

# **PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI**



## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

### **DAILY HANSARD**

**WEDNESDAY, 11TH JULY, 2018**

**[CORRECTED COPY]**

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**WEDNESDAY, 11TH JULY, 2018**

The Parliament resumed at 9.32 a.m., pursuant to adjournment.

HONOURABLE SPEAKER took the Chair and read the Prayer.

**PRESENT**

All Honourable Members were present.

**MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the sitting of Parliament held on Tuesday, 10th July, 2018 as previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed.

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

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR**

Welcome

I welcome all Honourable Members to today's Parliament Sitting. I also welcome members of the public joining us in the gallery and those watching proceedings on television, the internet and listening on the radio. Thank you for taking interest in your Parliament.

Delay – Hansard Reports

For the information of Honourable Members, the Hansard Reports will be delayed due to the prolonged sitting last night and these will be circulated once the Secretariat finalises the Reports.

Consideration of Bills

I had been advised that there will be no consideration of additional Bills today.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE 2018-2019 APPROPRIATION BILL 2018**

HON. SPEAKER.- Parliament will now resolve into the Committee of Supply to resume the debates on the Heads of the Budget Estimates.

In Committee:

Head No. 18 – Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments.

HON. P. SINGH.- Madam Chairperson, Programme 1-1 (8) - Construction of Government Stations in Vunidawa, Wainikoro, Kubulau and Wainua at a cost of \$2.8 million; I believe this allocation was there in last year's Budget. What has been the progress of that, whether it is a rollover or it is a whole capital project?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Yes, Madam Chairperson, concerning the Government Stations, this is just a continuation of work undertaken previously. We have completed the station but of course, staff needs to be accommodated.

For Kubulau Government Station, Madam Chairperson, the allocation is to complete the construction of two duplex quarters. For Wainua Government station, it is to complete the construction of an Assistant District Office to service the 24 villages and five *tikinas* in the rural Naitasiri, amounting to \$688,075. For Vunidawa Government Station, it is to complete the construction of a 1x4 concrete staff quarters. For Wainikoro Government Station, funding is allocated to undertake civil works and, of course, complete construction of a new Assistant District Office, to improve access to the Government services in the rural areas of the Northern Division.

HON. P. SINGH.- So, Madam Chairperson, there are two allocations there; one is for Government Stations and the other one is for staff quarters?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As I have stated, for example, in Kubulau, we have a 20 acre lease for the Government Station. The Honourable Minister for Lands would agree with me as well as the Honourable Ratu Lalabalavu that the previous practice in Government was that, Government Departments have their own leases in certain areas. For example, in Wainikoro, Macuata, the Ministry of Health have their own lease; the Ministry of Agriculture has their own lease; Police have their own lease and also the Post Office, they have their own lease. But what the Ministry is doing now is having a lease for all Government agencies within, so that refers to the Government Station.

For Kubulau, we have completed the DO's Office and we need to have quarters for the driver and the staff. Then the other Government agencies that are within the area: Ministry of Agriculture has to move from Namalata into the current Government Station; Ministry of Fisheries also has to move from Namalata into the Government Station and likewise for Ministry of Health. The Health Nursing Station has to move from where they are currently sitting to the Government station, so this is the additional work that comes. So Government Stations and of course quarters as well, in some instances, maybe under Health or other agencies can have quarters for their...

HON. P. SINGH.- This would be the way forward for you when you try to consolidate all the leases under Government lease.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Yes, the one in Namosi, it is a 20-acre lease as well, at Dada, so we are bringing every Government station into one lease, which makes things easier for the Ministry of Lands as the landlord for all Government agencies within an area.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Ratu Matanitobua?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Madam Chairperson, on SEG 6 - District Advisory Counsellor Allowance. I asked this same question last year with the same amount, how many Advisory Councillors are there altogether, to be paid from this SEG?

HON. LT. COL. I.B.SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson, the amount remains the same because in total, there are 302 Advisory Councillors in Fiji. We have 10 for the Eastern Division;

141 for the Western Division; 82 for the Northern Division; and 69 for the Central Division. So in total, we have 302 advisory councillors. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Salote Radrodro. On the same issue - all right.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Madam Chairperson, there have been a lot of issues with appointments of advisory councillors and this Government, I think, is deliberately playing with their appointments. We are told that many of them who were advisory councillors were not told whether their appointments will be revoked or not. They were revoked, they were not paid for about three months and this is incorrect.

HON MEMBER.- (Inaudible)

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- You are not the Minister, let him respond!

Of course, this Government does not believe in elections; the advisory or town council or local government, but we want to know what process is there for the appointment of advisory councillors, why they were not paid, when their contracts or appointments were terminated, and whether the process of appointment was transparent? Also, whether there were some consultations with the communities who these people are supposed to serve because there is no point in having those allocations when you do not have a very transparent process of appointments and terminations and whether there were any consultation with the communities?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am happy to clarify that there is a process which is very transparent.

The appointment of advisory councillors has always been a very sensitive subject from the beginning because most advisory councillors, as we all know, have got political affiliations as well and that is why this has always been a very sensitive issue, but let me go back to the process.

The problem, Madam Chairperson, let me also say here that some advisory councillors think that they are advisory councillors for life. That is wrong. It is not an entitlement, it is about service - service to the community. In fact, it is a voluntary service. Government, like the rural nurses, the *Turaga-ni-Koros* and the *Mata-ni-Tikinas*, recognise those services and now are rewarding them. So most of the advisory councillors think that they are there for life, "Oh, I have been an advisory councillor for 10 years so I am entitled for reappointment."

Madam Chairperson, the process is, we advertise, they apply and then we do this vetting and scrutinisation process. And I admit the fact that that was one of the reasons why there was a delay this year in the appointment of advisory councillors because we have to check their police records as well. Communities, we do not know what are behind the scenes. They call the Divisional Commissioner, they call the Provincial Administrator and say, "No, this guy is not the guy, he does not visit us", and that is the problem that we face in the Ministry.

I admit the fact that there was a delay this year but right now, we are consulting with the Solicitor-General because particularly for those who were reappointed, not the newly appointed because we have no problems with those but for this year, the point of contention is when we process those who were reappointed, some of them were still performing the role and we, of course, had some disasters in between. We are clarifying that with the Commissioners. If the Commissioners do certify or give some clarification, yes, we continue to engage them. This is why we are seeking legal advice. We can, we will give them based on the advice that we will get. Right now, it is right before the Solicitor-General and I

hope I will get an answer today about the re-appointments of those. The lapse is between September last year to February this year, we are working on that, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I am not Speaker, I am Chairperson. Just a comment while we are considering membership of the Advisory Council, I trust that you will be gender-sensitive in the appointment of Advisory Councillors, thank you.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Just one question, Madam Chairperson to the Honourable Minister, before we finish this budget item, can the Honourable Minister assure this House that the appointment of Advisory Councillors are not politically-motivated because we have a case, Madam Chairperson, and the Honourable Minister can correct me on that, the person working in the FijiFirst Office in Labasa was replaced as the Chairman of the Advisory Council in Macuata. We have been told by the Advisory Councillors that some of them are going out and actually saying that they are working for the FijiFirst Party and there was one Advisory Councillor who actually carries a card saying, "I am FijiFirst."

(Honourable Members interject)

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- You wait, you are not the Minister!

(Honourable Member interjects)

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- You are not the Minister!

(Honourable Member interjects)

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Do not yell, I am seeking clarification from the Minister.

(Honourable Member interjects)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Order!

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- It is not an allegation, I have got evidence.

(Honourable Member interjects)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Order!

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- I have got evidence. Madam Chairperson, he is not the Minister. My question is to the Minister.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The objective of this particular session is to see the budget through.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Madam Chairperson, it is related to the Budget because we are allocating money.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Let me finish, it is either an increase, decrease or delete.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Madam Chairperson, we are allocating money for something that we need clarification on and that is the clarification we need. If these councillors are appointed with the political motivation, then that is wrong and that is what I want the Honourable Minister to clarify.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- It is a process, you are talking about process that can be dealt with.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- It is part of the process.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- No, it is on budget. Thank you, any other comment on Programme 1-1?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Yes, Madam Chairperson, SEG 7 - Government Roadshow – Remote Rural Locations (\$200,000); the same amount last year.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I cannot hear, Hon. Professor Biman Prasad, can I hear the Honourable Member behind you, please?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Can we get an explanation on this amount as to why there is no change? If there is a feedback, then we will decide whether to increase or decrease?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Minister?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The allocation remains the same based on the plans that the Ministry has with the Divisional Commissioners on the roadshows that need to be conducted. Each of the Divisional Commissioners will indicate and of course they have already planned for this and thus the request for this allocation.

We have just completed two lately; Moala in the Eastern Division and of course we have just had the latest in Daria in Bua just last week. The amount is sufficient, and of course, I must also state that because of the rural roadshow, most Government agencies that are participating are also factoring this in some of their administrative cost, so that they can participate, because initially the bulk of the allocation was with the Ministry when we started off this initiative, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Salote Radrodro.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My issue too was on that same issue. I would like to move a motion that that amount be increased particularly, I note that it is all in this Programme, whereas if the Honourable Minister can explain why it is not factored into the different Divisions? For example, the Eastern Division will need a lot more as compared to the other Divisions because of the transportation costs. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, I have just highlighted that the Commissioners have already made submissions on their leave. We have just come back from Moala in May and that was not reflected in the Commissioner Eastern but was already factored in the General Administration. The Ministry knows how many roadshows they intend to conduct in a year and, of course, the cost is sufficient, Madam Chairperson. The Eastern Division is factored into this as well.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Jiosefa Dulakiverata?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chairperson, SEG 7 - Refund of Revenue. This allocation has been consistent for the last few years, if the Honourable Minister could clarify what is it for?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I think I have explained this earlier in the Budget Debate and in the Committee of Supply as well.

In the absence of other Ministries, the Office of the Commissioners and the District Officers perform the functions of Government and revenue collection is one. People will come and pay for licences, people will come and pay for all the fees that are given by Government agencies. And in some instances, before their licences or whatever are processed, they want to come and have their fees refunded because they have decided otherwise and that is why that money is always there for those that have withdrawn their applications, their fees need to be refunded. For example, we used to do a lot of works for BDMO and fees for hawkers, so if one comes and wishes to withdraw his or Hawker's Licence after putting their application, we will have to provide the refund and that is why they always have that allocation, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will move on to Programme 2-1 – Commissioner Central.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Madam Chairperson, still on the roadshows. I move a motion to increase the allocation.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Can you fill the form and then you will speak on it after.

Programme 2-1?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Can I get a clarification on SEG 10 that appeared last year, in terms of Capital Grants and Transfers that was for construction works at Wainua and Wainikoro? There was an allocation of \$350,000 and now there is no Capital Grants and Transfers for this year. So I need information whether these constructions at Wainua and Wainikoro in the *Tikina* of Nadogo have been completed?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, Wainikoro is again appearing under Programme 1-1 (8), and I have already explained the work that has been earmarked for the financial year. If Wainua is not appearing, then that tells us that the work has been completed.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Mikaele Leawere?

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Madam Chairperson, SEG 7, those two figures \$30,000 for Community Capacity Building and also \$30,000 for Administrative Expenses, are those two items related? Can we have some clarifications from the Honourable Minister?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, if they are budgeted separately, then that tells us that they are for separate activities. Community capacity building, every now and then, the *Turaga ni Koro* gets re-appointed, *Mata ni Tikina* gets reappointed and Advisory Councillors and they need to be aware of the mechanisms of development.

We have Provincial Development Boards, District Development Boards and, of course, we need to empower the communities as well. This is where that Community Capacity Building Allocation is given. For administrative expenses, for obvious reasons, when we conduct meetings there are a lot of additional costs added, like fuel. In the rural remote areas, we go by punt and that is why we always have those administrative expenses to cover these.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson, just seeking clarification if the Honourable Minister could identify the allocation that would look after requests under small projects? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, small projects are self-help. We will probably come to that later on but small projects, whether it be social or economic, those are catered for under Self-Help in the Rural Development Allocation.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Madam Chairperson, Programme 2-1 (4) - Upkeep of Burial Ground. We have allocations in the Corrections Service, so can the Honourable Minister enlighten the House on this?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, there are burial grounds that are not looked after by the Town Council, and of course, not Corrections Service as well. There are community burial grounds and this is looked after by the Ministry. There is one burial ground there in Seaqaqa, just opposite Seaqaqa Secondary School, so we look after that.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- SEG 10 - Project Preparatory Works (\$200,000). We see that, that appear all throughout the Programmes, and whether there is one allocation for all, or different activities have this allocation of \$200,000?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson, you will see that consistent with all the four Divisional Commissioners. The reason is, Madam Chairperson, as I have alluded to, we have Provincial Development Boards now and we have Divisional Development Boards. Those are the mechanisms that the Government has in place for Rural Development Projects.

It is the bottom-up approach and then from the Divisional Development Board, then it is brought up to the National Committee that will then deliberate on the projects. But most of these, Madam Chairperson, you would note that previously, and this is one of the reasons why some projects that were budgeted for were then not implemented because it appeared in the Budget Estimates but the preparatory works were not prepared. For example, one of the *tikinas* in Namosi wants a nursing station, the land has to be surveyed.

We have to pay the Ministry of Lands to do the surveying and if Geotech needs to be done, then we have to pay for all those services and even for the plan. That is the project preparatory works so that when a project appears in the Budget Estimates, it is ready for implementation because all the scoping and technical assessments have been done. That is why that allocation is provided, to help the Commissioners. Once the Divisional Development Boards endorse, then the Commissioners will use this money to start the process.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, any other comments?

HON. RATU. T.N. NIUMATAIWALU.- Clarifications on what sort of activities do we have on this provision - Programme 2-1 (9) - Institutional Strengthening?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This was introduced a few years ago and this has been consistently appearing in the Budget as well.

This allocation was given to the Divisional Commissioners to help them upgrade their Offices and, of course, get proper equipment as well that will help them. The Honourable Member would know that in some areas in Macuata, there is no electricity. So the Commissioner himself has a generator always, when we go to meetings we want to come with projectors so that we can do presentations.

This Institutional Strengthening allocation is given for us to buy the necessary equipment and, of course, upgrade the office and our facilities as well. You would know that in most rural communities, I went to Vunidawa a few years back and all the leftover chairs from all the years and from every Government Department is in the District Officer's Office, where he has a small conference room. The District Officer is the Head of Government within that small station, but he does not even have a nice conference room, so this is why we have this institutional strengthening so that we can raise the standard of service delivery in the rural areas.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dr. Samisoni?

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- On the same issue, Madam Chairperson, I just want to know when are you going to move over to solar because generators, the Prime Minister and President of COP23, of course, we must use less to reduce your budget.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, Government through its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) has made a commitment that we will reduce into renewables and that is all part of our big plan. We, in the Ministry, particularly for most of the rural communities, we are looking at bringing in solar and have generators as backup. We still need backups but solar, in fact, is coming in.

We have even gone into the extent now and the first two projects are about to be piloted now in Koroipita and Yavusania where we have (I think that will be the first in the Pacific) what we call "hydro panels." It is not solar panel but hydro panels. It is just extracting air from the atmosphere and converting that into water but it is simple panel. So, hopefully when these two succeed, we will take it to the outer islands as well to solve the water problems that we have.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, we will move on to SEG 4.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- SEG 4: there is an increase in this Budget by \$10,000, that means the Spare Parts and Maintenance of \$35,000. These are for vehicles, what is happening to the current leasing arrangements of all the Government vehicles and why are we still having Spare Parts and Maintenance?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, we, in the Ministry, have vehicles given to us by our partners. India gave us *Mahindra* vehicles for disaster operations. So, this is why we need this allocation. It is not part of the leasing arrangement, it is because our partners are helping us with donations. This was after *TC Winston* and this is why we need to have this allocation, Madam Chairperson.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- A clarification, Madam Chairperson, on the Board and the Committee Expenses of \$30,000, SEG 5 has been allocated throughout all these activities under that means but specifically for Commissioner Central, board and committee expenses.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, at the Divisional Commissioner's Office we have Provincial Development Boards. The Central Division, Tailevu has its Development Board, Naitasiri has its Provincial Development Board, and then we have the Divisional Development Board. So, projects are raised, usually projects below \$50,000 are discussed around provincial level. Anything above \$50,000 is then alleviated to the Divisional Development Boards and then when these Boards have meetings, this allocation is there.

Most members of the Board at Divisional level are here in Suva. If there is a Board meeting in Vanua Levu for the Northern Development Board, they fly over, Madam Chairperson. Of course, lunch

and all the other expenses, the Ministry is responsible for those. That is why we have that allocation for Provincial Development Boards and Divisional Development Boards.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other comments?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Yes, SEG 5: There is one small allocation for Volunteer Expenses (\$750); what is that for?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The National Employment Centre (NEC), we use volunteers and we pay them allowances and NEC also gives them some form of allowances.

Madam Chairperson, this is one very good Programme. A lot of young graduates are coming in for work experience and most of them, in the end, apply for vacancies when vacancies do exist. So this is a very good Programme and, of course, we assist a lot in this regard. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Yes, if I can get some more clarifications as to what extent these volunteers provide their service, and then I need to move a motion to increase?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, I am not sure if the Honourable Member is familiar with NEC. The NEC facility was introduced by the Ministry of Employment and Industrial Relations years back to occupy and develop our young graduates and, of course, school leavers, while awaiting for permanent employment.

So, there is a Programme set by them and part of that Programme, Madam Chairperson, is for them to have hands-on job experience, and that is, every agency of Government, even in the private sector are given attachments and when they are on attachments, they are given allowances, not salaries.

So part of the allowance is provided by NEC and then the Ministries top up that allowance as guided by the NEC. So the allocation that we have is just for our top-up as agreed to and, of course, we will work on the number of NEC volunteers that we want. Of course, we utilise this system very well and as I have said, in the end, most of these NEC volunteers are now clerical officers, some are even at the Administration Officers level now, particularly the graduates, and they really perform well.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Considering the opportunities for our young people, whether that current allocation is enough or whether there is a need for increase?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Yes, Madam Chairperson. We feel that is enough because unfortunately, considering the Occupational Health and Safety Standards, we cannot crowd people and we are not the only Ministry.

Mostly for graduates, Madam Chairperson, it depends on their field of study as well. Those who do Sociology and Public Administration, or whatever, they pick the Ministry.

There are certain specific areas of study that choose the Ministry. Now I have also seen that there has been some, particularly Science students who are interested in Meteorology Services and National Disaster Management because of the packages offered by the Universities - FNU and the University of Fiji. So, we are not the only agency and this allocation is sufficient for us, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Dr. Samisoni?

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Just a follow up. I was reading the Report on the NEC that we are talking about and the recommendation there from the Auditor-General was that the management of the money and resources are very weak and they are still working on that.

With all this allocation, having known that this black hole has been filled up, it is just a process, Madam Chairperson, and there is no wastage and duplication. They were even worried about the counsellor also who did not have a certificate in-file. How do you check these processes so that there is no wastage, especially as has been recommended in the Auditor's Report that, that is a very weak area - the management of money and resources in the NEC?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- I am sorry, Madam Chairperson, NEC has a Programme under the Ministry for Employment, but I am only responsible for the volunteers that come to my Ministry and my small allocation, but we are happy to discuss that with the Ministry and, of course, give our feedbacks to them as well.

The Deputy Secretary is the Chairman of NEC and he convenes meetings every now and then where they get feedbacks from those who are employed as NEC volunteers.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will move on to Programme 2 Activity 2. Do you have any comments on this?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will move on to Programme 2-3. Honourable Salote Radrodro?

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- On Programme 2-2, Madam Chairperson, this item appears in all the activities. It is on the upkeep of burial grounds, and I note that they have differing amounts. Activity 1 has got \$2,500, and I believe the Central Division has more burial grounds but then the Commissioner, Western Division has \$5,500; Northern Division has \$10,000; and Eastern Division has \$2,500.

I am just wondering if the Honourable Minister can explain the differing allocations according to their different geographical locations, but why is Commissioner Central, having only \$2,500 when there seems to be a lot more burial grounds than the Western and Northern, in my view? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, I have explained earlier that there are burial grounds that are under the Town Councils, Corrections Service and those that fall out of those locations, Madam Chairperson, that it looks after. It is obvious because who has more has more burial grounds to look after. It is a simple logic, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Niko Nawaikula?

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- We are in Programme 2?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Activity 3, SEG 7.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- Community Capacity Building; can I ask the Honourable Minister whether this include Village Rural Housing, if not, where does the Village Rural Housing come in?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, the Housing allocation has shifted to the new Ministry, but if there is a need for capacity-building, we know that as part of our Resilience

Programme, we do community awareness on raising resilience level and, of course, you will see that posters are in most of the villages now, at least the very basic level of safety and standards that they need to include there in their houses.

But I think when it comes to the new Ministry as well, the Honourable Member would see that there is allocation for the training of rural carpenters. That has started from last year but if anything to do with any community capacity-building regarding housing, we tie that in with our disaster work, but this allocation, as I have alluded to earlier, is mainly for the *Turaga-ni-Koros*, the *Mata-ni-Tikinas* and, of course, the Project Committee Chairman, et cetera.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any more comments on that?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will move on to Programme 2-4.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Madam Chairperson, on OHS Expenses, I see that there are different amounts for Divisions. Whether there is any clarification on why (because this will be related to OHS), how do they scale that for that amount in the different divisions?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Again, Madam Chairperson, this is just based on the number of people in the divisions and, of course, their locations. You will see that divisions with more people have more allocations, and of course, there is an allocation, to add, the headquarters for that purpose.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 2-4.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Madam Chairperson, SEG 5 on the Repatriation Funds. Is it to do with transporting deceased persons to another area, or is it because people have their contracts expired, or retired? Is this what this fund is all about and can I have some clarifications from the Honourable Minister? Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, we have cartage of personal effects, that is for those who are posted, and of course, repatriation is for those who perhaps, unfortunately, we lost the District Officer Rotuma, he died in Kadavu, so we had to use that money in that circumstance, and that is why we have the Repatriation Fund.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3-1.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, I think the Honourable Radrodro raised a question earlier on where do small projects come in. It is in Programme 3-1 (SEG 10) - Grant to Self-Help Projects (\$1.5 million). Those are for small projects.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

HON. RO T.V. KEPA.- Madam Chairperson, on SEG 8.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Community Access Roads, Footpaths and Footbridges.

HON. RO T.V. KEPA.- Could we have some clarification on that please, Honourable Minister?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- What is the question?

HON. RO T.V. KEPAL.- Clarifications on Community Access Roads.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Most of the roads are under FRA but these community access roads usually refers to farm roads and that is also an allocation in agriculture for farming communities, and of course, there are some communities who need footpaths and footbridges as well. This is just for easy access. We have just done a footbridge in Qoma Island, which costs us \$49,000, so this is where the allocation comes from.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Ratu Matanitobua.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Honourable Minister, there is no allocation on seawall.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, on seawalls, one, we have the Ministry of Economy, whom we are liaising with. We have the Ministry of Waterways, they are also working on that, but also, if we go back to yesterday, we discussed Head 14. We have the DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) and Climate Adaption allocation and that is where the seawall allocation comes from. We are working now on Vunibau, in that area. We have Narikoso and another village in Kadavu, that will be priority for that, that is under the Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation Funding, an allocation of about \$2 million in Head 14, but there is a big list. Let me assure every Member of this Honourable House, Madam Chairperson, that we are also working very closely with the Ministry of Economy. Well, we have the Climate Change Unit and of course, the Ministry of Waterways as well.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson, on community access roads, is this specifically for non-sugar farm roads?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Yes, Madam Chairperson.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- SEG 10; on the grant to self-help projects, is there any contribution from the people to access this grant? You had wanted two-thirds provision in some other, and the second one is how far they can ask for in terms of the amount of money for each project?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, yes, the communities contribute one-third but on exceptional cases based on the recommendations made by the Commissioner, we look at the socio-economic status of the communities, and in instances, the permanent secretary makes decisions that we waive that contribution, particularly for women and the marginalised community, Madam Chairperson.

We are pretty flexible on that but it is meant for small projects, but then when it comes to Committee stage where they discuss this, they look at other allocations. For example, if it is agriculture related then, depending on their allocation, there is the Rural Outer Island allocation in Agriculture (ROI), we can shift that over to Agriculture. It is between the two permanent secretaries, so we do not really want to put a limit to this, but let me say, Madam Chairperson, that in this allocation previously, and that is why we have set separate allocation for Evacuation Centres.

When you want to build an Evacuation Centre which costs \$100,000, bulk of the money is coming out of this, but we do not want to deny the small projects in the communities, and that is why we have

separated those allocations. It no longer comes under community self-help, but if it is a small one, maybe just for rattle fitting, then it can.

But it is entirely dependent on the Committee and of course the liaison with the other agencies who have allocations as well. Agriculture has got allocations on cottage industries. Sometimes women apply under self-help, but then if we have exhausted the funding in here, we can pass that over to the Ministry of Agriculture in the other programmes that they have because these projects are social and economic projects as well.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Salote Radrodro.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson, and I thank the Honourable Minister for his explanation. I would like to move a motion to increase that SEG by \$2 million.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Please, fill in the form.

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

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- The community access road, Madam Chairperson, SEG 8, can we just get some clarifications from the Honourable Minister in terms of the accessibility and the criteria used for those who wish to access this community access road, what certain criteria that could be used?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On access roads, individuals can put in their requests, also farming communities, even a village and settlements can put in their requests. And requests submitted, Madam Chairperson, the Ministry then works with other agencies, for example Agriculture. An Agricultural Officer then goes to survey, if it is a farming community area, he or she makes an assessment of what is being planted in the area and the potentials. So if we open up the roads, will there be a return on investment?

There is a process in place for communities to access this roading and many of those that are using it now are *dalo* farmers and *yaqona* farmers but let me also assure this August House, Madam Chairperson, that there is an allocation here in the Rural Development, there is an allocation in Agriculture, and of course there is an allocation as well with the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA), I think it is about \$60 million. The Divisional Commissioners have quarterly meetings with FRA and if roads do not fall under this allocation, then they will also make these fresh submissions to FRA when they have their quarterly meetings, so this is how the process works.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will now ....

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- SEG 7 - Emergency Water Supplies . We know that Water Authority of Fiji has a budget for cartage (\$6 million) this year. How does this allocation correlate with that service from Water Authority of Fiji?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, Water Authority of Fiji is mainly responsible for the reticulated areas, but rural development, as I have said is responsible for almost everything and anything. So the remote rural areas is one, parts of Tailevu from Namara to Verata, they do not even have proper water source, Madam Chairperson. This is where the allocation goes.

The Eastern Division, but you would note, Madam Chairperson, that it is getting better, firstly, through the rainwater harvesting allocation with the Ministry of Infrastructure. Now, you go to Tobuniqio

Village in Tailevu, they were given about 20 water tanks last year. So it is getting better, secondly, because there are other agencies, it is in the Constitution, we have to provide them with basic water, housing and whatever.

So this allocation is to cover the areas that are not covered by Water Authority of Fiji, and of course, we concentrate on the maritime areas, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- On that one, whether the service goes through Water Authority of Fiji for cartage or you have your own provisions for cartage for a village or once the supply of emergency water ....

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, there is also a rural water allocation under Water Authority of Fiji. Let us make that clear to every Honourable Member of the House but this allocation, Madam Chairperson, when it comes to requests, the Commissioners will first liaise with all the stakeholders if it is outside the Water Authority area, then of course they will. But this is not mainly about cartage only, Madam Chairperson, it is about the provision of water catchment and holding facilities as well.

In worse cases, we also have prolonged dry spell, there will be a lot of cartage. When it comes to the end of August, November, that is when the rainy season kicks in, if there is no allocation, then we start buying tanks and whatever and continue to give to the communities as well. So the allocation is flexible on that, Madam Chairperson.

Let me clarify, water carting with Water Authority of Fiji, they have an allocation of \$6 million for non-metered areas.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will now consider these motions. Firstly, from the Honourable Salote Radrodro, she is moving that Head 18 be increased by \$2 million in Programme 3, Activity 1, SEG 10, with respect to Grant to Self-Help Projects Do we have a seconder?

HON. OPPOSITION MEMBER.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I will ask you to speak on the motion and when you speak on your motion please also identify the source of your \$2 million.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I move this motion from the perspective of poverty alleviation, bearing in mind that almost half of our population are in the rural and maritime areas; and also it is to discourage the urban drift and to give some kind of assistance so that people are encouraged to use their natural resources and stay back in our rural areas.

Also, Madam Chairperson, I move the motion from the perspective that when the latest Annual Report from this Ministry was brought into Committee, their main recommendation was the insufficient budgetary allocation that had been allocated to the Ministry.

Furthermore, Madam Chairperson, there were submissions from maritime areas, I believe it was from Vanua Balavu. I also raised the issue towards the Honourable Minister for Fisheries in this House on their request for small help projects in regards to provisions of boats and engines which they use mainly for transportation purposes and also to uplift their livelihood.



And the response from the Honourable Minister for Fisheries is that it belongs to this Ministry and that is why, Madam Chairperson, I move that the allocation be increased to specifically address the requests that have been submitted. According to the Ministry, they still have a long list of requests that they could not attend to due to insufficient budgetary allocation. For example, those that had requested for a boat and an engine, the request came in this year but they were not able to be looked at because they were still trying to look at the backlogs from previous years.

On that line, Madam Chairperson, I am moving that the motion be considered, and as for the budgetary provision, we can look at Head 50, maybe from the Honourable Prime Minister's allocation for his office, if this could be considered for this one. There is a \$9 million and I am only requesting for \$2 million or \$3 million that could go to this allocation. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, any other contributions to that?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, I remember that Ratu Mara once said that if you want to keep the people of Vanua Balavu in Vanua Balavu, it is too late, as they are already in Suva.

(Laughter)

But, Madam Chairperson, with the allocation, 91 projects have already been identified for the year. We have 42 in the Central Division, 11 in the Eastern Division, 7 in the Northern Division and 31 in the Western Division. And again I give assurance that this is just a small allocation in the Ministry of Rural Development but then with the Ministry of Agriculture we have cottage industries, the Ministry of Fisheries have their own targets and the Ministry for Women have their own allocation but there are sufficient funds around, Madam Chairperson and of course, I strongly feel that this is sufficient for our communities for the financial year.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will now vote on this motion that Head 18 be increased by \$2 million to come from the Prime Minister's allocation in Programme 3, Activity 1, SEG 10 – with respect to Grant to Self-Help Projects.

Does anyone oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Ayes' and 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being no opposition. All those that agree say 'Ayes'.

HON. MEMBERS.- Aye.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those that disagree, say 'No'.

HON. MEMBERS.- 'No'.

The 'Noes' have it.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will move onto the next motion by Hon. Ratu Kiniviliame Kiliraki to move that Head 18 be increased by \$100,000 in Programme 1-Activity 1 SEG 7 with respect to Government Roadshow – Remote Rural Areas. Is there anyone in support? Do we have a seconder?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- I second it.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I will invite Ratu Kiniviliame Kiliraki to speak on his motion and also identify the source of your \$100,000.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This is a small increase, comparatively, it is about 50 percent of the amount there. It was the same amount last year, in terms of service, probably some other remote areas and there are some, like the Central Division is more urbanised than the Eastern Division, the islands in Vanua Levu.

One reason for the extension of this service is in terms of coverage. If the Commissioner thinks that the current Programme is satisfactory for all, in terms of improving or adding more to whatever they want to show to the public, so in terms of improving their road show, the quality of road show and the extension of their extensive presentation of their show.

And the second one is the coverage to some areas that have no experience in road shows because of their ability to come to the road shows that have been taking place in other remote areas. This is in terms of those in the interior islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu and those in the Central Eastern Division because of the geographical locations of the islands and all those issues, Madam Chairperson,

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Your source, please?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- I will give it to the Divisional Commissioners to vire from within their current allocations, probably \$10,000 from every SEG or \$25,000 each. The idea is there, so we will leave it to the Divisional Commissioners to increase that allocation.

(Honourable Member interjects)

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- By virement.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Virement, then you do not need to change the allocation.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Budget is before you. It is all in here. Government funds are all in here.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Right.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- The motion is there, so if it is a priority then Government should look for the money from the \$4 billion Budget.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on Head 18 be increased by \$100,000 in Programme 1, Activity 1 SEG 7, with respect to Government Roadshow – Remote Rural Locations. Does anyone oppose the motion?

(Chorus 'Aye' and 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, we will vote.

Those in agreement say, 'Aye'.

HON. MEMBERS.- 'Aye'.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- And those who disagree say 'No'.

HON. MEMBERS.- 'No'.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The 'Noes' have it.

Thank you. We will now vote on this Head. Parliament will now vote on Head 18. The question is that the amount of Head 18 - Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development be approved, does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Ayes' and 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, we will vote.

All those in agreement say, 'Aye' and those oppose say 'No'.

HON. MEMBERS.- 'Aye'.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The 'Ayes' have it.

Head 18 agreed to.

(Laughter)

Thank you. We will now adjourn for morning tea and we will return at 11 o'clock.

The Parliament adjourned at 10.39 a.m.

The Parliament resumed at 11.00 a.m.

Head 19 – Republic of Fiji Military Forces

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Head 19 is now open for any comments. Programme 1-1. Honourable Ratu Matanitobua?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On SEG 9 ...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 9.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- ... there are a number of Capital Purchases listed in the Estimates. Can the Honourable Minister for Defence and National Security give us an update?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We got so many allocations there, which in particular? We have Communication Equipment, Purchase of IT Equipment, Purchase of Kitchen Equipment, et cetera?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- All. Just an update from the Honourable Minister.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All right. Honourable Minister?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- SEG 9, Madam Chairperson, on Communication Equipment; Purchase of IT Equipment; Purchase of Kitchen Equipment and Specialised Medical Equipment.

On Communication Equipment (\$500,000), same as the budget for this year. This funding caters for the ongoing procurement of communication equipment for the RFMF that would improve operation efficiency at all levels. These equipment, include HF technical mobile pack, HF telephone interconnect, HF e-mail station, tApp handset package, headphone light weight, deployment solar panel, field station computer, among others.

Madam Chairperson, on the Purchase of IT Equipment (\$200,000); same as this year. This purchase is for the procurement and upgrading of IT infrastructure for the whole of the RFMF. The funding allocated will cater for that procurement and replacement of desktop computers, laptops and installation of IT cable.

Allocation, Madam Chairperson, on the Purchase of Kitchen Equipment (\$300,000); this is a new project. The project involves the procurement and replacement of Mess kitchen equipment for eight RFMF camps.

Specialised Medical Equipment (\$300,000); same as this year. The funding is to be used for the procurement of specialised medical equipment to equip the George Mate Medical Centre at Queen Elizabeth Barracks (QEB) in Nabua. This specialised medical equipment include fuel, autoclave steriliser, collapsible multipurpose hospital bed, et cetera.

Purchase of Backup Generators: Madam Chairperson, this is one of the allocations (\$90,000) this year.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Professor Biman Prasad?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Programme 1 Activity 1 SEG 8: can the Honourable Minister just clarify the \$1 million allocated for the Black Rock Medical and

Disaster Recovery Centre? I notice that last year it was \$2 million, so you said the Centre was completed, now it is known that it was not completed and you need another million or is it operational?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Black Rock Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief (HADR) Regional Centre in Nadi is an ongoing project, Madam Speaker. The total cost of the project would be about FJ\$32 million, so this is an ongoing project. Government is also looking for development partners to help. Australian Government has pledged to pay \$3.2 million for the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Warehouse, so this is an ongoing project.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any more comments?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- It just says “Medical Centre” so it is separate?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Yes, Medical Centre is within that HADR, within the Black Rock Peacekeeping and HADR Centre in Nadi.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any more comments on that?

Honourable Members, I just want to remind you that all these allocations have been very carefully considered by different Ministries. Even on the equipment, they have to have three quotations before they actually put this money in here. It is not like just plucking figures out. They consider this based on their experience of the past year and what their needs are for the following year.

So, please, just be mindful as these have been very, very carefully considered and the integrity of the staff is at stake when they present their report because the Minister for Economy is very strict on these allocations. Thank you.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Madam Chairperson, just for those who are familiar with Black Rock, as you enter the Centre immediately after the gate, this is where the Medical Centre will be located, it is not just for the Military personnel but also for the neighbours - the surrounding people.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- I am sorry, Madam Chairperson, just on what the Honourable Minister said, for example, we have had the Koreans, they have been waiting to help us build the Health Centre at Votualevu but we have said, “No”. As the Honourable Minister highlighted, we will use the Black Rock Facility because it is available to everyone, so we are also trying to get various aid that will be directed towards that, so this will actually help defray some of the costs that are already built in here.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We move onto ....  
Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chairperson, just on that specific SEG 8, we know that there is an increase of about \$830,000 and there is a listing of projects that are listed there; Renovation of RFMF Amenities and Office Buildings (\$600,000); Black Rock Medical and Disaster Recovery Centre (\$1 million); Upgrade of Sukunaivalu Barracks (\$400,000); Construction of Magazine (\$300,000); Renovation of Armoury (\$350,000); RFMF Quarters and Barracks (\$500,000); Construction of Warehouse in Vatuwaqa; can we get an update on the ongoing projects that were there, specifically like Black Rock? As previously mentioned, it was reduced from \$2 million to \$1 million and last year also, it was labelled as “Integrated Peacekeeping Centre”, now it has changed to Medical and Disaster Recovery Centre. So the increase in terms of \$830,000, which specific projects does it relate to?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just back on that Black Rock, the Centre is a Medical Centre. The Black Rock, it is called the Peacekeeping and HADR Regional Centre. So this Medical Centre is just one part of that Regional Peacekeeping and HADR Centre. So if you want me to, Madam Chairperson, I can go through the each allocation for SEG 8.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I think if you want to go through this, it will take such a long time, it is better if you identify exactly which of these allocations that you find that you want to reduce, et cetera, so that he can clarify on that one allocation.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- The increase from \$830,000, which specific project was it relating to? Last year, it was \$2.8 million, now, it is \$3.6 million.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Madam Chairperson, he has read correctly before, first of all, the renovation, upgrading of RFMF infrastructure, amenities and office buildings that has increased from \$400,000 to \$600,000.

This allocation caters for the upgrading and renovation of the existing RFMF office buildings, infrastructure and amenities that have deteriorated and are in dire need for maintenance work. This includes the Upgrade of Headquarters Building by \$100,000, Pay Office and Human Resources (\$175,000), Office and Conference Rooms (\$150,000); Defects Liability Payment (\$116,000); and so on; and the Black Rock Medical and Disaster Recovery Centre (\$1million), Upgrade of Sukunaivalu Barracks, that has gone up by \$130,000; the completion of the Construction of Magazine has gone down by \$50,000 from \$400,000 to \$350,000; Upgrade and Renovation of Armoury, gone up by \$100,000 from \$250,000 to \$350,000; Upgrade and Renovation of RFMF Quarters and Barracks. This is a new allocation of \$500,000 and Construction of Warehouse in Vatuwaqa, also a new project of \$500,000.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will move on to Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 7. Any comments?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Activity 1, SEG 7. There is an increase from last year to \$1.4 million this year, Madam Chairperson. Can we have some clarifications as to which item has increased?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This is regarding the Officers Cadet Training, a new allocation of \$634,940. In order to get absorbed into the Regular Force, Territorial Force soldiers have to undergo an Officers Cadet Training which runs for approximately nine months.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you think this amount should be reduced or increased?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- I just wanted to seek clarification, so is it enough or we can increase it?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Madam Chairperson, this is enough.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 2, any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 3?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 4. Honourable Professor Biman Prasad?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Just a quick question to the Honourable Minister on Programme 1, Activity 3, SEG 1 (\$17.4 million) allocated for the salaries of established staff of 3FIR. Because this is the largest component, can the Honourable Minister advise us on the number of Heads involved?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- I am sorry, Madam Chairperson, can I just ask the Honourable Member to repeat the question?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- I said that is the largest component (\$17.4 million) - Salaries of Established Staff, just on average, what is the number of Heads involved?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- The total number of Regular Soldiers right now is 3,295 and the Territorial Force is 4,785; a total of 8,580.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 1, Activity 4?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 5

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Hon. Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- The \$1 million on SEG. 8.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There is no SEG 8. Hon. Biman Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Just a general question on Programme 1, Activity 3.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- No, we are on Activity 5 now.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dr. Mere T. Samisoni.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Head 19, Programme 1, Activity 5, SEG 5 - Search and Rescue Expenses (\$80,000): I wish to question the basis which this amount has been calculated and whether this is sufficient or enough for the Military, even our land, sea and air space?

HON. MEMBER.- Read the next line.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Training - that is all it is, is it just training?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other comments? SEG 5?

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- OHS Expenses, we know that is \$9,000, but if you go back on Activity 4, there are differences in OHS Expenses (\$20,000) and also Programme 1, Activity 3 (\$10,000); and on Activity 5, SEG 5, we have \$9,000; the differences, can we have some clarifications, Madam Chairperson?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- This is different, Madam Chairperson. This is for the Navy, OHS Expenses, allocation for OHS safety drills and the procurement of OHS equipment (\$9,000).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other comments? Honourable Ratu Kiliraki?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- SEG 7: there is about \$50,000 there for the Maritime Surveillance Centre Operations in regards to the surveillance of our oceans, whether this amount is enough? Can I get an explanation from the Honourable Minister, please?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The allocation is enough. This is a new allocation (\$50,000) for the operations of the newly upgraded Maritime Surveillance Centre which was commissioned last year, 2017.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, any other comments? We will move on to Programme 1, Activity 6.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 7?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 8?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 9?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on Head No. 19.

The Question is:

That the amount of Head No. 19 – Republic of Fiji Military Forces be approved.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Ayes' and 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There seems to be a balance of voice there, and I will repeat.

(Chorus of 'Ayes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The 'Ayes' have it.

Head 19, Republic of Fiji Military Forces, agreed to.

Head 20 – Fiji Police Force

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments on Head No. 20, Programme 1, Activity 1.

Honourable Professor Biman Prasad?



HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Madam Chairperson. Programme 1-1 (8). There are allocations under Requisition in this year's budget for Upgrade and Replacement of Existing Living Quarters (\$800,000); Construction of Nakasi Police Station (\$5,000,000); Construction of a new Nadi Police Station (\$5,000,000). They were also in last year's budget and we heard from Honourable Minister Inia Seruiratu earlier that in his Ministry, he has allocations for project preparatory work. That means nothing happened during last year's budget and whether there was preparatory work, otherwise there is no point allocating budget and nothing happens.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- My apology, Madam Chairperson, I did not get the question. Can I just ask the Honourable Member to repeat the question?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Honourable Minister, Programme 1-1 (8), I was just saying that you had allocations for construction of police stations. Last year, the same allocations, again this year. I am just wondering whether nothing happened in the last financial year. As Honourable Minister Inia Seruiratu earlier said, in his Ministry, he had allocations for project preparatory work which is a sensible thing to do; to have preparation before the allocation is made so that the construction takes place. It appears that nothing happened last year and the allocation is again there.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- No, I do not think so, Madam Chairperson. The allocation for this year, the engagement of consultant and preliminary works for those police stations this year.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- No, I think you had the same allocation last year. I am just saying that, it appears that nothing happened last year, so you have the same allocation for the construction.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Allocation for this year was (\$100,000) and for the coming years will be (\$4,000,000) for the Nakasi Police Station and for Lautoka Police Station (\$1,000,000) this year and (\$4,000,000) next year.

HON. PRO. B.C. PRASAD.- So the preparatory work have to be done this year?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Yes, yes.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chairperson, if the Honourable Member looks at SEG 8, we are now also trying to break things down even further. So if you see, for example in SEG 8, if it says "preparatory works for major police station and police post (\$500,000)", so now we are trying to fine tune it. Yes, previously we had allocations and sometimes a lot of it would include the preparatory work, we put it down as construction now, we are fine tuning it.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Nawaikula?

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- Programme 1-1 – Established Staff. There is a big change there.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG, please?

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- SEG 1 - \$42 million estimated, last time it was \$23 million. There is a difference of \$19 million, so there is a big increase in established staff, could you clarify that - the reason for the increase?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Madam Chairperson, 712 is the current personnel and this will be increased by another 621.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Any other comments?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Just to add to the Department's regularisation of the Special Constables, now they get full time into the Force.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 7.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Women in Policing (\$20,000). Is there anything to do with gender issue or kindly need an explanation for that small amount of \$20,000?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- SEG 7. Can I just ask the Honourable Member to ask the question again? Which allocation is this?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- The Women in Policing – SEG 7 (\$20,000); whether anything special with the women in terms of their policing, or whether it needs an increase or decrease?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Madam Chairperson, I do not have that answer right now but I can give it to the Honourable Member later on, on that \$20,000 allocation for Women in Policing.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, we move on to Programme 1, Activity 2.

HON. S.D. KARAVAKI.- Can I ask one question or just a clarification on SEG 7. You have an item there, General Election Expenses, which is \$2 million, whether this is all that the Police would require for its participation in the Elections, or are there any other component that will be provided by the Elections Office?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- This allocation, Madam Chairperson, is enough. The operation will be conducted in three phases; pre-election, Election day and post-election; a total of 4,196 officers will be engaged in the Elections operation duty, providing security and maintaining law and order.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- SEG 9, Madam Chairperson. Can we get a clarification in terms of the upgrade of criminal records information system database? This will be an ongoing process. This allocation will complete this process or will it continue in the next fiscal year?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Madam Chairperson, this is an increase from \$180,000. The funding will be provided for the purchase and upgrade of IT infrastructure and criminal records system which is now an ongoing project.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Leader of the Opposition?

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- Madam Chairperson, with the increase in SEG 1 – Personal Emoluments and Women in Policing. With an increase in that, including the Special Constables coming into the regular Force, what then will be the ratio of the Police to the general population, with the increase in personnel?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Prime Minister.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Madam Chairperson, if I may, just to give a breakdown of the Regular Police Force and also the Special Constables. We have a total strength of **30,436** with the Regular Force and 1,150 in the Special Constables.

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- You can give me the ratio later of the increase in the personnel. What will that be in terms of the ratio of Police to the general population? With the increase, you can give it to me later.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- I just have to divide the population of Fiji with the total number of police officers. We will give that later, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Timoci Niumataiwalu.

HON. RATU T.N. NIUMATAIWALU.- SEG 5, Madam Chairperson, regarding the National Training Productivity Centre. The question is that, does this include allocation for cadet training in primary schools? I remember last two weeks, the Police in the Northern Division conducted cadet training at primary schools in Namuka, and straight after, they had a passing out parade on Friday last week.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- I am sorry, I missed that question, Madam Chairperson; can I ask that question again?

HON. RATU T.N. NIUMATAIWALU.- Does this allocation include cadet training for Police in primary schools?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Which allocation is this?

HON. RATU T.N. NIUMATAIWALU.- SEG 5, National Training Productivity Centre.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- This is a levy, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- Increase in the Police, will that mean we will see them on patrol, on the beat?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- They are already on patrol, Madam Chairperson, you will see more policemen on the roads now.

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- We see them in cars, Madam Chairperson, but we need to see them on the beat.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.-You want to increase the budget?

HON. RO T.V. KEPA.- No, I am just interested in his ratio, thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- SEG 5, Force Education Programme, \$350,000. Can you just clarify the type of Education Programme that is being offered in this allocation?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This is an increase of \$150,000 for the Force Education Programme to accommodate all training Programmes, including the recruit course that will be held at the Police Academy and various divisions in up skilling the members of the Fiji Police Force.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson, SEG 5, Stores for Kennels.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 5, Stores for Kennels - \$50,000.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- How many dogs are here, Madam Chairperson.

HON. GOVT. MEMBERS.- Plenty dogs.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- These dogs are over-fed.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- \$2,000 for how many dogs?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Madam Chairperson, I do not have that number right now but I can provide to the Honourable Member at a later date.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- We just want to compare with what they feed the dogs at the prisons. That is why I asked the question - different dogs.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.-There are different type of dogs. These are very well-trained dogs for detecting drugs, even coming in through Nadi Airport.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Niko Nawaikula?

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- I need a clarification, Madam Chairperson on Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 8 - Renovation, Extension and Upgrade of Posts and Stations. I am sure that the Honourable Minister has been to Nausori Police Station, Suva Police Station and Lautoka Police Station. The state of things there - the furniture is pathetic and inhumane; do you think that amount is enough?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Madam Chairperson, the construction of the new police stations cannot be done all at once. So, we are doing them phase by phase. The ones that are being earmarked for 2018-2019 Budget is Nakasi Police Station, the new Lautoka Police Station and new Nadi Police Station. The ones that had been mentioned by the Honourable Member will be considered after these phase of works.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dr. Mere Samisoni?

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My question is on Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 9 - Installation of Solar Power in Rural and Maritime Stations and Posts, is that enough money, considering we have got such a big rural area and maritime area?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This is enough allocation for this purpose for the time being.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- May I declare my interest. I have done a lot of research on solar, it took me five years and Government is welcome to use my research, seeing that the Prime Minister is Chair of COP 23. It is local research, it took me five years and even a national essay from all the schools in Fiji. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON. Thank you for the offer. Any other comments? Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

HON. RO T.V. KEPHA.- Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 9 - Purchase of Special Operational Equipment. Is that to do with radar and other Police equipment, Honourable Minister?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Is it purchase of Forensic Chemistry Equipment?

HON. RO T.V. KEPHA.- Special Operational Equipment - \$298,000.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- What is your question? You want clarification?

HON. RO T.V. KEPHA.- I wanted to ask the Honourable Minister if that has to do with the radars, or which SEG would include the radar - the equipment that the Police use on the roads?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Radars on the road.

HON. RO T.V. KEPHA.- Relating to that, Madam Chairperson, is, if they have equipment powerful enough to also clock in the PM's entourage and also AG's as they are very good in catching all the rest of us but not the two gentlemen's entourage. So do they have the radar? Good to see you, Honourable PM.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We move onto Programme 1-2.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Programme 1-1 (8) - Maintenance of *MV Veiqaravi*; there is an allocation there of nearly half a million (\$476,900). I need an explanation on the maintenance of the vessel. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- We are going backwards, Madam Chairperson. Can I please ask the Honourable Member to repeat his question?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 8 – Maintenance of *MV Veiqaravi*; there is an allocation there of nearly half a million (\$476,900). I need an explanation on the maintenance of the vessel. Thank you.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- That vessel is used by the Police, Madam Chairperson, for surveillance around our close waters.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Does that include the operation cost of fuel or is it just its upkeep, painting and all that?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- As stated, Madam Chairperson, it is for maintenance.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 2, any comments? Honourable Salote Radrodro?

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 1; can the Honourable Minister explain this kerosene allowance on SEG 1 and that appears on the other activities as well? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Which SEG is this, Madam Chairperson?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 1.

HON. S. V. RADRODRO.- Kerosene allowance -\$13,7000.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- This is for kerosene in the rural areas for our Police Stations and Police Posts where there is no electricity.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Viliame Gavoka.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chairperson, SEG 1, there is an item there - Re-Engagement Bonus, can we be enlightened on what that is?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Engagement Bonus.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Engagement Bonus, Madam Chairperson, I do not have that answer right now, but I can provide to the Honourable Member at a later date.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Dr. Mere Samisoni?

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My question is, why are we still dealing with kerosene? It has got a big carbon footprint, the Honourable Prime Minister as the COP 23 President. We are still dealing with kerosene, we should have moved over to gas. The Prime Minister of India moved to gas very quickly and their population is so much bigger. This would have been a great opportunity to innovate and then get the money from COP 23. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In some places like Naitasiri, it is very difficult to get the gas up there, so they have to be provided with kerosene.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Why can we not move into innovation mode now? That is the new order - just a point and an idea. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister for Economy?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chairperson, as was announced in the Budget, the Fiji Police Force is going through a major restructure over a five year period. It will cost over \$125 million as we have seen this year, there has been an increase of approximately \$24 million. Part of the restructure

is also to look at various terms and conditions, so first, the part of it is the regularisation of the Special Constables.

The second, third and fourth parts are also about looking at the various salaries or ways in which they are paid. Obviously their allowances, for example, Kerosene Allowance. Few decades ago, that was what people used to use, most people in Fiji. Like you correctly pointed out, a lot of people have moved along and this is part of the Civil Service Reform. If you look at many of the Civil Service Reforms, these are the kinds of old relics from the Colonial days that we need to get rid of. That is what we are doing, it is part and parcel of the process and of course, like in many countries, they did have it too. If you go to Australia, they used to give them all sorts of allowances but they moved along. They increased the salaries, they have incorporated various allowances in the mainstream actual salary take home pay. So that is what is happening, it is part and parcel of that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Viliame Gavoka.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- SEG 5, you have \$12,000 there for DNA Testing Devices. We are saying here that we are doing full DNA in Fiji or is this part of the preparatory work before you send it overseas?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Madam Chairperson, the DNA Testing Devices for \$12,000, we are doing it here.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will move on to Programme 1, Activity 3.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- To assist the Minister, the question on the Re-Engagement Bonus of \$38,000, this payment is only paid to Regular Police Officers in the rank of Sergeant and below under the Police Act, that they are contracted for five years until retirement age or whichever comes first. So that is what it is paid for.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chairperson, SEG 5.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 5.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- The Licence Renewals (AFIS) \$70,500. Can we have some clarification on that?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Madam Chairperson, which Activity are we on now?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 5 - Licence Renewables (AFIS) – (\$70,500).

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Sorry, Madam Chairperson, I do not have that answer right now but I can provide it later.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Just to assist, this is to cater for the annual licensing paid to AF Ethics Technology in USA with the automated fingerprint identification system, which is located at the Police Criminal Records Office in Nasova. That is what it is for.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We now move on to Programme 1, Activity 3; any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 4?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 5?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 6?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 7?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 8?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Can we get clarification on the increase in Establishment - SEG 1, this has increased by \$2,570,400.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 8 - Police Special Response Unit (PSRU).

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Is that on SEG 1?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 1, yes.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- I apologise, Madam, can I just ask the Honourable Member to repeat the question?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Can we just get an update on the increase in allocation to SEG 1 - \$2,580,400?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Special Constables personnel increased by 234. There was the implementation of the 14 percent pay rise emanating from the Civil Service Reform. This is all SEG 1.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just further to that, there is still kerosene allowance on that particular SEG in terms of Police Special Response Unit (PSRU). Is it the one in Makoi?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- A \$3,000 allocation, kerosene allowance, yes. This is for Police Special Response Unit in Makoi.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other comments? Honourable Ratu Niumataiwalu.

HON. RATU T.N. NIUMATAIWALU.- Activity 7, SEG 1.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We are on Programme 1, Activity 8.



HON. RATU T.N. NIUMATAIWALU.- SEG 7, Madam.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Activity 8.

HON. RATU T.N. NIUMATAIWALU.- Activity 7.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- No, no, no. We have gone past it.

HON. RATU T.N. NIUMATAIWALU.- SEG 1, SEG 1.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We are now on Activity 8.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- SEG 2, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Activity 8, SEG 2.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- SEG 2, there is \$140 allowance. That is quite a small amount. What is that for, Madam Chairperson? Can we have some clarification on that, please?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- \$140 allowance. Programme 1, Activity 8. SEG 2.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- SEG 2 - Allowance of \$140 is sufficient.

HON. RATU T.N. NIUMATAIWALU.- Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, Honourable Ratu Niumataiwalu.

HON. RATU T.N. NIUMATAIWALU.- Programme 1, Activity 7, SEG 1.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We are on Activity 8, please.

HON. RATU T.N. NIUMATAIWALU.- Please, can you allow me to ask the question.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I made a ruling that once we move on, we will not go back otherwise we will keep moving to and fro, and it takes too long. So we are onto Activity 8. Apologies, I have to be strict otherwise we are going to spend the whole day here.

(Hon. Member interjects)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All right, let us move to Programme 1, Activity 9.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Programme 1, Activity 8, SEG 1. The Special Constables, I would like a point of clarification, please. It was announced in the Budget that all Police Constables are now regularised. Yet we find the word "Constables" mentioned in the Budget Estimates. Does it mean we will continue to have Constables or the word "Constables" shall now mean Regular Police Officers?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, you can be a Constable and be a Regular Constable. The only thing of difference is Special Constable. You have taken out the word "special".

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All right. Activity 8, SEG 1?

HON. RATU T.N. NIUMATAIWALU.- Why do we not have dog handlers in this Unit?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- No dogs here.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- No dogs allowed.

(Laughter)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Viliame Gavoka?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Activity 9, SEG 5.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Now, we will move down to Activity 9.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- What I had noticed, Madam Chairperson, is that with the Police, there is a lot of Search and Rescue Expenses. Every Division have a Search and Rescue Expenses, including the Support Services, and the Military has its own search and rescue provisions. Likewise last night, we spoke about the Disaster Management, people also having theirs so like we expressed our concerns last night that our responses to disaster appeared to be always slow like the one in the maritime areas.

If you look at this, there is quite a bit of allocation for rescue but in separate Heads; Police, Military and in the Disaster Ministry, like last night we wanted to increase, can it be made more effective by centralising this, so that the responses can be quicker when there is an emergency out there?

We see a lot of it here, and like I said yesterday, one of the ferries carrying hundreds of people is drifting you know without engine out in the open seas. We would like to see something more reassuring happening like a helicopter hovering over-board, reporting on what is happening.

So it is not a shortage of funds. I see a lot of funds here in the Search and Rescue allocation, it is just the application that I see that is lacking.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I am sure the idea is taken on board for the future, but right now we have got the allocation in this Budget that we have here. Thank you, good suggestion that will be taken on board the next time. Any other comment?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- Madam Chairperson, I just want to go back to the point that was made by Honourable Gavoka. He is talking about putting all these Search and Rescue entities together, now that cannot be done. It is already centralised, the Navy looks after their own, likewise for the Maritime, and the Police looks after their own, you cannot put them together.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Alex O'Connor?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- There is also under the law, certain agencies are responsible for certain areas, so the Fiji Police Force is responsible for certain areas. Of course, as the Honourable Prime Minister highlighted, they bring different levels of expertise which obviously can only be fostered and tendered within their own organisations but there is a collaborative approach. That is why the Ministry actually is the one that coordinates it all, that is why they also have a funding for the coordination of the

rescue efforts. This is something that is not peculiar to Fiji but it is everywhere, they all have a sort of inter-agency working for search and rescue.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have any further comment?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- When we come into Government, we will relook at centralising it. I think when people are drifting out in the open sea, the last of their worries is, “Oh, there is a governmental problem here, I cannot go”, you know what I mean. They are not worried about the legislation or whatever, they want rescue, and we are very slow in responding.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- I think that is a matter of opinion, Madam Chairperson for the Honourable Member to say is slow in response. We have been very quick in response, we use private sector helicopters. Also, we ask some of our development partners to come in and do the search and rescue.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, any further comments on Programme 1, Activity 9?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Just a clarification, Madam Chairperson, in terms of SEG 5, there seems to be consistent allocations being given there, but the number of established staff in terms of the allocation to establish staff has gone up. How will that increase in the number of staff for police will accommodate these uniforms and accessory is still the same?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Madam Chairperson, this has been agreed to by our Fiji Police Force and they reckon that this allocation is enough.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Honourable Semesa Karavaki.

HON. S.D. KARAVAKI.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just a clarification, I have been trying to see in the old SEGs that all activities we have already passed, this is the last activity that we have under this Head. There is nowhere that is mentioned any item like community awareness under the Police Head. This is the last one and I thought probably it should be here in the Support Services but there is none. I want to propose something that it be included in here, is that to go in a motion?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- It will be a motion, yes. Fill the form quickly now because we are onto the last Head. Any other comments on Programme 1, Activity 9

(Chorus of ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Programme 1, Activity 9, SEG 4 – Vehicle Accident Repairs (\$40,000); is that enough, considering the number of accidents with police vehicles? The Government vehicles are not insured.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Yes, Madam Chairperson, that is enough.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Enough?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- It is enough.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- It is enough, sufficient.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chairperson, just to clarify the vehicles that are leased actually have comprehensive insurance. That is the beauty about the leased vehicles. Of course, we do not want accidents but the leased vehicles have comprehensive insurance. There are some other vehicles as the Honourable Minister highlighted earlier on, and Honourable Seruiratu also, that there are some vehicles that may be given to us, as a aid, et cetera, so this is to look after them.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We have a proposal for an amendment (not an amendment) but it is out of order.

HON. S.D. KARAVAKI.- Out of order?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We are only debating for increase, reduce or delete, not a new one.

HON. S.D. KARAVAKI.- Maybe, Madam Chairperson, if the Honourable Minister can take that on board because that is a big part of the work of the police to be able to bring awareness of the law and order to the community so that there is a reform to happen over there in the community so that law and order are maintained and crimes are not committed. These would help assist in the work of the Police Force.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do you have community policing, Minister?

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Yes, we do have community police station.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- They have community police station.

HON. S.D. KARAVAKI.- That is the community policing. It is not really inputting into its programme the public awareness. It just the visitation they do to each houses to record the number of people living in a family in that particular place and to be aware who are the people in there, so that they know who are the visitors coming in. That is the only work they do. What I am talking about is that, for them to go to the community with the help of churches to bring revival and reform into the community. That is what I am talking about.

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Madam Chairperson, the Honourable Member does not know what he is talking about, he does not really know what he is talking about. That is what we have been doing as the Minister moving around the country with the Police and some church leaders in different divisions doing exactly the same thing that the Honourable Member is saying.

HON. S.D. KARAVAKI.- That is what I am talking about. Where is it stated over here so that we can talk about the other ....

HON. RATU I. KUBUABOLA.- Just a moment, Honourable Member. Madam Chairperson, he does not know what he is talking about and he is wasting our time in this Parliament.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will not discuss this any further. We will now vote on the Head. Parliament will vote on Head No. 20.

The question is:

That the amount of Head No. 20 – Fiji Police Force, be approved.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

There being no Opposition the motion is agreed to anonymously.

Head No. 20 - Fiji Police Force, agreed to.

Head No. 21 – Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments on Head No. 21.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 5 – School Scouts Programme (\$200,000). As you know, scouting is very important in terms of values and civic pride, et cetera. I wonder if that amount is enough to cater for scouting in schools. Just a clarification on that from the Honourable Minister. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to propose an amendment to increase?

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- I am seeking clarification first, Madam Chairperson.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- We think it is, because as you know that we need to be able to roll this programme out well, and as announced in the Budget, it will be done from beginning of next year from when the new school term starts. So, in the meantime this money will also be used to do some staff training because as you know, a lot of these scouts are not actually present in the high school level. It is generally primary school level so the idea is to get at the high school level but we need enough teachers and other members to be trained in the scout values, et cetera.

So, this funding will be used initially for that. We are already having meeting with the Scouts Association and then once we get the people trained so then next year it is offered through various schools and a number of schools are on a voluntary basis. This, of course, includes females too. The scouts also has a female arm and the idea is to extend it to them too.

HON. OPP. MEMBER.- (Inaudible)

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, scouts actually have their own. We understand that the scouts have a female arm to it too. So, we will be using the scouts because at the moment what we have done through our assessment, we have found that the Scouts Association is a lot better organised. They have filtered a lot more through the schooling system so it is better to work with an organisation. We understand that the Girl Guides is not as prominent as it used to be, so scouts is a much better organisation.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Madam Chairperson, just further to that, in terms of scouts. Will you have in your submission a qualification in the Ministry to liaise with schools in that regard? Thank you.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- This is all part and parcel of what we call the up-skilling of the staff too. As you know, as announced, we are doing a restructure within the Ministry itself to make a lot more robust at the district level, and there will, of course, be increased salaries but we also want increased responsibilities too. So, there is no specific concrete special positions just for this implementation. We believe that people can actually carryout their jobs whilst they are doing other things in respect of the coordination of that, but we want to work very closely with the Scouts Association.

HON. RO T.V. KEPA.- Madam Chairperson, SEG 6 – National Substance Abuse Advisory Council which is (\$861,743). I know from their report, they were requesting for more counsellors which I see you have in SEG 7 – Counselling Services for Schools. Are these going to be working together in terms of the discipline in schools?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes. The Honourable Leader of Opposition, if you see the National Substance Abuse Advisory Council, there has been an increase in their budget by \$61,700. This, too, of course, support their operations and also activities within schools such as drug awareness, HIV and also student counselling services but the \$300,000 that you are referring to, that obviously is something new that we are introducing to be able to not just complement this but also traditionally approach has been that each school should have a counsellor but most of these counsellors are in fact are not trained counsellors. These are teachers who have the love for their profession and having interest in their students, so they end up being counsellors, so, the idea is to actually recruit professional counsellors.

As you know, we are giving more scholarships and have them (counsellors) roving from schools so they could do in a district, they could do in a day or half-a-day in school. In that way the students will actually get access to professional counsellors and the teachers actually would not be burdened with carrying out this additional responsibility.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other comments?

HON. RATU T.N. NIUMATAIWALU.- SEG 10 – Programme 1, Activity 1 - Completion of New Bau College (\$1.5 million), last year it was (\$1.2 million). We need clarification and an update on that one, Madam Chairperson.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This is essentially to complete the construction. It involves an additional 1x8 double-storey concrete classroom block, it has already been built. Increase in funding is to construct special rooms such as Science Labs, Industrial Arts, Home Economics Workshop, PEMAC and Agriculture rooms. There was also included in their pricing 3 x 2 bedrooms for teachers' quarters and a seven pan ablution block. So this is about what this additional funding is for. So, the school actually is not just simply built on a very basic level but we have these so specialised classrooms being built and is now being taken over by the Construction Implementation Unit.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Mikaele Leawere.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- On SEG 6, allocation of \$50,000 in terms of Language Policy, some clarification from the Honourable Minister. Is it to do with that conversational issue that are in schools, or is it a new policy, or a new item on this SEG?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- This is the implementation of the teaching of the vernacular languages. The policy looks at teaching vernacular at the lower primary. As you know under the Constitution now, it is mandatory to teach *iTaukei* and Fiji Hindi to all students which obviously has started from Class 5 and goes up to secondary level. So, we want to in fact re-enforce that. In fact, we think there is lot more room for improvement in this area. We found that some of the schools are not necessarily implementing that. Some have used the excuse of not having enough teachers who can teach this, so we want to in fact focus on this area.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 6.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- On SEG 6, Madam Chairperson, I seek some clarifications from the Honourable Minister in terms of the increase in the Fijian Teachers Registration Authority. I think, probably it has increased to \$514,000 and just an indication for these increases, and why. Also some

clarification as to whether the Annual Report has been tabled in this House on the Fiji Teachers Registration Authority. Thank you.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- The funds is for the operation of FTRA, which plays an important role of course in the professional development of teachers.

The increased funding is to recruit two new administrative staff to support the work of the Authority. Funding to undertake training and professional sessions to support the professional development of teachers, revamping its website, and the purchase of office equipment such as an ID card printer to support the work of the Authority in registering teachers. We also just to tell or inform you that we are also bringing about some changes by law, which will be presented hopefully later today in terms of the composition of how the Authority will be made up of.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

HON. RO T.V. KEPHA.- SEG 8 - Sigatoka Methodist College Final Payment, is this the one in Kulukulu and what are the facilities being built there with this final payment?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chairperson, this essentially is to cover the defect liability payment for the construction of a 1x4 classroom block. If for those of you who drive along to Sigatoka, you will see it on the left hand side the new block that has already been completed. This is to complete the defect liability period.

HON. RO T.V. KEPHA.- And the one in Kulukulu?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Honourable Leader of the Opposition, as highlighted previously, they have identified some land but the land was not suitable because geo-tech-wise, the building would have sunk.

HON. RO T.V. KEPHA.- On sand.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- SEG 7, Lease Premium - \$50,000. I understand that this is already budgeted with the Ministry of Lands because they carry out renewal of leases for all Government Departments. They have a separate allocation.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- This is in SEG 7. I mean, sometimes we get some schools that are community-based schools, not all of the land is actually crown land. So sometimes they reach out to us and they may have been paying, they are short of funds, so they may be leasing an *iTaukei* land, and then we actually fund it for them.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Matanitobua?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Still on SEG 7, there is a new allocation on counselling services for schools, it is a new allocation.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, as I mentioned earlier on to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, these are essentially to provide for recruitment of qualified counsellors to provide counselling services. They couple up with the National Advisory Council. As we have said, there is shortage of

counsellors. What we are going to do under the new structure, they will move around in the districts, not only based in one school. This makes sense. So like Namosi, all the schools that could have everyone going around.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Mikaele Leawere.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It is just clarification on SEG 6, Honourable Minister, in terms of the free bus fare assistance allocation. For last year, it was \$20 million and then it increased to \$25 million. Will we know the number of students who will be affected in terms of this increase?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- In 2017, 97,644 students benefited from this assistance; primary school students were 65,376, secondary school students were 31,195, and Technical Colleges were 1,073. Of course, as you know, the TELS people, we actually give them the allowance straight, so they have a separate allocation for that.

In 2018, we expect 105,049 students to benefit from the scheme: 70,130 primary school students; secondary school students, 33,000; and Technical Colleges, 1,797.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being no other comments we move on to ....

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Madam Chairperson, in terms of SEG 10, I need clarification from the Honourable Minister in terms of Foundation for the Education of Needy Children. Have they tabled a report in terms of the amount that they received in the previous allocation?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Apologies, have they tabled a report?

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Yes.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- I do not have those details with me but we can obviously provide that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- SEG 6, just a clarification in terms of the assistance. Is there anywhere else the Free Milk assistance has been listed under?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Apologies.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Free Milk Assistance.

Or the next one, just on the Upgrade and Maintenance of Government Schools on SEG 8, the status of the Government schools (\$420,000), I just wanted to first enquire whether there is a list of schools programme, activity in terms of the upgrade and maintenance that will be covered under this allocation, because it has been a continuous allocation in terms of the upgrade maintenance of Government schools?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- If you can see that we have actually made this a specific allocation now. Previously it was put under Government schools itself, but now this is under General Administration. So General Administration now is centralised. The whole idea is that, we have seen, for example, in one of the Government schools, recently the parents wanted to do a fundraising to build an



ablution block, and we said, “No, you should not do that, because we believe that this is our responsibility to ensure all the Government schools are up to standard.”

So in this new Programme, for example, in the current financial year, funds were released to upgrade Suva Grammar School, Adi Cakobau School and Labasa College. Additional work was planned for Sila Central, ACS, RKS, Natabua High and Bucalevu Secondary School, this of course will continue in the new year. We are doing a stocktake and as you know, another announcement would be made, we are doing an entire stocktake of all the schools in Fiji. It will also include not just Government schools but also the non-Government schools. We have a planned approach to maintenance.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chairperson, SEG 6 - Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board. This is now included here, whereas in last year’s budget, the amount was \$2.7 million. Now, it has increased to \$3.35 million and it was allocated under Head 50. Why has it moved?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Because now we have proper systems in place. This is what you people do not understand when you talk about Head 50. There is a problem, we try and explain these things to you.

This additional funding is required, the \$1.53 million for TSLB Grant for this financial year is \$142,000 for development grant to install a Queue Management System, Access Control System for TSLB, and as you know, it is very heavy with students.

There was \$1,600 for graduate student allowance because as you know, there are still some students who have been placed overseas through various old scholarships, Government scholarships, so they also pay the allowance, they remit the allowances to them too. Now the funding increase even by the implementation of the second JEE payments, there has been slight increase of \$76,000 for the staff and allowance to increase and recruit additional staff during peak periods to assist in processing applications, that is the only increase by \$8,500.

There is also installation of various other software controls to ensure that the services provided are actually have increased or improved. We have also increased to \$1.1 million student allowances for those graduates who are offshore. So, we have some people, for example, who are in Cuba, we have some people for example who are in Malaysia and a couple other countries. So we need to ensure that the allowances that they receive also has increased to meet the stipends that is required to live in those countries, they manage that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will now move on to Programme 1.

HON. M.R. LEAWARE.- Just a clarification from the Honourable Minister in terms of the Relieving Staff for SEG 1 and SEG 2. In terms of those who go on Maternity Leave, is this Activity for them? SEG 1 - relieving staff and also SEG 2 - relieving staff, is it to do with those who are on maternity leave and they are being replaced? Is this the amount that is used for them?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, if you look at it, I can give you a breakdown. In SEG 1, we have of course the Repatriation Allowance, this of course caters for the various allowances that teachers need for relocating families, et cetera. Also for deceased members of families, we have fringe benefit tax, telecommunications, advertising, et cetera, that is in there.

But relieving staff, yes, when you move staff along, for example, just last week, there were about seven or eight teachers that had to go on Maternity Leave so we had to bring in relieving staff. We are

now trying to also establish a pool of teachers who would be quite happy to be always moved around because we need some of these teachers to be relocated wherever it is required. There are some teachers, for example, two weeks ago that had health complications and they were out in the rural areas and they needed to be near a bigger hospital, so we now have a policy in place for that to meet those expenses.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Especially for Paternity Leave as well which has come on board?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, Paternity Leave is only for one week. It depends on the length of absence because sometimes if it is for a few days or for a week, the schools generally can cater for that. But of course Maternity Leave is longer, it is now going to be 98 days.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will move on to Programme 1, Activity 2, any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 1?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Prem Singh?

HON. P. SINGH.- SEG 5 - Free Milk Programme. In last year's budget, \$3.57 million was allocated ....

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Apologies, which SEG?

HON. P. SINGH.- SEG 5.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 1, SEG 5 - Free Milk.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, carry on.

HON. P. SINGH.- In last year's budget, there was an allocation of \$3.5 million under the Free Milk Programme for Year 1 Students. This year, unlike the bus fare increases which went up, the Free Milk allocation is reduced by almost \$400,000, why is that?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- It was actually increased by \$30,000. The Free Milk - **SEG 6**.

HON. P. SINGH.- \$3,100,000 - That was the allocation for 2018.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, it is \$3,000,100, this year's financial is \$3,000,070. This year's financial is \$3,000 million and \$70. So you are looking at the overall for SEG 5?

HON. P. SINGH.- No, SEG 5 - Free Milk Programme – Year 1 Students \$3.1 million. That is for this year.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes.

HON. P. SINGH.- Compared to last year's \$3.57 million.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, the figures that I have is \$3.07 million. I apologise, let me just look at the books. The figures that I have been given is that the free milk this year is \$3.1 million. But last year, free milk was \$3,000,070. So the funds have been increased because of the increase in the number of students obviously. It has increased by \$30,000.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- In terms of SEG 1, it has decreased to \$3.4 million; a huge decrease of around \$7.7 million. Can we just get some clarification in terms of SEG 1 – Established Staff under Programme 2, Activity 1?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, because that has actually moved to Programme 2, Activity 3. If you look at Programme 2, Activity 3, that has actually gone up and that is where it has gone to.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- It is for the primary.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, it has gone to Primary Education - Non-Government Primary Schools.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will now move on. Honourable Mikaele Leawere.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- SEG 5 - Education Forum. Is that sufficient to cater for the meetings that will be held within the Ministry, in terms of advisory to the Minister?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, there are four forums that are organised through this and we obviously are not going to serve everyone lavish meals and all of that so this is enough.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 8.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- SEG 8 - There is a new allocation for construction of WASH Facilities. Can we get some clarity in terms of this construction of WASH facilities?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Again this WASH has to do with water, sanitation and hygiene, in particular, in the so deep rural and maritime areas and this is a new allocation, as you know. So we are looking at 17 schools - Andrews Primary School, Viwa District School, Taqage District School, Seaqaqa District School, *Koroinasolo* Village School, Navuno Primary School, Nabua Primary School, Doi Village School, Ono Levu District School, Lamiti Malawai School, Nabasovi District School, Wainibuku Hart Primary School, Lomary Catholic Primary School, Assemblies of God Primary School, Nailgotabua Primary School, Wainibuka District School and Dilkusha Boys School. It is for them.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will now move on. Programme 2, Activity 2?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 3?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Can we just get some clarification in terms of SEG 1 - Establishment. We note that there is a \$22 million increase but the process that each individual teacher has to go through in terms of appointment and acting appointments, some of them have been in the post but are still waiting to be paid. How can that be accounted for in this increase in allocation?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- I really do not know what the question is about.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- The allocation that has been given here of \$175 million; will that also account for those teachers who have yet to receive their increments over the last year that they have been waiting for, or acting allowances, even though they have been given the confirmed post, they still have not received the necessary salaries that equates to the post?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- I think Honourable Member you may be a bit out of touch. Most of them have already got it. Those adjustments, if you see throughout all the SEGs or wherever there is a necessity, all the adjustments have been made and that actually caters for that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will move onto Programme 2, Activity 4, any comments?

HON. P. SINGH.- Programme 2, Activity 4, SEG 6. I would like to move a motion - Grant to Special Schools to have it increased by \$2 million.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- He is moving a motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Prem Singh was asking a question.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Oh the grant. What are you saying?

HON. P. CHAND.- I move a motion that it be increased by \$2 million.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- So you want it at 3.3.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All right. Honourable Parmod Chand?

HON. P. CHAND.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We have not gone to that yet.

Any further comments on Programme 2, Activity 4?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 5?

(Chorus of Noes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will now consider this motion from Honourable Prem Singh, that Head 21 be increased. All right, let us look at Programme 3, Activity 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 2?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 3?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- What is that Programme - Programme 3, Activity 3?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Non-Government Secondary Schools. Would you like to make comment, Honourable Aseri Radrodro?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Just a clarification in terms of the allocation that has been given here.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG, please.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- SEG 1.

Does it also account for those who have yet to receive those acting allowances, and has been in arrears since the time till to-date?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any further comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will now move on to Programme 4, Activity 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 4, Activity 2?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 4, Activity 3?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 5, Activity 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Prof. Biman Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thank you Madam Chair. Just looking at the allocation for Programme 5, Activity 1, SEG – 5, the allocation for Agricultural Education with the sum of \$75,000 and I have noticed that it has been reduced from last year's allocation by \$150,000. Can the Honourable Minister explain why it has been reduced and how does it sort of fit into the objective of the National Agriculture Policy and National Development Plan?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- I apologise, Honourable Member, can you please repeat your question?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- I am just saying there is a decrease from last year on Agricultural Education from the sum of \$150,000 to just \$75,000. I thought you would be putting more rather than reducing.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Agriculture Education?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Yes.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, basically the decrease is due to the current utilisation trend. The utilisation trend has been low so we do not want to over budget.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- And so that is based on what happened last year?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- But you should be promoting it.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- We are but obviously we can promote it but there is no point allocating additional funds if it is not going to be used. The update is slow.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Those who are in charge of promoting might get another signal and might reduce it further.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, that is why I am getting in the Civil Service Reform so they know what to do. They need to do their jobs first and they need to do their jobs properly.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 5, Activity 2?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 5.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- SEG 5 - Careers Expo (\$20,000). Is this the National Careers Exposition or is it for all schools? I am looking at the amount, it is only \$20,000. Is that sufficient to showcase what the Ministry is offering to our students all over the country?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, it actually is to meet the cost of organising Careers Expos to secondary school students. Expos are organised around a cluster of schools. So we do it around the cluster of schools. We do not say we have one big one and then they also travel, we are trying to do a cluster of schools. So we then have one, for example, around the Navosa area up in the valley, then we may have one done in the town area, Nadi, wherever it is, in different locations.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 5, Activity 3?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 6, Activity 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Professor Biman Prasad?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Madam Chairperson, just two questions to the Honourable Minister.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 5, Activity?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Programme 6, Activity1, SEG 5 and SEG 7.

SEG 5 – Research and Data Collection (\$30,000). I am just wondering, given the importance of Research and Data Collection within the Ministry. SEG 7 – National Research Council (\$100,000), where are we on the National Research Council and whether we have the Council already? If I am correct, we have already passed a Bill on National Research Council. So can the Honourable Minister please provide an update on those two?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Sure. The research and data collection is to fund a Research Activity in specifically identified areas. So the research is being undertaken on school dropouts, cyber bullying in schools, et cetera.

So as you can see the staff emoluments are separate. The staff here actually have to do the job, so you need to bring the intellect capacity to do the research. This is specifically in addition to that, to do any additional work. Now there is research publication also, is to fund the publication and research as produced by the specific Unit.

The National Research Council, what we have actually said is that the Research Council needs to work with other organisations in particular with the Fiji Higher Education Commission to ensure that the Council promotes and evaluates advanced research and development. I think to be fair, the work has been a bit slow in that area but we have asked the Fiji Higher Education Commission to work with them. So we hope to get that expedited.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 7, Activity1?

(Chorus of ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 8, Activity1?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Is that going to be the responsibility of the Ministry or the schools that are still printing their own exam papers?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Apologies, say it again? No, it is the Ministry, that is why it is allocated to the Ministry.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- The \$550,000?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Because schools also print their own exam papers.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Apologies?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Schools also print their own exam papers.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- But this is for the exams that are administered by the Ministry.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- External exams?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, external exams. You can also see that prior to that, there is also examination expenses of \$2.6 million. You cannot look at that in isolation. It is a whole logistics involved in it.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- (Inaudible)

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, \$550,000 is enough. It is the cost of printing itself.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Just one clarification. Is this still be done by Government Printing Press?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- For the time being, it is.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- As you know, we are in the process of selling Government Printing to Fijian Holdings and that the final details are being worked out.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 9, Activity 1. Honourable Mikaele Leawere.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Madam Chairperson, there is an increase in the allocation for Established Staff; can we have some clarifications on that from the Honourable Minister?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Sure, there is additional funding for four new positions: the Administration Officer, Level Band F, Salary Range starts from \$22,000, Step 1 is at \$22,000. There is currently a gap in the organisation structure between the senior level and clerical officer level. This will assist the Department's delivery of work such as clerical officers who are currently required to step up to take on the responsibility of senior officers in their absence, so the idea is to have these new four positions. There is a huge gap there, just to fill in middle management, if you like.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 9, Activity 2.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, we will now consider the motion before us from the Honourable Prem Singh that Head 21 be increased by \$2 million in Programme 2, Activity 4, SEG 6, with respect to Grant to Special Schools.

I have been advised by the Honourable Minister for Economy that he has spoken for them to find the money if this motion is approved.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chairperson, which Programme?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- No, we have finished all the Programmes and now we are going to the motions. We have finished all for the Ministry for Education.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- This is budget overall.

HON. P. SINGH.- No, SEG 6



HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Which Programme?

HON. P. SINGH.- It is Programme 2, Activity 4, SEG 6 - Grant to Special Schools.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Motion on Programme 2, Activity 4, SEG 6 to be increased by \$2 million. Do we have a seconder?

HON. OPP MEMBER.- (inaudible)

Thank you, would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. P. SINGH.- Thank you, Madam. What compels me to bring this motion to this House is that, this is a commendable thing. The Government has just given \$1.35 million from the last couple of years and there has been no increase in this. You would note that Special Schools require special skills, both in terms of teachers, the management, the board, and lately, we have seen that the management of these schools do their own fundraising at times to meet the requirements of the allocated expenditure.

Madam Chairperson, this is why I move that \$2 million be added to the \$1.35 million to allow for all special schools in Fiji. I say this because we have ratified the UN Convention on Disabilities in 2017; and this House has passed the Rights of Persons with Disabilities just this year, to ensure we honour Part 6 of the Act and ensure a level playing field for education mainstreaming of our disabled children. I think both sides have said that this is a commendable thing the Government is doing, looking after them but then we need to put more emphasis on the facilities for these children. Thank you.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson, the Grant for Special Schools actually will meet the cost of the services associated, especially the recruitment of specialised teachers, procurement of special aids and equipment for disabled persons as lens, hearing aids and prosthetics, amongst other things.

Madam Chairperson, obviously, we have talked to all the schools. The Ministry has worked very closely with them and at the moment, this is the capacity for the schools (\$1.359 million) and this is enough for the time being. Of course, there are other ways that they do get assisted, Madam Chairperson.

As you know that we also provide specific payment for teachers, as I mentioned. We also are now giving scholarships for the students too for the special schools, so given all of the funding that is there, we believe this is enough. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on this motion. Does anyone oppose that Head 21 be increased by \$2 million in Programme 2, Activity 4?

(Chorus of 'Ayes' and 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those who oppose, say "No".

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those in agreement, say "Yes".

(Chorus of 'Ayes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Your voices are deeper than theirs.

(Laughter)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- But I think there are more 'Noes'.

The motion is defeated.

Parliament will now vote on Head No. 21. The question is:

That the amount of Head 21 - Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, be approved.

Does any Member oppose?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

Parliament will now vote that this allocation under this Head is approved, yes or no?

(Chorus of 'Ayes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Those in opposition?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The Ayes have it.

Head 21 - Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, agreed to.

Head 22 – Ministry of Health and Medical Services

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for the Ministry of Health and Medical Services. Do we have any comments on Programme 1, Activity 1? Do you have a motion?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Yes, I have a motion, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, we will deal with this afterwards. Any other comments?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 8, Madam Chairperson: We have noted that all the plans to upgrade hospitals, health centres and nursing stations in this SEG, obviously all are under Requisition, that is understandable.

The Navosa Subdivisional Hospital is still there from the previous budget but this time, only \$11 million is allocated. But \$7.5 million was allocated in the last budget while both Nakasi and Navua Hospitals have final payments still to be dealt with this time.

The question to the Honourable Minister is: are these allocations realistic and achievable; and whether the allocations actually mean that these projects will be completed on time? If not, whether the preparatory work has already been done?

HON. R.S. AKBAR.- Just a clarification, Honourable Prasad, we are anticipating to have the Nadroga/Navosa Subdivisional Hospital completed by September 2019, if weather permits. Yes, work has already begun and the allocated amount of \$11 million in the forthcoming budget is as per the contracted amount agreed with the contractors.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The next one on the Nakasi Health Centre, do you need clarifications on that?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- That is fine.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any more comments?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- The motion is still there.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, we will deal with the motion later.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chairperson, just a clarification on SEG 1, Programme 1, Activity 1: all other doctors that are not included in the roles that are paid from the Public Service Commission, where are they reflected in terms of their emoluments, like dentists, dental doctors, et cetera? Are they reflected in SEG 1 or are they reflected in the various centres?

HON. R.S. AKBAR.- I am sorry, are you talking about the decrease or the variance in the amounts from last year and this year?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- SEG 1?

HON. R.S. AKBAR.- Yes.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Does that include dental dentistry?

HON. R.S. AKBAR.- Yes, everyone apart from the doctors.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- All right, I would like to move a motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other comments?

We will now move on to Programme 2, Activity 1? Any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 2?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 3?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 4?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 5?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dr. Mere Samisoni.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Madam Chairperson, Head 22, Programme 2, Activity 4, SEG 5, Health Services, Labasa: There is an allocation for outsourcing cleaning services for the sum of \$799,591. Can the Honourable Minister further advise whether this is also subject to open tender processes and again we will consider her response before we decide to file a motion or not? Will the tender process be carried out?

HON. R.S. AKBAR.- Of course, Madam Chairperson. All outsourcing services are subject to the GTB approval and to go through the normal tender processes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 5?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 6?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Salote Radrodro.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Can the Honourable Minister clarify whether the Makoi Maternity Unit comes under this Programme 3, Activity 1, SEG 1 in terms of personal emoluments; and what is the issue with the Makoi Maternity Unit? Is it the funding that is causing the delay in the opening of the Makoi Maternity Unit or what is the reason? Is it because of the personal emoluments or is it because of the skills and the staffing in regards to midwives? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

HON. R.S. AKBAR.- Madam Chairperson, in the near future, we are anticipating to run Makoi Maternity Low Risk Services for 24 hours. It is already open as part of the 12-hour service. We have finalised the recruitment of our midwives, that was a major issue and we anticipate that we will run it 24 hours in the very near future.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Can the Honourable Minister confirm that there is enough personal emolument allocation to cater for the new staffing, the midwives at Makoi Maternity Unit?

HON. R.S. AKBAR.- Obviously. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 2?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 3?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 4?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 4, Activity 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Professor Biman Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Madam Chairperson, this is just a clarification, Honourable Minister. I know the Honourable Minister for Economy talked about the purchase of logistics, Management Information System, and I think he referred to the pharmacies now having that. I saw the allocation which was there in the last Budget, I do not see anything in SEG 9 this year. I am assuming that the system is already working and you do not need any additional funding this year.

HON. R.S. AKBAR.- I think you are mentioning the \$500,000 allocation that was given to FPBS?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- That is right.

HON. R.S. AKBAR.- That item has been removed from this year's Budget because we are in the late stages of working with the Indian High Commission, with their Government in India to get a group of experts into the country to look at the existing system that we have and we are progressing well with that. That is why the item has been removed. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will now move onto the motions. The first motion is from the Honourable Aseri Radrodro, who is moving that Head 22 be increased by \$500,000 in Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 1, with respect to Dentists Personal Emoluments. Do we have a seconder?

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

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chairperson, I think one of the specialised profession in the medical area is in the dentist profession, but I think the reforms that have been taking place, very little attention has been given to their personal emoluments, especially we have been getting information that they are not getting similar or quite on par with what has been given to other professions in hospital, our doctors, especially for their professional developments.

Most of the time, they have to pay from their pockets in terms of attending to other developments that are related to their field, and similarly, they are also important in terms of the medical fraternity but the intent of this motion is to ensure that they are also cared for and looked after in terms of their personal emoluments. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chairperson, I will talk a little about it because this is part of the Civil Service Reforms. As you know that the Civil Service Reforms is ongoing, it is not complete, some Ministries are being restructured, some have had their plans and there is also a period of salary adjustments too. And we need to carryout proper assessments in relation to the market, as we have done with the doctors. The dentists are going through the same process, you may actually be short changing, you plucked out a figure of \$0.5 million from the air without any basis or foundation for it.

So what we are doing, we are having a scientific empirical evidence approach to it. Of course, you have not also distinguished between those who are qualified as dentists, with dental hygienists, with dental therapists. Now there is a huge kerfuffle going on between these three major groups, so you cannot

simply come and say, “oh, we will increase it at half a million dollars”, each of them have their own requirements and each of them of their own specific qualifications.”

Now again, if I get you to turn to Head 50, which you will go on about without understanding it, if you look at Head 50, Page 286, there is a provision of \$10 million, that is why it is under “R”; \$10 million that is why it is under Head 50, where you have these adjustments so as different Ministries come up with their realignments, come up with their market service being done and should adjustments be required and salaries need to increase, it will come from the \$10 million. And you will see that we continue with the same amount, reduced by \$482,000, so that is what it is for. So I would suggest to you that what you are doing in your earnestness, you are probably short changing them, it may require more than half a million dollars because you have no basis for the figure.

But my point is that, we are going through that process and the Honourable Minister for Health can give all the details. Similarly, there are other allied health workers; physio therapists and various other allied workers where we are going through a similar process with them too.

So, let us not jump the gun, it will take in time to come and it will be done very soon. So on that basis, I will urge you Honourable Member to withdraw your motion.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- If we get confirmation that they will be looked after in this financial year.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- We look after everyone, that is all part of the Civil Service Reforms.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- I will withdraw.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You are withdrawing this?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Yes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- So the dentists will come ....

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- As assured by the Honourable Minister.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- There is no conflict of interest either.

(Laughter)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- So that has been withdrawn, we will move on to the next motion by the Honourable Professor Biman Prasad: That Head 22 be increased by \$200,000 in Programme 2 Activity 1 SEG 7 with respect to cervical cancer. Do you have a seconder?

HON. P. CHAND- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Prof. Biman Prasad, you may speak on your motion.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Before I speak on the motion, let me just once again, this is Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 7. The motion is to increase it from \$50,000 to \$200,000, Madam Chairperson, before I speak, I just wanted to take this opportunity.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- No, hold on, according to this form, it is Programme 2 Activity 1 SEG 7.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Madam Chairperson, before I speak, I just wanted to take this opportunity ...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Wait on! According to this form, it is Programme 2, Activity 1, SEG 7, which is correct - cervical cancer.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Yes, that is correct.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Well, you said Programme 1, so ...

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- No. Before I speak on the motion, let me just thank the Honourable Minister for Health most sincerely because in a recent case which I brought in front of her, which was a case of a cancer patient, she dealt with the case with a lot of efficiency and urgency. Unfortunately, the young student, she died before last week and we had her funeral last week. So I want to thank the Honourable Minister for her quick effort. In fact, she is one Minister who responds so quickly on any of the issues I raise with her, unlike some of the others, Madam Chairperson.

(Honourable Members interject)

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- The reason, Madam Chairperson we are suggesting, this is from our discussions with a lot of people, with respect to cervical cancer. I think the awareness is very important, and for the past two budgets, we have seen just an allocation of \$50,000, when in our view there is a bigger need for advocacy for early screenings by women for cervical cancer, and cancer, Madam Chairperson, early detection is very critical.

In that particular case of that student, her cancer was detected quite late and by the time she was on the way for treatment, it was kind of too late. So, early detection is very, very important and that is what our public health experts advocate. So I would sincerely hope that the Government will accept this motion and increase the allocation from \$50,000 to \$200,000, or give an undertaking that there would be more funds made available for that kind of advocacy. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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

HON. R.S. AKBAR.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just in addition to that, the services provided for our cancer patients is included in the overall health budget. This \$50,000 is an additional to supervise the visits and training for staff, however, in our bid to assist all Fijians combatting with cancer, early screening, et cetera, the service is complemented very much by the Fiji Cancer Society (FCS), and if I can put on record, the wonderful work that the FCS does to ensure that our women, our families, are made more aware about the early screenings and they also assist patients come to the hospitals. They actually provide a lot of support to our hospital staff and also the public out there. So that budget actually is sufficient for that part of training and supervisory visits. There is no separate budget for cancer patients. Like, I said, included in the Ministry of Health budget within all cost centres for the services that we provide.

If I can just add on to that, the budget of \$50,000 is provided for trainings, meetings, policy and guideline reviews, that is what that \$50,000 is for.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Is there a separate allocation for advocacy work and early screening? Is there a separate allocation within the ...

HON. R.S. AKBAR.- It is within our core centre budget.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- All right, it is not a separate allocation.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- So you are withdrawing.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Well that seems a good explanation, Madam Chairperson, but I hope the Ministry would consider a very special allocation for advocacy and early screening. I think that would be something that would be very useful. With that, Madam Chairperson, I withdraw the motion and I leave it to the Honourable Minister, I am sure she will take that on board.

HON. R.S. AKBAR.- Madam Chairperson, if I can just add. We have a lot of public health outreach Programmes included in the budget as well, and this is also where Outreach Programmes are done with families in terms of creating awareness. It is not only about cancer, it is about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Tuberculosis (TB), and all other issues that we have.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you.

Parliament will now vote on Head No. 22. The question is, that the amount of Head No. 22, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, be approved. Does anyone oppose?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those in agreement, say 'aye', all those that oppose, say 'no'.

The 'Ayes' have it.

Head 22 – Ministry of Health and Medical Services, agreed to.

Thank you, Honourable Members. Time has caught up with us at exactly 1300, so it is time for lunch.

We will suspend our meeting until 2 p.m. Thank you very much, Honourable Members.

The Parliament adjourned at 1.00 p.m.



The Parliament resumed at 2.01 p.m.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We have got a quorum, so we will continue.

In Committee:

Head 23 – Ministry of Housing and Community Development.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for comments, if any?

Head 23, Programme 1, Activity 1, are there any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Who is the Minister here?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Housing and Community Development, who is the Minister?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Oh, Honourable Kumar?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- No, we will have to wait for the Honourable Attorney-General, but if you want, I can respond. I do not have any issues.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All right, Programme 1, Activity 1? Honourable Aseri Radrodro?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Yes, at SEG - 7, there is an increase of about \$300,000 on this special expenditure, Establishment of Divisional Offices. Can we just get clarification on this?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chairperson, as you know that this is a new Ministry and there has been a merger between Rural Authority, Rural Development and Rural Authority from Ministry of Health. This was the budget that was sitting with the Rural Development that has been transferred. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dr. Mere Samisoni.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Head 23, Programme 1, Activity 1, Policy and Admin, Madam Chairperson, clarification please. The estimates for Head 23 show that the Head now has two Programmes compared to last year, which was only one Programme. There is a new Programme and it has no staffing allocation.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Which SEG is this please?

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Oh sorry, Programme 2, Activity .2

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Which SEG is this please?

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Sorry, it is the estimate for Head 23, it shows that the Head has now two Programmes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- No, we are looking Programme 1, Activity 1

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- All right sorry, the next one, it goes to the next one, Madam Chair.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, so we now move to Programme 2, Activity 1, you may carry on Honourable Dr. Mere Samisoni

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Yes, just to coordinate that, I think it also goes under Programme 1 and Programme 2, Madam Chairperson, the Estimates on Head 23 show that the Head now has two Programmes compared to last year, where it was only one Programme, whereas the new Programme has no staffing allocation. So from 6 in Programme 2, Activity 1, it is just no established staff and then goes on to SEG 6 with no staffing. I just want that clarified, Madam Chairperson.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chairperson, that is reflected in Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 1. As I have said earlier on, there is a merger of Rural Housing and Rural Local Authority from the Ministry of Health. This has been merged so staffing will come under Programme 1, Activity 1.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- I am just new here, I am just trying to find my way around.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- No, that is all right, that is fine.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- There is a big forest here.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- You have all the right to know. Thank you.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other comments on Programme 2-1?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- SEG 7, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 7.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- National Housing Policy Implementation Plan. .

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- No, it is the Regularisation of Informal Settlements – SEG 7.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- SEG 10 - Relocation of Informal Settlements (\$1,310,000). Can the Honourable Minister give an explanation on that Programme?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chairperson, which one he is referring to?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 1, SEG 10.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.-This is the Programme, as you all know, that there are some squatters seating on the Fiji Muslim League land in Nabua, so this is the relocation that will take place. They have voluntarily given the State 13 acres of land for all those people to be relocated.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Wonderful! Honourable Ratu Matanitobua?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Madam Chairperson, on the same SEG 10 - Social Housing Assistance (\$1,000,000).

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Social Housing Assistance; this is to provide assistance to the rural community under three schemes and this was before Rural Housing that has come now. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Dulakiverata?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On SEG 10 - Relocation of Informal Settlements; does this also include the other settlements on other freehold land and State land, apart from the Fiji Muslim League?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- You are trying to be very sarcastic. Madam Chairperson....

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- No, no, no.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- All right, I will answer you. This is the first settlement that we have encountered. The other settlements that we have, we are not moving people, we are doing subdivisions within and also we are not moving people here and there. That is a particular case that has been going for quite long and people do not have any secure lease.

As I have said, the League has given 13 acres of land to Government to relocate those people on their land. And not only that, the reason is, because they have also got overseas funding of around \$15 million to develop that area. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Ratu Kiliraki?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- SEG 8, we have reference there also on the Upgrade of Informal Settlements to the tune of \$4 million. Can you give an explanation on how these two Programmes relate to each other?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chairperson, under the National Housing Policy, there are a lot of Programmes. This is the Upgrade of Informal Settlements, whereby around \$4.4 million has been given to us and this is the continuation of the project that we are doing right now, that is, in Caubati, Sasawira will start very soon and Nakama in Savusavu. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on Head No. 23.

The Question is:

That the amount of Head No. 23 – Ministry of Housing and Community Development, be approved.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being no opposition, the motion is agreed to unanimously.

Head 23, Ministry of Housing and Community Development, agreed to.

Head 24 – Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments under the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation. Looking at Programme 1-1, any comments? Honourable Dr. Mere Samisoni.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On Head 24, Programme 2, Activity 1, SEG 7, in last year’s Budget, there was \$100,000 allocated for Domestic Violence Support but it is not appearing in this year’s Budget under this Programme. Can we seek clarification on this, please? Maybe, we can assist the Honourable Minister and table motions.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I see an allocation for Domestic Violence and Support. Is an allocation there for Domestic Violence and Support, Honourable Dr. Samisoni?

Yes, Head 24-, Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 7.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, there is \$100,000 there.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other comments?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 1, I note there is an increase in the allocation. Can we just get a comment whether this allocation is enough in terms of the number of activities being carried out by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation?

Over the years, they mentioned that there is always a need for more staff, especially on the Social Benefit Scheme. So, is that enough in terms of staffing for the Ministry to perform its work?

HON. M.R. VUNIWAQA.- Yes, it is.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 1, Activity 2?

(Chorus of ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 1?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Programme 2, Activity 1, SEG 9 – Purchase of Land - Fiji Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre. Can we just get an update on the status of this, whether it is a new allocation and where about is this land?

HON. M.R. VUNIWAQA.- As was referred to during the Budget Debate, we plan to build a new Fiji Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre. This is to obviously house Juveniles who are currently located at Samabula. This is to do preliminary investigations into finding an appropriate piece of land to build that Fiji Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 2?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Programme 2, Activity 2, SEG 5 – Commission Charges of about \$2.18 million.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Clarification on that.

HON. M.R. VUNIWAQA.- These are Commission Charges to respective banks through the increase in recipients under the Social Protection Programmes. As you know, the Social Protection Allowances are paid through bank accounts and there are commissions charges related to that.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Suliano Matanitobua?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On Programme 2, Activity 2, Head 7 – Child Protection Programme of \$285,982, can we get an explanation on this from the Honourable Minister?

HON. M.R. VUNIWAQA.- This is an ongoing Programme relating to the Child Services Unit where we do community awareness, there is training, there is a children's forum, so all those Programmes are funded through this budget. And then what we also have are the Homes where the children are kept. There is also certain assistance that goes towards that. It is an ongoing Programme.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 2, Activity 3 - Senior Citizens Homes?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 1?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Madam Chairperson, on Programme 2, Activity 3, SEG 10 - Upgrade of State Homes for the Elderly (\$2,000,000). Is the Programme ongoing?

HON. M.R. VUNIWAQA.- This is an increased allocation for the coming year for the upgrade of the three State Homes that we have.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- (Inaudible)

HON. M.R. VUNIWAQA.- Yes, there are three State Homes for the elderly that we have; one in Samabula, one in Lautoka and the other one in Labasa.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You had mentioned this in your presentation the other day?

HON. M.R. VUNIWAQA.- Yes.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Just to highlight also, the reason why we do not have the separate ones listed is because as and when whichever one is ready, that money will be utilised for that particular State Home. The reason is, that we lump it together, so whichever is ready, they start using it.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Leader of the Opposition?

HON. RO T.V. KEPHA.- Madam Chairperson, on Programme 3, Activity 1, SEG 7 - Fiji National Women's Expo.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister for Women and also to ask to inquire as to whether this budget is enough for that in terms of the Vodafone Arena. They had that Expo there last year and this year it was very hot.

Also in terms of marketing the goods that are in excess of what is sold, what do you do with it? Do you have a separate place to market it and maybe they might need a bit of money for this?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister?

HON. M.R. VUNIWAQA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The \$500,000 is sufficient for the staging of the three day Women's Expo. The reason why we did not have it in the Vodafone Arena this year is because the Arena is under renovation. That is the reason - it is not because we could not afford it.

We have had a \$500,000 budget previously and we have hosted the Expo in the Arena, we only moved across because of renovations. We will definitely move back to the Arena when the Arena is ready.

HON. RO T.V. KEPHA.- (Inaudible)

HON. M.R. VUNIWAQA.- As for the access of products that the women produce, the Ministry is working towards finding a sustainable market for this. We have got a partnership with the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP). They visited Fiji to look at how they can assist us in setting up a model, like they have in Bangladesh and we are working closely to see how that can be replicated in the Fijian environment.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.-Honourable Dulakiverata?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chairperson, on Programme 3, Activity 1, SEG 8 - Construction of Fiji Barefoot College, is this an ongoing project or have you already got the site for this?

HON. M.R. VUNIWAQA.- We have got the site already. The ground-breaking has been done by the Honourable Prime Minister. Preliminary works has also been done in this current financial year. There is a consultant that has been identified by CIU after advertising the same, so the construction is actually to begin construction for the site.

(Inaudible)

HON. M.R. VUNIWAQA.- Nadogo, Macuata.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chairperson, Programme 3-1 (6) NGO Grants (\$150,000), can you we get detailed clarification on this item - which NGOs or what type of NGOs?

HON. M.R. VUNIWAQA.- These are our non-government partners that actually carry out the work in relation to the empowerment of women in Fiji. There are a lot of them that exists and they apply for this fund, we assess those applications and give out the grants accordingly.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being no other comments, Parliament will now vote on Head 24.

The Question is:

That the amount of Head 24 - Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation be approved.

Does any Members oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Ayes' and 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being opposition, we will now vote.

Those in agreement say 'Aye' and those opposing say 'No'.

(Chorus of 'Ayes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The Ayes have it. Head No. 24 – Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation is, therefore, agreed to.

Head 24, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, agreed to.

Head 25 – Ministry of Youth and Sports

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Ministry of Youth and Sports. The floor is now open for any comments, Programme 1, Activity 1. Yes, Honourable Dr. Mere Samisoni?

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 10: Madam Chairperson, this year, we have an allocation for Upgrade of Youth Training Centres - Naleba and Naqere Training Centres (\$361,000), Nasau Training Centre (\$300,000); Yavitu Training Centre (\$230,000); these are not Under Requisition (R).

In last year's Budget, the same activities were listed with these allocations and were also not under Requisition. Can the Honourable Minister, please, advise what is going on here with the re-listing? If the Ministry is not able to implement what it proposes to do, the Budget documents should be burnt, or is this being plugged in there simply to look good for the youth voters?

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The funding requested will cater for infrastructure development within the Ministry of the four Youth Training Centres. It is a rollover project that is ongoing until the next four years.

For Valelevu, we have completed the project that is why we do not have any, but the rest of the Youth Training Centres are within the provision for those budget, it is a roll-over budget.

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

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On Programme 1 Activity 1, SEG 7: Leasing of Multifunctional Copiers (\$25,920).

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- Yes, there is no funding increase requested because we have leased this photocopier and it is still in use with the Ministry.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other comments?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- \$25,000, may be that is enough to buy a new one instead of leasing?

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- It is a five-year lease, for that, maintenance and the renewal of the lasers and all are done.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you.

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- So it is cheaper to lease those type of photocopier than purchase a new one.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 2, any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 3?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- SEG 7: The Ministry's Roadshows (\$10,000) whether this go together with the Roadshows that came up in Head 18 this morning and whether this is the contribution to that, or they conduct their own Roadshows?

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- No, it goes with the Government Roadshow; it is for the Ministries to participate in the Government Roadshow.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Matanitobua?



HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Madam Chairperson. Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 7: Next one - the Youth Workers - Pilot Project of (\$277,200). Can the Honourable Minister elaborate on that?

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- Yes, we have produced a Youth Administrator, now we are going down to youth workers to be paid by the Ministry. Before youth workers were chosen by the Provincial Councils and we see that they are not paid by the Provincial, it is up to their *solini yasana*, so we advertise this post so that we can fully pay them and give them the allowance.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Madam Chairperson, the Ministry select your youth workers?

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- We have a process to follow and we advertise and they apply.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. The Honourable Leader of Opposition.

HON. RO T.V. KEPAN.- Madam Chairperson, same SEG: Duke of Edinburgh International Award (DIA); Can I just ask the Minister, where does this take place and how do they apply for this Award?

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- Each province has a youth administrator and their youth clubs and school can apply for that through the youth administrator who will bring it over to the officers who look after the Duke of Edinburgh International Awards (DIA).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On the same SEG: Youth Capacity Building and Training Programme (\$1,055,688); can we have some clarification on that, Honourable Minister?

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- On which Programme?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Youth Capacity Building and Training Programme.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 7.

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- Yes, we have six Programmes in that Youth Capacity Building, and each division has allocation that total up to that. They can apply, the youth clubs and entrepreneur can apply for that six to the youth clubs for those six Programmes within that Youth Capacity Building.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Just one more, Madam Chairperson, SEG 5: The Food for Course Participants (\$132,000); what course or how many courses are there; and how many people are attending?

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- We put out a process too for them to apply in each Youth Training Centre and we have five Youth Training Centres, that is for all the course participants in those five Training Centres.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 1 Activity 3.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2 Activity 1.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chairperson, can I ask the Honourable Minister, SEG 6: Engagement of Sports' Coaches (\$1.6 million); can he enlighten us on that, please?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Every year, we have an NSO Meeting and they come up with overseas tour, local tour, the five Programmes that Fiji Sports Commission has. They present their budget requirement to the Fiji Sports Commission's Executive Chairman, and from then on, we ask the Ministry for Economy for those. The allocation for the overseas coaches comes from NSOs.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Examples of who they are, please, Honourable Minister?

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- For Soccer, Rugby Sevens, Rugby Fifteens and Cricket, we have all international coaches, but they are understudied by the local coaches.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On SEG 10: Construction of Rural Sports Complexes; does this include the Korovou Complex which was promised a few years ago in the budget?

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- Yes, after Vunidawa, we will come up to Korovou then to Seaqaqa by the Chinese Aid Programme.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Mikaele Leawere.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson, just requesting the Honourable Minister to clarify the hosting on SEG 6 - Hosting of International Tournaments, about \$3 million (3,172,585): What tournaments are we talking about here? Are they rugby or all the different sports tournaments? Thank you.

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- On which particular ...?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 1, SEG 6.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- SEG 6: Hosting of International Tournaments.

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- Yes, as I have explained before, every year, the National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) or the National Sporting Federation, they come up with their financial plans or budgets of hosting tournaments, overseas sporting tours, local tours. They

present it to the Executive Chairman of the Fiji Sports Council who will apply to the Ministry of Economy. That is what comes out from the NSOs.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Matanitobua.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the Minister. SEG 10: my question to the Minister is with regard to the Vunidawa Complex. We discussed this in 2014, this is our last year and yet nothing has eventuated in the Construction of the Vunidawa Complex. He has mentioned that it is in the \$2 million.

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- No, for Vunidawa, it is a Chinese Grant and not included in the \$2 million, that comes through the Chinese grant - Vunidawa, Korovou and Seaqaqa.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- No, Madam Chairperson. It is taking too long, it is our fourth year, has it got to do with any land issue?

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- I think there was a problem with the land acquisition. The technical advisers are now in order so they have started their initial contract.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- The other reason is that the leader of the party has criticised the Chinese, so they are very reluctant to do any work for you people.

(Laughter)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- It might not happen now.

(Laughter)

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Honourable Madam Chairperson, I would like to ask the Prime Minister: what about the Chairman of Naitasiri Provincial Council? He is with the Chinese too.

HON. A. NABULIVOU.- They are working on it right now, by the Chinese Government. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Do we have another hand up? None, thank you. We will move on.

Oh, I am sorry, Honourable Parmod Chand.

HON. P. CHAND.- SEG 10: Rural Sports Field; There is an allocation of \$500,000. Can we get the breakdown for this, please? What rural fields are included in this?

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- Thank you. This is for Vunisea in Kadavu. On the \$500,000, we will get you the breakdown for the small rural playing fields; we will get the information over to you, it is with CIA.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- The information on these fields, there is a number of fields, for example, the funding of about five sports fields initially and then 10 sports fields. These

are the ones - Vatoa Village, Tailevu; Ovalau; Nawairuku District School; Navutulevu Field in Serua; Wainimakutu Secondary School, Namosi; the Wainiyavu Primary School; Balevuto; Naloto Village; Solevu Catholic Primary and Secondary School; Sawanikula Primary School; and Lomolomo Public School.

(Hon. Member interjects)

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Nadi, Lautoka, Bua, Naitasiri, Namosi, Ba, Serua, Namosi, Ra and Tailevu, I know you are very provincially-driven.

HON. LT. COL. L.B. TUITUBOU.- I think the one in Vanua Levu, it has been constructed this year, already in Vanuavou and Korovuto.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Members, Parliament will now vote on Head No. 25. The question is:

That the amount on Head No. 25, Ministry of Youth & Sports be approved.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being no opposition, the motion is agreed to.

Head 25 – Ministry of Youth & Sports, agreed to.

#### Head 26 – Higher Education Institution

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for comments on Higher Education Institutions, Programme 1, Activity 1, and I invite comments.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Madam Chairperson, on SEG – 6 in terms of Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development; is that amount enough to cater for the education expenses or whatever their school is providing? Just some clarification from the Honourable Minister.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, Madam Chairperson, as you can see, it is an increase from what was allocated this year, it has increased by \$57,000, it has gone up to \$602,785. The increase in funding is based on a 20 percent increase in enrolment, driven by the shift to 7 Programmes, exempt from the 5 in the previous year. There is a 4 point increase in the Programme cost in Improve Governance and Financial Accountability. The Programmes are:

- Automotive Engineering;
- Carpentry and Joinery;
- Welding and Fabrication;
- Plumbing and Sheet Metal; and
- Leadership and Entrepreneurship Resource based Livelihood Training Programmes.

Please, Honourable Members, you need to know that in coming up with these figures, we get the input from the Fiji Higher Education Commission. They do the independent assessment and then they talk to us about the increases or decreases.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- Madam Chairperson, in terms of the Nadave facilities, this is the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development (CATD) - \$602,785. The place looks very much run down, Honourable Minister, do you have funding for repairs and maintenance there, or does that come under your construction unit?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- At the moment, there is no allocation specifically for this. This is the allocation for that. In respect of what you are saying, there is no additional funding for that, but we have increased the overall operational cost funding for the centre. That is the overall amount of money they are getting from Government.

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- So no repairs and maintenance?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Well at this point in time, no, there is no request made for it.

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- We need it, Honourable Minister.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- All right.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, there being no other comments, Parliament will vote on Head No. 26. The Question is:

That the amount of Head No. 26 - Higher Education Institutions be approved. Does any Member oppose?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being no opposition, the Head is agreed to.

Head 26 – Higher Education Institutions, agreed to.

Head 30 – Ministry of Agriculture

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments under Ministry Agriculture, Programme 1, Activity 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Professor Biman Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just on Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG – 7, there is an allocation for Restructure Programme, I am just curious, it seems to be a new activity. Can the Honourable Minister update the House on what that is?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Yes, Madam Chairperson, we know that this is part of the Civil Service Reform.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Civil Service Reforms? Maybe you should say civil service restructure Programme.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- The report by the World Bank consultants who did the restructure is already with us and Agriculture perhaps, is one of the first Ministries because of its contribution to the economic sector, so we have been given this allocation.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thank you for the clarification.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any more comments, Honourable Ratu Matanitobua?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On SEG 6 – Tutu; can you please clarify this amount?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Yes, Madam Chairperson, this is part of our assistance to youth training throughout the country. It is not only Tutu but Navuso as well and Tutu has been with the Ministry. I think for both the institutes, we give almost a million dollars to both and this is about capacity development. We need young replacement farmers so Tutu and Navuso benefit from this.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Programme 1, Activity 2?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Activity 1, SEG 10, Madam Chairperson. The Agriculture Marketing Authority (AMA) - Capital Grant, can I seek an explanation on what capital is there for that allocation?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you. Madam Chairperson, \$5.6 million is requested, this is for the continuation of the activities, including the procurement of produce, an amount of \$3.2 million is set aside for that. Infrastructure development is about \$532,000. I did mention yesterday that we will start with Dama in Bua as a collection centre, and a cold storage based in Savusavu for mainland Vanua Levu, and of course, to collect from Taveuni as well. We intend to move as well to Nacocolevu in Nadroga, where there is already a facility there, and of course to the West in Lautoka as well.

Marketing, we have an allocation of about \$619,000, and of course packaging materials and freight costs, and of course VAT and insurance as well. So that allocation covers that, and it is all included under the \$5.6 million for Agro Marketing Authority, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Matanitobua?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Still on SEG 10 - Committee on Better Utilisation of Land. Honourable Minister, you have \$7.7 million. Can you elaborate more on that?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, this is not a new project. It was initially under the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and then moved over to the Ministry of Rural Development and now it is resting with the Ministry of Agriculture. This is about the 4 percent subsidy on UCV which is 6 percent, so this is the component. And the amount, Madam Chairperson, is based on what iTLTB gives us every year on the number of leases that have been renewed or in the process of renewal. Over the years, since the existence of this Programme, we have spent about \$60 million as subsidy to the landowners.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dr. Mere Samisoni?

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Madam Chairperson, SEG 4 - Prefabricated Buildings. Who are the beneficiaries?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, within most agricultural stations likewise in rural development, we have buildings that were constructed by the Public Works Department under their normal plan - Grade 1, Grade II, Grade III, Grade IV, Grade V, but ministries over the years have also constructed for office purposes or for residential, and these are mostly prefabricated buildings. So that is why it is not covered under the normal maintenance Programme, that is given to the Ministry of Infrastructure, so that is why ministries with these prefabricated buildings are allocated that funding.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Thank you, Honourable Minister. SEG 7, Madam Chairperson, can the Honourable Minister explain the allocation of \$500,000 for the restructure Programme?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, I think I have explained that already. We are one of the first Ministries under the Civil Service Reform. The recommendations by the World Bank consultants are with us and this is about decentralisation, more empowerment in the rural areas so that we service the farming communities better. So, we are thankful that we are one of the first ministries to pilot this restructure programme.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just a further question to SEG 10 on the Committee on Better Utilisation of Land. Does this subsidy only apply to expiring sugarcane farms or to all agricultural leases?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- No, Madam Chairperson this is for all the agriculture leases we cover dairy farmers. It is all agricultural leases.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Professor Biman Prasad?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just a quick question to the Honourable Minister on Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 8.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We are still on Activity 1. Honourable Prem Singh?

HON. P. SINGH.- Madam Chairperson, just on SEG 10 – CBUL. My question to the Honourable Minister is, what portion of the \$7.7 million is utilised for subsidy of rent on agricultural rent? Does it also include subsidy of rent to agricultural land from FDB?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Can you clarify, please?

HON. P. SINGH.- I will just put one question each time. What portion of the \$7.7 million is the rent subsidy under CBUL, you said that it is 4 percent?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson as I was explaining that this is for the whole 4 percent. This for the unimproved capital value. Already the iTLTB has given 6 percent but through the Programme it has been topped up to 0 percent so the 4 percent comes from this allocation of \$7 million for all agricultural leases.

HON. P. SINGH.- What portion of all of it?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- All the entire thing. What only goes to iTLTB is \$100,000, that is their administration cost, \$100,000 so that they can administer the Programme.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Parmod Chand.

HON. P. CHAND.- Activity 1, there is aid-in-kind under SEG 10. I just want some clarifications in support of agriculture projects in Vanua Levu. Are there some specific projects in places or you intend to do it?

HON. S.B. VUNIVALU.- What SEG?

HON. P. CHAND.- Under SEG 10, Aid-in-Kind Programme 1, Activity 1 - footnote.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson, the first project Madam Chairperson, that is the dairy support by the New Zealand Government. As we speak, we have New Zealand veterinary officers and consultants who are working with us in trying to improve production, and of course, organise the dairy industry better. So, that is the Fiji agriculture sector under the NZMFAT.

The other support is for Vanua Levu. We have completed phase 1 and we are already hoping that the Chinese will bring in the funding, and of course the technical team as well so that we can move on to phase 2. This is about the Rice Improvement Programme that is currently being undertaken in Dreketi.

HON. P. CHAND.- That is only in Dreketi or will it extend to Lekutu and Bua where the rice fields adapt well?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- No, no, because the main centre now for rice is Dreketi, although Koronivia as well, but from there the technology and whatever is distributed to the other rice growing areas as well. So, agriculture research, together with the Chinese team are located in there and then after that, it is transferred to other rice growing communities.

HON. P. CHAND.- So, you said that this \$2.612 million is only for rice.



HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- It is for rice.

HON. P. CHAND.- Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Professor Biman Prasad, Programme 1, Activity 2.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- To SEG 7 on Activity 1, just a quick question on sustainable rural livelihood (EU) about \$5.5 million. What is the application on those Programmes?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, the European Union has an allocation of about \$23 million, if I remember correctly. Part of their allocation is for sugar and, of course, non-sugar as well. We are now finalising the Programmes as we all know the EU has got very strict conditions on their systems. So they have seen our policy agenda and of course our strategic development plan which we are currently revising with them as well and of course in this financial year, we will start rolling this over as well. There will be a similar allocation as well in sugar.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will move on Programme 1, Activity 2. Any more comments? Honourable Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Just a quick question to the Honourable Minister on SEG 8, you have got \$2 million under Requisition for Fiji Agricultural Partnership Project (IFAD). Does IFAD also provide funding or what is the arrangement because I know they are within the region and whether we are getting any aid in kind or what kind of partnership do we have with them?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This IFAD is the International Funding for the Agriculture Development, also based in Rome. We have the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- I am just looking at the partnership here.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- The partnership, in fact, the first component of this project was wholly funded by IFAD. And then that is how the system goes. In the second phase then we apply for a loan. So, in that loan there is also a component from the Government for some of the activities under the project. So, this IFAD loan goes towards the partnership and it is just mainly to reduce the hardships in the rural areas and I have presented this earlier this year. We are targeting high value targets in the Nadarivatu and the neighbouring areas.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will move onto Programme 1, Activity 3 - Research.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Programme 1, Activity 3 - Research. Madam Chairperson, I was just looking at the allocation for 2017-2018, there is a reduction, it is now \$1.251.

As I have said, Madam Chairperson, always that Research, Extension and Training for the Ministry of Agriculture is the key, now if we want to improve, especially with Non-Sugar Agriculture in this country, we need to seriously look at Research, Extension and Training. I think we are not there. My question to the Honourable Minister is, should we not allocate more for Research, Extension and Training for non-sugar crop sectors and tie that to maybe things like National Research Council. So, I am just wondering why there is such a small amount.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In Programme 2, Activity 3, we have further allocation on Research which we will come to it later. But let me assure the Honourable Member, Madam Chairperson, that it does not appear in here but this is where the partnership becomes important.

Most of the agriculture research that will happen and Fiji is very fortunate because Fiji is chosen to be amongst perhaps one of the leading countries in the region. Most the researches that will happen in the next five years, I would say, Madam Chairperson is funded by the Australian Council for International Agriculture Research (ACIA). We have signed about three MOUs already covering most of the crops that we have and even they have gone into livestock as well. We have signed an MOU on small ruminant sheep and goat as well. The Australian Council for International Agriculture Research has really come into our assistance in this area.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- I am very happy to hear that. I think that is a very good partnership and I am sure you will achieve some success there because they have a very good research capacity.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chairperson, in case the Honourable Leader of the NFP goes off thinking we are not giving enough money to research, that reduction there of 10.3 is essentially to do with positions. Some positions take a bit longer to fill. So this is why it is there, but overall you see the entire budget is maintained and as the Honourable Minister highlighted, this is more the administrative side of things and the collaborations.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 4.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chairperson. I do not think we covered enough time on Crops Extension - Programmes 2, Activity 2.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I know we passed it.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- I think we have been jumping, we went from one to the other.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- No, usually we give enough time until someone speaks on a SEG for the next Programme, the one previous to that is usually open when no one speaks at the time, then we move on.

We need to be very quick on this one but I cannot go back now because the trend has been like this for the whole day. So we will move onto Programme 1, Activity 4.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- None.

Programme 2, Activity 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

Honourable Ro Kiliraki?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- What Activity?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 1 - Administration.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Just the Aid-in-Kind, Juncao Mushroom Technical Cooperation Project. Can we have a progress update, it is in Phase 2 now? What about about Phase 1, Madam Chairperson?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Juncao Mushroom Technology is based in Legalega, Nadi. We are rolling out Phase 2 and the Centre is fully operational now. It has the headquarters and it has accommodation and of course the processing facility as well. The MOU was signed way back in 2011 following a meeting between the Honourable Prime Minister and the then Vice President Xi Jinping when he came to visit Fiji, we met in 2009.

So, the Centre is fully operational now and we have started conducting training for those who are interested in mushroom farming and a lot of our farmers have been trained, particularly women. Women are very interested in mushroom farming. So those are the two Programmes undertaken by China, rice and on mushroom technology. So hopefully with the new facility as well we will introduce more mushroom species when we are rolling out this Phase 2.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will now move onto Programme 2, Activity 2- Extension.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Programme 2, Activity 2 - SEG 8, can the Honourable Minister just give an update on this Programme?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Which one?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- All.

(Chorus of interjections)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- What do you mean?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- *Dalo* Development Programme and *Yaqona* Development Programme.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I cannot hear you.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- *Dalo* and *yaqona*.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- *Dalo* and *yaqona*.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- I think these are two of the commodities that strongly lead in the agriculture sector market share, Madam Chairperson, and of course we have plans. I

think the Honourable Assistant Minister did present on this yesterday when he spoke on the Agriculture allocation.

On *dalo* specifically, Madam Chairperson, the objective is to increase again *dalo* production and this also include *dalo ni tana* to meet the local and the export demand. We are trying to ensure that planting materials are available at all times through the seed initiatives.

On planting materials, Madam Chairperson, one of the new partnerships was launched two weeks ago where the first commercial tissue culture laboratory, I think it is the only one in the South Pacific is in Wainibuku where they will start mass multiplying *dalo* planting materials with all the good characteristics of a *dalo* plant. Not only that, just last Friday, I launched two new *dalo* varieties which has been under research for the last five years. That is to prepare us for the possibility of having diseases particularly the taro leaf blight that wiped off the Samoan Taro Industry a few years back.

*Yaqona* Development, Madam Chairperson, again, we need to revive and strengthen the *yaqona* industry.

The Crop and Livestock Council, probably some questions will be raised later. We have brought them back into the agriculture because they have been Commodity Committees under the Crop and Livestock Council.

*Yaqona* again is one of the key products with very good markets and very good returns, not only locally but abroad as well. *Taki Mai* is working very closely with us in terms of exporting kava products into the markets that they have secured and likewise, David Gilmore of Wakaya as well with the other products.

And of course, in Geneva through the World Trade and Food Standards, we have managed to obtain the first approval process through the Codex Food Standards which will bring a lot of benefit to us particularly in terms of accessing other markets, particularly the European Market, Germany pharmaceutical purposes so *yaqona* is one of the products that has really picked up as well.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Matanitobua.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On SEG 10, can the Honourable Minister enlighten us on the Land Clearing, it is \$1.5 million?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, I have always talked about most of our farmers as subsistence smallholder farmers and they lack capital. But farming as a business, we need to go economy of scale, that is where the dollar is. So that is why Government has given these two allocations; one is on land clearing. Now some of the ginger farmers, they used to only do one or two chains of ginger but with this allocation, they are doing acres of ginger, so they earn more. This is to help them in terms of land preparation. This, in some instances even help in just doing an initial pilot cut for a road, it can be gravelled later. This is all part of land clearing and of course, there is the other, maybe the other side of the House will raise as well and I might as well address it now.

There is another allocation on farm mechanisation. Mechanisation is for those who have gone economies of scale and they have enough cash or capital and they can reinvest into their

business, they can buy machines out of the other allocations. So this is to start them off. The economy of scale, once they have more capital, which they can put back, they can buy machines through the farm mechanisation allocation and that machine goes from simple power tillers, rotovators to tractors and of course, some have even come to ask us for diggers as well. So we are looking at that seriously.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Just going back on what the Honourable Minister had said in regards to land clearing as far as the Ginger Development Programme is concerned as some subsistence farmers capacity to increase their farms in planting ginger, whether that Ginger Development Programme is also factored in their access to land clearing. If they cannot afford their contributions like currently it is about one-third, two-thirds or whether that can be subsidised through the Ginger Development Programme in terms of land clearing and preparation. Thank you.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Yes, Madam Chairperson, this is the beauty of these Programmes. It gives farmers more options. Usually, you will see that there are specific allocations for specific commodities. There is allocation for *yaqona*, there is allocation for *dalo*, there is allocation for ginger, so the first option is to utilise the funding from the Ginger Development Programme, in this instance for ginger.

If they have run out of the Ginger Programme allocation, in fact the ginger allocation has been increased this year to \$1.3 million, if they do run out then there is again option from land-clearing and even other Programmes that is within the Agriculture under SEG 8, demand-driven approach or even under Food Security, so there are options for them and it is not only limited to the specific Programmes.

All they need to do is submit their request and the Ministry will look into it. I think this question was raised by the Honourable Member when he did contribute to the Budget debate about contractors' work not being done even after six months. Yes, Madam Chairperson, it does happen and we are working on that. It is not the fault of the Ministry, it is the fault of the contractors. Most of the contractors they bid and then they go and do other things.

Now the Director, Extension has come up with SOPs and that specifies timelines as well. We came across one in Bua last week, Madam Chairperson, and when we followed up, the contractor who bade for the job had problems with his machines being passed by the Land Transport Authority (LTA), so it is more than six months. It does exist and we are working on that but be assured that we will get it addressed and it will be better.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Just on that part, from the procurement perspective also, one of the things we have said to the respective Ministries that when they are actually procuring for services, the idea is that we need to have some across-the-board standard minimum qualifications they need to meet.

Apart from things like ensuring the tax compliance, FNPF compliance and also now to check the Ministry of Labour whether they have paid all the salaries and wages and all of that, even the sub-contractors used to actually check the equipment, because previously the practice has been, a lot of people have put in bids, they do not actually have proper equipment. Now, we have to check whether they have got the equipment and also the ideas to give longer term contracts and we are now getting the Solicitor-General's Office to review many of these contracts.

A lot of them have been one page or two page contracts, we view the contracts, review them. If we give someone a three-year or five-year contract, they will actually invest in the equipment too, and in that way, we get better quality output from that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson, just one more Programme on SEG 8: Cocoa Revitalisation Programme, I just want to know, considering the number of plantations we have, whether that \$550,000 is enough?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We worked very closely with the cocoa buyers and, of course, the selection of plantations that we will have as priority in this allocation.

For this year, Madam Chairperson, we are looking at Namau in Tailevu; Uluisaivou in Ra; Matasawalevu and Conua; and, of course, Colata in Wainibuka as well, so this is based on the request by the owners and, of course, together with the buyers that are buying, either the wet beans or even buying dried beans from the farmers. So, we have sufficient fund to cater for the years' activities.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the Honourable Minister for those Programmes but what about the Nayavu and Vugalei Plantations, when will they be included in the Programme?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, we can, because apart from the major plantations that we have identified as the major ones for this year's project, we also can through other allocations. There is also an allocation on Extension which does not specify the Programme. We have both Crops Extension and, of course, Livestock Extension as well. That is the contingency within the Ministry, so whoever has made request that can be covered so that Crop Extension allocation is general, not commodities specific, and you will see that allocation, so that is the contingency that we have.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- *Vinaka.*

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Professor Biman Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Activity 1.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Kiliraki. Is it Activity 2?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Yes, Madam Chairperson, SEG 10: just a clarification on Agro Processors Infrastructure Support (\$1,000,000).

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I think in this year's allocation, we have one, the Construction of Cold Storage Facilities, under SEG 8; and there is one for Agro Processors Infrastructure Support with an allocation of \$1,000,000.

I have always talked about value chain, Madam Chairperson, we can produce but then we have to look after the products as well so that it maintains its quality when it reaches the market. So, with that, we have now separated the allocations; one is just for cold storage and we have identified Kavanagasau and Nukuloa.

Agro Processors is about packaging because we have strict standards now, Madam Chairperson. I know the Honourable Dr. Samisoni would agree with me that we have Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP); and we have Codex - this is all associated with food.

Even now, we take vegetables to some of the hotels, they reject it, simply because we bring it in an open carrier. They want it to be closed with certain conditions, so we have to buy proper. So this Agro Processing Facilities is all about the logistics of the commodities and the products so that we can then access the markets and meet their standards.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 2, Activity 3? Honourable Professor Biman Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I just noticed, I think in the Budget Address, the Honourable Minister did allude to de-stocking of dairy farms of cows suffering from *Tuberculosis* and *Brucellosis*.

But I just noticed that only \$10,000 is allocated for disease compensation. I notice that has an allocation of \$1,000,000, so is it ....

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Head 50.

HON. PRO. B.C. PRASAD.- Yes, Head 50: \$1,000,000, that is for both dairy and ....

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, goat is separate and dairy is separate.

HON. PRO. B.C. PRASAD.- No, I am just saying that ....

HON. GOVERNMENT MEMBER.- Goat is small.

(Laughter)

HON. PRO. B.C. PRASAD.- You might need a big one, Prime Minister.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- It is there in Head 50.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. There are no other comments. Programme 3, Activity1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Mikaele Leawere.

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Programme 3, Activity 1, SEG 7, on Animal Pounds, is it for existing pounds to be built or are you going to build new ones from this allocation of \$18,000?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Can you repeat your question, please?

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- The Animal Pounds, is it for existing ones to be built, or are you going to build new ones for that allocation of \$18,000?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, we were given \$1.2 million in this current year, and we have constructed all the animal pounds so now we will just focus on the operations and, of course, the administration costs, so the construction has already taken place this year.

HON. P. CHAND.- Madam Speaker, on the same animal pounds, I thank the Minister for having that problem done. Firstly, one of the major problems encountered, if you travel on the road from Labasa to Nabouwalu, and also here when you go past Navua, there are a lot of stray animals all along the road and there are many accidents that happen in the night, it is very very dangerous.

Secondly, if you go around all the island coastal roads, you will see animals like cows, et cetera, just tied there beside the road and they cross over the road when the roads are there. People and a lot of drivers have had accidents, some are minor so these are not reported, what is the Ministry doing in controlling the situation? It is a very serious problem to many drivers.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, I have stated in this House already that the primary responsibility rests with the owners of the animals. When they do not look after their animals then that is where we come in with the arm of the law but we have constructed the animal pounds throughout Fiji, Madam Chairperson. There is a big awareness campaign going on now to our farmers, particularly, those with unbranded animals. It is wrong and it is illegal to keep animals without branding since this is a formal identification and that is the contentious issues now. We are doing the awareness now, the pounds have been constructed and, of course, we will aggressively look into this issue.

HON. P. CHAND.- My concern is the enforcement part of the law, it is very very important. I do agree with what you said but many times it is part of the Budget, that is why we are talking about it. Thank you.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Yes, Madam Chairperson, in SEG 1 on Personal Emoluments, just one question to the Honourable Minister: how many veterinary officers do we have in Fiji at the moment?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, in the Ministry now we have three and of course, I did mention that we are just in the process of recruiting the two that have also graduated recently but we have through the New Zealand Programme, assistance of three veterinary officers. In fact, we lost one, he died when he returned to New Zealand and I think they are in the process of replacing him, Madam Chairperson, but they did mention the good news for us that three just graduated recently and one has already joined and one is just awaiting police clearance. He will be based in Lautoka and one has just graduated from Malaysia as well a few weeks ago, and we are just in the process of recruiting him as well.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Better give them high salary.



I just want to comment on that, Madam Chairperson. Since we do not have enough veterinary officers in Fiji, maybe the Ministry should look at their emoluments, their salaries, before we lose them again to where they were training from.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- That is taken on board. Let us move onto Programme 3, Activity 2, Extension, any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Just a clarification in terms of the Aid-in-Kind, Fiji Dairy Industry Development Initiative from New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZMFAT). Honourable Minister, we just seek clarification on what does that involve in this development initiative.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

The Honourable Member did raise in his Budget response about the milk pricing, that was one of the priorities that we had with them. Let me inform this august House that, that work has been completed by the technical expertise because we want to ensure that there is a third party. So there were consultants hired from New Zealand to do the assessment and that report is ready now, and we are looking forward to convening a meeting between Fiji Dairy Industry and Fiji Cooperative Dairy Limited so that they can sort out the milk pricing issue.

I have talked about specialists and consultants. They have provided us with Veterinary Officers and, of course, Dairy Specialists as well.

Demonstration Farm, if you go to Koronivia now, there has been significant improvement done by the New Zealand consultants, and of course, the awareness and capacity development with our dairy farmers as well. They are not only visiting the bulk suppliers, the commercial farmers, but what is encouraging as well, Madam Chairperson, is the visits to the small dairy farmers as well.

There is a committee that we have formed, the dairies stakeholders committee that includes the Crop and Livestock Council as well. One of our targets in the next beginning this year, Madam Chairperson, is to raise milk production from all smallholder farmers to 60 litres per day. They can earn more and most importantly, take away the burden from Fiji Cooperative Dairy Limited in terms of the milk collection. So, these are all components of that aid-in-kind, Madam Chairperson, and most importantly is pasture development and feed development. That is a big component of any livestock farming. So these, we are working on it. Simple things like growing the right pasture for banking and, of course, doing silaging.

The farmers in Naitasiri and Tailevu are going now into silaging, something that they refused previously but now they have seen the positive results and they have adopted it. And calf rearing as well, I think this is another area where New Zealand experts are helping our farmers, they just neglect their calves. So the calf rearing Programme as well is part of this, so it is a package.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Prem Singh.

HON. P. SINGH.- Madam Chairperson, SEG 10 - Dairy Development Programme, I think we have some constraints, one is the pasture development, two is the stock that reinfected with

*Brucellosis* and *Tuberculosis (TB)*. What are you doing about the stock? Are you going to replace this stock under this Programme?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Yes, Madam Chairperson. We compensate them through the Livestock Rehabilitation Programme. But the change we will do this year, Madam Chairperson is, particularly with the TB, it depends on the percentage of the meat that is acceptable to be sold in the markets. So, if there is say 50 percent condemnation, then we will pay for the 50 percent. But I think with the allocation that were given out this year, we will give given them the market rate for the animal although it is totally condemn or partially condemn we will still compensate them. So livestock compensation and even the restocking as well.

Fiji Dairy Limited, Madam Chairperson, has even given us \$1 million to help the farmers who lose stock to buy new stock. But the problem now is, we cannot source from outside because New Zealand has just condemned about \$800 million worth of their dairy stock as well because of another disease.

(Honourable Member interjects)

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- So now the next technology that we are looking at, and I think this September the first few animals will drop and probably we will do a field day in December, is the embryo transfer. And this is about inserting embryos into the cows and even in TB affected farms, we can just insert the embryo. When the animal is bred, we take it out and still will not be affected by TB. We will raise it separately and then bring back the stock.

HON. P. SINGH.- But the farms are already contaminated.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- This is why we have the incentive now, because some farmers are still refusing to have everything cleared. So we will work on those farms. If they still do not cooperate, and we will use the law.

HON. P. SINGH.- You will regulate that?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will now move onto Programme 3, Activity 3.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- On Programme 3, Activity 2, SEG 6. Dairy Industry Support. There is a \$1 million there and then SEG 10 is another Dairy Development Programme.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Dairy Development Programme is the allocation that we give to Fiji Co-operative Dairy Limited to subsidise their activities. I have talked about small holder farmers, they go and collect from small holder farmers and some of these farmers, when you look at the economic returns, it is not worth it. That is why we want to raise all their production to 60 litres.

The Dairy Industry support is given to the Ministry of Agriculture and we focus that on the farmers, small holder farmers. So that is the difference between the two allocations, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- How do you increase the milk supply to how much - did you say 60 litres a day? What do you do?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- A few things, Madam Chairperson. One is just improved stock, increase the numbers, but the unfortunate thing in Fiji now, so let me share a story.

Some of our dairy farmers, I think it was Sir. James Ah Koy, who told me the story. They talked with the Israelis and they said:

“Q: Oh, you have dairies, yes, we have dairies as well. In Israel, we do 60 litres and in Fiji?”

A: Oh, we do five litres.”

Q: Are you milking cows or you milking mongoose?”

The unfortunate thing, Madam Chairperson, is the law, but to address that, it is a few things it is their feed, pasture or supplements, its water intake, it is the health of the animal and even genetics. So we are revisiting all these again to improve production. It will take time but we are getting there.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I hear Honourable O’ Connor saying to “squeeze hard”. I heard it from here. We move onto Programme 3.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- SEG 8 - Animal Waste Management for Livestock Farmers (\$100,000). How far is this Programme because we know that some farmers they extract methane gas for cooking from the waste, especially the dairy cows, as alternative?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Yes, Madam Chairperson, this is exactly our narration of this allocation. Farmers are encouraged because we want to reduce the carbon footprint, again climate change, so we want to convert that into energy. So, particularly dairy farmers and pig farmers, they have their biogas digesters we call it, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.-Thank you. Honourable Dulakiverata?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- SEG 6 - Biogas Digesters, is that the same thing?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, yes, when it comes to waste, you have solid waste and you have liquid waste. So in some instances, it can be just liquid waste, but it cannot be converted to energy so that is why you have those separate allocations.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- SEG 9 - Stray Animals Control Campaign. What does this campaign involve because there are a lot of stray animals around, especially in the city areas?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- That is exactly what the Honourable Member raised. Yes, we will again go hard on our farmers on stray animals, Madam Chairperson, and that is that allocation.

So now we have constructed most of the pounds but it will include having to purchase trucks because we have to take the animals to the nearest pound and we need trucks for this purpose, Madam Chairperson, so that is where they will pass the operations, including staffing as well. This is not ordinary day job for livestock officers. We have to find these people to do this job because this is not the primary job for agriculture when farmers neglect their responsibilities. Apart from Police, it is unnecessary work as well for the Police

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Prem Singh.

HON. P. SINGH.- Madam, just on livestock. We have achieved full complement I think with the poultry industry and pig industry. The initiative that has been put for goat farming and sheep farming, we are working towards full complement in there.

My question is on beef. The stock that has been condemned (100 percent) but then Fiji Meat Industry Board (FMIB) uses 50 percent to process that. Now, is it meat consumable, the 50 percent?

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Chairperson, it is, as long as it is cooked. There is nothing wrong with those meat, Madam. Let me assure the public, there is nothing to panic about. We have meat inspectors present in the slaughter houses, in the abattoirs. We have qualified meat inspectors and they will make the recommendations, but as long as it is cooked, it is all right, Madam Chairperson. So, let us not panic.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Before we move on to Programme 3, Activity 3, I see Mr. Zarak Khan, the Fiji Consulate-General and Trade Commissioner for Australia, New Zealand at the back there. He has always welcomed us into his office, we welcome you to Parliament.

Programme 3, Activity 3.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 6, Activity 1.

HON. M.R. LEAWARE.- Activity 3, Madam Chairperson, on SEG 8. Would the Honourable Minister explain what sort of livestock rehabilitation Programme is in place to warrant that \$1.5 million allocation in the 2017 Budget?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- What is that?

HON. M.R. LEAWARE.- On SEG 8.

HON. P. SINGH.- Livestock rehab.

HON. M.R. LEAWARE.- Yes.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- This is for *Brucellosis* and TB-affected animals. So when they are condemned, we have a formula to compensate the farmer. So that is that allocation, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 6, Activity 1.

(Chorus of `Noes`)

Thank you. We will now vote on the Head. Parliament will vote on the Head No. 30. The question is that, the amount of Head 30, Ministry of Agriculture, be approved. Does anyone oppose?

Does anyone oppose?

(Chorus of `Noes`)

There being no opposition. All those in agreement say `Aye`.

(Chorus of `Ayes`)

All those who disagree say `No`.

(Chorus of `Noes`)

The ayes have it - 100 percent.

Head 30 – Ministry of Agriculture, agreed to.

Head No.31 - Ministry of Fisheries

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments.

(Chorus of `Noes`)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 1. Honourable Ratu Matanitobua.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On SEG 1, can the Honourable Minister explain the Personal Emoluments, it has been increased from last year.

HON. CDR. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. That is because of the Reform, increase in Personal Emoluments due to the revised salary Bands in line with the Job Evaluation.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 1, Activity 2?

(Chorus of `Noes`)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 1?

(Chorus of `Noes`)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Salote Radrodoro?

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Madam Chairperson, I just need assistance, I am trying to find out whether there is any allocation for ice plants?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We are not looking at new allocations?

Honourable Aseri Radrodro?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Programme 2, Activity 1 SEG 7, I note there is an increase there in terms of the allocation, probably relating to Feasibility Study – Compliance and Enforcement of \$200,000. Can we just get a clarification on the details of this compliance study and enforcement?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister?

HON. CDR. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- This is basically a new scheme that we are trying to introduce for the Coastal Fisheries for our Coastal Fisheries Compliance around our coastal and maritime islands.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 2, Activity 2?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 3.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Yes, Madam Chairperson. If I can ask the Honourable Minister to enlighten us on SEG 8 - Marine Resource Inventory Survey (MRIS). What is that?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister?

HON. CDR. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This is a new scheme that we are trying to establish in carrying out the activities within the coastal areas to establish stocks within the *qoliqoli* areas. To do that, we have the help of the New Zealand Government, assisting us in conducting this work.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Viliame Gavoka?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chairperson, if I may, I want to move a motion on that question, please.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Parmod Chand?

HON. P. CHAND.- Programme 2, Activity 3, SEG 5 - Fishing Gear (\$17,000); to whom will it be supplied?

HON. CDR. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We carry out development and training in rural and maritime islands on new fisheries schemes and those are the fishing gear that we will have to take out for training. Then at the end, we normally give it out to the Fishermen Association that we conduct training with them.

HON. P. CHAND.- Further to that, while you have said that, we are encouraging fishermen to go out fishing and recently, there has been a fish ban on *Kawakawa* species and I believe about 27 different species. The fishermen have serious problems with this. I do understand ban is necessary, but if you go to other countries ban is on actual size, male or female or something like that.

We have talked to a lot of fishermen and what they are saying is that, it is the *Kawakawa* season now for, at least, four months and that is the fish they catch all the time during this season. After that from October to June, it is hurricane season and those people have invested so much money, they buy ration, et cetera, and go in the boats. Even sometimes when they catch the fish, by the time it comes up it is already dead so they have to throw it away.

Can the Government consider doing the ban in a manner that it does not affect everyone? I do understand that we should not fish a small fish or we should not do net fishing or dynamite, et cetera, that is absolutely not right. But how do we help these fishermen, whose livelihoods is totally dependent on fishing?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would that have an impact on this particular allocation?

HON. P. CHAND.- Yes, supplying the gear, fishing line, et cetera, and we are encouraging them to fish and make a living, but on the other hand there is a ban.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- He is talking about bans, that is a separate issue.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Exactly, that is why I asked.

Honourable Members, please it is just an increase or decrease or delete, let us focus on that, otherwise we are debating something else.

HON. P. CHAND.- Increase the budget to fix the situation.

(Laughter)

Give food ration, et cetera, to the fishermen who do not have that income.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other comments on Programme 2, Activity 3? Honourable Mikaele Leawere?

HON. M.R. LEAWARE.- SEG 9 – Purchase of Aluminium Boat. Is it one boat or many boats, and what is it used for? I see that it is only one boat.

HON. CDR. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Basically, we are trying to establish our coastal monitoring around the coastal areas. The aluminium vessel will equip us to actually carryout patrols in the near coastline.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- So it should be boats?

HON. CDR. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- No, that is only for one.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, we move on to Programme 2, Activity 4.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 5? Honourable Salote Radrodro?

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Madam Chairperson, I would like to move a motion for an increase in the allocation for the construction of Ice Plants. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 2, Activity 6?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will now consider these motions, there are two motions on the table. The first one is by the Honourable Viliame Gavoka:

That Head 31 be increased by \$1,000,750 in Programme 2, Activity 3, SEG 8 with the respect to the Marine Resource Inventory Survey. Do we have a seconder?

HON. OPPOSITION MEMBER.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

I would like to thank the Honourable Minister for setting this up as I have often brought up in this Parliament that we need to keep an inventory of what we have in our fisheries and I am glad that it has started. But I feel, Madam Chairperson, that we need to do it in a big way in particular, *beche-de-mer*, where a ban is in place. I have often said that if the *qoliqoli* owners can be informed on a regular basis on the value of what is growing in their *qoliqoli*, it will help them take ownership of the ban and grow their stock. On a regular basis, we can translate this into the wealth that is under the sea in their *qoliqoli*.

There are about 410 *Qoliqolis* in Fiji and if we allocate about \$5,000 a *qoliqoli*, it comes to about \$2,050,000, granted that not every *qoliqoli* is where *beche-de-mer* would grow. But, Madam Chairperson, that to me is the way to motivate them because there was some resistance to the ban but if they can know that it is growing and wealth is growing in their *qoliqoli*, like I said it will help them appreciate the reason behind the ban.

And for our country, Madam Chairperson, this is a valuable export. When you look at the difference between the import and export in this country, next year we are talking about \$3.3 billion shortfall, the difference between the two and that is a concern going forward. If we are able to monitor the stock in the sea, the same way we value our pine stock or mahogany, et cetera, it will give us a sense of comfort going forward that one day our exports will increase substantially once the ban ends.

As you know, Madam Chairperson, *beche-de-mer*, we are told that you do not have to look for a market in China; immediately it arrives within hours, it is gone, it is such in demand. And for those of us who have market Fiji products, there is nothing like *beche-de-mer*. So it will take a bit



of work, and that is why I am suggesting that this is the level of allocation that we place in this to help us monitor this very, very valuable stock. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- So, \$1,750,000 for survey only?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Yes, they will need a team, experts to be trained ...

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Just the survey, please.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- ... and to carryout regular monitoring of the stock.

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

HON. CDR. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We are basically starting and putting the main structures in place on the data and information that is required for this. As I have said, we have already got two New Zealand experts whom we are working with. As soon as we have established the main platform, then the major work of actually going out and look at the stock and then put it in data will be carried out. This is basically just the funds to start the platform.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Yes, Honourable Minister?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chairperson, already over more than 200 *Qoliqolis* have actually been surveyed and quite a lot of work has been done in that respect. As the Honourable Minister has also highlighted earlier on, you see some new funding where the Ministry is going to work together with various partners, including fishermen, et cetera.

It is not just a question of telling the *qoliqoli* owners, “This is how much *beche-de-mer* you have here”, because we do tell them without necessarily having a backup system, they may actually go and get rid of that stock because there is very high demand for *beche-de-mer* and very high prices.

The idea is to be able to use their resources which is actually the sea area, to provide them with young *beche-de-mers* that the Ministry of Fisheries will actually germinate, et cetera, and they use their own backyard to actually grow this. So we do not actually have at the moment a farming approach to *beche-de-mer*. There is no *beche-de-mer* farm and that is what we need to do.

In fact, I am sure the Honourable Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu would agree with things like that because he has got a large *qoliqoli* area. And so that backyard could actually be used for that, and that is what we are planning to do. In fact, the scheme that the Honourable Minister has come up with his team and the Kiwis are actually helping us with that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. You still want to continue?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- I am glad that there is some progress in this and we are all saying the same thing, heading in the right direction, so we just continue to bring it up during the dialogue. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you.

The next motion is by Honourable Salote Radrodro. She is moving that Head 31 be increased by \$500,000 in Programme 2, Activity 5, SEG 8 with respect to construction of ice plants. Do we have a seconder?

HON. OPP. MEMBER.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Yes, Madam Chairperson, thank you.

In moving this motion, I also acknowledge the assistance by the former Minister for Fisheries and the present Minister for Fisheries in their assistance in the repair of the Ice Plant in Vanua Balavu. Within a span of a year or year-and-a-half, Madam Chairperson, the Ice Plant in Vanua Balavu underwent two repairs. I believe it is an expensive exercise, having to send technicians across with spare parts and upon inquiry, I was advised that the Ice Plant is about 16 years old or 18 years old. Therefore, Madam Chairperson, I am moving maybe it is prudent that there be a new one constructed in there, otherwise when it breaks down it really affects the livelihood of the people in there.

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

HON. CDR. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We are carrying out extensive work right now. We have one in Moala, Cicia, we are also replacing the other ones that are in Lekutu. Those are already in the Programme.

We have designed now a new scheme which will look after the Ice Plants. We are basically going to tender it out, because we do not have the capacity within our Ministry, we will tender it out so that commercial companies will be responsible on a long-year term contract so that they look after all these ice plants.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON. So what you have allocated now is sufficient for this time, Honourable Minister?

HON. CDR. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- Absolutely, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, we will put this one through the vote and all those in favour of this motion, say "Aye".

(Chorus of 'Ayes')

All those not in favour, say 'No'.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The 'Noes' have it.

Thank you, Parliament will now vote on Head 31. The question is:

That the amount for Head No. 31 - Ministry of Fisheries, be approved.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

There being no opposition, the motion is agreed to unanimously.

Head No. 31 - Ministry of Fisheries, agreed to.

Head 32 – Ministry of Forests

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for comments. We are looking at Programme 1, Activity 1, any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 2.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 1.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, Honourable Leader of the Opposition?

HON. RO T.V. KEP A.- SEG 7, Sustainable Management of Vulnerable Forests - Rewa Delta Project. Can we have some clarifications on how that money is going to be utilised?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Is this Programme 2 Activity 1?

HON. T.V. KEP A.- Programme 2, Activity 1, SEG 7.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- Madam Chairperson, this allocation is for government's contribution for the ITTO Project, including salaries, meal allowance, vehicle maintenance and collaborations with partners.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I think we are talking about SEG 7.

HON. RO T.V. KEP A.- Yes, that is the one.

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- Programme 2, Activity 1, SEG 7, Sustainable Management of Vulnerable Forests - Rewa Delta Project. All those expenses received towards what I have already mentioned.

HON. RO T.V. KEP A.- Does that include replanting of mangroves that are already destroyed?

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- Yes.

HON. RO T.V. KEPA.- All right.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 1.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- SEG 6: On the same question on the Fiji Pine Trust Extension and Forest Subsidy on Value Adding Machines, can you just elaborate on what kind of subsidy and what kind of machines are these?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- Madam Chairperson, this is to cater for the additional funding to move 19 staff to their new salary bands, four of which were earning below the minimum wage. Administration fees to be paid to the Fiji Pine Trust Headquarters in Lautoka for providing administrative services for the Fiji Pine Trust Extension. Increases in the salaries and wages is to match up with the new rates for the Civil Service since the duties of the post are the same.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 2, Activity 2.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 3?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- SEG 7 - De-Reservation Cost for Nadarivatu Forest (\$2,500).

(Hon. Member interjects)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I have already made a ruling because I am really going fast. If we now go to the next one, before the person speaks on any of the SEGs and someone wants to come back, I can come back because I get too fast for some people.

So we are on Programme 2, Activity 2, SEG 7?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Yes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- It is Nadarivatu.

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- Madam Chairperson, this is the continuation of the Deforestation Programme in the Nadarivatu area in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands, we are working together.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Ratu Kiliraki?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Can we have some clarifications on SEG 7 as well as SEG 8: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD Plus), the allocation of \$2.5 million and \$400,000 respectively, Madam Chairperson?

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- Madam Chairperson, this is the cash grant provided by the World Bank for the National Readiness Programme for the REDD Plus; and the \$400,000 is given by the Ministry of Forests to develop the cadre that will be ready to access carbon markets by 2020. Around 15 hectares of forest had been forested through this REDD Plus Programme.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 2, Activity 3. Honourable Aseri Radrodro?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- The Training - Programme 2, Activity 3, SEG 1: Is this also in terms of personal emoluments?

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- Yes.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Does this also include forest wardens?

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- Yes, it also includes forest wardens.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 2, Activity 4. Honourable Mikaele Leawere?

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- The one on Personal Emoluments: can I just have some clarifications on the increase in amount on the established staff from the Honourable Minister? Thank you.

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- Can you repeat the question, please?

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson: personal emoluments.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Which Programme, which Activity?

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- It is Programme 2, Activity 4, SEG 1: I need some clarification on that in terms of the established staff, there is an increase there.

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- This is the salary for 10 Established positions and also the alignment of the position according to the Job Evaluation that has been carried out.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We will now move onto Programme 2, Activity 5. Honourable Professor Biman Prasad?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Just on SEG 8, Honourable Minister: the allocation for Sandalwood Development Programme. I know that there are a lot of people who are trying to now grow sandalwood, a high-value forests. What is this allocation for; what does it entail?

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- This is to revive the sandalwood plantation forest and maximise potential opportunities for farmers. Every matured seedling price is around 80 to 100 per hectare and it takes 15 to 20 years to reach commercial maturity.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- I am just asking - where does that \$100,000 go to, is it for seedlings?

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- Seedlings, yes.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thanks.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chairperson, I would like to move a motion to increase that allocation for Sandalwood Development Programme - SEG 8.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Fill in a form, please. We will move on to Programme 2, Activity 6.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 7.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Programme 2, Activity 6, SEG 8: Deforestation of Degraded Forests (\$700,000).

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We are on Activity 7.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- I would like to move a motion there, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Fill the form, please.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- \$700,000 is not enough.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 8.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All right, we will now consider motions, there are two.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Activity 8, SEG 8.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All right, while you are filling the form, the Honourable Viliame Gavoka is moving that Head 32 be increased by \$900,000 in Programme 2, Activity 5, SEG 5 with respect to Sandalwood Development Programme. Do you have a seconder?

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

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Gavoka, please, speak on your motion.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. There are a lot of success stories about sandalwood with our people, especially in the hilly parts of my area, and a lot of people now want to go into the cultivation of Sandalwood Inn ...

(Laughter)

... Sandalwood Programme, I am sorry.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Name of a hotel - tourism.

(Laughter)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- I used to be a hotelier, there was a place called Sandalwood Inn, I am sorry, Madam Chairperson. My apologies, it is all the late nights we are having.

(Laughter)

Sandalwood, Madam Chairperson, with most of us, there are not many of us who would take up a mortgage that would be paid off over 20 years or so in the municipalities wherever. One of the best ways of creating wealth for us is to plant something like this and in 20-25 years' time, we would have wealth similar to the value of a building that has been paid off in mortgage.

As I said, there is a lot of wonderful success stories. In Nadroga, Madam Chairperson, a couple of months ago, one villager has started planting and someone came and offered him \$15 million to take over his plantation, and the word is going around in Nadroga and Navosa now, this is the kind of investment we wish to make. The limiting factor here would be the seedlings and I think the more you have available, the more people will take on this - the sandalwood. He is from Nadi so he understands what I am saying - the sandalwood thing, Madam Chairperson.

Hence my motion that you increase the allocation from \$100,000 to a \$1 million. I think it is huge and what we allocate for it should be commensurate with the demand that is out there and I know the demand is very, very high. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to speak on that motion, Honourable Minister?

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- Madam Chairperson, for the information of the August House, there have been more consultations and awareness by my Ministry, especially on the Sandalwood Division through increased awareness, the results as has been shared by the Honourable Member. I think most stakeholders are aware of the current growth and the availability of seedlings is almost in all the divisions now.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Does anyone else want to speak on this motion before we put a vote?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Just a note on that, as anyone would know that the price of certain commodities are based a lot of times on demand and supply. So, yes, to us, it may be a windfall. Now, we have to also manage the entire industry because if everyone now goes and plants sandalwood and there is an oversupply, guess what! The people who are buying it will pay you. It may be a windfall now but we have to think this is a 10 to 15 year timber the wood that we

have looked at, so the Ministry is also looking at the management of that. We do not want people to, for example, dedicate vast tracks of land for it, and at the end of the day, they do not get much for it too, so we just have to be mindful of that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Kiliraki.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- May I speak on the motion and make a short contribution. The seedlings are now being given out to those who plant seedlings in their green houses.

I went to Colo-i-Suva and there was no more, and they are not supplying any more plants. So I had to go to those who do their own seedlings at about \$5.00 a plant. That is the cost there for anyone who wants to go into sandalwood. It costs about \$5.00 on the market rather than thinking of going to the stations where you get it free, there is a cost in there in regards to planting sandalwood. It is like the *yaqona* too, they are growing *yaqona* in pots and they sell it for \$5.00 also, so those are the costs there. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, we will now vote on this motion. Yes Honourable Gavoka, you can speak in reply.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Yes, Madam Chairperson. The thing about sandalwood is that the older it is, the more available it becomes. I believe there is a tree now in Fiji that is almost worth a million dollars. It is about 17 year old or something, so the beauty about this, Madam Chairperson, is that, if the price drops, you do not have to harvest, you let it stand and wait for the right time.

In terms of the concern expressed by the Honourable Minister, this is one of the best commodities you can have because you only harvest when the price is right. It stands there, it does not lose its value. It actually appreciates in value. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, we will now vote on this motion. All those in favour of this motion say 'Aye' and those not in favour say 'Noe.'

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The 'Noes' have it.

Motion defeated.

Thank you. We will now move on to the next motion by the Honourable Jiosefa Dulakiverata that Head 32 be increased by \$1 million in Programme 2, Activity 6 SEG 8, with respect to reforestation of degraded forest. Do we have a seconder?

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Yes.

Would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Most of the plantations had been harvested but the rate that the harvesting has taken place does not coincide with the rate of re-planting. I think, Madam Chairperson, to sustain the industry, we should also be planting at the rate we are harvesting. To keep the industry going, I think \$700,000 for re-planting is not enough and we should increase that by \$1 million, Madam Chairperson.



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

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- Madam Chairperson, the Programme for reforestation, after consultation and visitation to the resource owners, the takers were purely unknown. When we have incentivised, then we have some uptakes as to who comes to the Ministry for the reforestation programme and \$700,000 is enough, considering also that we have now put in place the new policies once harvesting. So once you are being issued the licence, you have to contribute in the replanting programme. That is the new initiative and it is the first time in the Ministry.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Anyone else wants to speak on this motion? No? We now put motion to vote and all those who are in favour of the motion say 'Ayes' and those not in favour say 'No.'

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The 'Noes' have it.

We will now move on to the last motion by the Honourable Ratu Kiliraki to move that Head 32 be increased by \$200,000 in Programme 2, Activity 8, SEG 8, with respect to upgrade of forest parks. Do we have a seconder?

HON. OPP. MEMBER.- (Inaudible)

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

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Yes, Madam Chairperson, before I make an explanation, could I ask what are the parks that come under that? I know that in the Estimates last year, Colo-i-Suva was in the allocation. So for the purpose of increasing it, Colo-Suva has been visited by the ocean liners that come to Suva. There are more than 50 vessels that come in every year. So there is a lot of movement in terms of eco-tourism and offering our forest and natural beauty of Fiji, even if they go down to Pacific Harbour. So that is the increase for upgrading and perhaps finding some other parks as a source of income for the resource owners. Thank you.

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

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- Madam Chairperson, it is a continuation of development of the Colo-i-Suva Park upgrading and currently \$200,000 is sufficient to cater for the beautification of the park.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- For the Colo-i-Suva Park?

HON. O. NAIQAMU.- For the Colo-i-Suva Park.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on this motion. All those in favour of the motion say 'Ayes' and not in favour say 'No'.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, the Noes have it.

Thank you. Parliament will now vote on Head No. 32.

The Question is:

That the amount of Head No. 32 in the Ministry of Forests be approved. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Ayes' and 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those in favour say 'Aye' and all those not in favour say 'No.'

(Chorus of 'Ayes')

The 'Ayes' have it. The motion is agreed to.

Head 32 agreed to.

Head No. 33 - Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for comments on the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources. Looking at Programme 1, Activity 1, any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 1, any comments? Honourable Ratu Matanitobua?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On SEG 8, can the Honourable Minister enlighten the House on the Core Repository Storage Facility of \$166,885?

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, \$260,000 was provided this year for the construction of the core repository to house and centralise storage of drill samples.

Now the repository houses are expected to be completed by the end of this month and \$166,000 funding is provided to cater for the procurement of storage equipment for the newly built repository such as shelves, et cetera, and the budget is sufficient to cater for the purpose that we asked for.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, any other comments? Honourable Ratu Matanitobua.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Honourable Minister, this includes the payment of storage facilities in Waisoi, including this.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- As I said earlier, the \$260,000 was provided for the building or construction of the core-repository which is now complete or by the end of this month. That is all it is for.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chairperson, just a clarification in terms of the increase of \$30,000. There are two works there; Geological Mapping and Geo-Tec Survey. Can we get some clarification on the status of this allocation? Last year it was \$61,000, now it has gone up to \$92,000.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- For SEG 7, Geological Mapping and Geo-Tec Survey, if you divided it up into two. For Geological Mapping, it is \$41,200, this is for the provision of the mapping of rocks. And for Geo-Tec Survey, this is for the provision of Geo-Tec works such as assessments we do for Geo hazards, landslides and relocations like for schools, et cetera. This is to ensure that the ground is viable for construction. An additional \$30,000 has been provided to supplement the allocation.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, any other comments? Honourable Dulakiverata?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chairperson, on the same SEG 8, Groundwater Assessment and Development, we have it for smaller and larger islands. What is the definition of “smaller island” and a “large island?”

(Laughter)

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chairperson, this is coming from someone who worked at the Ministry of Lands.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- How does that have a budgetary implication, I do not know.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- (inaudible)

HON. F.S. KOYA.- All right, let me explain, Madam Chairperson. This particular project, I will explain in full, is to identify, analyse and make valuable ground water resources.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Yes.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- For human use in the maritime small islands, other than Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. Does that help you, Sir?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Yes.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.—Any other comments from anyone else, any Honourable Member?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Another comment, Madam Chairperson. Never mind, I will leave it.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any comment from any other Honourable Member? No comment, we will move on Programme 2, Activity 2.

Programme 3, Activity 1.

(Chorus of `Noes`)

HON. P. SINGH.- Programme 3, Activity 1, SEG 4 - Reversion of Government Land Schedule 'A' and 'B' \$500,000. I believe the reversion has already taken place, so what is this?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It is for the payment of premium fees and charges to secure *iTaukei* leases to state for assets on the reverted Schedule 'A' and 'B' land. The survey of state schedules 'A' and 'B' land was carried out on the state-owned both land and some of the areas where the NLC common boundary lies was not captured on the approved survey plan. And many leases have been transmitted to the iTLTB but there is a need to carry out a proper survey to address the issue of double tenure. And the focus in the next financial year is to carry out proper survey which will commence in the Northern Division.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other comments? Honourable Dulakiverata?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chairperson, Schedule 'A' Rental. I understand the Schedule A and B have been transferred to the iTLTB. Why does it still have this allocation for rental?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 7, Honourable Minister.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Are we still on SEG 4, Madam Chairperson?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 1, SEG 7.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Schedule 'A' Rentals (\$78,965), this provision is for the operational works involved relating to the reverting of Schedule 'A' lands.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 2, any comments?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Just one more question, Madam Chairperson, that Lease Arrears Task Force (\$200,000), is it for the whole Ministry of Lands for the \$200,000 for all the rent arrears or for Schedule 'A' Rental?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- The Lease Arrears Task Force, Madam Chairperson, is the provision to cater for activities involved in the collection of all lease arrears, analysis, it means engagement of project officers and payments of allowances, accommodations, et cetera. If it was to be specifically only that which the Honourable Member is referring to, it would say so. The total

revenue obviously collected today is about \$13.4 million and the budget is sufficient to cover and cater for the required work.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Prof. Biman Prasad.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Programme 3, Activity 3.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We have not reached that yet. So, we now move onto Programme 3, Activity 2.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Programme 3, Activity 2, SEG 8 - Periphery Boundary Survey – *iTaukei* Grant (\$527,296). What is that?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Madam Chairperson, can the Honourable Member just repeat the question?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- SEG 8.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- SEG 8, Programme 3, Activity 2?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.-That is right.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- This is to continue with the Periphery Survey for National Geodetic Datum that contains in the area of 15,000 acres. The project started in the financial year and should be completed by 2019-2020 financial year. The budget is sufficient to cater for it.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 3.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a clarification from the Honourable Minister, SEG 4, the last two items: *iTaukei* Lands Leased to State, I am assuming that, that is the rental paid to iTLTB. The second one is Renewal of Native Leases (\$750,000). What does that entail, is it payment to secure leases and allocate how many leases are you securing or is it something else?

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Simple word, it says “renewal.” And this funding is provided to cater for the renewal of expired leases.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- You are not answering the question.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- You are asking whether it was to cater for something new or not. It is for the renewal of native leases. Funding is provided to cater for the renewal of expired *iTaukei* Leases to State as far as the year 2003.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- That is the land already leased to State?

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Yes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 4.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- No, Madam Chairperson, Programme 3, Activity 3.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- SEG 4, Fees – iTLTB and Annuity Payment. Can the Honourable Minister clarify what is that for?

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Programme 3, Activity 3, SEG 4.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- iTLTB and Annuity Payment (\$29,100), what does that entail?

HON. F.S. KOYA.- This provision is to cater for annuity fees for Suvavou Village in Suva, Namoli Village in Lautoka and Nadarivatu.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- Three of them.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- No other comments? We move on to Programme 3, Activity 4. Honourable Ratu Matanitobua.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Activity 4, SEG 7 - Monitoring of Sand and Gravel Extraction (\$110,000). These include the four Divisions?

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Yes, not just for Navua.

(Laughter)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Can we move on to Programme 3, Activity 5? Any comments, Honourable Dulakiverata?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This land harmonisation exercise. Can the Honourable Minister elaborate on Programme 3, Activity 4, SEG 4?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Land Harmonisation Exercise.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Madam Chairperson, this is to cater for the harmonising of land data on the system with what is actually on the ground, and these include engagement of project officers to undertake these activities with respect to their allowances and travel, et cetera. Again it is a sufficient budget to correlate. It is harmonisation of what is on the ground and what we have.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.-The other one, Madam Chairperson, I want to move that Maintenance of Existing Subdivision be scrapped.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All right, fill the form, please.

Programme 3, Activity 5?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 6?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 7? Honourable Dulakiverata?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Programme 3, Activity 7, SEG 7 - Lease Backlog - Administration Cost \$55,000.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister, clarification please?

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Again, Madam Chairperson, this is to cater for the payment of relevant allowances and other costs involved in clearing of all the lease backlog. We have a team that has been identified internally to undertake this exercise within the first and second quarter of this financial year.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Can I make a comment? This lease backlog is a normal exercise but only if there are some new developments where you have to prepare new lease document, then there should be backlogs. But normally there should not be any backlogs because this is what they should do every day.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Madam Chairperson, I think truth be told, this backlog does not just come from us, it comes from a long time ago when he was at the Lands Office.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 3, Activity 8?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- On that point too, one of the things that we are trying to do is work with the Ministry of Lands to ensure that lease renewals are done now before time to give comfort to people who are actually leasing the land. The practice generally has been the lease expires, then people do not know and they hang around, so development stops.

So, if you know your lease is about to expire in five years' time, we, as the landlord, in particular with State land, we should be able to say we are going to renew the lease or not so they can move on with their lives. If we are going to renew it, then at least they have continuity, they can invest.

So, that is really critical for us to do and what the Minister is also saying, this is a new allocation, \$50,000, to ensure all the backlog is cleared up. There is a lot of backlog in the Western Division, in particular, so the idea is to get up to speed and also be ahead of time.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- You should not have this problem because you can plan ahead, your GIS system. Let me tell you ....

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You now are commenting on the process.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- I just want to comment on what the Attorney-General said.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We are waiting for your motion, Honourable Dulakiverata.

Honourable Members, we have a motion by Honourable Jiosefa Dulakiverata, who is moving that Head 33 be reduced by \$300,000 in Programme 3, Activity 4, SEG 8 with respect to Maintenance of Existing Subdivision. Do we have a seconder?

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

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to speak on your motion?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I had already mentioned this a number of times in this House - the maintenance of existing subdivision - the Ministry of Lands in the past used to carry out subdivisions and most of those subdivisions have now been absorbed into municipal councils, so the maintenance of drainage and all those things within these subdivisions have now shifted to the municipal councils. What I am saying is, compared to other developers who had developed other subdivisions like Namadi Heights and Laucala Beach Estate, they do not come back and maintain the subdivisional radius. They do the subdivision, they allocate the leases, they sell and they move on. So for a Government to be maintaining these things over the years, it is not their responsibility anymore. That is why, Madam Chairperson, I think that this allocation should be taken away and used for some other useful things.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Minister.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. What the Honourable Member may not realise is that, first of all, not all subdivisions were within the municipal area and not all have been returned. Some are outside the municipal areas so this particular specific provision is to cater for those.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Anyone else would like to comment on the motion? There being none, we will vote on the motion.

All those in agreement with the motion say "Aye".

(Chorus of 'Ayes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those who disagree say "No".

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The 'Noes' have it.

Honourable Members Parliament will now vote on Head 33, the question is that the amount of Head 33 - Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources - be approved.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Ayes' and 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those in favour of the motion say "Aye".

(Chorus of 'Ayes')



MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- And those opposing the motion say “No”.

(Chorus of ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The ‘Ayes’ have it.

Thank you, Honourable Members. We will suspend the proceedings for refreshments in the Big Committee Room and Parliament will resume at 5 o’clock.

The Parliament adjourned at 4.34 p.m.

The Parliament resumed at 5.01 p.m.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members ,we will move on from where we left off.

SECRETARY-GENERAL.- Head No. 34, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism.

Head 34 – Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments. Any comment on Programme 1, Activity 1?

(Chorus of ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 1?

(Chorus of ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 1?

(Chorus of ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 4, Activity 1?

(Chorus of ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Clarification, Honourable Aseri Radrodoro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Programme 4, Activity 1, the National Co-operative Federation and Co-operative Tribunal. Can we just get an update on those allocations that were given for this - \$10,000 and \$29,925?

HON. F.S. KOYA.- SEG 7, Madam Chairperson. The allocation is to meet the following expenses that is, the allowance for the Tribunal Members, travelling, meals and accommodation expenses, and office stationeries. Also the \$15,000 is for International Co-operative Day which is celebrated on the first Saturday of July each year; we just had one last week. The response was overwhelming.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- The Co-operative Tribunal.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- I just did both.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- The Tribunal as I have said, that particular allocation was to meet the allowances for the tribunal members, and travelling, meals and accommodation expenses, and office stationery.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 4, Activity 2. Honourable Dulakiverata.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. International Co-operative Day, is it still ongoing on SEG 7?

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I have just explained that, we just had it and yes it is ongoing and is celebrated on the first week of July every year.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- No one knew about it.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- A whole lot of people who turned up at the grounds did.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 4, Activity 2? Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- There seems to be no increases or decreases in terms of established staff numbers on SEG 1. I just wanted to check whether in terms of staff numbers had reduced in this particular section or are they also applicable for the Job Evaluation Exercise?

HON. F.S. KOYA.- This is Programme 4, Activity 2, SEG 1?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- That particular provision is for existing training staff.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 4, Activity 3?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Sorry.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Gavoka?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Activity 2, SEG 7, can the Honourable Minister elaborate on that upgrade of the cooperative college?

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson, this would be used to refurbish the training rooms, the administration office, purchase of computers, purchase of furniture and upgrading of the library.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- So it is an existing facility?

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Yes.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 4, Activity 3?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 5, Activity 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on Head No. 34. The question is ...

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chairperson, are we on Programme 5? I would like to move a motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I will allow that "yes".

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- I would like to move a motion to increase the Tourism Fiji Marketing Grant, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We have a motion to consider and the Honourable Viliame Gavoka is moving that Head 34 be increased by \$3,550,000 in Programme 5, Activity 1, SEG 10 with respect to Tourism Fiji Marketing Grant. Do we have a seconder?

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- I second the motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to speak on your motion Honourable Gavoka?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, I notice that there has been a reduction in the marketing grants for Tourism Fiji which I believe is not the right thing to do. Essentially, what I am saying here, Madam Chairperson, is to do away with the hosting of the Super Rugby game of \$3.5 million there, and make it all into marketing grants.

Madam Chairperson, in marketing tourism, we always look at the cost of securing a head (a visitor) and the cost keeps going up. I think if you make comparisons with the other competing destinations, they spent more per head than Fiji; that was true in my time. But Fiji has always been known to do more of the less, but you cannot always go that way. You really need to come and match the other competing destinations who spending more for marketing.

I would, therefore, recommend very strongly that we take it back to the current year where the marketing grant was about \$34,000,000. Also, Madam Chairperson, for the Super Rugby game, if you spend that in New Zealand which already has a marketing grant for the Regional Office of New Zealand, and if you add a \$3.5 million to a New Zealand market you are really spending more in New Zealand to secure one visitor. I know there are other factors in here in terms of generating the economic activity during the period but the primary concern is to bring in more visitors to Fiji and money can be well spent if given to the hands of Tourism Fiji to actually spend it on marketing to directly secure a visitor (not through these other ways).

Preferably for rugby, Madam Chairperson, with this kind of money this year Fiji could have played against Georgia, played against Samoa, played against Tonga and number four to invite one

of the big names like the All Blacks or the Wallabies. That would have been better for Fiji and for our boys who would have played together in four games, in preparation for the World Cup. One of our biggest challenges in Fiji is that we bring them from all over the world and assemble them and after a few games you want to go and play in the World Cup.

Samoa invited the All Blacks to Apia about a year or two ago. I think it cost them, I mean, an arm and a leg, but Fiji can afford that, it will be \$3.5 million. So, I think it will be “money better spent” if it was spent in sports but certainly we need to maintain marketing at that level, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I think I did enough explanation about the “actual spend” issue that Honourable Gavoka has raised. It is never about the “spend”, it is about what we actually receive from the person who actually comes in, I gave the figures here yesterday morning quite colourfully, I think.

Madam Chairperson, the Tourism Fiji’s marketing grant has not actually changed, say, for the reduction is due to the one-off allocations from the 2017-2018 Financial Year being removed in this Year’s Budget, and that, Madam Chairperson, included the \$4 million for brand revitalisation and the \$300,000 that was accommodated for the Inter Hash which was very successful where we had a total of about 1,700 Hashes from the 16 countries visiting Fiji. It was the first time that was held in Fiji and the 500 international participants took part in the Red Dress Charity Run, and raised about \$40,000 approximately for Nadi Hospital, and the participant, according to our IVS Survey, spent at least nine days in Fiji.

Madam Chairperson, again with respect to the Super Rugby, what they failed to see is that the Fijian Government had agreed to a three-year arrangement to host Super Rugby matches in Suva with one match to be played annually in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Madam Chairperson, what it does is that it increases Fiji’s footprint internationally. It also lifts Fiji’s profile as a host country for international events. This was broadcasted in 13 global broadcast markets across Europe, Africa, South America and Asia Pacific. The viewership audience were 1.1 billion across nearly a 151 hours of global television coverage; 18 percent viewership increased in 2017 with over 2.4 million viewers.

As a single, biggest broadcast audience with over 400,000 viewers brought through *Sky Sports* live coverage in New Zealand, the direct revenue from the ticket sales was approximately \$814,000, and additional revenue gained from the sale of merchandised liquor and car park fees.

Tourism Fiji’s brand exposure on this, Madam Chairperson, and the in-game broadcast generated a total of 1,948 seconds, which is 32 minutes of direct Tourism Fiji brand exposure, through the major advertising platforms of 3D Grass signage which you would have all seen in the digital LED, the Postcard images, In-broadcast Television graphics, overseas editorial coverage and visitor attendance.

The ground visibility accounted for 27 percent of Tourism Fiji’s brand exposure where we had a live interview - the first two. For local content, the two teams also undertook a Community Legacy Programme (this is rugby we are talking about), that included visits to local primary and secondary schools and community rugby clubs, and Open Training Session for the general public.

Fifteen thousands (15,000) spectators have attended the match each year, including a significant number of international spectators. The earnings alone from food and beverage and other local supplies amounted to about \$50,000.

The Fiji Sports Commission, Madam Chairperson, employed over 82 local suppliers and impacting about 300 local employees, both directly and indirectly.

Lastly, Madam Chairperson, about 800 local volunteers were engaged for the match each year. So, all in all, it is a phenomenal package. With respect to Tourism Fiji's marketing grant, it has not really changed. It is just the one of the two things that was taken off. We have done phenomenally well with the grant that we have, we did last year, and we will do so again this year, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I invite any other input. No. Then we will vote on this motion. Yes, please take your time.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chairperson, I beg to disagree with the Honourable Minister because really the job of Tourism Fiji is to get visitor numbers. And if you look at Page 82 in the supplementary here, you have the visitor arrivals from 2011 to 2020 forecasts for the next couple of years. Madam Chairperson, you look at this, these are very ordinary growth that we have experienced and that we are forecasting.

If you talk about exposure to those billions of homes, you are not converting them to visitor arrivals, something needs to be reviewed. And that is why I do not believe in spending this kind of money in general branding or whatever they call it, and I would rather expand on a technical basis to bring in visitors and it can be done. These numbers, Madam Chairperson, like the one on Page 32, they are very ordinary numbers. We should do better to the kind of money that we are spending.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Madam Chairperson, because he is raising something new, I would like to say something and I have been saying this for four years, Madam Chairperson. So, we have had year on, year growth, with respect to tourism, everything that we do must be done sustainably. You have to have the necessary number of rooms. You have to make sure, and this is where we have such a great partnership with Fiji Airways, they know, they do their calculations just to how many flights come in, whether we go to where, attended, and how many people we bring in and what can be done, what will be done and how many rooms we have available.

It has been done very sustainably, Madam Chairperson. This is why we have had the year on, year growth and at the end of the day FJ\$1.9 odd billion, a feat never achieved is quite some achievements from the tourism industry already. What is wrong, I do not know. We cannot go to the past, back to the past ways of thinking, Madam Chairperson. This is where we were at, we will get better, it is never about the numbers, Madam Chairperson.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- A different perspective altogether, I think we need to also remind ourselves that the marketing for Fiji as a destination is not only done through Tourism Fiji. Fiji Airways also does market Fiji. It is in their interest to do so. They actually have a marketing budget. This is why we now also have the Executive CEO of Fiji Airways who is also the Chairman of Tourism Fiji. We also have the individual hotels that actually market Fiji themselves. I mean, in particular, you have these international brands; your Westins, your Marriott's, now your Inter continentals, all of them also brand Fiji and they have connectivity with the their sister hotels in

other countries. So, we should not think of the dollar value spent on marketing Fiji, only through Tourism Fiji.

So, when we actually had this consultation preparing for the Budget, we actually talked to all these players and see what they are spending, how they actually develop synergies with each other. And again I just want to re-echo the sentiments of the Honourable Minister for Tourism that, yes, numbers are good but yield are also extremely important.

We have some countries, Madam Chairperson, where they have higher volume but low yield and it does put pressure on your infrastructure so the rate of return is not that high. We are not saying therefore the numbers, Honourable Gavoka always quotes a 'million' as a magical mystical figure, but the fact of the matter is, yes, of course we want to get to those numbers but we also need to ensure that our product does not deteriorate in its quality. Fiji is not known as a destination that is run-of-the mill destination.

We need to ensure that we maintain our quality, a credibility as a good destination. A destination where you have running water, access to electricity, transportation is good, the airport is good, all those things need to be put in place of course, and we have good metal or good aircrafts flying.

Now with the Japanese route, I understand that is doing a lot better now in terms of the response perhaps in some of the other destinations when it started, even better than Hong Kong. Of course, Japan is not a new destination, *per se* but the fact of the matter is, now we are flying A330s, before we used to fly 767s and the 767 is not a good metal to fly to high yielding destination like Japan. So we hope all this connectivity, of course, San Francisco is now coming on board and the three flights a week from Singapore will give us that sort of level of visitor arrivals, but also we need to ensure we build the right infrastructure. Thank you.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Chairperson, it will be very useful in this debate if we can know about the average occupancy of the hotels in Fiji. The utilisation of the inventory here. If it is not hitting 80 percent then something is wrong because we had at one time, we did 82 percent average occupancy across Fiji with the hotels. That is the bigger test. If the inventory is being used properly then I take back my case but if there are gaps and they are not being used properly then something is not right. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. I will just share my bit because I am Chair I am not Speaker. I think in Fiji we attract more quality to tourism versus mass tourism that go to other countries that attract cheaper rates and more in numbers. Thank you.

We will now vote on this motion. That Head 34 be increased by three million five hundred fifty thousand dollars in Programme 5, Activity 1, SEG 10 with respect to Tourism Fiji Marketing grant. All those in agreement say "Aye".

(Chorus of Ayes)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those not in agreement say "No".

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- And the 'Noes' have it. Thank you. Parliament will now vote on Head No. 34. The question is that the amount of Head No. 34 –Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism be approved.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Madam Chairperson, may I make a clarification before we vote as Minister responsible for Industry, Trade and Tourism. Yesterday, there was a point of order made by Honourable Salote Radrodro with respect to some MSBG recipients, I know she did not raise anything on that. But let me correct the facts Honourable Member. Every single applicant that you refer to is a successful applicant. They have succeeded in their application, it is being vetted, it is being done, they are all merely waiting for the Suva grant disbursement which will be a little later. So the information that you have, Honourable Member is incorrect.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote. All those in agreement say "Aye"

(Chorus of 'Ayes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those not in agreement say 'No'.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The Ayes have it. Thank you.

Head 34 - Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, agreed to.

Head 35- Ministry of Sugar Industry

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The Floor is now open for any comments. Look at Programme 1, Activity 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

HON. P. SINGH.- Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 7. The Sugar Sector Policy Development, with a sum of \$200,000, is it to create a national policy on sugar?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Essentially, Madam Chairperson, the European Union funding is subject to us developing a specific Sugar Sector Policy Development. And so this money is allocated for that to have specific Sugar Sector Policy that would fulfil the requirements of the Europeans. So, once you actually have the policy in place then they will be able to disburse further funds. That is what it is for.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other comments? Programme 1, Activity 1. Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Programme 1, Activity 1, the Aid-in-kind – Social Mitigation Programme AMSP 2010 - \$25million. Can we just get a clarification on the details of this intent to this aid-in-kind?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Again, this is what we call accompanying the sugar Programme, accompanying Measures Sugar Programme (AMSP). This is again funded by the

European Union and that is to assist in the sugar cane industry specifically for that. They also develop alternative livelihood for sugarcane farmers. They try and encourage them, for example, in between the harvest to grow, like vegetables in between, get some cash crops because as you would know those people who grow sugarcane do not get paid on a weekly basis. It is obviously, instalments and payments, so this is what the AMSP is about.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Parmod Chand.

HON. P. CHAND.- Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 10 - Sugarcane Development and Farmers Assistance. Can the Honourable Minister clarify this FSC, \$15,400,000, whether it is only to FSC or also to the farmers?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- It actually gets obviously channelled through FSC. It is for the farmers but it gets channelled through FSC. So if you want to know the details, the details are; to assist cane farmers with land preparation, for planting, encourage crop rotation practices after harvesting, and the proposal aims to utilise idle land. Some of the farmers actually have idle land and to gradually boost cane production. So we have a target to reach at least three million tonnes by 2019 and 5.25 million tonnes by 2022.

HON. P. CHAND.- This LCPGA, where does that funding come from? It is not here and this is just for clarification. The Labasa Cane Farmers Producers Association (LCFPA), they do the distribution of knives and files, and all these things.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- I assume that is the fair trade one.

HON. P. CHAND.- Yes, fair trade one. Does the Government do that?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, no. They have their own funding. This is different.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Sustainable Rural Livelihood, can we just have some clarifications on that?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Sorry, sorry.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- SEG 7.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- The Sustainable Rural Livelihood, in the sum of \$5million.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- That is by the European Union and again, it is about funding through the sector for reforms. The EU actually has signed an agreement with us in this respect. Again, it is a form of assistance, looking specifically at things like alternative livelihoods or alternative sources of income and in various other ways of assisting the farmers. Also, the Ministry of Agriculture has that too, part of that funding. You know it is policy-based support. So they give us the money directly and then we use that funding to give to agriculture and also sugar.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other comments? Honourable Aseri Radrodro?



HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chairperson, just on SEG 10 - New Farmers Assistance of \$2 million, I think this has been existing, continuation from last year, \$2 million. Can we just get an update, how many new farmers have been engaged in this assistance?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- I do not have the statistics with me but I can tell you what the objective is for, again it is to facilitate acquisition of land and to help new farmers to till their own land.

As you know, one of the problems which of course, NFP will not let you know about, is that the sugarcane farming sector also faces an age crisis. Many as you know for the sugarcane industry, it has always been passed through generations. So if your great grandfather was a sugarcane farmer, your grandfather and your father and you became a sugarcane farmer. But of course, most young people do not want to. Of course, some of it is because of the fact that there was a lot of uncertainty in non-renewal of leases but the others, are essentially they want to have alternative forms of livelihood.

A lot of them in the western division work in hotels now. They have their mobile phones. They want to do other things. They are better educated now so they want to move on to other professions and because a lot of the farms actually have a small farmer holdings so as a result of which, we want to encourage some of these people to stay on. There are, we have seen a few people now who may have other jobs but are also now doing farming on the side.

That is also something we encourage. I am sure some people in this room, I mean I understand Honourable Minister Akbar has a sugarcane farm and there are others I am sure in this room have as well, I do not know, but Honourable Chand has a farm. So I mean he has got his bus business, Minister Akbar is a Minister but she has got a sugarcane farm. That is the kind of thing we also want to encourage because you know, we need to ensure that the sugarcane production increases.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- What does this new farm assistance entail? Is it just to pay for the land preparation or for a new farming assistance?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Sorry?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- What does this entail - new farm assistance?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Again, if people are interested and have the know-how, it is for the acquisition of leases in respect of the initial input cost to start up the farm; this should encourage them to do that. Some people may not have, for example, equipment et cetera.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you.

HON. P. CHAND.- Clarification on SEG – 10 towards the bottom, Sugar Individual Small Grants Scheme. What is this actually meant for?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- This is again for individual farmers. You see there are two types; one is the sugar cane farming mechanisation that is generally done through co-operatives. You form a co-operative and if you want to buy a cane harvester, then we provide a certain grant towards that, and you get a loan through FDB.

This Sugar Individual Small Grants Scheme is for individual farmers, grants-in-kind to these farmers so some, for example, may require fencing because of stray animals or cows coming in and eating their sugar cane. Some of them may require equipment and some of them may require some form of irrigation. Those are the types of small initiatives for individual farmers that we provide and this million dollars is allocated towards that.

HON. P. CHAND.- You mentioned something about subsidising co-operatives or cane harvesters. I believe some 1,820 cooperatives after that have stopped.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Well, it depends on how many people are forming co-operatives. There are of course more and more people coming into it and I do not have the actual number of co-operatives that are currently in play now, but of course a lot of them have formed co-operatives.

If you look at this other new allocation in SEG 10 (2) which is the Tractor Mounted Harvesters, at the moment, currently about 65 percent of sugar cane land cannot be mechanically harvested on the harvesters that you have because these sugar cane farms are on hillsides. These harvesters cannot go on hillsides. This is again the Tractor Mounted Harvesters and people form co-operatives to buy these harvesters that will be mounted on tractors that can go on those hillsides to do the harvesting too.

There are various means of actually being able to address that. The co-operative can access that or individuals can access that and we are finding that the sugar cane mechanisation now has moved on not just to harvesters but also tractors. That \$1 million is there so you may still have a co-operative that may have already been assisted by way of a harvester, but now they may come along and say "look the co-operative wants to own a tractor" so if it is a \$60,000 - \$70,000 tractor we can make some contribution towards that and they can get a further loan.

HON. P. CHAND.- No, my real intention of asking this was, as you said, that it continues. The subsidy that Government was giving to co-operatives to buy harvesters, I was involved in a co-operative because I have a very big farm in Seaqaqa. With 15 cane growers, we got together and we applied for it, but we were told that there is no more funds and likewise there are few other co-operatives, the machines are already there but none of those co-operatives were able to get anything because they said that the scheme had stopped, but you just mentioned that it is still on.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, the million dollars is still there. Please, write to the Permanent Secretary for Sugar and I am sure he will give you all the information. The funding is there.

HON. P. CHAND.- We did so, but we were simply told that ...

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Well there is another funding made available in this coming budget, so you might be lucky.

HON. P. CHAND.- ... those who had already purchased machines will not be able to get it perhaps.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Obviously, they were rich enough to be able to afford it.

HON. P. CHAND.- The others are not.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- But on a serious note, I am sure if they wrote in to the Permanent Secretary for the allocation made there, they could look at that. They may be able to defray some of the loan costs, but they should write to him.

HON. P. CHAND.- Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Parliament will now vote on Head No. 35. The question is that the amount of Head No. 35, Ministry of Sugar Industry be approved, does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those in agreements say "Aye" and those oppose say "No"

(Chorus of 'Ayes' and 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The 'Ayes' have it.

SECRETARY-GENERAL.- Head No. 36 – Ministry of Public Enterprises.

Head 36 – Ministry of Public Enterprises.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chairperson, on Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG – 6 on Biosecurity Authority of Fiji, there is also aid-in-kind amount there but the grant has decreased as compared to previous years from \$6 million to now \$4 million. Is there any particular reason for the increase?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- They have a bit of money, we told them to use some of that money, to a sum like \$24 million in their account so we told them to use a little bit of their money.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- (Inaudible)

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Their fees have been very prudent, they are running it very tightly.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. We move onto Programme 5-1, any comments?

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- Madam Chairperson, can I get clarification whether the Fiji Meat Industry Board is looked after through this Ministry because depending on the answer, I might have a motion.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- The Board actually is appointed through the Minister for Agriculture. The line Minister is the Minister for Agriculture but as you would know under the Public Enterprises Act from the governance perspective, they have a reporting mechanism, like

corporate plans, et cetera, it goes through the Ministry of Public Enterprises but in respect of the actual line Ministry, it is the Ministry of Agriculture. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Aseri Radrodro?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Programme 1-1 (10). The assistance that are given to Food Processors Fiji Limited – Capital Grant of \$227,170, and Copra Millers \$1.5 million. These are sort of new allocations for 2018-2019. Can we just get some details on this grant that are given to them?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, the new allocation to Food Processors is essentially to help them in respect of their processing plant through infrastructure upgrade and purchase of processing equipment.

In Copra Millers is the ongoing upgrade of the Copra Millers of Fiji Limited processing plant along with the company supply chain initiatives. It also supports growers by subsidising cost of replanting coconut trees and the purchase of the raw coconuts. So we want to keep these two companies, they are obviously doing well.

The Food Processors as you know, we have put out expressions of interest for persons to buy it but the infrastructure, the machine is actually quite old, not many people are interested. So essentially we are keeping it going, it would be good to actually get a good private sector partner in this where we divest shares in it. But the thing that is of value in Food Processors is the brand. The brand of the product it produces, that is of value. But in respect of infrastructure, in fact they want us to give it to them for 20 cents, you know I am figuratively speaking because this is not worth that much. The technology there is fairly archaic, food technology has moved on quite significantly.

But of course, Copra Millers is very important. We give them a capital grant and this is of course in Cakaudrove. Again we put in money to ensure that the processing plant is upgraded in Copra Millers and also to support the growers by subsidising the cost of replanting coconut trees because it is critical from a business perspective for CMFL that they do get the supply of coconuts. That is the issue.

Again, copra is something again where there is a bit of disinterest in it. Four or five decades ago it was a big industry. Of course, there was a down turn where the world market price dropped for it, there was a bit of down turn in the interest then in and therefore it has never really fully recovered. But this is the other industry that we have price stabilisation. There is a stabilisation fund in Head 50 which is given to Copra Millers of Fiji Limited to help the farmers with the purchase price.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Kiliraki?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- SEG 7, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 7.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- There is Consultancy Fees of \$2 million. Can we be highlighted on this fee?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, Madam Chairperson, as you know that we are carrying out some divestment of shares, for example, in EFL, also with the Public Private Partnership (PPP) that we are developing. We do get investment advisors, we do get financial advisors and generally they are not necessarily always available locally. So we need to be able to pay for those fees, for example, the PPP that we have for the private hospital, not the private hospital, but I should say the Public Private Partnership for Lautoka and Ba Hospitals. Part of the funding came from the Australian Government directly for the payment of the consultancy fees. We actually had to fork out some money for that too. So it is a partnership in that respect also for payment of consultancy fees and that is what it is for.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will move now to Programme 5-1, any comments?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chairperson, as highlighted earlier on that Government Printing as you know which is down in Vatuwaqa, we had called for expressions of interest and the successful bidder has been Fijian Holdings. We have already signed various documents and we hope to have the handover very soon in that respect.

Fijian Holdings will essentially will take over the assets and run that. We also hope to have a service agreement with them because various printing jobs of Government, as we have said to them, they do not automatically get it, they have to give us a good pricing for it. All these Bills that you read are all printed by Government Printing and if they give us a good pricing, we can also then assure them of a service contract because they can do the printing for us.

One of the conditions, of course, is that we want them to take printing to a new level and just to tell you the huge opportunities in the printing industry. Fiji, for example, the high level of tourism printing is actually cannot be done in Fiji. None of the printing presses in Fiji can actually do it. The level of resolution, et cetera, so all of it is done in particular in Australia, so they can actually do that. A lot of, what we call the raised embossed printing cannot be done in Fiji. They partnered with the Aitken Spence Printing Group from Shri Lanka. In fact they used to print the wine casks, they used to supply it to Australia, the cardboard printing, et cetera, there is an enormous potential for Fiji.

Croxley Exercise Books from New Zealand actually stopped printing because it is too expensive for them and they required millions and millions of these books. None of the printing press in Fiji actually have the capacity to do that, so we have said if they can invest. So one of the conditions is that, you just get the assets over the next three or four years, they actually have to invest in various printing machinery to be able to tap into the markets from Australia and New Zealand. So we are excited about this and that should come to fruition very soon.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will now look at the motion that Head 36 be increased by \$1 million in Programme 1-1 (10) with respect to Fiji Meat Industry Board. I did not see any Fiji Meat Industry Board.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- It is not here.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Therefore, this is invalid. Where is the Fiji Meat?

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- No, I am asking that this be increased so that an allocation, a capital grant be given to Fiji Meat Industry Board.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We are not into new projects, we are into increase, decrease or delete.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- No, I disagree.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- And this has been the case of our all ....

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- You are the boss, but I disagree.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I respect your disagreement.

We will now vote on the Head.

The Question is:

That the amount of Head 36 - Ministry of Public Enterprises be approved.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those in agreement say 'Ayes'.

(Chorus of 'Ayes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those who disagree say "No".

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The 'Ayes' have it.

Head 36, Ministry of Public Enterprises, agreed to.

#### Head 37 - Ministry of Local Government

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comment. Programme 1-1, do we have any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1-2, any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

HON. RATU S. MATANTOBUA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Programme 1-2 (6) on Navua Town Council. There is an allocation here of \$100,000. Last year, I asked the Honourable Minister during the 2017-2018 Budget about Navua Town and he promised and told me in this august House that the town will be declared in December last year. What is this allocation for? Navua has not been declared as a town, so my question to the Honourable Minister, why is there \$100,000 Operating Grant for Navua Town when it has not been declared a town?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chairperson, first of all, going back to the declaration of Navua that was supposed to happen in December, my good colleague knows very well the infrastructure over there was pathetic. There were no streetlights, no footpath, the roads were not sealed, drainage were not done and that was the reason, Madam Chairperson, that we have deferred the declaration.

Why this \$100,000 is here, is because we are proposing for the declaration and that is why this amount is here. If we decide to declare in November, then where are you going to get the money from?

Not only that, Madam Chairperson, we have already acquired a land next to the Provincial Building where we are working on or putting a civic building, et cetera, but in the meantime, we will have an interim committee who will look after the affairs of Navua. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Prem Singh.

HON. P. SINGH.- Madam Chairperson, I do not see any allocation for the review of the Local Government Act in the allocations.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You do not see any allocation there?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- That is, Madam Chairperson, with the Local Government Review and Special Administrator allocation which is \$500,000.

HON. P. SINGH.- Which SEG?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- SEG 7.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Matanitobua?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Madam Chairperson, I thank my good colleague, the Honourable Minister, I thank you but do not come and lie to this House last year. Do not blame the people, you blame the Government because the work was late and the people were waiting!

I thank you, my best colleague! Now, I know that this year Navua Town will be different.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- So, put this matter to rest, but what were you doing when you were the Minister?

(Laughter)

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.-The overall Government objective, Honourable Member from the Opposition should realise, let us not do things just for the sake of doing it so it can become a town. But you want, at least, the tarseal to run from the Police Station up to Garvey Park, it was not tarsealed. The drainage in Navua is terrible. We are trying to fix all that up. We need lights up to Garvey Park, at least, so that when you have night games, people can walk. What is the name of the park, I am sorry?

HON. MEMBERS.- Thomson Park.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- My apologies, I mixed Tavua with Navua, just “T” and the “N.”

But the point is that, we need to have footpaths to actually do become a town and that is the reason, so let us get the infrastructure up, there is funding in FRA also to fix up the roads and lighting, et cetera, and in that way then, when you know when you declare a town people actually do feel, “Look, this is a good town.” That is the point.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Thank you.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Like Nasinu.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Prem Singh?

HON. P. SINGH.- Madam Chairperson, the declaration of Nadi as a city, how far have you progressed?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chairperson, in regards to the process, it is almost all done. The boundary extension has been gazetted. That is why you will see this allocation, and there is a committee already set up in preparation for the declaration.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Matanitobua?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On Namaka market, the allocation of \$1 million, I had asked the same question last year, so any progress on that development?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- When was the last time you have been to Nadi? The building is almost done. This is just to pay the final payment. Namaka market is almost done, Honourable Member. Thank you.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Last week, I was in Nadi, I travelled through the back road ...

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- All right, make sure this time you go this way.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson: Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 6: Emergency Ambulance Service - National Fire Authority (\$1,641,455); can we just get a brief detail on this allocation, whether this is only for operations or also for staffing costs?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The breakdown are as follows:

- fuel and oil;
- GPS tracking;
- recharging of oxygen cylinders;
- uniforms; and
- salaries for paramedics;



These are all included in this. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Programme 1, Activity 2, is that it? On Programme 2, Activity 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Programme 2, Activity 1, SEG 10: New Town Development; there is also an increase, can we get an update on the details of this additional increase in the New Town Development SEGs. Does this include Navua Town?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Are you people serious or just having fun here?

Madam Chairperson, with regards to the breakdown for the New Town Development, this will cater for the start of civil works. For Nabouwalu, I know they might say that this thing has been coming up. But let me say that there were some issues in regards to the landowning unit and when we call for tenders and the Government Tender Board awards the tender to the successful bidder, he came up and said that I have wrongly quoted and he wanted to increase his price. So the Government Tender Board said, "No". That was declared null and void and then we had to recall the tender. So, now that is under process, and that is why I am without any hesitation and can say that the civil works for Nabouwalu will start.

The other location is for Keiyasi, Korovou and Seaqqa too, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The new townships that are going to be declared "Towns". We have learnt from all these towns and cities we have now, there are ongoing impromptu developments, especially along the roads. Why do we not have a Programme for town planning designs for all these places, so that we do not repeat the same mistakes, and we enhance the policy and living standards of our towns.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- ...question at this point, but were you are getting it from the Budget?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- No, I am looking at SEG 10: New Town Development: what does that entail?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- All right. You will recall that during my presentation, I have said that we have partnered with Singaporeans and the person who designed, who was involved in getting Singapore done, he will lead the team and they will be here on the 15th of this month. I must say that it is good for the country as a whole, not only for us as a Government, and this is where they will be involved. We need to have a plan so that you know where is the industrial area, commercial area, residential area - that is what you want to know.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Yes.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- *Vinaka.*

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ratu Matanitobua

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I thank the Honourable Minister. On the same note, SEG 10: is Vunidawa in your list?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Who?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Vunidawa.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Why?

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- Put that in the list.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- *Oilei!* No, not yet.

HON. RATU S. MATANITOBUA.- *Vinaka, vinaka.*

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any other comments? Thank you. Parliament will now vote on Head No. 37.

The question is:

That the amount for Head No. 37 - Ministry of Local Government, be approved.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

All those in favour, say "Aye".

(Chorus of 'Ayes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those not in favour, say "No".

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The 'Ayes' have it.

The motion is agreed to.

Head No. 37 - Ministry of Local Government, agreed to.

Head No. 40 - Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments. We are looking at Programme 1, Activity 1, any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 2, any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 3, any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Aseri Radrodro, which Programme, which Activity?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Activity 2 (\$2.3 million): Shipping Franchise Scheme, Madam Speaker; this has been the same amount that was set last year.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Thank you, Madam Chair, this is the subsidy that we give to our contracted vessel operators on the nine uneconomical route, that is 14 trips per month, so we have the same number of trips and same number of operators right now. That is why there is no increase. But if the vessel and the number of trips will increase then definitely, the figure will increase. Thank you.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- The classification in terms of the Sea Route Licensing (\$10,000)?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chairperson, this is similar to the route. The bus companies have licence for the routes. There is a Committee set up to see how we can have licence for this as well, because at the moment, there is no timetable and there is a real issue at our ports so that is allocated for that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 3?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Programme 1, Activity 2, SEG 9 - Transport Planning Software?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chairperson, this fund is to cater for the completion of Phase v 2 Household Travels Survey.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- For households?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- The first phase has been done so this allocation is for the second phase, thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 3?

Honourable Mikaele Leawere?

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Yes, Madam Chairperson, SEG 9 - Purchase of New Vessel; which new vessel is this? Madam Chairperson, can we have some clarification from the Honourable Minister? Thank you.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This fund is to cater for the design and the construction of a new vessel, so you remember this year we got a multi-purpose vessel, so Government has again ordered one more so this is for the design, consultancy and to start off the

construction. This is the amount that will be used in 12 months' time. That is why this is allocated. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- SEG 8 - Upgrade of Government Shipping Vessels (\$800,000); can we get some clarification on the details of these Government Shipping Vessels because we also have a maintenance on SEG 4. There is the upgrade and there is this maintenance.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This \$800,000 is to cater for the upgrading of Government Shipping Vessels to the acceptable operating standard, and within the required safety and regulations, so whatever the vessels that are retained by Government, this is where the funds will come from - for the maintenance and repairs. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programmes 3, Activity 2?

Honourable Mikaele Leawere?

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Madam Chairperson, SEG 8 - Repair and Upgrade of Public Buildings; can we have some elaboration from the Honourable Minister?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- On the Repair and Upgrade of Public Buildings?

HON. M.R. LEAWERE.- Yes, Sir.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Thank you. Madam Chairperson, the Repairs and Upgrading of Public Building is normally referred to as "special maintenance". This is an ongoing project for the Department and most of these projects require urgent attention, considering the humanitarian ground for our people who work in those buildings, for safety measures and also the extensive cost involved is left for too long, so we really want to do the maintenance of all these government buildings. We have got Divisional Offices; this is where the funds will come from, thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chairperson, SEG 2 in terms of Programme 3, Activity 2, there is no allocation given for SEG 1, only for SEG 2. Who does the supervision for this?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Where is that?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 2.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- So, who does the supervision for this?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- This is basically supervision where we have Divisional Engineers who oversee this, so we do not need a staff there. We have got a separate team within.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Does this include apprentices, does it include the engagement of apprentices?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Which SEG?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- SEG 2, the casual wages there, does it also include engagement of apprentices in terms of the operation and maintenance of buildings?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chairperson, I need to get that checked.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- This is to also clarify on the casual wages because some of these people are not necessarily there full time, some of them may work nine months in a year or eleven months in a year or some of them may work year to year. These are the casual wages, some may be working part-time as and when required, that is why it is casual.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 3.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 4?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 5?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 6?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 7?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 8?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Operations of Activity 8, Joinery, there is no allocation given for travel and communications, so can we get an explanation why there is no allocation for travel and communications?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- They do not travel, so there is no allocation.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- These are Joineries and Plumbers, they do not travel?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Yes, that is what I am saying. It is in house, they do not have to travel.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 9?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Salote Radrodoro.

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Madam Chairperson, if the Honourable Minister can just explain on Programme 3-9 (9) - Purchase of new generators for Nabouwalu Rural Government Station?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This fund is to cater for the purchase of four prime rated 350 wall generators. Three of these will be stationed in Nabouwalu. This is not just for the Government's station but 1,931 families will also take benefit out of these generators. The fourth one will be based in Suva in support of the other government stations, when one is 'kaput' this one can go. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 4, Activity 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 5-Activity 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on the 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 'Noes')

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chairperson, if I could please seek your indulgence, just in respect to what the Honourable Member had asked about the vessel when the Honourable Minister clarified, I think it is important for us to know that these new vessels that we are ordering will actually have the capacity to take on 124 people. It can also take six trucks because as you know during *TC Winston*, when the Home-CARE and various disasters, people were given access to hardware, one of the issues with the outer islands was the ability for the ships to take truckloads of hardware. So this ship that we are ordering can take six trucks, fully laden with goods. It can also take four-wheel drives, about eight units of that, it can take 200 cubic meters of freshwater, and cargo up to 200 tonnes. The range is 12 days and the speed is 15 knots.

So this is building capacity in ourselves because we actually spend a lot of money. Last time around we were not just giving out the hardware but actually carting the goods from here to the outer islands. This gives us the in-house capacity to be able to do that with the trucks laden with hardware. So I think it is important for us to know that.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- They used to have before the *Dui Yabaki* and all that – barge type, they go into the shore and they will unload the trucks.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- From what I know, you do need the actual jetties to have the trucks go off, but the fact of the matter is that, these trucks can actually drive on, trucks can drive off, and this is what you call 'roll on' and 'roll off.'

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- Inaudible.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Well, most of the places. We have problems even going to Taveuni and places like that because the ships were not available and the weight is not there for them to be able to carry it - the size of the boat. So this will actually give us a lot of capacity. In the same way, for example, this boat has just come, which the Honourable Prime Minister commissioned, has actually got a hospital on board. So this will really exponentially improve the quality of services we deliver to maritime islands, including Taveuni.

HON. RO T.V. KEP A.- It is a Government ferry that will do the Lau Islands as well?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Sorry?

HON. RO T.V. KEP A.- This would be a Government ferry?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Government-owned vessel.

HON. RO T.V. KEP A.- Yes, that would do the Lau Islands as well?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Well, wherever the need is.

HON. RO T.V. KEP A.- Just wondering if it will do the other islands, as well as Lomaiviti and Kadavu?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, I was using as an example to show where were the problem areas we had. For example, we had to take goods to Lomaiviti and there are problems because ships were not able to carry that amount of load, so now we can do that ourselves. We literally spent hundreds of thousands of dollars farming it out to other shipping companies.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The Parliament will now vote on Head No. 40.

The question is:

The amount of Head No. 40 – Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, be approved.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

All those in agreement say 'Aye'.

(Chorus of 'Ayes')

Disagreement say 'No'.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

The “Ayes” have it.

Head 40 – Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, agreed to.

Head No. 41 – Water Authority of Fiji

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for comments on the Water Authority - Programme 1, Activity 1.

(Chorus of `Noes`)

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Yes, Madam.

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- On SEG 10.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 10 you on to Programme 2, Activity 1?

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- Yes. So SEG 10, Rural Electrification Programme - \$15,000,000. My question here is, because this comes up in Village Council Meetings, *Tikina* and Provincial Meetings about the cross-bar that rots right there on the timber posts as it is on an alluvial delta soil. My question here is; is this allocation for the cross-bars as well? This would be in the Rewa Delta area and Tailevu South places like that. That is my question.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- I am a bit lost, Honourable Leader of the Opposition, we are talking about Water Authority of Fiji?

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- This is on SEG 10 – rural electrification grant.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Which is the capital grant?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 1?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes.

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- Are these for the repairs too of the posts that hold the power lines?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Water Authority of Fiji.

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- SEG 10.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Water Authority of Fiji - SEG 10.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Capital grant.

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- The question then, Madam Chairperson, is, I have been looking at Head 41 and Head 42, where does the Kinoya Sewage system come in? Kinoya - is it in Head 41 or Head 42?



HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Sewage? It comes on Water Authority of Fiji - Head 41. I recommend the Honourable Leader of the Opposition to this flyer here which has all the details. It has got all the details on water sources, water treatment plants and water distribution system. It also has a non-revenue water reduction waste water treatment plant, which is the sewage. It tells you where they will be setting this up. Also the wastewater distribution system, also, improve and upgrade and the relocation of existing water and waste water pipeline. It is a whole lot in respect of Water Authority of Fiji.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being no other comments, the Parliament will now vote. Honourable Dr. Mere T. Samisoni.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Sorry, Madam Chair, I would like to ask a question on Head 41, Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 6, Water Authority of Fiji. Madam Speaker, there is an increase in allocation of \$13.2 million for the Operating Grant - Water Authority of Fiji. Can the Honourable Minister provide details for the increase, please?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- This operating grant, Madam Chair, as opposed to the capital grant. The operating grant, there is an increase of about \$13 million. It relates to the salary adjustments, salary alignment, the promotion in salary adjustments and all of that. The FNPF and staff related costs, staff recruitments, meal allowance increases and also the fringe benefits and telecommunications, computer expenses, electricity supply, chemicals that they use is part of the operating grant that we give them, fuel and oil increase, repair and maintenance, wastewater treatment plant, which is about \$1 million, plant hire, various consultancy as required, staff uniforms, the VAT on the grants and all of that, Madam Chair is what the operating grant is for.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Thank you, Madam Chair. Can I seek clarification from the Honourable Minister as why this allocation for operating grant for Water Authority of Fiji is there under "R" because I would like to move a motion on it, please?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Sorry, why are you saying it is under "R"?

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Because it is under "R".

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Why is it under "R"? All grants for example, Tourism Fiji, they actually have to do their acquittals because these are large chunks of money, so when they finish their first quarter, they provide their acquittals and we give them the second quarter.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- All right, Madam Chair, my motion is to .....

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to fill the form?

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Yes, Madam Chair, my motion is to amend the allocation.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Would you like to fill the form, please?

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Yes, I have got it here.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Dulakiverata, you wanted to say something.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Chairperson, on Programme 1, Activity 1, Capital Grant - Water Authority of Fiji. I am looking at this flyer. The scheme is for rural water scheme for Tailevu. I see that these are individual small village schemes, but I cannot see the programme for the Namau Water Supply that was supposed to feed all these areas that come from Namau right to Kasavu and according the Honourable Minister this morning, the villages in Namara and Verata do not have water supply.

I see only two villages there, Naisaumua and Naivuruvuru, but all the other villages there which also do not have water. If you develop the Namau Project, all these will be covered, Madam Chairperson, so I request the Government to look into that - the regional water scheme from Namau in Tailevu to feed the whole of Tailevu North. It will go from there and it will also go down to QVS.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Madam Chair, it is a very major programme that you are talking about and that needs a proper planning. That is why you will see that there is an allocation for small villages in an interim period. The project that we are talking about, doing reservoirs and all those things, cannot happen even a year or in two years' time.

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- This scheme had been there while I was still with Government, it is Namau Project.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- But I am telling you what the FijiFirst Government is doing now. You have failed, forget about it. What I am saying is that there is a major plan for this area, I am telling you. That is why those two villages did not have water, we have allocated funds for them, but what you are saying for the entire area to have a major water system, that planning is under progress. Thank you.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- A similar issue to, like if you have water in Maro, Lomawai and all those areas, for them to make to be connected to the water reticulated system it requires about \$70 million to \$80 million outlay even at the outset. So, in the meantime we have to be able to supply water to these villages on a small scale but what the Honourable Minister has highlighted, that work will be done and it is in the planning allocations.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Samisoni.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Head 41, Programme 1, Activity 1, Water Authority of Fiji. Could the Honourable Minister responsible provide details of Capital Grants of \$246.5 million under this SEG to be more transparent?

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Honourable Attorney-General has just mentioned where he had given the breakdown for this Capital Grant for at least five minutes. I do not know what the Honourable Member was doing.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- I was not thinking of ....

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Well that is your problem.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Anyway, my question is for more transparency because it ties in with my debate note.

HON. P.B. KUMAR.- Well, just for the benefit of the Honourable Member, the Capital Grant will include the:

- Water Source and Water Treatment Plant;
- Water Distribution System Project;
- Integrated Meter Management;
- Non-Revenue Water Reduction Project;
- Water Catchment Management Programme,;
- Waste Water Treatment Plant – this is where Honourable Attorney General was referring to after the issues was raised by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, for your information;
- Rural Water Supply;
- Relocation of existing water and waste water pipeline;
- Emergency response;
- Electrical upgrading project;
- ICT; and
- Rain water harvesting system.

All in this capital project, thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Ro Kiliraki.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- SEG 10 - Capital Grant \$30,000. Can the Honourable Minister clarify whether Viria Water is in this grant? You are planning to do a pump in Viria.

HON. MEMBER.- If it is not there, it is not there.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Just from a planning perspective, I urge the Honourable Member that if he read the 5-year and 20-year Development Plan he would find that a number of the areas that he is talking about in the overall philosophy behind connectivity is all captured in the 5-year and 20-year Development Plan. What this Budget does is specifically gives the year on year expenditure for specific projects. But obviously there are certain people who want certain things done. They may be very far away from the current reticulated system but the reticulated system will get there or there will be stand-alone reticulated systems. That is what we are working towards. So, this is why I urge all Honourable Members, please read the Development Plan, it is captured there.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. There have been no other comment, we will now look at this motion. The motion by the Honourable Dr. Mere Samisoni is moving that the allocated sum in respect of Head 41, Programme 1, Activity 1, SEG 6 be controlled by the Ministry responsible for Water Authority of Fiji and not under “R”.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Currently that is not a motion.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON. –We are currently looking at their budget or the allocations, only to see if we want to increase, decrease or the non-movement, so this is invalid.

Thank you. Parliament will now vote on Head 41. The question is that the amount of Head 41- Water Authority of Fiji be approved. Does any Member oppose the motion?

All those in agreement say “Aye”

(Chorus of ‘Ayes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those who do not agree “No”

(Chorus of ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The ‘Ayes’ have it.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- In this same Head, the last paragraph.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Sorry, we have finished with that.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- “As part of the project, a new 40 megalitre treatment plant will be constructed in Viria.” We do not know what they are writing in the Estimate here, gone finish.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- You should read it.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- It is here.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes, read it.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- I am asking, Madam Chairperson, whether his seen the Estimate.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- It is there for you to read, you want us to spoon feed you?

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI.- It needs explanation from him as he does not know that it is in there.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- There are many things you people do not know, we pointed it out to tyou.

Head 41, Water Authority of Fiji, agreed to.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- We will move on.

Head 42- Ministry of Waterways and Environment

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments on Head 42.

(Chorus of ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1, Activity 1?

(Chorus of ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2, Activity 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 3, Activity 1?

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- Programme 3, Activity 1, SEG 8 – Construction of Naboro Landfill, if there can be some clarification on the construction.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Clarification of SEG 8. This is Ministry of Waterways and Environment.

HON. DR. M. REDDY.- Madam Chairperson, \$3.3 million is allocated to improve the waste management in the Central Division by constructing Stage 2, Cell 2 of the Naboro Landfill, which will provide the landfill space for the estimated lifespan two additional years.

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- ... will complete Stage 2?

HON. DR. M. REDDY.- This is to cater for the next additional two years. Stage 2, Cell 2. It is constructed in cells.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- SEG 6.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Wait! Just a minute please.

HON. RO T.V. KEP.A.- Madam Chairperson, SEG 7 - Community Beautification Programme (\$150,000). How does that operate, Honourable Minister?

HON. DR. M. REDDY.- Madam Chairperson, the intention of the Programme is to encourage community beautification approach. If you go to other countries like Samoa, Tonga, et cetera you will see how the villages along the road from the airport to town there are a lot of community work that is being undertaken. I think the intention here is to incentivise the communities, it may include flower beds, proper welcome signage, entry and exit points, removing of debris and landscaping, et cetera. It is a new initiative and the Department wants to pilot this particular Programme and roll it out nationwide.

(Honourable Member interjects)

HON. DR. M. REDDY.- It is not about copying, it is about learning.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Aseri Radrodro.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Madam Chairperson, on SEG 6 - Subsidy Naboro Landfill with an amount of \$1.2 million. Just a clarification and detail on this subsidy arrangement and whether a part of it has also been given to the landowners of the Naboro Landfill area?

HON. DR. M. REDDY.- Madam Chairperson, the subsidy is intended to assist the Central Division Municipal Councils in the disposal of waste at the Naboro Landfill. The Cabinet approved that the gate fee for the Naboro Landfill be increased from \$23 to \$41 VIP. So the Council

continued to pay the old gate fee but this is a subsidy intended to assist the Municipal Councils from 23 to 41.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being no comments, Parliament will now vote on Head 42. The question is that the amount on Head 42 – Ministry of Waterways and Environment be approved. Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of ‘Ayes’ and ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those in favour say ‘Aye’ and those not in favour, say ‘No’.

(Chorus of ‘Ayes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The ‘Ayes’ have it.

Head 42, Ministry of Waterways and Environment, agreed to.

Head 43 – Fiji Roads Authority

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments. Programme 1-1?

(Chorus of ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote on Head 43.

The Question is:

That the amount of Head 43 – Fiji Roads Authority, be approved.

Does any Member oppose?

(Chorus of ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- All those in favour say ‘Aye’ and those not in favour, say ‘No’.

(Chorus of ‘Ayes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The ‘Ayes’ have it.

Head 43 – Fiji Roads Authority agreed to.

Head 49 - Peacekeeping Missions

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for questions on Head 49 – Peacekeeping Missions. Any comments on Programme 1-1?

(Chorus of ‘Noes’)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1-2?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 1-3?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Programme 2-1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Parliament will now vote on Head - 49.

The Question is:

That the amount of Head 49 – Peacekeeping Missions, be approved.

Does any Member oppose?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being no opposition, the Head is approved.

Head 49, Peacekeeping Missions, agreed to.

Head 50 – Miscellaneous Services

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The floor is now open for any comments on Miscellaneous Services.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- No one. Any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- On SEG 1?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- On SEG 3?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- On SEG 5?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Viliame Gavoka?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

(Laughter)

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Yes, Madam Chairperson. SEG 5 on the Public Service Broadcast for Television and Radio because we scrutinized the report of the FBC and an issue that has come up is that they do a lot of work for the public which they value at about \$30 million, for which they are paid a fee of about \$11 million. The question is, how does the Government value the work done for Government by FBC? I mean their valuation is at \$30 million.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- Do you want an increase?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- I just want to make sure that they get a proper level of fee to enable them to deliver on what we expected of them.

HON. J.V. BAINIMARAMA.- So you want an increase?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- I just want an explanation on what formula Government uses in valuing the work that they do for Government because I believe they can do a lot, if properly-resourced. It is just that what they value and what Government agrees to pay them. Somewhere in between, I think we just need to know what the valuation model is, how do you value that?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chairperson, there is no doubt FBC from a purely commercial perspective, views the value of programmes they produce for Public Service Broadcast at about \$30 million. We do not intend to pay them \$30 million nor do we intend to even pay them \$20 million. The public funds are limited.

We see this as part of their social corporate responsibility but we do recognise the fact that they do produce a lot of programmes and do eat into the commercial time of some of the programmes that they do produce or do actually do for Government. We are, as you know with radio too, I am sure the Committee would have heard from them. If it was not for the Japanese Government's grant of improving the service in the AM Station and I urge the Members to go to the site in Naulu where they have the site, which is the state-of-the-art AM Facilities, so now we have FBC reaching right down to the southern parts of Lau, all the way up to Cikobia, Rotuma, et cetera.

The AM Station, as we know, travels better over water but the ability for them to generate advertisement to revenue through AM stations is actually quite limited, but we are hoping now obviously that they can. We have very tough negotiations between the Permanent Secretary for Economy, the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (FBC) CEO, to get the public enterprise they do negotiate on it, and I am glad that the Honourable Member does now recognise the value that FBC actually plays in terms of the dissemination of information.

I remember for a couple of years FBC was admonished and indeed Government was admonished for this grant being given to them, but there is no particular formula per se but we want to be able to talk to them. Their grant agreement is coming to an end, we signed, of course, a three-year agreement and this is the last of the grants under this contract that we will be giving to them, and obviously we will negotiate with them further.



MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 7, any comments?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Madam Chairperson, can we go back to SEG 5, Item 3.

HON. MEMBER.- No.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- I want to ask a question, there is one loss here, Madam Chairperson. There is a decrease in allocation: Head 50 SEG 5, Item (3) (\$3.6 million) from Item 3 in respect to Expenses of Experts and Consultants. Can the Honourable Minister provide details for the decrease?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Honourable Member, please, can you repeat your question? Which SEG are we looking at?

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Under Head 50, Miscellaneous Services, SEG 5, Item (3) Expenses of Experts and Consultants, to meet the cost of consultancy services?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Yes.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- There is a decrease in the allocation of \$3.6 million down for Item 3 in respect to Expenses of Experts and Consultants. Can the Honourable Minister provide details for the decrease considering there is a lot of movement there and also there is still a lot of work to be done?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, because we will not be requiring that many services. You would note that in the Ministry of Public Enterprise, we also have an allocation of \$2 million for works related directly to publicly-owned enterprises. This obviously is in respect of other general expenses that may be borrowed as far as consultancy is concerned.

We have obviously spoken to all the Ministries. We believe we do not require as much as \$6.1 million and this is why there is a decrease.

HON. DR. M.T. SAMISONI.- Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 7: Honourable Prem Singh?

HON. P. SINGH.- Madam Chairperson, SEG 7, Item 16, Crop Insurance Development, I believe this is for sugar and non-sugar crops, this is appropriated?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- No, this is not for sugar but for the Crop Insurance Development. As you know that we want to get Crop Insurance generally, what we call "Agricultural Insurance". This is, I suppose, to individual farmers; that is a separate one. This is for actual damage to your crops, and as you know under the Climate Change initiative through the COP 23 initiative, led by the Honourable Prime Minister, in particular the Minister for Agriculture (who is also a Climate Champion), we have actually been trying to push for what we call "getting parametric insurance" so essentially what it means is that, the crops in a particular farm are not individually valued but essentially we have assigned values to the crops. So if the flood comes in that area, the way parametric insurance works, you do not actually go and

individually assess the farms, we actually make a lump sum payment. For example, you may insure everyone in this area so that once their goods get damaged they will get payment, say \$3,000.

If you are in that red zone, you will get paid the \$3,000. This essentially is to try and get that developed and also in the event that we do get it and we are aiming for this to be in place, then we can pay premiums to those who cannot afford it, that was the general idea.

We had a similar allocation in the 2017-2018 Budget as you can see in that line there, 616 we had 350, there is no change and therefore we are getting 350 again. But we were not able to get that crop insurance product. World Bank is actually helping us to do that. In fact, there is a team currently this week or next week, they will be here to get some form of insurance products for farmers before November.

HON. P. SINGH.- Thank you.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 8, any comments?

HON. S.D. KARAVAKI.- SEG 7, Number 17, Madam Chairperson. That item has been transferred to the Fijian Elections Office and the Fiji Police Force. I can see, Madam Chairperson, that there was a \$10,000,000 in 2017-2018, what has been transferred appears to be about \$20,000,000 so it is under Head 9. It is clear from the transfer over here that it is not only the \$10,000,000, there has been an addition given to it, so you transferred the total amount there - \$20 million. The question that I would like to ask, Madam Chairperson: is that what the budget for the Election is going to be or there is going to be other donation obtained from other countries to be added to that?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Minister?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Chairperson, the Elections Office has an allocation of \$20,000,000 under the Independent Bodies. As you know that this \$10,000,000 here was actually put aside in Head 50 because we did not know whether the Elections would fall in the 2017-2018 Financial Year or the 2018-2019 Financial Year.

Similarly, with the \$2,000,000 allocation for the Police, in the previous budget we also had that allocation in Head 50 in the event should the Elections eventuate, that would have gone from Head 50. Now that we know for sure that the Elections will not fall in the 2017-2018 Budget year, will now fall in the 2018-2019 Budget year, the amounts have been moved from Head 50 to the respective agencies. Those respective agencies being the Fiji Police Force and the Elections Office.

The Fijian Elections Office had already been given some funding directly in the 2017-2018 Budget because as you know, Honourable Karavaki, that they have to prepare because there are certain things they had done already because they did not know whether the Elections would fall in 2017-2018 so their funding was already given to them in the Budget last year.

So this amount of money that no longer is shown in Head 50 has actually gone directly to the Elections Office, and that is enough money for them to conduct the Elections. We have already done many things so most of the funding that they have got now will be purely for operational expenses. They have got some grants, yes, you are right, the Indian Government, for example,

provides ink. I understand they are giving some more vehicles. They have all the computers, et cetera, that they need, they have already procured all that.

They also have some assistance that was given through the New Zealand Government in respect of the cardboard polling booths, they have that. In fact, the Deputy Supervisor of Elections is actually from New Zealand. The top-up salary of hers is paid for by the New Zealand Government, so they have got enough funding in there.

HON. S.D. KARAVAKI.- What is going to be the date of the Elections?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- That is the prerogative of the Honourable Prime Minister.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Any more comments on SEG 8?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 9?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- SEG 10?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

Parliament will now vote on Head No. 50.

The question is:

That the amount for Head No. 50 – Miscellaneous Services, be approved.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Ayes and 'Noes')

There being opposition, we will now vote on this motion.

Those in agreement, say 'Aye' and those that oppose, say 'No'.

(Chorus of 'Ayes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The 'Ayes' have it.

Head 50 – Miscellaneous agreed to.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members, as was explained at the outset, Heads 51 and 52 are Standing Appropriations, sometimes fall-below-the-line Appropriations. As was explained to you last year, Head 51 lists all the pensions that are payable. These are charges on the Government finances.

Head 52 are the charges on account of public debt. These numerous pages list all the information on interest and loans by the State, 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 2018-2019 Appropriation Bill 2018 (Bill No. 10 of 2018) as required by Standing Order 101. I advise 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?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The Schedule is, therefore, agreed to.

Schedule 1 agreed to.

#### Schedule 2

SECRETARY-GENERAL.- The Question is:

That Schedule 2 stands part of the Bill.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The Schedule is, therefore, agreed to.

Schedule 2 agreed to.

#### Clause 1

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The Question is:

That Clause 1 stands part of the Bill.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The Clause is, therefore, agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The question is:

That Clause 2 stands part of the Bill.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.-The Clause is therefore agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The Question is:

That Clause 3 stands part of the Bill.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- The Clause is therefore agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- That brings us to the end of the Committee of Supply. We have now concluded voting on Heads 18 to 50 as well as the Schedules and Clauses of the 2018-2019 Appropriation Bill 2018 (Bill No. 10 of 2018). Therefore, I will now resume the Speaker's Chair.

The House Resumed:

HON. SPEAKER.- Honourable Members, we will now suspend this proceedings for dinner and this is provided for in the Big Committee Room.

Parliament will resume at 7.45 p.m. Thank you, Honourable Members.

The Parliament adjourned at 6.43 p.m.

The Parliament resumed at 7.48 p.m.

HON. SPEAKER.- Thank you, Honourable Members.

Before I call on the Leader of the Government in Parliament, I remind Honourable Members that the Business Committee had agreed for additional Consequential Bills to be tabled this week.

I now call upon the Honourable Leader of the Government in Parliament to move his motion.

### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

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

That under Standing Order 6 that so much of Standing Order 34 is suspended so as to allow the Honourable Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Service and Communications to move his motion.

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

HON. SPEAKER.- I now call upon the Honourable Leader of the Government in Parliament to speak on his motion.

HON. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT.- Madam Speaker, again this is simply procedural and as agreed to by the Business Committee that we expect few more additional Consequential Bills to be tabled during the course of the week and thus this motion, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER.- The motion is before the House, I invite input for debate, if any?

HON. MEMBERS.- No.

There being none, I now call upon the Honourable Leader of the Government in Parliament to make some concluding remarks.

HON. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT.- Madam Speaker, I have nothing else to add, thank you.

Parliament will now vote.

Question put.

The Question is:

That under Standing Order 6 that so much of Standing Order 34 is suspended so as to allow the Honourable Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Service and Communications to move his motion.

(Chorus of 'Noes')

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- There being no opposition, the motion is agreed to unanimously.

Motion agreed to.

HON. SPEAKER.- I now call upon the Honourable Attorney-General, Minister for Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Service and Communication to move his first motion.

**2018-2019 CONSEQUENTIAL (BUDGET AMENDMENT) BILLS 2018**

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 51, I move that the following Bills be considered by Parliament without delay -

1. Public Hospitals and Dispensaries (Budget Amendment) Bill 2018;
  2. The Medical and Dental Practitioner (Budget Amendment) Bill 2018;
  3. Nursing (Budget Amendment) Bill 2018;
  4. Workmen's Compensation (Budget Amendment) Bill 2018; and
  5. Public Health (Budget Amendment) Bill 2018.
- (a) The Bills must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
  - (b) The Bills must not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committees of Parliament;
  - (c) The Bills must be debated and voted upon by Parliament immediately after the votes in the 2018-2019 Appropriation Bill 2018, together with the Consequential Bills for 2018-2019 Budget, tabled on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2018; and
  - (d) that the time for the debate for the Consequential Bills including Bills tabled today be limited to ensure that all such Bills are debated and voted upon during the sitting of Parliament.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Speaker, I beg to second the motion.

HON SPEAKER.- Now I call upon the Honourable Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Service and Communications to speak on his motion.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Thank you, Madam Speaker. This, essentially the tabling of these Bills which I have just highlighted, give effect to the Budget Address made on 28th June.

Firstly, Madam Speaker, as highlighted in respect to the:

1. Public Hospital and Dispensaries (Budget Amendment) Bill;
2. Medical and Dental Practitioner (Budget Amendment) Bill 2018; and
3. Nursing (Budget Amendment) Bill 2018.

Madam Speaker, intends to, as part and parcel of the Government's intention to upgrade Fiji's Hospital into World Class Health Care Facility, by partnering with the private sector. By partnering with the private sector, Madam Speaker, the Government is able to utilise the private sectors expertise, efficiencies, to improve the quality an increase so that the range of health services are available in Fiji. And in particular, more tertiary care, Madam Speaker, services including cardiac care and also oncology and treatment for cancer. With this public-private partnership, Madam Speaker, the Fijian people will have access to the services here in Fiji in the same way that they currently receive health care services at public hospitals in Fiji.

The proposed amendments, Madam Speaker, before Parliament clarify that even where a hospital or dispensary is operated, maintained, or managed by a private entity with public-private partnership, the hospital or dispensary is deemed to be and continues as a public hospital or a public dispensary. The hospital or a dispensary does not stop being a public hospital or public dispensary, simply because the hospital or dispensary is managed by a private entity through a public-private partnership.

The proposed amendments also streamline the application process for registration as a medical practitioner, dental practitioner, nurse, midwives, nurse practitioner or specialised nurse. These streamlined application processes will allow for the efficient registration or medical specialist and experienced medical professionals to be brought in under the public-private partnership arrangements, so that not only a tertiary care service is provided at our public hospitals, but these medical specialists and professionals are also able to help build the capacity for our Fijian medical professionals.

In respect to the Workmen's Compensation Repeal Bill 2018, Madam Speaker, the Workmen's Compensation Repeal Bill 2018, seeks to repeal the Workmen's Compensation Act 1964 and facilitate a comprehensive and effective transition to the No Fault Compensation Scheme under the Accident and Compensation Act 2017 for workplace-related accidents. And secondly, to allow for the extension of the No Fault Compensation Scheme under the Act to accidents occurring on any school premises.

The Workmen's Compensation Act 1964 as promulgated as Ordinance 17 of 1964 to provide for compensation to workmen for injury suffered in the cause of their employment, of course in those days they only had workmen, they did not take into account work women. In spite of the many amendments made since the Act's Promulgation, the basic structure of compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act 1964 still reflects the archaic fault based system of the era in which it is promulgated.

The framework set down in the Workmen's Compensation Act 1964 is elaborate and necessitates in practice a lengthy and time consuming process. For example, claims under Workmen's Compensation Act 1964 can often run for more than six years after the date of an accident before a decision on compensation is finally made. These cumbersome processes have the unfortunate effect of delaying and therefore denying justice, in many instances for accident victims.

The Workmen's Compensation Act 1964 also places unnecessarily restricted limitations on injured parties for accessing compensation. Injured parties under that Act are not entitled to compensation unless they are unable to attend work for three or more days after the accident. Therefore, injuries which may manifest at a slightly delayed stage or where the severity of such injuries manifest at a slightly delayed stage often unreasonably excluded.



Furthermore, liability for injuries or deaths, the Workmen's Compensation Act 1964 had placed primarily on the employer, but allowances also made in the Act to allow the reduction or offsetting of compensation amounts. This means that proceedings for compensation in genuine cases were often tied down by the adversarial system of finger pointing and blame shifting.

In other words, the employer could say, "it is the employees fault also". These circumstances which are deeply unfair to ordinary Fijians at the workplace are similar to the circumstances which compelled this Government to enact the Accident Compensation Act 2017 during last year's budget.

Last year, we introduced a Compensation Scheme for motor vehicle injuries that is fair and ensures that persons who are injured are compensated for the injuries without seeking to allocate contentious blame on any particular party.

And as we know that some of the Members of the Opposition were there for the first payout that was made under that, where a young boy who died after crossing in front of the bus and was hit by a vehicle. Under the old Act, he would not have received any compensation at all, because it would have been deemed to be his fault.

Our vision for the Accident Compensation Act 2017 at the time it was tabled was always to extend it to provide for other forms of compensation on a no fault basis. Given the success of motor vehicle third party injury compensation this past year, we are now prepared to extend this framework to compensation for workplace related accidents and accidents occurring on school premises.

Indeed, Madam Speaker, as stated earlier, this Bill facilitates the extension of the reach of the Accident Compensation Commission Fiji to cover school yard injuries so that the families of students hurt at school can benefit from a No Fault Payment Scheme. When children are injured in schools it takes a huge emotional and financial toll on their families without the added burden of costly and lengthy litigation to claim for the pain and suffering endured. Indeed in many cases, no claims are made.

This Bill seeks to, at the very least, ensure that families acquire much needed compensations as quickly as possible so that they are able to focus on recovery, if possible and move forward with their lives. This Scheme also will enable us to gather data on injuries occurring in schools in Fiji and to build a database and profile for schools which have high levels of injuries occurring on their premises.

Madam Speaker, in respect to the Public Health Budget (Amendment) Bill 2018, as announced in the 2018-2019 National Budget last week, we have moved Rural Local Authorities for the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to the Ministry of Local Government.

The Public Health Budget (Amendment) Bill 2018 seeks to amend the Public Health Act 1935 to reflect this move.

Madam Speaker under Section 10 of the Act, a local authority is defined as:

- In a town or city - the Town or City Council;
- In a rural district - the person or body appointed by the Minister for Health, otherwise known as the Rural Local Authority; and

- For any part of Fiji, not included in an urban or rural district, the Central Board of Health. In other words, mainly the maritime areas.

Madam Speaker, the Bill amends the Act to remove references to what is considered a Rural Local Authority. A local authority for the purpose of the Act would now be the town or city councils and the Central Board of Health for areas outside the town or city.

Accordingly, the Bill transfers functions of these Rural Local Authorities as well as the functions of the Board that are not directly related to health service, to Municipal Councils under the Local Government Act 1972. This will help streamline core functions of local authorities under these respective laws and contribute to the efficient provision of services to the public.

The Ministry of Health could simply continue to look after the health related areas and the other areas pertaining to what is generally looked after by municipal councils will fall under the Local Government Act. These are the introductory remarks, Madam Speaker, and their reasons and a bit of background for these Bills. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER.- The motion is now before the House and I invite input for a debate on this motion.

(There were no comments from the floor)

There being none, I now call on the Attorney-General to make concluding remarks, if he wishes.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Speaker, those are all the remarks that I would like to make, thank you.

HON. SPEAKER.- Thank you. Parliament will now vote.

Question put.

The Question is:

Pursuant to Standing Order 51 that the following Bills be considered by Parliament without delay:

1. Public Hospitals and Dispensaries (Budget Amendment) 2018;
  2. Medical and Dental Practitioner (Budget Amendment) Bill 2018;
  3. Nursing (Budget Amendment) Bill 2018;
  4. Workmen's Compensation (Budget Amendment) Bill 2018; and
  5. Public Health (Budget Amendment) Bill 2018.
- (b) The Bills must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
  - (c) The Bills must not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committees of Parliament;
  - (d) The Bills must be debated and voted upon by Parliament immediately after the votes in the 2018-2019 Appropriation Bill 2018, together with the Consequential Bills for 2018-2019 Budget, tabled on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2018; and

- (e) that the time for the debate for the Consequential Bills including Bills tabled today be limited to ensure that all such Bills are debated and voted upon during the sitting of Parliament.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

HON. SPEAKER.- There being no opposition, the motion is agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

We will go on the next Item in the Order Paper and I now call upon the Honourable Attorney-General, Minister of Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Services and Communications to move his second motion.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker pursuant to Standing Order 51, I move:

That the -

- (a) Fiji National University (Amendment) Bill 2018 and Fiji Teachers Registration (Amendment) Bill 2018, be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (b) Bills must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (c) Bills must not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committees of Parliament;
- (d) Bills must be debated and voted upon by Parliament immediately after the votes on the Consequential Bills for the 2018-2019 Budget tabled on 28th June, 2018 and earlier today or just a few minutes ago; and
- (e) That the time for the debate for the Bills be limited to ensure that the Bills are debated and voted upon during this sitting of Parliament.

HON. LT. COL. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Madam Speaker, I beg to second the motion.

HON. SPEAKER.- I now call upon the Honourable Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Public Enterprises, Civil Service and Communications to speak on his motion.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I would like to firstly speak on the Fiji National University (Amendment) 2018. The Fiji National University Act 2009, Madam Speaker, establishes the Fiji National University to serve the needs of the post-secondary education requirements for the Republic of Fiji.

The Act provides for the functions, powers, management and the administration of the university. The Council of the University, Madam Speaker, established under Section 7 of the Act is the governing body that exercises the powers conferred on the University by the Act.

The FNU (Amendment) Bill or Fiji National University (Amendment) Bill 2018 seeks to amend the Act in relation to the appointment and composition of the members of the council. Consultations on the Bill were held at the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Education and the Office of the Solicitor-General and also, Madam Speaker, with the University itself.

Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Section 12 of the Act, the members of the council consist of official members, appointed members, elected members and co-opted members. And the Act provides there are four official members, 14 appointed members, 8 elected members and 6 co-opted members, which totalled up to 32 members. The Bill seeks to amend the Act to reduce the number of members of the council from 32 to 26 for the purpose of efficiency and practicality in the operation of the council.

In comparison with the other two universities in Fiji, Madam Speaker, the Council of the University of the South Pacific consists of 31 to 43 members. And the Council of the University of Fiji consists of 25 members. In comparison to a country within a region, Madam Speaker, in New Zealand, the Education Act 1989 limits the members of the council of an institution to a total of 8 to 12 members. And in Australia, the council members of the university ranges from 10 to 21 members.

Currently, Madam Speaker, Section 14 of the Act empowers the Minister responsible for tertiary education to appoint 10 members from list of nominees submitted by the following institutions in consultation with the official members: Fiji Institute of Engineers, Fiji Institute of Valuers, Fiji Institute of Accountants, Fiji Hotel Association, Fiji Medical Association, Chamber of Commerce, Fiji Law Society, Fiji Institute of Applied Sciences, Fiji Principal's Association and Fiji Nurses and Midwives and Nurses Practitioners Board.

The Minister also appoints two members from the lists of nominees submitted by the National Employer bodies and two members from the list of nominees submitted by the National Employer bodies and two members from a list of nominees submitted by the Registered Trade Union Confederations. This particular provision requires the Honourable Minister to appoint members of the Council from a list of institutions and does not require the appointment of persons with adequate qualifications, skills, expertise and knowledge.

The Bill, Madam Speaker seeks to amend the Act to allow merit-based appointment of the members of the Council. The Bill will enable the Honourable Minister to appoint members, who in the opinion of the Honourable Minister had adequate qualifications, skills, expertise and knowledge to contribute to the Disciplines offered by the University and the general administration and financial management of our tertiary institutions.

Moreover, Madam Speaker, in relation to the elected members, the Bill amends the Act by introducing the demarcation of student representatives to the Council, to specifically state that one student will be elected to represent undergraduate students and one student will be elected to represent post-graduate students.

Under the Bill, there remains on the Council a representative or elected representative from the heads of the college of the University, University's fulltime professional staff and University's fulltime non-professional academic staff.

Madam Speaker, the Bill is being circulated and you will see the various changes in the clauses. That is the first Bill, essentially to bring about efficiency and essentially to ensure that the appointment of these people are not restricted by the organisation themselves, so we can actually have a better team of people that the Honourable Minister can appoint under this Bill, the amendments.

Madam Speaker, in respect of the Fiji Teachers Registration (Amendment) Bill, a similar philosophy runs through that too, as we have done, for example, with Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) where FNPF had two representatives from the employer organisations, two representatives from the employee organisations and two representatives from Government. And essentially, Madam Speaker, saw the calibre of people who came from these organisations were not necessarily the right calibre of people to make sound decision, in particular and in relation to sophisticated financial transactions. Of course, we have faced a similar situation in these organisations.

Madam Speaker, the Fiji Teachers Registration (Amendment) Bill 2018 is a very succinct piece of legislation which seeks to amend the Fiji Teachers Registration Act. By way of background, Madam Speaker, the Act establishes the Fiji Teachers Registration Board, and provides for its functions and powers in relation to the registration of teachers.

The Bill currently provides under Section 4 for Board membership and composition, and while the Honourable Minister is empowered to ultimately appoint all 14 members of the Board, he or she can only do so upon receipt of nominations from different prescribed groups under the Act.

The Board composition currently needs prescribed nominations from:

- two practising teachers and the Ministry of Education representatives by the Permanent Secretary for Education;
- two union member representations, each from the two prescribed teacher unions;
- two members from teacher training institutions;
- two practising teacher educators nominated from Higher Education Institutions;
- two from school management boards; and
- final two as parent representatives.

The Bill, Madam Speaker, seeks to amend such membership and composition by allowing for merit-based appointments of the members of the Board, and reducing the total number of members of the Board from 14 to 9, to allow for the purpose of efficiency and practicality in its operation under the Act.

Madam Speaker, when the Minister is to appoint these members, the Minister must take into account the adequate qualification skills and expertise to ensure:

1. The overall development of the teaching profession, education standards and administration and financial management of the board;
2. That the Board operates effectively and in a manner it is able to best achieve its functions under the Act.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER.- Thank you. The Bill is before the House for debate and I invite input, if any.

(There was no input on the Bill)

I, therefore, call on the Honourable Attorney General to speak in response.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- I would like to say, thank you, Madam Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER.- Thank you, Parliament will now vote.

The Question is that pursuant to Standing Order 51, that the -

- (a) Fiji National University (Amendment) Bill 2018 and Fiji Teachers Registration (Amendment) Bill 2018, be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (b) Bills must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (c) Bills must not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committee of Parliament;
- (d) Bills must be debated and voted upon by Parliament immediately after the vote on the Consequential Bills for the 2018 -2019 Budget tabled on 28th June, 2018 and earlier today; and
- (e) That the time for the debate of the Bills be limited to ensure that the Bills are debated and voted upon during this sitting of Parliament.

Does any Member oppose the motion?

(Chorus of 'Noes')

HON. SPEAKER.- There being no opposition, the motion is agreed to unanimously.

Motion agreed to.

Thank you very much, Honourable Members, thank you for your patience. I thank you for today's proceedings.

Parliament is now adjourned until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

The Parliament adjourned at 8.10 p.m.