

THURSDAY, 7TH JULY, 2016

The Parliament resumed at 9.35 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER took the Chair and read the Prayer.

PRESENT

All Honourable Members were present, except the Honourable Ratu N.T. Lalabalavu; and Honourable Roko T.T.S. Draunidalo.

MINUTES

HON. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT.- Madam Speaker, I move:

That the Minutes of the sitting of Parliament held on Wednesday, 6th July, 2016, as previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed.

HON. A. SUDHAKAR.- Madam Speaker, I second the motion.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome- Honourable Members

I welcome all Honourable Members to another day of Budget debate.

Matter of Privilege

Honourable Members, at the outset, I would like to inform you that I have a request for written ruling on a Matter of Privilege, and I will consider this and give my ruling on notice.

Acknowledgment of Visitors

I also warmly welcome students from Sigatoka Methodist College and members of the public who are joining us in the gallery and those watching proceedings on television, the internet and listening to the radio. Thank you for taking time and interest in your Parliament.

Special Welcome

As some of our Honourable Members are aware, there are twinning arrangements between the State Legislatures of Australia and New Zealand House of Representatives and their Pacific counterparts. The Fijian Parliament is paired with the Parliament of Victoria and it, therefore, gives me great pleasure to welcome the delegation from the Victorian Parliament, who are in the gallery with us this morning.

(Acclamation)

We have the:

- President of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Bruce Atkinson and Mrs. Elizabeth Atkinson;
- Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Telmo Languiller and Ms. Tatiana Astudillo; and
- Clerk of the Parliament, Mr. Ray Purdey and Mrs. Kaye Purdey.

Thank you for joining us today.

Our Twin Institution has been a wonderful friend to the Fijian Parliament. We benefitted last year from technical expertise and training, along with a generous donation of media and video editing hardware and software. The capacity building includes not only sending consultants and trainers here to Fiji but also hosting study trips for our Members and work attachments for our staff. The most recent attachment and peer learning benefited our Honourable Party Whips and the Secretary-General to Parliament respectively. I trust they will take fond memories of their brief visit as they journey onward to Tonga together with our own delegation to attend the Presiding Officers and Clerks' Conference.

Committee of Supply - Comments

The Parliament will now resolve into the Committee of Supply to continue with the consideration of the Heads in the Budget Estimates and then the Schedules and Clauses of the 2016-2017 Appropriation Bill 2016.

As explained yesterday, for the Committee stage, I will sit at the Table with the Secretary-General and Members should refer to me as Madam Chair. The mace will also be placed in the bracket under the Table.

The Secretary-General will announce each Head separately. Members may then stand to speak on that Head. You may speak more than once on each Head. You may also move amendments to the estimates in that Head. If a member does move an amendment, Parliament may debate it and then we will have a vote on the amendment. At the end of the debate on the Head, we will also vote on the Head.

Please be reminded that amendments in Committee of Supply are limited to those permitted in Standing Order 100(2), this is an increase, decrease or removal of the item or subhead from the Head being debated.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE OF 2016-2017 APPROPRIATION BILL 2016

Head 36 – Ministry of Public Enterprises:

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments on Head 36. Honourable Gavoka.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, 36-1-1-7, there is an item there concerning the monitoring of Public Enterprises - \$50,000. Can the Honourable Minister tell us what this is all about in terms of what it does, Madam Chair?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Are we on page 255?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Yes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Minister.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Thank you, Madam Chair. Honourable Member, this is essentially to carry out a number of valuations for a lot of our State assets, because a lot of them have not been valid for a period of time. We need to know what their exact values are, so we pay for a lot of the valuations from this allocation.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chair. Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 1, there is a slight increase in terms of allocation for SEG 1. Can the Honourable Minister advise this House what this increase is relating to?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Thank you, Madam Chair. Again, Honourable Radrodro, I can see that there is not much of a difference, about \$100,000. This is because of the variation; the years that have been split because of that and it is about \$100,000.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Professor Biman Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thank you, Madam Chair. On Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 6, in 2015 the Operating Grant was about \$2 million, it is now \$6 million, and SEG 10 – Biosecurity Authority of Fiji - Capital Grant (\$3 million). Could the Honourable Minister explain what is that for, and why the increase in the Operating Grant?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Thank you, Madam Chair. Biosecurity plays a very critical role, not just in terms of Border Management, but also in terms of protecting Fiji from evasive species from various diseases that creep through the food products that are being imported into Fiji, and of course, at the same time, they are the recognised certification Authority in terms of our exports to overseas countries, Australia and New Zealand, when we export our fruits and vegetables, for example, ginger, they are the ones who carry out the various protocol arrangements for Fiji.

Now, a justification in terms of the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji Operating Grant, as Operating Grant does, it pays for the salaries. There are new offices being opened up for Biosecurity, even in remote places like Rakiraki and various other places, and I can tell you that in the Capital Projects.

It has established nine additional business units, and also it has now assumed the OIE role, which is the OIE Representative Authority in Fiji.

Biosecurity has, for example, now tried to recruit more scarce skill sets, such as entomologists, plant pathologists and also vets. They have recently hired a couple of more vets to be able to carry out their work a lot more effectively, thus, we have the increase.

Now, there is also increase in recruiting more staff, for example, there are now Stations in Natovi, Nabouwalu, Savusavu, Taveuni and Kadavu to provide more services and closer to the homes or the workplaces of the various products that are coming out from these areas.

We also have, for example, ships or yachts coming in to Savusavu. There is also a number of evasive species that can come through these yachts and they carry out random checks, hence again, to increase the services of Biosecurity Authority of Fiji. Do you want to know about the Grants? In respect to the grants I will tell you about the capital grant of \$3 million. There is going to be a construction of a transit facility in Suva and Lautoka.

Now, these are essentially approved to manage risks associated with imported plants and animal products, containers, you have second hand parts for example, coming from countries and sometimes they still have mud or soil on them and you can get insects that creep in through that. Recently you may have seen that we have the reporting of GAS or Giant African Snail. We do not have GAS in Fiji but it exists in other Pacific Island Countries and a number of containers actually transit through Fiji, or through Suva. It is our responsibility to report it, for example, to the Australian authorities and that is where it was reported to, to ensure that they are aware, so we develop that level of confidence with them but they also know that we are not a GAS country.

Unfortunately, over the years we have been listed as a GAS country even though we have not been a GAS country simply because we have reported the matter to them. We are constructing transit facilities in Suva and Lautoka that will carry out fumigation, there will be inspection rooms, new incinerators will be put in and also to comply with sea hygiene systems. There is also a national obligation which is a non-commercial activity where we are setting up, as I highlighted, offices in Nabouwalu and Natovi. Work is in progress to establish offices in Navua and Rakiraki, and as you know, for example, for our dalo exports, some of it comes through the Navua area and also Rakiraki, so there are certification processes. Included in this, of course, is the Termite Operation. The termites that we have are in the western division and I understand there are some in Vanua Levu too now. There is the animal disease surveillance, there is also the giant American iguana eradication programme and about \$300,000 has been given for that. They are working very closely with UNDP under the GEF Programme as we have discussed earlier on, so these are some of the key activities under the Bio-security Authority of Fiji and the capital grants that have been allocated is \$3 million.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Bulitavu.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Madam Chair, I think there is a new item there at SEG 9 – purchase of a generator by Food Processors Limited; can we have a clarification on that?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Food Processors (Fiji) Limited as you know honourable Member is a state-owned enterprise and we have actually been providing them with some assistance. You may know of an entity called NATCO that existed previously and their assets were transferred across to Food Processors Limited. It does process a number of products like *duruka* and various other products that no other entity actually buys, so it provides a lot of jobs. It also processes for example *dalo* et cetera, and they package it for exports. They also do some *lolo*. The Pacific Crown brand is a very strong brand. There is no doubt that Food Processors Limited does need a huge uptake of technology, it does not have a very strong balance sheet but in order for it to continue as a viable proposition until such time there are further reforms of it, we have allocated \$46,000 for it to be able to purchase a backup generator.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, on item 7, there is a huge increase in terms of allocation for 2016-2017 and that includes office refurbishment of \$350,000. Can we get a clarification on why there is a need to allocate that amount and also for Assets (Fiji) Limited Operational Support of \$50,000; is this a new company?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- As you may recall Honourable Member, Parliament was informed about the creation of Assets (Fiji) Limited. This is an entity that has recently been created. Fundamentally, the creation of Assets (Fiji) Limited was driven by the partial divestment of our shares in Fiji Ports Corporation Limited, and you may recall that we had informed this House about this, that we did not sell the assets of Fiji Ports Corporation Limited.

What we did was, we got all of the assets that was owned by FPCL, transferred it to Assets (Fiji) Limited which is still 100 percent owned by Fijians and 100 percent owned by the State, and then whatever

assets we required for the operation of Fiji Ports Corporation Limited (the business) was then leased to Fiji Ports Corporation Limited. So, FPCL has shareholdings of the Fijian Government, FNPF and Aitken Spence. In that way our assets are still owned by us but they simply lease the assets for them to generate the profits and the revenue from FPCL. And there may well be in the future, as you know we have a divestment programme and we may similarly do that with other state-owned enterprises where we do not necessarily sell the assets but we actually retain the assets but simply lease the assets for the operations of that business. Because as you know, most private sector companies are not necessarily interested in owning assets per se but they are only interested in assets that will actually give them the opportunity to generate the revenue necessary for that company to be profitable. That is why Assets (Fiji) Limited was created. That modest sum of \$50,000 is essentially being put there to run the company, should there be any valuations required by the company, that will take care of those expenditures.

Office refurbishment for Public Enterprises; yes, there is actually a need to do that. The office is all over the place on a couple of floors in Civic Towers and that is the expense allocated for it to be refurbished and provide a modern outlook for the office itself.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Vadei.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Madam Chair, I would like to ask on Activity 1, Programme 1, SEG 7 on the same Head – Maintenance of Savusavu Industrial Zone, for many years we have been maintaining this industrial zone, what is the intention of having that asset without reaping any benefits?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Now of course the intention is to reap benefits from it. You may recall that it had in fact languished. Previously when they developed the Savusavu Industrial Zone there was no access to power, no proper drainages and a programme has been put in place and it now has those amenities available to it. The idea is to be able to sell those lots but we need to maintain it and as the owner of the assets, we have set aside a modest sum of \$25,000 to maintain the upkeep of the industrial zone. I understand there will be expressions of interest for example, called for the lots. We simply do not want to sell it for the sake of selling because when you generally do not have much of an uptake people think that they can buy at bargain based prices, which we do not want to do. Savusavu is a very important place.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I give the floor to the Honourable Ro Kiniviliame Kiliraki.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Thank you Madam Chair, Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 5. I need clarifications on two allocations for Boards and Committees (\$2500) and Charter Committee Fees (\$5000). Can you explain those two allocations?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- It is a very modest sum of \$2,500 for Boards and Committees. This provision is used to pay for inter-ministerial meetings and stakeholder consultations, for example sometimes if you are looking at opportunities maybe for divestment or we are looking at seeing how state-owned enterprises is performing, we do call for meetings and it is \$2500. The Charter Committee Fees is an allocation which is used for the payment of sitting allowances for Charter Committees. As you will know, under the Public Enterprise Act if you are going to reorganise an entity, for example, corporatise it and subsequently maybe privatise it but not necessarily privatise it, but nonetheless if you are going to reorganise it, there is a requirement under the Public Enterprises Act which is currently under review, because this is a fairly bureaucratic way of reorganising state-owned entities, there is a requirement to have a Charter Committee that oversees any reorganisation of any entity. So that is the modest sum of \$5000 on an annual basis which is a few hundred dollars a month.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, I give the floor to Honourable Bultavu.

HON. M.D. BULTAVU.- I thank the Honourable Minister for the clarification with regards to Food Processors Limited but it is only quite limited to the purchase of the generator. Can the grant be widened to include other technologies needed by Fiji Processors Limited; I wanted to move a motion but the item, as is, is only limited to the cost of the generator that is there. I need clarification from the Minister on what other types of assistance can be given to Fiji Processors Limited in the form of a grant.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Honourable Bultavu, as we have said, Food Processors Limited has had some challenges in the past. It did not have a very good balance sheet and now we are also talking with NMA. The Honourable Minister for Agriculture and I have had discussions about this and how we can create some synergy between NMA and Food Processors Limited. That is one of the issues we will be looking at and try to resolve and maybe, empower Food Processors in its current form or, it could be diversified with a much closer relationship with NMA. That is work in progress and we do not want to start giving huge amounts of grants in case the process, in six months' time, evolves it into something else. But the generator was critical because it was an immediate requirement. It is not so a large sum, it is only \$46,000 but it ensures that the processing line is still continuing, and we do not send the workers home just because there is no electricity, but for them to continue with their work. We will work very closely with NMA and that is one of our objectives for the coming year.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I call on Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, Programme 5, Activity 1 relating to Government Printing. Last year I asked the line Minister on the progress of the tender of Government Printing and I would like to ask that again this year on the progress of the tender for the sale of Government Printing.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I think this is not the forum to look back at past performance. I think we need to look at what has been allocated and whether you want to increase, decrease or remove, otherwise we will be having clarifications on every allocation that we have here and it is going to take time. In fact, with whatever clarification you need, if you have identified a problem and you want to increase, decrease or remove an allocation, then we will be more focussed but this forum is not to look at past performance, but what is allocated and how it is going to be implemented.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, that question has a linkage to the motion that I would like to ask especially in terms of SEG 1 which has increased amounts from 2014 to 2017.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- If you intend to move a motion, you may do so and we can debate it. Please fill in the form for that.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, if I can, before the Honourable Radrodro probably wastes ink on the paper. The Government Printery, yes we called for expressions of interest and I think I have mentioned in this House previously, the entity that has been chosen as the preferred bidder has been Fijian Holdings Limited. Fijian Holdings Limited has put in their expression of interest by way of partnering with another foreign company. We are not happy with the submission they have made in respect of the way forward, not the price but the way forward. As we have said repeatedly in this Parliament that when we are divesting our shares we are not simply looking at a fire sale. What we are looking at, Government Printing and the printing sector in Fiji, has enormous opportunities in respect of up-skilling many of the technologies that are not available in Fiji.

For example, the Minister for Tourism will tell you that many of their high level brochures and other printing materials that is needed in Fiji currently still cannot be done in Fiji. Even things like bonded coloured paper is not available because no printer does it in Fiji and there is the level of thickness of the paper.

So what we want to do is, we have a good facility in Vatuwaqa by the main building itself, but the technology is not there nor does it exist in the private sector. So if Fijian Holdings is going to come in, we want them to bring in that level of technology. We have a great opportunity and we have got some people who have done some assessments for us to be able to export, actually to Australia and New Zealand, because the cost of labour is astronomically high compared to what we are offering. Even though if we looked into increasing our wages two-folds or three-folds, we still will be quite less compared to what they are, not that we would have to do three-folds, we have to be reasonable in terms of what our market can offer. That is what we are doing and we are still negotiating with them, we have gone back to Fijian Holdings and told them to come back to us with a good proposal. We think it is a great opportunity to use this forum to be able to say to Fijian Holdings again to take up this opportunity to get the right people, get the right technology, they are the preferred bidders and we can move forward and complete the sale. Thanks.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Member, are you still going to move a motion after all that information?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- No, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Is that okay? You are not moving a motion. Thank you. I call upon Honourable Bilitavu.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Madam Chair, in regards to Programme 5, Activity 1, SEG 5 - the Laws of Fiji reprint, \$2,000. That is a very small amount but I would like to seek clarification on whether it is laws concerning Public Enterprises or the 25 companies that come under their Ministry or whether it is related to the consolidation of laws which the Honourable Attorney- General has presented to the House? What is that specifically for - what laws?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Sorry, could you repeat that, I missed what you were saying?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- That Programme 5, Activity 1, SEG 5 on the Laws of Fiji reprint \$2,000; is it for the various companies, the Public Enterprises law or the consolidation?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- This is Government Printing. Programme 5, Activity 1 all relates to Government Printing. So, for example, the Laws of Fiji reprint; sometimes people come and ask for reprints of individual Acts that may have been printed so they need to reprint it because as you know, they sell them individually at \$2, \$4 or whatever it is, so that is what it is there for, to cater for specific....

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being no amendment, Parliament will now vote on Head 36. The question is, that the amount of Head 36 - Ministry of Public Enterprises be approved. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	32
Noes	-	14
Not Voted	-	4

(There being 32 ayes, 14 noes and 4 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

Head 36 agreed to.

Head 37 - Ministry of Local Government, Housing & Environment.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments on Head 37. We will turn to page 259 and I call on Honourable Biman Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thank you, Madam Chair, on Programme 2, Activity 1, SEG 10 - new town development in Nabouwalu, \$1 million.

Madam Chair, my question to the Honourable Minister is that, we have a lot announcements in the budget and many of them are under requisition. I want to know what that entails, whether there is a timeline and when does the Minister expect that to be completed, before I decide whether I want to move a motion, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Are you on Programme 1?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Programme 2, Activity 1.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We are still on Programme 1, Activity 2, page 259. I call upon Honourable Ratu Isoa Tikoca.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- I thank you, Madam Chair. We are now planning for another financial year and I could not locate and still do not see any sign of the Local Government re-establishment that was alluded to by the Minister, can he explain that please.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will not discuss anything that has no allocation in the budget.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- Head 37, Programme 1 Activity 2, SEG 7, page 259.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Which allocation are you referring to Honourable Tikoca?

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- The Special Administrators, if the Local Government is established, therefore my motion is going to be based on his answer.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, he can move a motion, no problem with that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will move a motion.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- Only if he explains it then I will decide whether I will move a motion or I will withdraw.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, this allocation is for the Special Administrators of towns and cities. Thank you.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- My question which is, I could not find your space in actually fulfilling the promise that you told this House that you will conduct some sort of development in the Local Government establishment.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I would like to clear this up. What is your response Honourable Minister?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, what he is asking is not mentioned here.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will not discuss anything that is not allocated under this Budget. Honourable Ratu Nanovo.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Madam Chair, I would like to move a motion on Head 37, Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 5 – Training and Local Government committee of enquiry of \$20,000.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Nawaikula.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- Just a clarification, Madam Chair. Head 37, Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 7 – there is an amount of \$116,000 for Town Council Management Support. Can the Honourable Minister clarify whether that includes the Town Council elections, if not I will be moving a motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Minister.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- No, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Leawere.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Madam Chair, Head 37, Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 10, regarding Challenge and Investment Fund (\$4 million), can we have a clarification from the Honourable Minister?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Minister.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, this is the continuous funding to the municipal councils under this Challenge Fund, and as mentioned here that under this Fund, funds will be allocated to Lautoka Botanical Garden, swimming pool and the other municipal councils. They will submit their proposals to the Ministry and then we will select which is the best project for the council and for the ratepayers. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Nawaikula.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- Madam Chair, Activity 2, SEG 10 - Capital Grant. Can the Honourable Minister confirm whether that amount will include the relocation of the Fire Authority to Samabula and the construction of the Fire Authority Depot in Savusavu, because if not I would like to move a motion for those?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, can he repeat his question?

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- SEG 10 - Capital Grants (\$3 million), does that amount include the costs for the relocation of the Fire Headquarters to Samabula and the construction of the Savusavu Fire Depot at Ganilau Park?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to move a motion?

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- Depending on his answer, if the answer is no then I will move a motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Move a motion and he will answer during the debate.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- I move a motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Ro Kiliraki.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 10– for the Drainage and Flood Mitigation (\$894,100), we need an explanation as there are rivers and creeks going through most of the towns and city areas and you have siltation at the mouth of the river, whether that is duplication of operation with the Land Degradation and Ministry of Agriculture that looks after that? If there is any duplication, probably I will move a motion for reduction.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. You may move a motion for reduction and then we will debate that motion. Honourable Ratu Isoa Tikoca.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- Head 37, Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 10 - There are two cases. One is the clarification on the Challenge and Investment Fund - Town/City Council (\$4million). Can we have an explanation on that?

Secondly, the Valelevu Sports Stadium (\$350,000). I would like to move a motion on that one.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Member, please if you could move a motion on both, whether you want to increase or decrease, and then we will have it debated.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- I do not know what the Investment Fund – Town/City Council is.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, I have just explained about that \$4 million under the Challenge Fund, just now.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- I did not hear it.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Can you repeat please?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- I said that this is the continuous funding to all the towns and cities. This is basically an indirect way of assisting municipal councils because we have asked municipal councils to reduce, marked at least for ordinary Fijians. So, this is where the Government assists, and as I have mentioned that under this Programme, we will have swimming pool for Lautoka. The municipal councils will submit their proposals and then we will select which is the best project for the community ratepayers and the Council as a whole.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- Swimming pool in Lautoka is listed under some other different SEG, so do not worry about that, but I will raise a motion on Valelevu Sports Stadium.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will now move on to page 261. Honourable Biman Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thank you, Madam Chair. Head 37, Programme 2, Activity 1, SEG 10 – as I have said before that there are always allocations under requisition and I remember \$1.92 million, Honourable Minister was allocated last year and you have another \$1 million. Can you tell us what the plan is? When is this going to be completed? And when is Nabouwalu likely to be declared a town?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Thank you. Madam Chair, I think when I was not here, Honourable Nawaikula also mentioned about this. I have said this in my Ministerial Statement in response to the Budget that three towns will be declared. I said ‘declared’, but to declare there is a process.

Number one is the land development and to do land development, you have to have process and this is what exactly it is on. Let me assure this House, that whatever I said I maintain, unlike what Honourable Nawaikula has said.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- You have not.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, I would like to clarify on that point that Honourable Prasad seems to link because of the fact it is 'R' that is why it is slow, it is not.

You said it is under requisition. Just for the clarification of the House, as the Honourable Minister for the Local Government highlighted, that in declaring the towns it does require a lot of work in terms of planning and civil engineering works. We do need to ensure that we hire the right consultants and Nabouwalu is listed as that.

There is some property work that has already started with Keiyasi and Seaqaqa. Just because it is under 'R' it does not mean it slowed down, but I think some of it also does relate to negotiations with the landowners in terms of where you will put the road, the street lighting, footpaths, et cetera, so just for clarification sake.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I give the floor to Honourable Prof. Biman Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- I want to thank the Honourable Attorney-General for the clarification. All I was saying is that, we have allocations year in, year out, and I think it is important for us and in this Parliament to ask that question and Ministers have a responsibility to tell us what they did last year and the allocation, so that was my point. It is very important for us to understand that when you have an allocation for a year, for example, you are allocated \$200,000 for preparatory works for an airport in Seaqaqa. Next year, we would want to know what has happened; how things have moved on in this particular year in its particular Budget? So, precisely that was what I was saying, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, whatever the performance is from the previous year, that is the role of the Public Accounts Committee. However, for this one, we will need to look at the allocation, the appropriations made now and what is going to be implemented.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- The allocation is for this year.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I give the floor to the Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chair.

In Head 37-2-1(7) - Review of Town Planning Act (\$60,000), can I ask the Honourable Minister; when will this be completed because every time we ask a question on Local Government, he always says that it is under review, under review, when will this review be completed? Will this \$60,000 complete the exercise?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Member, do you want to increase, decrease or refuse a particular allocation? If you have justification for that action?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- I want to find out from him whether the \$60,000 will complete this exercise before I raise my ...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you think you need more or less or take it out all together?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- We want this project to be completed whether this amount is going to complete the exercise, Madam Chair?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You want an increase, reduce, or take it out.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- I do not know. I have to find out from the Honourable Minister what stage is the project in?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- That is not to be discussed here.

HON. OPPOSITION MEMBERS.- Awh!

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I am going to be very strict on the debate today. We are spending too much time on things that we should not be, so concentrate on whether you want to increase, reduce or you take it out.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- If we have to put in a motion to increase or decrease, we have to substantiate.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You put it in a motion and the information will be answered during debate on that motion.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Alright. Thank you, I will move a motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Prem Singh.

HON. P. SINGH.- Madam Chair, before he moves his motion, I think he is seeking a very valid clarification. If you look at SEG 7 – Review of the Town Planning Act, that is in respect of the Town Planning Act. The Town Planning Act does not include the Local Government Act, they are two separate two legislations.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, he is going to move a motion and you can contribute to the debate on that motion. Honourable Prof. Biman Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Are we moving on to Programme 3, Activity 1, Madam Chair?

HON. CDR. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- Yes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, we are still on Page 261.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Head 37-3-1(6) - Subsidy Naboro Landfill (\$1.2 million), Madam Chair, before I move a motion, I need clarification from the Honourable Minister as to what this subsidy is for? Why do we need a subsidy?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have information where you would like to increase, decrease or remove?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Madam Chair, let me explain; I think it will be fair if you allow us to ask questions because if we do not ask a question, for example, I want to know why that \$1.2 million is allocated as a subsidy. If I move a motion, I cannot move a motion to increase or decrease, if I do not know what it is.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- It will be answered during the debate on the motion because otherwise it is duplication. This is why we are taking too long.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- It is not, because if I move a motion either way, it not going to make any sense, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You move a motion and the Honourable Minister will clarify on that.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- I think we are changing the rules of the game.

(Chorus of interjections)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- No! No! We want you to be focussed. I will give the floor to Honourable Gavoka.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, yesterday they said it is all multi-thronged (the word used), but to us, Madam Chair, it is mumbo-jumbo, it is all over the place.

(Laughter)

We need to go back to a point, explain to us, then we can put our motion in. It is all over the place, that is why we want to identify some of those.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- When you put in a motion, you will get the explanation during the debate because otherwise, we will be spending double time; put in your explanation for the motion, we put in the motion and then we spend time again. We are only trying to be more focussed here.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, I think the problem arises from the fact, as we have seen in the past (it is in a very few instances) when Honourable Members of the Opposition had liaised directly with the respective Ministers. One issue was on the rice when Honourable Prof. Biman Prasad had spoken directly to the Honourable Minister for Agriculture. They have resolved the matter. Many Honourable Members of the Opposition do not even bother to talk to the Ministers if they want any information. They do not even talk to us outside, nor do they see it fit to even ring or talk to us.

If their whole idea is to provide services to the people of Fiji, or if their whole idea is to get the right information so we have some very conducive and forward looking debates and intellectual inputs into the whole debate process, they could have got all these information from us. This is the reason why legally, there is a requirement that once a Budget is presented, there must be (at least) six working days after the Budget is presented to the debate on the Budget, and that is precisely the reason for that. None of them (I understand) the questions they are asking, did they ask them to the respective Ministers? They could have done that. They meet us in the corridors, they have tea with us, we talk about rugby and everything else, but no one talks about the subject matter that was going to be the point of discussion.

We have never shut our doors on any Honourable Member of this House. If our Members themselves, the Backbenchers, have issues they come and talk to the Ministers. We had offered this to the Opposition previously and we are offering it to them again, please, if you have any questions or clarification, you can ask us and we can provide that. Then we would spend a lot better time for us to be able to discuss any increase or decrease that they want. This is a point of clarification to them.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I give the floor to Honourable Gavoka, is it still on the same issue?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- No. Madam Chair...

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- We need to correct him.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- ...we need correct what has been said today. We often write to the Ministries to come and brief us about this and they are afraid to come.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No! No.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- (Inaudible)

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Absolutely!

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, again, I would like to clarify that. They do not go and write letters to some Permanent Secretaries and hold some private briefings with them, they know that. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition knows that. That does not happen. When she was on this side of the House, she did not have a Permanent Secretary running off and meeting Mahendra Chaudhry and others on the Opposition side. She knows that, so do not obfuscate the issues once again.

HON. OPPOSITION MEMBERS.- Awh!

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- What I have said is that, if you want information on this Budget, you had six days to ask the respective Ministers. Obviously, there are a lot of questions for the Honourable Minister for Local Government, they could have asked him. They have been meeting him, they were there last week...

(Hon. Member interjects)

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- ...they could have then...on the way where?

(Hon. Member interjects)

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- ? On the way where?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Honourable Member.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- The point is, they could have done that but they did not do that.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Madam Chair, let me

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Sorry, just let me have the floor right now, I will call you.

The thing is, with all these appropriations, it has taken a number of meetings from the people concerned to meet and arrive at these appropriations. So, they have looked at past expenditures, looked at what they can implement before they arrive at this. So, to come here and question all these again, it is going to take too much time. You should have thought about that. Only if you have a problem, if you have identified the problem in what has been happening out there and you think that this Appropriation is not enough and you want it to be increased, that is what you want to come and do here.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Madam Chair, you have to ...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Please, be very focussed on that.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- ... give me the right to respond to some of the things that the Honourable Attorney-General has said. Madam Chair, he is not entirely correct, I have personal experience of writing to Ministers...

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Yes.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- ...on issues, and I have never even received an acknowledgment. So, first of all, he is right....

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. DR. B.C. PRASAD.- ... this is a Parliamentary process. We have the right to come here and ask questions to the respective Ministers and the respective Ministers have a responsibility in this Committee of Supply to answer our queries so that we can move motions either way, to get things done. So, I do not think we should change the rules of the game in the middle. Yesterday, we were asking for clarifications. In fact, it was more efficient, Madam Chair, because when we asked and the Ministers give the answers, we do not move a motion, we save time. So, what is the problem with that?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- And there is certain responsibility to this one, and we really need to organise ourselves on this.

(Chorus of interjections)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Now, that is finished and it should be maintained. But, as I have mentioned in my communication, either you put in a motion to increase, reduce or take it out altogether. So, let us focus on that, otherwise, we are going to be staying here until midnight.

Anyway, Honourable Ratu Isoa Tikoca, you have the floor.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- Madam Chair, I need some clarification. When I was a Commissioner; both in the Central and Western Divisions, all the Ministers come and discuss with me anything in regards to the development of the Division that I looked after. What he has said is wrong.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, you said Ministers!

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- Yes, Ministers come directly and Permanent Secretaries as well. Anyone, we are free, the open doors are free, so what you have said is wrong.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- (Inaudible)

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- What you have said is wrong!

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- (Inaudible)

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- Yes! Yes! Anyone from the Opposition or from the Government, yes.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- (Inaudible)

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- I do not know where were you at that time.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- I do not know where you were that time. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members, if we were in Parliament, I would have stood up, but we are in the Committee of Supply, I cannot stand up. So, please, bring back...thank you.

Honourable Salote Radrodro.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I can appreciate the constraints that we are faced with time, but it is not of our making on this side of the House. That is the decision of the Government side that we squeeze in all these Budget debates within only two days.

As the Deputy Whip, we really had to struggle to try and contain all the Budgetary Heads within the limited time we have. Madam Chair, I would like to draw our attention to Standing Order 100(1) and may I emphasise, it says; "...at which time debate may take place on any matter related to the Heads", and that is what we are doing here, Madam Chair. We cannot move a motion until and unless we know some kind of justifications.

Furthermore, Madam Chair, in the Budget Workshop that was conducted by the Ministry of Finance in 2015, we were expecting or looking forward to meeting the officials or even Permanent Secretaries to be able to brief us on the Budget. No one came, except the Honourable Minister for Economy. In that Workshop, I had raised our concern but he only came and he took us through the Budgetary Heads. I said; "Excuse me, we know all those Budgetary Heads, we want details, we want explanations on why are we having such allocations." But we were not provided with that information, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Member, which Programme and which Activity are we referring to?

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Standing Order 100(1) - Procedure on Estimates during Committee of Supply.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.-We need justification.

(Chorus of interjections)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I see in the Standing Orders, and I will refer you to Standing Order 100(2), and I quote:

"An amendment to the head, or subhead or item under the head, may be moved without notice during the course of the debate (this is Committee of Supply)...

- a) "That head [*name of head*] be increased by \$[*amount*] in respect of [*name of subhead or item*]";

So, it is always "be increased", "be decreased", or "be left out" and that is very clear in the Standing Orders, in the procedure of this. So, please, let us be focussed on this.

(Chorus of interjections)

Are there any more comments on Page 261? Honourable Prof. Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Madam Chair, I move a motion to remove the subsidy of \$1.2 million.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I request that you fill in the form.

Honourable Ratu Isoa Tikoca.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- On Page 261, Head 37-3-1(6) - UNFC on Climate Change, I would like to move a motion on that Madam.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. You may fill the form.

We will now look at the motions that we have before us. The first motion on Head 37 is by the Honourable Nawaikula and he would like to move that Head 37-1-2(10) - National Fire Authority Capital Grant (\$3 million) be increased by \$2 million for the relocation of...

and I cannot read your writing that is before me.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- I will move the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- No, can you only clarify this portion with the respect to National Fire Authority for the benefit of the Minister responsible.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- It is for the relocation of the headquarters from the current location to Samabula, and the building of the Savusavu Fire Depot at Ganilau Park.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- I second the motion, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Nawaikula, you may speak on your motion.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- As I had said Madam Chair, I had initially asked the Honourable Minister to confirm whether the amount that is indicated there includes the relocation of the National Fire Authority from the current headquarters to Samabula, as well as the building of the Fire Depot at Ganilau Park. These matters have been current, recurrent and recurrent.

The Honourable Minister has not confirmed that, but if he had confirmed that, there would not be a need for this motion but that being so, let me say now that the whole purpose behind this motion is the request that has been there for years and years, that the headquarters should be relocated from the current place to Samabula, as well as the building of Savusavu Depot. That area in Ganilau Park has been bought, and in relation to Savusavu, we know that Savusavu is important, there is a need for that. That was confirmed, even by the Honourable Attorney-General that Savusavu is very important. It is building up, the maintenance of Savusavu Jetty is coming up and we need the depot.

The other point is that, the plans for the relocation has been there in the pipeline. We understand that submissions have been made in relation to that, but these should be taken as a matter of priority. That is the purpose of this motion. If the Honourable Minister can say now that this has been addressed, then I will withdraw it.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, is there any other input to that motion?

(Silence)

There being no other input. We will put this motion to a vote, Parliament will now vote on that motion. Does anyone oppose the motion?

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- As always, there is no resolution in there. No one is asking it.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- Can the Minister at least say anything?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You have a motion, to be increased by \$2 million. You have spoken on the motion.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- No, I am only saying. if the Minister says it is being addressed, then I will withdraw it.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, no, no!

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- So, we are just talking to a wall?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Parliament will now vote on that motion.

(Hon. Member interjects)

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- In advances of this book here.

We will vote on the motion. Does anyone oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	13
Noes	-	32
Not Voted	-	5

(There being 13 ayes, 32 noes and 5 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The next motion is by the Honourable Bulitavu, who wishes to move that Head 37-2-1(10) - New Town Development (Nabouwalu) be increased by \$1 million.

Honourable Bulitavu, would you like to move your motion?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Madam Chair, I would like to move the motion.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Bulitavu, would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Yes, simply, Madam Chair, that this allocation was allocated \$1.9 million last year and this year, it has been reduced to \$1 million and we still do not know the scope of work or what stages of work is still there, given the long debate and answers to and fro. I suggest that, that be increased by \$1 million and the other works in the area to be done whether there needs to be a development plan, and other planning activities to be done, especially with the landowners in Nabouwalu who are to be consulted in regards to both the wharf and the Government Station and the area of the town that is there, given that the area was also devastated by *TC Winston* and it was under seawater; is that still a viable place or do we need to relocate? Even from the wharf up to the Government Station, all the shops were underwater; is there a need for a refill to be done - all that work needs to be justified and that is why there is a need to increase that cost.

Given that Nabouwalu now is a centre, people cannot travel back to Labasa to get approval from the Government station. I think Nabouwalu is a centre for Wainunu, right to Nabouwalu and other closer areas in Bua. I think there is now a Nabouwalu-Dreketi Road which is accessible to the people and that is why there is a need to speed up the process on the project so that people can enjoy the services there. We also have a market there and we need to have proper facilities for vendors and also for the people to enjoy the services of the local authority and the town council that needs to be set up, after this is declared as a town. I ask my honourable friends to support the motion for an increase in this allocation, thank you, Madam Speaker.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Madam Chair, I would like to contribute to this motion. You know that in Nabouwalu, you have got a hospital, the population is increasing, the number of activities in the Nabouwalu area is also increasing so that is why I support the motion for faster development to make Nabouwalu a town.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Thank you, Madam Chair, Nabouwalu is a transit point as you traverse the Bligh Water to Vanua Levu or even to Taveuni and back. If you go to Nabouwalu, currently there are no facilities there to be able to accommodate the local tourism industry, that is very important. The local tourism industry is not addressed properly as Vanua Levu is a potential area for that and having Nabouwalu as a township will generate the economy in that particular area in Bua, with small SMEs, cafeterias, and all those facilities that enable us to go to Vanua Levu or even Labasa. We can stopover there for the night, and go to Taveuni or Savusavu so you need not rush early in the morning to be able to catch the ferry across from Nabouwalu, so it is logical that this must be addressed quickly so that the "Look North Policy" is enhanced, thank you.

HON. J. USAMATE.- I have been sitting here and I am quite dazed by this meandering. We have been talking about Nabouwalu and I have been talking about these issues. What we have heard in the contributions to this debate on the issue of Nabouwalu, we have people just regurgitating why Nabouwalu is important. Let me advise the Members on that side of the House, we know that Nabouwalu is important, that is why the Minister made the provision to make it a town. We do not need you to tell us why Nabouwalu is important. We already know that, come up with something new, something substantive, stop regurgitating the things that we already know, tell us something new. You just keep waffling and waffling and waffling. We need you to come up with something substantive, stop meandering and contribute to this debate.

(Chorus of interjections)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I need to bring back order in the House, please. We are now discussing this in the debate on the motion and this is when freedom of speech comes in, so please, this is why you bring up all the information you want, bring it up during the debate, thank you, and please, bring back order in the House and let us listen to whoever has the floor.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, I would like to briefly contribute on this budget. The suggestion is to increase it by \$1 million. We do not have any issue of \$1 million, \$5 million or \$20 million. The issue is, the development; Nabouwalu has been there for ages. Where were all these past governments? This is the only Government who has thought of creating that as a town centre because of the importance of our Fijians in Nabouwalu and now what we are doing is the documentation. As I said earlier on, there are certain processes that need to be done but let me say this, that out of all those three towns that need to be declared, most of the works have been done in regards to Nabouwalu. That is why we have been saying a lot of things about Nabouwalu and by the end of this year, the construction will start; take it from me. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- I ask the Honourable Minister not to make any promises here because all the time you break it. He said that this is the only Government that has recognised it, but it has been recurring year after year, that is the whole issue that we are raising. It was here this year, last year, the year before and you have been here ten years, so do not blame anyone, just blame you.

HON. MEMBERS.- Hear, hear.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- That is it, that is all I want to say.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Madam Chair, I want to respond to what the Honourable Minister is trying to say because if you go from Nabouwalu now to Labasa, there is no bank along that area. If you develop Nabouwalu and have a town and all the facilities, when people earn money they will have the banking facilities, so that is why we need to fast-track some of the developments otherwise that road which was completed this year, will just be a white elephant.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Please, just before we carry on, let us refrain from referring to past governments, past performance. Let us work on this and move forward.

HON. J. USAMATE.- I just spoke and I gave a request, let us stop the waffle and meandering but it has not stopped, please, stop the waffling, just focus on the issue and let us get on with it.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- Madam Chair, please, can I just respond to that? Listen, if you look at past Parliaments, it took two weeks but when you squeeze it to one week, that is why everything is happening like that. Unfortunately, this thing does not come under Standing Orders 51, otherwise we would have already completed this, thank you.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chair, I must say we from Nabouwalu are really tired of hearing about this in the budget.

Madam Chair, I really take on the words of the Honourable Minister that something will really begin this year because as I speak now, the women are selling there in an open space just beside the market, Madam Chair, and that is just a small example but it is the reality on the ground. Madam Chair, and Honourable Minister, I really look forward to my next trip to Nabouwalu at the end of this year that we will see some real ground work like bulldozing or even repair in the jetty which is almost disappearing.

(Laughter)

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Minister.

HON. J. USAMATE.- I would just like to react to the comments by the Honourable Ratu Tikoca. He said in the past, it took two weeks. This is a constant view point of the Opposition, they are always looking backwards. The Honourable Gavoka, with all respect, is constantly doing this. This Government is not about looking backwards, what was done two weeks in the past, this Government will do in one week or one day, because we are about effectiveness and efficiency - remember that.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. SPEAKER.- I now give the floor to the Honourable Lorna Eden.

HON. L. EDEN.- Thank you, Madam Chair. They keep going on and on about how we are not doing anything or taking too long, but they have forgotten that this Government had just put through that road to Nabouwalu, and I travelled on that road in the past and it would take nearly four hours on a very, very rough road. Now, we can do it in 1 hour and 20 minutes, so I think they should just be a bit patient and as the Minister has said that we will have it done by the end of the year, where construction will start and we will. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER.- The Honourable Bulitavu, would you like to speak in reply to your motion?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I think that motion has created more agitation from both sides of the House and I will take the words of the Honourable Minister like at the end of the year, we will see some work there in Nabouwalu and the people of Nabouwalu are expecting the Minister that that will come through. The town will be there, the township of Nabouwalu and other preliminary work to be done. There is nothing wrong with us querying over the processes and whether the Government has the stages. That is our duty to always check the Government, where they have reached. And if we do not do that, I think nothing will come through, given the repeated programmes in the previous budgets and this budget. The people there in Nabouwalu are expecting this because they have read it in the newspapers, they have heard it here in Parliament how many times and the people are expecting this and it is the talk of the town.

HON. GOVT MEMBER. – There is no town.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- And, if this does not come up, people will lose faith, but again we have faith in the Honourable Minister that he will do this. And, probably, Madam Chair, just to end with that, I stick with the motion that this has to be increased, to enhance the work that will be done by the Honourable Minister. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on this motion, does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	14
Noes	-	32
Not Voted	-	4

(There being 14 ayes, 32 noes and 4 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I will now call on the Honourable Ratu Kiliraki to move that Head 37 be decreased by \$894,100 in Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 10, with respect to Drainage and Flood Mitigation. Honourable Ratu Kiliraki, you have the floor.

HON. RATU. K. KILIRAKI.- I move the motion, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON..- Thank you. Do we have a seconder?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Kiliraki, would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. RATU. K. KILIRAKI.- Yes, Madam Chair. I had to move this motion because there is no clarity to the allocation with regards to your ruling that we need to put up a motion.

The Drainage and Flood Mitigation, I thought that is a duplication of the allocation as I understand LWRM looks after the flood mitigation part or flood adaptation for that matter. Especially in the town and urban areas, there are always creeks that run through the towns that causes flooding and flow back through the drainage. In that respect, Suva is connected to a lot of rivers: the Tamavua river and along the coast towards the mouth of the Rewa River. There are lots of rivers there that always cause back flooding because of the siltation at the mouths of the river. You go to Sigatoka, there is always their concern and we always ask for dredging at the mouth of the Sigatoka River because of the floods. Also, for the Navua River, even Lautoka, this side of Natabua and the other river that runs through Lautoka towards Ba, they have raised concerns of the flooding in Lautoka that was not there before. This is in respect to the land use up the hills, the harvesting of pine not adhering to the Code of Harvesting and causes erosion that brings down siltation to the Lautoka River. And as you go down to Rakiraki, it is a common happening there, that when there is rain, it always flood and they have come up with a reason that the natural flow of the river was diverted, so naturally when there is more rain in the river, the natural flow of the water will just follow its path. So that diversion has caused flooding in Vaileka whenever there is rain.

Those are the concerns because of clarity of this allocation, so I thought if it covers drainage only and leave the flood mitigation to the LWRM, then that is the gist of my motion for a reduction to \$500,000 for that allocation. If you minus the amount that is there, then it will come down to half a million.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- It would come down to zero. You are wanting to totally remove the allocation?

HON. RATU. K. KILIRAKI.- \$894, I put there \$394.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- So it will come to zero. You want to totally remove that allocation?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- So, if it is there, then totally remove and transfer it to Land Water and Resources Management (LWRM) under the Agriculture and the Minister responsible.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Alright, wherever it goes, it does not apply here but yes, totally remove that. Any input to that motion? Honourable Minister.

HON. LT. COL. I. B. SERUIRATU. – Madam Chair, I will speak on the motion because it is more related to the portfolios that I am responsible for, particularly on disaster risk reduction. This is a disaster risk reduction related activity although the allocation is in Local Government, and of course the LWRM activity as well as raised by the Honourable Kiliraki.

These are recent initiatives, particularly when we are in risk reduction when talking about disaster management and all the phenomena that we are facing. There is a certain component called the Resilient Cities and Towns. We want to create the environment where investment, particularly by the private sector, will continue and not interfered and hopefully more and that is why the resilient, this is the pro-activeness. There is a clear distinction between the rivers and the drainage, as alluded to by the Honourable Kiliraki. This is about drainage, and drainage is one of the concerns that we continued to raise from the Disaster Council to the Local Government because it causes a lot of flooding in the residences, residential areas, and of course in towns as well. Clogged drains, people dumping rubbish and so forth and this is the allocation. Dredging is a separate issue that comes under LWRM, and I have already responded to Honourable Gavoka, we will dredge the Sigatoka River.

But, with desilting, Madam Chair, let me just also clearly state here that it depends on the depth of the rivers as well. So, most rivers, yes we can if the depth is sufficient but otherwise for most of the work in Local Government is more related to drainage and I would say that this is sufficient for them to do their drainage works and leave the allocation on LWRM with us and we have already \$6 million in LWRM for rivers.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Anymore input on the motion. Honourable Minister.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, this issue was brought by me during my response and I made it very clear that this is for the Municipal Councils. These drains are in the CBD area, drains at the back land, drains residential and I will give a breakdown of how we are going to assist the municipal council because this is the first time when government is assisting municipal councils in terms of funding to carry out drainage work.

The breakdowns are as follows Madam Chair; Suva City Council will be allocated \$200,000, Lautoka City Council \$200,000, Nasinu Town Council \$200,000, Nausori Town Council \$100,000, Lami Town Council \$97,000 and Sigatoka Town Council \$97,100. This is for this year and for next year we will allocate for the councils that have not been included, therefore, I will ask my honourable friend to withdraw his motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I now give the floor to the Honourable Kiliraki for his right of reply.

HON. K. KILIRAKI.- I still stand with the motion for...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will then vote on the motion. Does anyone oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	14
Noes	-	32
Not voted	-	4

(There being 14 ayes, 32 noes and 4 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The next motion is by the Honourable Ratu Isoa Tikoca to move that Head 37 be increased by \$750,000 in Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 10 with respect to Valelevu Sports Stadium. I now give the floor to the Honourable Tikoca to move his motion.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- Madam Chair, I move this motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Do you have a seconder?

HON. M. D. BULITAVU.- Madam Chair, I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Isoa Tikoca please speak on your motion.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- Thank you. Madam Chair, I think there is quite a number of rugby players here and right through the time, during our time in playing rugby around this part of the country, we know the poor conditions of rugby fields and sports field in between here and Nausori

I am so thankful to the Government for actually improving Valelevu as a sports stadium and also having to allow some very important rugby games to be held there, likewise soccer and any other sports alike. Right now we are experiencing games between top teams being played at secondary and primary school grounds.

We understand the difficulty that you are facing but improvement in that direction is very important but to actually understand the issues that we are facing, you really need a financial boost so that we can expedite the process of development in Valelevu.

Sports is quite unique in our investment and we support all the amazing mileage that you have taken for sports in our country, but I thought it would be best if we can just expedite that improvement in Valelevu to go up to a million to that we can bring about the standard almost or even close to the standard that we are about to witness in the opening of the Albert Park. When we look at Valelevu it is made up of soapstone and you have a lot of turf on top and we need a lot of drainage to be done, like the 10km to 15km of piping system already embedded in Albert Park. Maybe that can be given too, to boost the requirements of the money that you need so that we can bring it to a perfect sports field that will actually improve any type of sports that is played on it.

I move the motion that it be increased to \$1 million, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I invite input to the motion.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, let me also speak on this. I spoke on it yesterday regarding the upgrading of rugby grounds all over Fiji and these are welcome developments and I would urge government to raise it to \$1 million. Just digressing a bit, Madam Chair, the other side do not want us to bring up history, but every time they say, 'first time' they are inviting history. Every time they say 'it is the first time' then they are inviting history to be brought into the dialogue.

So, you do not want to bring up history, do not say things like unprecedented, or 'the first time in history of Fiji'; once you do that, you are inviting history to the dialogue. Madam Chair, you want to bring them back, but it is all part of the SODELPA manifesto which you copied.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- (Inaudible interjection)

HON. V. K. GAVOKA.- Thank you Madam Chair, this stadium is welcomed. The quality of sporting fields needs to be upgraded and we would like to accelerate it by raising it to a million dollars.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other input, Honourable Minister?

HON. P. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, they can continue to put whatever they want in their manifesto. Let me talk about the plan for Valelevu grounds. Early last year the Honourable Prime Minister opened the multi-purpose court within that area, now the Nasinu Town Council has taken this project. The plan is to have an international standard-sized playing field with a stadium. Last year they were given funds, they still continue to use that fund and that is why there was shortfall of this amount.

We can give money, we can give them \$1 million, \$2 million no problem, but what is the point? This will be carried forward to them and if they will run short, some money will be allocated from the challenge funds. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I invite the Honourable Tikoca to speak in reply.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- I asked for some explanation and now I have heard that explanation. Thank you Madam Chair, but I still agree that \$1 million should be given to help you, because you may have some difficulty in asking that through requisition.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on this motion. Does anyone member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Votes Cast

Ayes	-	13
Noes	-	32
Not voted	-	5

(There being 13 ayes, 32 noes and 5 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you the next motion is going to be moved by the Honourable Nawaikula that Head 37 be increased by \$0.5 million in Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 7 with respect to Town Council Management Support. Thank you Honourable Nawaikula you will have the floor to move your motion.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- Thank you Madam Chair, talking about unprecedented, CBUL is not unprecedented.

(Laughter)

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- The old name for that was rent subvention. It is just a change of name.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- There you are.

HON. J. V. BAINIMARAMA.- It was not done by SODELPA.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- I move my motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Do we have a seconder?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Honourable Nawaikula you may speak on your motion.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- The motion refers to SEG 7 and item there that says, Town Council Management Support, and the purpose of this is to allow the Council to conduct its elections. It is basically to help support the Honourable Minister. He has been promising this for time and time again, so this will help him. And, it is very important. You know, we say we are a democracy, we are not a democracy. But, you can take the benefit that we are moving there, and a very important part of that process is for the Councils to become independent in their decision making, and the only way....

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Point of Order, Madam Chair.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- There is no point of order here.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- There is a point of clarification, if you are not going to accept a point of order.

This allocation which he is talking about, the Town Councils Management Support is specifically for Navua Town.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You will have your opportunity to also...

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Why is he talking about Council elections?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Please continue Honourable Nawaikula.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- You should sit down now because I gave you the benefit. If you had explained, I would have taken this off.

Moving on, Madam Chair, it is very important to have elections, and here he promised, then we asked and he said it will happen, and finally he said that it will happen when we are ready. But next year is the last year of this Government, and we are going into election the year after that.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- (Inaudible)

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- That is not the point. I am talking about the need to have elections, to be democratic, to have accountability and transparency, and we needed this a long time ago. That is the whole reason and purpose of this, and it is also the expectation of the public, they have been crying for this and we should support this.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Any input to the motion? Honourable Minister.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- No, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Parliament will now vote on this motion. Does any Honourable Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	15
Noes	-	30
Not voted	-	5

(There being 15 ayes, 30 noes and 5 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. The next motion is by the Honourable Ratu Isoa Tikoca, to move that Head 37 be increased by \$400,600 in Programme 3, Activity 1, SEG 6, with respect to Climate Change.

Honourable Ratu Isoa, would you like to move your motion?

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- Madam Chair, I move the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Do you have a seconder?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Isoa, would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I was actually quite happy to see that climate change appeared under the Town and Country Planning.

If there needs to be issues on distributing funds on the climate change, then a substantial amount should go to the municipalities because they can actually be given the mechanics of actually handling their own situation in preventing climate change. But, when I saw that it has to do with annual contribution to UNFC and Climate Change, then I thought that this was not actually the right area that I should speak on. So because it is an annual contribution and nothing to do with climate change but it is our contribution to the organisation that we belong to, I withdraw this motion, Madam.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Next motion by the Honourable Bulitavu, to move that Head 37 be increased by \$300,000 in Programme, Activity 2, SEG 9 with respect to 'Fire Hydrant for National Fire Authority.

Honourable Bulitavu, would you like to move your motion?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Yes, I move the motion, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have a seconder?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Bulitavu, you can speak on your motion.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I think this is a very important allocation, given that yesterday and again today we are talking about municipal councils and fire, and for this, it is just to increase the allocation for more fire hydrants to be installed in the various towns and also in housing areas which are within the town boundaries. Given that from current practice, most of the time when the fire trucks come over, they cannot locate hydrants or the hydrants are too far from the length of the hose that they will use because of improper planning. One exercise that was carried out by the NFA when I was in Labasa, they came around house to house to share with the people on how to contact them when there

is a fire. One question I asked them was whether they had the locations of these hydrants, because of the increasing squatters we have and other informal settlements. However, they did not have those figures and even in squatter areas, they do not have lot numbers so it will be very difficult in any emergency for them to attend, because they do not have streets or landmarks like a place called, say Lajonia Local Timber'; which means you go down Wailevu and when you go in there is a sawmill there named Lajonia Local Timber.' That is the kind of directions they usually give.

This particular allocation has to be increased, given that this is a necessity when it comes to the operation of the fire fighters. There are not enough fire hydrants around, and as I have said earlier on accessibility, with the increasing number of people living in informal housing, there needs to be a review and proper inspection of the current hydrants, whether they are working or whether they need repair. These are the areas, and I would like the House to move that this be increased by only a sum of \$300,000 to give it a total of \$500,000. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I invite input into this motion.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Speaker. I fully agree with the motion to increase the allocation for fire hydrants for National Fire Authority, especially now that we have increasing number of settlements that are coming up around the urban centres and town centres, and most of the settlements do not have access to proper fire hydrant facilities. Therefore, if such incidents in cases of fire, usually the first or second fire truck comes in and it runs out of water, that is where the attempts end because of the laxity of the fire hydrants.

This is not a new issue, it has been an ongoing exercise that has been taken by the National Fire Authority because of the increase in the number of settlements that are cropping up around the towns and centres, and therefore, I strongly agree and endorse the request to increase the fire hydrant allocation. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Any other input? Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chair, I support this motion to increase the allocation of having more fire hydrants.

Also, Madam Chair, sometimes when a fire happens, the fire trucks cannot find where the fire hydrant is. I would like to raise a point of what I raised the other day, is the need to have a National GIS Programme where all the developments are connected, so all these organisations can locate where all these fire hydrants are, so that everyone knows and they can check from their office before they leave for the place where the fire is. Madam Chair, I think by increasing the allocation for this, they could also look at what I have just raised. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Minister.

HON.P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, the reason for decrease is that the National Fire Authority has a stock of fire hydrants that were purchased last year, and they are still in the process of installing. The reason why \$200,000 was allocated for this year is, they ran short of 50 fire hydrants, which they will buy and install next year so that is the whole reason. There is really no issue of fire hydrants.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. There being no other input, I invite the Honourable Bilitavu to speak in reply.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Madam Chair, I thank the Honourable Minister for that. But, I really hope that the installations will be done, and all that will be complied with, given the increasing number of people in informal communities. Again Madam Speaker, I would like to reiterate that the motion stands

in regards to the increase of the number of people in our communities and also the likelihood of this kind of event.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you Parliament will now vote on his motion, does any member oppose that motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	:	14
Noes	:	31
Not voted	:	5

(There being 14 ayes, 31 noes and 5 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The next motion is by the Honourable Dulakiverata to move that Head 37 be increased by \$100,000 in Programme 2, Activity 1, SEG 7, with respect to the review of the Town Planning Act. I invite the Honourable Dulakiverata to move his motion.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I move my motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have a seconder.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata you may speak on your motion.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you Madam Chair. The local governments around the country are guided by the Town Planning Act so, Madam Chair, this review of the Town Planning Act has been going on for a number of years and it is very important that it should be completed. By moving this motion Madam Chair, it might help to facilitate the completion of this review. Maybe it will give the Honourable Minister more options as what to do to complete this exercise. If it cannot be completed internally maybe we will have the funds to outsource this activity and have the review completed. As I said, Madam Chair, all the developments depend on this and it is important that it should be completed and I hope this allocation will help to complete the exercise, thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, I invite input to this motion if any, Honourable Minister.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, this exercise began in November 2015, and the budget was allocated for the review exercise. The money that we have asked for \$60,000, will definitely be enough to complete this review by the end of this year, so the review will be finished by the end of this year, thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, would you like to speak in reply.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- This is what I have asked for earlier, otherwise I would not have moved this motion. It is good that we have had assurance from the Honourable Minister that it will be completed this year and we look forward to that, and for that Madam Chair I withdraw my motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I now invite the Honourable Ratu Nanovo to move that Head 37 be increased by \$80,000 in Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 5, with respect to Training and Local Government Committee of Enquiry. I give the floor to Honourable Ratu Nanovo to move his motion.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- I move my motion Madam Chair.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Honourable Ratu Nanovo you may speak on your motion.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Thank you Madam Chair. I would like to increase the allocation under this SEG from \$20,000 to \$80,000 because I assume this is the committee that we have been looking for in the Local Government Act. This is the committee that is doing the review of the Local Government Act in order for the local municipal elections to take place. I think we have already been promised three times in this House that the local government election will take place and it has been going on for some time now, commencing right from 2014.

The local government election is quite a massive exercise that needs additional funding so maybe the \$20,000 they have allocated there is a yearly allocation. That is why I want to increase that by \$80,000 so that they can complete this exercise within this financial year, so that we can look forward to the election in the next financial year, thank you Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, I invite input to this motion if any. Honourable Salote Radrodro.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, I would like to support the motion in the House in terms of the increase for that particular allocation. I am supporting the motion particularly so in regards to the review of the Local Government Act. We are assuming, because we have not been given the opportunity to seek clarification, that this will also fast-track the review of the Local Government Act which we have heard in previous sittings, that it is sitting with the Office of the Attorney-General and we are not really sure what the delay is. But we would really like to see that this Act gets reviewed completely so that we will see some kind of new inclusion such as to increase or to include women participation in the local election. Thank you Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you Honourable Radrodro, you will now have your clarification within the debate and I now invite the Honourable Minister to have the floor.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Thank you, Madam Chair. This allocation of \$20,000 is specifically for the Local Government Committee that I have put in place and this committee's scope of work is to see the extension of town boundaries and legislations, but there is no mention of local government elections anywhere. I have said in this Parliament twice, if they can recall, that the review has taken place. It is not only about the election itself. When we talk about review then the whole process will take place. Election is just part of the review, so I can assure the House today that the review is in place and this \$20,000 allocation is purely for the Local Government Committee to run their affairs, thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, I now give the floor to the Honourable Ratu Nanovo for his right of reply.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I think this motion came up when we were asking whether we could seek clarification on issues that had been highlighted over here. But since that was not the case, I assume that this is the only committee mentioned under this local government

allocation and maybe this is the one that is looking after the review and it also includes the municipal council elections. Since that has now been clarified, I will now withdraw that motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Could we have the clarification within the debate, it is much neater. Thank you this motion is withdrawn and I now invite the Honourable Professor Biman Prasad to move that the subsidy be left out of Head 37 in respect of the programme for Local Government, Activity 1, SEG 6.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- I move the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have a seconder, thank you, do you like to speak on your motion.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- I second the motion.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thank you Madam Chair. Actually I was compelled to move this motion because I was seeking clarification. I know the Naboro Landfill is a very important infrastructure that we have had and I also note that there is a second stage provision, but I also know that a private company runs it. All I was interested in asking the Honourable Minister was if this was part of the existing agreement, and I notice that the Assistant Minister is going to answer, when does that agreement come to an end and whether there will be a review to that agreement. If there is a satisfactory answer I will withdraw my motion, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Honourable Lorna Eden.

HON. L. EDEN.- Thank you, Madam Chair.

Madam Chair, this subsidy for Naboro Landfill is, as it says, it is a subsidy to the Councils, who take their rubbish to the Naboro Landfill. As you know there is a gate fee per tonne for rubbish going to the Landfill and the Councils have to pay that. They cannot afford to pay the full amount, so Government subsidises per tonne for the rubbish taken to the Landfill.

You realise that it is quite a distance to get to Naboro, especially for places like Nasinu, so on top of that cost, they also have travel costs which is another reason why we have started on the waste transfer station which will save them costs in the long run and at the same time, decrease this subsidy.

So, once we organise the Waste Transfer Station in Laqere, they will culminate at Laqere, the rubbish will be sorted and compacted and instead of having 100 trucks a day travelling on that road to Naboro, it could be may be 15 or 20. So, it is a subsidy to the Councils for carting their rubbish to Naboro Landfill.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Are there any other inputs? Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A. M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I want to seek further clarification on the subsidy for Naboro Landfill because the existing agreement is that, all those subsidies are applicable to commercial and household refuse. Whether the subsidy paid by Government, I hope that this new subsidy by Government will demarcate commercial users as compared to the household users.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Lorna Eden.

HON. L. EDEN.- Thank you Madam Chair. You are right, there are two different types. There is a commercial type of waste and that would include empty gas bottles, tyres, and things like that. There are two different rates but the subsidy is on an average per tonne. Remember that the commercial wastes do

not come from the Councils, they come from commercial companies, like Fiji Gas. So, they are not entitled to the subsidy. This subsidy is strictly for Council rubbish.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Gavoka.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, this is great dialogue and it is quite illuminating, the template that we now have in place for Naboro because other parts of Fiji would like to emulate all these. I mean, for the Coral Coast, it would be at the sand hills and I believe you would be pulling from as far as the Warwick and down to Natadola and centralising in that area.

I am glad that the question was asked and I am glad that we open up this discussion because it is a template; the transfer point and the collection point that are being contemplated in here, can also be an example that we follow in the Western Division. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being no other input, I invite the Honourable Prof. Biman Prasad to speak in reply.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Madam Chair, I actually want to withdraw the motion but before that, I only wanted to say to the Honourable Minister that, I am hoping that at some time in future that the company which is actually running the Naboro Landfill and once the second stage is completed and the economies of scale in terms of the collection that they are going to make, that the Government will not have to provide any subsidy and that the company itself is going to be profitable in the medium to long term.

On that note, Madam Chair, I withdraw the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. The motion is withdrawn.

There being no amendment approved, the Parliament will vote on Head 37. Does anyone oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	33
Noes	-	14
Not Voted	-	3

(There being 33 ayes, 14 noes and 3 not voted, the Motion is agreed to).

Head 37 agreed to.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you Honourable Members we will now break for morning tea and we will return at 12.00 p.m.

The Parliament adjourned at 11.30 a.m.

The Parliament resumed at 12.02 p.m.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Honourable Members, we will resume from where we left off.

Head 40 - Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport

The floor is now open for any comments on Head 40. Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A. M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I would like to move a motion on Head 40-1-1(6) - Land Transport Authority - Operating Grant (\$19 million), to increase the allocation.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, you may fill in the form. Are there any other comments on Page 265? Honourable Salote Radrodro.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I move a motion to increase Head 40-1-2(6) - Shipping Franchise Scheme (\$2,317,000) by \$3 million.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You may fill in the form. Honourable Ratu Nanovo.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Madam Chair, can I seek clarification on Head 40-1-2(6) - Sea Route Licensing (\$10,000).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- As have been agreed to, would you like to move a motion on that?

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- It seems that this is a new thing altogether, which was not there initially.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- If it is not here, then we are not able to accommodate your request.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- It is here, but what I am trying to imply is that, this is a totally new allocation that is here this year but was not in the Budget last year. Can I seek clarification on that?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Alright, I will permit your clarification on that. Honourable Minister, would you like to clarify on this new allocation?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, he is quite right that this is the first time this allocation has been brought in and this is to implement now with this funding for the Sea Route Licensing

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- I want to move a motion on that, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. You may fill the form.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, Head 40-1-2-(9) – Fiji National Transport Database and Transport Planning Software (\$500,000), can this be explained, Honourable Minister, because at one point we were thinking about a GPS system to track the movement of vehicles over the country? Would this be part of them or something else? .

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. As we had agreed to, you can move a motion and he will clarify within the debate. Our debate now is whether to increase, reduce or

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- But preceding that, Madam Chair, certainly if he explains it, then it will be the end of the matter.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You may move a motion and that will be the end of the matter. You move a motion, please. We have to be consistent with the way that we are running this and we cannot deviate, otherwise there will be a lot of deviation again. Please, I beg your indulgence on that.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- What motion do I move because it is either increase or decrease? How can I increase or decrease on something I do not know?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Have you identified a problem with regards to this allocation?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Now, I am really on the dark about all these. When I sit in financial planning, I have a history, I have a track, before I make a decision. This is really weird, Madam Chair. I am afraid, I am sorry to say that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I am only following the Standing Orders, so either you move to increase or decrease, it is in the Standing Orders.

I give the floor to the Honourable Prem Singh.

HON. P. SINGH.- Madam Chair, on the same note, Head 40-1- 2(9) – Fiji National Transport Database and Transport Planning Software, there is a decrease of \$700,000.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You would like to decrease?

HON. P. SINGH.- If the Honourable Minister could clarify....

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to move a motion for a decrease?

HON. P. SINGH.- No, Madam Chair, I am asking; why there is a decrease.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- (Inaudible)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, would you like to move a motion that you prefer to decrease or increase?

HON. P. SINGH.- I will not be able to move a motion, Madam, unless if the Honourable Minister can clarify this and that will be the end of the matter.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There is an allocation here of \$500,000.

HON. P. SINGH.- Yes, I understand Madam, there is a decrease

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- So, is this not enough?

HON. P. SINGH.- I will not be able to say whether it is enough or not unless the Honourable Minister clarifies. If he can tell us the reason why there is a decrease and if it acceptable, we will not move a motion. Madam Chair, with all due respect, you are encouraging motions and debates. If this can be clarified and by convention, Ministers are allowed to clarify.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Since the two Honourable Members have come up with the same request, I will accommodate the Honourable Gavoka's request and then if you still seek clarification, then we will have clarification on that now, since the two of you are bringing up the same issue.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Yes, thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister, would you like to clarify?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- So, you are asking, why there is a reduction? Alright.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- What is it first?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, there are three phases to this. The first phase took place, the second phase took place and this is the third phase, so we do not need that much money. This money that has been allocated is in consultation with the Ministry and the consultants. That is how this allocation is put in. It is not really an issue of increase or decrease. So, I hope my good friend has understood.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Is that alright with you, Honourable Gavoka?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- I am fine , yes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Can I have the same privilege also, Madam Chair, on Head 40-1-1(6) - Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji – Operating Grant.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You want to move a motion?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Yes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Please, fill a form. Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Yes, Madam Chair, I see a confusion here. On Head 401-2(6) – Shipping Franchise Scheme and on Head 40-1-3(9) – Purchase of Multi-Purpose Vessel.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Let us deal with Activity 2 first, what would you like to do?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I withdraw that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, on Head 40-1-1(10) – LTA – Capital Grant and probably on Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji – Capital Grant, I would like to move a motion on that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. You can fill in the form. Are there any other?

We will move on to Page 267. Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chair, Head 40-1-3(9), I would like to move a motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, please fill up the form.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Are there any others on Page 267? Honourable Ratu Kiliraki.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Head 40-1-3(9) – Purchase of Multi-Purpose Vessel, I would like to move a motion on that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. You can fill up the form. We will move on to Page 269.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, Head 40-1-3(8) - Upgrade of Government Shipping Vessel (\$800,000) , I would like to move a motion on that to increase the allocation.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, you may fill the form. We will move on to Page 269.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Madam Chair, Head 40-2-2(8) - Cyclone Rehabilitation – Vanua Balavu Meteorological Station , I would like to move a motion on that.–.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. You may fill in the form. Honourable Vadei.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Madam Chair, Head 40-2-3(7) – Development and Implementation of ISO 9001:2000 QMS (\$25,000), I would like to move a motion to increase.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, you may fill in the form.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Are there any other on Page 269?

HON. MEMBERS.- No.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, we will move on to Page 271.

HON. MEMBERS.- No.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Page 273?

HON. MEMBERS.- No.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Can we go back to Page 269, Head 40-2-3(9) - Upgrade of Nadi Radar Antenna, I would like to move a motion to that effect.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You can fill in the form. Page 273.

HON. MEMBERS.- No.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Page 275.

HON. MEMBERS.- No.

HON. S.D. KARAVAKI.- We should talk from this side, not that side.

(Chorus of interjections)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Page 275.

HON. MEMBERS.- No.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Page 277.

HON. MEMBERS.- No.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Alright, where are you now, Honourable Kiliraki?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- On Page 271, Head 40-2-5-(7) – Water Resource Investigations, I would like to move a motion on that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, please fill in the form. We are now on to Page 277.

HON. MEMBERS.- No.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Page 279. There are only seven SEGS there. I am taking time, Page 281?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Head 40-3-9-SEG 8 - Electrification of Rural Government Stations, I would like to increase them, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, would you like to fill the form? Any others on Page 281, Page 283?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, on Head 40, Programme 4, Activity 1, SEG 10, on Rural Electrification Project of \$40,396,760, I would like to move a motion to increase that allocation.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to fill the form? We are still on 283 because there are a lot of SEGS there.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- On programme 5, Activity 1, can I get a clarification on SEG 7, the Review of Water Legislation?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- This is the new one?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Yes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- This is a new allocation?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Yes, Madam Chair, the Review of Water Legislation - \$336,000 and the Collation of Water Statistics Data (\$350,000), can I just get a clarification from the Honourable Minister?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Please, clarify, Honourable Minister?

HON. V. NATH.- Madam Chair, for 5-1-7, the Review of Water Legislation, we have got very old legislation. We want to introduce new legislation for the use of water as you know that every drop counts and this is why you can see that there.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- The second one, under Collation of Water Statistics Data?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, this is to do with the collation of the statistics on the data relating to the country's rainfall data right through to the consumption by the different end uses. It also captures the volume of water present from each source and at the same time, forecast water use patterns and its effect on its source. So, we obviously need some technical people to collate that for us, could be from Fiji or outside, it depends but that allocation has been made to ensure that we get that data, so we can make some informed decisions.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We now have all motions that we will deal with now and the first one is by the Honourable Dulakiverata, to move that Head 40 be increased by \$4 million in Programme 1, Activity 3, SEG 5 with respect to Purchase of Multi-Purpose Vessel.

Honourable Dulakiverata, you would like to move your motion?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chair, I move my motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have a seconder?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I beg to second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You may speak on your motion, Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chair, this is for the Purchase of Multi-Purpose Vessel. I would like to move that we increase that allocation on Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 6, Shipping Franchise Scheme, Madam Chair, the motion there is, if you are having that Shipping Franchise Scheme Allocation which means that there is not enough ships in the area and on SEG 9, you are purchasing a new ship so to arrest that shortfall or problem, you have to make additional allocation to purchase an additional ship. That is why I move that we increase that allocation by the same amount.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other input to that motion?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Madam Chair, I have a motion on the same, so I will speak on that one too.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Now that you have got this SEG, which one do you prefer?

HON. RATU KILIRAKI.- I will just contribute to

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- And withdraw yours?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Withdraw mine.

Thank you, Madam Chair. Fiji, as we all know is a maritime island, so the main mode of transportation mostly for the islands is by the vessel. We have the private entrepreneurs that provide that service. There is also the Government, that was the service that was provided by the earlier governments before and we have also the Fisheries Department that is also providing this service in terms of extension and sometimes they bring in people from far out islands like Ogea, Fulaga that are seldom visited by the shipping services. I did not see any allocation for the purchase of vessels on the Head on Fisheries, so the increase is whether the Fisheries could be taken into consideration too for this purpose because we have only the *Tuiniwasabula*, as I have mentioned, the Coastal Fisheries yesterday, for that purpose they used to do before in the Fisheries Department that they generate income from the islands.

For seaweed, even Ono, so far out from transportation services, so for that multi-purpose vessel, it is like "jack-of-all-trade" purpose so for investing \$4 million into a single vessel without a speciality in that vessel, probably will defeat the whole purpose. You will not do this, neither do that, taking into consideration the islands, whether the vessels can go inside the passages or whether they cannot go through the narrow passages, those are some of the issues that most of the islands do not have any jetties.

There was provision for landing crafts, like the *Duiyabaki*, so the service was provided there, particularly on the special design of vessels, so having a multi-purpose vessel here, is neither here nor there The increase probably increase our support because we can address fisheries or even reengaging the shipping yards, so that instead of buying vessels, we can build vessels like before specifically for

Fiji because Fiji is not like any other island but Fiji, so we must be targeting moving towards providing our own vessels that will suit our condition. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Any other input to this motion?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, what is the increase they are asking for?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- \$4 million.

HON. P. B. KUMAR.- From \$4 million to what?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- \$4 million.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Double up?

Alright, the cost of the vessel is \$11.5 million. There is an arrangement with the supplier that this is the first payment that we need to do, we do not have to give them \$11.5 million now. They are going to do a boat for us, it is not going to be an overnight job and it is a multipurpose vessel whereby this vessel will have medical facilities and can go and do navigational activities, et cetera. So, \$4 million for this year is enough for us. Thank you.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I thank the Honourable Minister for his enlightenment. The question I would like to pose to the Honourable Minister is, has the Government considered revitalising the shipbuilding industry since that amount seems to be a quite big amount in terms of building vessel? So, the purchasing of a new vessel, probably part of the increase is for Government to consider revitalising the shipbuilding industry. Thank you, Madam Chair.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, the issues raised by the Honourable Ratu Kiliraki are very pertinent issues but he failed to juxtapose what is actually happening in the shipping industry in Fiji. We have someone like Mr. Ben Naidu, who is about to bring a boat that Honourable Ratu Nanovo came and spoke to me about, asking if we can give him further duty concession because at the moment as you know, the duty on shipping vessels in Fiji used to be 32 percent, plus excise, plus VAT. They are almost 50 percent duty. We brought it down to 5 percent to allow people to be able to bring in vessels. So, the Patterson Brothers, I think the second vessel that they brought into Fiji, they only paid 5 percent duty. Ben Naidu wants to start new shipping services to Kadavu and various other places.

You also have the private sector providing services. That is what the shipping franchise is for, in the same way we provide subsidy to airlines to go to the maritime islands to fly there, we also subsidise private shipping companies to go there as well. The reality is that, it needs to be done by both entities. So, Government obviously decided this would now be the fourth vessel that Government will buy, so we already have three vessels that are already in the waters.

This is a multipurpose vessel, as the honourable Minister highlighted, it has a crane, et cetera, on it. As you know, many of these issues that maritime island face, even though you may have a ship, but you cannot take heavy duty hardware, etcetera, there is a problem with logistics - getting things on and off the ship. So, this multipurpose vessel is also there, for example, to provide medical services, the Minister for Health can piggyback on that; the Minister for Agriculture can piggyback on that; and it does also have the ability to carry passengers and we need these services to the maritime islands. It is not just simply saying; "Let only the Government ownership provide the shipping services." The private sector also provide services. It is good to create private sector in vessel because they have the money readily available, they can source it from the banks, etcetera. So, it is a question of providing services from both ends - public and the private.

As the Honourable Minister has highlighted, the vessel costs about \$11 million and he is absolutely right, these things do not get built overnight. Honourable Radrodro, yes, there used to be a shipbuilding yard, unfortunately, previous Parliaments (I will not say previous Governments) did not do justice to it and it was sold away for a New Zealand company. So, that led to the demise of it and yes, we agree with you that there is an opportunity to have the shipbuilding yard come up again. It needs to have private sector involvement because you need to invest now. Building ships now is no joke, you need to have all the modern day technology in it, and needs all the equipment.

We need some public private partnership arrangement but even if we did do that, it will take some time. It will not take two weeks to build a shipbuilding yard, you have to have the right people to also do it. So, in the meantime what Government is doing, is investing in itself and also at the same time, allowing private sector to come in by reducing duty and by increasing a shipping franchise.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I invite any other input. Honourable Dulakiverata, are you also speaking in reply?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chair. This is my motion and yes, has already been alluded to by Honourable Ratu Kiliraki, we live in maritime zone and the reason for my motion is because of the shipping franchise scheme being promoted by the Government because of the lack of shipping services in the country.

So, I appreciate the comment by the Honourable Minister for Infrastructure and the Honourable Minister for Economy. So, there is a need for a vessel so may be in the future, if we are going to reactivate the shipbuilding industry, then we should be investing in more vessels now to cater for the demand. That is why, Madam Chair, I move the motion to increase the allocation for this multipurpose vessel.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Parliament will now vote on this motion. Does anyone oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	14
Noes	-	30
Not voted	-	6

(There being 14 ayes, 30 noes and 6 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The next motion is by the Honourable Salote Radrodro, to move:

That Head 40-1-2(6) – Shipping Franchise Scheme (\$2,317,000) be increased by \$3 million.

I now give the floor to Honourable Radrodro to move her motion.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chair, I move the motion.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- I do second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You may speak on the motion Honourable Radrodro.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- I thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, I would like to acknowledge the existing shipping franchise arrangement that is currently in place. Right now, I believe they make once a month trip to all the destination that is included in the franchise arrangement.

I am moving the motion that this allocation be increased by \$3 million so as to assist the franchise owners in terms of further subsidising boat fares and also to improve the facilities in the boat. I say this, Madam Chair, because those travelling on the boat can stay in the boat for almost as long as five days and to improve the facilities, to bring some comfort in those long days of travel, particularly to women and children. For those of us who have travelled on those long trips will agree with me that the conditions, the facilities inside the ships are quite challenging for women and children in terms of sanitation within the boat. That is why, Madam Chair, I am moving this motion to increase the allocation by \$3 million to be able to further support the franchise owners in providing better services to our people. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I invite further input to this motion, if any?

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Madam Chair, I think under that allocation, the ships do only visit the uneconomical routes once in a month. Once, we increase the allocation, they can go for twice a month, and also the way the allocation amount was worked out, if that can also be analysed again because that was worked out when I was a Board member for that Board. It was worked out that 40 percent of the total operating cost. If that can go up to say 60 percent, in order to encourage the ship owners to be part of that Scheme and at the same time while doing their shipping business, they can also do some savings in order to buy new ships.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Minister.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, the Honourable Minister for Economy in his deliberation, has very well mentioned about these private shipping companies. I must say that we have private shipping companies, whereby they have assured that they will bring in more ships now. The reason is, you all know that in the same Parliament, we have amended the legislation on the ageing of the ships, and we have been assured that there will be more ships coming in. That is why we need to have a fair play on the individual owners as well, but considering that, I do not think that really there is an issue, but this Government is equally concerned about our maritime people and we are working towards that. I can assure you that, that is the assurance from the individual shipowners. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Salote Radrodro, would you like to speak in reply.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chair I take on board the reaffirmation from the Minister responsible in terms of this motion and particularly, in considering the improvement of services provided by the franchise owners to be able to look after our people better in those days of long travel and which are made more challenging when it comes to very bad weather, thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Parliament will now vote on this motion.

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes : 13

Noes : 31
Not Voted : 6

(There being 13 ayes, 31 noes and 6 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members, I now invite the Honourable Aseri Radrodro to move that Head 40 be increased by \$2 million in Programme 4, Activity 1, SEG 10 with respect to Rural Electrification Projects.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- I move the motion, Madam Chair

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- I second the motion, Madam Chair.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I move this motion because we need clarification from the Minister in terms of the rural electrification projects. I understand that Government has undertaken the exercise of refunding the deposits for all those that have paid deposits for rural electrification. In fact, further to that, whilst the provision of rural electrification has been done for those that have been provided for, there is a need for Government to look at the post-rural electrification project. What has happened during the post-*Cyclone Winston* experience is that, most of the black wires that are coming from the main grids to the homes have been destroyed. These have been left there already for the Minister for his assistance on this particular issue and we are still waiting. So, the request for this increase is to ensure that it is not only providing the electricity but post-administration and maintenance in terms of provision of electricity to rural homes and villages, thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, any other input to this motion?

HON. S.D. KARAVAKI.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to support this motion because I had raised in my Budget address the hospital in Natuvu. I believe this hospital is in the rural areas in Natuvu and I understand the Honourable Prime Minister may be visiting the area very soon. In case he visits that place, and he finds that it is appropriate to provide electricity to this place as soon as possible so that the provision is there, so upon his conviction, when he was there, the funds should be available so that he can assure those people there that the electricity is actually coming to the providers of health services over there. That is the reason why, Madam Chair, I rise to support the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, do you have any other input to this motion?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, we have a programme in regards to this Rural Electrification Programme and year-in year-out, we have witnessed that there have been allocations. These are all programmes for this year and next year, and that is what we have asked for and that is what has been given to us, increasing makes no sense because these are the resources that we have on hand, and this will be completed by next year.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Madam Chair, a lot of our electricity users are located in the rural areas around the country and by supporting this motion, the Minister can also accommodate those who have not been assisted, especially in some areas around the Central and Northern Divisions and some other places. They need rural electrification and with this motion, Madam Chair, that will assist people, especially, the rural communities who need electrification, being the Minister of Energy, also he is very energetic and I am sure he will support us by voting on this motion.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, let me make it very clear, priority will be given for all those rural electrification projects whereby they will deposit and which we have refunded, and then we will add on to the projects that have not been done. Priority will be given to all those who paid their deposit.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, in the consultation process with the Ministry and with the people in the Ministry of Economy, we actually have a list of every single village, I will give you an example, Cikobia Island, Vanua Balavu area, 12 house were damaged; Cikobia Village, school, houses were damaged, cost is \$4,000; Mavana Village, Vanua Balavu, 51 houses were damaged and feeder-pillar, seven of them, street lighting, four and generator overhaul which will cost us \$99,800; all of these have actually been listed and that is how the Budget has been made.

We also then have what we call the systems that have been done, this is again from *Cyclone Winston*. For example, Mavana Village, seven systems completely damaged; 24 systems partly damaged, cost is \$39,115.

Vatusoso, Taveuni, five systems completely damaged. I can go on, Nadua, Nawaisomo, all these places we have actually got the costing of each place, what needs to be done, what system has been damaged, how many black wires, how many poles have gone down, and all of this actually, and just from these two alone, Madam Chair, one is \$4.2 million, the other one actually is \$1.5 million.

This, Madam Chair, is apart from what we call the “grid extension projects” also. In the grid extension project, the Honourable Minister has also highlighted, if you look at SEG 8, that sets out the individual areas in Naitasiri, Tavua, the other grid extension that are taking place in Ba and various other areas within the Western Division including the Northern Division, so there are about three or four projects in respect to that.

The other that Honourable Leawere is talking about where people have already, for example, given their deposits, how that used to work was for example, there will be one area that has about 10 homes and previously, what used to happen, they would be required to give 5 or 10 percent. So, maybe out of the 10 homes, only five gave their money, the other five did not give theirs. So the project did not start.

So those funds were actually languishing within the system itself. So we have returned those monies and those areas have also been given priority and you have the entire list of all those areas that the electricity will be taken to them.

The Fiji Electricity Authority also carried out a workshop for all local qualified electrical companies and they took them through the various training sessions. Now, we understand that there are about 20 companies that have been certified to actually carry out some of these grid works. FEA alone cannot do it, because obviously they do not have men or women power to do it all at once, so they need to outsource it.

Now, within those 20 companies, 10 of them can do high volume and sort of more sophisticated work, the other 10 can do the more simple works, so the ideas also graduate them up. They have been identified and they have been given the smaller projects and you will see a rush of activity. We have been informed by CEO FEA that all the areas were connected to the grid, and the grid got damaged in those areas. They will all be completed by August, they will be fully electrified.

From August onwards, you will see a huge rush into the areas where the grid extensions will be taking place in those areas, and their list is available also as well as from the Honourable Minister and he can provide it to you at a later stage, but these are the different categories of works and that is how monies have been allocated.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Bulitavu.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Thank you. I thank the Honourable Minister for Economy for that explanation. I think that has merged the cyclone rehabilitation works and this particular allocation. This particular allocation, Madam Chair, last year, what was approved was about \$15 million last year and this

year, it is about \$14 million. That \$15 million was before *TC Winston* and this \$14 million was after *TC Winston*.

We just heard a list of those that needs grid repair and all that will fall in here and even other villages will fall under solar and other programmes that are concurrent with the rehabilitation.

But why we are here is the cost. The motion is basically on the increase by \$2 million and to justify that, I do not hear anything from the Honourable Minister, like the allocation given last year before *TC Winston*, how much was used? How much has been utilised and how much remains that necessitate for this decrease when there was a \$15 million last year, and now only \$14 million, given that there will be new villages, new settlements in rural areas and other villages that will be relocated, and all that.

I support the motion, given that the figures cannot be justified and there needs to be an increase.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Do you have any other input? Honourable Aseri Radrodro you may speak in reply.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Thank you Madam Chair. I thank the Honourable Minister for his explanation.

The purpose of the increase in request for the motion is to increase the rural application project due to those who are wanting electrification in the rural areas and also post- electrification projects. That is where the problem arise because the electrification programme is always being done by private contractors and rightly so as mentioned by the Honourable Minister for Economy. However, after that when there is a breakdown or there is a disconnection of the black wire to the grid, that is where the customers or households are told to pay for the cost of the rural electrification contractor and that is where the households cannot afford to pay because of the high charges, as compared to, if FEA is doing it.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on this motion. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	12
Noes	-	32
Not voted	-	6

(There being 12 ayes, 32 noes and 6 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

I now give the floor to Honourable Anare Vadei to move that Head 34 be increased by \$2 million in Programme 2, Activity 3, SEG 9, in respect to the Upgrade of the Nadi Radar Antenna.

Honourable Vadei, would you like to move your motion?

HON. A.T. VADEI.- I move the motion.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Madam Chair. I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Vadei you may speak on the motion.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Thank you Madam Chair. I believe the system has been bought just lately, I do not know what sort of new developments or upgrade they will bring, but I know that it will bring more participation into our aeronautical zone.

The reason why I put an increase is because of the cost that will be involved in the upgrading of this Nadi Radar because of the transitional change from analogue to digital, and I do not know its status so far because I did not have the benefit of asking the question before I submitted my request for an increase..

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Do you have any other input? Honourable Vijay Nath.

HON. V. NATH.- Madam Chair, if the Honourable Member would have known that Nadi Weather Station is number six on the World's Regional Meteorological Centre. The top six are as follows:

1. New Delhi
2. Tokyo
3. La Reunion
4. Maini
5. Washington
6. Fiji

Now, looking at the request he is asking, Madam Chair, we feel this radar station needs to be maintained as the project was tendered in February 2016. Currently, the allocation has been able to cover the cost proposed for the project and due to additional structural work when looking at Category 5 hurricane, we used to have Category 3 all this time. Now, looking at Category 5, the instructions need to be changed, this is why there is an increase, so, whatever is given there is sufficient.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have clarification now Honourable Vadei?

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Thank you Madam Chair. I believe we have gone past *TC Winston* and I hope the fund that is provided now will bring confidence in our society.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will vote on this motion. Does anyone oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	12
Noes	-	31
Not voted	-	7

(There being 12 ayes, 31 noes and 7 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I now give the floor to the Honourable Aseri Radrodro to move that Head 40 be increased by \$1 million in Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 10 with respect to MSAF Capital Grant. I now give the floor to the Honourable Aseri Radrodro to move his motion.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- I move the motion, Madam Chair.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Madam Chair, I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Radrodro you may speak on your motion.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, the purpose behind moving this motion for the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) is because of the opportunity not been given, plus the Honourable Minister on the clarification on Operating Grants. And I think, as always, Maritime Safety Authority looks after the majority of the Fiji Maritime areas and what I would like to request the Honourable Minister, if he could provide a clarification on whether this is the amount of grant that was submitted by the MSAF itself, or it has been reviewed because this usually happens, and probably this is also a similar situation for the motion on Land Transport Authority as well. So, I will go first on the Maritime Safety Authority Grant. A clarification, this is what they put through to the Ministry in terms of the Operating Grant that they requested?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Clarification, please, Honourable Minister.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- (Inaudible) ... decides on the allocation.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Have you heard your clarification?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I did not get that clearly whether this is the amount that they submitted or did the Ministry review it up or review it down.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- That was the amount that was written.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Do we have any other input?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I withdraw that motion on Maritime Safety Authority Grant.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. The motion is withdrawn. I now give the floor the Honourable Aseri Radrodro to move, that Head 40-1-1(10) – Land Transport Authority - Capital Grant (\$6,500,000) be increased by \$1 million..

Honourable Aseri Radrodro, you may move your motion.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I move a motion to increase the Land Transport Authority Operating Grant.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do we have a seconder?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- I second the motion, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Radrodro, would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, same as the last motion, I would like to request the Honourable Minister to clarify that this is what the Land Transport Authority submitted to the Ministry

because I know the amount of work that is involved and the amount that is usually requested, as a former Executive Manager for LTA, we usually request more in the amount being allocated. So, can you just confirm?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, this was the amount that was submitted by LTA.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do we have any other input to the motion before I seek your right of reply? Honourable Vadei.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I hope this allocation factors in the disability, the Bill that is before us.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Any other input? Honourable Karavaki.

HON. S.D. KARAVAKI.- Madam Chair, I rise to support this motion because if this is exactly the amount that LTA had requested and there has not been any alteration done to it, then it would be fine because the initial arrangement that was there between the LTA, with the approval by the Government, that LTA would retain all its income in the year. That was the arrangement. And, whatever is the surplus, after they had prepared their Budget they retain whatever the amount that Budget is and they return to the Government whatever the surplus is.

That is why I am saying, Madam Speaker, if this is the amount that LTA had requested, then it would be the same as the initial arrangement that was there. However, if there has been any alteration done, then I would suggest that this motion should be reconsidered very carefully. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Are there any other input on this motion?

(Silence)

I now give the floor to the Honourable Aseri Radrodro for his right of reply.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chair. The purpose of the request to increase by \$1 million is because of the amount of work that is usually involved in terms of the employees of LTA. As recently been highlighted, is the Tamavua-i-Wai Bridge. Most of the time the LTA officers are stationed there on a 24 hour basis to cater for the monitoring of vehicles that use that road, whether those particular kinds of activity has been accounted for in this \$19 million request and, I therefore, support this motion, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on this motion. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	14
Noes	-	31

Not Voted - 5

(There being 14 ayes, 31 noes and 5 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Again, I will give the floor to Honourable Aseri Radrodro to move:

That Head 40-1-1(6) - Land Transport Authority Operating Grant be increased by \$1 million..

I will give the floor to the Honourable Radrodro to move his motion.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I think that motion has already been discussed just now. It was withdrawn, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- LTA Capital, this is Operating Grant.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- I withdraw that, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- And, in the name of Honourable Aseri Radrodro, to move:

That Head 40-1-1(6) - Maritime Safety Authority Operation Grant (\$3.3 million) be increased by \$1 million.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I think the arrangement that you are calling out is confusing because I think the sum is in regards to Capital and some are relating to Operating. The way you are announcing it, the first one I was mentioning Operating, but now it is supposed to be

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, all these are written by yourself, Honourable Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Alright, I withdraw that motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, the motion is withdrawn.

I will now give the floor to the Honourable Viliame Gavoka to move, that Head 40-3-9(8) - Electrification of Rural Government Stations (\$400,000) be increased by \$600,000..

I now give the floor to Honourable Gavoka to move his motion.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Yes, Madam Chair, I want to move a motion on that subject.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have a seconder?

HON. RATU S. NANOVO.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Gavoka, would you like to speak on the motion?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe this motion is dear to all our hearts, because it involves our people serving out in very difficult locations, in the outer islands and in the hinterland. We know the hardships they go through, creating comforts for their families and also for the ability to carry out their duties.

Electricity is key to all of these, Madam Chair. We are fortunate that most of us switch on the lights, press on the switches and everything happens. I do not know how some of them do it, but some of us here can remember the lantern days, the candles, cooking by firewood and all that. So, we should make it as comfortable as possible for our people serving in the difficult areas. I know in my village, one of the

teachers teach in the outer island, his family lives back home, and they only meet during the school holidays. They do not get hardship allowance, so the difficulties they face are quite huge, given the times we are living in. There was a time, I remember when you were posted anywhere, you did not ask any questions, you went. Those were those days, but now, it is very different, and I think it behoves us as leaders to make sure that wherever they serve, we provide the bare minimum in terms of comforts for them and for the facilities to enable them to carry out their duties.

This particular item may be very illuminating in the sense that we can learn about the other means of providing electricity out in the outer islands, whether it is through solar or whatever means, from the waves or the rivers, but there are a lot of possibilities these days. So, it will be good to have this kind of dialogue and find out what kind of sources of electricity we are tracking to provide this for our people who are serving in the difficult areas.

I remember when I was looking after an estate in Taveuni, I installed a solar power there. They were not easy, I believe that better options that are available today. So, all these kinds of dialogue is important for us to know what can be done and the extent that it can be installed and basically making sure that our people out there are well-looked after.

Madam Chair, I leave it at that and I hope there can be some dialogue on this but we must, as a people, make sure that those we send out to the most difficult parts of the country have the comfort and electricity is key to provide that kind of comfort. Thank you, Madam Chair.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Madam Chair, in support of the motion, I would like to say that with the absence of the main supply of power from the source, the issue of whether there is any funding for electrification of government stations in terms of the rural areas is very important. Most of these stations, especially nursing stations, they do have appliances at home like fridges and they need that to keep the medicines safely and in the absence of power, it is very very difficult. However, the provision of generators to these outer stations, remote islands and in the interior, will facilitate the safekeeping of these medicine. Madam Chair, not only that, most of these Government stations are located closer to schools as well and the schools can also benefit from this provision of generators.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, the allocations in the Budget is for specific purposes and here and we are talking about Government stations. In this regard, we have generators placed in all these Government stations so this is basically for the safety and operation of the generators that we have already in place. However, there is a plan and it will not come overnight as I have said in other occasions, that we are moving towards solar as well. There is no doubt at all, but for now, we have to maintain the generators that we have in place and we have five generators in five government stations.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Vadei?

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Madam Chair, I wish to contribute to the motion and to attract quality services in our rural and remote areas, we need to upgrade the stations that they operate from. From the WHO and Ministry of Health Report 2012, it stated that only 40 percent of the community or society had quality medical services, so I support the motion, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Gavoka, would you like to speak in reply?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Yes, Madam Chair, that is clearer now, but it must be over, so we keep striving to bring everything up to a standard that we would like them to enjoy. The comment by my colleague, Honourable Leawere about nurses, that is quite sad but it is the reality of life in Fiji today, and we must as leaders continue to improve on this one on a year-by-year basis.

Madam Chair, I propose that we increase this budget. It is for a good course, and I think it will be welcomed by our people who are serving out in the most difficult parts of the country.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Parliament will now vote on this motion. Does any member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	:	14
Noes	:	32
Not Voted	:	4

(There being 14 ayes, 32 noes and 4 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I now give the floor to the Honourable Bulitavu to move, that Head 40-2-2(8) - Cyclone Rehabilitation - Vanua Balavu Meteorological Station (\$550,000) be increased by \$500,000.

I now give the floor to Honourable Bulitavu.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- I move the motion, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have a seconder?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Bulitavu, would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Yes, Madam Chair, this is a new item, given that it is rehabilitation works being carried out at the Vanua Balavu Meteorological Station. However, I want to seek clarification from the Honourable Minister that \$550,000 which is being allocated, does it also cater for the station, the equipment and the quarters of the staff?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Thank you, Madam Chair, the allocation is for the new office building and toilet facilities, new staff quarters, fencing, footpath, water tanks, solar unit, shipping and other expenses.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Thank you, Madam Chair. Given the list given by the Honourable Minister, I think there should be an increase, given that he has not given any cost beside the list that he has given. Again, I am satisfied with the explanation that it caters for what was the purpose of the motion, and I withdraw the motion.

HON. CDR. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- *Vinaka, vinaka!* That's the spirit.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Bulitavu, I give you the floor to move, that Head 40-2-3(8) – Construction of New Labasa Weather Office (\$1,250,200) be increased by \$500,000.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- I move the motion, Madam Chair.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Bilitavu, would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Yes, Madam Chair, I think last year about \$700,000 was allocated for this. I do not really know the phases of work but again, this year, it is \$1.2 million, another \$500,000 has been allocated for the same project. I would like a clarification from the Honourable Minister as to what phases of work has this particular project proceeded into and given that the motion is for an increase of \$500,000, whether that can be clarified first before I can further comment on the motion?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Let me, this time around, give him the breakdown and the cost as well. The building will cost \$600,000; Road Access and Drainage - \$303,000; Furniture - \$10,000; Telecommunications - \$50,000; Computers & Printers - \$20,000; Standby Gen-Set - \$30,000; 8 Fire Systems - \$10,000; Fencing & Electronic Gate - \$20,000; Electricity - \$15,000; Telecom - \$5,000; Water - \$2,000; Air-Conditioning - \$40,000. Anything else?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Madam Chair, I thank the Honourable Minister that he has given the list together with the costs but he has not even answered the question whether that will be in full operation or there will still be development costs and whether work will still need to be done before the new weather station will be in full operation?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- The only thing I heard was the capital development and that is why I have given the breakdown of the capital works. Thank you, Madam Chair.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Given that it is only for capital works, Madam Chair, I stand by the motion, that \$500,000 be increased for this allocation so that the weather station is in full use and will be beneficial to the people in the North.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Parliament will now vote on your motion.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chair, sorry, but let me clarify this. I think there is a clear distinction between the two. Labasa already has a station at Vatudova, this is the office. Thank you, Madam Chair. There is a weather station already in Vatudova, constructed 3 years ago, but this is the office.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Therefore, Parliament will vote on the motion. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	14
Noes	-	31
Not Voted	-	5

(There being 14 ayes, 31 noes and 5 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I will now invite Honourable Dulakiverata to move his motion that Head 40 be increased by \$500,000 in Programme 4, Activity 1, SEG 10, with respect to cyclone rehabilitation of solar home system. Honourable Dulakiverata, would you like to move your motion?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chair, I move my motion

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do we have a seconder?

HON. A.M RADRODRO.- I second the motion

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I invite Honourable Dulakiverata to speak on his motion..

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you Madam Chair. As we all know, not all the areas have been connected to the electricity grid and most of the rural areas depend on the solar and diesel engines for the provision of electricity. So Madam Speaker, after *Cyclone Winston*, there were a lot of damages been done and now we are in the seventh month after the cyclone and we know a lot of people have not been restored with all these provisions and to accelerate the maintenance of all ordinary repairs of these systems, I move that we increase the allocation to this.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Do you have any other input to this motion? Honourable Ratu Isoa Tikoca.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- In support of the motion, Madam Chair, I also seek or rather request the Honourable Minister if he could consider rural electrification where they are still using lines and if that could be dug on to the ground because of cyclone issues that we know that are going to be quite repetitive this time because of climate change, maybe in support of the motion and the increase that could be considered too as well.. Thank you Madam Speaker.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Now Parliament will vote on the motion.. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	14
Noes	-	31
Not Voted	-	5

(There being 14 ayes, 31 noes and 5 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I now invite the Honourable Bilitavu to move his motion that Head 40 be increased by \$400,000 in Programme 4, Activity 1, SEG 8 with respect to renewable energy development project. Honourable. Bilitavu, would you like to move your motion?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Yes, Madam Chair. I would like to move the motion

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have a seconder?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- I second the motion

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Bilitavu, would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Madam Chair, I think the allocation is not enough, given the trend now that we should be moving towards more greener solutions and towards more televised renewable energy projects that will probably come in with a new economic cycle, based on renewable energy I think we should move towards that and more projects and I think this allocation must be increased with the amount that is listed in the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Do we have any input to this motion? Honourable Minister?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.-Madam Chair, I just wanted to get this confirmed, is this 418 on the grid extension project on renewable energy project?

HON. MEMBERS.- Renewable Energy.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 4, Activity 1 - SEG 8.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Thank you, Madam Chair. The allocation that is being shown here is based on the investigation that was done and that is why you will see this amount appearing here and as I have said so many times that there is specific allocations for specific projects. It is no point saying “we want this, we want that”. This is a budget. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.-Do we have any other input? Honourable Bulitavu, would you like to speak in reply?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU: Yes, Madam Chair, I did not get anything from the Honourable Minister. He is referring to the Budget and there is a specific allocation on that, given previous experiences, I am of the view that this needs to be increased, given Fiji’s commitment to the Paris Agreement that more of these type of projects need be reflected in the budget, given our commitment to that, more towards greener solutions from the renewable energy industry that we have. That is the basis and I stand with the motion, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on the motion. Does anyone oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	13
Noes	-	31
Not Voted	-	6

(There being 13 ayes, 31 noes and 6 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I now invite Honourable Aseri Radrodro to move that Head 40 be increased by \$200,000 in Programme 1, Activity 3, SEG 8, with respect of upgrade of Government shipping vessel. I now invite the Honourable Radrodro to move his motion.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- I move the motion, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have a seconder?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Radrodro, would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam, Chair, on the provision of the motion, the upgrading of shipping vessel, \$800,000, the amount provided last year was \$500,00 and this year has been provided for \$800,000. I need a clarification from the Honourable Minister whether the work that was supposed to be done last year is now being added to this year's allocation? Thank you.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Thank you, Madam Chair. The additional \$300,000 that is required is for the navigational equipment, which is the extra that will go in now. That is the difference, which is why there is a variance of \$300,000.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- That is much clearer, Madam Chair, and I withdraw the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I will now invite the Honourable Vadei to move his motion that Head 40 be increased by \$100,000 in Programme 2, Activity 3, SEG 7, with respect to development and implementation of ISO 9001: 2000 QMS. Honourable Vadei, would you like to move your motion?

HON. A.T. VADEI.- I move, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have a seconder?

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- I second the motion, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Vadei, would you like to second on the motion?

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Thank you, Madam Chair, and Members of Parliament, I would like to thank the Government for taking on board the international standards and adopt some of our guiding principles in our various government Ministries. In ISO 9001:2000 Quality management system, the cost is \$25,000 as highlighted in the Budget Supplement, and I believe this is a costly exercise to have ISO 9001:2000 accreditation, and I do not know what status of ISO standing that these meteorological services, weather forecasting services need to upgrade to or develop, and what implementation stages they are up to. So I believe the \$25,000 is too small, that is why I propose for an increase of \$100,000 in that development and the implementation of ISO 9001. Thank you Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you and I invite input to this debate. Honourable Minister.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- The answer is very short, Madam Chair. This allocation is for the training.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Madam Chair, I withdraw that because I did not have the benefit to ask him. Thank you, Madam Chair

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- So it is clarified now, just withdraw.

HON. A.T. VADEI.- Yes, withdraw.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I now invite the Honourable Ratu Kiniviliame Kiliraki to move that Head 40 be increased by \$33,400 in Programme 2, Activity 5, SEG 7 – with respect to Water Resource Investigation. Honourable Ratu Kiliraki, try to move your motion.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- I move the motion, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do we have a seconder?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- I beg to second the motion.

Honourable Ratu Kiliraki, would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Yes, firstly, I need clarification as to the role of this water resource investigation. As you know, Madam Chair, that water is very important in terms of our need as people and also for any activities in relation to agriculture, the preservation of water. And also in regards to environment, if I can get a clarification as to what the resource investigation is, probably then I will move that motion, therefore, an increase.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to respond, Honourable Minister?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Thank you, Madam Chair. This allocation is specifically to cater for the identification of the new water resource sites, data collection for reference and investigation. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Would you like to speak further on this motion, Honourable Kiliraki?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Madam Chair, whether this amount is enough in terms of our resources in the water, as you know Suva is currently in the project to be sourced from Sovi Basin and it would also be the other major centres with a high density of population, but also the availability of water in the drought stricken areas. My question is, whether this is enough for the whole nation?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Honourable Minister.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Yes, it is enough. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to contribute to the motion. This is also part of what was raised yesterday where a lot of settlements, villages and areas that are not accessible to water or piped water supply. There are a number of big water projects that had been planned but not implemented and these people continue to suffer with the shortage of water.

Last week I was in Tailevu, in Namara, where I met people from the Water Authority of Fiji coming to one of the villages there, asking if they can identify to them some of the water resources that are there for them to develop, to supplement their water supply.

So these are the types of investigations that is required here and if we have only \$17,400 for the whole country, I think it is not enough, considering the number of people that are not accessible to water, which need these facilities. For that, Madam Chair, I support the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Minister.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chair, again, let me just clarify this again. There is a clear distinction between the provision of water and the investigation, collection of data and the monitoring.

This Hydrology Unit is not responsible for the provision of water. Provision of water is with the Water Authority of Fiji and they have the urban and rural components and likewise with the Ministry of Land Resources, the Hydrology Unit as well and they focus mainly on rivers and streams and underground water. This Hydrology Unit was a component of WAF until *Cyclone Evans* of 2012 because this is more the scientific component, they provide the technicalities.

For example, if there is a water source identified in Naitasiri, they will do the monitoring during the peak period and during the low periods as well, to see if it can be sustainable in the long-term because of changing weather patterns nowadays, Madam Chair, most of the water sources in our rural communities are drying up, simply because the scientific investigations were not thoroughly done then, so it is a distinction. Provision of water is a separate entity, this is mostly the scientific and technical investigations and monitoring, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Do you have any input? Honourable Ratu Kiliraki, for your right of reply.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Thank you. The Honourable Minister just convinced me that I stand with the motion to increase so that the investigation, especially the islands that need water and most of those islands are coral atolls and they have been collecting water for centuries in the underground caves. So those are the resources that need to be investigated so that they do not run out of water in times of dry season.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on this motion. Does anyone oppose this motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	12
Noes	-	28
Not Voted	-	10

(There being 12 ayes, 28 noes and 10 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I now invite the Honourable Ratu Nanovo to move that sea route licenses be left out of Head 40 in respect of Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 6, I now invite the Honourable Ratu Nanovo to move his motion.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- I move the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Ratu Nanovo, would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Thank you once again, Madam Chair. I think this is in relation to the shipping franchise scheme whereby, at one time they were asking for all the routes to be licensed. The

routes to be licensed involve the uneconomical routes around Fiji and that includes the routes in the Northern Lau, Southern Lau, Southern off Kadavu, Yasawa, and so on.

At that time, we were not in favour of that because there were so many second-hand boats at that time and we were worried, if they were given the sea route licence and normally the licence will take up to three or four years and if their boats do get damaged within that period, they will hold on to that licence during that period, or they will do something else in order to keep on holding on to the licence.

So we did not agree to that and considering what is in place right now, there are still so many second-hand boats servicing the outer islands right now. We are glad that the Honourable Minister for Infrastructure also advised that many of them are trying to get new boats right now. We have seen the plight of passengers when they do travel in old boats and the time taken, and the uncomfotability that they face during rough weather out there in the sea in these second-hand boats.

For this, Madam Chair, I am putting forward to the floor, if this can be held back for a while until we get, say, five or six new boats into the system then we introduce this scheme of imposing sea-route licensing. In the meantime, we just do with what we are doing at the moment, until such time arrives we will hold on to this for the time being. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I invite input to this debate. There being no input, would you like to make concluding remarks or shall we put it to the vote? Parliament will vote on this motion. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will now vote.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	11
Noes	-	28
Not voted	-	11

(There being 11 ayes, 28 noes and 11 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members, because no amendment was approved, we will now vote on Head No. 40. The question is, that the amount of Head No. 40 – Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport be approved. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will now vote.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	28
Noes	-	12
Not voted	-	10

Motion is agreed to.

Head 40 agreed to.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you Honourable Members. We will now break for lunch and we will return at 14.37 on the dot. Thank you, Honourable Members.

The Parliament is now suspended.

The Parliament adjourned at 1.37 p.m.

The Parliament resumed at 2.48 pm

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members, we have a quorum?

HON. MEMBERS.- Yes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- And we will continue from where we left off.

Head No. 41 - Water Authority of Fiji

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments on Head 41, page 287.
No comments on page 287?

HON. MEMBERS. - No.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you very much. Parliament will vote on Head No. 41. The question is, that the amount on Head 41 – Water Authority of Fiji be approved. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will now vote.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	27
Noes	-	4
Not voted	-	19

(There being 27 ayes, 4 noes and 19 not voted, the Motion is agreed to).

Head 41 agreed to.

Head No. 43 - Fiji Roads Authority

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is open for any comments. Yes, Honourable Dulakiverata,, you have the floor.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chair, Programme 1, Activity1, SEG 10 on capital grant.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to move a motion?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Yes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, please, fill the form. Are there any other comments? Honourable Viliame Gavoka.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Yes. 43-1-1-SEG 10 – Cyclone Rehabilitation Works, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to fill the form, please? Are there any other inputs? Could we have the amendments forms? Do you have the forms?

Fiji Water Authority, we are still on page 289. Are there any input if you like? Page 289? Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, 1-1-SEG 10 – Capital Grant - Fiji Roads Authority, I would like to move a motion on that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Please fill the form. Thank you, there being no other input?

We will move on to the motions for amendment and the first one is by the Honourable Viliame Gavoka, to move that Head 43, FRA be increased by \$20 million in Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 10, with respect to Cyclone Rehabilitation Roads, Bridges and Jetties. I give the floor to the Honourable Gavoka to move his motion.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Yes, Madam Chair, I move the motion to increase that by \$20 million.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do we have a seconder?

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Honourable Gavoka, would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, the motion stems from the fact that very little is known about what is happening to repair damages by *Cyclone Winston*. As you remember, Madam Chair, immediately after *TC Winston*, we all went out, the Government and the Opposition, to visit the damages, the devastation of *TC Winston* and all those areas that were affected and the damages, Madam Chair, as everyone knows, was unprecedented on a scale that Fiji had ever known.

We went out, Madam Chair, speaking with the people who were living in misery and we promised them that we would move mountains to ensure that they recovered from this; that immediately they would be provided with the immediate needs; and that we would restore their lives to what was there before *TC Winston*.

We came back, Madam Chair, and we asked for a special sitting of Parliament, using the Constitution. We wrote to His Excellency the President that with the required number, all he had to do was to approve or to call Parliament...

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- For legal advice.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- ...but, Madam Chair, it was not to be, because the way we read the Constitution is that with a certain number of Parliamentarians requesting for a sitting, the President must call Parliament. There was to be no discussion, we met the criteria ...

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- No you did not.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- ... we met the minimum standard and we were amazed that there was dialogue

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- Parliament was not sitting.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- There was dialogue outside of the request and the end result was that there was no special sitting of Parliament. If we had sat together for two or three days; we all wanted to be united; we all wanted to be one to go out together and help our people; we all wanted that, it was not a time for photo opportunities and the way it looks, that appeared to be the primary motivation of the FijiFirst Party, to have photo opportunities at a time like that.

We were ready to help, we were ready sit here with you, we were ready to listen to what you proposed, and you would have helped ...

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- (inaudible)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- ... in any way through a Parliament, so that the people of Fiji could see us together as one, helping those who were affected by *TC Winston*. But you denied this opportunity and

it was a sad day for Fiji that that happened; that we did not become one to unify and to look after our people. The global community would have applauded that the Parliament of Fiji had acted as one ...

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- ... marshalling, mobilising the goodwill and the resources of the people to help the people of Fiji. Instead, Madam Chair, FijiFirst decided to do it alone.

Madam Chair, we were in Ba last week, and I hope the people would hear what the farmers of Ba were saying when they saw those roofs being blown away in February and these are still not repaired. I would ask you to have your ears on the ground and let them tell you the truth. I ended up defending some of you, to be honest. I ended up saying, "Look, the Minister will look into it." There were so disappointed. This is what I was saying today, Madam Chair, this provision is not enough, we need to put more into it, to reflect what we believe is the real situation out there.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, I am asking for a \$20 million increase to this and not a reduction, so can we try not to have a selected hearing, we hear a lot of that in this room?

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, we want to hear a more definitive programme on what you are going to do and how to do it. It is too late in the day, it is still there, what you are saying in public is what people see are two different things altogether. You tell a very good story, Doctor Reddy, and I had to apologise on our behalf in Ba. There is this farmer who came from Ba to Suva, when he went back, he said, "what is he talking about?, the roofs are still not replaced, the schools are still damaged, what is he talking about?" I am telling you the truth.

I am telling you the truth, I do not go and fish for that kind of stuff. In the streets in Labasa, as I was saying, a gentleman stopped me, unbelievably voted for you, he said "Parliamentarian, Parliamentarian", I said "yes, Sir". He replied, "The schools are closed because of no water", I said "okay". My good buddy, Brij was there and I pass on the number to ...

(Chorus of interjections)

So, please, those who are thinking that everything is hunker down, there are lots of issues out there about *TC Winston* and that is why, Madam Chair, we need to increase this by \$20 million. We need from Government a complete list of what needs to be done and I can assure you, Madam Chair, this is still not enough. Like I said, during *TC Winston*, we saw the Minister and we told him, "We will move mountains". We wanted to come here and work with you to move mountains to bring back what they had lost but you did not want to.

Their opportunities on how to raise revenues, opportunities on how to cut back elsewhere, opportunities on how to go together as one but you wanted to be the main boy. You will pay for it, go out here now and see for yourself, it is a mass out there and people are asking the question, when will this happen?

You have been saying this year, you will be saying next month but the people who are listening now when they look up they see a roof up there which has not being replaced, you have creditability, I am afraid. Madam Chair, we need to increase this and we can be part of you. We were part of you, we even contributed from our pockets to give you the money to go and help. You did not put anything out of your pocket to help. We take money out of our pockets to help.

(Chorus of interjections from the Government)

What other form of goodwill do you want from us? We took money out of our pockets and we gave it to the Honourable Prime Minister, "Prime Minister here is your fund to help in the rehabilitation, this is from the Opposition". What other goodwill do you want? That was goodwill and that was really part of you to be one, unite the country and there is always a problem. Today, it is still not being done. Madam Chair, this is why we need to improve and increase by \$20 million. Thank you, Madam Chair.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, it is our responsibility not to drag His Excellency's name into this frame because there has been an allegation made by His Excellency the President saying that he did not follow the provisions in the Standing Orders. If the Opposition has not got the right legal advice, please do not drag the name of the Head of the State of this country into this frame. Let us not politicise the Head of the State.

I refer you Honourable Gavoka to Standing Order 21 (3). It says and I quote: "The President can call Parliament, if it is not in session."

Honourable Gavoka, I will refer you to the definition of "Session" under Standing Order 3. It means that when Parliament commences when it is prorogued that is in session. It is only in the period when it is no longer in session can His Excellency the President after one-third of the Members of Parliament request for it to be called, he or she can convene or she can convene Parliament. That is the real definition, so please, if you want to have a go at us, that is fine, we take it on the chin. But let us not drag His Excellency the President, the Head of the Republic of Fiji's name into it because despite having four lawyers on your side, you got the legal premise wrong.

Madam Chair, the reality that this work, when you do rehabilitation work on roads, bridges, jetties, you simply do not go and do a step stick job, as the Honourable Minister has always referred to slides and swings. You actually need to build these things back to standards, so it does not get washed away as some of them did previously. We have a list here of every specific culvert, bridge, crossing, road, seawall, over slip, under slip that have been washed away that accounts for every single cent on the \$31 million that is set out here. It is all over Fiji, wherever there has been damaged to infrastructure which falls under FRA. This will also be published in the *Fiji Sun* and you will note that we will also be similarly doing that for other organisation. Yes, we will be and you know they have received the contract and we have got a very good pricing with them and that is what will be done.

The reality is that everything is out in the open. The reality is, that this was the second strongest storm recorded ever in the world history, the strongest ever in the Southern Hemisphere. But the other side is trying to present, as if nothing was done. \$88 million is already being dispersed for people to build their own homes. The Minister for Natural Disaster Management has provided immediate relief supplies. All of this work has been done and you will see an escalation in the works that will commence. We also have a separate allocation in Head 50 to a tune of about \$132 million, where school specifically will be repaired in particular, grades three, four and five damages. We have collaborated with the engineers in Fiji, the engineers have also pointed out to us that many of the infrastructure, many of the structures that existed did not even comply with basic engineering standards and I am talking about public buildings too.

The work is being done, we are quite happy to share this with you, as it will be public knowledge once this Budget is approved and this will take care of that. To personalise matters with someone who did see Dr Reddy or Dr Brij Lal is not the point. The point is, if we do want to work together, we have to ensure that we build back better infrastructure and completely well.

Madam Chair, I would like to just point that out and we also have in the FRA Budget, as stated within the ration, the new work is starting, we also have a list here specifically of the new projects that we will commence, including from rural street lighting to all sorts of other areas that we are continuing to

ensure that our assets actually gets looked after. Now everyone has talked about the Tamavua-i-Wai Bridge.

The reason why it has happened, obviously is because for a number of years, many assets as we have highlighted continuously in this Parliament, when they were built, there was not a programme to ensure a regular maintenance of those assets. We need to continuously do that and that is why this programme has been rolled out. The Honourable Minister for Infrastructure also highlighted that the expenditure that we have in this particular Head will, over a period of time, diminish or reduce once we catch up with a lot of the maintenance that needs to be undertaken. So, Madam Chair, I would like to put that to the floor. Thank you.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thank you, Madam Chair, I always like to support Honourable Gavoka in many of the things he says, he calls 'faith as faith' and he is quite passionate about his presentations and his suggestions and he is obviously, a very, very positive forward looking Member of Parliament on this side of the House. His motion, Madam Chair reflects the overall comment that we made about this Budget and issues that we have raised before with respect to FRA Budgets in 2014 and 2015.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- His motion, Madam Chair, reflects the overall comment that we made above this Budgets and issues that we have raised before with respect FRA Budget in 2014 and 2015.

We know, Madam Chair, that some of the allocations for Fiji Roads Authority were underspent and we have very, very serious questions about the value for money, about how expenditures are used, whether we are prioritising the expenditure the way we should be, because all these hoo-hah about this Budget addressing post-*Cyclone Winston* recovery falls apart, Madam Chair, for two reasons.

Firstly, we are continuing to impose the burden of the poor and the example I gave in the last Budget was the imposition of the nine per cent VAT on basic food items, and it is raising about \$130 million revenue. People who are affected by *Cyclone Winston* are using their meagre incomes, of course, with the help of Government to rebuild and yet, instead of keeping the FRA Budget somewhere around \$527.2 million and then saying that we only need \$31 million for Cyclone Rehabilitation works, for roads, bridges and jetties means, Madam Chair, that this Government could have realigned some of the expenditure here and given relief to people elsewhere. That is the point we are making. We are not saying that borrowing is bad. We are not saying that Government ignored that. We are saying that this borrowing that this Government has done, \$620 million for this Budget was unnecessary. They should have reprioritised the expenditure to deal with post-cyclone recovery specifically.

Children need to get back to proper classrooms. I know Honourable Gavoka just defended Honourable. Reddy but this is the broader point we are trying to make and I think Honourable Gavoka's motion stems from the fact that when he saw that allocation of only \$31 million, out of a total allocation of \$527 million specifically for Fiji Roads Authority, he was obviously right to say whether that is enough or not. I know the Honourable Attorney-General has pointed out the list of things that they have to do. He may well be correct but the point remains. Even if you do not increase the post-cyclone recovery efforts, what we should have done was to look at relief in other areas and that is the point about this Budget, that this Budget was not well-thought out in terms of focusing on post-cyclone recovery because there are a lot of other things, Madam Chair, that people need.

We need more funds for Agriculture and we showed them over the last one and a half days, in terms of our motions for reallocation of expenditure where we felt that it was necessary to bring things up so it is a very thoughtful motion that we need to question that. I suggest, Madam Chair, while I have the floor is for the Government to get an expert independent audit of all the work that has been done by FRA over the last two years, the quality of the work, the value for money, and this Parliament should actually have that report because it is a huge expenditure. We are not opposed to building roads and bridges. Every government has done that. This is not the first government which has built roads and water supply and

electricity. Every government over the last so many years, Madam Chair, I have grown up seeing governments build. Yesterday, someone talked about squatter settlements. It was the NFP which negotiated with the landowners. Namadai and Howell Road squatter settlements now have proper houses there. These are examples of things that other governments have done, so let us not brag about that we are the only Parliament, the only Government which has done all these

HON. A. SAYED KHAIYUM.- That is the truth.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- . This is the point we are trying to make, let us not brag about what you are doing. We acknowledge and we have time and again acknowledged the good things that you are doing. We have done that. I did that yesterday, commended the Ministers, what else you want. You want us to come and bow down to you people and say, “Look, thank you very much”, is that what you want us to do?

We are saying, Madam Chair, this Budget was about reprioritising, relooking at our expenditure, relooking at our fiscal responsibility and making sure that we address all the needs of post-cyclone recovery. Thank you, Madam Chair, and I support this motion.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, can I provide a clarification, please.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Sure, you can speak once more.

HON. S.A. KHAIYUM.- Because they have opened the door again to the past, let us talk about the past.

(Chorus of interjections)

Madam Chair, when Honourable Prasad was elected to this Parliament, I actually thought because he is an economist, he is going to come and give some very useful

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Do not personalise.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- You are just personalising with us. You did, you said you want to worship us, that is personalisation. You said “individually”, that is what you said.

Madam Chair, the point is this, when a government in the past spends 85 per cent, this government’s expenditure has been that 60 per cent of the Budget spend goes on Operating Expenditure and 40 percent on Capital Expenditure.

In 2006, the Expenditure was 85 percent, Operating, 15 percent Capital Works. That is all you need to say. If you look at a Government that spends 15 per cent of its Budget, in Asset Build or Capital Expenditure, then you have a Government that spends 40 percent, obviously they are building more, obviously they are doing more in asset build. That is all we are saying and that anyone understands. Yes, there were programmes in the past, what we have said, the escalation has been significant, almost three-fold. I am not going to labour the point.

The point also that they have raised is about VAT. Time and time again, they are ignoring statistics, the Reserve Bank of Fiji has done an independent assessment that with the reduction of VAT from 15 per cent to nine percent, reduces the CPI index by 4.5 percent on a basket of groceries. The six or seven items that they talked about where VAT actually has increased are not the only thing an individual family survives on. They were paying 15 per cent VAT on tinned meat. They were paying 15 per cent on onions, garlic, soap, toilet paper, other foods that they have bought from the supermarkets, other items that they bought for day to day living: toothpaste, sanitary pads, shoes, clothes, anything else that you require, the

price has come down and, Madam Chair, we will also make sure that, that reduction was passed on to the consumers.

We brought a new law and 32 companies have been issued notices, and they have paid fines to make sure that that passing on of the reduction in VAT is passed on to the consumers, so to continuously say, it is factually incorrect to say that the cost of food in Fiji, the basket has gone up, it has not, because the fact is, people simply do not survive on cooking oil, they simply do not survive on flour. They need other ingredients to be able to contribute, they need cooking gas and that has been reduced so, Madam Chair, I think it is completely misleading to say that because of these six or seven items attracting VAT, the cost of living or the cost of groceries has gone up, it has not. It has been recognised by an independent body, so the reality also is that, the Honourable Minister for Poverty Alleviation immediately had released over \$20 million to pay three months on top of the normal welfare payments to social welfare recipient, to people who receive child protection allowance, to people who receive pensions, all of these people were given a three months top up, to ensure that the people who are on the bottom end of socio-economic status, in fact were given these additional funds. Of course, coupled with that, on a continuous basis we have free water, subsidised electricity, medicine, free education, et cetera. All of those things actually reduce the overall cost of living in Fiji. Of course, we need to sharpen things up. And it is not only done by Government, we need to inculcate a business culture amongst the businesses in Fiji, not to rip people off. We have continuously said right since 2014, that businesses in Fiji need to be a lot more competitive and we will try and create as much intervention in the market without upsetting the fundamentals of the market to ensure that those reductions in duty, in tariff, and cartelling is removed. So it is an overall strategy but to use that as an example, to say that we have not looked after the people of Fiji, that is not correct.

We do not want anyone to bow down to us. Please do not denigrate it. Dr. Reddy does not want anyone to do this to him, no one wants that. All we are saying is that, when we are having discussions about such matters when we, as they say are to talk about the future, let us be factually correct. Now, if they do want to move a motion on this, they want to increase it. What we are saying, we were actually lucky. From one perspective, that the vast, major highways, et cetera were not washed away. That the major water reticulated systems in Suva and all of those areas were not washed away. It was devastating for those areas where the cyclone went through and this targeted expenditure is exactly that, it is targeted.

So the assessment has been done by the Honourable Minister for Natural Disaster Management, the Minister for Infrastructure and Works, the FRA, the Water Authority of Fiji to have a targeted attention and all of these works here, the \$31 million, Honourable Madam Chair, if they all need to get done, they will need to get done and we have done so. Obviously, if there are any new infrastructure that comes to the fore and say that this was damaged by the cyclone, they will source from within to ensure it does get addressed, the major focus is that. But giving another \$50 million, when you do not actually need for roads, bridges and jetties, what will that achieve; that is the point. What will it achieve if the proper assessment has been done, and they are telling us that we need only \$31 million so let us leave that amount and if there is any additional amount, the FRA can source within, and we have told them to do that.

HON. SPEAKER.- Thank you. The Honourable Prof. Biman Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Madam Chair, I just need to make a clarification. I think the Attorney General referred to me, as personalising the issue to Dr Reddy. It was a general point to the Government, and let me also say to him that we are quite happy that this Government actually took right from our manifesto where we talked about reducing VAT in the 2014 Elections, from 15 to 10 percent. As an Economist, we knew, I knew that was the best thing to do and Government reduced VAT from 15 to nine percent because I said 10 percent. But they actually went further and put another nine percent on basic food items.

So, we do provide good ideas and all I was saying that Government should not. We have had references from Ministers from the other side, on many occasions, that we should go to them and talk to

them politely and we do. We do try and bring issues to them, so it is not, Madam Chair, personalising the issue. I hope the Attorney General is satisfied with that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Do you have any other input, Honourable Minister for Agriculture?

HON. LT. COL. I. B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chair, can I just quickly again talk about the recovery because this has been brought in again by the Honourable Gavoka. The Opposition needs to understand this very well, Madam Chair. In recovery, we take multi-ladder approaches: one is saving lives that is immediate, saving lives. Consequently and in simultaneously, we also have sustaining lives, that is the provision of food, provision of temporary shelter. It is alright for people to live in tents or under tarpaulins in the mean time because that is temporary, Madam Chair. And we have what we call, rebuilding lives. Rebuilding lives takes time and, I have already alluded to this earlier on, Madam Chair. People need to understand this, they do not have to defend Government and they do not have to defend Dr. Reddy. They have to tell the people the truth and the truth, Madam Chair, is that, it is okay to live under temporary shelters now because when there are resources or a timeframe, we have talked about the PDNA, we have talked about the Recovery Framework and that is when the assistance will come to people. So let us tell the people the truth, Madam Chair, that is the responsibility of all the Honourable Members of this House. People are already in ambiguous state, people are already confused, people are already shocked and it does not help if we do not tell them the truth.

HON. GOVT MEMBERS.- Tell it to them

HON. LT. COL. I. B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chair, we want to show the international community, what do we have to show the international community? The international community is after Fiji, come and tell us why are you so successful?

The 72nd Session of the Commission in Thailand, they wanted Fiji's case about *TC Winston*. The World Humanitarian Summit in Turkey, they wanted to know about Fiji's successes.

Let me tell you, what the main factors behind these successes are. One its political will and commitment.

Madam Chair, this Government cares and has the will and commitment to deliver. Secondly, good leadership, a good, strong, decisive and strategic leadership. Thirdly, Madam Chair, good governance. Madam Chair the international communities, their assistance is dependent upon governance structure. We have good governance at the higher level, we have good governance in the local government level, even to the community level. We have the Cluster Frameworks, that is a key criteria, Madam Chair, in the assistance, particularly when we do recovery framework, Madam Chair, those are the successes.

Last week, Madam Chair, I met the New Zealand CDF, we talked about the debriefs that we were doing and he had insisted, Madam Chair, this Minister when we finish all our debriefs, all the lessons learnt, that includes our strengths and weaknesses as well. They would like to know from it as well because they want to see what did we do right, what did we do well. It is not only important for New Zealand, it is important for the region and the international communities, Madam Chair. Thank you.

HON. GOVT MEMBERS.- *Vinaka*.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I give the floor to the Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to stand in support of the motion, only for the second rehabilitation works for the increase. I will give you an example, I have mentioned this in my address. The example is the area of Naitasiri, the Wainikovu Bridge, that bridge was

also devastated by the cyclone and till to date, it has not been fixed. Buses and Carriers have to go through the rivers to make sure that they reach the other villages. The reason, Madam Chair, why I support this motion is because it looks like as soon as the contractors are there, but they are not doing the work. There is something wrong with the contractors, in terms of making sure that they are there and that they are completing the work. That is an example, Madam Chair, in the Nakorosule Vunidawa Bridge in Vunidawa Road, the Wainikuvu Bridge is there which was devastated during the *Cyclone Winston*.

Therefore, Madam Chair, I support the motion for the increase in the cyclone rehabilitation. If they do not have the money, they can move it from the Capital Grant for the Fiji Roads Authority, they can move it up or down from there to make sure that the rehabilitation works on *TC Winston* is carried out in a timely manner. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Bulitavu.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I have been listening to the debate, all useless contributions because no one is talking in regards to the motion. The motion is quite simple, it is just an increase to the figure that is there. I think the Honourable Gavoka had stated an increase and all the presentation given by the Honourable Minister for Economy and the list of bridges and roads and all those things that are from the Assessment Report, we have to differentiate. One thing, we have the Assessment Report, we have an Assessment Cost, then we have a Rebuilding Cost, then you have to have a cost. If you want to build it to standard, which is resilient, that is another cost and that can only be determined by the engineers and contractors and this allocation will be given to the contractor.

We have heard many times just for the bridge at Vatuwaqa, the Honourable Minister has told us a few times that the concern has been brought to the House but the reason given by my fellow colleague on the other side is that they have signed the contract. They have given the tender to a Chinese company but the work is still not done because they will be waiting for the scope of work and what the engineers will decide on to buy and one of them is; what materials to buy, the cost of those materials will be very different from the materials that were blown away.

There are two different costings here, and we cannot be saying that this is the cost of the bridge that was washed away and it will be the same cost when you want to rehabilitate. These are two different things, and given that Madam Chair, as I have said the explanation done by the Honourable Minister does not justify in any way whether this should not be increased because of the difference in value and also when we have new bridges if you are building up to standard we are also looking into other options like relocating the bridge, like reclaiming, we want to bury the thing to rise up to another level. So, it is safe from floods and all other climatic changes that are coming.

These are the other costs that will be coming but it will be decided by the engineers, but given that they have calculated this particular cost from the assessment, as being alluded to by the Honourable Minister, then I think it is a wrong valuation of the whole figure that is here. That is why we really need to support an increase to give room for the engineers for the type of work and the materials they will decide to buy to construct the list of bridges and roads that whatever needs to be replaced and also given the past performance of the government.

They were given one allocation last year, they are still unspent allocation and we do not know how much have been spent, now we are giving this. Next year again, we will come again here at the same time, Madam Chair to ask about this \$31 million, what was done with this \$31.8 million? How much has been used and how much they are seeking? These are the things that will come again and I pray that, as Honourable Members, we look beyond what is here and look at other events and circumstances that will arise once the real works start off the ground that this particular motion be approved and there should be an increase as requested in the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Minister.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, just a brief contribution. I have been saying throughout the day that all these allocations are specific allocations. This \$31 million that we are talking about is the specific allocation for the Rehabilitation Programme for repair works for bridges, jetties and roads. There was an assessment done, the material, labour cost has been taken into account. We did not get this amount from thin air, there has been an assessment, calculations done. They are proposing the increase. Where is their assessment? I asked them; where is their assessment? You just get things from thin air and suggest that we need to increase to \$30 million or \$20 million?

(Laughter)

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- This amount which is reflected here is based on calculations by the Engineers, not from thin hair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Members just before we continue, I would like to warmly welcome members of the Association of World Elections Body based in Korea sitting at the gallery. You are very welcomed, not to mention the other guests that we have in the gallery. Thank you for your continued interest in Parliament.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Is there any other input?

(Silence)

There being no other input, I would like to give the floor to the Honourable Gavoka for his right of reply.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Thank you, Madam Chair, let me just correct some of the statements that have been made. Sure, you did what had to be done, but let us remember one thing, the mood in this country was very depressed. We did not know what was happening, except on the day when the Australian Army and New Zealand Army came in, that is when people began to see a light in this country. We must give credit where it is due and they were the ones who set the stage for the recovery.

(Chorus of interjections)

People travel all over visiting and putting all those nice words into people but it only began when the Australian Army and New Zealand Army came. The whole country began to lift in spirit, what we saw our neighbours come in a way that they came. So, let us always remember that, and tamper what we are claiming has been the work of certain people.

Madam Chair, what we could have done was meet as Parliamentarians and we could have set up a proper scheme on how to raise funds. We could have even had a Winston Fund created by Parliament on which we could have ways of creating revenue into that fund. It could have run for three or four years, it has been going on in other countries, this is what we were trying to say, we could have sat together here and created a fund. Here we can say that we will give \$7,000 to rebuilding. Madam Chair, 30 years ago, there was a cyclone during Ratu Mara's time and they gave \$5,000 per person. And, 30 years ago, \$5,000 would today be worth about \$30,000. So, what you say is unprecedented, it is not really true. People have given more in the past than what you gave this time.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- So, Madam Chair, this is what we could have addressed as Parliamentarians. So, do not go around making these claims.

The people said, if we go according to what they want, it could have been \$200 million. You will say; “So what?” We raised more than \$200 million, not the \$70 million that you are only using to give the people. So what? If it is \$280 million, do it! I mean, that is the scale of the disaster. That is what we said, we could have done it as one, not yourself going out and doing it on your own.

Madam Chair, some of the comments being made about the amount spent on infrastructure and on operations, let us remember one thing, this country has never collected revenue the way we do today. Prime Minister Qarase and Prime Minister Chaudhry had indirect taxes amounting to \$460 million. Today, we are collecting \$1.3 billion, yet out of taxes, they collected, they created infrastructure, they created roads and water systems. The way FijiFirst goes on is like we were not wearing shoes until they came along.

(Laughter)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- The way they go on, Madam Chair, is like you are living in the stone age until they came along. We were a civilised people – the infrastructure that was the envy in the third world. It is not until when they came. They are collecting huge revenue, VAT is the most efficient way of collecting revenue. We did not have that before, and with more revenue, you can go to the relationship between now, the Operations and Capital.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- (Inaudible)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- So, it is not something that FijiFirst came up with, it is just the revenue stream has increased. I just feel sometimes, Madam Chair, that it is no longer the Government deciding what to do, it is FRA telling Government what to do. There is a reversal now in roles, and I believe they can no longer say ‘no’ to FRA, the way they believe every promoter from abroad, like the \$9 million golf in Natadola...

HON. MEMBER.- And lottery!

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.-... to play golf for three or five days. The Police and the Military stopped us from selling the lottery. They know that, they know that! And, we had these operatives from Bollywood who came in to try and raid our office. They know the full story, so let us not bring that back. You do not want history, so let us stay out of history.

So, Madam Chair, I think there is a good case here, to increase that budget of \$20 million.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on this motion. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will vote.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	13
Noes	-	32
Not Voted	-	5

(There being 13 ayes, 32 noes and 5 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members, I would like to invite the Honourable Dulakiverata to move that Head 43-1-1(10) - Capital Grant – Fiji Roads Authority be decreased by \$1 million.

I invite the Honourable Dulakiverata to move his motion.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chair, I move my motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do we have seconder?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I now give the floor to the Honourable Dulakiverata to speak on his motion.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to refer you to Head 43-1-1(10) - Capital Grant – Fiji Roads Authority.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- SEG 6?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- SEG 10 – Capital Grant.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, you have a wrong figure here, it should be SEG 10. I am correcting it now.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chair.

Madam Chair, this Capital Grant of \$379,297,866, my motion is to reduce this by \$200 million. The reason being, Madam Chair....

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Excuse me, you have \$1 million here.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- By \$1 million, I apologise. The reason being, Madam Chair, is that Fiji Road Authority had been given a big budget every year, but they never spent all the money that had been allocated to it which shows that they are not very efficient or effective in their planning and execution of their programmes to be able utilise all the money allocated to them.

Secondly, Madam Chair, that this is the same Organisation that will carry out these capital works and also will be engaged in this Cyclone Rehabilitation works. So, there are two programmes that will be running simultaneously and with this allocation, like what we have been saying, that you just have to prioritise the allocation to where the needs are. So, if they prove that they are not utilising their allocation every year, it is only imperative that this Grant should be reduced, and can be utilised somewhere else where the needs is. And, that, Madam Chair, will augur well with the motion by the Honourable Gavoka that funding for the Rehabilitation Programme for the cyclone be increased.

So much have been said in this House this afternoon on what is happening and what is going on regarding the effects of cyclone and what had been done, but one thing that we must appreciate that we have an education society. No matter what we say here, they have the ability and they can assess what they are hearing and what they are saying, they can make their own decision. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. The motion is open for input. Honourable Aseri Radrodro?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I stand in support of the motion, as there is a need to reduce this Capital Grant for Fiji Roads Authority. I think this is something that I have always highlighted in my previous addresses, that there is just excessive costs in terms of allocation to Fiji Roads Authority.

The current arrangement, where it is outsourcing its activities, it is attracting huge costs. There is the Fiji Roads Authority, then there are three contractors in the region, and then they are sub-contracting by these three contractors. All these sub-contracting exercise attracts huge costs. What was wrong with the Department of National Roads? Why can we not follow that similar structure, in terms of making sure that we keep a cost at a minimum level but doing good work? There is a description of the Fiji Roads Authority here on Page 89, Madam Chair, "To ensure that "good stewardship" outcomes are achieved". Basically, that is the whole purpose of reforming the Fiji Roads Authority, that we ensure that performance of the FRA is obtained at a level which is acceptable to all, but at the minimum costs.

However, in this particular case, Madam Chair, I think this current arrangement of outsourcing is attracting unnecessary costs, and therefore, I support the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, from finance perspective, I would just like to add some comments. Of course, wherever there is large expenditure, whether it is, as we have highlighted in health, agriculture, education, we are putting in place measures. As we have said in the past three days, we ourselves have picked up, for example, even within Ministries where there may be corruption, where there may be non-adherence to processes, we have the administrative and the political will to actually address them and take them on hand.

I just refer the Honourable Member to numerous Auditor-General Reports, previously. Please read them! You are a member of the Public Accounts Committee, and see....

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- No, we haven't seen it.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, may be, just for your background information, as a member of the PAC, you will find time and time again the PAC Committees had in fact discovered and found out how those widespread corruption and abuse of funds in PWD, which then later metamorphosed into DNR. Let me tell you what DNR is doing.

They were not even able to complete the full tarsealing of the road around Viti Levu. How many contractors; the Chinese contractors, remember they were brought out, they failed. Other contractors were brought out. Then we had, for example, they outsourced it where you have some company, doggy company being brought in because it had a very low tender price, but subsequently when you look at it, you have variation, upon variation, upon variation. So, someone is given a contract, because they are \$20 million cheaper, but they end up being \$50 million more than what other people tendered for in the original price. These were the kind of shenanigans that were taking place. Of course, we will need to continue to monitor FRA. We will need to continue to ensure that the spending is right.

We have also said in this House that we need to also build in more internal capacity within FRA. We completely have said that. We will get more expertise and you will see that in the allocations for the Operating Grant, and you will see news coming up in the next few months, and the Honourable Minister for Infrastructure will also tell you. More internal capacity is being built in within FRA.

The transition needed to take place. If you look at most countries in the world that have a vast network of roading systems and we want to modernise, they have all gone down this path. If you look at all the countries in the world they have gone down this path, there is a transitional stage.

Just only recently, we reported to FICAC one of the companies which the outsourcing of the street lighting was done. Clamp Australia, they raised one Fijian Company, we found out that they carried out some fraud and there is another set of complaints had been sent out against them. So, we will continue to monitor that. We will continue to report any corrupt activities. We will continue to ensure that we get the best return for our dollar.

So, please understand that we are not here standing up defending everything that happens in any department or statutory body or ministry if it is wrong. We have the administrative will, the Ministers are all committed to that. They will report any of those stuff. They will ensure any statutory body that does not do the right thing, they will report it. We are constantly looking at changing things to doing it better. So, the whole point is, that we want to get all these, while their subcontracting does take place.

You now have more local companies involved in road building than ever before. In fact, newer look of companies have been formed to take advantages of subcontracting. If you look at the history, whatever subcontracting that took place in the DNR, it was only a handful of companies that did the subcontracting. Now, with the machinery, the technology that is being brought about, more and more locals are being trained, not just sub-contractors but even the staff. Even if you look at the two direct companies that have been brought in, majority of the staff are all Fijians, 95 percent are Fijians and guess what, some of them have been sent overseas. They get training in New Zealand and various other places, so we are building the capacity and we are looking at the future.

Many of the local contractors are actually now buying machinery to be able to do the subcontracting work better and we will reach a stage one day in Fiji that we can have local companies doing the entire works. So, it is in a transitional stage, we need to carry out these works and the reality is that we will cut back wherever it is necessary but we cannot lose the momentum.

The other point that I would also like to highlight, when you, for example, have factories, let me give you an example, that are spilt across in Kalabu, Valelevu or Nadawa where garment factories, where literally thousands of people work, mainly women. We have been having discussions with business houses, they said now they feel very confident to bring in the people who give them the markets from Australia and New Zealand, bring them to the factories, show them what they are doing, show the skill sets of the people because they no longer feel ashamed to bring them down the road. You look at the road in Nadawa before and you look at it now, Nasinu Town Council is the largest municipality in Fiji. It is bigger than Suva. Now you have a four lane road that is coming out of Nadi, it is not just doing what we decided in one day "let us have 4 lane road". The upgrade of the airport is being done, we want more Australian tourists which we fundamentally get them from the Eastern sea border of Australia, we want them to come from other parts of Australia, we are competing with Puket, Bali, Vanuatu or whoever else. If you have the right infrastructure as you continuously said, if someone jumps in the plane at 6.30 am from Sydney, we want them to be drinking their beer in Denarau by 11.00 a.m. or 12. 00 p.m. We want them to do that because then they see Fiji as a destination that has modern infrastructure, able to go through the airport, get on the road, get to their destination quickly and enjoy the famous Fijian hospitality.

So, all of these things are being done, we are focussing on ITC sector, bringing in more call centres. When people come in to look at Fiji as an investment destination, they will look at your infrastructure. They look at fundamental things like street lighting, road, et cetera. Of course, that is one aspect of it. The other aspect is of our own people. We need them to have access to infrastructure that is good, that makes them feel good about themselves, there are footpath, street lighting, and proper roading. The number of cars have increased probably threefold since Honourable Radrodro was involved with LTA. The reality is that, of course, there is pressure on the roads. We need to manage these issues, we need proper roads, we need four lane between Suva and Nausori. If you look at the cost of this, the Capital Grants, it is a continuation of some of the works and these involved, of course, the four lane road coming from Nausori Bridge all the way through to Suva. We have the upgrade taking place on Botanical Gardens, Albert Park,

this whole precinct is being developed. Hopefully, we will get more hotels. We want to get the Sevens Series being played in Fiji.

When the people come and do their assessments of Fiji, do you not think they will look at things like road, accessibility from the airport to the hotels? Do they not look at things like room inventory, the salubrious environment, the technology and Fiji Sports Council? It is the roads, the lighting, the airport, all of these combine to project modern day, not just image but infrastructure of Fiji which is conducive not only for the improved living standards of our own people but also to be able to attract investments and be able to put ourselves into the global market into areas that have not been touched before.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, do we have any other input.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, can I say a bit about FRA.

Some of our concerns, Madam Chair, the first is, we need to watch the consultants. We need to, one day it is unfortunate the chairmanship, I am not saying that my good buddy the new Chairman will not be focussing on this but the way Honourable Professor Prasad was focussing on to some of these things, we would have love to see how much has been paid to consultants by FRA.

The danger of that kind of money, Madam Chair, is that it attracts a lot of people who come and borrow your watch to tell you what the time is. These are the consultants, I am just cautioning Government to be careful with the consultants with the kind of money that is being spent on FRA.

Madam Chair, we are getting calls from workers doing ground work in Vanua Levu and they know how much is being paid by FRA to the contractors on a per hourly basis for them and what they are getting. It is very different and we need to watch that. We cannot be building all these infrastructure while short changing our people on the street because we cannot build a country where we cannot afford to live in. All these beautiful stuff that we are creating, if our people cannot afford to live in it, it comes to nothing.

Madam Chair, I agree that the infrastructure, the ease of doing business is important but then there is no reason why our corporate rate is so low. If Papua New Guinea is charging 30 percent company tax, Australia is 30 percent New Zealand is 28 percent, why is Fiji is under 20 per cent? We get the fundamentals right, good roads, good infrastructure, we should up the tax. It is our belief in SODELPA that the corporate tax in Fiji is too low - 20 percent is very, very low, it can come up and add more into the Government coffers to help us provide better services. That, Madam Chair, is important when you begin to spend this kind of money for someone like FRA.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Bulitavu?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- I would like to contribute to the debate, Madam Chair. My contribution, I think, much has been said by the Honourable Minister for Economy and also my Honourable colleague, but FRA was established into 2012 with a very ambitious vision and that is to build more road so we can achieve economic growth. After a 10 year plan that was established by FRA, I think they have already spent about \$615 million into Capital projects. Now, they are seeking another \$379 million.

We do not have to look far, Madam Chair. One just have to try every morning when you leave Nausori or Nakasi at round about 6.30 a.m. to 6.45 a.m, and you try to reach Suva, you will reach Suva at 8.30a.m. That shows the amount of work that is being done on the four lanes. On Saturday last week, I went to Ratu Cakobau Park in Nausori to watch a soccer game between Labasa and Nadi, the four lanes were all full of traffic, full of traffic.

(Chorus of interjections)

They cannot control all that, even with the four lanes. Even last week, I came around near Rishikul, they had tarsealed the whole road but after a few days when I went there, they dug up the middle of the road, I think there was some kind of sewage problem there. There is no proper planning on the kind of work that they do all potholes

This kind of practice is being done by FRA. Supervisors will go and say; “Today, we are going to repair all the potholes”. What they do is, they tally it, they count the number of potholes, they come back and tally it, and say; “Today, we repaired this amount of pot holes”, just to say that the work is being done. These are the continuing things that we are trying to do. We are trying to improve our infrastructure, we want to build new roads and there are roads that are needed in areas where there is some economical valuing, they want to transport into our centres but roads are not reaching there. You are not prioritising these things in the right area.

The Honourable Minister for Agriculture will tell you that the Vatuadovo Bridge where the Labasa Weather Station is located, they built the bridge and after two years, they replaced it again.

(Hon. Member interjects)

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- All wasting of resources, there is no proper planning.

If you go down to Savusavu, once you leave Lomaloma Village, going up the ‘S’ bend towards Savusavu, you will see there is no improvement. It is an ongoing process and we question the ability of these engineers and contractors who are coming, whether they can really do the work. We are giving them money, contracting them.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- We are getting loans for all those things, for investing into infrastructure for our future, as normally alluded to by our colleagues from the other side. Again, we are getting all these kind of problems and people are complaining. People are paying wheel tax, they are paying road levies and they are complaining that they are using our roads and there are no proper street lights, et cetera. We are all paying and this is the kind of service that they rely on and expect this from this Government because Government has been mooting all this while and saying; “We are the only Government doing this, we are the best”, but again, why give this amount?

Last year, we gave you about \$470 million and you could not perform, and again this year you ask for about \$379 million, but that will always be the case, Madam Chair, where the Honourable Minister will come again and say; “It is in the pipeline.” Sometimes, we question; how long is that pipeline? We question that because it is in the process, it has been tendered, it has been out on advertisement, engineers are doing the work, there are engineers contracted here and there, and again we see the CEO for FRA being replaced. After one year, another replacement comes...

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- ... after another year, another replacement comes in. What is wrong?

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Let me finish!

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, no, do not misrepresent facts. He is misrepresenting. Neil Cook was the CEO of FRA, his contract expired and then the new Board advertised for the position. So,

whilst the selection was made, an existing person was made Acting CEO. Obviously, the right person has been selected and he has now taken the substantive position. So, you do not misrepresent facts.

(Honourable Bulitavu actioned to the Honourable Attorney-General to sit down)

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, you do not tell me to sit down, I am speaking.

The point is, he said; “We had one CEO, the other one came the following year and now we got another.” No! It is like all positions, the substantive position had expired, then they advertised it, so they were looking for a new CEO. In the meantime, obviously someone had to act and there was an existing staff member, Rory Garland, who actually acted. Now, we have a substantive person who has now come on board and he has a three year contract. That is the fact.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Thank you, Honourable Minister for correcting the facts, but that is not the issue. The issue there is.....

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- You raised it like an issue.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- If it is wrong, then I withdraw it, but the fact is like we are constantly changing the leadership of FRA. When we have a leader, we have a vision. This is how people perceive this. You put a CEO for FRA for the record programme, he talks about his vision about Fiji Roads and after that, a new one comes and people perceive things differently because of the different intellectual levels that they have, and these are the things that we must consider.

Given that, Madam Speaker, I will support the motion. It is necessary to reduce this and prioritise this into the cyclone rehabilitation. *Rauta mada na caka gaunisala, dou repair gaunisala.*

Continuing new projects will not help, that has to cease, then prioritise in the right areas so that you can repair the roads and once they are good, then after that then you continue. We all agree that Fiji needs proper roads and infrastructure.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- We all agree that tourists want to come to Fiji and enjoy the services but you need to....

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- That is what you think but after the devastation, we have to prioritise. I think we really need to support the motion, to put our money where there is priority.

(Hon. Member interjects)

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Have you seen the Nausori Road? Have you seen the Airport Road? How long did it take to finish that road to the airport in Nausori. It took years. I have been traveling there to and fro. I do not know what is wrong with that.

(Hon. Member interjects)

Madam Chair, let me conclude to say that we support this motion to decrease this allocation and to focus more on the rehabilitation works that need to be done to our infrastructure.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- If you want good roads, stop doing the graffiti on our bus stops.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chair, I only wish to clarify about the bridge....

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Before we continue, I want to remind Honourable Members

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Madam, the Honourable Prime Minister just said something.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- But really, we are allowed to speak up to 20 minutes.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- Sit down!

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- This is why I am allowing that.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Madam Chair, there is a personal attack by the Honourable Prime Minister.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- I did not say anything.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- He has referred to me because I have a court case. He said something that I disagree with. It is a personal attack.

(Hon. Member interjects)

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- He said; "Writing graffiti on the bus stop." He just said that, there are witnesses here. I want the Honourable Prime Minister to withdraw his statement.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- I did not say anything about the court case.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Do not deny that, you just said that.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- I did not say anything about the court case.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- What do you want him to withdraw now, please?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- He referred to an allegation against me which is before the court.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- He did not mention the court case.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- You mentioned that.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- No!

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I did not hear 'court case'.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- What he said, Madam Chair, was that; "If you want proper roads, then stop writing graffiti on the bus stop.", referring to the facts of the allegation, which I do not like.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- No, no, no!

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- He has brought it up, Honourable Prime Minister. I need to justify. Would you like to withdraw your statement – graffiti on the bus stop?

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- What do you want me to withdraw?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Withdraw your statement, that is an allegation.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- What statement, that you wrote on the

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- That is an allegation, it is before the court. You do not bring that here.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- I will withdraw that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, he has withdrawn his statement. Honourable Minister?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I only wish to clarify that the bridge that the Honourable Member was referring to at Vatudovo in Labasa was constructed when Inia Seruiratu was Commissioner Northern and there was no FRA in existence then. Mr. Temo Vosaki was my Divisional Road Engineer and Paula Baleilevuka was the Director National Roads.

(Chorus of interjections)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Order! There being no other input, I would like to give this time to the Honourable Dulakiverata to speak in reply.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chair, I am very happy that this motion attracted a lot of debate in the House.

Madam Chair, the motion was very simple, a reduction of this allocation and to be redirected to where it is mostly needed. From the arguments that is going on in this House, it appeared that by building roads, it will improve the economic activities or build the economic activities....

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- It is not! It is not the only thing that contributes to the economic activities.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Listen, listen!

Madam Chair, when was the last time you saw a crane in the air in any of the town or city in this country? How many years ago? None, eh? No one can remember.

(Laughter)

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- You know, when you see a crane in a place, that is the barometer of development, the barometer of the economy. If you do not see that, there is no economic activity.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- You must put brick and mortar on the soil, then you can guarantee there is economic activity.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- You cannot have a road for show.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- This Company, FRA, Madam Chair, is only selectively utilising the money where FijiFirst Party has a visibility.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- You get off the main road from here and you go the inner roads out there, pathetic type of road. And there is a contractor that is going around, and all they do, is filling potholes, filling potholes.

(Laughter)

I have seen their report. There was a section, it says the number of potholes that they fill in one year, the number of potholes. Which company, that is credible that wants to show this type of work which requires nothing, no engineering mind or anything to do. We should have companies or contractors that can build good roads.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- (Inaudible)

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- No! No, this is the truth.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- This is the truth!

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- What about the road in Tailevu?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- The roads in Tailevu has been under construction. If you go from Kasavu to Nausori, it is like you are riding on the corrugated iron.

(Laughter)

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- It is very bad.

(Laughter)

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chair, we are talking here of a very simple thing. You are just reducing the Budget. We are not talking about a five-year or 20-year plan which they say they are going to bring, which has not come yet, we are not talking about that. The way they are talking, is as if this is a big thing. No, this is only a small thing. This is only for this financial, one financial year. Now, we have been faced with this problem of rehabilitating after the Cyclone, so you should have diversified the funds to where it is most needed. That is what the motion is all about, Madam Chair, and I hope you will all support the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on that motion. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being Opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	12
Noes	-	32
Not voted	-	6

(There being 12 ayes, 32 noes and 6 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members, because no amendment was approved, Parliament will vote on Head No. 43. The question is that the amount in Head 43 – Fiji Roads Authority be approved, does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being Opposition, Parliament will vote.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	33
Noes	-	10
Not voted	-	7

(There being 33 ayes, 10 noes and 7 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

Head 43 agreed to.

Head 49: Peacekeeping Missions

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments on Peacekeeping Missions. We are looking at Page 293. Honourable Bulitavu?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- I have two motions, Madam Chair. I would like to move a motion on Head 49-2-1(7).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Can we look at Page 293 first, Programme 1?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Yes, Support Services.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Did you say Programme 1 or Programme 2?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- The first is on Head 491-1-(7) - Standby Arrangement for Rapid Deployment to Peacekeeping Missions (\$250,000), I want to move a motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, please fill the form.

HON. GOVERNMENT. MEMBER.- Fill the form.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Its already filled.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will move on to Page 295. Honourable Bulitavu.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Head 49-2-1(7) – Standby Arrangement for Rapid Deployment to Peacekeeping Missions (\$250,000), I would like to move a motion on that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Are there any other input? Thank you, we have some motions to consider.

Firstly, I would like to give the floor to Honourable Bultavu to move, that Head 49-1-1(7) - Standby Arrangement for Rapid Deployment to Peacekeeping Missions (\$250,000) be decreased by \$50,000. Honourable Bultavu, I invite you to move the motion.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Madam Chair, I move the motion. .

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Do we have a seconder?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- I second the motion, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Honourable Bultavu you may speak on your motion.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Thank you, Madam Chair. The intention of the motion is that given the situation that has risen from our Sinai Mission and given that there is in this particular Activity the allocation for Standby Arrangement for Rapid Deployment given to our peacekeepers who are trained or who would be required by these peacekeeping missions in order to be ready for deployment. I think given the changes in international peacekeeping in some of the areas that we are closing down, I think we should reduce this by \$50,000, given the situation that has arisen.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The motion is open for input from Honourable Members if any?

(Silence)

There being no other input, we will vote on the motion, Parliament will vote, does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes’)

There being Opposition, Parliament will vote.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	10
Noes	-	31
Not voted	-	9

(There being 10 ayes, 31 noes and 9 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

The second motion, I invite the Honourable Bultavu to move, that Head 49-2-1(7) - Standby Arrangement for Rapid Deployment to Peacekeeping Missions (\$250,000) be decreased by \$50,000.

I invite the Honourable Bultavu to move his motion.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Thank you, Madam Chair, I move the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do we have seconder?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- I second the motion .

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Bulitavu, you may speak on your motion.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Thank you, Madam Chair, similar to the previous motion, I think given the recent development in our international peacekeeping in Sinai, the decision of the IMFO to withdraw because of the volatile situation that is there, and I think there is a need to review our peacekeeping strength that we are sending. So, given that this particular allocation is similar to what has been allocated previously before that decision was taken by the MFO, I move that this be reduced and also a review is done on that. If we are closing down from other mission fields because of the increase in volatile situation that is happening in the Middle East between armed groups, that affects our peacekeepers. So, I think there has to be a review because if we are reducing our numbers, we will be reducing our deployment, so this particular activity needs to be reduced in cost, and that is why I moved this particular motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. The motion is up for debate.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chair.

I will just make a quick clarification on standby arrangements. We, as what we are called “troop contributing countries”, Madam Chair, have an agreement with what we call the UNDPKO (United Nations Department of Peace Keeping Operations). This is part of the requirement for us to be included in it. It is not only specific for Sinai, it is for any conflict anywhere in the world that may arise. So, contributing countries must have what we call the standby arrangements. If a conflict does happen anywhere, of course, we understand the situation in Sinai but anything can happen probably within the South Pacific or in Asia, and that is where UNDPKO will automatically look at that. Each of the countries will present to the UNDPKO about the capabilities that they have. So for us, we have the Police, for the RFMF we have this, and this allocation consist of requirements for training, requirements for simple communications equipment, establishment of their own SOPs. Those little things, Madam Chair, so it is a very, very critical component and we need to honour that, so that we can always be considered for peacekeeping operations Madam Chair. That applies for both, the Police and for the RFMF, and any other units involved. It is even in Disaster Management as well, Madam Chair, where the UN deploys people.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, do you have any other input? Honourable Viliame Gavoka.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Perhaps, the Honourable Minister can also indicate to us to that extent to, I understand this to be a unit that is ready to go, ready to be deployed.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- No.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- A stand by unit and they would be trained at Black Rock where we have created this facility?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Yes.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Thank you. I mean, these are things that we need to know. We are talking about a Budget for the people of Fiji. The people of Fiji want to know what exactly is happening.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- The Minister just told you!

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Alright, so you have people who are ready to

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- Soldiers!

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Yes, soldiers who are ready to leave on short notice.

HON. MEMBER.- Yes.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- That is what you are saying here.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chair, I will make that clarification again, I will give an example to the Honourable Members of the House.

In 2003, there was the deployment to the Solomon Islands, RAMSI (Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands) and because we were ready, we worked with the Australian Government. The training was not done here locally. We were selected from here, we went to Townsville in Australia, we trained there and then we were deployed as a group.

As I have stated, when we pledge we also have our commitments and this is sufficient for our commitment. It may be small but then we are not working in isolation, we work with our other partners as well.

In disaster, Madam Chair, for example, last year we were deployed to Vanuatu after *Cyclone Pam*. We were ready, but we did not have aircrafts. New Zealand was flying en route, they picked us here, dropped us in the mission area, picked us again from the mission area and brought us back to Fiji. So, we do not work in isolation, we work with other partners as well.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- That was painless, was it not, Madam Chair?

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- Of course!

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- It is just like pulling teeth, the way they do not want to share information with us.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you Honourable Bulitavu, would you like to speak in response?

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- No, Madam.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Parliament will then vote on this motion. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	12
Noes	-	32
Not voted	-	6

(There being 12 ayes, 32 noes and 6 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members, because no amendment was approved. Parliament will now vote on Head 49 and the question now is that the amount in Head No. 49 - Peacekeeping Missions be approved. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	32
Noes	-	12
Not Voted	-	6

(There being 32 ayes, 12 noes and 6 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

Head 49 agreed to.

Head 50 - Miscellaneous Services

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments on Head 50. We are looking at Page 299.

HON. P. SINGH.- Head 50-1-1-(1) Item 2 – Civil Service Reform (\$2,000,000). I just want to ask the Minister, was there any input from the World Bank in the Civil Service Reform?

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- Money-wise?

HON. P. SINGH.- Either money wise or in kind.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Honourable Singh, I think I mentioned this yesterday, whichever relevant Head it was that deals with Civil Service, that the Australians have contributed about \$3 million and it sits in the Trust Fund that it is administered by the World Bank and the consultants for example that are brought out, their fees are paid through that. The Fijian Government does make some contribution, as you will recall in the last one, we had put \$0.5 million.

Obviously, the Reform Unit is withdrawn and as I also mentioned the other day when we did talk about the Head for Civil Service, that it is rolling out the Open Merit Recruitment System (OMRS), it carries out the training, et cetera, so that sits separately, and that is what this funding is for. So, the Australians have contributed about \$3 million last year, so all these experts and consultants they get brought about, and they actually get paid directly by them. That is in Trust Fund administered by the World Bank.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, Head 50-1-1(1) – Item 1- Salary Adjustments (\$5,000,000),. I would like to move a motion there to increase the allocation.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, you may fill the form. Page 301?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Madam Chair, I want to move a motion to remove Item 4 from Head 50-1-1(5) – Consultancy Fees for Qorvis Communications.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You may fill out the form. Page 303?

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I am sorry, can I go back to page 301 and move a motion under Head 50-1-1(5) to be reduced by \$3 million and under Head 50-1-1(6) to be reduced by \$2 million.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You may fill the form. Page 303?

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I move a motion that Item 14 under Head 50-1-1(7) - Government Service Awareness (\$500,000) that is to be reduced. Also under Head 50-1-1(8), Item 1 - Construction of Executive Residence (\$5 million) and Item 2 - Construction Of Prime Minister's Office Complex (\$5 million) be also reduced

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You may fill in the form. Page 305?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, on Page 303 under Head 50-1-1(7): Item 15- Establishment of Services and Manufacturing Park (\$500,000), Madam Chair, this is why we say it is almost like mumbo jumbo, like everything is all over the place. Would this not go to Town and Country Planning? Why do things appear all over the place?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to move a motion?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Yes, I would like to remove it.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Please, fill in the form. We move on to page 305.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Madam Chair....

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, Honourable Ratu Nanovo.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Head 50-1-1-10, items 10 and 15, I would like to move a motion on those two items?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 10, page 305.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- SEGS 10 and 15.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will now deal with some of the amendments....

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, item 8...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Page?

HON.V.R. GAVOKA.- Page 305, item 8.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 8.

HON.V.R. GAVOKA.- Yes, I would like to move a motion to increase that by \$90 million, for Scholarships.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Please fill in the form.

HON. MEMBERS.- *Vinaka vakalevu!*

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Honourable Members. Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chair, SEG 10-(17) on the Land Acquisition and Compensation – WAF Complex. I would like to move a motion on that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Would you like to fill the form?

Thank you, Honourable Members, we will now look at some of the motions that have been...

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Another one, Madam Chair, SEG 10-(9) on the *iTaukei* Land Development, I would like to move a motion on that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I now give the floor...

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, on SEG 10(8) – Scholarship Fund, I would like to move a motion to increase that allocation.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Please, fill the form.

I now invite the Honourable Aseri Radrodro to move that Head 50 be increased by \$5 million in Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 1, with respect to Salary Adjustments.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, I would like to move a motion to increase the Salary Adjustment currently set at \$5 million.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Do you have a seconder?

HON. M. LEAWERE.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Radrodro, would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe the Salary Adjustment is set for civil servants. I think what is currently happening now is the selective process in which the salary adjustments have been applied to the civil servants. I guess the Government has been introducing PMS, but I think it is time now that most of the civil servants have also been eagerly waiting for a salary increase, either through COLA or PMS system. For example, Madam Chair, in the health sector, just recently been announced that doctors have had a huge pay increase, but in a health system, the doctors cannot do the work alone. They need the nurses, the orderlies, and they also need other staffing structures within the health system. Therefore, the salary proposal increase is to ensure that we can have across the board increase and it also covers other civil servants in other Ministries and Departments and other sectors so that they can all enjoy the salary adjustments and ensure that there is a standard application of salary adjustments throughout the Civil Service.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Any other input?

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Madam Chair, I rise to support the motion for the simple reason that for so very long civil servants are crying out for what they rightly deserve. Out in the outer stations during *TC Winston*, they suffered, toiled, laboured but Government did not even blink an eye to notice the hardships they faced in terms of salary adjustments. And, look at what is happening here? They are sitting, doing their work, but we need to see that they are given something during this Budget, Madam Chair.

I had said that in my Budget response, for the simple reason that we need to reward our workers, because these are the people that we use. These are the ones that we will turn on to carry out the functions of Government, and we need to remunerate them accordingly, and I say this especially for the teachers and

all civil servants. I am very passionate about this, Madam Chair, that the workers to be given what they rightly deserve in terms of their pay adjustments. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Salote Radrodro.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to support the motion, even though the amount seems very small and it looks like a very selective salary adjustment, and without any detail given in the estimate, I still support it because I believe it is for civil servants. Which Ministry, we do not know. Which category, we do not know. But, for the very fact that the salary adjustment is for civil servants, and I support the motion on the floor to increase it. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, just to provide clarification. It is very difficult, sometimes they have a sort of level of intelligible conversation, when we have actually clarified these issues on a number of occasions. You know, this is not a point scoring exercise. The issue here is this: we have repeatedly said to this House that we are carrying out assessment of the compensation packages that are available to about over 135 positions. Honourable Radrodro, we have said this, in this House now, probably more than three or four occasions. It is a transparent scientific research-based analysis and piracle evidence-based analysis on the salaries that are being paid and are comparison between what we pay, as Government to civil servants, and what the private sector pays.

We have brought in people who have done this in dozens of countries where they actually go out and assess. We also, for example, need to look at things like the number of civil servants to our population. We are actually, even if you compare us to some of the other Pacific Island countries, we are also quite high. We have a country like Singapore, for example, of course they have the technology and we need to have the technology too. It is something like 80,000 civil servants to 4.5 million Singaporeans. We have about 30,000 civil servants to less than one million people in Fiji, so you can see the difference.

Now, the point is, in order to give this salary adjustment, I will come back to this specific Head, what you are talking about is an overall increase in salaries for civil servants. Now, this salary adjustment does not take care of that. This salary adjustment existed in nearly almost all the budgets, where an adjustment amount has been put aside, in the event of some unforeseen adjustments that may be required. So for example, when the Ministry of Health, Education, et cetera, come and make their submissions, and in fact, some of them had been carried forward like last year, the Ministry of Health came, they said they needed to increase the number of establishments. So, the increase in those numbers, they are factored in to their particular Head. So, it is in their Head. For example, you saw that some of the Ministries, where they actually increase the salaries to some research-based and some methodology, there have actually been increases in that particular Head. This is in Head 50, when for example, if the Minister for Agriculture may need to hire or, for example, in the event of a disaster, he may need to hire, God forbid, 500 people because there are some major calamity.

Now, if they need to be hired on a project basis unbudgeted for under the current Head, this is where the money will come from, it is unforeseen. It is not for salary increase per se, so the salary increases as we have said, yes, the preliminary reports actually shows that in some categories of civil servants, we are actually paying more than the market rate or close to the market rate. In some positions, we are actually paying for quite less compared to the market, so when this final report is done, we will then be able to see the areas where we can make the adjustment, but it is just as simple as that.

For example, some of the positions that exist in say, Lands or Education or Agriculture or Health, those positions may actually not need to exist, as I have repeated in this House previously. In the Ministry of Justice in 2007, when we were appointed to those positions, there was one person whose job was to look after all the vehicles in the Ministry of Justice and then there is the full-time job, and that may have been a

very good case to have that because in those days, vehicles were actually bought, yet to make sure when servicing maintenance, guess how many vehicles existed in the Ministry of Justice, one, so he was paid the entire year's salary to look after all the vehicles in the Ministry of Justice but there is only one. If you work in the private sector (some of you worked in the private sector) you would know that you will ensure that the vehicles go for services at the right time, is done by the PA. It is just another part of the job, so what we are saying that there may be certain positions that exist within the respective ministries, that makes you need to evolve into other areas and then may be multi-tasking could be required.

The Minister for Agriculture, for example, says that he may need people who understand agricultural economics and maybe there is not enough people there, so these are the adjustments that take place in the substantive manner and be able to pay people the right amount of salary. That is a separate exercise, it does not fall within the salary adjustment per se, so that is the issue that we are trying to say.

The other point also, please, remember, that when we talk about Civil Service Reform, we also need to talk about productivity levels. You simply just cannot keep on increasing salaries without having a transparent process of graduating people and recognising them for the output that they have. If people work very hard, if people's output is very good, we need to give them the space to be able to be rewarded. If people are not performing, where they treat ordinary citizens like they do not mean anything, I am sure many of you have experienced, we ourselves of course have experienced when you go over the counter to some ministry, the way they treat members of the public is not very good at all or what they are supposed to do out in the rural areas is not very good at all. Why should those people get across the board, pay rise. They need to be demarcated from people who are actually doing quite well, so this is the major exercise and I am saying all of this now. I know it is not necessarily related to that, but it is within the context of what you have said, Hon. Radrodro, I am just trying to draw a point of difference that this particular SEG 1, under Head 50, Item No. 1 is not for that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Any other input? Honourable Radrodro, would you like to make concluding remarks?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Yes, Madam Chair, I would like to thank the Minister for his clarification on the matter but it does not take away the fact that there is a need to review the salaries and adjust accordingly those civil servants, and as has been alluded to by an Honourable Colleague, for example, most of the teachers are carrying out their duties because they love their jobs and also in the medical field, nurses and doctors. They have been waiting for salary adjustments or salary review in terms of carrying out their work, but the Honourable Minister has already alluded to that they are awaiting the final report. Until that final Review Report comes out, I still endorse the submission in terms of the need to have a salary review or salary adjustments across the board for civil servants. Maybe, it is time the relevant line Ministers also have to take into consideration the existing staff and review accordingly the job descriptions and the level of salary and the amount of work that they are doing, 24/7 as we had just experienced in the *Tropical Cyclone Winston*.

Madam Chair, on that note, we noted that there have been some salary increases and also appearing last year in the Disciplinary Forces.

Last year, there have been salary pay adjustments for Police, we have also had expenses in the other Disciplinary Forces in the Military, so it is about time that the non-disciplinary forces, non-disciplinary cadre in the Civil Service get to receive some salary adjustments in this particular instance, Madam Chair.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- The salary adjustments for the Police was actually based on a Job Evaluation Exercise. The salary adjustment for the RFMF and the Fiji Correction Service was based on a Job Evaluation Exercise so it was not adjusted willy-nilly. The reason why the Police one came later, because they, the Government at that time, did not actually implement it fully, they decided to stagnate it over a period of time so we decided to fast-track it and made sure that they got the JDE. Similarly the

security agencies were given that, similarly the same with the Civil Service, it must be done after a particular exercise that involves evaluation. The evaluation is also done through by benchmarking for various positions, it is just a clarification. Please, do not try and obfuscate the issue by saying, “Oh, the military, police, prisons got it”, they are the guys that need to, what we are saying of course, it needs to be done in a very proper manner, that is what we are saying.

We have absolutely, on this side of the House, have no objections to people getting pay rise, do not make it out as if we do not want it. We want them to get it and in fact, we ourselves are saying at the moment, as you would have seen, for example, in some of the other missions. Last week, the Allied Health workers got a pay rise. You saw that, for example, the lawyers in government who have got adjustments made so people are retained, similarly other ministries are carrying out an exercise also but it must be based on some scientific bases, some evaluation exercises that we can all hang our hats on because it also provides a particular level of transparency to any salary increases.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Are there any other input to this motion? Honourable Aseri Radrodro, would you like to make concluding remarks on this?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- No, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will put it to the vote. Parliament will vote on this, does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	:	12
Noes	:	29
Not Voted	:	9

(There being 12 ayes, 29 noes and 9 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I now give the floor to the Hon. Viliame Gavoka to move that Head 50 be increased by \$90 million in Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 10 with respect to 8, National Toppers Scholarship Scheme, other scholarships. I invite the Hon. Gavoka to move his motion.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Thank you, Madam Speaker, I move my motion that, that particular allocation be increased by \$90 million.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- I second the motion.

MADAM. CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Gavoka, would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Thank you, Madam Chair, we feel that the time has come for this country to provide free tuition at USP, at FNU, at University of Fiji and in all the technical colleges in the country. This is how much it will cost, Madam Chair, based on our estimation. It will be about \$110 million and in a Budget of \$3.6 billion, we believe we can make provisions to educate our students, tuition-free at the highest level of education in this country. We are talking about 55,000 students, Madam Chair.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, when you have a budget of this size, which is more than \$3 billion, with adjustments here and there, we can come up with \$100 million to provide free University for everyone in this country, for all our children, and they number more than 50,000. I believe it is 55,000 students.

Madam Chair, the youth is our tomorrow, they are our tomorrow. Our future hangs with our children and we must provide them with this education so that no one can say that I could not proceed further because of the difficulties with finances or what not.

Madam Chair, we now provide free education from pre-school, to primary and to secondary. And now the time has come to go all the way to University. We are not the only country that will do this.

We know that Shri Lanka does it. Shri Lanka has a population of 20 million people and they have 15 Universities and Shri Lankans go to University for free.

Fiji can afford it which we know we can do. We can cut from FRA, Water and other areas to give us the funds to go to University. We can do this and if they cannot do it, we can do it. SODELPA can do it, this side of the House can do it.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, FijiFirst talks about their students loan scheme known as TELS, it is a recipe for disaster.

Today in America, Madam Chair, student loan scheme stands at more than \$1 trillion and the youth of America are rebelling against this, they are protesting against this.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- We are not America.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, we should learn from that, that we should not burden our youth with debts on the first day they go to work. Can you all imagine, everyone in this House that at the age of 18, 19, or 20 when you went for your first job, you had \$15,000 to \$20,000 on your shoulders to carry, a burden to carry. Can you imagine that? It did not happen to me, and I do not think it happened to anyone here and I do not think we should burden our youth with that kind of loan that FijiFirst has created to burden our youths.

We can provide free education, Madam Chair, and raise the standard of development in this country. We all know that. What is lacking in this country is the executions. We can have beautiful plans, we can have policies, we can have things that are written but if people are not able to execute it, it will always come short and that is the problem in this country. We need to raise that standard, of level of education, level of comprehension to enable people to execute the plans that we put in place. We have wonderful plans in this country but it is the execution that is lacking and you train our people to a level where we can accept responsibilities and execute the way you want them to execute.

Madam Chair, let me just bring us to another example, Barbados from now going forward will spend 22 percent of its budget on education. By 2020, Barbados will have a graduate in every family. Small country and if they can do it, why not in Fiji. We can do it, our Universities are amongst the best. Anyone with a degree from USP, FNU or the University of Fiji, Madam Chair, is as good as anything in the region or even beyond.

I have employed local graduates and I have always said, give me your local graduates for one year and they would be as good as anyone from a top University within one year. I give them mentoring, a room to grow and I have never been disappointed with the graduates.

This is what we need to do, this is the way forward for Fiji and I believe this is what our youths expect of us. The money is there, no other government has collected revenue like what we do today and it will continue to grow. We are talking about \$9.8 billion GDP. Surely out of that \$9.8 GDP, we can find the money to educate our children for free at University. I know this is the way to go, I feel sorry for FijiFirst for defending a loss cause and I was just interested in the consultation that FijiFirst took out to all the schools, they were telling the students...

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- I will tell you.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- They were telling the students we cannot afford University right now. We are saying "yes we can afford it". We are telling all the students, "yes we can afford it". Already, they are defending an indefensible coalition and Madam Chair, the case is very clear, the youth of this country must be educated from ages four to five, up to the University for free. That is what we, as leaders, must provide them. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Minister for Education.

HON. DR. M. REDDY.- Just want to make a correction, Madam Chair, students in Sri Lanka, only 16 percent of those who qualify to get admitted to the universities, the top 16 percent are the only ones who are given free administration to the Universities.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Any other input?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, the consultations that we had with the students actually were very, very encouraging and indeed enlightening. One of the most enlightening aspects of that was we did very freely speak about Toppers, scholarships, old system verses the new system, we talked about also TELS and in fact, what some of the high school students did say, "why are you giving free education to all?" I remember this student, I think she was from MGM High School or Suva Grammar School, she said why are you giving free education to everyone? "She said "you should not." You should actually have it means tested." This is the level of wisdom that has been shown. In fact, I remember saying to her, I said would you like to work for the Ministry of Finance because she actually had the right focus and knew that we have limited resources available and that when we actually provide assistance to people, it needs to be targeted.

Now, Honourable Gavoka actually gave the game away because this is a bit of a gimmick. I know they are losing out on youth boat. A lot of us are here, in fact this entire side is here because of the vote of the women and the youth fundamentally. Anyone doing analysis would know that and that is indisputable. He said maybe we can take away something from Water, water is a fundamental right of ours.

Madam Chair, when a budget is done, it is about balancing priorities, it is about looking after all aspects of the economy, it is also about, for example, providing water, providing electricity, access to those people who otherwise cannot afford it, roads, medical services, ensuring at the same time that we are paying our people well.

Today, there are more Fijian students assisted under the Toppers Scheme and the TELS Scheme than ever before. That is a hard core fact.

Now, there is also in USA, they have astronomical amounts of interest rates. That is why there are so burdened with their debt. Their loans are actually given by the private sector, the banks actually comes and fish you out and give you loans. This is done by the private sector. In Fiji's case the loan is actually given by the Government. The maximum interest rate is 1.5 percent. If you come from a family earning less than \$16,000 or \$20,000 (I stand to be corrected on the exact figure) you do not pay any interest rate, and then it graduates and the policy is that, you only pay if you can afford to pay. That is how it works. So where is the burden?

These students who will be consulted will actually understand that, because many of the students knew that the Budget is about balancing priorities. Now, assuming we give \$90 million or in total \$120 million and say; "Everyone who wants to go to University, University accept them, take them all, we will pay them", it has already been highlighted that not all the universities in Fiji have levels of competence that is required. Not all of them have the right competent lecturers. This is why the grant for FNU has been increased in the Operating Grant to be able to attract better lecturers. So, that also needs to be addressed.

When a graduates finishes from Universities, they also need jobs. What are we doing in the Budget and the Budget needs to consider that, is the creation of jobs. It means we incentivise the private sector, we give tax breaks for people if they hire you for the first time if it your first employment. We are giving the incentives for people who get employed whilst they are studying.

All of these cannot be possible, if you are going to have a Budget very secured in only one direction. It is a balancing act because you are able to look at the priorities. Madam Chair, the point is also we have increased the number of Toppers by another 30. It goes to show that obviously Government has the appetite in increasing the Toppers numbers as and when the need arises, as and when we have the ability to actually pay for them.

There are other ways in which we are improving accessibility to education. Accessibility to education is good. The selective sharing of information in this Parliament by saying that everyone in Sri Lanka gets free university education is not absolutely correctly, as the Honourable Minister for Education has highlighted - it is a selective group of people that get free education. I have been to Sri Lanka, there are many people who complained to me how they cannot send their kids to university. They may be average student and then they lost out but only if parents can afford. In this particular instance, it is the reverse. Many people in Fiji and many people have said to us, who are in the workplace they said; "We wish TELS existed when we were around.

HON. GOVT. MEMBERS.- Yes.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- "We wished we have free education in high schools when were around", because there are many people who have not been able to complete their high schools because they were not unable to pay the fees. There are many bright students who came from low income families and do not have the right connections to get the Ethnic Scholarships because they were bright and still were not able to access that.

Today anyone, Madam Chair, for example, if they are not a Topper, they get accepted in any university, they get TELS. TELS is now extended to technical colleges for short term courses. Not everyone wants to get a University Degree, there are some Fijian who are very good at carpentry & joinery, probably their ambition is to become the best pastry chef. Why are we denying them that? Why is it that this \$19 million is only for USP, FNU and University of Fiji? What about Montfort Boys Town? What about the Technical Colleges we have set up? They are already free the short term courses, so the reality is that, and everyone needs to understand we have scarce resources as everyone knows.

So we need to be able to take a position that not only addresses things like roads, water, electricity, access to building new towns in Nabouwalu, bridges, jetties, but also at the same time coming up with

creative ways to give our people access to education which we are doing. We are recognising people who perform well, we are recognising people who may not necessary fall in that category but we are still giving them the access. There is absolutely no discrimination on that basis. Similarly, we are able to then ensure that we create the opportunities for jobs because there is no point in educating people if they do not have the jobs. That is when people really become restless, as you have seen in many countries.

So, Madam Chair, please, I know the motion is on the floor but we need to clarify this to say, it is all about balancing, Fiji may one day be able to do things a lot better in terms of giving a lot more scholarships but at the moment, this is our capacity, but we can tell you that is the fundamental improvement in the way things were then and the way that there is accessibility to education then what it used to be.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Professor Biman Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I was not going to speak on this but I think this is an important conversation that we should have. I know the Honourable Attorney-General knows this that in this Parliament earlier on, I did talk about TELS, I did talk about merit-based scholarships, I did talk about tuition free. The fact of the matter is, Madam Chair, that while we recognise that the Government has increased the education budget, we have tuition free or fee free education right from preschool up to secondary schools, we used to have what we called remission of fees before which was based on means-tested, in other words only poor students from poor families were able to get remission of fees. So, there are various types of schemes that have existed there and people like myself, for example, I always had remission of fees, I studied on a Government scholarship and so things have changed.

What I am urging the Government, especially with TELS for example, if you have Toppers and have talked about you have 600 something Toppers now. People who have over 300 marks are the ones who probably will get the Toppers scholarship and invariably, I have not looked at the statistics but the Honourable Minister for Education highlighted that a lot these Toppers come from very good schools, well-resourced schools, the correlation between very high marks and high parental income is proven worldwide. So what it means is, the current scheme may actually be disadvantaging a lot of the students from poor families and poor backgrounds. I will give you an example, Madam Chair, I did that several months ago, I think I said that in Parliament during the campaign.

There are students who get like 280 marks, 280 marks for a student in Kadavu Provincial School or Bua Central College is a damn good mark because they do not have the kind of facilities and I know the Honourable Minister has talked about equalising facilities all around the county. That is welcomed and it is a good thing to do, but what happens is people who could get a scholarship with 290 marks are forced and they may be very poor kids from a very poor families and I know there are many of them, who could not pay for their fare to come to Suva.

I have been denied the kind of scholarship that they should get so it is the conversation worth having and I think if we look at the Toppers and if you look at the TELS, we should maintain TELS but we should extend the scholarship on a means-tested basis so that some students who come from very poor families who do relatively well if they get 290 and it they were in Indian College or MGM or Suva Grammar, and have the kind of competition they could, they probably would actually get more than 300 marks. The motion is not necessarily one of just about Budget - about balancing. I think the idea of moving towards something like that in the future and again, the Honourable Attorney-General talks about balancing the Budget, it is about balancing the Budget, and we know that.

You never have, the sources are limited, and we all know that. There is always a choice that we have to make. Sometimes you make this, sometimes you make that choice, but there is no harm, Madam Chair, in having a very good conversation about the schemes we have and this is why I have always said, that the last Education Commission that we had was in 2000, it is almost 16 years. There are a number of

changes that have been made, some have worked very well and the Honourable Attorney-General and the people are right in commending Government on certain aspects of the education policy. These are all very composite issues, there is a package and that is why I think it is probably time for the Ministry of Education to consider again, and at the expense of repetition and sounding like old track for the record, I think it is important for us to have an Independent Education Commission to look at all these things and the Government may well find many of the good skills that they already have. So, even if we reject that motion which we will, for me that is not an issue but I think what entails now is for us to look forward and find out very clearly through a very, very independent well researched, well surveyed process, through which we can come up with all facts, results, reviews, evaluations, outcomes and then say; "Hey! Let us change direction," so that is what I want to say, Madam Chair. Thank you.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Madam Chair, just a very short contribution in support of the motion. On the other day I saw the Constitution especially Section 31 on the Right to education. And Section 31 (2) specifically states that, I quote:

"The State must take reasonable measures within its available resources to achieve the progressive realisation of the right -

- a) To free early childhood, primary, secondary and further education; and
- b) To education for person who are unable to complete their primary and secondary education."

When we look at the statistics about education, they start on a wide scale and then when it goes up it becomes a bottleneck. The reason being is that because up to that level, parents find it difficult to send their children to tertiary institutions for a simple reason that they cannot afford it.

HON. DR. M. REDDY.- Why?

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Well, they simply cannot afford it because parents come from different backgrounds, some come from the rural area and to attain further education, they need to have the resources and this is why we are advocating for free university education.

Back in the 1980s, if some of you can remember, Australian universities they offer free education. So, why not just think and ponder the issue that you bring to the attention to this House, think it about it carefully. If there are merits or demerits of the case then it is good to talk about it. If not, just throw it away altogether. I support this motion, Madam Chair.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- I have a right of reply, Madam Chair. Thank you, Madam Chair. Just to correct a few points being made here today, we were very specific about the budget for Fiji Roads. We said \$300 million a year for the next 10 years will give us \$3 billion of road. We are not saying cuts without considering what needs to be done, and I showed you once a cutting from FRA, we will need 10 years to do all the work. So \$300 million a year, you cannot laugh at that. That is what we put aside for the roads for the next 10 years. People will understand that this is Government has committed a significant part of the Budget to road building.

On water, we said we will put aside \$115 million a year for 10 years on water. That is \$1.56 billion worth of water. If you do not give us water after \$1.5 billion of what we have today, then something is wrong here. We are not trying to say; "Take away roads and water", we are saying; "Put an amount that is respectable into this very important item and move forward." That gives you some savings which you can apply towards free university.

I hear about Sri Lanka, but it does not take away the fact that they do provide free university. You can argue with the conditions and all that.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- I work with Sri Lankans and they told me the secret with Sri Lanka is free education up til university, that is it. Even with \$20 million, we can understand the competition will be very high but it does not take away the fact that it is Government's policy to give free university.

The Americans go to the banks. Why? They go to the bank because there is no free tuition. When you have free tuition, they will not go to the bank. America is different because they go to the bank. When you give free tuition, there is no going to the bank.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- That is a burden because they charge commercial interest rate.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- We are talking about no burden at all, free, totally free tuition.

(Hon. Member interjects)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- And if we hear, we hear about youths being so educated, they can see the resources are scarce. Sure, resources are scarce. So why do you spend \$9 million for some foreign people to come and play golf in Fiji, for four or five days in a year?

HON. GOVERNMENT MEMBERS.- Awh!

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- The children are very smart. You go and tell them that, and they say; "Why are all these elites playing golf there on our taxpayers money?"

(Chorus of interjections)

And, Madam Chair, the world is drowning in cheap oil and the airlines are making huge profits. Why are we spending \$18 million on Fiji Airways to fly to Singapore? But the children are smart, Madam Chair, they notice all these. They are very smart, they know their resources are here but someone is not using the resources properly.

Madam Chair, if you talk about roads and fallen highways and we hear about making it easy for an Australian to fly from the East Coast to Nadi and be having his beer at Denarau by midday, fine! What about the bridge in Sigatoka that can be built for \$9 million to open up the cane land in Kavanagasau, Olosara and all those areas, what about that?

So, you think you are talking about using the resources properly, there is wastage here and the students know. The cane crop in Sigatoka into Kavanagasau is virtually dead because of that bridge. A \$9 million to fix that bridge. They built the railway system because of the crop from that area, it is a huge crop, and you are more interested in making sure that an Aussie has his beer at Denarau in no time and forgetting the people of Kavanagasau in Sigatoka with their cane. So, you better do not give me that story.

(Chorus of interjections)

(Laughter)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, scholarship will be very contentious. We used to divide this equitably - 300 for the *iTaukei* and 300 for others, it used to be equitable.

HON. GOVERNMENT MEMBERS.- Awh!

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Now, we do not know what is happening, you do not know what the people are thinking on the ground, so the solution is just give free university to everyone and avoid the misunderstanding that is sentimental there. Madam Chair, it is not only for university, I think we are guilty here of selected hearing, we also select universities and technical colleges.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, it is for technical colleges. If you want to be a pastry chef, you go to technical college, I know it is in the curriculum, Dr Reddy, or a builder or you can be a university student. It is all in here, that is how you package it and everyone who leaves high school should either go to technical college or go to university.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, I rest my case, I think it is a case that the leadership should embrace and accept. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM SPEAKER.- Thank you, Parliament will now vote on this motion, does any Member oppose the motion.

(Chorus of aye and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	13
Noes	-	31
Not Voted	-	6

(There being 13 ayes, 31 noes and 6 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM SPEAKER.- I now give the floor to the Hon. Dulakiverata to speak on his motion:

That Head 50-1-1(10) – Item 9 - *iTaukei* Land Development be increased by \$20 million.

I invite Hon. Dulakiverata to move his motion.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you Madam Chair, I move the motion.

HON. RATU. S. MATANITOBUA.- Madam Chair, I beg to second the motion.

HON. SPEAKER.- Hon. Dulakiverata, would you like to speak on your motion.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chair. This allocation had been here since the last two Budgets. The first budget, there was no allocation; the previous one, and last year's, we heard reports that there had been some allocation but the full amount was not fully utilised.

Madam Chair, this is a very important area. The *iTaukei* landowners own about 90 percent of the land in Fiji. We have heard in the debate in this House through the week that most of the arable land had been leased out for planting cane and now some of these areas had ceased to be used for cane planting,

they have been issued with leases to engage in commercial, industrial or residential development, further denying the landowners from engaging in the development of their land and utilising their land for other purposes. They are being pushed further inland and into the hills because all the land in the arable areas had been utilised. So, we heard this morning the need for the allocation of mechanised farming to clear the area for new developments because the land had been leased for 99 years and it will take four generations for this land to come back to them.

Madam Chair, we do not need to have an *iTaukei* landowner to become a passive land provider just to achieve the rent. We need to engage them, to allow them to use their land in other economical ways. So they are engaged and have a better return from their land. The problem, Madam Chair, that the lands in Fiji we are leasing, we have the Native Land Trust Board and the leasing arrangement, the leasing structure is very much regulated. The rent is regulated and, they do not receive the market rate for their land. The basis for assessing rental is based on UCV, the UCV is not a fair market rate.

HON. GOVT MEMBER.- That is not true.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- UCV is not the market rate, and Madam Chair.

(Chorus of interjections).

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.-...please, let me finish.

MADAM SPEAKER.- Point of clarification, please.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Yes, yes I'll finish.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- The Honourable Member is misrepresenting. UCV is not the market rate.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- I am not misrepresenting, I am telling you the facts.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- UCV is not the market rate, I agree with you, but you said that the land leases are being leased only at the UCV, they are not. As the Honourable Minister for Lands will tell you, that under the Land Use Decree that has been put in place.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- That is the problem, the Land Use Decree.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Listen! The Land Use Decree does not use UCV. The Land Use Decree says the rental that must be paid to the *iTaukei* landowners must be the market rate.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for the information that is only a very small portion of the land.

HON. GOVERNMENT MEMBERS.- Awh!

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- That is the land that is supposed to be administered by the *iTaukei* Land Trust Board but they created another organisation to look after some of the land and, they created their own rules under the Decree. By and large, Madam Chair, we have the ALTA which controls the land administration and dictates how much rent should be paid. So the landowners all this time have been denied the rights and the freedom to decide how much they should charge for their land. So everything should be on market, to be very fair and just.

Madam Chair, what I am saying here is that, *iTaukei* landowners should be left on their own and not to be passive land providers all the time. They should be given more opportunities. I applaud the Government's initiative to bring about these things. What I am saying here is to increase the allocation because the procedures, the process to be able to benefit from here is very cumbersome. That is why, the last two allocations, only a few people benefited. So, now when people are in the roll, they know the system, they are already working on the things, there will be more applicants. So that is the reason, Madam Chair, I am moving that we increase this allocation so more people will benefit from here. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM SPEAKER.- Thank you. Are there any other input?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Honourable Dulakiverata's second part of his statement towards the end was perfect. We have the same agreement.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- I am honest, I am honest!

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- But the two-thirds of his statement is completely irrelevant in the beginning and factually incorrect. This initiative as Honourable Dulakiverata has just acknowledged was started by this Government, it is unprecedented and the reality is, Madam Chair, what he has said is exactly what we have stated when we first introduced this budget line item. When this was first announced, we said quite categorically that we recognise the fact that the *iTaukei* landowners in Fiji have always been denied the cream.

They have always been denied the cream, for two fundamental reasons. One of them, is that they are (to use his words), the passive landowners. In the sense that you have a vast tracks of land, that were leased by developers who had access to funds, they would come along to landowners. They may lease out 40, 50 or 100 acres whatever it was, at very low rates and then they would develop that into residential, commercial, industrial sites or even tourism sites, get 99 year leases and sell each lot within that site for \$100,000 at times. We are the ones who recognised that and we are the ones who said that one of the reasons that *iTaukei* landowners have not been able to get into the space of being active landlords is because they do not have the access to funds to help them develop that land.

Let the people of Fiji know that we are the ones who said that and recognised it, and made an allocation. And yes, it was slow because the applications was slow. We had people who were applying saying; "Can we get a tractor, applying under this allocation. They were not aware, we had carried out public relations on this. We have also had people who have applied, Honourable Nanovo knows this, where his son-in-law put in an application for a particular site but then we had competing interests where people were disputing the landownership and who should actually have the ownership rights over the development. So, we have to ensure that the legal check-offs are done.

Honourable Dulakiverata said this to me recently also and in this House I understand, that the momentum is gaining. We have already identified four sites, SCOPE has already started the work on it. We expect that these four sites will be completed by next year, towards the second half of next year or the third quarter of next year or worse, we will commence before Christmas of this year. Now we also want to get into the area of other people who made the applications. He is absolutely right about how certain farm lands now are being turned into residential, industrial, commercial sites because our urban population is growing. If you travel between Nadi and Lautoka now, if you look at the Sabeto area and many of the other areas, they are being turned into commercial sites, because there is pressure to develop those sites, but mind you, those landowners are now getting commercial rates.

Now, if you want to talk about the formula that iTLTB is using, that is something obviously that we have been working upon, that has also been recognised under CIBUL. This is why they are getting 10 percent as opposed to the 6 percent of UCV. There will come a time when we can have market rates across

the board, but in order to be able to look at before that, you need to look at the implication of what that will do if you change it overnight. This is why under the Land Use Bank, if you look at that, these are lands that have not been leased out previously, this is why you can apply the market rates.

We have a Resort in Kadavu, the Yakuve Development, that is being listed under the Land Use Decree. They are paying market rates, one of the few tourism developments that are paying market rates. There are other areas that will be developed under the Land Use Decree. One block of land is opposite Yako Village. That is, again, going to be leased under the market rates. There are a few others, Legalega too. So, that is gaining momentum, and we recognise the fact that once the momentum as far as this \$10 million allocation picks up speed, we will make the necessary adjustments to increase it, and we must.

Even Honourable Bulitavu, I have talked to him about it, that in Macuata there needs to be more development. We want to tie up with the people there, so the landowners themselves can develop the land. We want them to own it, we want them to become the rightful landlords, who benefit directly from it, because it will not only give them the confidence and the ability to step into the marketplace and identify most sites for themselves to develop, it will also create economic robustness because when we have more land available, whether what type of land is available, whatever form of land, we have more active participants within the economy. It creates economic activity, which is good for the country. Everyone is a winner, so Honourable Dulakiverata your motion about increasing it, what we are saying is that, in time to come it will increase. We will need to see...

(Hon. Member interjects)

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, no, we just do not put money there just for the sake of it. If there is a need

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- The need is there!

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- ...within this one financial year, there are other places from which we can source it within the Budget.

Have a look at Head 50 carefully, and you can see places where we can use money if we need to increase this. If next year we have a lot of developers coming to the fore, we will most definitely increase it because it is in our interest, our country's interest and landowners' interest to increase it a lot more. You cannot use the two years of the past two allocations, the 2015 and 2016 allocations because the 2016 allocation as you know, was only for six months, given the change of the financial year, and these things have a slow uptake. The momentum is now gaining, with people in Wairabetia, in Saweni, Yadua and Vuda, as a result of that, we have now seen a huge rush, and the reason why these people were actually chosen is because they did a lot of the work on their own. They had some basic scheme plans done.

So, we will see a momentum gain and most definitely, this allocation will increase as the momentum develops. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you;. Honourable Nawaikula.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- Madam Chair, let me say that it is very, very dangerous how the Government is handling this, because first you have to understand, who is the landowner? The landowners are not individuals. The landowners are the *mataqalis*'.

The second point is that, it is not unprecedented. We have NLDC that previously had the same function, but NLDC was a better formula because that looks after the interests of the so-called 'landowners', not the individuals but the *Mataqali* and they collectively benefit from that. What will happen in this situation is that, those who will benefit from here are firstly the companies; the speculators

who are there, who will be engaged by the Government. Second, the individuals who are the holders or the lessee. They are not landowners, they are individuals, they will earn a lot of money, so are the companies, and the poor landowners will remain in the same situation, and that is very, very dangerous.

It is even wrong to say that this Government were the first to realise that they do not have money in their pockets. We all know that, but it is the kind of formula that you use that will benefit. It is the same thing as what the Government is saying in relation to the squatters. It is a different kind of formula, and the formula that the Government is doing now is very, very dangerous.

I support this motion to increase this money in order that the Government can sit down and make a rethink about the whole thing, whether what they are doing now is correct or...

HON. S.D. KARAVAKI.- Dangerous!

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- Yes, dangerous. I support the motion, Madam Chair.

Madam Chair, can I make another point. It is not good that one space from here, and another space from here, the Honourable Attorney-General spoke about five or six times. Those who are watching from outside will say; "Hey, every time he stands up, and stands up and stands up, when will it end?"

HON. GOVERNMENT MEMBER.- He is allowed to, what is wrong with that?

(Chorus of interjections)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Just a point of clarification.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- Now, when someone talks, he rebuts.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, not all the time but only when

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- All the time!

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, the Honourable Nawaikula is not correct in saying that we are only providing these assistance to individuals.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- That is correct. I am entitled to correct you.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- In Saweni and Wairabetia, it is a landowning unit that has formed the trust. It is landowning unit that has formed the company, and the beneficiaries are the people who are the members of the landowning unit.

In Vuda, it is an individual, but he is a member of that *Mataqali*; member of the landowning unit.

HON. OPPOSITION MEMBERS.- Awh!

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- But, the problem is this? Do we not also want individual *iTaukei* entrepreneurs, in particular if they are members of the landowning unit themselves, they have taken out a lease? Many of you would pass the Nadi Airport, you see the vacant development. That was vacant for years. It was a gentlemen who is an *iTaukei* landowner who actually leased that site, but that was neglected because he did not have the money to connect electricity to that particular development site. Only now you are seeing a few buildings coming up...

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- That's dangerous.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- And that is also very dangerous. My point is, Honourable Nawaikula, please understand, it is open to the landowning unit. If members of a landowning unit form a trust or a company, it is open to them, it is also open to individual *iTaukei* owners of land who may have formed the company, who will form the lease. It may also apply to a group of *iTaukei* landowners, who may have formed a company, as long as all the legal tick offs are there. We rely on the legal documentation, We have the site in Tamavua where you have a group of members of that *Mataqali* that came along, they have agreement to lease from iTLTB, and it is the basis of that, we do it. So, we carry out all these checks.

HON. S.D. KARAVAKI.- Its dangerous!

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- It is not just dangerous, Honourable Karavaki. It is applicable to all *iTaukei* people, who are members of the landowning units.

HON. S.D. KARAVAKI.- You will divide the landowners.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, as we have said, we have had groups and we have applications where people who are landowners, who form their own Trust, and they have come along and said, 'Look, we want this land developed.' What is so dangerous about members of a landowning unit, who own the land, have formed a company, have formed a Trust and they have a proper documentation from iTLTB, which we do not do anything without they tick off, and then we are giving them the money to develop?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister for Agriculture.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I wish to contribute. According to the other side of the House, this is dangerous and the NLDC model is better. That was where I first worked when I left RKS, because I wanted to pursue a career in Agriculture Engineering, Madam Chair, and I see a huge difference between this and the NLDC Model. NLDC owned Desai Bookshops, they own estates in Nasarawaqa, Seaqaqa, Legalega in Nadi, and it is run by NLDC under a CEO, and we all know the history of NLDC. There was no benefits to the landowning units. Where is NLDC today, Madam Chair?

I wish to make this very quickly, there is a big difference. This is the problem with our colleagues on the other side, they ride on the initiatives that are already in place.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- There is a big difference, Madam Chair. One of the core values of this side of the House is pragmatism. We knew the problems that existed. When was ALTA in place? What was done during all these period? We saw the problems in ALTA. We introduced CIBUL, and then there was another better alternative because of the regulation in the markets, create the Land Bank. There are options, you subsidise the needs because of the problems are the existing ones, that is pragmatism, Madam Chair. On that initiative, we created CIBUL.

We started the Free Education or Free Tuition or whatever we call it...

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- ...and now they want university level, but there are competing needs in the sectors, there are priorities.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Tourism is!

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- *iTaukei* Land Development, the same thing Madam Chair, they ride on the initiatives. Let us go slowly. Shway, Shway, we will crawl, we will walk, and then we will run. The Honourable Gavoka is a marketing man. That was his score function when he was with Thomas Cook. When I was in NLDC, he was with Thomas Cook. Then he went to the Fiji Visitors Bureau – Strategic Marketing, Madam Chair. We are living in a globalised world where information and technology is the whole world is watching, when there is Golf in Fiji and they come to Fiji. The Singapore route is a strategic route for Fiji, it leads us into Asia, Europe and to other continents, Madam Chair. It is not a short term fix....

(Laughter)

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Let us be realistic with all these, Madam Chair, shway, shway. During our next term, then we will provide free education to university students. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Honourable Gavoka.

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- I would like to contribute to the motion. Madam Chair, I think we all agree with the explanation that has been given. There was a model, but given that there were problems with the NLDC model, after that, the new model came in which is the *Vanua* Development Model. Those were the arms of the TLTB in trying to develop landowner's affairs to develop their land and move commercially.

This current model, the *iTaukei* Land Development Model, is a bit different because it just a grant. There are some landowners with iTLTB and there are some landowners who decided to deposit their land at the Land Bank. Those are two different things. I will speak on the landowners who have land at iTLTB who want to benefit from this grant and why this grant needs to increase as the prayers of the motion.

Madam Chair, to carry out a subdivision, the requirement of this particular grant is, we have to have a development plan. That is the strict thing but again, there are flexibilities in the rule. Those who have applied or given in some kind of basic scheme plans and other Town and Country Planning requirements, but again, the grant is basically for the development cost - land clearing, drainage, pulling electricity and even water. Those are the costs that are catered by this particular grant.

From the first step, Madam Chair, from say a reserved land to be reserve the land, then after that to apply for a lease, then that particular lease you want to subdivide into a development lease to qualify for the particular grant. There are other costs before you even reach up to the requirement of this particular grant is an area where landowners do not qualify for this particular land. So far, I think about 36 applications have been received by the Ministry of Economy - 24 applications from iTLTB, but again the cost of one subdivision, Madam Chair, is about \$800,000 to \$1 million – the cost to subdivide a particular land.

When you divide that \$10 million into the development cost per subdivision, I think only about nine or ten landowning units or ten applicants will benefit in a year. We have four Divisions – the Northern Division, Western Division, Central Division and Eastern Division. We have seen the ones in the Western Division where the landowners have formed their own companies and they have applied for the development lease. So, they become directors and shareholders of the company, and they are also applying for the development lease. On the other hand, they will also benefit also as members of the *mataqali* because they are the ones who are going to develop and sell the lease when it becomes a proper title.

Again, people are waiting. I think we should all support this motion to increase the funding. We can have a quarter system that can be designed by the Ministry of Economy on how much should be given

to the Western Division, how much should be in per year, say two applications in the Northern Division, two from the Western Division, two from the Central Division, so we have equal landowners from all Divisions actually developed at the same time. If you focus in the Western Division, the applications from the North will be in the queue for a very long time.

Those are the reasons, Madam Chair, as to why this motion should be supported, given the development costs and other costs that are incurred by the landowners like basic premium charged by iTLTB. In order to get a development lease, we have to pay \$37,000 as premium. Then the process to issue that development lease will then start. Other costs such as survey costs, legal cost, et cetera, are additional costs which a landowner or an applicant has to incur before he qualifies for this particular grant.

So, I request the Honourable Minister for Economy to lower the requirement so that landowners can qualify and also to increase their allocation so that the pending applications that are there are attended to.

With that, Madam Chair, I support the motion which is before the House

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Honourable Dulakiverata would you like to speak in reply?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you very much for all those who have contributed to this motion. It has brought about a lot of very good ideas.

I want to comment, Madam Chair, on the NLDC. The NLDC should be commended for the work that they have carried out in regards to land subdivision and development which has benefitted the country. NLDC developed Tacirua Heights, the Cunningham Subdivisions, the Delainavesi Subdivisions, Seaqaqa Subdivision, so they really contributed to the development of the country.

Madam Chair, my motion is very simple because of the need. We have been discussing in this House the need for housing, the need for resettling squatters, so all these needs. All the development programmes put forward by the Government are disjointed – they are here and there, here and there. We need to join and collect all these developments so that they are realised and can be measured but the problem is disjointed. So, to address the issue of housing and all those problems, we should encourage these and increase the allocation.

I quite agree with what my colleagues have said that it should be coordinated in all the Divisions so that all these housing needs are addressed. That is why, Madam Speaker, we move that we increase the allocation to cater for this. Thank you.

(Chorus of interjections)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON. - Thank you. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON. - There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	13
Noes	-	32
Not Voted	-	5

(There being 13 ayes, 32 noes and 5 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I now give the floor to Honourable Dulakiverata to move his next motion, that Head 50-1-1(10): Item 17 – Land Acquisition and Compensation –WAF Complex (\$4,575,300) be increased by \$5 million.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata, would you like to move your motion.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Yes, Madam Chair, I move the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have a seconder

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Madam Chair, I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON. - Would you like to speak on the motion?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA. - Thank you, Madam Chair. This is a very important area of development as all these developments go along and the need for new land has to be acquired to facilitate all the developments and carry out the work. So, compensation needs to be paid and the proper land management to ensure that all these land are properly surveyed (as I had mentioned earlier during the week) and properly registered.

One of the problems that arise in this land requisition, Madam Chair, is the time it took to complete the whole exercise. Most of these road developments which the Government had undertaken, all these processes have not been completed because all these roads need to be surveyed and properly transferred to the Government, likewise the iTLTB land record needs to be updated to ensure that everyone knows what they have and as I had said earlier, it is good for future record and proper administration and management of all the land involved. So, in this allocations, Madam Chair, it only says land acquisition and compensation. So, land acquisition is the process to acquire the land and compensation is to pay for the compensations but it does not complete the exercise - to survey the land, transfer and register. That is why, Madam Chair, I am suggesting that we increase this allocation to cater for that exercise.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The motion is open for any input from Honourable Members.

HON. A. SAYED KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, I wish to clarify, we have the list of all the areas, Honourable Dulakiverata, where will this money will go to? For example, there are certain areas where we have to lease the land, we have to pay compensation to the landowners. Then we also have the package plant site acquisition. These package plants that we are creating are standalone systems that you can have reticulated water systems. They are being set up in Veisari, Vunidawa, Levuka, Navua, Keiyasi, Naseyani, Nabouwalu, Waitavala, Rara, which costs about \$17,000.

Then you have this individual reservoir sites, where you actually need to pay them compensation, and that is about \$2.3 million. So these are for specific sites that they have identified that they need to actually acquire and get hold of the lease, or pay the compensation, to be able to run the sewer lines and in other places we actually have to acquire a lease itself. This is obviously work in progress and that is the total cost for this year. This, obviously, will be a continuing project because there are other sites that we need to acquire, but this is required for this financial year.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, for that information. I did not have the benefit of having all those information as my motion is guided from what is in the budget book. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Are you withdrawing your motion?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- No, No.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Parliament will now vote on the motion. Does any Member oppose to the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	14
Noes	-	30
Not voted	-	6

(There being 14 ayes, 30 noes and 6 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I now give the floor to the Honourable Ro Kiniviliame Kiliraki to move, that Head 50-1-1(10): Item 13- Help for Homes Initiative (\$20 million) be increased by \$5 million..

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I now give the floor to the Honourable Kiliraki to move the motion.

HON. RATU K.KILIRAKI.- Madam Chair, I move the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have a seconder?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Kiliraki, you may speak on the motion.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Thank you, Madam Chair. This is an increase on the provisions that is there in the Budget as provided by the Government and the increase is in anticipation of the demand that is there since *TC Winston*. As we have gone past the fourth month now after *TC Winston* and we must also understand that we are also four months into the hurricane season. This is very important or otherwise we will be caught if it happens that we come across a cyclone again in November which is the beginning of the cyclone season.

This motion is very relevant and it is for the demand and it is also for the people to have basic houses which are cyclone resilient. In the event of any cyclone phenomenon because we cannot run away from the cyclone season every year, so we expect that every year, and if *TC Winston* is an indication of what is to come, then we must be prepared. That is the gist of the increase, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Do we have any other input to this motion?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Just a clarification, Honourable Kiliraki. As you know that when we started this initiative, we have already disbursed about \$88 million. This \$20 million, Honourable Kiliraki is to cater for those people who may have been left out.

As you know, when the Honourable Prime Minister launched this, he said that the cards must be redeemed by the end of June. Now, we are still going to go back to the red zone that the Honourable Minister for Natural Disaster Management had highlighted earlier and see if there are people who have been left out. Anyone who is still desperate in terms of home building or there are some people who have

already gone ahead and built their homes and as you know under the 'Help for Homes' initiative, people can also claim the money back, once they show the documentation . So, this is what it is for.

In respect of what you are saying, and it may not necessarily get all used, you are talking about future cyclones. If you look within that same SEG, we have a contingency funds for disaster risk which is under item 14, which is \$7 million that we have set aside should there be any cyclone if we can tap into those resources available. Just to clarify that that \$20 million is to cater for people who may have missed out from the 'Help for Homes' initiative programme that we did have. It is not for the future per se.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I still stand with the motion. As explained by the Honourable AG that the red zone but you must understand also that the periphery of those red zones are also very much affected. It will not take away the fact that increases will be there, if it is used or not but it is there in accordance with the budget. It has to be provided in the budget, in case you go beyond the \$20 million. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAMCHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on the motion. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Question put

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	13
Noes	-	32
Not voted	-	5

(There being 13 ayes, 32 noes and 5 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

I now invite the Honourable Anare Vadei to move that Head 50 be increased by \$2 million in Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 10, with respect to grants to Disabled People's Organisation. Honourable Vadei, would you like to move your motion?

HON. A.T.VADEL.- Yes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Vadei, you may speak on your motion.

HON. A.T.VADEL.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe the Bill is before us regarding the disabled at the Committee stage and it will be tabled in this House at a later stage. We really see the need that appears from the request submitted by the various sections of the disabilities and the very important issue is that, there is no insurance cover for them. That is the saddest part of our whole exercise. So, that is why, for operation and the early intervention, we need the support so that is why I propose for that increase. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Any other input to that motion? Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Question put

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	32
Noes	-	14
Not voted	-	4

(There being 32 ayes, 14 noes and 4 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

I now invite the Honourable Ratu Sela Nanovo to move that Head 50 be decreased by \$18 million in Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 15 with respect to Marketing Support for Fiji Airways. Honourable Ratu Nanovo, would you like to move your motion?

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Madam Chair, I am moving my motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have a seconder?

HON. A.T.VADEL.- I beg to second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Nanovo would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I think I will take us back again to everyone here in one way or the other, we have been doing budgeting for ourselves, our family or our village. Now, we are concentrating on the main National Budget. As the Honourable Minister for Economy had said, we need to do the balancing priorities or balancing act in order to make sure that the budget that we have got right now, when something comes against it, is safe, fair and enable us to move forward. In this case, I would like to focus our attention into the Budget that is in front of us, which we are discussing right now. All the allocation is there, and now we are trying to see which of this allocation can be put aside for the time being, let the Government move forward then we can go back, when everything is okay then we bring it back again.

That is why when we analyse the budget on hand right now, I do not see why we should be moving forward to stage this Golf Tournament at Natadola in the next coming year. I think right now, what the Government needs is that, more money that it can collect in order to meet all the damages that has been caused by *Tropical Cyclone Winston*. That can also be addressed to meet the housing needs of all the people that are in the squatter areas or if the Government really wants to have a clean record as it moves forward, maybe this \$9 million is best put into use by paying off all the dues that were due to the Civil Servants who were mistreated in 2009. Their pay was taken off, their allowances that was supposed to be paid to them were not been paid and the unfair termination that were done to them and all those compensation should be paid, if you want to have a clean, safe moving forward. That is why for me, right now, Madam Chair, I think we can hold on to the Golf Tournament...

HON. OPPOSITION MEMBER.- Fiji Airways.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Is it Fiji Airways?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON. It is Fiji Airway.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Okay, can I finish this one, it also involves golf.

We can hold on to this, while we attend to all those areas that I have mentioned. I request that we reduce Head 50 allocation by \$9 million, which is directed to golf for the time being until the time is right.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Does anyone like to have an input to this?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Can I continue with the golf, Madam Chair. The golf as I have indicated many times should not be funded by the taxpayers of Fiji. Here, you are spending \$9 million when the total budget or the marketing arm of the Government, Tourism Fiji is given \$36 million. That is about \$27 million marketing and \$8 million on operations. With a bit of change, it comes to \$36 million. You cannot, for the life of me, justify spending a quarter of an amount on a four or five days of golf when you have \$36 million being spent to fund the marketing of Fiji in North America, UK, Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. These are very expensive markets, day in and day out. You have marketing people there, marketing Fiji. Just to play golf for five days and spend a quarter of the Budget, it does not make sense to me. This is why I keep saying to the Government, be careful of this overseas promoters. They will come and show you all these slick presentations and show you figures about viewership and all that. Do not be taken by those people and it is just when you look at the hard reality of what you are spending, it is uneconomical and almost criminal, Madam Chair.

Madam Chair, we all want to develop golf for tourism. I have indicated a solution to this. We have three championship golf courses in this country such as Denarau, Natadola and Pacific Harbour. Have three tournaments every four months in a year and one in April, one in August, one in November and December. In each tournaments, \$300,000 price money at Denarau, \$300,000 price money at Natadola, \$300,000 price money at Pacific Harbour. \$900,000 for one round four days in Denarau, four days in Natadola and four days in Pacific Harbour \$900,000, that in April.

Madam Chair, do a similar one in August four months later and do a similar one just mid of around Christmas - November. All up that is \$2.7 million, not \$9 million, then what you do, Madam Chair, is for the first one in April, given earning rights to one of the sponsors here a bank. The second one give it to an insurance company, third one to another company. They can have the naming rights, working together with Tourism Fiji to promote golf every four months of the year and groups from overseas once you step in that calendar, groups from overseas can fit into the tournament because by doing this, we will be enabling our local golfers to play.

Vijay Singh has been a trail blazer, he has reached the highest level of golf in this country. Imagine our own young players playing nine tournaments every year of that quality against international players in Denarau, Natadola and Pacific Harbour. You play in this recent golf championship, Madam Chair, you can play anywhere in the world. So, you do two things, one you promote golf, get tourist to fit into a gold calendar and you develop our own golfing skills and develop our own local potential.

That, Madam Chair, is a better way of spending money, as supposed to \$9 million for some worthy people in Tadola and all these illusive viewership numbers that we are told will see this. Let me tell you, Madam Chair, there is one championship golf here in Natadola, another one in Spain, another one in Brazil, it just loses whatever you are trying to create. There are so many happening, you just lose it totally. Do it in this way, you try into something tangible, with tourist coming in and you develop your local players. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, just some key points. When you go into the basics of marketing, it is also about managing your risk. It is also about ensuring that to put it simply that your tourism sector in this particular instance, is not dependent, for example only on two or three countries. Madam Chair, 67 to 68 per cent of our arrivals into Fiji come from Australia and New Zealand. If there is a down turn in the economy of those two countries and the visitors' arrivals drop as a consequence, it will have huge impact on our industry.

Unfortunately, that reliance continue for decades in Fiji. Unfortunately, the 67 per cent was not seen, even the higher figures were not seen as something that made us vulnerable. We are trying to reduce that vulnerability, reduce our risk, therefore we are concentrating on developing the very segments within the tourism industry and therefore, we need to reach out beyond Australia and New Zealand. They are key markets for us, we need to grow the numbers from those countries but as a percentage of our overall arrivals, it needs to decrease because you reduce your risk. It is fundamental in management of risk.

The other issue is, that the golfing segment is a very large segment. Golfers do not go one tournament here, one tournament there, as you would know, Madam Chair, as a golfer yourself, they played the tour. Vijay Singh does not go, they all play in America now. They should do the tour. Fiji International now is part of the European tour from this year. What does that mean; it means the hundreds of thousands of people who are actually follow the European tour, who also watch Fiji International because it is part of the European tour. It also means that the golfers who play in the European tour have an opportunity, we have an opportunity for them to come to Fiji. When they come to Fiji, the viewership of our destination increases significantly.

Now, they are saying, why do we pay \$9 million? That is the maximum. If you see the agreement, sometimes can pay less than that depending on the level of sponsorship that they get. That is part of the agreement. If they get a higher level of sponsorship, our contribution reduces accordingly. The maximum we pays is \$9 million, we pay about \$2 million exactly, more than \$2 million for a 18 minute rugby game on 1st July. No one condemns that. For 18 minutes, we paid \$2 million, we pay \$9 million for about four or five days. But let us see the benefit of what that \$2 million gave us. We now have the Super Rugby tour wanting to come back to Fiji. What does it mean for us; it means there are more tourism arrivals, it means we need more rooms in Fiji. It means we are able to market Fijian Made, Buy Fijian Made Tourism Fiji where happiness find you.

It also has a huge encouragement to the numerous potential rugby stars in our country. Similarly, with golf, golf is always been seen as an elite sport. But you have someone like Vijay Singh, whose parents or family members were cadies during the colonial times making big. Vijay Singh was only able to make it bigger when he left Fiji. He went to Australia, he could not find the sponsors, he went to Malaysia and that is where it all took off because you had the tours being played. Fiji did not have the tours. Now, our golfers have the opportunity as wild cards being introduced in the Fiji international and in the same way wild cards in Tavarua at the surfing competition that puts our people on the global stage.

The whole issue is about putting Fiji on the map, enticing well with also, Fiji Airway, are we doing that? Now, again as the Honourable Minister for Agriculture had highlighted in his earlier submission that it is a strategic move. Again, it is a part and parcel of connecting Fiji to the rest of the world, getting us a better connectivity. Fiji Airways now flies as we say to every single continent that rims the Pacific Ocean except South America. We are flying to San Francisco, LA, Hong Kong, Singapore, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and the Pacific Island countries. We now have Korean Airways doing three times a week. Just this afternoon at lunch time, we have just improved our Air Services Agreement with Japan. The Solicitor-General would have signed it this afternoon, where we are looking at increasing the number of intake on flights and doing code sharing.

This kind of legal framework that we are putting in place again creates Fiji as a hub. FAO now has an office in the Ministry of Agriculture. UNESCAP has agreed to Fiji to be doing all the training for Climate Change. We have other international agencies wanting to set up shop, they are negotiating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, why? One of the reasons why that is happening also, please listen because it is part of a big plan. No point shaking your head! It is part of the big plan, because the moment....

HON. OPPOSITION MEMBER.- (Inaudible)

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, because they do not condemn it.

...they have that level of connectivity, you are able to position yourself a lot better. That is the reality.

Now, we are partnering with Fiji Airways to go into this marketing strategy because we need to connect to India; we need to connect beyond India, we need to connect to China. We also have a capacity at the moment, to be able to have direct flights to Beijing. We are trying to resolve the Air Services Agreement. We obviously, are not going to sell away the family jewels but the Air Services Agreement needs to be correct. Once that is negotiated, we will then be able to fly to Beijing.

Now Fiji Airways has strategically partnered with us to be able to go to Singapore. As announced in this Budget in Head 50 also, you will be setting up of the flying school. You cannot have the flying school, you cannot have Boeing or Airbus interested in partnering with Fiji Airways to setup flight simulators, if we do not as a country have the connectivity in the first place. It is part and parcel of the entire package. This marketing partnership we have with Fiji Airways is not going to be there for time immemorial. We have already said to them, we are looking at about two or three year programme and as the route does a lot better, we will be able to then reduce the grants and get of it completely. The Honourable Minister for Agriculture, together with the Honourable Minister for Industry and Trade are also looking at working out some strategies in terms of getting freight directly into Singapore. We will be able to then market some of our niche products into that part of the market. So, it is an overall strategy as we deal with the rugby game, as we had with the weight lifting competition, it compliments that.

If the Honourable Minister for Youth and Sports goes out and says “please come to Fiji and have international regional competition” but we do not have the connectivity, it makes Fiji a difficult destination to get to. So, we are flying to hubs, Singapore is a major hub with a through put of nearly 60 million passengers. Hong Kong is also a hub. Now if we get Japan, Narita would be a hub, we are flying to LA as a hub, we are connecting to San Francisco as a hub. This is good for the country, it positions us well and it also helps all the other arms of Government to be able to leverage of that. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Is there any other input to these two motions on the Fiji International Golf Tournament and Marketing Support for Fiji Airways?

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Madam Chair, I think the other one should be coming later but since he is also touching on that, I would also request that I have my contribution now.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, please.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- As for the allocation of \$18 million for marketing Fiji Airways to Singapore, I am not really disagreeing with flying over to Singapore. What I am disagreeing with is why we are paying for that \$18 million, the Government is paying for that when the company itself can pay because last year, we noted that they were able to make huge profits. Why are we paying? At the same time we are faced with a dilemma here with the *TC Winston's* destruction. We should have kept that money towards that and in addition to that, I heard that Qantas too is a shareholder in this company. If that is the case, why should we be meeting all the payments when we should ask Qantas to pay their share too, towards that allocation? Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Any other input? Honourable Gavoka.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, this is about the marketing support for Fiji Airways. As I said in my earlier presentation, the price of oil has dropped from around \$105 per barrel in late 2014, it went down to as low as \$US20 per barrel at one time. It is now back in the 40s and 50s but as I said earlier, the world is drowning in cheap oil and the airlines are the ones with profits including all of Fiji Airways.

The American Airlines last year, Madam Chair, totally made about \$22 billion profit. The biggest in the history of aviation. So, with a situation like that, why are we spending money when the airline has got a huge reduction in its operating cost through this huge reduction in oil. It does not make sense, Madam

Chair, we may have made our commitments but now that we know that trading conditions are favourable for the airline, let us pull the money back. I know they do not like history but it will be the first time the Fiji Government puts money directly into supporting a route for Fiji Airways.

What we normally do, when you market the destination, it goes one-third, one-third, one-third. One-third from Tourism Fiji, one-third from the Airline and one-third from the operators. That is the way you should do it. Now, it is \$18 million with one short and the connectivity, yes we buy that but we had connectivity with Tokyo, Florida, Osaka back in those days. We have it in Seoul, Korea. We have it in Los Angeles. It has already been there, it will grow with the growth in tourism, the growth in travel.

Madam Chair, this \$18 million is ill advised and you would rather spend that money elsewhere, where it is needed, given the challenges facing the country today. Thank you, Madam Chair.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, just a clarification. The clarification is that, the oil price is not the only determinant in terms of measuring cash flow. That is what they are talking about, the cash flow.

One point that obviously has been forgotten is that Fiji Airways has bought three brand new A330 200 series. When was the last time that Fiji Airways bought a white bodied aircraft brand new completely from the shop? Now we have the fourth one that has come on line with a lease finance. The two 747 that was been run which is lauded as something big was actually a - 26 year old aircraft, they are paying half a million Fijian dollars a month lease on that. The 767 that used to run to Hong Kong, they were paying \$US800, 000 a month lease for that, that is a fact. That was the type of management they had at Air Pacific then. Now, what we have done in the funding for this, which FNPF benefited very handsomely from it but the bulk of the funding has come from a German bank. They are funding that, they have obviously seen the books of Fiji Airways, they believe that it is a viable option.

Now, the airline industry as you know is very volatile. If for example, the oil prices go up all of a sudden as we know it can and it has within one year, you can wipe that out completely. So the point is when you strategies for these things, you do not think up to your noses only. You need to think for the long term and that is the reason why we are partnering with them. The route becomes stronger, we are very synergy with the different Ministries we get of it, the country benefits.

We have now created more jobs. By flying to more destinations, we need more flight attendants, we need more pilots, more chefs to do the catering, pastry chefs. These are the kind of things that has happened, Madam Chair, just for your clarification on that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- We had the Boeing Dreamliner on order but for the coup. If you talk about buying new aircraft, you are buying Airbus, we were buying three new Boeing, so let us not say that we never bought any new aircraft. We have the Dreamliner which were on order but when the coup happened, they went to Airbus. Let us understand that, we also had plans to buy new aircraft and we had a Boeing family, part of the Boeing culture and we had gone for the Dreamliner but the coup happened and we went to airbus. So, let us be very clear about that.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- I have to clarify that. Boeing, the Dreamliner was behind time. They were not able to deliver on time. That is the issue, and Boeing compensated Fiji Airways for the deposit that Fiji Airways had put in. If it was because we suddenly left because of the supposed *coup*, they would not have compensated us. They compensated us. That is the reality of it. So, it is misrepresented to say that we only went to Airbus because of the events of 5th December, 2006. They compensated Fiji Airways.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, thank you. I would like to speak in support of the motion to review the marketing support for Fiji Airways. As rightly mentioned, Madam Chair, this is the marketing of Fiji through Fiji Airways, and I think there is no other better marketing tool right now in terms of priority marketing than the Fiji Sevens Team. I think everyone is focussing on the Fiji Rugby Sevens Team that will be participating in Rio and it will only be proper that this marketing support for Fiji Airways allocation be directed to the Fiji Sevens Team.

I think the Government has already mentioned that they will be provided a \$30,000 incentive for winning any medal, and in that particular case, I think this allocation will be better utilised by the Fiji Sevens Team if the Government put a proposal for \$100,000 if they win the gold medal, and then stagnate to the respective medal, not just the \$30,000 for any medal because any player would not be going to participate to win the gold. I, therefore, support this motion for it to be reduced and be directed to the Fiji Sevens Team.

(Chorus of interjections)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Nanovo, you may speak in reply before we vote.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- Just before voting, Madam Chair, to finalise my contribution, I seek clarification as well from the Honourable Minister for Economy, where is the Qantas share stand in this allocation? Where is the Qantas share stand in the ownership of the Fiji Airways?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Yes, a good question.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- While we are waiting for the Honourable Minister for Economy, would you like to have your right of reply on the Fiji Golf.

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- No, once this is answered, then that is it.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- They own 46 per cent, but this Government have destroyed the relationship with Qantas, that is why they are not contributing at all.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- Earlier on, Madam Chair, they own 49 per cent, and at one stage, the former Government had given Qantas the veto power in the Board, so they decide what happens in that Board? So, if Fiji Airways wanted to buy an ATR 42, Qantas should say 'no', because they have an interest. This Government removed that veto power. Thank you very much.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on the Fiji International Golf allocation.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- He has given it to few Fiji Sevens.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Does any Member oppose this motion?
(Chorus of ayes and noes).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, Parliament will now vote on the motion.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	14
Noes	-	31

Not Voted - 5

(There being 14 ayes, 31 noes and 5 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Now, that we have the Honourable Minister for Economy here, would you like to just repeat your question, Honourable Member?

HON. RATU S.V. NANOVO.- It has already been answered.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on the second motion Marketing Support for Fiji Airways. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, we will vote on the motion.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	13
Noes	-	32
Not Voted	-	5

(There being 13 ayes, 32 noes and 5 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We have three motions by the Honourable Salote Radrodro and we would like her to deal with them all at the same time. I now give the floor to Honourable Salote Radrodro to move the motions.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chair. I move the three motions.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have a seconder?

HON. A.T. VADEI.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Radrodro, would you like to speak on your three motions, one at a time?

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Madam Chair, thank you. I will speak on the Government Service Awareness Programme. I am moving the motion:

That this allocation be removed from Head 50.

I say that because all Ministries have allocations for this Service because that is their role, to conduct services for the benefit of the members of the public. So, there is really no need for these allocation under Head 50. It is just a duplication of that allocation, which is already factored into Ministries and Department's allocation.

Should I continue with the other two, Madam Chair?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Before I speak on the next motion - Construction of Executive Residence, I would like to take this opportunity to raise a comment in responding to the comment that was

said by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture, in which he said that some overseas communities sought information from him and his team in regards to the *TC Winston*. He also gave credit to the expert, to the skills, to the strong leadership and good governance, and to the leadership of the Honourable Prime Minister and to the Ministry.

Madam Chair, I find that quite unbecoming of the Minister because I know. I went out to areas that was very badly affected by *TC Winston*, and the first response came from our good neighbours; Australia and New Zealand and they were there on the ground, and the Honourable Minister did not give credit to those two countries.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- That is why, Madam Speaker, I state here that I find that comment very unbecoming of the Honourable Minister.

Now, I will move on to my second motion, on the 'Construction of Executive Residence (\$500,000,000), and I am moving the motion that this allocation be totally removed from the Budget. Why I am saying this is because there are no details given in terms of this executive residence. Also, Madam Chair, as the Honourable Minister for Economy had rightfully said, that this Budget is about balancing our priorities, and looking at this construction of executive residence, and also that we have *TC Winston* Rehabilitation Programme running right now; I ask the question, what are the priorities of the people right now that have been affected by *TC Winston*? Are their concerns a priority in terms of a roof over their head or this construction of this executive residence a priority? And, I know the balancing act that the Government must do, to make decisions on what is really the priority, because the Government's responsibility is to administer and govern the taxpayer's money for the benefit of the people.

On the third motion, Madam Chair, the Construction of the Prime Minister's Office Complex (\$5,000,000'), with due respect to the Honourable Prime Minister, I am disputing the fact that the 'Construction of the Prime Minister's Office Complex', in my view, is also not a priority right now. Our priority right now is having to look after the needs of our people, particularly those who are still living in shelters, and in my Budget response, I had highlighted and requested that the Government could reconsider the payments of financial assistance to the *Cyclone Winston*, and if it could be increased, and on that line, Madam Chair, that is why I am suggesting that the construction of the Prime Minister's Office Complex be suspended for this financial year, and may be pick it up in the next financial year. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. The three motions are on the floor for any input from Honourable Members if any. Honourable Vadei?

HON. A.T. VADEI.- I was moving around during the *TC Winston* in my constituency

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. A.T. VADEI.- You want to know what they said when they read about the budget, they said; "You do not know about coming in but we saw that you are developing and realigning your priorities only to the people on top, not the people down there in the village."

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. A.T. VADEI.- So, that is my short contribution in a support of a proposal.

(Laughter)

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chair, the Honourable Member does not realise that they recently had the jetty in his constituency, the Ice Plant, the Treatment Plant and likewise, the road, so that is about the people.

Let me respond to the assertion by the Honourable Radrodro which is very disappointing because she served in a Foreign Mission. In Australia, New Zealand and all those countries, they have humanitarian policies, Madam Chair. One of the key principles in humanitarian policies is, they respect sovereignty. When Australia comes to Fiji they come and report to the national authority. They do not just go anywhere in Fiji unless the tasking income from the National Command Centre. We applaud and acknowledge the contribution by the international community - Australia and New Zealand first and foremost and all our other international partners, Madam Chair. They need to understand this, that it is working in partnership, and that is why you need leadership - the wheel and commitment, and that is where you need good governance structure.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chair, I have to say this; the Honourable Minister for National Disaster Management and his team has been given a number of accolades in the manner, notwithstanding (of course, no system is perfect in the world) the lapses here and there, the international community has loudly applauded the effort of him and his team and the leadership by the Honourable Prime Minister. We really need to put out hands together in their effort and the leadership shown by the Honourable Prime Minister.

(Applause)

Madam Chair, the unfortunate thing is the Opposition time and time again, wants to bring in Australia and New Zealand somehow or the other and to say that if they had not been around, nothing would have happened. That is what they are saying, and you should be really quite embarrassed by saying; "yes". Seriously, you are the Shadow Minister for Defence.

The reality Honourable Radrodro is this, as the Honourable Minister has highlighted, they would have only gone where he would have said for them to go, and they work in conjunction with him. The PDNA Group that came from the European Union, DFAT, the World Bank and a couple other international agencies, again, said notwithstanding the fact that it was such a traumatic climatic event, the manner in which we were able to co-ordinate it was obviously quite laudable.

We, of course, ourselves discovered here and there that there were some lapses, we have learnt from that. We will improve upon that, but let us not do this political point scoring, let us give due recognition where it is due.

The other point is, Honourable Radrodro talked about Government Service Awareness. It is a critical point because there are many Government Services that are available, many government initiatives, for example, in the consultations we found and the Honourable Prime Minister has also gone out and found, there are some pockets of pensioners, for example, who do not even know that the 66 age pension is available or 68. The idea is to coordinate with the respective ministries. Yes, some ministries have their own awareness but the whole idea is to have a national government approach to ensure that we have these initiatives highlighted, including the initiatives and incentives that are been offered by FRICA. There has been a lot misinformation about that.

We know generally, tax officers are not very good in PR, so we have decided to have a co-ordinated effort. What is wrong in getting the ordinary Fijian to know and understand that, for example, in six months' time if the child is born in Koromumu Hospital in Sigatoka, they do not have to go to Nadi to register. They can actually go down the road and register their child's birth there. What is wrong in spreading that information out in Korovou, in Navua, in the hills of Namosi and Serua? All of these things

is part and parcel of creating the awareness, and to have a unified approach in creating Government services and its availability.

The construction of the executive residence, there is 'yes', a typographical error there, it should be Executive Residences, and the letters 'is' is missing. If you have read the *Fiji Times* which I know most of you are going on with, let me tell you the story.

HON. R.S. AKBAR.- Tell them!

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Which is where you probably got your information from, the *Fiji Times* after the Budget statement, sent us emails and made phone calls on various aspects of the Budget seeking clarification. We provided it to them, unlike some of you who do not respond to other media organisations, you respond to responses from *Fiji Time* also. The point then is, they did not ring us up for the front page article which they ran on SEG 8.

Executive Residence does not mean Prime Minister. The head of the Executive in Fiji is also His Excellency the President, he is the Head of the Executive. Let me clarify to you; the *Fiji Times* ran a story; "PM Office", and it said home, implying that it is only for the Prime Minister. No, it is not, it is for His Excellency the President. We have a very old house, the residence for His Excellency the President which was built in the 1930s up on the hill, those buildings like this building, notwithstanding the fact that the renovations have been done in these buildings, I do not know what the Opposition office is like. You will see that paint may be peeling off in some places.

The reason why that has happened is because over the years, the concrete has become porous. If you break some of the bricks you will find water catchments in that because no water proofing has taken place for decades. Similarly, we have with His Excellency's residence, the roof and ceiling are leaking, the walls containing water, so a major refit of that.

It is also a refit of the Prime Minister's residence as well which the official residence is. It is also the refit of the Chief Justice's residence which is also the third arm of the State, the Judiciary. His residence is getting a refit, Borron House is also getting a refit which is a heritage building of ours. So that executive residence includes all of those properties and perhaps, even one or two other official residences that could be kept by this.

The Construction of the Prime Minister's Office Complex, there is a need for it. The way that the Opposition's approach is, what they are saying is, "We have had *TC Winston*, let put all the money just for them." Everything else, we put on hold.

HON. OPPOSITION MEMBER.- Don't say that!

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.-She' just saying that!

The point is this, your justification for golf, justification for Singapore, justification for this, is that, we have had *TC Winston*, so let us attempt to them and then we can deal with this later. The Honourable Radrodro has just said that. We can deal within later years. So my point is this, a good government that is aware of what is happening in our country, looking at long term objectives, is able to balance its books by giving the focussed attention, for example, after the aftermath of *TC Winston*, but also at the same time keeping everything else ticking along, making sure that we are also looking after development, making sure that the Head of Government has an office, has an office complex that is also be fitting of the Prime Minister.

Now, it is not only for Voreqe Bainimarama, it is for whoever becomes the Prime Minister of Fiji probably in a very long period of time. Now, that is the point. The same way with the residence of His

Excellency, the President. He has a six year term and whoever becomes the President after that will be the beneficiary of that asset upgrade. So all of these things need to be addressed whilst we are managing it. We may have been able to give a lot more money in some of the other areas but we have given our focus on \$132 million on the school rebuild which is in Head 50, which we have not talked about. We have given allocation for *TC Winston* in terms of the rebuild of people's homes by the 'Help for Homes' Initiative - \$88 million already. We have given individual Ministries with the rehabilitation, whether it is *yaqona* farming, *dalo* farming, jetties and bridges, also with the other Ministries where we have got the small grants with the Health, with the Education; all of that is being taken care of at the same in all of these, making sure that we have the capacity to be able to deliver all of that in one year.

So, Honourable Radrodro, that is a clarification on SEG 8 in terms of what falls within that. I apologise for the 's' being missing. In fact the Manager of Construction Implementation Unit had given a much longer narration for that particular item and when I saw it, I found out after it was printed and he said that he gave a longer narration but the people who did the final input into the paper decided to short form it and in that short form, missed out the 's' so that would have probably provided the clarification. He had reconstruction, construction and rehabilitation of the executive residences including HE, CJ, PM and Boron House but they had decided to cut it short and that is why I apologise for the fact that 's' is missing from there and I have given you the clarification.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Do we have any other input to this three motion?

HON. MEMBERS.- No.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being no other input, I call on Honourable Salote Radrodro to give her right of reply.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chair, and I thank the Honourable Minister for Economy for his explanation which I believe has enlightened us on this three particular Budgetary allocations.

As far as the Government service awareness programme and the explanation that has been given, we must not forget that there is the user-pay concept and when there is a consolidated approach in terms of Government Ministries coming together for this kind of public awareness programme, there is a user-pay concept in which each Ministry would pay their way into this particular programme and that payment would come from their allocated money that is already in their budget. That is why I am saying that this is unjustifiable to be here and it could be better utilised in some other activities.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- We don't have accrual accounting

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.-Also for the construction of Executive Residence, thank you for the explanation in terms of the missing 's' but it says 'construction', it does not say 'repair'. It says 'construction' and construction will automatically conjure up ...that it is a new building, it is a new construction.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, no.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- It says construction of executive residence but you have given your explanation which I find unjustifiable. It does not convince me at all, and therefore, I still move that this budgetary allocation be removed.

Also in terms of the 'Construction of the Prime Minister's Office Complex', yes, we agree that maybe that the Honourable Prime Minister needs a new office space but it is just not the right time, Sir. Maybe, in the next budget cycle but it is not our priority right now and budget is all about priorities. What

is the priority for the nation? A nation means people, and our people are going through hardship in terms of *TC Winston* rehabilitation programme and that is why I had moved that this Construction of Prime Minister's Office Complex be suspended for this particular budget year and pick it up in the next run.

Madam Chair, before I sit down, I will make a correction again in terms of what I had presented in my response to the Honourable Minister for Agriculture's comment, my point of raising that was because they were not being acknowledged. It was just the acknowledgement it did not mention them and that is why I had said that I found it very unbecoming of the Honourable Minister for Agriculture to miss that out when we know that they had been the very first two that had come to our rescue. Thank you Madam Chair.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- I just want to provide a clarification. Again, both the Prime Minister's Office and the official residences, the advertisements for the Expression of Interest was put out some months back., and the advertisement, like I said, unfortunately the people who put this thing got it wrong, it did say 'repairs and maintenance', but the people who are in the construction industry, for them repairs and maintenance in their speak of the language they also say construction. Now, the Prime Minister's Office Complex, just in case you may be deluded, the fact is, we are not building a new building *per se*. The site of the new Prime Minister's Office Complex will be the old Suva Grammar School, the Examination Building.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- Now, they know!

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- That building up on the hill, that building will be upgraded which will become the Prime Minister's Office. The reason why it has been chosen is because it is a heritage building, it has entrance from both sides, it is on higher ground also and it has the capacity to be upgraded. If you look at this building here, it is a very narrow building, it lacks the capacity to have, for example, large conferences, et cetera, and now as you know that Fiji is becoming much of a regional player, we are having many conferences with many visiting dignitaries, it is only befitting that the Head of Government, whoever is the Head of Government, it is Government asset has an appropriate office site. That is what it is, it is not a construction of a new building *per se*.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on these motions. Does any member oppose this motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

There being opposition, Parliament will now vote.

First motion – Government Service Awareness

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	14
Noes	-	31
Not voted	-	5

(There being 14 ayes, 31 noes and 5 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

Second motion – Construction of the Executive Residences.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	14
Noes	-	31

Not voted - 5

(There being 14 ayes, 31 noes and 5 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

Third motion – Construction of the Prime Minister’s Complex.

Votes Cast:

Ayes - 14
Noes - 31
Not voted - 5

(There being 14 ayes, 31 noes and 5 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

Honourable Members, I now give the floor to the Honourable Prof. Biman Prasad to move that Item 4 – Consultation Fees for Qorvis Communications be left out of Head 50-1-1(5) I give the floor to the Honourable Biman Prasad to move his motion.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thank you Madam Chair. I have chosen to put this motion forward partly to qualm the Attorney-General and his earlier response to why Qorvis had been hired and why are we paying, for example, in the 2014-2015 allocation about \$1.8 million and for this year, another \$1 million?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Are you moving your motion, Honourable Prasad? It needs to be seconded.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- I had moved the motion already.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do we have a seconder?

HON. A.T. VADEI.- I second the motion.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- I apologise, Madam Chair. I think if I remember correctly, the Honourable Attorney-General did point out that they hired Qorvis and obviously he talked about the need for the previous Government to engage in an international PR exercise to sell the Government’s agenda at that time.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Take from propaganda.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- I said agenda.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, take from propaganda. Come on, take from propaganda!

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Fight against propaganda.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Your propaganda.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Your propaganda. But the real issue, Madam Chair, and I know the Honourable Attorney-General implied that they will not need this PR firm thereafter. We had the Election, we have an elected Government, we have an elected Parliament, we have an elected Prime Minister, Fiji is back in the community of nations, the number of organisations and

(Chorus of interjections)

Madam Chair, the Honourable Attorney-General can make up all that but we are all Fiji citizens. We all love this country and we want good for this country. It does not mean that when we question or criticise the Government, we are against Fiji. Some of us are here today, Madam Chair, because we love this country. If we did not, we would have left long ago, so let us not get into that, Madam Chair.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- What about 2008, we also need you to come and help us?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Madam Chair, the Honourable Attorney-General would know that if I had to leave this country, I would have left in 1987, I did not!

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- I am not talking about leaving, I am talking about helping your country.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Helping a country does not mean you do not criticise the policy.

(Hon. Member interjects)

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- That is another issue, we can talk about that another time.

(Laughter)

Let me come back to the motion, Madam Chair.

If you go and look at PR firm Qorvis, the nature of the firm itself is questionable. They have worked with countries with regimes which have tried very, very hard to hide information which have used propaganda, and I think some of the things that we see in this country today and some coming from the Government are actually a reflection of the kind of work and the kind of advice that this PR firm is probably giving to the Government.

HON. OPPOSITION MEMBER.- It's so damaging.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- It may appear to be a small amount, Madam Chair, but you know that we only received \$300,000 for kidney dialysis. This is an unnecessary expenditure, I call upon the Government to do away with this PR firm. They have all the whole communication ministry, they have the Ministry of Information, Government has all the resources to take its activities, PR and whatever they do, more than they should be doing, so I do not understand why they need this firm anymore?

In fact, Madam Chair, I was reading report on Qorvis, mentioned by Mr. Thor Halvorssen, who is the President of the New York-Based Human Rights Foundation and Founder and CEO of the Oslo Freedom Forum. If you follow him on *Tweeter* and *Facebook* and this report, they actually talked about how Qorvis in many rogue States, has been involved in this kind of PR activity. In fact, it brings bad publicity to our Government now. I mean, they may have been alright before the Election, but after the Election they continued the use of Qorvis.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- Fiji is not a rogue State, please!

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- That is what I am saying, that this actually brings disrepute to your Government. Disrepute to this country because if people are reading this they are saying that this Government, this country has Qorvis.

HON. GOVERNMENT MEMBER.- So, what is wrong with Qorvis!

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Doing the PR work, they will have difficulty accepting what the Government is trying to tell everyone else.

(Chorus of interjections)

Madam Chair, let us get rid of this PR firm, we do not need them, and it is an unnecessary use of a millions dollars which could go for something like kidney dialysis. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Gavoka?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chair, Fiji had good public relations company. They were doing all the work over the years and I could name a few, George Rubine, Matt Wilson, there were people who had been handling PR in this country, and they did a good job.

(Hon. Member interjects)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- While they were doing it, Madam Chair, they were offering courses at the University primarily in journalism, and from there they could branch out into PR. So, it really worries me that we have to go and bring in a company to be based here and to be paid a million dollars a year when we have so much PR talents in this country, right here in Suva.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- You.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Why would you be paying a million dollars to someone like Qorvis? As indicated by my colleague, Honourable Professor Biman Prasad, there is a clout. There is a clout in terms of the name Qorvis because of their clientele all over the world. Some of the clientele are not the type that we do not have in Fiji, so let us just keep it here, we have the people here who can do this, and we should remove this from the Budget, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. There being no other input, would you like make concluding remarks Honourable Gavoka?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Just for clarification, I do not want to go into the merits of who they serve, et cetera. I am sure many of the people that you do deal with or other governments deal with them have also distracted goal people are supposed to make out the the deal with, but just for the information in this House we have also called for expressions of interest for a PR firm and that was advertised in the *Fiji Sun* and we are assessing them. So, we do need it.

We have the social media, we have various international forums that we do need to participate in, we need to focus attention on that, it is good for Fiji, we need to be able to get our stories not just in the *Fiji Times* or the *Fiji Sun*, we also need our stories to be told on either the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, et cetera, and that obviously requires people who operate in that space. We need our stories picked up, not just by the Australian and New Zealand media once because we have a rugby game but we also need our stories told in other parts of the world where they help us to be able to spread our public relations in all aspects of government and investment opportunities in Fiji, and that is very, very critical. It is in that light, a very small price to pay.

However, we have called for expressions of interest and we will obviously pursue that. A lot of companies have applied, including Qorvis itself. The contract is expiring and we will then be able to either renew the contract or select someone else or may be select a panel of people. So, we are constantly obviously looking at changing things, getting people to do better for us in terms of service delivery. However, the reality is, many Governments in the world do engage with PR companies, it is not unheard of at all, I mean, even countries like Australia engage PR firms. They do not have whole team or room full

of people who go out and carry the message. So, it is a combination of work that has been done in terms of dissemination of information.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will put this to the vote. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.
Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	14
Noes	-	30
Not Voted	-	6

(There being 14 ayes, 30 noes and 6 not voted, the Motion is defeated).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will now vote on Head 50 because no amendment was approved. The question is, that the amount of Head 50 – Miscellaneous Services be approved? Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	30
Noes	-	14
Not Voted	-	6

(There being 30 ayes, 14 noes and 6 not voted, the Motion is agreed to).

Head 50 agreed to.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Honourable Members. As was explained, at the outset, Heads 51 and 52 are Standing Appropriations, sometimes called ‘Below the Line Appropriations’.

As was explained last year, Head 51 lists all the pensions that are payable. These are charge on the Government finances. Head 52 are the Charges on Accounts of Public Debt. These numerous pages list all the information on interests and loans by the State, and neither Head is voted upon because they must be paid and are therefore already catered for.

That brings us to the end of the Estimates. We shall now move to considering the Schedules and Clauses of the Appropriation Bill as required by Standing Order 101. I advise Honourable Members that as we have not amended the Estimates, Standing Order 101 prevents any amendments being moved and made at this stage. Standing Order 101(3) also prevents any debate on these questions.

Schedule 1:

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The question is, that Schedule 1 stands part of the Bill. Does any Member oppose the motion?

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

Schedule 1 agreed to.

Schedule 2:

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The question is, that Schedule 2 stands part of the Bill. Does any Member oppose the motion?

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

Schedules 1 & 2, Clauses 1, 2, 3 and title and enacting clause agreed to.

The House resumed:

HON. SPEAKER.- I now call upon the Honourable Minister for Economy to move the Third Reading.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Speaker, I move that the 2016-2017 Appropriation Bill, 2016, (Bill No. 35 of 2016) be read a third time and do pass.

HON. SPEAKER.- Parliament will now vote on the Third Reading. The question is, that the 2016-2017 Appropriation Bill, Bill No. 35 of 2016 be read a third time and do pass.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ayes and noes)

HON. SPEAKER.- There being opposition, Parliament will vote on the motion.

Question put.

Votes Cast:

Ayes	-	31
Noes	-	14
Not Voted	-	5

Bill reported without amendments, read a third time and passed. (Act. No. 2016)

(Acclamation)

HON. SPEAKER.- Parliament has now passed the 2016-2017 Budget. I congratulate all Honourable Members for their contribution to this important process.

Before I adjourn the meeting, I seek leave of Parliament to agree that we adjourn this sitting until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning instead of 9.30 a.m. Is there any opposition?

HON. MEMBERS.- No.

(Laughter)

HON. SPEAKER.- Thank you, Honourable Members. Parliament is now adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The Parliament adjourned at 7.16 p.m.