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## STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

### The Consolidated Review Report No. 2 for the Review of nine (9) 2015 Annual Reports:

1. Ministry of i-Taukei Affairs
2. I-Taukei Trust Fund Board
3. University of the South Pacific (USP)
4. Ministry of Youth and Sports
5. Ministry of Health and Medical Services
6. Ministry of Education, National Heritage and Arts
7. Fiji Public Trustee Corporation
8. Fiji National Sports Commission
9. Airports Fiji Limited (AFL)



**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI**  
**Parliamentary Paper No. 22 of 2017**

*21<sup>st</sup> March, 2017*

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## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to present a consolidated review report of the Committee on the review that were conducted to the following list of 2015 Annual Reports which was scrutinized by the Committee.

- i. Ministry of iTaukei Affairs;
- ii. iTaukei Trust Fund Board;
- iii. Ministry of Youth and Sports;
- iv. The University of the South Pacific (USP);
- v. Ministry of Health and Medical Services;
- vi. Ministry of Education, ;
- vii. Fiji Public Trustee Corporation Limited;
- viii. Fiji National Sports Commission; and
- ix. Airports Fiji Limited (AFL).

The Annual Reports that were reviewed by the Committee was in accordance with Section 109 (2) (b) of the Standing Orders of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji, in which the Social Affairs Standing Committee ("the Committee) is mandated to look into issues related to health, education, social services, labour, culture, media and their administration.

In the last quarter of 2016 and beginning of this year, the Committee invited these institutions to present their overall performance in 2015. The key focus areas of the review are: financial performance, legislation, administration and organisation structure, major achievements and challenges faced by them throughout 2015.

The Report is a bipartisan one which has the input of all members of the Committee. The Committee had thoroughly scrutinised and reviewed the contents of the 2015 Annual Reports and put forward some recommendations which it hopes will be considered by the respective institutions. Specifically, the Committee formulated some recommendations for one Government department and it was confirmed that other issues that were raised with other Departments have been addressed and resolved by the line institution. However, the recommendations are as follow:

➤ **Recommendations on the Fiji Public Trustees Corporation Ltd 2015 Annual Report:**

1. The institution to conduct more awareness and outreach programmes across Fiji so that people in all divisions are aware of the services they provide; and
2. Establish Offices and services in all divisions.

**Justification:**

It was noted that the Fiji Public Trustees Corporation Ltd has only one office that is exclusively based in Suva. If it establishes offices or branches in other divisions then people will be aware and able to access the legal services it provides.

I would like to thank all the other institutions who came forward to brief and provide submission to the Committee on their 2015 performance and all their 2015 Annual Reports has been scrutinised by the Committee and we have taken note of all information provided as per the issues raised.

On this juncture, I would like to extend my appreciation to all the Committee members and the alternative members for their sustained work and commitment to the task until the finalisation of this bipartisan report.

Finally, I would like to also thank the Secretariat Team for their continuous support towards the formulation of this bipartisan report.

On behalf of the Committee, I commend this Report to Parliament.



**Hon. Viam Pillay**  
**Chairperson of the Social Affairs Committee**

# INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND

This consolidated review report covers the following 9 institutions 2015 Annual Reports which was scrutinized by the Committee.

- i. Ministry of i-Taukei Affairs;
- ii. I-Taukei Trust Fund Board;
- iii. Ministry of Youth and Sports;
- iv. The University of the South Pacific (USP);
- v. Ministry of Health and Medical Services;
- vi. Ministry of Education, ;
- vii. Fiji Public Trustee Corporation Limited;
- viii. Fiji National Sports Commission; and
- ix. Airports Fiji Limited (AFL).

These Annual Reports were tabled in Parliament and referred to the Social Affairs Standing Committee for scrutiny and for the Committee to report back to Parliament on its findings and recommendations.

## REVIEW MANDATE

The resolution from Parliament on these 2015 Annual Reports was in line with Standing Orders 109(2) (b) which allow the Standing Committee on Social Affairs to look into matters related to health, education, social services, labour, culture and media.

## REVIEW OBJECTIVES & SCOPE

The review was confined to the following areas identified in the Section 110 (1) (c) of the Standing Orders of Parliament which authorizes the Standing Committee to scrutinise the Government departments that have responsibility within the Committee's subject area, including by investigating, inquiring into, and making recommendations relating to any aspect of such a department's administration, legislation or proposed legislative program, budget, rationalization, restructuring, functioning, organization, structure and policy formulation.

## REVIEW METHODOLOGY

The following methodologies were utilised to gather information for the review:

- **Documentary reviews – nine (9) 2015 Annual Reports**

The reviews were undertaken through assessment of each annual report that was tabled in Parliament which was then referred to the Committee. The documents include:

- Annual Reports;
- Annual Reports Summaries & Analysis from Research Unit;

- PowerPoint presentation from each institution; and
- Verbatim Notes from Hansard.

▪ **Consultations**

The Committee during its consultation process invited each institution to present and brief the Members on their respective 2015 performance. They were also requested to brief the Committee on the areas of concern which affected their performances in 2015.

The Committee had scrutinised each Annual Report before these institutions were called in for a brief. The review of these Annual Reports was carried out through close consultations with each line institution and during the institutional brief by each institution; they were also requested to clarify pertinent issues that were of concern to the Members while presenting on their 2015 performance.

The institutions were assessed based on their key performance indicators. During the review process the Members agreed to highlight in this consolidated report only the major achievements of these nine (9) institutions and the key issues and challenges that had affected their 2015 deliverables.

The assessments made by the Committee revealed that majority of the institutions had faced operational issues which could be dealt with in by the respective departments. However, the Committee also commended the major achievements recorded by each institution in 2015 as per their mandated functions. The Committee suggests that the best way forward for these institutions is to resolve all these 2015 issues that affected their deliverables, and come up with measures/policies, processes and best practices to better their deliverables in future.

# FINDINGS OF THE REVIEW

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## Ministry of i-Taukei Affairs 2015 Annual Report

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### Overview

The Ministry is mandated to develop, implement and monitor policies on the good governance and welfare of the iTaukei communities. The Ministry in 2015 had formulated its performance on eight (8) approved outputs which were aligned to the Government's Roadmap for Democracy and Sustainable Socio-Economic Development 2009-2014. These were Portfolio Leadership, Policy Advice & Secretariat Support, iTaukei Institutions Empowered, Traditional Leadership, Dispute Resolution, Land Survey, Cultural and Heritage, Preservation of Records and Child Protection.

### Achievements:

- The Ministry's performance rating was 94.13% (88.60% output and 5.54% process based)
- Vola ni Kawa Bula (VKB) computerisation completed
- Traditional Leadership Curriculum –piloted at CATD, Nadave
- Child protection – launching of TOT CP Manual and Workbook
- Green Team of the year – Energy Efficiency Awards
- Building capacity for MTA Staffs - 352 staffs trained including 6 attending overseas seminars; 12 Officers graduated with a Diploma in Pacific Vernacular, USP
- National iTaukei Resources Owners Council – upgrade from Committee
- Increased recognition by environmental stakeholders and participation of MTA on ABS, REDD+, FLMMA,NTROC including regional workshops
- Project Positions regularised: VKB Computerization (10) and Language & Culture (6).

### Challenges and Issues:

- The delay in the implementation of the Child Protection TOT which was implemented in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, including the endorsement and implementation of the Code of Conduct for all i-Taukei Institution and Councils by the i-Taukei Affairs Board in alignment to the Accountability Framework and the Good Governance Framework for i-Taukei Institutions.
- Some of the major external factors that hindered the MTA deliverables were:
  - Review of Provincial Council and Mata ni Tikina reporting template and appointment of women in Provincial Councils (TAB deliverables).
  - Delay in the TOT package for the Child Protection Program (donor funds delay by the Ministry of Economy) which deferred the program to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year.
  - Challenge of acquiring other iTaukei institutions corporate plans such as TLTB, TAB, and CATD to develop a consolidated reporting template for the i-Taukei institutions.
  - Malfunction of the TKEC Database hence TILC was unable to complete TKEC Inventory

- Teams conducting survey of demarcated land has raised the issue on accommodation facilities given the long duration of field engagement. The Officers welfare and wellbeing to be addressed and prioritised considering the work environment and demand of work delivery
- VKB Computerisation – Errors detected in digitised records. (Agnate descendants)
- Traditional and Chiefly positions remain vacant -2533 vacant.

**Committee Comments:**

The Committee has scrutinised the Ministry of I-Taukei Affairs 2015 Annual Report and takes note of all information provided therein.



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## Itaukei Trust Fund Board 2015 Annual Reports

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### Overview

There are two major functional areas of the iTaukei Trust Fund Board and these include investment and its mandated outlay. These cover the area of funding programmes and promotion of the Fijian and Rotuma languages, culture and study of ethno-geography and ethno-history. Also it provides funding in the development of the management, leadership and entrepreneurial skills of the indigenous Fijians and Rotumans. It also sponsors research on the languages, art and culture of the indigenous Fijians and Rotumans so as to better understand and preserve their heritage.

### Achievements:

- The Fund had conducted a research on 'so mate'. The research was done on the focus of the finance it absorbs which formed the base of the decision-makers on how the iTaukei communities conduct their funerals for their families and community members yet maintain their identity in the practice of the intangible cultural heritage. So those are the areas the Fund covered under the major heading of language and culture.
- In terms of leadership, the Fund had developed a curriculum for traditional leaders titled, *Sovaki ni Vanua*, which was piloted in July 2015 in Nadave. According to the Fund, it was well received by the participants and was evaluated by Mr. Sekove Degei, one of the lecturers in Fijian language at USP.
- The fund invested in its insecurities in the South Pacific Stock Exchange, and properties in Fiji and in overseas, and in listed securities in the Australian Stock Market.
- Local investment listed securities:
  - No. of Companies - Equity: Four (4) - \$20,315,027 (total value of investment) which generated the income of \$1,078,249.
  - No. of properties: Six (6) - \$35,667,416 (total Value of investment) which generated the income of \$2,856,833.
- Overseas investment listed securities:
  - Equity: Twenty (20) -\$13,329,747 (total value of investment) which generated the income of \$658,711
- Unlisted Securities (local) - Equity: One (FHL B Shares) -\$10,000,000 which generated the income of \$2,200,000. Unit Trust: two - \$1,025,343 (total value of investment) which generated a total income of \$24,788
- Four Term Deposits – with a total investment of \$10,897,316 which derived revenue of \$251,655.

### Issues/Challenges:

- Nothing tangible has been done on heritage sites in Waidamudamu Ring Ditch Fortification, the historical heritage site that is situated at the Laucala Beach Estate, Nasinu.

### Committee Comments:

The Committee has scrutinised the I-taukei Trust Fund Board's 2015 Annual Report and takes note of all information provided therein.

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## University of the South Pacific's 2015 Annual Report

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### Overview

The University of the South Pacific had presented its vision and mission, roles, impacts, achievements in 2015, challenges and the Financial Overview of 2015.

### Achievements:

- Western Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC):
  - USP received formal communication in January 2016 from WSCUC indicating it had met all 16 Eligibility Criteria at a sufficient level to receive Eligibility status.
  - Significant effort underway to prepare USP's regional campuses for this accreditation.
  - USP has 5 years until 24 November 2020 to achieve Candidacy. Under revised WSCUC protocols, USP may be able to achieve Initial Accreditation after the first Seeking Accreditation Visit (SAV 1) without undergoing Candidacy.
  
- **Partnership Agreement with New Zealand:**
  - New Partnership Arrangement worth \$NZ 15million over the next 3 years (2016-2018) signed between New Zealand and the USP on 2 February 2016.
  - NZ will support USP to build the skills and capability of Pacific peoples in line with identified national and regional priorities to advance sustainable development in the region.
  
- **Partnership Agreement with New Zealand:**
  - Successful HLC between USP and Australia was held at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Office in Canberra on 8 March 2016.
  - Another similar successful HLC was held between USP and NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office in Wellington on 28 April 2016.
  - The Committee was informed that USP's relationship with both Australia and NZ was excellent and solid.
  
- **Priority Area 1 - Graduations (From October 2015 to April 2016):**
  - Laucala Campus on 23 May 2016 (1,606 Students).
  - Alafua Campus on 11 December 2015 (138 Students).
  - Emalus Campus on 18 December 2015 (120 Students).
  - There were also other graduations during this reporting period and these include: College of Foundation Studies (100); Intensive English Programme (17); and Confucius Institute (144).
  
- Enrolments in 2015 (headcounts) 26, 658
  
- **Priority Area 2 - Student Support:**

- The International Day of Persons with Disabilities marked by a panel discussion to promote awareness and mobilise support for persons with disabilities access to ICT, education and employment on 3 December 2015.
- New students enrolled for the 2016 academic year were accorded a welcome on 5 February 2015 by the Chief Guest, the President of Fiji, His Excellency Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konousi Konrote.
- School of Social Sciences hosted World Social Work Day celebrations on 15 March.
- New Learning Support staff appointed at bigger regional campuses
- Contract for additional 48 bed student hostel signed now but work on additional 350 beds slow and the whole student accommodation KPI will be unattainable now.
- Major effort now being made to take learning support to regional campuses.
- Visits to regional campuses in connection with WSCUC accreditation by DVC LTSS and VPA are reinforcing and supporting this.
- Internet and Moodle learning support are also being improved.
- **Priority Area 3 – Research & Internationalisation:**
  - Major Achievement- meeting its first triennium (2013 – 2015) target for quality publications. 132 A/A\* publications which represent a surplus of 21 over the 2013 – 2015 target.
  - Almost two-fold increase in external research income was recorded in 2015 (\$9.9m) compared to the 2014 income (\$5.5m)—but issues of recording and overall target still needs more work.
- ***Climate Change: COP 21***
  - COP 21 took place from 30 November to 11 December 2015 in Paris, France.
  - USP had worked quite closely with SPREP and other CROP agencies to provide support to the regional delegations.
  - Director PaCE-SD, a lecturer from School of Law, represented USP together with 8 students- provided assistance to their respective country delegations in terms of analysis, reporting and media liaison.
  - Pacific delegations to COP 21 were part of the historic Paris Agreement on Climate Change reached by negotiators and include several key elements that are of particular importance to the Pacific region.
- ***Internationalization:***
  - 276 (106.2 EFTS) International students enrolled at USP in Semester 1, 2016.
  - New cohort of 11 full-time students from the Caribbean in February 2016 (Masters and PhD).
  - EFTS for international students at the Masters level was 26.7 in 2015 compared to 12.1 in 2014 (120% increase).
  - EFTS for international students at the PhD level was 11 in 2015 compared to 10 in 2014 (10% increase).
- **Priority Area 4 – Information and Communication Technology**

- **Network Access Control (NAC) in Solomon Islands:**
    - i. ITS has the continued with the rollout of enhanced USP wi-fi services based on the NAC technology – with the new deployment in Solomon Island in December 2015.
  - **Web Optimization in Solomon Islands and Kiribati:**
    - i. IT Services installed Web Optimization in Solomon Islands and Kiribati as a trial that compresses data and uses cache technology—promising results that can reduce costs significantly.
    - ii. This technology to the other campuses soon.
- **Priority Area 5 – Regional & Community Engagement**
- **New USP Kiribati Campus:**
    - i. Officially opened by the (then) President of Kiribati, His Excellency Anote Tong, on 3 November 2015.
    - ii. The Campus became fully operational at the beginning of Semester 1, 2016.
    - iii. BEd Primary can now be fully done in Kiribati, while more science teaching is being planned with additional labs and staff.
    - iv. More programmes will be done there fully and most first year courses will be offered.
    - v. Issue of the wet lab and student accommodation remain urgent priorities for the immediate future.
  - **New Solomon Islands Campus: Significant progress:**
    - i. Due to change in the location of the proposed new campus, time was lost, but the Government allocated another site and progress was made with lease approvals, site clearance and relocation
    - ii. The final agreements were all signed in November 2016 to begin the project;
    - iii. Tenders have been decided for engineering and construction supervision and the new campus worth about USD 17 million is expected to be ready by the end of 2018, USP’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
  - **USP’s Regional Engagement with CROP**
    - i. Pacific Leaders had included ICTs as one of five major initiatives at their meeting in 2015.
    - ii. Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP) ICT WG had been chaired by VPA but because of the Regional ICT initiative and the involvement of the Forum Leaders, USP took over the Chairing from this year.
    - iii. Review of the CROP WG Mechanism (October 2015) has recommended that the ICT WG should be **retained and strengthened**.
    - iv. USP will now work towards strengthening ICT WG and will also revisit the TOR and membership in light of the general agreement that regional ICT initiative should be part of CROP ICT WG rather than establishing another structure such as RIAC.
    - v. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 11 May 2016 and meeting of strengthened CROP ICT WG will be held on 30 May.

vi. USP will provide a brief to the SSCR during their meeting from 13-16 June on the progress with the Regional ICT Initiative.

▪ **Priority Area 6 – Our People**

- Re-engineering of H R has continued;
- Matching of positions to budgetary allocations a key element of HR based Workforce Planning has become operational as at 1 January 2016.
- Crucial work on Service Level Agreements (SLAs) is continuing with expectations of results soon.
- USP and USPSU on 23 October 2015 successfully concluded negotiations over a new Collective Agreement for 2016–2018.
- Negotiations with the other Unions are continuing and agreements are expected to be completed in 2018.
- **USP won SPSE Annual Report Competition for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row.**
- USP-Development Partners Forum was held at USP's Laucala Campus on 19 November 2015.
- USP extended its partnership with the Fijian Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism.
- Closer engagement with Governments and other stakeholders being pursued.
- IOE partnership with SIG expanded recently building on very good results from earlier agreement.

▪ **Finance and Development Assistance:**

- **Financial Performance: On Track with Future Challenges - 2015**
  - The University recorded an operating surplus of FJD\$ 7.2m (compared to budget of FJD 3m), positive net cash flows of FJD 2.7m (compared to budget of FJD 0.1m), and net assets grew by FJD 6.9m (from FJD 110m in 2014 to FJD 116.9m in 2015). The total income exceeded the budget by FJD 6.1m and total expenditure was below budget by FJD 2.0m. Aid income remained strong at FJD 50.4m as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015.

▪ **2015 Financial Performance in Perspective:**

- Seen against the fact that the University handled student enrolment increase of 7 percent, increased the number of total number of completions by 11 percent, but its expenditure went up by 3.1 percent, its operating cost went up by 3.2 percent and staffing cost went up by only 0.5 percent, the financial performance of the University in 2015 should be seen as very good.
- USP only CROP agency that has passed six of the 7 pillars, and its overall finances are admired by other regional organizations.
- Nonetheless, much more work is required for sustainability and will be done.

**Issues and Challenges:**

- Increased documentation and incentivisation of USP's values and behaviour and templates and handbooks to improve staff cohesion and professionalism;
- Significant staff development effort with short and long-term timeframes;
- Increased communications and engagement with staff and students;
- Improving the performance of Budget Efficiency Group;

- Clarify roles further and ensure fuller accountability, removing situations of multiple people involved in accountability to the point where it is difficult to hold any particular person responsible for outcomes and consequences;
- Significant improvement in our ability to analyse data to monitor our progress; to inform policy, and to project and model things going forward;
- Urgent development of Service Level Agreements.

**Committee Comments:**

1. The Committee has scrutinised USP's 2015 Annual Report and takes note of all information provided therein.

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## Ministry of Youth and Sports 2015 Annual Report

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### Overview

The 2015 Annual Report highlighted the roles and responsibilities of the Ministry, Youth development, sports development, legislations and policies, existing secondary legislation, the organisational structure, key achievements, challenges, financial performance and the auditor's report.

### Achievements:

- In 2015, the Ministry had spent 96.2 percent of its budget and met 98.6 percent of its targets.
- In terms of the children and youth that the Ministry had targeted, they have exceeded their targets on the number of youths that they have registered and further supported and monitored more youth groups around the country and that have been an ongoing activity.
- The Ministry has over achieved its target on the establishment of young farmers in peri-urban areas. This project was initiated on some farm lands in urban and peri-urban areas as viewed by the Ministry as an important aspect of augmenting the diets of people in Fiji.
- The Committee also noted that the Ministry has exceeded its target on empowerment training. The empowerment training was conducted for people and youth clubs in particular who requested for it. The Ministry was working with the i-Taukei Affairs Board for more leadership training which was done on that basis as well.
- The Ministry were able to get more young people through as graduates from its training centres.

### Challenges:

- Most of the training seems to focus on men rather than women, so the Ministry was looking at areas that can correct these gender stereotypes.
- In terms of the family gardens aspect, the Ministry is trying to focus a little bit more on the peri-urban type of areas and because it was very easy in some senses to reinforce that in the rural areas.
- Allocation of grants for youth groups and youth clubs was a challenge, which the Ministry was giving out smaller grants to larger number of youth clubs and youth groups, whereas after 2015 it was reviewed that bigger grants were given out to smaller number of youth groups and clubs.
- Another challenge area was the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The Ministry was going through the process of rebuilding and 2015 saw a change of staff personnel and that affected their ability to deliver on the programme to the standard that the Ministry has set.

- Inevitably in terms of the capital works, Naleba was delayed because of the delivery of materials to the site and that seems to be something that was happening which was looked at, at a different level by the Ministry.
- Another thing that invariably affects the Ministry across the board was the issue of travel, particularly by boat and which was occasionally had lacked in reliability and in other occasions, affected by the weather.
- There were some areas where the Ministry had reviewed its staffing structure and in 2015, they were understaffed, particularly in the Eastern and Northern Divisions so that was taken care of in 2016, so hopefully the performance will be improve in those particular areas.
- In terms of the sports sector, the areas where the Ministry was underperformed were in the sports complex which was effectively two sports complex being built in Vunisea and Sawaieke and the main focus in 2015 was doing the impact assessments and installing some of the bulk infrastructure components. Certainly building in Vunisea is underway at the current time and in Sawaieke, there were some final design issues that they were looking at in the 2016 financial year.

**Committee Comments:**

- The Committee has scrutinised the Ministry of Youth and Sports 2015 Annual Report and takes note of all information provided therein.



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## Fiji Public Trustees Corporation Ltd 2015 Annual Report

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### Overview

The Fiji Public Trustees Corporation Limited presented its 2015 Annual Report and highlighted the services it provides which included estates administration services, trustee services, will making, power of attorney and other legal services.

### Achievements

- Review of Standard Operating Procedures to improve services;
- Roll-Out “Other Legal Services” – due to people’s demand of such services, it also supplements core-business income;
- Expanded public awareness activities in 2015, visiting communities, workers, Expo’s, TV & Radio talkback shows;
- Initiated twining relationship discussions with Australian Public Trustees PTQLD in Brisbane & PTSA in Adelaide; and
- Achieved Profitability target of 2% - 5% of profitability, (achieved 4.3% in 2015)
- Declared Dividend of \$1.5M to Government in 2015.

### Recommendation:

- **The institution to conduct more awareness and outreach program across Fiji so that people in all divisions are aware of the services available; and**
- **Establish Offices and services in all divisions.**

### Justification:

- The Committee note that the Fiji Public Trustees Corporation Ltd Office is only based in Suva and if their offices are also establish in other divisions than people will be aware and able to access to their legal services.

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## Fiji National Sports Commission 2015 Annual Report

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### Overview

The Fiji National Sports Commission 2015 Annual Report presented their overall performance in 2015 and highlighted some of the key achievements which were achieved by the Commission.

### Achievements:

- A total of 2,959 people attended the various Wellness Programs conducted by the commission or with corporate sponsors in 2015;
- A total of 153 people were reached through the program for people with disabilities or special needs;
- A total of 7,204 students were reached through this program in 46 schools Fiji wide on kids in sports programs;
- Three programs that recorded a total of 63 participants were involved in the 2015 Educate the Educator Programs;

### Committee Comments:

- The Committee has scrutinised the Fiji National Sports Commission 2015 Annual Report and takes note of all information provided therein.

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## Ministry of Health and Medical Services 2015 Annual Report

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### Overview

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services presented its annual performance for 2015 and highlighted some of its major achievements.

### Achievements

Improvement in Services:

- Foot care training and attachments led to reduced amputation rates in the Western Division.
- Multi- disciplinary (SOPD) services in all sub divisional hospitals
- All health facilities are practising integrated management of childhood illnesses
- Mother Safe Hospital Initiative implemented in all sub divisional hospitals.
- Wellness programs conducted in 20 different locations (Screening for NCDs, cervical cancer & TB)

### Challenges & Issues

Increased service demand:

- Human resource constraints - due to expansion in services, promotion, resignation and retirement.
- Equipment and infrastructure needs improvement.
- Transportation problems
- Issues with procurement and supply system's ability to meet increasing demand

On-going issues:

- Growing burden of non-communicable diseases
- Rapid urbanisation in Fiji means that there is increasing need for primary health care services in urban and peri-urban areas
- Need for active and committed multi-sectoral involvement to address social determinants of health.

### Committee Comments:

The Committee has scrutinised the Ministry of Health and Medical Services 2015 Annual Report and takes note of all information provided therein.

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## Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts 2015 Annual Report

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### Overview

The Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts presented their overall performance for 2015 and highlighted some of the major achievements made by the Ministry in 2015.

### Achievements

- Launching of Free Milk Initiative for all Year 1 students [\$2,402,667.49 was spent for the 18,721 Year 1 students]
- Continuation of Transport Assistance to needy students [\$18.1m was expended for 88,579 students] 20 maritime schools assisted with boats and engines
- Free Textbook Initiative continued targeting Year 1 to 12 [899 7630 volumes distributed]
- Tuition Fee Free Grant continued [\$34.8m for Primary and \$30.5m for Secondary]
- Free Education Grant for ECE began in Term 2 - \$50 per child per term]
- ECEs attached to Primary Schools
- 3 Technical College campuses opened with over 2800 students registered for Certificate and short courses
- Inter-Agency Guidelines on Child Abuse and Neglect
- Continued development of Fiji Education Management Information System [FEMIS] to facilitate Business Process Re-engineering
- Review of the Education Act
- Continued implementation of Conversational Vernacular in all schools
- 8 secondary schools upgraded with 1 newly established [CMFI College]
- Establishment of 2 new Infant schools
- 142 schools assisted with Water Tanks
- 10 Careers Expo organised around the country
- Capacity building of teachers and stakeholders throughout the sections
- Introduction of National Discourse on Suicide Prevention Day – September 18
- Advocacy through music [Yadra Mada], Open Days [Fiji Museum and Archives] and Roadshows
- Participation through regional and international meetings, conferences and festivals
- Promoting Cultural Plurality – Initiatives Supported Emphasising Cultural Revitalisation

### Challenges

- Capital Projects Delay
- Bureaucratic processes within Government
- Monitoring of effectiveness of Initiatives

### Committee Comments:

- The Committee has scrutinised the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts 2015 Annual Report and takes note of all information provided therein.
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## Airports Fiji Limited 2015 Annual Report

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### Overview

Airports Fiji Limited (AFL) presented their 2015 performance and highlighted the achievements and challenges faced by the institution in 2015.

### Achievements

- In 2015 AFL recorded operating profits before tax of \$46.04 m, compared to \$18.02 m in 2014. This was an increase of \$28.02 m or 156%. A \$14.21 m non- operating loss was recorded on the disposal of old terminal assets due to the NATMP;
- The 2015 EBITDA (earnings before tax interest and taxation, depreciation and depreciation was \$58.21 m compared to \$30.42 m in 2014;
- Total revenue in 2015 was \$92.55m compared to \$64.37 m in 2014 and total expenditure was \$45.88m compared to \$46.35 in 2014. Furthermore the 2015 expenditure was the lowest recorded in the last five years;
- Despite the massive capital upgrade project AFL is undertaking and \$15m dividend paid in 2015 AFL's cash and cash equivalents stood at \$60.16m compared to \$38.22 m in 2014;
- In 2016 we paid \$30m in dividends which is the highest dividend by far paid by any SOE;
- AFL also contributed \$3.04 m to its social obligation in operating and maintaining Nausori and 13 other outer station airports;
- The total shareholder equity grew to \$183.17 m in 2015 compared to \$173.06 in 2014;

### Capital Projects:

- Apart from the NATMP we engaged consultants to do a design scope for the Rotuma Airstrip and also engage consultants to do a scoping study for the runaway end safety area for Nadi Airport;
- Rotuma Upgrade is now underway after people have been wanting it for the last three decades;
- Matei and Nausori scoping studies are also underway. The options for best location in Vanualevu for a bigger airport has also been given the Government;
- Some of the air navigation infrastructure have become obsolete which AFL was upgrading;
- AFL has been undertaking safety assessments as part of its business decisions, which it says is a well-executed hazard analysis can clear the way for improved planning;

- AFL noted that its environment management system was consistent with the international standard ISO 14001:2004 this allows our airport to continually improve environmental performance; and
- AFL has also registered internationally with Airports Council International Carbon Accreditation and conducting data gathering for certification. Data collected has been verified by accredited verifiers and we have met global international standards. We are now awaiting for the Level 1 accreditation through Airports Council International.

### **Challenges**

- Undertaking NATMP whilst keeping Nadi operational is no mean feat. To do so required continual and complicated staging of works. Every square inch of NATMP was going through an upgrade;
- The challenge was even greater considering that Nadi International terminal is made up of three buildings constructed at different times over the last 70 years, with many more small upgrades since it was initially built;
- AFL did not have complete building documents of all past construction and upgrades. This added considerable design risks; and
- It has been very common for contractor to break a wall and find a column; break the ceiling and find damaged gutters or a nest of electric cables; dig the sub-ground surface and find sewer lines or underground cables that were never documented. For this reason the design consultants continued to be engaged in the NATMP until end of 2015 and into 2016.

### **Committee Comments:**

- The Committee has scrutinised Airport Fiji Limited's 2015 Annual Report and takes note of all information provided therein.

## CONCLUSION

The review that was conducted by the Committee for the nine (9) Annual Reports was conducted in a very tactful and comprehensive manner which covers all the aspect of these Annual Reports. This has enabled the Standing Committee on Social Affairs to submit to Parliament a comprehensive report.

The main issues on each Annual Report which were highlighted by the Members were raised during the inquiry with these institutions and the main issue that concerns the Members has been further captured in the recommendation for future consideration by the line departments.

The responses from these institutions were positive in which they manage to clarify on all the issues which was raised by the Members during the inquiry.

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs has fulfilled its mandates approved by Parliament which were to scrutinise these nine (9) Annual Reports. The Committee had consulted the nine institutions and gathered all the required information that were needed to thoroughly review these institutions performance in 2015 and have no further comments with regards to the review that were undertaken.

Finally, the Committee is satisfied with its assessment on these institutions 2015 Annual Reports and noted their overall performance. We hope that these 9 institutions take further action on some of the areas highlighted by the Members during the consultation which would further improve their service delivery.

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**SIGNATURES OF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS STANDING  
COMMITTEE**

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

.....  
**Hon. Veena Bhatnagar**  
**(Deputy Chairperson)**

.....  
**Hon. Salote Radrodro**  
**(Member)**

.....  
**Hon. Anare T. Vadei**  
**(Member)**

.....  
**Hon. Ruveni Nadalo**  
**(Alternate Member for Hon. Mohammed M. A Dean)**



# APPENDICES

## **Institutions – Written Submissions received for their 2015 Annual Performance**

- 1) Ministry of I-Taukei Affairs
- 2) I-taukei Trust Fund Board (ITFB)
- 3) University of the South Pacific (USP)
- 4) Ministry of Health and Medical Services
- 5) Ministry of Education, National Heritage and Arts
- 6) Fiji Public Trustee Corporation(FPTC)
- 7) Fiji National Sports Commission (FNSC)
- 8) Airports Fiji Limited (AFL)

## **Institutions – Oral Submissions received for their 2015 Annual Performance**

- 1) Ministry of Youth and Sports

**APPENDIX 1: POWERPOINT PRESENTATION/SUBMISSION BY THE NINE (9) INSTITUTIONS**

