

APPENDICES

Appendix One

Written Evidence by the iTaukei Trust Fund Board



PRESENTATION TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

WEDNESDAY 30TH JANUARY 2019

iTaukei Trust Fund Board and Governance as at 31st December 2017

- ▶ Consists of 8 members (2 females and 6 males).
- ▶ Chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Agriculture.
- ▶ 3 Sub-committees namely:
 - ▶ Investment and Finance;
 - ▶ Culture and Heritage; and
 - ▶ Governance and Human Resources

The Board has standards in place to ensure transparency, access to independent professional advice and code of conduct.



TTFB : Core Business

Question 1: Brief the Committee on the functions of the iTaukei Trust Fund Board.

To enhance,
enrich and promote the quality of life,
culture, leadership,
entrepreneurial knowledge and skills
of iTaukei and Rotumans.



Mission

To achieve Core Business.... TTFB

- ▶ To develop and facilitate initiatives that will improve the quality of life and enhance cultural traditions and values of iTaukei and Rotumans, through:
 - ▶ (a) Culture, heritage and language programs; and
 - ▶ (b) Leadership, management and entrepreneurship



Mandate

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ To fund activities and projects that enable the Fund to fulfil its legislated objectives.

Through PRUDENT INVESTMENTS

- ▶ To generate the rate of return that ensures the Fund is able to finance its legislative objectives and remain self sustaining.



Investments 2017 Annual Report

Notes 6 & 8 pages 35 - 38 of the Annual Report

Local Investments: Shares

Company	No of Shares	\$ Value	Income \$
▶ FHL (B class)	10,000,000	10,000,000	2,430,000
▶ ATH	5,000,000	9,300,000	300,000
▶ PGI	1,000,000	1,000,000	20,000
▶ RBG	4,000,000	17,120,000	640,000
▶ BCN	104,054	887,581	73,899



Investments (continued) Unit Trusts & Term Deposits

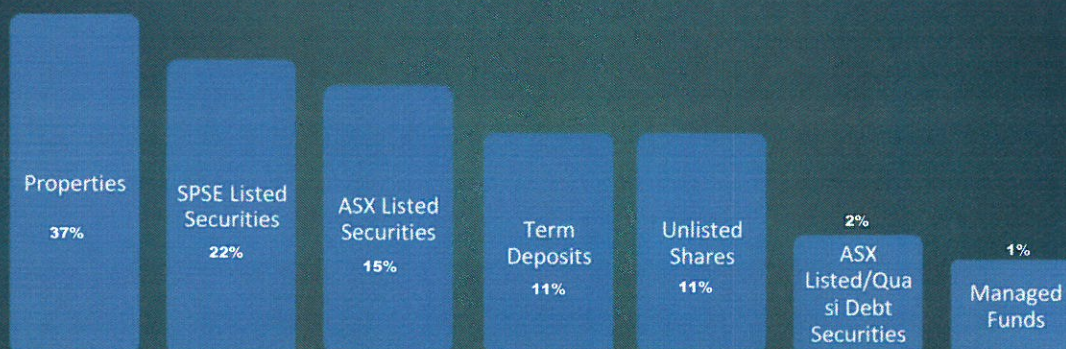
Notes 6, 7 & 8 pages 35 - 38 of the Annual Report

Unit Trust	Units	\$ Value	Income \$
▶ UTOF (In & Grw)	165,170	312,171	7,777
▶ UTOF (Income)	225,309	225,309	9,969
▶ FHUT	863,900	682,480	23,111

Term Deposits	\$ Amount	Term	Income \$
▶ Westpac	6,794,401	1 year	101,487
▶ BSP	3,197,820	1 year	81,642
▶ Credit Corp	685,781	1 year	25,919
▶ Merchant Finance	1,630,280	1 year	58,818



Investments Portfolio Composition



Investments Properties

Note 10 pages 39 & 40 of the annual report

- ▶ Draiba Complex at Draiba fully tenanted by Government
- ▶ Union Plaza: 7 shops fully tenanted
- ▶ Radisson Blu Resort, Denarau, owned all the Ancillary Business Areas
- ▶ 16 St Fort Street, Suva tenanted
- ▶ 21 Stewart Street, Suva tenanted
- ▶ 23 Stewart Street, Suva tenanted

Total value as at 31st December, 2017 : \$36,015,301.

Gross rental : \$2,985,694.



Investments Properties (continued)

Question 2: Pg. 9 of the AR Investments:

Update on the status of the Government lease rental review for the offices at the Draiba Complex.

Government is the tenant of the two buildings, North and South Wings at the Draiba Complex. The facts about tenancy agreement are:

1. The tenancy agreement for each of the building is for 20 years and commencing in 2009.
2. Rental \$24 per square feet plus \$2 per square feet for security and cleaning.
3. Rental Review every five years and first review in 2014.
4. Current Status: The Fund awaits on Ministry of Economy's decision for a rental increase.



Investments Properties (continued)

Note 11 on page 40 of the Annual Report

- ▶ Investment in the joint venture with MCIF \$405,799 – MCIF withdrew and had offered to sell its interest in the Venture. The Fund has acquired MCIF's interest in the Venture.
- ▶ For redevelopment: Commercial Development.



Mandated Objectives Language, Culture and Heritage

*Question 7: How successful is the android version of the iVolavosa App?
Please update us on whether the Apple version has been launched.*

- ▶ The iVolavosa App is monolingual so only those that are literate in Fijian language will be able to fully use the dictionary application. Users of the iVolavosa App are mostly teachers and students in secondary schools and universities.
- ▶ The apple version of the iVolavosa App is in use. To access the App, search for 'ivolavosa' in Apple Store and download.
- ▶ In terms of success, users that search for full explanation of terms, including pronunciation or words do find it useful. Positive feedback have been received via Ministry of Education, staff at the tertiary institute, and through Teacher's FB page.



Mandated Objectives Language & Culture Studies (continued)

Traditional Folklore

- ▶ Rekindle knowledge and meaning in traditional folklore and stories through comic books, with the aim to develop animations
- ▶ Print and distribute the 4 comic books: 'Teri kei Kalavo', 'O Ra Kasala', 'O Dimailagi', 'Drevulakata'

Literacy projects with teachers

- ▶ With International Development in Oceania Committee (IDOC), support the professional development of language teachers through workshops in literacy teaching skills and writing of information texts.



Mandated Objectives Language & Culture Studies (continued)

Drama

- ▶ Writing and Production of Drama text and DVD in the Fijian language for forms 4-7; supply of school texts and DVD

Publications

- ▶ Supply school texts and DVDs to Min. of Education as requested
- ▶ Publish books and distribute as requested by Min of iTaukei Affairs
- ▶ Publish books according to knowledge relevance and market demand



Mandated Objectives Leadership and Entrepreneurship

Traditional Leadership and Governance

- ▶ Develop, register and accredit the curriculum for 'Sauvaki ni Vanua' through Fiji Higher Education Commission to be offered at the CATD, Nadave for those earmarked for leadership titles in the 'vanua'

Active Citizens

- ▶ A social leadership program implemented in communities incl. 'vanua' for social action and entrepreneurship; In partnership with British Council



Question 3 –

Inform the Committee of the key challenges TTFB faces whilst trying to achieve its strategic objectives and how it is planning to overcome these challenges.

1. With the establishment of the tertiary education programs and support, heritage and curatorial knowledge and skills, community empowerment programs and volatility of Investment, TTFB will need to build Human Resources capacity within to measure up to achieving its objectives.

The above indicates scope to re-assess the following as part of the new Strategic Plan 2019-2023:

- ▶ Organisational capabilities / functions against growth;
- ▶ Training and development; and
- ▶ Succession plan for critical roles.



Question 3 – (Continued..)

Inform the Committee of the key challenges TTFB faces whilst trying to achieve its strategic objectives and how it is planning to overcome these challenges.

2. Investment opportunities available to meet TTFB legislative mandates:
 - ▶ The Fund to review its Act of 2004 and in particular provisions that restrict TTFB's investments and any other restrictive / and or broad ambiguous provisions.
3. Development of more local resources to enhance understanding of history and culture
 - ▶ TTFB to support iTaukei and Rotuma students for tertiary learning to address the shortage of specialist skills in the language and heritage areas, as well as for teaching and learning more broadly.



Question 4 –

How does the Fund ensure that both male and female employees are treated equally in recruitment, training, hiring and promotion?

Human Resources Policy:
***“Recruitment, training and promotion
 is based on open merit system.”***



Question 5 –

Does TTFB align itself to any of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

If so, can you further enlighten the Committee on this ?

TTFB programmes in language, culture and heritage are aligned to the TTFB Act mandates first and foremost which are not far removed from the SDGs.

- Literacy projects and Publications aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education where mentoring teachers through a literacy project to write relevant teaching resources and at the same time build capacity for teachers.

Secondly,

- TTFB supports the upskilling of teachers in the teaching of the Fijian language by paying for their tuition fees towards the Diploma in Pacific Vernacular – Fijian at USP.



Questions 5 – (Continued..)

Does TTFB align itself to any of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

If so, can you further enlighten the Committee on this?

- The Active Citizens program promotes social leadership through its two facilitation modules labelled 'Social Action' and 'Social Entrepreneurship'. This project aims to empower people to take ownership of their entrepreneurship initiatives and achieve sustainability in their projects and communities and is aligned with SDG 11.

*Where 'wellbeing' refers to contentment.



Question 6 –

Update the Committee on TTFB's future plans and initiatives.

1. Prudent Financial Sustainability

- i. Grow TTFB Investment Portfolio year on year
- ii. Review TTFB's Legislation

2. Language, Culture & Heritage

- i. Advocacy and engagement for culture and heritage with every level of iTaukei and Rotuman communities at Vanua, regional and national levels to support promotion and safeguarding of heritage sites and culture competency in relation to development for income generation.
- ii. Promote and safeguard language and culture to improve quality of life via research and relevant training / education programs.

3. Diversify TTFB Investment at manageable risk level.

4. Explore investment opportunities available within its mandated target group particularly those which are involved in developing their resources (land, minerals, forest etc).



Question 8 –

Highlight the investment plans of the Fund.

- ▶ Improving Value –to maintain and improve the value of the Fund's portfolio by creating a diversified portfolio comprising asset classes.
- ▶ Diversification – the Fund to ensure it holds a diversified portfolio.
- ▶ International exposure – total strategic asset allocation for Fund's international exposure subject to RBF regulation is a minimum of 10% at any rate it should not be more than 25%.
- ▶ Listed stocks - Fund to ensure greater part of its holdings in shares is listed on the local and overseas stock exchange.



Question 8 – (Continued..)
Highlight the investment plans of the Fund.

Share Equity/ Fixed Income

- ▶ A review of overseas investment is planned for this year.

Property Investment

- ▶ On the property investment, the Fund is intending to explore other income generating business that best suit the location and other business factors. For e.g. Development of newly acquired car park business at corner of St Fort and Stewart St.
- ▶ Draw up a 3 year asset/property management plan for all existing properties to ensure properties are maintained for continuous letting to tenants.
- ▶ Add on properties to the existing property portfolio when opportunity arises.



Vinaka Saka Vakalevu.



Appendix Two - Supplementary Response



7th March, 2019

Veivueti House
87 Queen Elizabeth Drive
Draiba.

P.O.Box 2327 Govt Bldg
Suva
Fiji.

Phone +679 3319637
Fax +679 3319638

Hon. Viam Pillay
Chairman
Standing Committee of Social Affairs
Parliament of Fiji
Constitution Avenue
Government Buildings
SUVA

Dear Sir

Re: Supplementary Questions – iTaukei Trust Fund Board 2017 Annual Report

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 27th February, 2019 in relation to our 2017 Annual Report. As requested, we have detailed here are our responses to your respective supplementary questions given.

1. In order to fulfil its objectives, what has the Board planned in order that the staff are empowered through organizational capabilities and training?

Plans for staff to be trained in postgraduate programmes and also in professional short courses focusing on expert knowledge and certain skill sets:

- a) Postgraduate studies programmes in the Arts (art curation), heritage management, exhibitions and performance, conservation, research and documentation, digital art applications in cultural centre, management and human resources
- b) Active Citizens (under British Council) and TTFB for social leadership and social cohesion skills, training in social action and social entrepreneurship in the communities (vanua)
- c) INTERSECT exchange and mentorship under British Council and TTFB to enhance staff expertise and knowledge in arts development (started with theatre arts – acting and directing productions)
- d) Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation under the Project management Institute (PMI)
- e) Workshops offered at the National Museum and by stakeholders on training such as Cultural Heritage Protection, Marketing, Disaster Preparedness.

2. In terms of enhancing historical and cultural knowledge, how has TTFB addressed the shortages of specialized skills in language and heritage?

- a. TTFB offered full postgraduate scholarships for studies in Linguistics and Anthropology in the early 2000's.

- b. TTFB is currently offering scholarships to practicing teachers of the Ministry of Education and staff of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs to undertake the Diploma in Pacific Vernacular – Fijian Studies.
- c. TTFB is also supporting the Fijian Studies Program at USP paying for the salaries of the three-teaching staff of the program.
- d. TTFB has also been part of the course review, course description and course writing teams for Fijian at USP and at FNU. TTFB is also a member of the Fijian Studies Advisory Committee for USP.
- e. TTFB ran, based on request, a week-long workshop for lecturers, tutors and teaching assistants of Fijian from tertiary institutions, namely USP, FNU, University of Fiji and Corpus Christi.
- f. TTFB works with the Ministry of Education and supported by 'Australian Literacy Educators Association', 'NZ Literacy Educators Association' and similar and smaller groups in Samoa, Tonga, Niue, Cook Islands, to deliver the literacy 'Information text Awareness Project' for teachers, send teachers for professional development in literacy to NZ and Australia. The projects focus on enhancing literacy teaching skills and skills in writing information texts.
- g. TTFB hired a consultant, Fergus Clunie from Australia, to undertake the research on ring ditch fortification in Fiji.

3. What programmes are in place to promote cultural art and craft in formal curriculum, villages and informal settlements?

- a. Through the Active Citizens programme, TTFB has been promoting cultural art and craft starting with Kanakana and Serua villages. Other communities will be identified through the current training in Active Citizens.
- b. Through the Fieldwork programme and Active Citizens programme, TTFB has been promoting and facilitating cultural art in the form of the 'bakalou' (fish trap) in Waiqanake, tikina makawa o Suva, turtle harvesting in particular the teaching and learning of the special net used in Naivilaca in Noco, Rewa. There are further plans to promote other traditional and cultural art forms in the vanua o Rewa, like the 'buinigone' in fish harvest in tikina o Sawau, 'kai ni wai lailai' in tikina o Toga, traditional links embedded in traditional architecture in tikina o Rewa, 'ibe ni Vutia' in tikina o Vutia. This Fieldwork programs will be extended to other tikina and yasana in partnership with Ministry of iTaukei Affairs.
- c. TTFB plans to support the Fiji Arts Council in training arts practitioners the teaching skills to enable them to teach in schools

4. Are there any programs in place for the public wishing to learn the iTaukei language eg. Alliance de Francaise, Suva?

- a. TTFB plans to develop EDU KIT programmes for the learning of Fijian language, ceremonies, and cultural expressions, for example meke and related art work, for the public as well as for the diasporic communities.
- b. TTFB has offered its services when needed on workshops in Language, language teaching, editing, translation, writing, and drama teaching skills for teachers

5. What plans are in place for the establishment of tertiary education programs in support of heritage and curatorial knowledge?

There is potential for the following:

- a. support the Pacific Studies program at USP by providing scholarships to students especially staff in the culture agencies interested in the new heritage management and cultural knowledge studies
- b. establishing a FHEC registered TTFB tertiary training programme to run alongside the proposed TTFB Cultural Centre, the institution will focus on the knowledge and skills in language, culture and heritage studies including curatorial knowledge as most of these are not offered locally

6. Has a proposal been prepared and submitted to the line Minister for the review of the Trustee Act 1966?

Not yet. However, TTFB intends to review its 2004 Act in Financial Year 2019 / 2020.

7. Has the Board made any progress in creating investments with some of its mandated target groups further to those mentioned in your submission, in particular, those involved in resources development such as, land, mineral and forests.

Not yet but hope to do so in future.

Yours sincerely,



Aisake Taito
Acting CEO

Appendix Three - Verbatim Report

STANDING COMMITTEE
ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

[Verbatim Report of Meeting]

HELD IN THE

COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST WING)

ON

WEDNESDAY, 30TH JANUARY, 2019

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD IN THE BIG COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST WING), PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, ON WEDNESDAY 30TH JANUARY, 2019 AT 1.30 P.M.

Interviewee/Submittee: iTaukei Trust Fund Board

In Attendance:

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Mr. Aisake Taito | - | Acting Chief Executive Officer |
| 2. | Mr. Mosese Seavula | - | Investment Officer |
-

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, welcome once again to our meeting this afternoon. Also, I would like to welcome the Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Team from the iTaukei Trust Fund Board, welcome, Sir.

We look forward to today's meeting and we also look forward to your presentation on the iTaukei Trust Fund Board, 2017 Annual Report. The time is yours, Sir.

MR. A. TAITO.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members of the Committee on Social Affairs. My presentation this afternoon is basically in terms of the 2017 Annual Report. I will try and make it very succinct, to the point, given that I have just started two weeks ago.

The first slide basically talks about the Board and Governance. There are eight members appointed by the Minister of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs. The composition of the members is around two females and six males. It is Chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Agriculture to ensure that the Board receives full information in terms of issues to be discussed. They have set up three boards, sub-committees, which are in front of you.

(Indicating from slides)

Basically, the Board also has standards where they can access independence, professional advice in terms of investments and they also have a Code of Conduct.

I will try and do this presentation to answer the questions that have been raised by the Sub-Committee in terms of what is the core business of iTaukei Trust Fund? The core business is to enhance, enrich and promote the quality of life which is Culture, Leadership and Entrepreneurial Knowledge and Skills of iTaukei and Rotumans. That is really the core business of the Trust Fund so, to achieve that, our Mission is to develop and facilitate some of the initiatives that will improve the quality of life and hence traditions and values of iTaukei and Rotumans, mainly through two programmes: one is in terms of Culture, Heritage and Language; and the other one is in terms of Leadership, Management and Entrepreneurship.

Our mandate is very clear and very simple: To fund activities and projects; to ensure that the Funds fulfil some of its legislative objectives.

To do that, we have to invest our assets prudently and basically to ensure that we receive a reasonable rate of return within a manageable risk profile to ensure that we finance what is our core as legislated in the 2004 Trust Act, and also to ensure that we remain self-sustaining. These are some of the local investments that are in the Annual Report from Pages 35 to 38, in terms of the major investments

that we have such as Fijian Holdings, ATH, we also invest in RB Patel, also BSP through convertible notes and Pacific Green as well.

These are some of our investments in terms of managed funds mainly in two categories: one with the Unit Trust where we have two separate income stream; one is in term of income and growth; and the other one is in terms of income; and the Fijian Holdings and the Unit Trust as well.

We have a term deposit that we have deposited into various bank of financial institutions in Fiji. Those are the income that we receive in that particular year.

This is a snapshot in terms of the investment compositions that we have in our portfolio. Our portfolio is dominated by properties where we have about 37 percent of it. Those that are listed in the stock exchange - about 22 percent, 15 percent enlisted on the Australian stock exchange apart from the other investments which comprise our investment portfolio.

The next slide is in terms of the investment properties. These are some of our properties valued at that time in 2017 which was around \$36 million. We received around \$3 million in terms of gross rental and all our properties are fully-tendered, especially the Draiba Complex which is being tendered by Government.

The next slide is in terms of the questions that have been raised by Honourable Members: What has happened to the status of Government lease, rental review of the Office in Draiba?

I have presented to you, Honourable Members, the facts in terms of our Tenancy Agreement that - 20-year Agreement which commenced in 2009. The rental is around 24 square feet, the rental review under that Agreement is five years. First review was in 2014 and we are still waiting for the Ministry of Economy's decision on our request for a rental increase.

The 2019 is due for another review of that rental, so that is something we are discussing with the Ministry of Economy on our request for the rental increase.

In terms of that part of the Annual Report is in terms of Page 40 where we had a joint venture with the Methodist Church of Fiji, however, that project did not eventuate as planned, so the Methodist Church withdrew their interest in that venture, and the Fund has acquired the interest of the Methodist Church in Fiji in that venture.

What is our principle aim in terms of that site of property? We are looking at redeveloping that piece of land.

The other slide is in terms of the other question that was raised how successfully is the android version of *i Vola Vosa* apps.

The *i Vola Vosa apps* is monolingual. So, only those that are literal in Fijian or iTaukei language will be able to fully use the dictionary applications. Uses of these Apps are mostly the teachers, students in secondary schools, and also those who do research in universities. So, the Apple versions of the Apps is in use to access that. You can go into the *Vola Vosa* Apps Store and you can download that.

In terms of the second part of the question, the success of this Apps? Users that search in terms of using these Apps find it very useful. We have received positive feedback from the Ministry of Education and all the staff from tertiary universities and through the teachers' Facebook page in terms of how useful is the Apps to them especially for those teachers who specialise in teaching iTaukei language.

The second slide is in terms of some of the activities, the languages and cultural studies at the Fund. One, is in terms of rekindling some of the knowledge, meaning in traditional tales, stories using comic books and the future is to develop animations out of that.

There are lists of books that the Trust is ready to produce and that is available in the Ministry, that is available in the Ministry. The iTaukei Trust Fund is also very active in terms of literacy project through teachers with the Ministry of Education and also in terms of our partnership with New Zealand and Australia, in terms of teaching skills and writing of information texts.

The next slide is in terms of dramas. We also produce that in Fijian language and that is available from Forms 4 to 7 and some of the publications are listed there which are available at the Ministry of Education. We also publish books and distribute if the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs requests.

The next slide is in terms of some of the mandates - leadership and entrepreneurship. We are also involved in terms of developing and also register and accredit their curriculum in terms of Sauvaki ni Vanua, which is usually the Fiji High Education Commission (FHEC). We are able to create that and offer that at the Centre for Appropriate Technology Development (CATD) in Nadave and that is earmarked for leadership and training for those in the *Vanua*.

In terms of our Social Leadership Programme, we are in partnership with the British Council in terms of social excellence. Some of the entrepreneurship that has been carried out in some of the province mainly to deal with social leadership and inclusion.

One of the questions being raised by the Members: What are some of the key challenges that the Fund faces while trying to achieve its objectives and how it is going to plan to overcome this challenge?

I think one other challenge that we face is in the establishment of tertiary education programme and support and also heritage and curatorial knowledge and skills and the volatility of our investment where we park our money. This, in our view, requires reassessments in terms of our human resource capability to measure up to those challenges.

At the moment, there are only seven staff in this Trust Fund, a holding of around \$120 million and moving forward, one other things apart from building capacity in the Fund is in terms of training, development and also putting in place succession planning to ensure that key roles are being filled rather than being vacated.

The second challenge is in terms of investment opportunities, that is, to meet TTFB legislative mandates. We are keen to review the Act of 2004, especially in terms of the provisions of some of the Acts which ties in to the Trustees Act of 1948 which was revisited in 1966. Most of our investments are tied in that, which means it restricts the Fund from investing into two main line investments. One is in terms of, to any companies that has not provided any dividends in the last five years. Obviously, for instance, the IPO which is a public offering of vision group which is just 2017, we are not able to do that because the vision group has not provided dividends for the last five years. Secondly, under the Act the Trust is not able to invest in companies that have negative social impacts in terms of the society and the family. These are products like alcohol and beverages, cigarettes, gambling, et cetera. So those are some of the restrictions in terms of the Act which restricted the Fund from going to those investments.

Thirdly, in terms of development of low resources so they have a better understanding in terms of history and culture. In this way, our objective is to support *iTaukei* and Rotumans for tertiary learning, to address some of the shortage of specialised skills in language and heritage areas. These are very specialised areas and we do not have many in Fiji.

The next slide is in terms of Question 4: How does the Fund ensure that both male and female employees are treated equally in recruitment training, hiring and promotion? It is through our Human Resource Policy and it is very clear that recruitment, training and promotion is based on the Open Merit Recruitment System.

The next slide is in terms of the question: How do you align the TTFB in terms of the SDGs? There are a few that we can list them down, as follows:

1. Literarily project and publication which is aligned to SDG 4 - Quality of Education where we mentor teachers through our literacy project to write relevant teaching resources and at the same time, building capacity for teachers.
2. We also support in terms of upskilling teachers in the teaching of Fijian language by paying for their tuition fees towards the Diploma in Pacific Vernacular which is taught at USP.
3. In terms of our Active Citizens Programme where we promote social leadership through two of our activities namely; Social Excellence and Social Entrepreneurship. All ideas to empower people to take ownership in terms of their entrepreneurship initiatives and achieve sustainability in their projects which is aligned to SDG 11.

The next slide is in terms of the Committee wanting an update in terms of the TTFB's future plans and initiatives and there are four, as follows:

1. Prudent Financial Stability and that is divided in two; that we need to grow our investment portfolio on a year by basis for at least 5 percent.
2. Language, Culture and Heritage where we:
 - (i) increase our advocacy, engagement of culture and heritage with every level of *iTaukei* and Rotuman Communities at *Vanua* level and also at regional and national level to support the promotion and safeguard of our heritage sites and culture competency in relation to development for income generation projects; and
 - (ii) promote and safeguard language and culture to improve quality of life through our research and relevant training programmes that we currently have at the Trust.
3. Diversify our investments so that we do not put all our eggs in one basket and also that we can manage our risk at a manageable level.
4. Explore investment opportunities that are available in terms of our mandated target group, particularly those who are involved in developing their resources, especially land, mineral, forest, et cetera.

The next slide, the last question raised by the Committee is in terms of the Investment Plan for the Fund. I will highlight some of the areas that we will be focusing on.

1. In terms of improving our value so that we can create our diversified portfolio which comprises of our assets within the risk that we need to manage;
2. We continue to diversify our investments; and

3. To ensure that we manage our international exposure.

At the moment it is around 15 percent which are merely investors in the Australian Stock Exchange, mainly in the areas of equities and debt notes.

The last slide is in terms of share of our equity and fixed income. We are planning to review our overseas investments this year. We are also looking in terms of managing our property investments well, so that they can generate enough returns that allow us to fund some of our legislative mandate.

We are also looking in terms of drawing up our asset or property management plan to ensure that we upkeep our properties to the level that will ensure that we attract our tenants to occupy our premises.

Lastly, we are also looking at in terms of expanding our property portfolio to look at other properties that are available in the market so that we continue this issue of diversifying our investment portfolio.

Honourable Chairman and Honourable Members of the Committee, that ends our short presentation on the 2017 Annual Report. *Vinaka*.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you, Acting CEO. Thank you very much for the presentation and also providing answers to the questions that were sent. We have been having presentations from from iTaukei Trust Fund Board from previous years also. We know you are doing very well and I must thank you for the presentation. Honourable Members, it is time for further questions. Honourable Madam Salote Radrodro?

HON. S.V. RADRODRO.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Taito and your team for your presentation. You come out very strongly in terms of your various investment portfolios and you had mentioned that you are holding \$120 million. My question is on your mandated objectives (b) “to provide funding to help develop the management, leadership and entrepreneurial skills of indigenous *itaukei* and Rotumans.”

I bring this up because I also attended Natural Resources Committee last year as a Member and one of the issues that was brought out by the indigenous resources owners was the need for training. There was a need for training and there was no training available to them in regards to, at least, making them aware of the usage of their resources, the laws, the legislation and how can they be helped in regards to better their return from the use of their natural resources.

We went and had a look at low-value mineral extractions and this include gravel, et cetera. So, I do not intend to hear how the mandated objective (b) and with that kind of funding that Trust Fund holds, it does not translate. How the Board does ensures that that translates into the human aspect of your investment?

I hear investment into various portfolios but if you can enlighten us on what kind of investment is done to the *itaukei*, particularly the resource owners and those at village level in terms of helping them better their lives with the use of their own resources in terms of training, they even need assistance in terms of reading the law to be able to engage. For example, in the Nawailevu Bauxite mining, there was this issue that they were really not well versed with the legislation. So how does the iTaukei Trust Fund ensure that these communities or these resources owners are assisted?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you, Honourable Member.

MR. A. TAITO.- Thank you, Honourable Member. I think it is a very valid point. We do take that into account. I will be frank in answering that question, very little has been done in terms of that. That is the reason why in Question No. 6 - what are some of the future plans and initiatives of the Fund? Basically, to address that leadership and management in terms of our prudent financial skills and knowledge, and we will be looking at that in terms of involving those in the natural resource zone, for instance, like mineral, et cetera.

Probably, I can update the Honourable Members in the next financial year in terms of what we are going to do this year to ensure that we address the questions being raised by the Honourable Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you. So, you already have plans to address those issues in this financial year? That is the message I get.

MR. A. TAITO.- Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you. Honourable Dr. Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu?.

HON.- DR. RATU A.R. LALABALAVU.- Just one question with regards to traditional leadership in governance. In the last line there, development register and accredit the curriculum for *Sauvaki ni Vanua* through Fiji Higher Education Commission to be offered at the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development (CATD) Nadave for those earmarked for leadership titles in the *vanua*. Elaborate on those who are earmarked for leadership titles.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you, Honourable Member.

MR. A. TAITO.- Thank you, Honourable Member. In terms of the question, I will answer that question in two categories. One is in terms of the list. We only fund that *Sauvaki ni Vanua* and also provide the curriculum but the list is provided by the Ministry of *iTaukei* Affairs on those that need it to participate in that training. I think we have already done training for Ba last year and I think there is a list that has been prepared by them which we have not received. That is going to be on the training this year and this will cover the whole 14 provinces. I think the leadership you are talking about is in terms of *Turaga-ni-Koro* and those. It is not the leadership in terms of leadership for *yasana*. I think that is where the training is undertaken at the moment and those *Turaga-ni-Koro* and those that are potential to be in leadership at the *vanua* level.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you. Honourable Nagata. Anything from Navosa? Training has been already done for Ba. Ba is alright.

HON. A. NAGATA.- I am looking at your statement of financial position. The current assets, those rental debtors, do you get to collect those debts in the new financial year? Page 34.

MR. A. TAITO.- Yes, we do collect them. We have a policy where it is 60 days. That is probably the maximum in terms of the debt, some that are in there, those that occupy the building and have left the country and we are trying to determine where they are. Unfortunately, it is that when that occurs, we are not able, at that time there was no stop departure at the airport so they were able to travel overseas. So we are still trying to locate them, wherever they are but we have not been successful.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you. Honourable Salote Radrodoro, any further questions?

Thank you very much Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the presentation and all the questions and the clarifications that you have provided. The ones that were sent before and also the ones

that have been raised here. Honourable Salote has raised an important point and I believe you already have a way forward on your plans, what will be done in this financial year, but should we need any further clarification then our Secretariat will be in touch with you and maybe you can provide that information via email. Sir, thank you very much and thank you very much for your time. *Vinaka!*

Honourable Members we will resume at 2.50 p.m. Thank you.

The Committee adjourned at 2.05 p.m.