings over appeal cases or the challenges to the decision made by the Chairman of the Commission TILFC on land ownership, boundaries, fishing rights and customary chief titles.

On the next unit, the Institute of Language and Culture; this unit deals with preservation, protection and promotion of *iTaukei* language and culture and these comprises of some of the projects within one of which is very important to us, the cultural mapping exercise and that also includes the verification of the information on cultural mapping, the special revival unit, updating of monolingual dictionary, research and documentation of all *iTaukei* dialects in the 14 provinces, capturing of traditional events and cuttings of CDs to be sold, cultural awareness programmes including our weekly radio programme the *Noda Vosa* and also the translation of materials required or provided to us by other ministries and other organisations.

The last unit is the Development Services Division, it provides policy advice on commercial, economic social and environment matters that affect the wellbeing and good governance of the *iTaukei* communities. We also engage in consultation forum with Government agencies, financial institutions, civil society organisations, et cetera, to ensure that the interest of the *iTaukei* communities are considered in key policies issues and programmes that support the overall development. In addition to that Mr. Chairman, the division also deals with pressing issues that have arisen, one of them is child protection. The *vanua* issues, environment and climate change which also affects the *iTaukei* communities, drug eradication, HIV AIDS, et cetera.

Mr. Chairman, may I refer you to the organisational structure of the Ministry on page 11. You will note that we have used the slogan, perhaps we have coined the *iTaukei* institutional organisation structure. If you see the organisation structure on the far left, this is the Ministry of *iTaukei* Affairs, the Minister to the Permanent Secretary, the Deputy Secretary and right down to all the various units that I have just explained. When we talk about the *iTaukei* institution, we have included the TLTB, the *iTaukei* Affairs Board, the education institution at Nadave (CATD) and also the *iTaukei* Trust Fund. You will note that one of the work that we have tried to strengthen in 2014 is the coordination of all these *iTaukei* institutions so that we work together on all matters pertaining to the *iTaukei* people. That I must say, has worked out very positively on our side and we have managed to work in partnership from 2013 including 2014 and still going on as at today.

On the performance, according to the road map on page 12, I think it is listed there, that is our contribution to the road map as required under the current assessment period, and listed below are some of the achievements that we have attained during the period 2014 where we needed to satisfy the requirements under the road map. On service delivery, performance and direct outcome indicators on Table 1 and Table 2 on pages 13 and 14, Mr. Chairman, that clearly tabulates the achievements, our actuals in 2013, what we did in 2013, our set target for 2014 and the actual achievements against it, which is on page 13 and also on Table 12 on page 14. I hope that it is self-explanatory.

On performance highlights by the division, starts from page 15 to page 35. From page 15, again by units or by divisions, we have highlighted the various achievements attained by them during the year 2014. Most of them are in tabulated forms, which are there by the divisions. From page 15, it is the *iTaukei* Lands and Fisheries Commission; perhaps I would like to highlight the computerisation of VKB which is one of the major achievements of this division and also its management on the second paragraph. The VKB enquiries, that is normally directed to us, the dispute resolution on Table 4, Page 16, and also the achievements of the various projects within the division as I have already mentioned; the demarcation and the survey of village boundaries and the survey of *iTaukei* Lands. The customary titles that were confirmed between 2012 and 2014, you will see the table at the bottom of page 17, the comparative analysis and on page 18 the breakdown of customary titles by provinces, of which we have the records and also the number of leadership awareness and training that was conducted between 2012 and 2014. We have the ten data that we presented here.

Before I move on, Mr. Chairman, you will note that most of the tables, we have a listed ten data to actually demonstrate the achievements over the years and this is something that we have included in our reports from 2013 and again here in the 2014 report. It makes analysis or maybe presenting a clear picture of how the Ministry performed during any year.

On page 19, again on the Management and Preservation of Records, this is again another activity or project that is being done by the division as I have talked about the Land and Fisheries Commission. On 4.2, this is on the *iTaukei* Appeals Tribunal work, as tabulated under page 19 and likewise on page 20. You may be asking why there are only few cases, these are the cases that have been recorded after the Chairman of the *iTaukei* Lands and Fisheries Commission had made a decision, and to go back and attend to these cases by the Tribunal, they had to follow again another process of investigation before they actually come up to the decision during the year 2014.

Next is on the performance highlighted by division, is the *iTaukei* Language and Culture. I will not go into the details. I have also mentioned the Cultural Mapping data which is there, what they have done during the year from pages 23 and 24, the provinces that have been covered so far and also the provinces we covered in 2014.

Mr. Chairman, on page 25, is again an expansion or the explanation of the projects within, the Verification Exercise I had talked about, the Special Revival Unit and what we did in the various provinces in reviving some of the almost distinct customs and traditions by the *iTaukei* people which we attended to in 2014.

Mr. Chairman, on page 26, on the Development Services, again on the achievements on Policy Advice, not only that, but also on the publications, I had talked about, the Child Protection Programme, the *vanua* matters and also the environment and climate change.

As I have mentioned earlier, Mr. Chairman, one of the major highlights or major achievements in 2014 was the inauguration of the National *iTaukei* Resource Owners Committee (NTROC) and it is one of the committees that we are trying to look at in terms of conservation, preservation, resource management and also looking after all the resources belonging to the *iTaukei*. We are using here the Reef to Ridge Concept which is becoming a very popular concept that we are using now. It is also becoming a very popular Committee and we have about 14 representatives from each province and we also have a very good Terms of Reference that covers a wide range of work that the Committee will be assigned to, to look after in as far resource management.

Mr. Chairman, again on page 29 is the Corporate Services Division, which I am sure you are all familiar with the Corporate services matters in terms of managing our human resources and asset management, staff establishments, appointments that we made in 2014, including the board meetings that we serve as Secretariat and also as Chairman in some of these Boards, the Disciplinary Committees, our Registry functions on pages 30, 31 and 32 which is on our Transport Management and on pages 33 and 34 is the Productivity, Research and Training Unit or work that we do. This is again another new creation that we did in 2014, on productivity, research and training after the movement of the Scholarship Unit to TELS Board. We utilised the staff, we reorganised within to ensure we have some new activities that will assist us in the work that we do on productivity, research and also the normal training of our staff.

In addition to the new creation is the one on page 35 - Monitoring and Executive Support. This is one area that we have already implemented and has assisted in terms of monitoring, not only from within but also provision of documentation to prove that we have actually implemented our Annual Corporate Plan in 2014 through ICO, previously known as SFCCO and also from the Public Service Commission.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, is on page 26, Table 28, that is our MTA Achievement versus Government Performance for the whole year. From page 38 to 40, is our Audited Annual Finance Report, audited

by the Auditor General, which I hope is self-explanatory but we will be asking questions from the Members, should there one arising from our Financial Statements.

Mr. Chairman, in a nutshell, may I emphasize that the Ministry of *iTaukei* Affairs roles and responsibilities have changed significantly and broadened its scope of work since 2011, including this reporting period 2014. In fact, it has made inroads to reforming the Ministry during 2014. It has strived and we will continue to do so in the coming years to ensure that good governance and wellbeing of the *iTaukei* people is paramount and the safeguards in terms of policies and legislations are properly developed and implemented. This includes the strengthening of partnership with our stakeholders, for example, the Ministries, the Provincial Council Offices, the Non-Government Organisations and communities in streamlining our internal processes, the Standard Operating Procedures and creating governing policies to enable to drive its work force and achieve set targets.

Mr. Chairman, at the end of 2014, the Ministry after all assessments by agencies, PSC and ICO (then SFCCO), the Ministry is proud of its achievements which stood at 95.68 per cent on the fourth quarter of 2014. The budget provided to the Ministry in 2014 was \$8,471,957 and it committed and \$7,933,140 was the actual expenditure by the end of the year 2014. There was no loss of revenue recorded during by the Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, I have gone through the Ministry's 2014 Annual Report, and I think I should end there and would be grateful to receive any questions from the floor, if there is any. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much PS for taking us through the Annual Report. Now, I will allow the Honourable Members if they have any questions or clarifications.

HON. A.T.VADEI.- Mr. Chairman, I must first of all thank the Permanent Secretary for the presentation of the Annual Reports of the *iTaukei* Affairs this morning. There are few questions that I wish to raise this morning.

Can I refer you to page 15 on *iTaukei* Lands Fisheries Commission – 4.1, the first line reads and I quote:

“... under the *iTaukei* Land Act in 1880.”

Have you changed that Native Land Commission to *iTaukei* Land?

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- Honourable Member, can I have your question again, please?

HON. A.T.VADEI.- What I am asking is the legislation, the *iTaukei* Land Act. You are referring to 1880, whether that has been changed from *iTaukei* Land Act instead of Native Land Act.

Stint 4

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- The answer is yes.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- I will just go through some of the queries that I have. On page 16, Table 3 – VKB Enquiries, you just mentioned the enquiries, how many have been resolved with those figures that you have mentioned there, from Ba – 391, Bua – 156, et cetera.

MR. T. VOLAU.- Mr Chairman, in regards to the question, we have here the data for the VKB enquiries, we do not have the data for those which had been resolved from those enquiries that were received at the *iTaukei* Land and Fisheries Commission. We might consider that point, in our next report to highlight the number of enquiries that were resolved.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Mr. Chairman, just a point of interest on that and if it can be included in the submission for the 2015 Report. On page 18, Mr. Chairman, Table 7, I was quite interested in the number of TY and TM vacant positions not being filled. What is the projected estimate of the Ministry for 2015?

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- Mr Chairman, can I go back to the earlier question, on the VKB Enquiries. Maybe I would like to add that some of the enquiries might be very simple ones, such as, what should I bring for the registration; where should I be registering my child; what to do to delete and all those from the *Vola ni Kawa Bula*. I think that is all accumulated in the VKB Enquiries alone. Just to add to the response provided by the Chairman.

On the next question Honourable Member, right now we do not have any projections for 2015, but we work according to the writ or the norms or to the work of the communities on how they organise themselves in the various *mataqali*, *tokatoka* and *yavusa*. Sometimes they drag their discussions, and we cannot really anticipate how many is going to be filled in the 2015 period. However, we have been continuously advising them to fill those positions. That is the only thing we can do is to provide advice to actually fill those vacant titles.

Maybe perhaps I would like to enlighten the Honourable Members that we have been going through this process for the last many years, and we have seen in some cases that there is progress of about five, six and ten that are filled, on the other hand, it comes back to zero, because the title holders also have died and then there is no balance in that some are created while others expired also from the their titles. It is going very slowly, but we encourage them, as I said, we are actually working on a policy,

maybe fast track the filling of vacant positions is to provide them with some sort of Standard Operating Procedures and also give them time frame on when a post should be filled from the day it becomes vacant. Then maybe that will then quicken the process because we have not given the timeframe. We are thinking of giving them the timeframe after all our advice and the very slow activities, in terms of filling the vacant positions on the ground at the community level.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Mr Chairman, what I am worried about is legitimising some of the directives and authorities sent to the common people in the village, that is my main worry. Because every now and then there is a lot of misconception in the village community regarding some of the directives or authorities being dished down when the posts is not filled. Calling the meeting, getting the *solu* from the people, so legally what I am worried about is the collection of those *solu* and legitimising those meetings that it is a true record of what has been discussed by the people for the people.

My next question on page 25- Special Revival Unit, second line of that paragraph, and I quote, "...a flow on effect of the CMP to ensure that he unique". Perhaps it should read, "...the unique....".

Page 26 - I am quite happy about what has happened in Table 16: what has been done and the workshops. What I am worried about is the Intellectual Property Rights, has the Ministry been dealing with the Intellectual Property Rights in regards to the language, traditional art, craft and dances. I believe this is targeting the market now, so how can we protect the traditional artefacts of these various islands and provinces.

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- Mr Chairman, maybe I should enlighten you on that question which is very good. First of all the Ministry of *iTaukei* Affairs in 2011 has come up with a draft then was a Decree on Traditional Knowledge and Expression of Interest (TKNEC), which I think covers everything that the Honourable Member is concerned about. Not only the concern of Honourable Member, but I think it is a concern of this Ministry and we would like to have that promulgated. The sooner it is promulgated the better for us.

In fact we have already submitted to the Solicitor General's Office and fairly recently we have been talking with Madam Nazhat Shameem, the Ambassador in Brussels with regards to the comments that was made by World Intellectual Property Office in Geneva and they have also submitted comments on how we should rehash some of the sections or subsections of the TKNEC that has been around; the draft has been around since 2011. We are working on that and if I remember correctly, there was supposed to be two drafters on legislation from the Solicitor General's Office to go to Geneva and assist them in the finalisation of the draft. With that concern, I must also raise it here, Mr. Chairman that this is something that we have been trying from the past years to have promulgated. Having said that, we are working on other policies. Two, I have already mentioned is the Access Benefit Sharing

(ABS) in terms of the protection of genetic resources extractions from our various forests which are used now most by researchers and those who are coming in and extracting the genes for experimenting and of course, for commercialisation of other products from those various genes and this is also our concern. We have in fact, put in place that ABS Platform which is now being circulated around the Government circles, and has also been known within the Pacific Region that Fiji has implemented its ABS Framework.

In addition to that, is the Free Prior Informed Consent, that is also a platform that we have already done a policy on. We would like to circulate that to all on the process of getting the consent from the people, because I think we now have different processes in terms of development of the land, in terms of extractions of genes, and in terms of anything that requires the consent of the communities, there need to be a process, and that is what we are trying to put into place now.

In addition to the concern that is raised here, Mr. Chairman, the Ministry is now also working towards registration of all researchers, NGOs, carriers and those who will be dealing directly or are intending to deal with the communities, we are going to issue very shortly a notice to get registered at the Ministry of *iTaukei* Affairs, and then get the consent from the *iTaukei* Affairs before they go down to the communities. However, they have to take the consent down to the *Roko Tui* who will then be the conduit to the communities. That is one of the safeguards, I must say on this particular concern that is raised by the honourable Member.

HON. A.T. VADEL.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My second last question on page 30 - Disciplinary Committee Meetings. What I found out that the case was not disposed-off before the completion. What I am worried about is the liability part, whether the officer who has resigned could return and seek liabilities on this issue. Can the Permanent Secretary advise us on what has been done on this issue?

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- Thank you for the question, honourable Member. As we have already disposed-off that particular issue, there is no liability to Government or to the Ministry, I must say.

HON. A.T. VADEL.- My last question, Mr. Chairman, regarding the two issues; Child Protection and Environment and Climate Change Unit, whether they have budget on these two issues?

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- Thank you very much, honourable Member. I am glad that you asked that question. The answer to that is, no. However, with the passion we have to take it out from the Ministry of *iTaukei* Affairs since it really affects the communities, we would very much be happy if the budget is provided on that. In fact, we have requested twice, but yet no budget has been provided. That does not really deter us from actually doing the work. We also have other sponsors that are working with us; UNICEF, and for Climate Change we are working with GIZ who is very much

assisting us in all these concepts or all the initiatives that we do, and they backing us in terms of financial resources. Insofar as the budget by the Government, no, but that has been taken care of by our major partners and sponsors with whom we are working together right now.

HON. RATU S. NANOVO.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Permanent Secretary and your team, I take this opportunity on behalf of our Chairman to thank the report that has been tabled to us this morning, which really shows that the work that you have been carrying out with your staff is really achieving targets that it was set out to achieve, and we do thank you once again for those achievements.

Just a few questions that I would like to raise with you. First is on the top of page 8 and I quote, "... The Ministry's continued commitment to volunteers was reflected last year during the recruitment of NEC volunteers to fast track the VKB Computerisation."

As we all know that this document is very important, and it is the talk of the town by the *iTaukei* population, and by allowing the volunteers to also take part in the fast-tracking of this work, can we be advised of all the processes involved just to ensure that the work that is targeted to be achieved here is achieved? Who oversees what is being done?

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- Thank you for the question, honourable Member and thank you once again for the comments earlier made. Mr. Chairman, in terms of the processes, what we have done is the design of the database was done by Yalamanchili Company, the Company that is now running the Government IT Services. However, in terms of the actual operation on the ground, the actual supervision of the database design when it started off is done by myself, the Chairman and Tomasi, who is also our IT Specialist. We are working together with them in terms of the design of the database, together with one of the Yalamanchili database designers. Then we move onto testing the system, and also the punching in of the data into the system. That is where the NEC staff comes in, as data entry operators. They do the data entry into the current system, and it is being supervised by senior staff members of the *iTaukei* Land and Fisheries Commission who are there with them all the time to check all the scanned documents, the inputs, and also the target set for each data entry operator on a daily basis.

The entry into the VKB System is in about three folds. First, we scan the documents. The second process is, we separate the documents and enter each individual name into the database. So, one is the entry level, but then after the entry it goes to another group that will verify that the entry is correct. After verification, then it goes to the approval group, that will approve that the data entry operators have done the correct work, the verifiers have verified them properly, and now it is being approved. So, there are about three groups of people handling one entry at one point in time to make sure that the

data of every individual entry is correct. Right now they have already made inputs of all those that were scanned documents and they are now inputting new entries that were not scanned in the initial phase. So, by and large, the whole process of computerisation of data entry is almost completed, and we hope it should be completed before the end of this year, and also should be launched officially, if possible, before the end of this year or at the latest early next year after all those processes as I have said, entry, verification, approval and then it goes to the actual live database. So that is the whole process as we are doing now but as we started from July last year right up to-date, the whole process has been supervised by the three of us and I am Chairing the Steering Committee in every phase to check that the schedule of the database implementation is going according to what is being planned.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- The concern Mr. Chairman, was that there were few rumours that when they doing that some of the spelling of the names were not correct.

Secondly, on the Leadership and Awareness Training based on this annual report, there was no allocation for this training in 2015- page 19 and I quote, “The contents of the awareness programme are in the vernacular...”

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- Thank you for the question Honourable Member. I think you are referring to the Revamped Leadership Model that we are actually trialling out in the various provinces now with the *iTaukei* Affairs Board. Yes, for that particular training module, the revamped one has not been budgeted for in 2015, it was designed by *iTaukei* Trust Fund and we are just modelling it out in the various provinces. I think we have covered Kadavu and Ra so far, just to trial out the new training model but we call it the *Vuli ni Veiliutaki kei na Sauvaki ni Vanua* in the *iTaukei* vernacular.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- The last one Mr Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity too, to thank them for operating within their budget based on the accounts tabulated. In previous years, whenever the *iTaukei* Affairs comes up, there is always a deficit in the budget but now, there is no more deficit in this annual report, we want to thank you again for working within what was set out for you to work on.

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- Thank you, Honourable Member.

HON. B. SINGH.- Thank you Mr Chairman, first of all I would like to apologise for coming in late, I was running for another meeting. I thank the PS for your kind words this morning, words of wisdom. Just on the accounts: I was just concerned about the Income and Expenditure, if we look at the maintenance and operations - \$234,000. How many fleets do you have, PS?

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- I think Honourable Member, we have about 12 vehicles.

HON. B. SINGH.- What is the life of these vehicles, if I could ask?

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- Honourable Member, the ones that were bought outright previously, we still keep them despite, they are almost gone, but fairly recently, the ones on lease, we have returned two and that has not been replaced as yet. So that means we have less vehicles by two, right now.

HON. B. SINGH.- My concern is the huge amount spent on maintenance of vehicles. I am really concerned, if you look at it economically, it is better to have a replacement vehicle rather than maintaining the vehicle life and when you look at the life of the vehicle upon depreciation, by now it should have been replaced.

The second question is the purchases of goods and services. One of your core functions was on the scholarship which is being moved to TELS but looking at the purchase of goods and services, it still has increased. Can you explain the increase?

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- Mr. Chairman, let me go back to the replacement of the vehicles just to enlighten you. Yes, you correctly said, as I said the ones that were bought outright previously before the lease agreement came into place, those are the ones really that chews up a lot of our money in terms of repairs and maintenance. We have been keeping them but we cannot do much because of the community engagement that we have to do almost every week. In fact, we have retired two, already to Public Works because of the high maintenance cost, it has gone past the user date. In terms of hire purchases, yes, you said it right, Honourable Member, the function only has gone to TELS but we still keep the human resources part of it with us and we have deployed them within, creating new units to assist us which were not here before, as I had explained it earlier on:

1. Productivity and Training
2. Monitoring and Development Risk Team

I think part of that is:

1. Tension of the staff – keep it as it is
2. Rising cost in terms of goods and services that we buy to service us during the year.

HON. R.N. NADALO.- From the answers that they have been giving us on the accounts, can the Permanent Secretary brief us on the auditing of accounts of Provincial Offices, it is not in this report?

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- Thank you very much Honourable Member. I wish to enlighten the Committee that the annual report that is provided here is only for the Ministry of *iTaukei* Affairs. The

audited accounts that the Honourable Member is asking for will appear in the Annual Report of the *iTaukei* Affairs Board, which is now being finalised and all the details will be in that report.

HON. R.N. NADALO.- My other concern is the number of TY and TM positions that are currently vacant. I do hope that the Ministry will look into this because the number is still too high, I know your team is doing a great job and I thank the Permanent Secretary and his team for the report that they have forwarded us.

Vote of thanks – Honourable B. Singh.

The Committee adjourned at 11.00 a.m.

The Committee resumed at 11.16 a.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you Honourable Members and PS and the team. The next issue is also very important to the Committee and we seek your advice. Through this Committee, there is a petition, I believe you have got a copy of it and before the Committee takes any further work in this regards, we need clarifications and we need your advice as what is right as far as the claim is there for the land.

Submittee 2: Chairman, *iTaukei* Land and Fisheries Commission
Mr. Vananalagi Vesikula

MR. V. VESIKULA.- Thank you Honourable Chairman and Honourable Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs. I am here to brief the Committee on the concern by the Members of *Tokatoka Nakabati* in the village of Navisabasaba on the village extension. I am glad that the Permanent Secretary and the team is staying back to assist in answering questions after my briefing this morning.

I will start off with the background of Navisabasaba Village. The village population during the time of the demarcation visit on 28th May, 2014 was 300. The village is located beside the Tuva River, also beside the main road, the Natadola Road and is accessible by vehicles.

The village is occupied by two *Yavusa*; *Yavusa Louvatu*, consists of *Mataqali* Leweinadroga, *Tokatoka* Nakabati, and *Yavusa* Leweiqere which consists of *Mataqali* Leweinasalavadra and Leweiqere. *Mataqali* Leweinasalavadra consist of two *Tokatoka*; *Tokatoka* Yalomarawa, *Tokatoka* Vunagunu. *Mataqali* Leweiqere consists of two *Tokatoka* - *Tokatoka* Muanivanua and *Tokatoka* Tivoli. The third *Mataqali* in the *Yavusa* Leweiqere is Leweivedrala, which consists of two *Tokatoka* - *Tokatoka* Mauti and *Tokatoka* Korobitu.

In terms of the land ownership where the village is located, it is owned by *Tokatoka* Nakabati, *Mataqali* Leweinadroga. The land was given by the *Yavusa* Louvatu to *Tokatoka* Nakabati for their use and maintenance.

The piece of land is Reserved Claim No. 308, known as Lot 10 with an area of 26 acres on Map L/24. Parts of the 26 acres were under lease land well before it was claimed as a reserve for *Tokatoka* Nakabati. The concerns raised by the villagers is to extend or relocate the village and this concern is supported by our demarcation team because of the following:

- The increase in the village population
- Land available for extension is prone to flooding

The remaining land from the 26 acres where the village is located is under lease. The only land adjacent to the village for village extension is owned by the State known as CG 986.

The way forward is for the members of the village to:

- i) Request the Government for a piece of land on CG 986 for the extension of their village boundary.
- ii) Members of Navisabasaba Village to lease expired leases on CG 986.
- iii) Navisabasaba Village members not to renew lease expired on the 26 acres where the village is located for village extension.

So, we recommend to the Committee, Mr. Chairman, for the Standing Committee on Social Affairs and all stakeholders including *iTaukei* Land and Fisheries Commission, the *iTaukei* Land Trust Board (TLTB) and the Lands Department to discuss a way forward on the village extension raised by Navisabasaba Village.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you Sir for your advice. I will ask the Honourable Members for questions and clarifications.

HON. A.T.VADEI.- This is a petition made by this *mataqali* and what has been explained to us is that the land adjacent to the village that they are staying in, is owned by Government, so they need to raise this concern with the Government or we discuss the extension of the village in consultation with the Department of Lands.

MR. V. VESIKULA.- Mr. Chairman, that is correct. The village members will need to request the Government because that is the only land available adjacent to the village for their village extension.

HON. A.T.VADEI.- What I am after, this land is only for leasing, if they are going to extend the village, how about their burial ground? Is it part of the village boundaries?

MR. V. VESIKULA.- Honourable Chairman, I am not sure about the burial ground. I believe that the burial ground is within the current location of the village. So, in terms of the increase in the population, they might need a new burial ground as well so that is why it is important to address the concerns raised by the Navisabasaba Village for village extension.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Just to add on to that, Mr. Chairman, the explanation given by the Chairman of NLC as the way forward to this petition is clearly defined by him. I think that is the way

forward for us. There are three recommendations given by him, out of which we can explain to the people of Navisabasaba and once they agree on which way forward they want, then we put it forward to the Parliament.

HON. R.N. NADALO.- Just a clarification on this, it says here *Tokatoka* Nakabasi. We need to clarify, is this the whole of Navisabasaba or just *tokatoka* alone who are requesting this.

MR. V. VESIKULA.- The request comes from the village so that includes *Tokatoka* Nakabasi and the other *mataqali* that are also living in the same village, which are members of the *Yavusa* Leweiqere.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- According to the petition that was raised is the concerns outlined herein of the *Mataqali* Leweinadroga from Navisabasaba Village, it does not say *Mataqali* Leweiqere or

MR. V. VESIKULA.- Mr. Chairman, may I correct my answer to the question raised that, it is raised by *Mataqali* Leweinadroga which includes *Tokatoka* Nakabati.

HON. R.N. NADALO.- I think this one we might need to take it down to the village level, because I clearly remember this *Mataqali* Leweinadroga. They had a piece of land consisting of about 28 acres and they have sold it to FNPF.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- They already had about 28 acres of land which they already sold it to FNPF, is that so?

MR. V. VESIKULA.- *Mataqali* Leweinadroga?

HON. R.N. NADALO.- *Tokatoka* Nakabasi.

MR. V. VESIKULA.- I do not have any information about the point raised by the Honourable Member, but as far as I am concerned, the land where the village is located is owned by *Mataqali* Nakabasi. So, for any land sold, I cannot inform the Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I believe what is being raised by the Honourable Member that this *Mataqali* which is actually asking for more land, had the land and have already sold it. Their piece of land has been sold so they are now asking for more land.

MR. V. VESIKULA.- Mr Chairman, I cannot answer that question whether any land was sold by the *mataqali*. The only information I can give to this Committee is that the current land where the village

is located is owned by *Mataqali* Leweinadroga, *Tokatoka* Nakabasi. For any land sold, I cannot guarantee the Committee.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Mr Chairman, maybe it is wise that we will have to go down to that level, to check and advise them on what we have heard from the Chairman of the *iTaukei* Land and Fisheries Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Yes, I agree, can you also give the Committee in writing whatever you have informed us, because we need as much information as possible. As we are dealing with land and the Committee does not know everything, that is the very reason we are asking information from the department.

MR. V. VESIKULA.- Mr Chairman, may I ask the Committee that I will submit the report before the end this week (by Friday) to the Secretariat.

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- Mr Chairman, you have rightly said, I think the petition is written without much information but the claimants are from the communities without any further backup information for us to actually ascertain whether the claim is really genuine or not.

In that case, with this new information that has come up that they had the land, they sold the land, now they want more land, if that is true, then I would advise that Honourable Ratu Nanovo's viewpoints be taken where we need to go down to the ground and fully ascertain how genuine this petition is rather than take it at face value.

I think that would be the best way to go about it and from then, the options or the way forward that has been proposed could then be taken on which option would be the best option to be taken by the members of the communities and upon your recommendation.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Mr. Chairman, I just want to contribute to the discussion. First, can we have the approved plan by the *iTaukei* Land and Fisheries Commission about where the *tokatoka* land is, we gather all that information then we can go down to the village level and ascertain some of the aspects of the concerns raised. From the legal document that we have, we can rightly know and identify where this *tokatoka* land is and how much land they have within that village boundary.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you Mr. Kaunisela for your advice which has been noted. I believe that is the very reason we need so much information and I think the best way is for the Committee to go down and get more information. So, if the Ministry could also accompany us to Navisabasaba Village, so that on the ground we are given the right information that will assist the Committee in

making its report back to Parliament. Otherwise without knowing things if we are there on the ground, without having the right people on the ground to advise us, then still we will be not on the right track. So, I will request once the Committee decides to travel to Sigatoka, if the Chairman can accompany the Committee to advise us.

MR. V. VESIKULA.- Sir, I suggest that the other stakeholders too can accompany the Committee that includes TLTB and the Lands Department.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Yes, I agree. TLTB will be here tomorrow to advise the Committee. We will also ask them to accompany the Committee including the Lands Department. So, I believe when all of us are there, then we can make the right decision and report back rightly to Parliament.

Honourable Members, any other questions?

The Committee will sit and make a decision later on, as far as when we will be travelling after listening to all the Government Departments and then the Secretariat will write to you once we need assistance from your Ministry, which I believe is the way forward to get the information right.

HON. B. SINGH.- Mr Chairman, just to add upon the other stakeholders intervention and getting information from stakeholders, I also request if Mr. Vesikula could submit a thorough report as he had alluded that by end of this week. This is a good information for us before we embark on other avenues.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- In addition to that Mr. Chairman, also we can seek the PS's approval in using the Roko Tui in the Nadroga Division to assist us because they are in a proper position in the protocols.

MR. S. KAUNISELA.- Mr Chairman, certainly yes. Normally the *Roko Tui* will be the conduit to the communities and we will inform them prior to the Committee's visit to assist.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you, honourable Members On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the PS and the team from the Ministry of *iTaukei* Affairs. You have given us very good information today, as far as the Annual Report is concerned, and also as far as this Petition is concerned. We look forward to your assistance while we will travel down to Nadroga.

I believe, honourable Members, we are done for today. Thank you very much for your time Permanent Secretary.

The Committee adjourned at 11.36 a.m.

VERBATIM REPORT OF INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM (WEST WING), PARLIAMENT PRECINCT, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, ON THURSDAY, 29TH OCTOBER, 2015 AT 11.20 A.M.

Submittee: I Taukei Lands Trust Board (ITLTB)

In Attendance:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1) Ms. Ema Natadra | - | Regional Manager, South/West |
| 2) Mr. Mosese Ratuvolau | - | Reserves Commissioner |

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Good morning Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like to welcome the two gentlemen this morning. Sir, as you know the Committee on Social Affairs has received a Petition from the Village of Navisamasama in Nadroga in regards to their village boundary, and the Committee seeks your advice and clarifications. If there are questions from Honourable Members, we request if you could respond so that we are in a better position to make our recommendations to Parliament.

I will now ask you to take us through your report.

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.-The Chairman of the Standing Committee and Honourable Members, thank you very much for the kind words of welcome. The team from iTLTB will present the information we have gathered from our side and after that, we will wait for the questions.

With regards to the first concern, the village boundary extension, we will give you a brief commentary on the *Tokatoka Nakabasi* which is from the *Mataqali Leweinadroga* and the land that they own. *Tokatoka Nakabasi*, *Tokatoka* No. 150 owns only one piece of land which is Lot 10 on Map L24 which is about 26 acres. The Village of Navisabasaba is totally on Lot 10. I think it was last year, the ITLC (*iTaukei* Lands Commission) did a survey for the proposed extension of the village boundaries and it was proposed that the whole of Lot 10 be used as an extension to the village. We received that information from TLC but we do not have the details of the boundaries. We have a map of the boundary but we do not have the details of the claim.

The map that we have projected is a graphical representation of the information that I was given. The yellow part is the boundary of Lot 10 and the reserved part is the whole of the Lot, except for the part in green. That was excluded from Reserve when they had the reservation done in the 1940s. I think there was an existing lease there so that is why they have left it out of Reserve. I will give the details of the area under Reserve and the area free of Reserve later on.

This other map shows the existing leases on that Lot 10. There are three existing leases. As a Tourism Lease, Natadola which is at the bottom of the parcel, and there is a Residential Lease on top so this particular lot is, sort of, like totalling incumbent(inaudible)

This map is sourced from Google which shows the existing structures – the area where the village is in relation to the boundary of the Lot. The area that is free down here is area that is leased to Natadola Resort. The yellow part is the area that is proposed to be set aside as Village Reserve by the (ITLC) which is the whole boundary of the area.

Regarding statistics, the total area owned is, as I have said, 26 acres which comes to about 9.71 hectares, the figures I am giving now are in hectares. Land on Reserve is 9.7124 hectares and outside Reserve which is in green is 0.8094 hectares. The areas leased, the area in reserve is 6.3279 hectares and area outside Reserve is 0.1704 hectares. The balance area left for this particular landowning unit is 3.3845 hectares in Reserve and about 0.6390 outside Reserve.

We have done an analysis of this Land Owning Unit (LOU), similar to what we do to all our LOUs when we want to do a De-Reservation or a lease and the details are on page 6. I would not take up much of your time in going over the details but really on the summary, the land available is 0.6390 hectares. The surviving members of this LOU is 48 which comes to about 0.0133..... (inaudible) The balance of Reserve Land which is 3.3845 hectares, the surviving members of 48 is like 0.0705 hectares outside of..... (inaudible)

After going through this Land Needs Analysis, we have found that a landowning unit is really.... (inaudible). This is a summary of the lease monies that they receive from leases on this land by years from 2010 to 2015.

The second concern - Option for lease allocation of land from Maro Crown Grant 986. Crown Grant 986 is a State Freehold land. It is owned by the State and administered by the Director of Lands. Any leasing on the land, the approval is given by the Director of Lands. The Board has no powers over this land other than a Section in the ITLT Act which gives the powers to the Minister to set aside a portion of State land as the *iTaukei* reserve, but as a directive from the Prime Minister's Office not to process any land on this section, so really it is of no power.

That is a map showing the Freehold Land Maro which is the big parcel of land and the Lot 10 from that *mataqali* is right down somewhere at the tip and the bottom. That is from Google again showing that it is a big piece of land, Maro State Freehold but I have sourced this from Lands Department Maps, you can see that all that Freehold Land has been surveyed and maybe, issued with leases but we do not have the lease details as they are with Lands Department.

I have seen from the LOU submission that they are saying that there are some free land, unused land on this Freehold but we cannot tell, only the Director of Lands will know that. There can be an existing lease but they are not using the land.

Our conclusion will be that members of *Mataqali Lewainadroga, Tokatoka Nakabati* do not have enough land for their own use or their maintenance from the land that they currently own. Our suggested way forward is for iTLC to review their proposal for the village extension. Maybe, what we can do with iTLCs, we arrange with other LOUs there if they can reserve part of their land for this particular LOU, since they are giving their land for the village which everyone is using.

The other suggested way forward is for Director of Lands to look into all these vacant lots that the LOUs are saying and then maybe consider issuing leases for this (inaudible).

That is all we would like to present this morning and we are ready to respond to your questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for that information. I will now ask Honourable Members for their questions, if any.

From what you have explained to us, it means they only have 26 acres of land.

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Navisabasaba Village alone has 26 acres of land.

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- Not the village, but the LOU.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- So, how many mataqali are there in Navisabasaba Village?

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- Four mataqali. They own Lot 10 which is 26 acres.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Just one question, Navisabasaba Village, do they have any other piece of land which they have already sold to FNPF?

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- The people around this area have been giving their land for lease to Natadola, Tourism Lease

MR. CHAIRMAN.- How many acres of land has been given for lease?

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- We do not have the current details for all the other LOUs we only have the information on Lot 10.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- But the land that belong to this Tokatoka.

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- Yes, the only ones that are committed to the leases are the ones we have listed, the three leases. .

MS. E. NATADRA.- The total NLC lot area is 26 acres. The total lease area within Reserve is tabulated there - 6.3279 hectares. The outside Reserve is 1.1704 hectares. It is very less but it is quite significant because of the increase increasing number of the LOU members right now, which my colleague has already presented on the other side, the Land Need Analysis on the outside Reserve, which is 0.0133 hectares which is equivalent to 133 square metres (m²) per member.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- What I was trying to ask is, does this *Tokatoka* had other land which they already leased to Natadola?

MS. E. NATADRA.- No, only three.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Only 26 acres from the beginning?

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- Yes, from the beginning when they had the original Native Lands Commission. They had no other parcel but this Lot then.

MS. E. NATADRA.- Lease to Natadola is only one - the Tourism Lease.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Who owns that land?

(Inaudible)

MS. E. NATADRA.- Yes, that is according to our record.

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- Part of this Lot 10 is leased to the *mataqali* which is shown here on this map, that shaded part where Natadola Nursery is that is showing there, that is ta part lease as well, to Natadola.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The owners are the Navisabasaba villagers, how many acres?

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- That Lot 10 is the only land that they own.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- No, I understand about Lot 10. What I am asking is, apart from Lot 10, the lease which has been given to Natadola, who is the owner of those leases?

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- There are other LOUs all over this place.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Not this village?

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- Yes, some from this village.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Some from this *Tokatoka*?

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- Yes, from Navisabasaba Village but not from this *Tokatoka*. From this *Tokatoka*, the only lease that they gave to Natadola is the one that is marked there.

HON. MEMBER.- How many acres is that?

MS. E. NATADARA.- Sir, 6.2247 hectares, that is for Natadola lease.

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- (Inaudible)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Whole of that is Lot 10?

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- (Inaudible)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- So, out of Lot 10, they have given the lease to Natadola?

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- Yes, Natadola and there is a Residential Lease on top.

MS. E. NATADRA.- Two.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- So, they have given out two leases?

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- Yes, one is this one and (Inaudible)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Had they not given that lease, they would have had enough land.

MS. E. NATADRA.- Yes, sort of.

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- That is about more than 12 acres, the one leased to Natadola Nursery.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Mr Chairman, I want to ask the Presenters whether the village Reserve, does it include the burial ground as well? What I am worried about is the number of people on top of the ground, which will be equivalent to the number of people at the bottom of the ground.

(Laughter)

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- This village extension is where they could build their houses, the actual village boundary, where they live.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Not their burial ground?

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- No.

(Inaudible - system was not recording)

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- In the Navisabasaba Village, there are a few other *mataqali* in that village, apart from *Tokatoka Nakabasi* so the land only belongs to *Tokatoka Nakabasi* in which the village is located at the moment.

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- Yes, that is right.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOMO.- The other *mataqali* or other *yavusa* in there, they have land as well which are outside...

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- They have their own land but they have their houses on this land.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- But they have their own.....(inaudible)

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Yes. *Tokatoka Nakabasi* sacrificed all their land to the village, while the other *mataqali* within the village have their own land outside also.

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- Yes, they have the surrounding land but I am sorry we did not prepare that, we will provide it later if you want it.

HON. A.T.VADEI.- So that we can have a holistic approach on this issue.

Just a request to the TLTB, if they can provide the number of *Mataqali*? How many *Mataqalis* are there in Navisabasaba and how many acres of land these *Mataqalis* owned apart from the *Tokatoka*? Apart from the 26 acres of land, how many villagers are there?

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- We will give a list of all the *Mataqalis* in the village and the land that they owned.

Mr. Chairman, based on the assessment of the need basis, there is a need over there for the *Tokatoka Nakabati* to be given additional land, based on your need analysis.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I understand that there is a need but we also have to acknowledge that these *Tokatoka* have already been given two pieces of land for lease, that is why they are short of land now. Now this *Tokatoka* already accommodating three other villagers whereas they have their land outside that area. If they all have been in their own piece of land, this issue would not have come to this Committee but just because the structures are already there, according to the information they need that but had the planning been done in the right way in the first place, than things would have been different. As of the petition, we will be going down to Nadroga and look into this as a Committee.

Any other questions from the Members? We will need your written information as far as the number of villagers inside.

The land, apart from the 26 acres is the reserve that they have. Though they have made their houses within this 26 acres but what the land they have outside belongs to these villagers.

HON. A.T.VADEI.- Mr. Chairman, the question is that, how many more requests or the needs from the province of Nadroga that you have received regarding the extension of village boundaries?

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- The *iTaukei* Lands Commission is going out to all the villagers in Fiji, looking at the extension to the villagers. They are doing it for all the villagers in Fiji, not just Nadroga. There are instances, like in Serua where the particular landowning unit, where the village is,

they want to put the people outside. Tell them to go and use their own land rather than using their land for the village. So, what the *iTaukei* Lands Commission is trying to do now, is to formalise the boundary of the village and put some kind of proclamation so that the landowners would not chase the people outside. Make it a legal boundary, that is why they are doing all these extension to cope for the future increase.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Beside these 26 acres, the other *Mataqalis*, if the boundary can be extended on that side, where they have the reserve, that will not solve this problem instead of going to this side, where the land is owned by the State.

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- Yes, when the TLC Commission goes out to the villagers, the villagers determine where they want to extend the village rather than the Commission. This area if you can see from the map here, it is close to the river and close to the road. They would want to congregate along the road and close to the river rather than moving further inland. So, really the choice of where their village should extend is up to those people in the village.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Yes, but in this case where they are asking for the land, it is the State land, whereas they have their own reserved land. So, if they have their own reserved land towards the river or towards the road, then the choice of theirs is right.

MR. M. RATUVOLAU.- Yes, and that is why we are suggesting that maybe TLC should review their proposed village extension. Maybe move it up to the area up there, where the village is extending up there rather than moving it down.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Why I am trying to say this, I understand the villagers need more space, there are four villagers there, they have some reserve which is not near to the river or to the road but the land which they are asking is State land and if it was their own land, the Committee would have made the recommendations very easily. There are some legal aspects on this, which the Lands Department and the TLTB have to look into it. As you were saying in the beginning, there are some instructions given as far as that land is concerned.

Sir, thank you very much for the information. We will need your written information if that can be given to our secretariat and if we are going to Nadroga then we will also request your team if we need any assistance on our way to the village or to see the boundaries or to see the reserve. So, we will request if you can also provide the assistance to the Committee, when we will be down in Nadroga. Thank you very much for your time, Sir.

The Committee adjourned at 11.48 a.m.

The Committee resumed at 11.53 a.m.

Submittee: Department of Lands

In Attendance:

- 1) Ms. Pretika Prasad - Director of Lands
 - 2) Mr. William Singh - Assistant Director of Lands
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MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much Honourable Members, I would like to welcome the Director of Lands, Madam Pretika with her team. As you know, Director there is a petition in regards to the land issue at Naveisamasama Village in Nadroga, I believe a copy of that petition has been given to you, the Committee seeks your advice and clarifications.

There is a request from the villagers and I think that the land is under the Department of Lands. The Committee will also go down and visit them and also make recommendations to Parliament. That is the very reason why we have invited you to brief the Committee, so that we can have a better understanding of the situation in Nadroga and a better reporting back to Parliament. Thank you, Madam for your time and I will request you to please give us a brief advice on this issue to the Committee.

MS. P. PRASAD.- Thank you, Mr Chairman and Honourable Members. With me today is the Assistant Director of Lands, Mr William Singh and first of all we apologise, we were supposed to be here at 10 o'clock this morning but we were actually trying to reschedule our time to Monday but with the difficulty in obtaining the room we have decided to come at midday today.

Mr Chairman, we have seen the petition that had been forwarded to us and we will refer to the concern which has been highlighted to us which was the option for lease allocation of land from Maro CG986. TLTB was before us, I am sure you have been advised already that CG986 which was previously owned by the Colonial Sugar Refinery was purchased by the Director of Lands in 1974 as CT5149. Lease land has a total of 996.5648 hectares (ha) and it is currently State Land without title. Now over that land, Mr Chairman, we have approximately 231 lots leases and they are mainly for agricultural and residential. But a few, I think we have for commercial there might be one or two for religious and education as well. I believe that there is a school in that lot as well. Out of these approximate 231, about 157 already have existing leases on them and the rest which is almost about 74 are expired. These expired leases of course, are either in the process of renewal or might have just recently expired.

In regards to the application that we have received from the *mataqali*, we do know that we received about 19 applications and they were over Lot 11 of N1943. The records that we have these applications were received in 2010 and at that time, that lot was already leased out and it had a current lease on it. This lease expired in 2013 but even after the expiry in 2013, we have given a tenancy at will, to the lessee who is in the middle of doing sub-division of that land which has been approved, so even that piece of land was not available.

On that note, Mr Chairman, we had written letters to the applicants who had applied for those lots. I regret that we do not have copies of all the letters and we might have not replied to each individual. But unfortunately, we were not able to find all the application files because all the files are in the western office. We were not able to find but should you require for us to do that, we will be willing to go back and look for it. In any event, we have been able to find about nine responses that we did due to the applicants and we have written letters, where we told them that the application has been refused for reasons that either the land was already leased out. One we had written and told them that it was leased out to the Rahmatullah Khan Memorial School, so we have responded, we might not have responded to all but we have responded to as many that we could find today for the meeting.

Mr Chairman, we would also like the Committee to note the fact that the *mataqali* has leased out about 6.39 hectares (ha) of their own land which is adjacent to this CG which again, I believe TLTB because they went before us had already advised you. Now in regards to leasing of land, this is for those lots which are already expired or for those which we might re-enter, I am not saying we are going to but for land which is available for leasing.

We have our operations manual and we brought our copy, this is launched by our Minister yesterday. It was in draft form before but now we have a standard operation manual. This manual is an internal document, Mr Chairman, and it guides us by providing procedures that we have to follow for the administration of all State land. Under this SOP, when and if any State land becomes available for leasing, it shall be advertised and the only exception, if there are special circumstances under the operations manual, it relates to the powers of the Minister under the State Land Act. Some of the examples of special circumstances would be, if it is needed for essential services such as, if the National Fire Authority requires land or if a diplomatic agreement like the MSG land that is near the Queen Elizabeth Drive those are the few examples or under humanitarian grounds, but they all come back to special powers by the Minister. Otherwise all land is going to be advertised and we have been following this for a while in the department now.

Therefore, Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Department of Lands, we would like to submit that should any prices of land under the CG, if they become available, and at the moment even if it is expired, there are renewal processes currently in place. Should it become available, then we are going to

follow our procedure and the land will be advertised. When the land is advertised, then any member can apply, and of course, if they fall under the standard criteria under that advertisement.

That is what we are here to submit, Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members. However, should you require extra information in regards to these parcels of land which form CG, then we would be most willing to provide you with the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you, Director. According to the Petition, the request here is the whole of this CG land for the village extension, whereas you have briefed us that there is 151 existing lease and 74 leases which are either under process for renewal or expiry. So, I believe all those land will go for lease under Lands Department?

MS. P. PRASAD.- Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The way the Petition has come up, it seems they are thinking that this land is all empty.

MS. P. PRASAD.- No, it is not most definitely not empty, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The other information we were provided with by iTLTB is on the leasing part of their land. They did inform the Committee that about six point something hectares of land was leased to Natadola and there is a residential lease there as well.

The other information is that this 26 acres which they are occupying is occupied by four *Mataqalis* whereas the other three *Mataqali* have their own Reserves where they have available land on their side. However, the Committee wishes to go down to Nadroga and look at the village boundary and as briefed by TLTB, they have their land available on the other side, but they are requesting the land that is under Lands Department which is already occupied.

Honourable Members, do you have any other questions or clarifications? I think Ms. Prasad has been very clear on that part. The Committee now knows that this land is occupied and there is a process of how the Department will be leasing the land which will be available in future, if the land leases expire. There is already a process to follow, and those who will qualify under those criteria can get the lease.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Mr. Chairman, we are now a concern by the villagers of Navisabasaba. I am thinking of the Buy-Back Policy which has not been taken up by this Government because that piece of land, CG, was taken up by the Colonial Refinery during that time. Now, it is a concern for

Navisabasaba to have some place to stay. Sir, whether that Buy-Back Policy is another option for them to buy back the land?

MR. W. SINGH.- Mr. Chairman, the Buy-Back Scheme was introduced by the SVT Government under Mr. Rabuka and currently this Government has no scheme as such. Until this Government changes its policy, we cannot do anything.

HON. RATU S. NANOVO.- Mr. Chairman, I take this opportunity to thank the team for their explanation given which is very clear and reinforces the explanation given by ITLTB which clearly shows us the way forward. Based on the information given to us by the Lands Department, I think it is only proper for us when we go down to the village, we have to advise them or their representative coming with us on their procedures. We cannot do much, but they must know the procedures so once the land becomes available only then, so that will take time. They cannot wait until that time.

Mr. Chairman, the other option that we should be looking at is the option through ITLTB, just assessing the two together. For my side, I think that is the way forward from here. .

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you. Honourable Nadalo?

HON. R.N. NADALO.- Have you identified who are the original owners of this Crown Grant?

MR. W. SINGH.- Mr. Chairman, I do not have that information right now but we can find it if the Committee wants.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We request that, that information be provided to our Secretariat.

MR. W. SINGH.- Thank you, we will do that.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Mr. Chairman, may be it is also proper at this moment to advise them as well when are we planning to go down so that they can provide all those information prior to the trip down to the Village?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I have already advised the Secretariat to do the planning. Hopefully, we will be visiting this community next week. Therefore, if the information can be provided before Monday or Tuesday, is that possible?

MR. W. SINGH.- Mr. Chairman, it is possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- On the day we will be travelling to Nadroga, I would like to request if possible, we need your assistance, so that you can at the same time provide those information to the villagers on the processes of how to get a lease because the way I see it, everyone has to go through the same process to get a lease.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Mr. Chairman, I was thinking that the technical college visit that we did, we can convene meetings with the assistance of the *Roko Tui* so that all the organisations can partake in the meeting also, for example, the Ministry of Lands and iTLTB, so that everyone are well informed of the decisions before we make recommendations back to Parliament. That is my suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- So, the day we will be meeting with the *Roko* for the brief prior to the Committee's visit to the Village, that is where we will call in the Lands Department and iTLTB so that the *Roko* is also in a better understanding position. These are the people who will go down to the Village, and provide the information to the villagers.

Hopefully, Director, if that is possible, the day we will be going to Nadroga, our Secretariat will advise you. The information that you have given to us here, may be, when the same Committee sits in Nadroga Provincial Council Office, then there is a channel of communication through the *Roko* to the villages, to the *Mataqalis*, this information is passed direct from you as Director or from your staff, then I think the right information will be passed down to the villagers.

MS. P. PRASAD.- Very well, Mr. Chairman, we will ensure that the Divisional Land Manager West who is hopefully aware of this issue because he has met with the members of the *Mataqali* before, we will ensure that he is present in the meeting if none of us are able to attend the meeting. So, we will await confirmation from the Secretariat.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you, Madam.

Thank you very much, Madam, for your time. On behalf of the Committee and the Members, I would like to thank you for your time and the information provided. Now, things are becoming much clearer after discussing with iTLTB and Lands Department, and I believe we will be in a better position to make our recommendations back to Parliament.

MS. P. PRASAD.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will provide that information to the Secretariat as soon as it is available to us.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Just before we leave, Mr. Chairman, Madam Director, in the Petition, the petitioners said that they have applied to the Director of Lands and there was no response from the Director of Lands.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- She has given her clarification.

HON. A.T. VADEL.- To show that in writing.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will request her if she can do that in writing.

MS. P. PRASAD.- Mr. Chairman, in fact, I brought samples of responses, so I can make it available to the Chairman. There are, at least, nine of responses that we have provided and I did say, Mr. Chairman that there might be some which we have not responded to but in totality, Honourable Members do know that we have given some responses. I have given a copy of the ones we have.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- So, those copies can be attached to the Recommendations when we prepare the Report.

Once again, thank you very much, Madam.

The Committee adjourned at 12.11 p.m.

VERBATIM REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS'
BRIEFING HELD AT THE NADROGA/NAVOSA PROVINCIAL OFFICE ON
TUESDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER, 2105 AT 10.15 A.M.

(Welcome and introduction by Mr. Chairman)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The Committee is being tasked by Parliament to look into a Petition that was given to Parliament by Honourable Gavoka in regards to the request by the Village of Naisabasaba to extend their Village boundary. That is the very reason the Committee is here in Nadroga. We are not here to make decisions, we are just here to get more information. Back in Parliament, this Committee was briefed by relevant Government Departments, and we expect representatives of these Ministries and Departments to be present with us today.

We will also want to hear from the *Mataqali* representatives of the Village, as to the difficulties they are facing, the reasons for putting up the Petition.

When we finish from here, we will be visiting the Village to see its boundaries, and then tomorrow we will visit the Village again to hear from the villagers.

We look forward to the assistance of the *Roko* and representatives from responsible Ministries and Departments, because the information you give will be very important for us in our findings before we report back to Parliament.

Once again, I thank you all very much. I now request the officers from the various Ministries and Departments to give a little brief on the issue, followed by the representatives from the Village. Thank you.

Submittee 1 : **Mr. Viliame Seuseu**
Roko Tui Nadroga/Navosa
Nadroga/Navosa Provincial Office

MR. V. SEUSEU.- *Vinaka*, Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee, and my colleagues from the Ministry of *ITaukei* Affairs and the Divisional Surveyor, Western. The brief from the Provincial Office with regards to the Navisabasaba Village.

For the Village Profile that we have here in the Office, is as follows:

- Total Population – 302
- Distribution of Age group:

Age Group (Year)	Female	Male
0 – 12	5	3
1 – 5	8	21
6 - 14	25	32
15 - 21	18	17
22 - 35	22	34
36 - 65	52	50
66 +	2	1

With the above in picture, I draw our attention to the Fijian Affairs Act that can contribute to the Petition that was put forward in Parliament some time ago.

The Village itself is overpopulated. According to the Fijian Affairs Act, the space between the dwelling houses should be 18 feet from the other dwelling house. That is the distance that should be in the Village, and this is not true for Navisabasaba at the moment because of the space available.

The other point is the requirements for the dwelling house in rural villages. A dwelling house should have a kitchen, and the space from the dwelling house to the village should be eight feet (8ft) the distance, and 10 feet away from the next house. This again is not true for Navisabasaba Village.

A general information, according to the Fijian Affairs Act, we cannot have a large number of people in one dwelling house. This again, is not true in Navisabasaba. We can have two or three marriages in one dwelling house. The Village boundary, according to the Fijian Affairs Act, 30 feet from the last house should be reserved for Navisabasaba Village. This again, is not true for Navisabasaba Village.

Mr. Chairman, from that small brief, you can see the problem that Navisabasaba Village is facing with regards to the overpopulation. *Vinaka!*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you, Roko. I have been advised that four *Mataqali* are living on this piece of land, 26 acres. This land is owned by Navisabasaba, but there are other three *Mataqalis* living in this piece of land, is that true?

MR. V. SEUSEU.- True, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The three other *Mataqalis*, do they have their own piece of land, outside of Navisabasaba?

MR. V. SEUSEU.- Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you. Any questions, honourable Members?

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *Turaga Roko*, Out of the 302 population of Navisabasaba Village, what is the total male number, because these are the ones who will be staying in the Village in years to come, and they will also require additional space to build their dwellings and things like that? Can you just give us that total number of males?

MR. V. SEUSEU.- Total of 156 males.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- That represents the people who will be residing there permanently as we go.

MR. V. SEUSEU.- Yes, Sir.

HON. DR. B. LAL.- Would you have any idea of how many of these people are working outside the Village, and how many are farmers living in the Village?

MR. V. SEUSEU.- I do not have the report on that, Sir.

HON. A. VADEI.- *Roko*, what sort of farming activity do they participate in, just crops or subsistence farming?

MR. V. SEUSEU.- It is merely subsistence farming.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, *Roko*. Now, I will request the officer from the Department of *ITaukei* Affairs.

Submittee 2 : Ministry of *iTaukei* Affairs

ITaukei Land and Fisheries Commission

MR. I. TULAGI.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman and colleagues.

(Reads from Submission distributed)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Within that 26 acres, who all are leasing currently?

MR. I. TULAGI.- Sir, we can confirm that from ITLTB.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Still on that, Mr. Chairman, just on the Way Forward, item 6.3, where it says, and I quote:

“Navisabasaba Village members not to renew lease expired on the 26 acres where the village is located for village extension”.

When will the current lease on this 26 acre expire?

MR. I. TULAGI.- Sir, also on lease expiry, it is with the ITLTB.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much. No one from ITLTB here?

SECRETARIAT.- Sir, they are on their way here.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will request the officer from the Lands Department to brief the Committee.

Submittee 3 : **Mr. Ilaitia Navunisaravi**
Director, Lands Department, Western Division

MR. I. NAVUNISARAVI.- The Chairman and members of the Standing Committee, the *Roko Tui* and members of this forum. I believe that our representatives have already presented to you in Suva. So, I think they have covered all the relevant points. Just to add on to that, that the lease is under State Land's steps and conditions that are governed by the terms and conditions of leases.

In regards to applications by members of this *Mataqali*, we have responded to their applications, and application being refused on that ground, that the land is under leases. Even for those that had expired, there are renewal rates also for them given the first opportunity. And, our current policy is that any vacant land have to be advertised for transparency sake, and be given equal opportunity to everyone to apply, and we do not entertain also any ad hoc applications. With the number of complaints that have been filed in our office, we want to clear all this mass here, then all lands should be advertised.

In regards to village extension, we do not have any relevant legislation for that, may be probably with the ITLTB, and the Ministry of *iTaukei* Affairs. We are just on the leasing of land. Thank you very much.

HON. A. VADEI.- Thank you. I believe this question was posed to your Director in Suva when we had our meeting. The Crown Land was taken up by the CSR. She was supposed to come back to us to inform us who is the rightful owner of the land before it was taken up by CSR. So, do you have information on that piece of crown land?

MR. I. NAVUNISARAVI.- Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman for that question. All historical background of land sales are kept at the Archives, including this one here. This is very important information, and I want to elaborate to this Committee.

All Crown Grants, abbreviated as CG, those are the *itaukei* lands that were sold before Cession. So, when the British Government came in after the Deed of Cession, if one sees the Deed of Cession, one of the clauses requires the investigation of all land sales. So, there was a Land's Claim Tribunal set up to investigate all the land claims, and those land claims that were found to be genuine were the first ones to be given crown grants, and that is where the beginning of *itaukei* land to be alienated for Fijians at the time. It has been registered crown land and proved that the sales were genuine and so it becomes private freehold. The private freehold, the Crown Grant is the source of State land and private freehold as today. Therefore, under the law that is private freehold land, right from the beginning. If you want to take it, you have to buy it according to the law.

Is that clear, Mr. Chairman, or do you want me to elaborate further on that?

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Mr. Chairman, since there is no buy-back policy with this Government, the Way Forward for Navisabasaba since they want to extend their Village boundary, that is where I am coming from. If that Crown Land belongs to the *Mataqali* or to the *Yavusa* that stays in Navisabasaba, then that can be some way forward for them.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I believe the officer has made it very clear that that piece of land was sold, and it is under State now.

MR. I. NAVUNISARAVI.- Yes, Mr, Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for those information. I think the informations are very clear.

HON. DR. B. LAL.- Sir, through your presentation, I take it that some of the people have already applied for land, and you have acknowledged their applications stating whether it is positive or negative?

MR. I. NAVUNISARAVI.- According to the records I have already responded, Sir.

HON. DR. B. LAL.- Thank you.

MR. I. NAVUNISARAVI.- To clarify that, that is application for individual leases, not for village extension or reversal.

In regards to reversal, to clarify that we have a Policy also in place not to entertain the reversal of land.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- What is the Policy?

MR. I. NAVUNISARAVI.- The Policy is to suspend all those requests. There are so many at the moment, until further notice.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Mr. Chairman, is there a policy in place whereby initially that land was leased by FSC?

MR. I. NAVUNISARAVI.- Yes, FSC purchased the land. All FSC land is private freehold, to protect the interest because of the Sugar Industry in Fiji, which is of significance to the national economy. As I have already mentioned, when the Crown Grant has become law.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- So, the current tenants over there right now are also canefarmers?

MR. I. NAVUNISARAVI.- That is agricultural lease, but since it is within the sugarcane belt that is also the misunderstanding at the moment. However, I have been explaining and clarifying to people, that is not specifically for sugarcane, it is an agricultural lease. If sugarcane is not there, it can be other commodities across the board.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for your information. Do we have the members of the *Mataqali* here? After we hear from them, then we will be going to the Village.

(Short brief to Mataqali Reps by Chairman and Secretariat)

Submittee 4: Mr. Alivereti Momo

Turaga ni Mataqali, Leweiveidrala

Yavusa Leweiqere, Navisabasaba Village, Tikina Malomalo

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. I believe the Nadroga/Navosa Province is very grateful for the Committee to be able to meet with us today. We received a letter from the Provincial Office with regards to your visit this morning.

With regards to my *Mataqali Leweiveidrala*, we only have four acres of land which we have used for subsistence farming only, such as cassava farming. I thank the Committee for coming down to see our problems, since we really do not have any other area to farm.

First of all, majority of the land areas of Navisabasaba Village is owned by us, the *Yavusa Leweiqere*. It is a very a long story, in terms of the land area for the *Vanua o Nahoni* or the members of the *Yavusa Leweiqere*.

Our ancestor, Uluiqere was the first settler to reside on where we are residing now, hence he is the owner of this territory beginning from Baravi, right up to where the Village is located now.. He actually came from *Matacawacawa*, up to where we are situated now. We believe the problems we are facing today was caused by the Late *Turaga na Kalevu*, Ratu Kini Nanovo who signed Fiji to Great Britain, forcefully took the land area of the *Vanua Matamatacawa*, including the area where the village is situated today and sold it. That is why it is all crown land today, and that is also why we only have four acres of land with us today to use. We are not able to move or relocate to any other place since there are no other lands available for us.

I have with me this morning a copy of the *I Lalakai* of Wednesday, 2/9/2015, where honourable Viliame Gavoka's submitted to Parliament the Petition for the *Tokatoka Nakabasi*. I request if I can read our response to the Committee this morning.

(Reads in *itaukei* their response, later submitted to the Committee)

Sir, I initially wanted to forward this letter for the 'Letter's to the Editor' column, but I thought otherwise as it might cause disrepute and instability amongst us as we are all related.

Mr. Chairman, initially the land was given to the *Tokatoka Nakabasi* for them to farm on, however they sold it for development purposes. What other lands do they want?

Navisabasaba Village has four *Yavusas*: *Louvatu, Burenitu, Leweiqere and Waimarou*. We all partake in carrying out our Village obligations, gatherings, fundraisings that would go towards development in our Village, contribute to the annual Nadroga/Navosa Provincial fundraisings, et cetera. However, *Tokatoka Nakabasi* has some members who care-less and do not attempt to carry out their Village obligations. They do not do anything in the Village. They are arrogant people and lack respect. I seek the forgiveness of my *Vale Levu, Nakuruvakarua* if I have said malicious words, as I believe it is time that we speak the truth, and not hide the truth. I also request my relative, honourable Viliame Gavoka not to speak on issues that he is not familiar with. That is all, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Sir, for those information. Now, we will request the next *Mataqali* representative.

Submittee 5: Mr. Mesulame Rakuro

Mataqali Leweinadroga, Tokatoka Nakabasi, Yavusa Louvatu

Vinaka! First, I thank God Almighty for the beautiful day today that we are able to be sitting here to discuss on issues regarding the Village of Navisabasaba.

I am the eldest son of the Late *Turaga na Tui Nasoni*, and I am the 3rd *Tui Nasoni*, though I have yet to be installed traditionally.

Our *Mataqali* has 26 acres of land. A total of 12 acres have been leased, and the balance of 9 acres is right where the Village is sitting on.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Who is leasing on the land?

MR. M. RAKURO.- FNPF.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Only FNPF or someone else?

MR. M. RAKURO.- Also two Indo-Fijian families.

Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, we request Government for additional land as our Village population has increased in numbers and less land to farm.

In terms of the information given by the *Turaga ni Mataqali, Leweiveidrala*, I want to say that our ancestor that left Cuvu to come to this land is Apenisa Rorovanua. *Rorovanua* means, ‘Guardian of the *Vanua*’, and in this case, ‘Guardian of the *Vanua o Nasoni*’. While here, and with his chiefly standing and authority, he took control of the *Vanua o Nasoni*. The first *Tui Nasoni* was the late Mesulame Rakuro, followed by the late Apenisa Rorovanua, and now me, though I have yet to be traditionally installed.

Mr. Chairman and honourable Members that is my short contribution this morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Sir for your information.

Submittee 6: Mr. Kini Ligabulu

Turaga ni Mataqali, Leweinasalavadra,
Turaga ni Yavusa, Leweiqere

Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, this morning I take this time to thank you all for to this opportunity to be able to sit with you to discuss on issues our Village of Navisabasaba is facing.

The difficulties we currently face at hand is felt by every member of Navisabasaba Village, especially the two *Mataqalis*, as there is no more land available. The land occupied by the *Mataqali Nakabasi*, that we are deliberating on this morning is mine, from my second *Tokatoka*. One thing I want to stress today is, if the people of the *Yavusa Nakabasi* need this land, we the members of *Yavusa*

Leweiqere also need the land. There is no land to farm. Even my *Mataqali* only have four acres of land. This four acres land caters for all the 40 plus members of my *Mataqali*.

As proven by *Mataqali Nakabasi*, their numbers have increased, but there is no land. Crown land is all around us, and we are all left in the middle with limited space. If *Mataqali Nakabasi* is requesting for land, I, as *Turaga ni Yavusa Leweiqere* am also requesting for the same, additional land. There are three *Mataqalis*' under *Yavusa Leweiqere*, and I am the *Turaga ni Yavusa, Leweiqere*.

Similar to the requests by the *Mataqali Nakabasi*, we are in dire need of more land as the Village population continues to increase and there is no place to do our subsistence farming. We humbly seek Government's assistance to help the members of the two *Mataqalis*'; *Nakabasi* and *Leweiqere* with more land, and we thank Government for its continued support. That is all I have to say this morning. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much. The officer from ITLTB?

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Mr. Chairman, can I ask a question?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Yes.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to ask a question to the *Turaga ni Mataqali* who had just presented to us. Have you ever once made a request to the late *Turaga Na Kalevu* in regards to your request before our gathering today, or you only submitted it the Provincial Meeting?

MR. K. LIGABULU.- We had initially made our request to the late *Turaga Na Kalevu* when he was still alive. That was a long time ago, but no feedback to date. Government representatives visited our Village, but no update up to now.

MR. A. MOMO.- If I can add on to that, Mr. Chairman, together with the District Officer, a traditional presentation was made to the late *Turaga Na Kalevu*. A written consent was given by the Late *Na Kalevu* whereby he gave back 200 acres of land in Baravi, Matamatacawa.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- So, the land was returned?

MR. A. MOMO.- The *Ka Levu* approved the return of 200 acres of land.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Written consent?

MR. A. MOMO.- Yes, we have a copy of the letter.

HON. A.T. VADEL.- How far has the deliberations on this issue gone?

MR. K. LIGABULU.- Sir, request if the *Turaga ni Yavusa* can speak on the issue. The issue has reached the Lands Departments' Suva Office. When enquired, we were advised that we will be informed after their deliberations. From that time we made the submission to now, I am the only one left and present to date. The rest have passed away.

HON. A.T. VADEL.- Which Government Department did you submit your request to?

MR. K.. LIGABULU.- The Lands Department.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, *Turaga ni Yavusa*. Since we have the officer from ITLTB, we will just ask him the land area for the four *Mataqali*.

Submittee 7: Mr. Jone Colati

I-TLTB Representative

Nadi Office

Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, on behalf of the Manager, I was instructed to be here this morning. My apologies for being late.

For your question, Sir, I have only prepared data for *Mataqali Leweinadroga, Tokatoka Nakabasi*. However, I can prepare the...

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Can you provide the information to our Secretariat?

MR. J. COLATI.- Yes, I will do that, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The Committee has already heard from ITLTB, your Manager in Suva, but we will just seek your guidance when we are going to see the boundary, and please provide that information to our Secretariat.

For the information of the members and *Mataqali* representatives present here, as I have said before, this Committee is here to get all the facts from the ground. We want to know the truth and to see for ourselves the boundaries and how the houses are located within the land available so that it assists us when we go back. We will only make recommendations to Parliament, that is the role of this Committee, and prior to doing that, we need all the information and that is the very reason we are

here and why we asked for your submissions. Now, the Committee will go to the Village area to see the boundary. Any questions from any honourable Member?

(Vote of Thanks by Mr. Chairman)

The Committee adjourned at 11.30 a.m. (*Scheduled Site Visit carried out*)

VERBATIM REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIR'S
PUBLIC CONSULTATION HELD AT NAVISABASABA VILLAGE ON
TUESDAY, 3/11/15 AT 1.25 P.M.

(*Welcome and Introduction by Mr. Chairman*).

MR. A. MOMO.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, in addition to my submission made earlier this morning, I would like to inform the Committee that Navisabasaba Village is a flood prone area with a history of severe flooding. An example was three or four years ago, the Village of Navisabasaba was severely flooded following-on from the flooding of Semo Village. I therefore ask Government's help in the prevention of the flooding of our Village.

Secondly, if there is no availability of land for extension of village boundaries, kindly request Government if the village could be relocated to another land area with bigger space to cater for the increasing population and ease of farming purposes. That is all, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you.

MR. r...(kumi).- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, I just need to correct a statement made earlier on.

First, it was mentioned that the *Yavusa Louvatu* is dependent on the *Yavusa Leweiqere*. *Yavusa Louvatu* does not rely on *Yavusa Leweiqere*. The *Yavusa Louvatu* is where the *Tui Nasoni* sits.

Secondly, the land where the Village of Navisabasaba sits is owned by the *Tokatoka Nakabasi, Mataqali Leweinadroga*.

I agree and am appreciative of the idea for the extension of the village boundaries, and I concur with the request for additional land for village extension or relocation. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much. The Committee takes note of your requests, but I will advise the villages also that these issues should come through the Roko's Office. We will also take it

up, but if there is anything prior to us coming here, please submit them to the Roko, and he will send it up. However, the Committee takes notes of your concerns, and we will see how we can assist.

(Elaboration by Mr. Ilaitia Navunisaravi – Director Lands, Western Division)

MR. K. LIGABULU.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, I have another request for the Village of Navisabasaba. One of the problems of this Village is no water. As we speak now, there is no water supply to the Village. Submissions have been made to the honourable Deputy Speaker, by which some government officials came to visit the Village to see the problems encountered, but no progress to date. Another proposal was made for water to be supplied to the Village from Natadola, and a survey was followed-on, but there is still no water supply as I speak this afternoon. I ask Government again to seriously look into this issue of no water in Navisabasaba Village. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you for that issue. I would like to inform the Village that honourable Nadalo, the Deputy Speaker has raised this issue and he is in discussion with the Ministry. I understand the water situation that is in most of the parts of Fiji because of the dry spell. Just a question, do the water carts supply water to the Village?

VILLAGERS.- No.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Regarding the survey, I think honourable Nadalo is following on that. He has been in contact with the Ministry. I will request him to provide you an update on that.

(Honourable Nadalo elaborates progressive steps the Government has taken to date to solve the water problems in the area)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Any other questions? There being none, we will adjourn for today and come back tomorrow to hear more from you, the villages of Navisabasaba Village.

(Vote of Thanks by Mr. Chairman)

The Committee adjourned at 2.50 p.m.

VERBATIM REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS'
PUBLIC CONSULTATION HELD AT NAVISABASABA VILLAGE ON
WEDNESDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 2105 AT 11.50 a.m.

(Welcome and introduction by Mr. Chairman)

MR. K. LIGABULU. - Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, I wish to speak in the vernacular, and hope that whatever I raise this morning will be translated into English.

Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, first, let me record our sincere gratitude for the Committee's presence in the Village this morning. On behalf of the Village of Navisabasaba, I wish to raise that seeing the boundaries of this Village, it is very small due to the increasing population in the Village. It is therefore our request this morning to the Committee for extension of village boundaries to support the increasing population. That is all I wish to raise this morning, and I reiterate our plea for the extension of our Village boundaries. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Vinaka!*

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Regarding Crown Land, how many crown lands are near this Village? One is CG986, and the other one is down Matamatacawa. Do you know the actual size of these crown lands?

LANDS DEPT.- While we have the information for CG986 here with us, the other one we will have to look at it, because that request was not part of this....

MR. CHAIRMAN.- May be, you can provide that request to our Secretariat.

LANDS DEPT.- Yes, we can do that.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Through you, Mr. Chairman, I wish to remind the villages that the reason the Committee is in the Village is because of the Petition that you submitted that was presented to Parliament. We have the *Roko*, and representatives of relevant Government Ministries and Departments that involved in assisting the Committee with its findings. We cannot reveal any information of our findings to you now, however, our task is to gather all the necessary information that will assist this Committee with its recommendations for tabling to Parliament. That, basically is what we are here for. We need you to give as many, and credible information as possible to assist the Committee with its recommendation to be presented to Parliament. Hope that is understood. *Vinaka!*

Mr. Chairman, I have a question. The land that Natadola is leasing, is it still being used.

MR. K. LIGABULU. - That land is owned by the people of Vusama, and the only area they are securing is where the coconut trees are planted. The rest of the land has been left barren, which is

now a park for cattles and horses. Even the village of Vusama face difficulties to farm because the cattles uproot all root crops for their sustenance.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- What about the lease by FNPF?

MANAGER, ITLTB (West).- The lease is not being used at the moment. We are trying to find ways to serve FNPF a Breach Notice because of failure to comply with the Agreement, that the land has not been used for what it was intended for. But, an important point to note is that FNPF has been updated with its rent payment up to today, and do not have any debts. The only area we can work from is serve them a Breach Notice, and if the Company acknowledges the Breach Notice and reveals therein their proposed development plans for the area, that is covered in their lease entitlement. But if they ever plan to surrender that piece of land, then that can be an area of hope for these discussions. That is all I can say on that issue.

(Invitation made also to the female members of the Village for their contributions)

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Following on from your request for extension of village boundaries, this is for housing and farming purposes?

MR. K. LIGABULU.- Yes, for construction of home since the Village has become overcrowded, and farming for subsistence purposes.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- What about the Village drinking water source?

MR. K. LIGABULU.- I believe *Turaga ni Koro* should speak on that issue. Alright, the *Turaga ni Koro* has given me the okay to speak. Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, we use groundwater in the Village, but right now our water pipelines are not working. Its funnel and other necessary materials are all non-workable. We lack continual and sustainable water source and access to clean water. A lot of rubbish have also come out from the water pipes, as well as little insects, et cetera. We request the Government to help us address this problem.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- I raised that question because, since you are requesting the extension of Village boundaries, you will expect the increase in water consumption from increasing population. The World Health Organisation (WHO) calculates that a person consumes 50 litres of water a day. If the Village boundary is extended to cater for the growing population, then demand for water will also increase. Therefore, if you plan to extend your Village boundaries, think also of the increasing water demand that comes with it daily. This is an important issue the Village needs to consider.

MR. M. RAKURO.- Thank you. I just want to add on to our Village request. Since our Village population continues to increase, we seek assistance for the extension of village boundaries for farming purposes. Mr. Chairman and honourable members, you will see that this Village is surrounded by mangroves, and you must have noticed also that some of these areas have not been

farmed. This is because our Village is exposed to sea level rise, and this has adversely caused loss of soil, loss of crop production for the Village. That is all I wish to add this afternoon. Thank you.

MR.S. KALOU.- Mr. Chairman, just a questions. We have our Village borehole, however for some years now, water from the boreholes have been contaminated, not safe for drinking. Is there any avenue that Government can help the Village in the filtration of water from the boreholes for safe drinking? The water coming out from the borehole now has only been used for washing clothes and cooking by the villagers.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sir, we have taken note and the only thing we can go back and do is, I will write to the Minister concerned. Actually, there are lots of plans by the Government of the day for the extension of pipes, to ensure that everyone receives water. I also discussed with the *Turaga ni Yavusa* yesterday, and it has been noted down, and will be written to the relevant Minister to see how best your issue can be addressed. Thank you.

MR. K. LIGABULU.- Mr. Chairman, I just want to revisit the point made earlier about the flooding of this Village. Most of the areas of this Village you will see are not farmed, because they are easily flooded. When the Village gets flooded, it even reaches and floods this Village Hall, where we are sitting today. If we redevelop this area, Government will spend so much money, which will be difficult to do. I therefore humbly plea to the Government, please relocate the Village or extend our Village boundaries so we can farm and accommodate the increasing village population. If this is done, we will be forever grateful to the Government.

Secondly, I want to reiterate that the water we are drinking are contaminated, and not safe to drink. If the Ministry of Health visits to see the well we are using, they will put a stop to it, that it not be used. We plead with Government to provide us with water tanks. I came back from the District Officer's Office yesterday, the water tank is still there and not filled. It should have been filled with water for the Committee's use during your visit. They assured us that the tanks will be sent today, but as we speak, it still has not arrived. I ask the *Roko* to remind the DO of this issue.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, we have another problem in this Village. There is a water source we gave to the landowners for their personal use, however they have given it to cattle farmers and building constructors to use. That has caused so much problems to the Village. Water from that source cannot come to the Village because it has been used for such purposes, though we have asked them to stop using water as such.

Another problem affecting this area has been the long period of drought.

We, the people of Navisabasaba humbly seek Government's assistance to able water treatments and provide solutions to this problems for the present and future needs of the community or village.

With those few words, Sir, I thank you for this opportunity, and that is all I have to say.

MR. M. RAKURO.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, I just want to add on to what the *Turaga ni Yavusa* has said. Our young men in the Village have increased in numbers, and it is on

this note that I request the Government to reclaim the mangrove areas to accommodate the increasing population, especially for the newly married men of this Village.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Thank you. Just a suggestion and a question too. In case there is no land available from ITLTB, the other option would be the use of State Land, though the requirement will be to buy that piece of land. Do you have funds to finance that or will you use lease money attained from the leasing of Natadola to purchase for that land? That is something to ponder on. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you. I believe it is one of the options which the honourable Member is speaking about. However, when we are back in Suva for our Committee meeting, we will see what recommendations need to be made to Parliament. *Vinaka!*

MR. M. RAKURO.- Mr. Chairman, I wish to respond to honourable Nanovo's question, regarding Natadola. Sanasana Village are the rightful owners of Natadola, and they receive that lease money. *Tokatoka Nakabasi* only gets the lease money from the Nursery. Our numbers too, of *Tokatoka Nakabasi* do not equal with the lease money we used to receive. However, I think we will all sit down together, as *Tokatoka Nakabasi* to discuss on this issue of buying that piece of land. That is all, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you. On behalf of the honourable Members of the Committee, the Government officials, the team from Parliament and the *Roko*, I would like to thank the *Turaga ni Yavusa*, *Turaga ni Mataqali* and the villagers. This is our third day here, and our role is to come down and get the facts in regards to the Petition. We have information which has been provided by the villagers, the *Turaga ni Yavusa*, *Turaga ni Mataqali* and the Departments. The Committee will return to Parliament, we will sit together and see how best we can give our recommendations so that the problems you are facing can be a solution to that. That is the actual role. We cannot make decisions here, we are also not making decisions there. We are only recommending to Parliament what we have seen and heard during our visits of such.

I must thank the *Roko*, the Government officials and also the Village for the support you have all given.

Thank you very much. We are finishing off with this meeting in regards to the Petition. The Villages can meet with the Government staff or the MPs, and if you have any other issues, we will take note of it and see how best we can address them. *Vinaka!*

The Committee adjourned at 2.25 p.m.

APPENDIX 3: LIST OF SUBMISSIONS

Appendix 3: List of Submissions

Find below are the list of groups, individual and government agencies that provide submissions for the Petition:

ORAL AND WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS:

The Committee subsequently received 7 submissions and heard all stakeholders view at public hearings held at the Parliament Committee Meeting Room West Wing, Nadroga Navosa Provincial Office, Sigatoka and in Navisabasaba village, Nadroga.

1. I-Taukei Lands and Fisheries Commission;
2. I-Taukei Land Trust Board;
3. Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources;
4. Nadroga Navosa Provincial Office;
5. Mataqali Leweinadroga;
6. Mataqali Leweiqere; and
7. Mataqali Leweivedrala.

**APPENDIX 4: COPIES OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED BY THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Appendix 4: Copies of written submissions

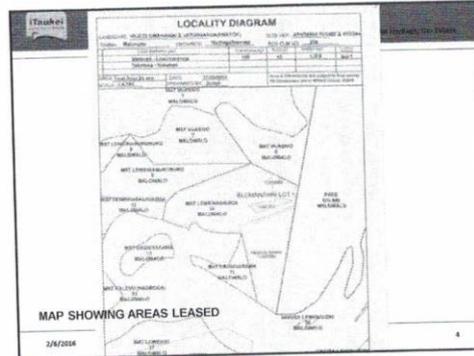
2/6/2016

Presentation to the Parliament Standing Committee on Social Affairs.

Review on land issues raised by Tokatoka Nakabati, Mataqali Leweinadroga in Malomalo, Nadroga

Presenters: Ema Naisadro (Manager South West)
Masese Rotubalovu (Reserves Commissioner)

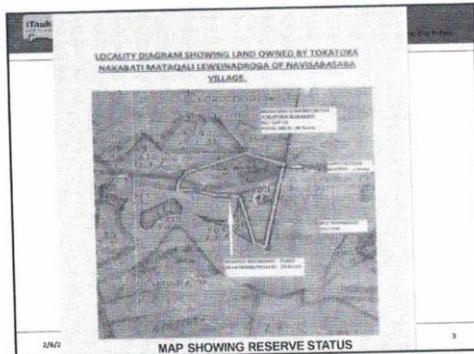
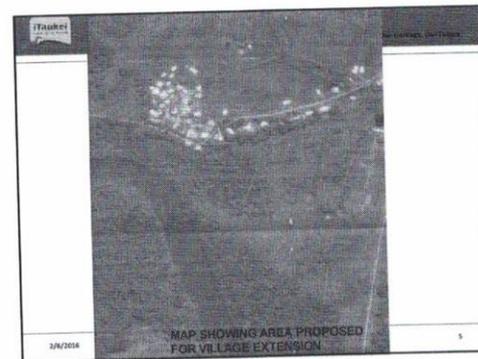
2/6/2016



Concern 1: Village Boundary extension

- Tokatoka Nakabati Tk 150 owns one piece of land as follows:
 - Lot 10 L2/4 – 26 acres
- The village of Navisabasaba is on Lot 10
- The village boundary extension was surveyed by the iTaukei Lands Commission and is proposed to include the whole parcel – Lot 10.

2/6/2016



LOU LAND ANALYSIS

TOTAL AREA OWNED			
VILLAGE	MATAQALI	TOKATOKA	TOTAL AREA OWNED (Hectares)
Navisabasaba	Leweinadroga	Nakabati	9.7124
			Outside Reserve
			0.8594

LEASED LAND			
VILLAGE	MATAQALI	TOKATOKA	TOTAL AREA LEASED (Hectares)
Navisabasaba	Leweinadroga	Nakabati	6.3279
			Outside Reserve
			0.1704

BALANCE & UNLEASED LAND			
VILLAGE	MATAQALI	TOKATOKA	TOTAL UNLEASED AREA (Hectares)
Navisabasaba	Leweinadroga	Nakabati	3.3845
			Outside Reserve
			0.6790

2/6/2016

LAND NEED ANALYSIS

RECOGNISED/UNRECOGNISED/UNCLASSIFIED AREAS

1. **UNRECOGNISED**

Unrecognised	2000000000
Unrecognised	10000000

2. **RECOGNISED**

NO. OF	NO. OF AREAS	TOTAL AREA (sq. m)	TOTAL PERCENTAGE
10	10	10000000	10%

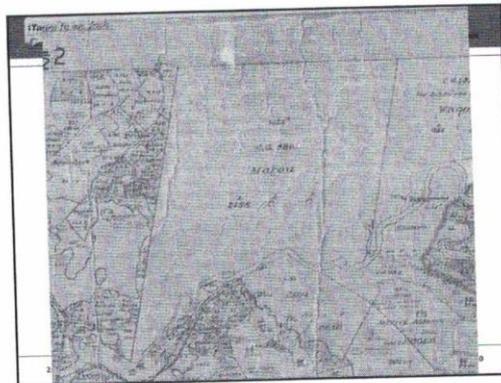
3. **UNCLASSIFIED**

Unclassified	10000000

4. **SUMMARY**

Land Available	10000000	Land Available	10000000
Land Available	10000000	Land Available	10000000
Land Available	10000000	Land Available	10000000

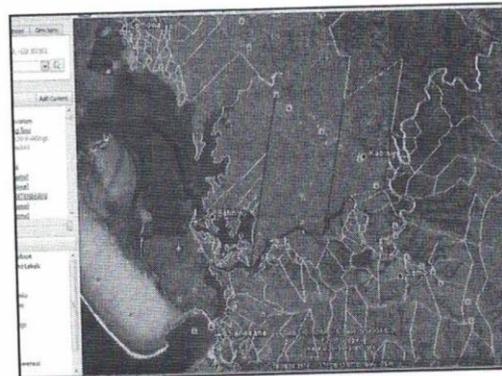
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Land Income attributed to Maro (Lewenidoga Tokomaha Kaitiaki) from 01.01.2010 to 31.08.2015

Year	Amount Received	Total
2010	\$ 1,007.91	
	\$ 16,048.91	
	\$ 286.03	
	\$ 218.03	
	\$ 19,270.28	
2011	\$ 280.11	
	\$ 5,702.86	
	\$ 5,977.81	
	\$ 5,717.12	
	\$ 7,054.93	
2012	\$ 3,477.04	
	\$ 1,576.88	
	\$ 230.00	
	\$ 2,000.84	
	\$ 5,121.82	
2013	\$ 8,700.35	
	\$ 2,566.75	
	\$ 4,217.75	
	\$ 11,585.02	
2014	\$ 3,825.02	
	\$ 2,819.03	
	\$ 7,669.05	
Grand Total		\$ 68,577.37

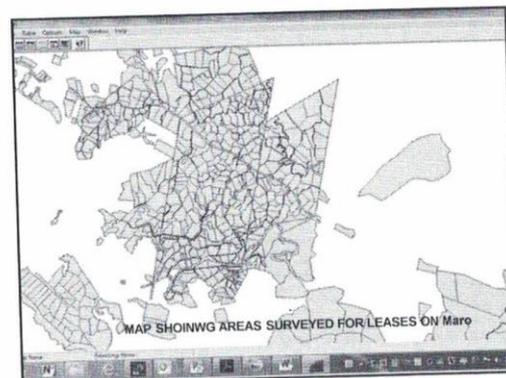
2/6/2016 8



Concern 2: Option for lease allocation of land from Maro CG986

- Maro CG 986 is state freehold land - owned by the state and administered by the Director of Lands.
- Approval for Leasing on the land is given by the Director of Lands.
- The Board has no powers over this land other than under Section 18 TLTA Cap 134.
- The provision of Section 18 TLTA Cap 134 where the Minister may set aside state land as iTaukei Reserve may be applied here but there was a directive from the Prime Minister's Office to the Ministry of iTaukei not to entertain claims for the return of state lands.

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Finaketi Land Use & Planning

Conclusion

- Members of Mabaqali Levelesidropu, Tokatoka Nakabasi do not have enough land available for their own use, support and maintenance.
- This is evident as provided above where they have only 0.0133 ha of land outside reserve available and 0.0735 ha of land within reserve available for each individual.

Suggested Way Forward

1. TLC to Review their proposal for village extension
2. Director of Lands to identify vacant lots on Maro Freehold land and consider issuing leases to the Tokatoka Nakabasi

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Finaketi Land Use & Planning

VINAKA VAKALEVU

2/6/2016 14

**BRIEF TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS – ON THE
PETITION BY MATAQALI LEWEINADROGA, NAVISABASABA VILLAGE, NADROGA**

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to brief the Standing Committee on Social Affairs a petition for Parliament to review the land related requests by Mataqali Leweinadroga, Navisabasaba village, Nadroga.

2.0 NAISABASABA VILLAGE BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Village Population during the time of the Demarcation visit on 28th May 2014 was 300.
- 2.2 The Village is located beside the Tuva River, also beside the main road – Natadola Road and can be accessible by vehicles.
- 2.3 The Village is occupied by 2 Yavusa.
- i. Yavusa Louvatu consist of Mataqali Leweinadroga, Tokatoka Nakabati
 - ii. Yavusa Leweiqere consist of Mataqali Leweinasalavadra, Leweiqere and Leweivedrala
 - Mataqali Leweinasalavadra - Tokatoka Yalamarawa
 - Tokatoka Vunanunu
 - Mataqali Leweiqere - Tokatoka Muanivanua
 - Tokatoka Tivoli
 - Mataqali Leweivedrala - Tokatoka Mouti
 - Tokatoka Korobitu

3.0 LAND OWNERSHIP

- 3.1 The land where the village is located is owned by Tokatoka Nakabati, Mataqali Leweinadroga.
- 3.2 The land was given by the Yavusa Louvatu to Tokatoka Nakabati for their use and maintenance.
- 3.2 The piece of land is a reserve claim no. 308 known as Lot 10 with an area of 26 acres on Map L/24.
- 3.3 Parts of the 26 acres were under Lease land well before it was claim as reserve for Tokatoka Nakabati.
- 3.4 Find attached as Appendix I & ii the Locality diagram showing the Navisabasaba village boundary.

4.0 CONCERNS RAISED BY THE VILLAGES

- 4.1 To extend the village boundary to accommodate for village growth.
- 4.2 The Yavusa members are concerned that the boundary expansion will disadvantage them given their Yavusa land 26 acres is hardly sufficient to cater for the present and future needs of the current Mataqali members.

5.0 VILLAGE DEMARCATION TEAM OPINION

- 5.1 The above concern is supported by our demarcation team because of the following reasons:
- i. High growth in village population.
 - ii. Land available for extension is prone to flooding.
 - iii. The remaining land from the 26 acres where the village is located is under lease.
 - iv. The only land adjacent to the village for the village extension is owned by the State known as CG 986.

6.0 THE WAY FORWARD

- 6.1 The members of the village to request the government to extend their village boundary on land CG 986.
- 6.2 Members of Navisabasaba villages to lease expired leases on CG 986 for village extension.
- 6.3 Navisabasaba village members not to renew lease expired on the 26 acres where the village is located for village extension.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 The Standing Committee on Social Affairs to give a directive to all stakeholders (TLTB, Lands, TLFC, Provincial Office) to discuss a way forward on the village extension raised by Navisabasaba Village.

I. v. Vesikula

Vananalagi I Vesikula

CTLFC

28th October 2015

TABLE NO. 7.—CLASSIFICATION OF COMMUNAL UNITS.—PROVINCE OF NADROGA.—continued.

Yavusa.	Mataqali.	Tokatoka.	No.	Head of Mataqali.	Head of Yavusa or Group.	Head of Vanua.
PROVINCE OF NADROGA.—DISTRICT OF MALOMALO.—continued.						
Leweiesiga	Naliku	Nakacokai	146	Anitivasa Bativunilagi.	A. Bativunilagi	S. Moceituba.
Do.	Do.	Koroitau	147	Extinct	Do.	Do.
Do.	Waikelia	Raranitavui		Nevote Natoya	Do.	Do.
(Vanua of Nasoni.)						
Louvatu	Leweinadroga	Nakabati	150	Mesulame Rakuro	M. Rakuro	M. Rakuro.
Buredu	Dausiyarawa	Vunimoli	149	Do.	Do.	Do.
Leweinasoni	Leweinasoni	Tavanaki	152	Aisea Sanibalolo	Do.	Do.
Leweinuku	Nuku	Nasavurewa	117A	Do.	Do.	Do.
Leweinasoni	Leweinasoni	Yavutu	151	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Leweidarata	Tubagata	153	Mititeli Lautu	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Naicavacava		Extinct	Do.	Do.
Leweiqere	Leweinasalavadra	Yalamarawa	155	Moave Qere	M. Qere	Do.
Do.	Do.	Vunanunu	156	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Leweiqere	Muanivanua	154	Paula Kunaua	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Tivoli	154A	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Leweivedrala	Moliti	157	Aliverete Momo	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Korobitu	158	Do.	Do.	Do.
Ketenavunivalu	Leweinapukunuku	Nukunuku	159	Rusiate Saudai	R. Saudai	Do.
Do.	Do.	Koro	160	Do.	Do.	Do.
Noi Marou	Waqaliqali	Bau	161	Josaia Vunicagi	J. Vunicagi	Do.
Do.	Do.	Matamata	162	Do.	Do.	Do.
Ua	Yavusasio	Namara	163	Vilitati Raiyali	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Vunabaka	164	Do.	Do.	Do.
Noi Marou	Noi Batiri	Nadrakuma	165	Sailasa Kuraece	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Yavunabogi	166	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Noi Natogo	Naniubilo	167	Seruveveli Nakita	Do.	Do.
Do.	Noi Togabula	Taunavia	168	Seruveveli Nakita (ii)	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Naniukalele	169	Do.	Do.	Do.
DISTRICT OF WAL.						
(Vanua of Nalolo.)						
Nalolo	Nalolo	Uluvalu	170	Kinijaoti Vosailagi	K. Vosailagi	K. Vosailagi.
Do.	Do.	Korolala	171	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Rasuva	Koroira	172	Naivolione Waqa	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Dainaba	173	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Liodre	Nailibu	174	Ravuaime Seyavula	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Eloto	175	Do.	Do.	Do.
Leweiwaraga	Leweiwaraga	Naqorovakarua	181	Inoke U'curau	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Naboriboto	182	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Qara	183	Do.	Do.	Do.
Ketenamasi	Kavusa	Navatilama	176	Hivasa Nasogo	I. Nasogo	Do.
Do.	Do.	Edronu	177	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Ketenatani	Natuidaku	178	Aisake Neituqe	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Namakadudu	179	Do.	Do.	Do.
Leweinakurasiga	Nakurasiga	Emalumalu	184	Rusiate Naciumata	R. Naciumata	Do.
Do.	Do.	Nakicavu	185	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Buvaka	Naburuvatu	186	Venina Rube	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Bitovani	187	Do.	Do.	Do.
Koroivagadra	Nasaqa	Narara	188	Taniela Nakibo	T. Nakibo	Do.
Do.	Do.	Naloti	189	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Yadrili	190	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Namakomako	191	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Vunadrou	192	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Nasitamudu	193	Emosi Cawaitunu	Do.	Do.
Do.	Loukai	Nasitamudu	193A	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Lavisa	194	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Matailatini	195	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Nabavatu	196	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Rurugu	197	Naivolione Rugu	Do.	Do.
Do.	Daga	Oso	198	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Nasau	199	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Mocevakasiga	201	Joseva Ratu	J. Ratu	Do.
Lewei koromani	Lewei yavurua	Kulikulia		Extinct	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Vunadroi	202A	Sitipeni Leteitoga	Do.	Do.
Do.	Sonadra	Tubeibila	203	Sakiasi Mateni	S. Mateni	Do.
Noi Toroku	Qeledradra	Natalawa	204	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Navolorua	205	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Saqele	206	Vilive Duguceva	Do.	Do.
Do.	Ketenatukani	Vunarewa	206A	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	Tilivasewa	207	Joeli Navuka	Do.	Do.
Ketenavunivalu	Kubulau	Koronuta	208	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	*Tautau	244	Veniona Luve	Taniela Nakibo	Do.
* Koroivagadra	Vagadra	*Namuwawa	245	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	*Vonokula	246	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	*Sawaya	247	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	*Vunivile	248	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	*Mataniqara	249	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Noi Buli	*Neidarayaga	250	Iliave Saru	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	*Lohodegei		Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	*Matatolu	252	Extinct	Do.	Do.
Do.	Matatolu	*Narosaqa	253	Mosese Naisausau	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	*Matanasa	254	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	*Burenikitu	255	Vuniani Nabavoro	Do.	Do.
Do.	Naviragata	*Tunuloa	256	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.	*Vadransiga	257	Amenisitai Tovo	Do.	Do.
Koroivagadra	Leweiwedanu		258	Do.	Do.	Do.
Do.	Do.			Do.	Do.	Do.

LEASES WITHIN Mat:LEWEINADROGA ; TOKATOKA: NAKABATI(TLC Lot 10)									
File Ref	Lessee	Area	Term	Effective Date	Lease Type	Remarks	Rent	Premium	Outstanding Todate
4/11/7384	Natadola Bay Resort	6.2247 ha	99 Yrs	1/07/2005	Tourism	Dereserved	\$8,500.00		Nil
4/11/1507	Habiban Bibi	1704 sqm	50 Yrs	1/07/1996	Residential	Outside Reserve	\$300.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 806.25
4/11/39460	Ashwin Vlash Permal	1032 sqm	50 Yrs	1/07/2013	Residential	Dereserved	\$ 300.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 178.73

Total Area within Reserve: 24 acs(9.7124 ha) ; Outside Reserve: 2 acs

Balance Area within Reserve: 3.3845 ha(8.36 acs)

Balance Area Outside Reserve: 0.6390 ha(1.58 acs)

DATE UPDATED :

VILLAGE PROFILE MALOMALO TIKINA

	P	O	P	U	L	A	T	I	O	N								
VILLAGE	0-12		1-5		6-14		15-21		22-35		36-65		Ov 66		5	Tu Vagalala	TOTAL	
NAVISABASABA	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m					302
	3	5	21	8	32	25	17	18	34	22	50	52	1	2		12		

3+

BRIEF UPDATE
SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – PETITION ON NAVISABASABA VILLAGE

TUESDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER, 2015 – Briefings by Government Officials & Mataqali Reps

(1) Nadroga/Navosa Provincial Office (Roko)

(a) Navisabasaba Village profile

- Total Population – 302
- Distribution of Age group:
 - Year 0-12: male-3, female-5
 - Year 1-5: male 21, female 8
 - Year 6-14: male 32, female 25
 - Year 15-21: male 17, female 18
 - Year 22-35: male 34, female-22
 - Year 36-65: male 50, female 52
 - Year 66y and over: male 1, female 2
- Total of 156 males

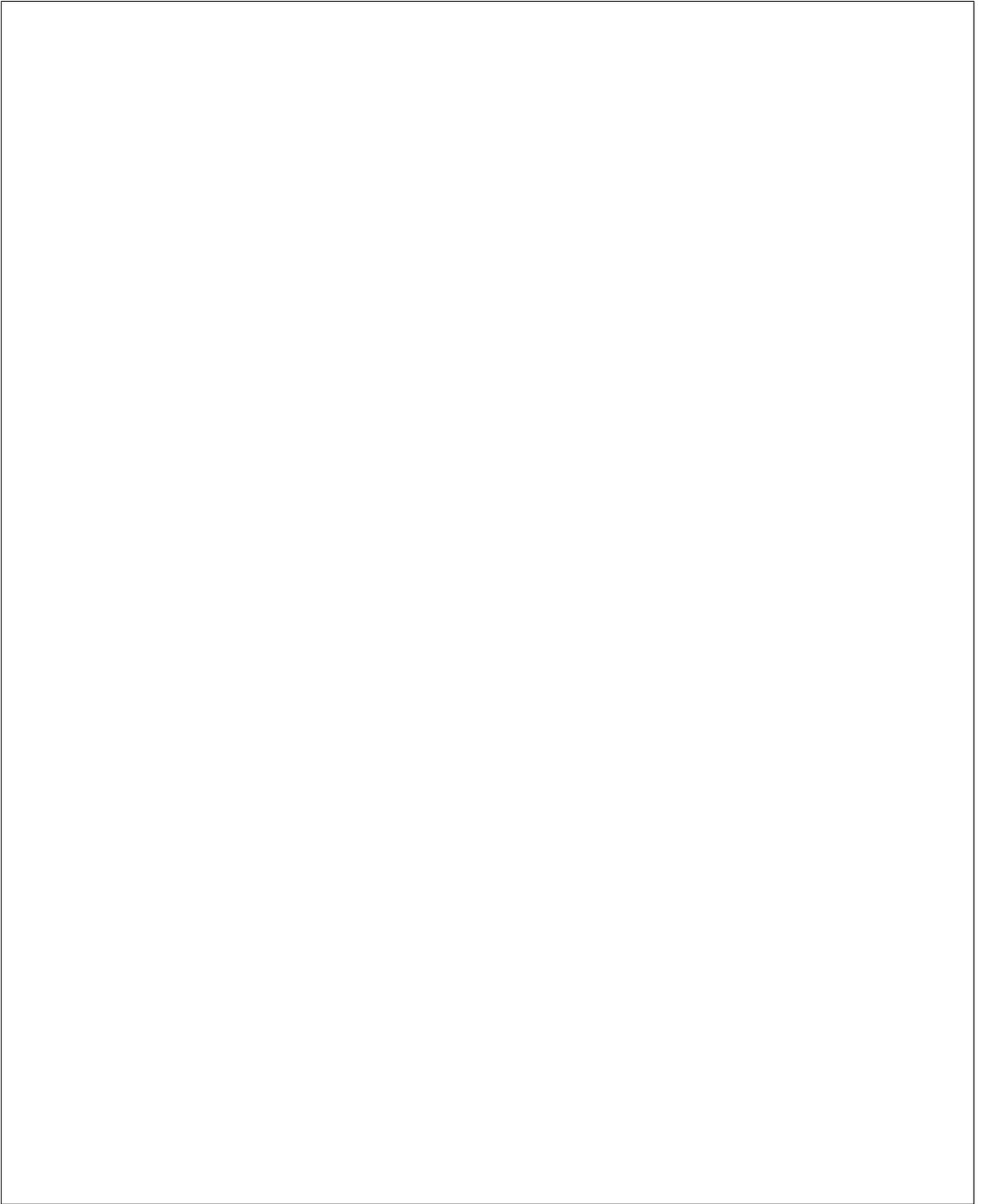
(b) In accordance with the Fijian Affairs Act:

- Village itself is overpopulated
- The space between the dwelling houses should be 18 feet from the other dwelling house. That is the distance that should be in the village, and this is not true in Navisabasaba at the moment, because of space available.
- The other point is the requirement for the dwelling house including the villages. It should also feature in the village, and the space from the dwelling house to the village should be 8 feet per distance, and 10 feet away from the next house, and this is again not true or Navisabasaba village.
- General information, according to the Fijian Affairs Act, one cannot have large number of people in one dwelling house. This is again is not true for Navisabasaba. You can have two or more villages in one dwelling house
- The village boundary according to the Fijian Affairs Act, you should have 30 feet from the last house, should be reserved from Navisabasaba Village. This is again not true for this Village.
- Hence, one can see the problems Navisabasaba Village is facing at the moment.

(2) Department of iTaukei Affairs

(Reads from Submission)

- Within that 26 acres, the information on the current leasee holder should be obtained from ITLTB



(iii) Kini Ligaburu, *Turaga ni Yavusa, Mataqali Leweinasalavadra*

Owns 4 acres

- Has 40 people in this 4 acres of land
- Raised the same problems, less land with overpopulation of people, and no land to plant
- Vadei asked if these Reps have asked the *Na Kalevu* for the return of the land. Mr. Ligaburu confirmed that the *Kalevu* had written a letter approving the return of 200 acres. The *Mataqali* have liaised with the Lands Dept, but no progress to date.

(5) ITLTB Rep:

- Only came with data for *Tokatoka Nakabati* only.
- Assured the Committee to provide more information during site visit

The Committee adjourned at 11.20a.m.

Committee departed for Site Visit at Navisabasaba Village

(Site Visit carried out)

Discussions at the Village Hall:

Issues raised by the villages:

- Request for Relocation of village due to flooding. The earlier flooding that affected Semo Village, also affected Navisabasaba
- Request also for Relocation of the village to accommodate more space for the village
- Request for the provision of a land to enable the villages to farm
- No water for the village, requesting Government if it can look into that problem.
- Deputy Speaker assured the villages in his capacity as Rep for Nadroga and Deputy Speaker that currently consultations have been ongoing with relevant authorities to address this issue.
- Deputy Speaker also requested the Roko Tui Nadroga for the Provincial Council Office to provide water tanks to suffering villages, because there is so much money collected during the Nadroga Navosa Days. He emphasized that it is always easy to ask the people of Nadroga Navosa to contribute towards the *solu*, but the distribution of these funds is not accountable. Hence, the request for the provision of water tanks to suffering villages through the Nadroga Navosa funds.

In closing, the Chairman assured those present that the Committee will be in the Village again tomorrow, for more discussions with the villages.

The Committee adjourned at 2.30 p.m.

