



STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

Review Report of the Committee on the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Immigration Annual Report 2014



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
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CHAIR'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the review Report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence on the *Ministry of Defence, National Security and Immigration 2014 Annual Report*.

The Standing Committee is established under Section 109(2)(e) of the Standing Orders (SO) of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji. The Committee is mandated to examine matters related to Fiji's relations with other countries, development aid, foreign direct investment, oversight of the military and relations with multi-lateral organisations. The Committee is also mandated by Parliament to scrutinize *Ministry of Defence, National Security and Immigration 2014 Annual Report*.

The Report is divided into three parts:

Part One covers the Committee Recommendations to Parliament and Introduction;

Part Two focuses on the Findings of the report; and

Part Three covers the Conclusion.

The findings of the review and the recommendations put forward by the Committee are intended to assist the Ministry's service delivery in the future and especially in meeting Fiji's domestic security, defence and safety requirements in addition to fulfilling its international obligations to global security and peace-keeping mandates through the United Nations and other multinational initiatives.

The review exercise was possible after a round of consultations with the Ministry. The Committee had identified areas of concern that needs addressing to ensure the Ministry effectively achieves its goals. I wish to extend my appreciation to the Honourable Members and the Secretariat who were involved in the production of this bipartisan report. The Members include: Hon. Mataiasi Niumataiwalu; Hon. Mosese Bulitavu; Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua and the Alternate Members Hon. Jilila Kumar and Hon. Howard R. Politini.

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, I commend this report to the Parliament.

Hon. Netani Rika
Chairperson

PART ONE

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation One:

The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Immigration Annual Reports to consider an Organisational Structure to include the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), Fiji Police Force (FPF) and other agencies as reflected in the ministerial responsibilities outlined in Legal Notice No. 72 (Government Gazette No. 31 of 14 September, 2016).

Recommendation Two:

The Ministry of Defence focuses on its core roles of maintaining a safe and secure Fiji for all citizens and visitors to ensure economic growth and democratic development.

INTRODUCTION

Using the legislative powers provided to the Committee, this report examined the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Immigration 2014 Annual Report which was tabled in Parliament on April, 2016.

The Committee had gone through the Annual Report and identified key areas that needed to be assessed and these included the Ministry's budgetary allocation, policies, programs and projects of 2014, staffing issues, security and defence concerns and the overall administration.

On 11th October 2016, the Committee resolved to summon the Ministry's executives on 2nd November, 2016 to provide a brief to the Committee on the overall performance of the Ministry in 2014.

The review involved the collection and sighting of available information and documents from the Ministry. This was important to allow the Standing Committee to fully understand its operations and performance.

In summary, the information for this report was obtained through:

1. A thorough assessment by the Standing Committee on the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Immigration 2014 Annual Report;
2. An oral presentation by the Ministry's executive management; and
3. Face-to-face interviews with the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Mr Osea Cawaru and his team.

PART 2

FINDINGS

The Committee's findings were established after thoroughly scrutinizing the Ministry's 2014 Annual Report and acquiring additional information and clarifications from the consultations with the Ministry's senior officials.

The objectives of the assessment were to:

- scrutinize the Ministry's 2014 administration, budget, functions, organization structure, policies and project/programs and;
- making recommendations to Parliament on the overall performance of the Ministry in 2014 with regards to its mandated functions.

The **key findings** from the Committee's assessment and consultation process are:

- The Ministry needs to build its capacity and capability in order to coordinate and drive its Security and Defence Management Systems to achieve its intended targets for 2014 and beyond.
- Legislation Review needs to be updated and in line with the Constitution and also accommodate international treaties and conventions.
- The improvement of Information Communications Technology (ICT) is needed.
- There is a need to update domestic legislation to reflect the spirit of International treaties to meet International standards and best practices.
- Need to improve facilities provided in the detention centers for illegal immigrants.
- Enhancing partnerships and relationships with regional and international security and defence partners.
- "Friends to All, Enemy to None".
- Leave no one behind.

CHALLENGES

1. There is a need for succession plan in terms of staff retention and remuneration.
2. Improve ICT capability.

PART 3

CONCLUSION

The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence has fulfilled its mandate approved by Parliament which was to examine the *Ministry of Defence, National Security and Immigration 2014 Annual Report*. The Committee had conducted its review and formulated the findings with regard to the Ministry's performance in 2014 and it is a bi-partisan report.

The response and the input from the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Immigration were overwhelming which immensely contributed to this report.

As a result the Committee came up with two major recommendations that would boost and enhance the work of the Ministry in achieving their Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

Overall, the key areas highlighted by the Committee in its findings would boost the performance of the Ministry at large.

Therefore, the Committee strongly recommends to Parliament this report.

REFERENCES

- Ministry of Defence, National Security and Immigration, Annual Report 2014, Parliamentary Paper No. 38/2015
- *Constitution of the Republic of Fiji* (2013)
- “Ministerial Assignment’, Legal Notice No. 72, 2016 in *Government of Fiji Gazette*, Supplement, No. 31, 14 September 2016.

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APPENDIX 1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION POWERPOINT PRESENTATION



**PRESENTATION TO PARLIAMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE**

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, NATIONAL
SECURITY & IMMIGRATION**

**SUBMISSION ON 2014 ANNUAL
REPORT**

2ND NOVEMBER 2016

MDNSI SUBMISSION

ITEM NO.	AGENDA ISSUES	MINISTRY RESPONSE
1.	What is the strategic focus of the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Immigration Annual Report 2014 was commissioned?	<p>The commissioned 2014 Annual Report focused on the deliverables as articulated in the 2014 Annual Corporate Plan which consisted of 18 outputs and 31 sub-outputs. These outputs covered deliverables that the Ministry performed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Portfolio Leadership, Policy Advice & Secretariat Support; 2) Implementing existing Legal Framework; 3) Management of National Security Machinery; 4) Enhance operational machinery for border control systems; 5) Security Intelligence advice on terrorism; 6) Institutional review and projects development for the two (2) discipline forces; 7) Enhance global integration and International Relations; 8) Research on Advance Passenger Processing (APP) system and offshore posting; 9) Implementation of projects and conduct of National Events; 10) Immigration Laws effectively enforced; 11) Human Resources management; 12) Organisational management; 13) Productivity management; 14) Budget implementation; 15) Poverty Reduction; 16) Ensuring environmental sustainability; 17) Commitment to social wellbeing; and 18) Synchronizing gender mainstreaming in Ministry's Policies. <p>The Ministry focused on the above deliverables and was consistently monitored on its performance by the Strategic Framework for Change Coordinating Office (SFCCO) and we were rated at 99.01% at the end of the fiscal year. The significant progress made in advancing defence, security and immigration issues based on the strategies enshrined in the RDSSD.</p>

Outputs

MDNSI SUBMISSION

ITEM NO.	AGENDA ISSUES	MINISTRY RESPONSE
2.	<p>What is the Strategic Focus of the Ministry aligned to Government's National Security Strategies?</p> <p><i>- Espinoza</i> <i>2014</i></p>	<p>National Security is one of the Ministry primary roles and this role is entrusted to the Ministry to deliver on behalf of government through the Ministerial Assignment delegated by the Hon. Prime Minister under Section 92(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji. A copy is appended as Annex I to this submission.</p> <p>In delivering the above Ministerial assignment of Government the Ministry works in coordination with the Fiji Police Force to maintain stability and peace internally, the Fiji Military Forces in the defence of Fiji's sovereignty and the Immigration Department in the coordination of Border control.</p> <p>The Ministry Strategic approach is articulated in the National Security Strategy (NSS) that is currently being crafted by the National Security and Defence review team. This policy document will provide the Ministry and its arms to strengthen its capability and increase its capacity to the required level so that will deliver for government its security requirement to all Fijians. The document focuses on 5 strategic areas that is now engraved in the draft Strategic Development Plan for the Ministry for 2016 – 2020. The five(5) strategic focus areas are as follows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Maintenance of a Harmonious and Peaceful Internal Environment; 2) Protection and maintenance of Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity; 3) Maintenance of the Community and People's Well Being; 4) Improving and strengthening of Regional and Global Security; and 5) Protection of Natural Resources and Environment. <p>To achieve this, the Ministry is focused on delivering this on a yearly basis through its Annual Corporate Plan.</p>

MDNSI SUBMISSION

ITEM NO.	AGENDA ISSUES	MINISTRY RESPONSE
3.	<p>From 2014 to 2016 what are the summary of the key Operational, Financial and Budgetary Challenges faced by the Ministry?</p>	<p>The Ministry's total staff establishment is 48 which consist of 38 established staff and 10 government wage earners. There are four main Divisions which are headed by Managers who are pegged at Principal level to deliver the agendas as required by the Ministry. In addition the Ministry has liaison officer and seconded officer's who are posted by the two and they are stationed with the Security Forces Division as Liaison to ease logistical/administrative arrangement and support the work of the Assessment Division and Security Division.</p> <p>The Ministry's key Operational summary would be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Security is one of the primary roles of Government and this role is entrusted to the Ministry to deliver on behalf of government through the Ministerial Assignment delegated by the Hon. Prime Minister under Section 92(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji. • To strategically deliver this role the Ministry develops and implements security related legislation and policy initiatives to manage national crises and emergencies; aerial surveillance; border security and management and search and rescue operations. A strategic part of its role is to protect every Fijian, our infrastructures, our values, our sovereignty and our economy which prosperity depends on. • The Security Forces Division coordinates with the Military Liaison Cell and Police Liaison Cell on all security activities pertaining to the Republic of Fiji Military Forces and the Fiji Police Force respectively. The Security and National Assessment Divisions are responsible for the provision and coordination of Government's assessment, intelligence and security requirements.

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ITEM NO.	AGENDA ISSUES	MINISTRY RESPONSE
3.	From 2014 to 2016 what are the summary of the key Operational, Financial and Budgetary Challenges faced by the Ministry?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition, it is also responsible for the coordination of the two (2) National Events and other significant events to government. Furthermore, it is also responsible for our International obligation pertaining to the implementation of regulations on written laws, treaties, Acts, Conventions, Promulgations and Decrees. In addition, the Ministry also complies with Section 127 of the Republic of Fiji Constitution which describes the power of the Permanent Secretary with the agreement of the Minister responsible for the Ministry, PSC Regulations, Financial Instructions and Procurement Regulations. <p>Capacity Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst the Ministry achieved the expected results it was noted that some area could have been better achieved. We need to have more strategic focus on senior positions for Director level officers to bridge the gap in-terms facilitating strategic policy document for the Ministry and assist the Deputy Secretary position. Legal advice is an area that slowed down the Ministry implementation of certain agendas and we are working closely with the Solicitor General's Office clear the backlogs of legal advices. It would be ideal that a legal officer is stationed within for ease of legal advice. Staffs of the Ministry attend these specific programmes that are offered by the donor agencies and these programmes are fully funded. Whilst these has been on going the Ministry needs to develop it human resources in specific area such legislation and policy development, Intelligence gathering and analysis, validating/assessment and analyzing, research and development skills, Project management and Implementation, Information storing and digitalization and resource centre development.

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ITEM NO.	AGENDA ISSUES	MINISTRY RESPONSE
3.	<p>From 2014 to 2016 what are the summary of the key Operational, Financial and Budgetary Challenges faced by the Ministry?</p>	<p>Financial and Budgetary Constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget allocation for certain areas continues to be an issued and these is always subject to the approval of the Ministry of Economy during the budget consultation process. We are working closely with the Ministry of Economy to increase salary point of staff and these be linked to the performance assessment of individual officers. The Ministry also noted the process of government under the reform which is continuous and we are also awaiting this outcome. • Conduct of National Events which is celebrated widely to take the spirit of national pride and bridge gaps with all Fijian is critically important for government. It must be noted that budget for the two events which is under the Ministry allocation has been sustained at \$100,000.00. We will address the issue again with the Ministry of Economy to increase our budget to enable us to better coordinate the event on behalf of government. • The Ministry's budget utilisation rate was 60% by mid year as per requirement by government.

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ITEM NO.	AGENDA ISSUES	MINISTRY RESPONSE
4.	<p>Departmental Training Specialist training Career Paths and Leadership training are the spine of the institution? What are the present achievements and future Plans of the Ministry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of our officers is critical to enable the Ministry to deliver effectively the required agendas. Through the development of a formal training plan that the Ministry maps out its training for one fiscal year. • We had conducted training for basic generic courses in the area of customer service and OHS during the year 2016. These courses were are outsourced to training agencies that have the capacity to run these courses whilst the Ministry transition itself in capacity building its staff for qualified accredited trainers who will then conduct the training internally. • Officers with the Ministry also attended training in area of leadership, intelligence training, national security training, course in diplomatic diplomacy. There were officers who attended capacity building workshops, seminars and meeting both locally and overseas that related to core functions of the Ministry. These are detailed in the attached matrix at Annex III. • Officers continue to pursue their formal education for postgraduate studies, undergraduate and Diplomas to enable that they fully meet the requirement of the advertised position and furthering their career in the Civil Services. • We had also sent to Australia an officer that was offered a full time scholarship to pursue his postgraduate studies for one and half years and will be schedule to return to the country by mid-year 2017. An officer is schedule to leave early next year on the similar scholarship offer.

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ITEM NO.	AGENDA ISSUES	REMARKS
5.	What are the key growth areas and focal points for the Ministry from the Republic of Fiji Military Forces and Department of Immigration?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Defence and National Security has been focusing on key growth areas of creating better information sharing platforms for improvement of intelligence gathering with the two identified agencies and the other government agencies through the signed MOU NCLASA of 2013 <i>- Police RFMF</i> Another area of key growth area is the revival of the National Security and Defence Council which has been convened again in 2014 to discuss matters that could cause an impact or threat to national security. The Fiji Military Force has moreover shifted its focused from solely training to deliver security of the sovereignty and territorial safety of Fiji to more of a human security perspective that is the RFMF involvement in community projects in building and development of better houses, schools, village halls, bridges, land reclaim and rehabilitation works after natural disaster. The establishment of Labasa Immigration Office in August 2014 and the additional 34 positions approved by Cabinet and Finance in our 2014 Budgetary Allocation. The Immigration Department has further ventured into the prospect of decentralizing the issuance of passports to Nadi and Labasa and improvement of handling the over stayers and refugees in Fiji. The establishment of Nadi Safe house in 2015. The regularization of 6 project positions in 2016. The Ministry has further enhanced the MOUs with development partners to address the ATT and relevant Treaties that has been rectified and signed to uplift the level of service delivery of the two identified agencies in terms of security of our borders, remittance to Fiji for UN peacekeepers and ascending professional level of commitment all round with effective and efficient delivery of service.

MRS. L. SAUMAKA

MDNSI SUBMISSION

ITEM NO.	AGENDA ISSUES	REMARKS
6.	How is the Ministry and its partners fighting local, regional, international crime (transnational crimes) and terrorism effectively and efficiently?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of local crime activities the Ministry has been working closely with FPF into the total reduction of crime in Fiji at targeted rate of 10% per annum which has been progressing slowly and has been aggressively challenged by complaints received from the community and disgruntle individual and human right activist against the FPF service delivery. • With the introduction of the NCLASA Concept, over 40 agencies including Police are signatory to this concept. The concept allows for sharing of information & Intel relating to common areas of interest. • Domestic monitoring and surveillance is pursued under working arrangements with other border control agencies namely Customs, Immigration and Bio-security Authority of Fiji including the regulators and facilitators at Fiji's two International Airports. • Fiji Police – key member of the National Consultation on Technical Officials Meetings convened under the Fiji Ministry of Defence & National Security for a robust approach on monitoring and surveillance both at the domestic and regional levels. • The establishment of a dedicated Border Police Unit is part of efforts to enhance security measures at our international airports and port of entries. This unit is now in place with continuous capacity building initiatives undertaken to empower these officers.

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ITEM NO.	AGENDA ISSUES	REMARKS
6.	<p>How is the Ministry and its partners fighting local, regional, international crime (transnational crimes) and terrorism effectively and efficiently?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the regional front the Fiji TCU Chapter is a leading player under the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordinating Centre (PTCCC) based in Apia, Samoa. The center coordinates information and intel sharing amongst the 14 Pacific Island countries including Australia and NZ through secure information channels. A seconded officer from the Fiji Police is attached to the PTCCC, Apia every year. • Sub region – Fiji Police has been instrumental in establishing concepts under the MSG on Police Cooperation covering information and intel sharing. The cooperation also factors in joint capacity building programs. • INTERPOL - Available INTERPOL Tools – I-24/7 secure network and the I-Check-it concepts allow the Fiji INTERPOL to access the various Data bases managed by INTERPOL. The availing of Red Notices for international fugitives that may likely cross our borders are also communicated through these secure mediums of communication. • Fiji Police also regularly participate in Regional CT programs organised by INTERPOL in the region to update our officers on new and emerging trends in terrorism. • Bilateral and multilateral arrangements amongst INTERPOL member states have notably increased, noting the increased movement of people, goods and services across our borders. • Bilateral cooperation through MOUs with China, Indonesia, and bilateral partners Australia & NZ. • Commissioner working relations with counterparts in Singapore, Malaysia & Hong Kong as we work towards formal MOUs. • Dialogue and bilateral talks with ASEAN member states.

MDNSI SUBMISSION

ITEM NO.	AGENDA ISSUES	REMARKS
6.	How is the Ministry and its partners fighting local, regional, international crime (transnational crimes) and terrorism effectively and efficiently?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the region the Ministry has been supportive towards the MSG concept with the involvement of the FPF and acknowledging the invitation from our neighboring Island States to eradicate illegal fishing, climate change, pollution, transnational crime, money laundering, drug, human trafficking etc. that has been steadily increasing and fueling corrupt practice in the region. • Cooperation is now building and developing with Australia and New Zealand and major super powers such as China, South Korea, India, Russia and America to resolve the impact of the shifting interest of terrorist activities around the globe as it resort to deliver terror attacks in all levels. • Fiji's good relationship with international partner, World Leaders and Fiji acceptance back into Commonwealth has given a leeway for the assistance and support to counter terrorist activity. The Ministry has benefitted a lot from these developments and has been well informed by the well-established Interpol network and Foreign Security Liaison officer's network to be able to monitor and identify potential threats. • The Ministry is working towards the legislation of Terrorism as per the requirement of the UNSCR1373 for all members to have one in place. It is expected to completed and presented in the next Parliament sitting in Feb 2017.

MDNSI SUBMISSION

ITEM NO.	AGENDA ISSUES	REMARKS
6.	<p>How is the Ministry and its partners fighting local, regional, international crime (transnational crimes) and terrorism effectively and efficiently?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Transnational Crime Unit (TCU) concept continues to be an effective tool for monitoring and surveillance and for information sharing. Over the years since its inception several high profile drug cases and other transnational crimes involving millions of dollars have been resolved and successfully prosecuted. • The Director being a member of the Pacific Immigration Directors Conference (PIDC) has established networking with Pacific Immigration Directors on immigration related issues/trends. • The support of UNHCR for our Refugees Status Determination Process • Ongoing Consultation with Interpol for the establishment of Interpol Database to monitor lost and stolen passports and also background checks on persons of interest. • Engagement of Terrorism Unit of Fiji Police on the Surveillance Operations and Location of Over stayers.

MDNSI SUBMISSION

ITEM NO.	AGENDA ISSUES	REMARKS
7.	What are the lessons of 2014 for the Security and Criminal Landscapes locally and internationally (trends) and what is the outlook now and into the future?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2014 Security and Criminal landscape locally has been fairly manageable although there was a high expectation for possible change for a new government to take on the leadership of Fiji. This was not to be and the international community has finally accepted the outcome of the election which the Ministry has been exceptionally grateful that the election process was done well with less hindrance. • The Ministry has been jointly involved with the FPF, RFMF to develop policy's, review new and existing frameworks since 2014 with other relevant government agencies and stakeholders to ensure that the criminal activities are manageable in Fiji and it is safe for all who live, invest in Fiji and those who are here for leisure, holiday, academic purpose and business dealings. • The Ministry has been supporting the need to review of the FPF Act and RFMF Act and the Immigration Act to ensure that it is capable of addressing the current and fast developing areas of crime activities that are also changing with new technology and advance methods of achieving their interest. • The Ministry has been supporting the development of the NSS and the white papers as it prepares to transit into the next two years to the changes ahead on the concept and areas of improvement as identified in the NSS (papers). • The Ministry's is gearing towards meeting new challenges and uplift the workforce capability through better capacity building programme to meet the standards and areas of developments for better implementation of security measures in the near future.

[Handwritten signature in blue ink]

• THANK YOU

APPENDIX 2

VERBATIM ON ORAL SUBMISSION

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & DEFENCE

(Verbatim Report)

HELD IN THE

COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST WING)

ON

WEDNESDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER, 2016

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST WING), PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS ON WEDNESDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER, 2016 AT 10.45 A.M.

Submittee: Ministry of Defence, National Security & Immigration

In Attendance:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| 1) Mr. Osea Cawaru | - | Permanent Secretary |
| 2) Lt. Col. Seremaia Tuikoro | - | Senior Military Liaison Officer |
| 3) ASP Ilaitia Caginavanua | - | Police Liaison Officer |
| 4) Mr. Vanavasa Tabaka | - | Security Forces Division, Defence |
| 5) Mrs. Litia Saumaka | - | Asst. Director & Manager Corporate (Immigration) |
| 6) Mr. Ifereimi Dakunikula | - | Manager, Passports & Permits |
| 7) Mr. Kanito Tugaga | - | Senior Accounts Officer (Immigration) |
| 8) Mr. J. Ratumaitavuki | - | Manager, Corporate Services |

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, we have the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Immigration and his team with us this morning.

I take this opportunity, Permanent Secretary, on behalf of Honourable Members to welcome you here this morning. We look forward to your presentation in regards to the Annual Report, 2014, and normally, we will hear your presentation out and then it is question time.

After that we will share the morning tea refreshments, talk around the table and we will call it a day for your team, so with no further ado, I will now give the floor to you, Mr. Permanent Secretary, *vinaka*.

MR. O. CAWARU.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and a very good morning to your goodself, the Honourable Members and to the Secretariat.

(Mr. Cawaru introduces team from the Ministry of Defence)

We have seven questions and we have been divided to answer respective questions based from our core units. I will lead us through on Question 1 and that is: What is the strategic focus of the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Immigration Annual Report, 2014 as was commissioned?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Honourable Members. The main strategic focus for the Ministry, I think for the past years and the current, which is based solely on the vision of the Ministry – what we have committed in terms of the provision of a safety, security and stability as a catalyst for peace and socio-economic development. I think we will all agree, having a peaceful and stable environment is one of the great building blocks to our socio-economic growth and this is supported by our mission statement, that is, “To provide leadership for integrated national security and defence management in order to ensure peace and stability as a platform for socio-economic growth.” That, Mr. Chairman, is the main strategic focus or the backbone so-to-speak in terms of what is committed and what has been delivered in our 2014 Annual Report.

In the folder that is in front of you, Mr. Chairman, and Honourable Members, it details the 18 outputs and the 31 sub-outputs that draws down from the vision and the mission statements as committed in our Annual Report and listed there in your folder, Mr. Chairman, are the 18 outputs and the 31 sub-outputs. The 18 outputs are derived from the four targeted outcomes as committed to in our Annual Report. Mr. Chairman, I will not go through the whole 18 and the 31 sub-outputs as that is all detailed in the submission before you.

The year 2014 was a milestone year for the Ministry. Why I mentioned this, Mr. Chairman, is that as you can recall, all ministries are normally monitored by ICO, before that they were called the Strategic Framework for Change Coordinating Office (SFCCO), which is normally a Unit in the Prime Minister's Office that monitors all performance of ministries. It monitors the delivery of our Corporate Plan and also the Annual Reports.

For 2014, we could gladly say, Mr. Chairman, that that was one of the best years for the Ministry. If you will see our Annual Report, overall in that year (2014) the Ministry achieved 99.01 percent in terms of the SFCCO rating for the year end 2014. So that, Mr. Chairman, I would say summarises the overall performance of the Ministry.

On Question 2, Mr. Chairman: what is the strategic focus of the Ministry aligned to the Government's National Security Strategies (NSS)? Most recently, Mr. Chairman, for the last year or two, as you can recall that the Government's Strategic Development Plan expires in 2014 and we have been working on the old Strategic Development Plan. From 2014 we have aligned our Corporate Plan which is now reflected in our Annual Report in terms of having the National Security Strategy as the main focus document for the Ministry.

This is also in line with the formation of the National Defence and Review Committee that is currently headed by Ambassador Teleni in terms of delivering the main reform of the Ministry of Defence and National Security. Just lately, from 17th September this year, we have seen the hiving off of the Department of Immigration as now they are part of the Prime Minister's Office. So as we speak now, the Ministry is now the Ministry of Defence and National Security - Immigration has now moved to the Prime Minister's Office.

In terms of the strategic focus of the Ministry, now moving on from 2015 to 2016, we are now more focussed on the National Security Strategy as the main goals, objectives, and all the detailed outputs and outcomes that are committed under the National Security Strategy are now also etched in in the current Strategic Development Plan that the Ministry of National Planning is now working on. So we are using this NSS as the main document being committed in our new SDP for the next five years. That is what we have there in front of you, Mr. Chairman, in terms of our strategic focus for the Ministry, and national security is one of the Ministry's primary roles. This role is entrusted in the Ministry to deliver on behalf of Government as committed in the ministerial assignment by the Honourable Prime Minister under Section 92(3) of the Constitution.

In delivering the above ministerial assignment of Government, the Ministry works very closely and in co-ordination with the Fiji Police Force, which is to maintain stability and peace internally. The Ministry works with the Fiji Military Forces in the defence of Fiji's sovereignty and with the Immigration Department in terms of the co-ordination and better management of our border control.

The Ministry's strategic approach is articulated in the National Security Strategy as I have alluded to earlier and that is currently being developed by the National Security and Defence Review Team as headed by Ambassador Teleni, Ambassador Naivalurua and our former Deputy Secretary, Lt. Col. Jonesio Mara. Unfortunately, the two gentlemen have been posted and now it is being headed by Ambassador Teleni and working closely with the Permanent Secretary and the Managers at the Head Office.

Mr. Chairman, very briefly as I have alluded to, the National Security Strategy, the five areas which we have derived our key strategic focus on as highlighted there in the Report are:

- 1) maintenance of a harmonious and a peaceful internal environment;
- 2) protection and maintenance of sovereignty and territorial integrity;
- 3) maintenance of the community and people's well-being;
- 4) improving and strengthening of regional and global security; and
- 5) protecting of national resources and environment.

The National Security Strategy, Mr. Chairman, is a wholesome document in the sense that it has now broadened its coverage not only on the security that we all know before, just the word "security" but now it covers a broad range which is now included in the National Security Strategy or the document which now includes Biosecurity, Agriculture, Health, the border and all the other security aspects. So for the next five year or so, Mr. Chairman, this is one area we will further develop taking into account what has been committed as part of the National Security Strategy and the way forward in terms of the new security risk and the landscape that we are now encountering at the moment.

On Question 3, Mr. Chairman, maybe I will pass on to our Manager Corporate as it covers more on the operations and our financials.

MR. J. RATUMAITAVUKI.- Thank you, Permanent Secretary. Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members, good morning to you.

For Question 3, as alluded to by the *turaga* Permanent Secretary covers operational matters and I will be taking that.

In terms of Question 3 which dates from 2014 to 2016 - what are the summary of the key operational, financial and budgetary challenges faced by the Ministry?

In terms of the Ministry's strength, we have 48 in terms of the Ministry's strength which consist of 38 established staff and 10 Government wage earners. The Ministry consists of four divisions which are headed by managers, pegged at Principal level and these divisions look after the deliverables of the Ministry's outputs as articulated in the Annual Corporate Plan and the Annual Report, 2014.

In terms of the four divisions: the Corporate Services which looks after Human Resource; Security Forces Division; the Security Division; and the National Assessment Division.

In terms of its Key Operational Summary, the area of national security is still the primary role in terms of delivering the primary role of Government which the Ministry looks after and this

is entrusted to the Ministry under the delegated ministerial assignment under Section 92(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji.

To strategically deliver this role, the Ministry develops and implements security-related legislations and policy initiatives to manage the national crises; emergencies; aerial surveillance; border security and management; and search and rescue operations.

A strategic part of its role is to protect every Fijian, our infrastructures, our values, our sovereignty and our economy which depends on prosperity.

The Security Forces Division coordinates with the Military Cell and the Police Cell on security activities pertaining to the Republic of the Fiji Military Forces and the Fiji Police Force respectively.

The Security and the National Assessment Divisions are responsible for the provision and co-ordination of Government's assessments, intelligence and security requirements.

In addition, it is also responsible for the co-ordination of national events and other significant events that crop up during the fiscal year.

Furthermore, it is also responsible for our international obligations pertaining to the implementation of regulations on written laws, treaties, Acts, conventions, promulgations and decrees.

In addition, the Ministry also complies with the Constitution under Section 127 which basically describes the powers of the Permanent Secretary with the agreement of the Ministry responsible for the Ministry, the PSC regulations, financial instructions and procurement regulations.

Capacity building for the Ministry: the Ministry had achieved the expected results and we are forecasting for more to better achieve the requirements of the Ministry and the requirements of Government. In terms of the Ministry, we needed to have more strategic focus on the senior positions for Director level officers to bridge the gap in terms of facilitating these strategic policies and documents for the Ministry and assist the Deputy Secretary position.

Legal advice is also an area that slowed down in terms of the Ministry's implementation of certain agendas and we are working closely with the Solicitor-General's Office to clear the backlogs of legal advice. It would be ideal that a legal officer is stationed.

In terms of staff, Sir, and Honourable Members, the Ministry attended to these specific programmes that were offered.

In terms of development of staff, the Ministry continues to attend programmes that are given by donor agencies and these programmes are fully-funded to develop and nurture staff to enable them to deliver effectively the deliverables. Whilst this has been ongoing for the Ministry, the Ministry needs to develop its human resources in terms of specific areas in legislations, policy development, intelligence-gathering, analysis validating assessments, analysing research and development skills, project management, implementations, information-storing, digitalisations, resource centres and development.

Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members, in terms of our financial and budgetary constraints, the budget allocation for certain areas continues to be an issue and this is always subject to the approval of the Ministry of Economy during the budget consultation process.

We are working closely with the Ministry of Economy to increase in terms of salary points of staff and this is also linked to the Performance Management Assessment of individual officers. The Ministry also notes the process of Government under the reform which is continuous and we are awaiting this outcome.

Conduct of a national event is celebrated widely to take the spirit of national pride and bridge gaps with all Fijians is critically important for Government. It must be noted that the budget for the two events which is under the Ministry's allocation has been sustained at \$100,000. We will address this issue again with the Ministry of Economy to increase our budget to enable us to better coordinate the event on behalf of Government.

In terms of utilisation for 2014, Sir, the Ministry reached the target of 60 percent utilisation during the year 2014 as a requirement of Government.

Sir, in terms of Question 4: departmental training, specialist training, career paths and leadership training are the main spine of the institution. What are the present achievements and future plans of the Ministry?

Capacity building of officers is critical to enable the Ministry to deliver effectively the required agendas through the development of formal training plans that the Ministry maps out on a yearly basis. We had also conducted training on generic programmes in the area of customer service and OHS during the year 2016. These courses are out-sourced to training agencies that have the capacity to run these courses whilst the Ministry transit in terms of capacity building its officers to become accredited trainers who will then conduct training internally.

Officers within the Ministry also attended trainings in areas of leadership, intelligence-training, national security training and courses in diplomatic diplomacy.

There were also officers who attended capacity-building workshops, seminars and meetings both locally and overseas that are related to the core functions of the Ministry. In terms of officers who continue to pursue in terms of formal education, we also have officers who are pursuing formal education for postgraduates, undergraduates, diplomas in order to meet the changes in terms of the reforms of Government.

We have an officer who is currently in Australia on a one-and-a-half-year scholarship, which will end in mid-2017, and an officer is also scheduled to travel next year on the same scholarship.

That is all for Question No. 4, Sir. I will now hand over to Mr. Tabaka to deliver Question No. 5.

MR. V. TABAKA.- Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members, for Agenda 5, I will be sharing it with the Acting Director for Immigration.

On Question 5: what are the key growth areas and focal points for the Ministry from the Republic of Fiji Military Forces and the Department of Immigration?

The Ministry of Defence and National Security, Sir, has been focussing on key growth areas of creating better information-sharing platforms for improvement of intelligence-gathering with the two identified agencies, the Police and the Military, and the other Government agencies through the signed Memorandum of Understanding - National Combined Law and Security Agency of 2013.

Another area of key-growth is the revival of the National Security and Defence Council which has been convened again in 2014 to discuss matters that could cause an impact or threat to national security. The Fiji Military Forces has moreover shifted its focus from solely training to deliver security of sovereignty and territorial safety of Fiji, to more of a human security perspective, which is the RFMF involvement in community projects, in building and development of better houses, schools, village halls, bridges, land reclaim and rehabilitation works after a natural disaster.

Now, I hand over to the Manager Corporate for Immigration, Mrs. Saumaka.

MRS L. SAUMAKA.- Thank you, Vana. Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members, just a brief overview of the Department of Immigration. The Department is currently led by the Director of Immigration on a US03 position and assisted by an Assistant Director Immigration on US04 with five managers at Principal levels.

From 2013, the total establishment for the Department was at 110 which includes 97 established officers and 13 Government wage earners. The Department was fortunate to gain back additional 34 positions. This came up when Cabinet had approved for the front-liners at the Airport to be moved back to FRCA, that was way back in 2013 but about 42 positions were affected with the post holders who all moved to FRCA so we were fortunate to gain back at least 34 positions from Cabinet and Finance in our 2014 budgetary allocation, thus the total came up to 127 established officers and 17 Government wage earners until to-date, which totalled up to 144.

For the Immigration Department, we also have a capital project. This was approved in this year's budget allocation for us to decentralise the issuance of passports to Nadi and Labasa. For your information, Honourable Members, we are still printing the passports from Suva. All the passport applications received from the North and likewise for the West, Rotuma, Levuka, the printing of passports is still done by our Suva Office.

We are trying our very best to meet all the timelines but in our capital project for this year, the team is trying by February 2017 for us to start the printing or decentralising of the issuance of passports from Nadi and likewise for Labasa.

Also the Immigration Department, we established the Office in Labasa in August 2014. Before that, Savusavu was the only office in the North so now they have shared the load and out of the 34 positions, 10 are stationed in Labasa.

Also, an achievement for the Department was the establishment of the Nadi's Safe House in 2015. The Department regarded that as an achievement because basically, we always relocated the over-stayers or the illegal immigrants into the Grand Melanesian Hotel before they

are taken out of the country but we have the Nadi Safe House and also part of the new positions that were given to the Department included the caretakers and the two watchmen currently at the Nadi Safe House, and it is under the control of the Immigration Manager (West).

Also, the regularisation of the six project positions: these were also additional posts that we requested. Because of our new system, we needed the IT officers to back-up the system and thus the request for additional six project positions later beginning of this year, these positions were regularised into line positions and also part of the 144.

The Ministry has further enhanced the MOUs with development partners to address the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and relevant treaties that have been ratified and signed to uplift the level of service delivery of the two identified agencies in terms of security of our borders, remittance to Fiji for UN Peacekeepers and Ascending Professional Level of Commitment all around with effective and efficient delivery of service. *Vinaka.*

ASP. I. CAGINAVANUA.- Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members, I stand to respond to Item No. 6 – how is the Ministry and its partners fighting local, regional and international crime, transnational crimes and terrorism effectively and efficiently? In terms of the local crime activities of the Ministry, the Ministry has been working closely with the Fiji Police Force in to the total reduction of crime in Fiji at a targeted rate of 10 percent per annum which has been progressing slowly and has been aggressively challenged by complaints received from the community and disgruntled individuals and human rights activists against the Fiji Police Service delivery.

With the introduction of the NCLSA concept, that is the National Combined Law and Security Agencies group, over 40 agencies including the Fiji Police are signatory to this concept. The concept allows for sharing of information and intelligence relating to common areas of interest.

Domestic monitoring and surveillance is pursued under working arrangements with other border control agencies, namely Customs, Department of Immigration and Biosecurity Authority of Fiji, including the regulators and facilitators of Fiji's two international airports.

The Fiji Police is a key member of the National Consultation on Technical Officials meeting convened under the Fiji Ministry of Defence and National Security for robust approach, monitoring and surveillance both at domestic and regional levels.

The establishment of a dedicated border security, Border Police Unit based at Nadi International Airport and Nausori are part of the efforts to enhance security measures at our international airports and ports of entries. This unit is now in place and continuous capacity building initiatives are undertaken to empower these offices.

At the regional front, the Fiji Police Transnational Crime Unit chapter is a leading player under the Pacific Transnational Crime Co-ordinating Centre (PTCCC) based in Apia, Samoa. The Centre coordinates information and intelligence-sharing amongst the 14 Pacific Island countries including Australia and New Zealand through secure information channels. A seconded officer from the Fiji Police is attached with the PTCCC in Apia every year.

Sub-Region: the Fiji Police has been instrumental in establishing concepts under the MSG on Police Co-operation covering information and intelligence-sharing. The Co-operation also factors in joint capacity-building programmes.

INTERPOL through the available INTERPOL tools, I-24/7 Secure Network and the I-Check-It concepts allow the Fiji INTERPOL to access the various databases managed by INTERPOL based in Leon in France.

The availing of red notices for international fugitives that may likely cross our borders are also communicated through the secure mediums of communication.

The Fiji Police also regularly participates at regional, counter-terrorism programmes organised by INTERPOL in the region to update our officers on new and emerging trends in terrorism. Bilateral and multilateral arrangements amongst INTERPOL member-states have notably increased, noting the increased movement of peoples, goods and services across our borders.

Bilateral co-operation through MOUs with China, Indonesia, and bilateral partners, namely Australia and New Zealand. The Commissioner of Police is currently back in 2004 when this Annual Report was working on relations with counterparts in Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong as we were working towards formal MOUs in 2014.

Dialogue and bilateral talks with ASEAN-member states was also part of the agenda by the Commissioner of Police in 2014.

In the region, the Ministry has been supported towards the MSG concept with the involvement of the FPF in acknowledging the invitation from our neighbouring island states to eradicate illegal fishing, climate change, pollution, transnational crime, money laundering, drug trafficking and human trafficking that has been steadily increasing and fuelling corrupt practices in the region.

Co-operation is now building and developing with Australia and New Zealand and major superpowers such as China, South Korea, India, Russia and America to resolve the impact of the shifting interest of terrorism activities around the globe as it resorts to deliver terror at all levels.

Fiji's well-grounded relationship with our international partners, world leaders and Fiji's acceptance back into the Commonwealth has given a leeway for the assistance and support to counter-terrorism activities. The Ministry has benefitted a lot from these developments and has been well-informed by the well-established INTERPOL Network and Foreign Security Liaison Officer to be able to monitor and identify potential threats.

The Ministry is working towards the legislation of terrorism as per the requirement of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 for all members to have one in place. It is expected to be completed and presented in the next Parliament sitting of February 2017.

The National Crime Unit concept continues to be an effective tool for monitoring and surveillance for information-sharing. Over the years, since its inception, several high profile drug cases and other transnational crimes involving millions of dollars have been resolved and successfully prosecuted.

The Director for Immigration, being a member of the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference (PIDC) has established networking and Pacific Immigration Directors on Immigration-related issues and trends. The support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for our refugee status determination process, the on-going consultation with INTERPOL for the establishment of the INTERPOL database to monitor lost and stolen passports and also background checks on persons of interest, engagement of the Terrorism Unit of the Fiji Police on the surveillance and location of over-stayers.

LT. COL. S. TUIKORO.- Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members, on the Agenda Issue No. 7: what are the lessons of 2014 for security and criminal landscapes locally and internationally, what is the outlook now and into the future?

The 2014 Security and Criminal Landscape locally has been fairly manageable although there was high expectation for possible change for a new government to take on the leadership of Fiji. This was not to be and the international community has finally accepted the outcome of the Elections which the Ministry has been exceptionally grateful that the election process was done well with less hindrance.

The Ministry has been jointly involved with the Fiji Police Force, the Republic of Fiji Military Forces to develop policies, review a new and existing frameworks since 2014 with other relevant government agencies and stakeholders to ensure that the criminal activities are manageable in Fiji and it is safe for all who live, invest in Fiji and those who are here for leisure, holiday, academic purposes and business dealings.

The Ministry has been supporting the need to review the Fiji Police Force Act, the RFMF Act and the Immigration Act to ensure that it is capable of addressing the current and fast developing areas of crime activities that are also changing the new technology and advanced methods of achieving their interests.

The Ministry has been supporting the development of the NSS and the White Paper as it prepares to transit into the next two years to the changes ahead on the concept and areas of improvement as identified in the NSS (papers).

Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members, the Ministry is gearing towards meeting new challenges and uplifting the workforce capability through better capacity building programme to meet the standards and areas of developments for better implementation of security measures in the near future.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Vinaka.* Permanent Secretary, thank you for the well-distributed presentation this morning, with everyone contributing, that is good and it is question time now.

Honourable Members, do you have any questions or clarification to make they are all here to answer to that and probably if you have other questions outside of this Annual Report, you might as well clarify it with the Permanent Secretary and his team.

Just a correction to Mr. Tuikoro, you mentioned the "Speaker," the Speaker only sits in and heads the Chamber.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Member, question time, please.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, I would like to thank the Permanent Secretary and his team for today's deliberation. My question to the Permanent Secretary, on the 2014 Management Structure which is in this Report, the Fiji Police Force and the Fiji Military Force are not seen in the structure on Page 6. I thought they are under the Ministry of Defence. During the Budget Debate, the Honourable Minister of Defence is answerable to their allocation budget.

MR. O. CAWARU.- Thank you, Honourable Member for the question. I think that is a valid comment shared by the Honourable Member in terms of why the Police and the Military are not highlighted as part of the management structure. In terms of how we captured this management structure was done according to the allocation given to the respective Ministries, meaning that the allocation given under Head 6 entails the Ministry of Defence Headquarters and also Immigration. That is why they are just captured here as part of the structure, whereas with the Police and the Military, they have different Heads.

In terms of accountability of the budget, the Permanent Secretary has no say on the Commissioner of Police or Commander RFMF's budget. So in brief, the structure sort of entails how the financial allocations are being given but the valid comment is noted and that is something that we can discuss as well in agreement with the Honourable Minister to include how the Police and the Military are linked to the Ministry.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Mr. Chairman, the Minister is answerable in Parliament or in Cabinet so anything that comes from the Police Force or the Military, the Minister is answerable to us as Members of Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Permanent Secretary, the question has revisited us again. If you can remember back in your 2013 Annual Report, we discussed the issue but now it is revisited again and probably that is just a clarification needed to be put in place because you have the RFMF and Police representative in the Ministry and probably those are the grey areas that need the Minister to clarify.

HON. J.N. KUMAR.- Through you, Mr. Chairman, to the Permanent Secretary and the ladies and gentlemen. First of all, I would like to thank the Ministry for the outstanding Annual Report of 2014. I could see that it is well-stipulated and well-informed and we would like to thank you for that.

According to this paper and according to what you have alluded to that your Ministry works very closely with the Department of Police. My question is: to be effective and productive, it is very important to have capable, efficient and quality police officers to assist you in your work. Do you have any loopholes, hiccups or challenges between your Ministry and the Department of Police so far, if you could inform us about that?

MR. O. CAWARU.- Thank you, Madam, for the compliments shared to the Ministry. One of the challenges the Ministry faced in terms of facilitating the role of the Police was on resources, that was one of the major challenges for the Ministry in terms of working with the Honourable Minister in trying to secure resources in order for the Police to deliver their work effectively and to the quality that is required of them. We are thankful to Government in terms of

the provision of vehicles. I think we had quite a number of vehicles that came in towards the end of last year and early this year, so we are very fortunate in that sense in terms of providing an efficient mobility to the service of Police in attending crimes.

As we all know, Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members, the crimes being committed needs the whole of the community's approach rather than just leaving it to the Police. One is that they do not have the full resources that we need but in terms of the little resources that they have and at times we usually share resources too from Headquarters, meaning we give our transport especially during the festive season.

Now we are approaching the festive season, Christmas and New Year and this is when we share resources, meaning Headquarters will tone down in terms of rounding up on its work activities whereas the Police peaks in terms of their monitoring, which is where we share the resources, especially the transport that we have. That is one of the major challenges but I think with all the latest releases in terms of the key quarterly achievements by the Police, we can see some improvement in terms of the key priority areas that they have committed this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you, Permanent Secretary, yes, we agree to that, there is vast improvement in the transportation in the Police Force and we have seen that. Yesterday, the Deputy Commissioner was presenting to us and there is a lot of change, thank you for that.

Just a question to Corporate: I did not hear anything about the unestablished staff. Can you elaborate on that?

MR. J. RATUMAITAVUKI.- Mr. Chairman, in terms of the Ministry's Headquarters' capability in terms of Government Wage Earners, we have 10, five of them are security officers in terms of covering the security parameter in the night and one is stationed at the Ministry Headquarters during day time.

The other five consist of drivers for the Ministry and a messenger. In terms of capability development, Sir, these Government Wage Earners are basically roped in, in terms of when there is a generic programme conducted by the Ministry, for example, OHS training, customer service training because they are also involved in these programmes and the PR from the Ministry to the general public. However, but there are security programmes in terms of the security officers, there are sessions that are conducted internally with the security officers in terms of issues that come up. These are in terms of manager to officers in terms of up-skilling of their duties and attendance to the deliverables.

Apart from that, Sir, we continue to encourage our Government Wage Earners and they are now going into formal training. We have given them opportunities to go into formal studies so that they can get their undergraduate degrees and are also given the opportunity to come into the established cadre.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- So what you are alluding, these unestablished staff used to have this before but I believe it looks like we are phasing that out because now we are including them in other programmes like training, before we never used to do that. Probably now you are calling them Government Wage Earners, just an interest there.

HON. M.A. NIUMATAIWALU.- Mr. Chairman, through you, thank you, Permanent Secretary and your team. My question is with the country ratifying UN Conventions and you have alluded to the legislation on terrorism that you said is to be presented to Parliament in the February's first sitting. I see that you have also touched on the Fiji Police Act, the RFMF Act, the Immigration Act, how important or urgent is the need to have your legal person in place? In capacity building you are saying that it would be ideal that a legal officer is stationed within the Ministry for legal advice.

MR. O. CAWARU.- Thank you, Honourable Member, for the question.

In terms of the policies that need to be developed, and you can see that you have a list as well in terms of policies that need revision. In terms of having a legal officer in-house in the Ministry, I think that is a very good idea. In terms of assisting the review or assisting the drafting right from the initial stages, this is where we can get guidance and free policy discussions and advice in terms of the drafting stage because this is where most of the work has been done in terms of research, looking at other similar legislations and also benchmarking into international best practices in terms of the areas that need new legislations or current revisions to be made. So in brief, Honourable Member, it is a good idea.

I understand that in the past, yes, we used to have legal officers in respective ministries but we respect the decisions now on the current Government that they all have to be pooled to the Solicitor-General's Office and then we are allocated a desk officer from the Solicitor-General's Office. It is good in a way because it coordinates the whole of Government in terms of the policy development but the suggestion on having a particular policy or legal officers in the Ministry is a good idea and I think they can also assist the Solicitor-General's Office in terms of the delivery or the output of the policies coming out from their offices.

HON. M.A. NIUMATAIWALU.- Thank you, Permanent Secretary, just following up on that, my question was on the urgency, how urgent is your need to have your own legal person in office because like we have seen, the country or Parliament is ratifying all these UN Conventions.

Last week we heard of the one on torture as well, so it is one thing to have those at another office but do you not think that it will be prudent for you to have your own legal advisor where you can just call any time and get that advice? That is why I was asking how urgent is it for you because when you are talking of the Fiji Police Act, the RFMF Act, Immigration Act, some of them will have to line up with the Constitution and that is why my thinking is that, you need your legal person within so that all these Acts start to line up with the Constitution, so how urgent do you need that?

MR. O. CAWARU.- Thank you, Honourable Member, on what I have explained earlier, I was referring from Headquarters but to look at the Fiji Police Force and the Military, they have their own Legal Cell and like with the RFMF, they have the Director (Legal) and all its team, the same as with the Police, they have their Director (Legal). So in terms of the two Forces, this is operating well and truly because of the establishment of their Legal Cells already. With us in Headquarters, now and then we seek their legal advice as well, whether we go to the RFMF or we go to the Legal Cell in the Fiji Police Force in terms of the Ministry working together in terms of the review. So for now, we have those two established already in terms of facilitating the role of reviewing the RFMF Act and the Police Act.

HON. M.A. NIUMATAIWALU.- Thank you, Permanent Secretary, I am just coming back because your wording here in capacity-building it would be ideal that a legal officer is stationed within. I believe, in your office or in your Ministry and for the Committee, if that is a need, we could support you in getting that, or was this not intended?

MR. J. RATUMAITAVUKI.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members, just to support the sentiment of the urgency and the need, I think given how the machinery operates that the Minister and the Ministries responsible for this clearance and vetting of all papers and documents that need to go through the proper process, I think it is better that we allocate a provision for that. In some instances, we have papers thrown to and fro; from the SG's Office and our office given that we have the legal expert at operational level and also the need for some reviews to be fast-tracked, quote the RFMF and the Police Acts. Some of these legislations are outdated given the trends of crimes, security landscape that are coming in and we need to enforce our Police and Military in terms of engaging their operations in trying to get these reviews across. I support the sentiment echoed by the Permanent Secretary in terms of the urgency of this being placed in our structure.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Just a comment on that, now legal officers need to be specialised. Before, generally, we had legal officers, but now at this age, we need a legal officer specialised in security. We have legal officers specialised in other fields and that is very important because in the SG's Office, they do not have that. They have lawyers but in your case, we need specialised security and defence lawyers. This is just a comment, probably you can think about that in your future request, otherwise you have capable people in your Ministry who can be trained to do that job in the Ministry. We have scholarships that have been provided, probably that is one area that you can look into.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman, through you I would like to also direct this question to Manager Corporate (Immigration): as you mentioned in your Report, the over-stayers and the refugees, can you enlighten us on how many over-stayers and refugees you recorded in 2014?

MRS. L. SAUMAKA.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Honourable Member, I do not have the number recorded in 2014 but to-date we have a number of 300 plus over-stayers in the country. Our team is working hard with the Police Unit in fast-tracking the allocations and the removals out of the country as soon as we have them on board.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Just a question because you are still sitting there and not to move again. You mentioned that you lost 34 positions to FRCA. Those 34 of your staff came under your budget in training and all the experiences that they got and then they were transferred to FRCA, so they are out from your establishment and they have created that. You said that you have replaced them. I just want to ask you because of those years of experience and budget that we have put in for those 34 staff and the agreement made between the two establishments for you to release them and they took them in and then you have to train another 34 positions. Can you elaborate on that?

MRS. L. SAUMAKA.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the decision was made in 2003 as per Cabinet decision and altogether there were 42 positions that moved to FRCA with the post holders so they were not replaced until the 2014 Budget when we requested for additional 34 positions. Those 34 positions included 28 established officers and six Government Wage

Earners. The six include our caretakers, watchmen for the two Safe Houses, and one in Suva and one in Nadi to cater for the overstayers.

On the budget, we had the budget when we requested budget for 2014, we were also given the budget to cater for this and even the establishment of the Safe Houses and likewise for the establishment of our office in Labasa. Part of the 34, 10 were the ones that established the office in Labasa.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- That was why I asked the question. With the new staff, we had to train them and that should be part of the budget as well because of the 34 positions that had moved, they were trained and experienced. You are losing them and when there are newcomers, then you need to train them, which means extra budget. I was very concerned because of that.

HON. M.A. NIUMATAIWALU.- Sir, I just want to add to that. One case, there was this divorce case and the parents of the lady became sureties because the husband was in Australia and the wife was here and there was the custody of the children. The parents became surety and the judge ruled that as surety, only one can go overseas from the sureties, the grandparents and one to remain but every time they went to the Immigration Office in Nadi, they were held up, even if one is going.

The other one is based in Suva and every time, because of the shifting of all those skilled, experienced workers in the last two years, every time they went, they were held up in queues just because the Immigration Officer did not read the whole judgement till the end where it says that if the other spouse is here then there should not be a problem that person going overseas. So I am just trying to see it because you said there that you have done training but when we have judgements such as that at the border, and they have been held back for the last two years every time or when they are coming back. Those are some of the cases but maybe we could follow that up with you and see how that could be improved.

MRS. L. SAUMAKA.- Honourable Member, certainly if you have the details then it would be better to get that on board so that I can clear that with the team in the West.

HON. J.N. KUMAR.- While you are still there, through you, Mr. Chairman, with due respect to the Department of Immigration, we are here to work together to uplift the standard of the Government and this is just one concern. Now and then, when we used to ring the Department, most of the time I would say, like they were not very consistent in answering our phone calls, particularly, the Director's PA, and also the staff at the counter. With the laxity attitude that they have, I feel that we have to be very professional with the way we deal with our services, et cetera, because in that sense, we are advocating Fiji to the world and we are supposed to be good role models to the rest of the Pacific countries.

MRS. L. SAUMAKA.- Honourable Kumar, thank you so much for that comment. The Department will take that on board and ensure that our staff at the counters and even the receptionist we just need to remind them of the justification of their existence in the Department and we thank you again for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Another question – during the shortage of passports, what did you issue in place of the passport at the time? There was a shortage of passports but you kept on issuing, probably you were using some form of documentation.

MRS. L. SAUMAKA.- Mr. Chairman, the Department has in-stock emergency passports. These passports were issued in times of shortage and the duration is just for a year. The normal passports go for 10 years but these emergency passports, the duration is just for a year to cater for when the passports are needed.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- That means 1 month?

MRS. L. SAUMAKA.- Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- One of the roles of a Member of Parliament is to assist the public or the people or citizens on whatever problems they have, they come to us and we will try to assist them.

A couple of weeks ago, I received a phone call, somebody wanted to see me during one of the sessions so I went and talked to him. He was in an emergency mode like one of his relatives came from Australia for the death of her mother. The Immigration would not allow her to come in because she still had the document and was to expire next year and then the Immigration was to send her back.

After our session, I then tried to call back to clarify that. In the report they told me that that woman had been told to prepare to board back for Australia but kept on asking some other connections in Nadi and later I learnt that she had been released to come to Suva, so there were two conflicting answers. I just want you to let us know if that document is valid in that case, or are they allowed in for any other issue that would not qualify her to come into the country and for what reason would she be sent back?

MR. O. CAWARU.- Mr. Chairman, if this is the right case, she is a part-Kiribati and Kadavu, so if that was the case, Mr. Chairman, maybe I will just throw some light on that case.

Actually, the lady applied for a refugee status in Australia and then she had to forfeit her passport for claiming refugees and in the process of claiming refugees, she managed to travel on a Certificate of Identity or something, issued from Australia. That has caused some of the procedural issues at the border meaning she is not travelling on a Fiji passport but on a certificate that is being recognised in Australia. Actually, I knew of the case because I was Acting Permanent Secretary then and whilst she was in Detention or at the Safe House, the Immigration managed to find a clause which applies to her, meaning she is registered in the *Vola ni Kawa Bula*, so that sort of lifted her to attend the funeral and go back to Australia.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- This was a couple of weeks ago?

MR. O. CAWARU.- Yes, if that is the case.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The message that came to me was not the full story so there were the other issues like that, thank you for answering that.

MRS. L. SAUMAKA.- Mr. Chairman, just to add on to our Permanent Secretary's comments, that certificate of identity is issued to people who are stuck like they have lost their passports. They have to contact the nearest embassy in order for them to issue that Certificate of

Identity just to facilitate their travel to Fiji before they come and ask or apply for a replacement passport.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- This is not for Immigration, I think the Police mentioned the NCLASA concept. Please, if you can just elaborate on that?

MR. O. CAWARU.- Mr. Chairman, the question is on National Combined Law and Security Agencies (NCLASA).

In terms of NCLASA, they are like our information-gathering forum. These are established in all Government ministries where we call Divisional Security Liaison Officers (DSLOs) and they are in all Government ministries. In total, including other statutory bodies, we have 45 in total that are members of NCLASA. These includes FEA, Fiji Ports and like I said, it is a forum where information-gathering is done in terms of security issues. For example, a Ministry of Labour staff, there is a designated Divisional Security Liaison Officer (DSLO) that would normally come and attend this NCLASA meeting. It is normally chaired by the Manager responsible at the Ministry and they normally meet once every quarter. So the revision now is for them to meet at least once every two months because of the types of security issues that have come about. Say for example, from the Ministry of Labour, they would come and brief this forum in terms of upcoming strikes or whatever has been registered in their office that will impact the national security or the national economy in that sense.

Those from the Ministry of Agriculture, their liaison officer would normally come and attend whatever security issues that will impact our economy, for example, brucellosis, this is the forum, this is *Zika* virus. The Ministry of Health official would normally come and say “this is this, what are the actions that need to be done” so normally we have other levels below the NCLASA, this is at the Divisions’ levels that are normally chaired by the Commissioners and then we have the provincial level. Say, for example, from Rakiraki, PA Rakiraki would normally chair that and then at the Commissioners’ levels, which is normally chaired by the Commissioners and then they come through this NCLASA and it trickles up.

From the NCLASA, and if it requires the attention of the National Security Council then it comes through the Fiji Security Advisory Committee, this is normally chaired by the Permanent Secretary with the other respective Permanent Secretaries whose Ministers are members of the Council.

Those issues are tabled at that forum and then we decide at the Permanent Secretaries Forum whether that agenda needs to be highlighted to the Council. That, Mr. Chairman, is very briefly how that structure works.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Logically, those other security meetings should occur before the two months because the report will be submitted to the NCLASA forum; is that correct?

MR. O. CAWARU.- These are on urgent issues, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- You said that there is a Security Committee headed by the Commissioner because for NCLASA, they will sit every two months so logically there will be information coming up if there is an urgency so I believe that is how it works.

MR. O. CAWARU.- In terms of priority issues, normally at the Commissioner's level the police in those stations, say for example if the forum in Rakiraki sits and there is a very serious issue, normally that is chaired by the PA Ra and the Secretary would be the Police head (OC Rakiraki). So, OC Rakiraki notes all these and every morning, the Morning Situation Reports come up to the Ministers so this is where instead of waiting for the normal, that is another flag that pops up daily where the Minister makes a decision, he calls the Permanent Secretaries or calls the Commissioner of Police, "this is a very serious issue" and then that is taken directly to the Chair of the Council.

HON. M.A. NIUMATAIWALU.- Mr. Chairman, just going back to the first question raised by the Honourable *Tui* Namosi. I am just looking at the structure, forgive me Permanent Secretary for raising it, so which Ministry does the Police and the Military come under if it is not shown in this Defence setup?

MR. O. CAWARU.- It comes under this Ministry, Honourable Member.

As I have alluded to, that was a valid suggestion or valid comment raised and something I have to discuss again with my Minister in terms of how they will be highlighted in terms of ministerial portfolios and reporting.

HON. M.A. NIUMATAIWALU.- So, this is 2014, but who do they come under in 2016?

MR. O. CAWARU.- Still the same, Sir.

HON. M.A. NIUMATAIWALU.- So which Ministry do they come under, still the Defence but it is not shown there?

MR. O. CAWARU.- Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We now received the Fiji Police Annual Report because that was what was alluded to by the former Minister because in our last meeting we were pushing for that for you to have a Police Ministry and a Military Ministry. The former Minister told us, "No, you will be receiving the Annual Report." We have received the Police Annual Report but the RFMF we are yet to receive, probably they are working on that.

On the special budget for Fiji Day, it was not increased in this budget, am I correct - \$100,000, still remains the same?

MR. O. CAWARU.- Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is correct, it still remains the same but we applied to the Ministry of Finance if we could go above the \$100,000 that was being allocated.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Even though we are talking about 2014, what about the Fiji Day this year, did you go over that or the budget was accommodative?

MR. O. CAWARU.- We went slightly over, Mr. Chairman, but we requested the Ministry of Finance.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Why I say that – 11/11/11 is approaching and probably that will be the same budget - \$100,000 because all parts of Fiji always request your kind office for extra budget.

MR. O. CAWARU.- Yes, Mr. Chairman, normally every year we request for more but we will rely on your good recommendations in terms of increasing our budget allocation especially for national events, the Fiji Day, 11/11/11.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Of course, we will include that.

MR. O. CAWARU.- We also thank Honourable Niumataiwalu in terms of supporting our recommendations for a policy or a legal expert in terms of security based in the Ministry to facilitate our work, we will be very much appreciative of that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- He is also available for media consultation.

HON. M.A. NIUMATAIWALU.- I think just adding to our recommendation is probably the Police and the Military to appear in the Defence Report as well because I think it was there before. Since it is not appearing here, we are talking about accountability in terms of moving forward so I just thought that that is the rightful Ministry that they should be working with.

MR. O. CAWARU.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I think that is fully supported, something I will discuss with the Minister in terms of the recommendations moving forward.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We will also make a connection to your Minister as well just to support that.

Just probably a final question: we have heard the challenge that you have raised today because of the salary of your staff and just for your information, there is a job evaluation exercise. You have seen that in the papers so let us “heads up”, it is coming so that is just to encourage you, work hard and do whatever, it is there but it is coming, *vinaka*, and thank you.

HON. J.N. KUMAR.- Through you, Mr. Chairman, please, Permanent Secretary, your Ministry is quite a high profile Ministry. You have got some very high profile officers and when we talk about that we need to retain them because you need them. Apart from the salary as Mr. Chairman had alluded to, do you have any other mechanism in place for additional incentives for your staff so that they will be happy to be there to help the Ministry grow?

MR. O. CAWARU.- Thank you, Honourable Member, for the question. Mostly we look at monetary as the incentive but I think in the private sector, that is very easily done and accommodated but in terms of the Civil Service, another incentive that is being done to high performers is being given training. They would be the ones in the front of the queue in terms of scholarships, which is in terms of formal training and for other staff, short courses maybe to Denarau or Indonesia. These are other incentives apart from the monetary incentive.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I believe that is the end of our session today.

On behalf of the Honourable Members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, I take this opportunity to convey our appreciation for your presentation and all the answers that you have provided to us, clarifying a lot of things and as you are aware, for lay people, they will not understand those issues so it is important for us to know because we can also share the information to the lay people out there.

Thank you, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavours in the various departments you are from, and we know that Immigration is shifting to the Prime Minister's Office but I believe they will be expected to attend the 2015 Report as well, and all the best to you, Immigration.

We have a brunch here, probably we can share it together and some more discussions around the table, so with no further ado, once again, *vinaka vakalevu*, Mr. Permanent Secretary.

The Committee adjourned at 12.12 p.m.