



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, LAW AND
HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Review of the Public Service Commission Annual Report
2014**



**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
Parliamentary Paper No. 77 of 2019**

*May, 2019
Published and Printed by the Department of Legislature, Parliament House, SUVA*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAIR'S FOREWORD	3
1.0 INTRODUCTION	4
2.0 COMMITTEE DELIBERATION AND FINDINGS	4
3.0 GENDER ANALYSIS	5
4.0 RECOMMENDATION	5
5.0 CONCLUSION	5

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights of the last term of Parliament was referred the *Public Service Commission Annual Report 2014*. The same report had been re-instated in this new Parliament and has been referred to the current Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights. Just as the previous Committee, the current Committee was mandated by Parliament to review this report and report back to Parliament on its findings.

The Committee took note of and deliberated on the previous Committee's concise work deliberation on the Annual Report. This Report will reiterate the tremendous work done by the previous Committee in highlighting issues from the Public Service Commission report and the discussions held by the Committee with the Office, on these. It was noted that the issues highlighted by the previous Committee were adequately clarified.

Furthermore, it should also be noted that there has been a restructure of the Public Service Commission. Consideration was also given to the requirements of the Standing Orders of Parliament pertaining to the impact on gender when deliberating on the Annual Reports, however the Committee appreciated the apparent gap in placing emphasis on such requirements when the Reports were drafted and tabled in Parliament.

At this juncture I would like to acknowledge the Members of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights of the last term of Parliament for their effort and input, which our Committee also relied on during the review process and in the compilation of this report. My Committee utilised the salient information noted from the previous Committee to assist it in the direction for its review.

I would also like to thank the Honourable Members of the current Standing Committee Justice, Law and Human Rights, Hon. Rohit Sharma (the Deputy Chairperson), Hon. Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua, Dr. Salik Govind and Hon. Mosese Bulitavu for their deliberations and input, the alternate members who made themselves available when the substantive members could not attend, the secretariat staff of the Committee and the officials from the Public Service Commission who had assisted in the Committee work.

I, on behalf of the Committee, through the Committee's Report commend the *Public Service Commission Annual Report 2014* to the Parliament and request all the members of this August House to take into consideration the contents of the Committee's report.



Hon. Alvick Avhikrit Maharaj
Chairperson

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights of the last term of Parliament was referred the *Public Service Commission Annual Report 2014*. The same report had been re-instated in this new Parliament and has been referred to the current Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights. At the time of the initial referral, the Public Service Commission had been de-established and there was a restructure of the Commission. The previous Committee consulted the Ministry of Civil Service (“the Ministry”) who appeared before the Committee and clarified various issues.

The current Committee reviewed the deliberation of the previous Committee where it invited the Ministry of Civil Service to make a submission and also to answer questions related to the Report.

This review will reiterate the findings and deliberation by the previous Committee.

The Public Service Commission Annual Report 2014

The Public Service Commission Annual Report 2014 covers information on types and quality of work carried out by the Public Service Commission (“the PSC”). The Report also covers other significant activities and initiatives carried out by the PSC including the restructure of the Agency as part of its implementation of the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji (2013) (“the Constitution”) and the contributions to the overall reform programme of Government.

2.0 COMMITTEE DELIBERATION AND FINDINGS

As part of its review the current Committee reviewed the deliberation on the Report and issues identified. It was noted that these issues were then brought to the attention of the newly formed Ministry of Civil Service (“the Ministry”) for clarification. Some of the main issues and queries noted were;

- the policy for the Training and Workforce Development Division;
- the policy for the Office Accommodation and Government Housing Division;
- the monitoring of recovery of student loans under the Student Loans Recovery Unit;
- the effectiveness of the Fiji Volunteer Services (FVS);
- the aspects of the Public Service Group Investment Scheme; and
- certain discrepancies in the Financial Statement of the Report.

It was noted that from this discussion, the previous Committee was of the view that some of the identified issues have somewhat become redundant as there were changes and improvements implemented by the Government and the Ministry of Civil Service.

Changes include reviewing of the training and workforce development policies and transferring of functions under certain PSC Units/Divisions to other Ministries, such as the then Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations.

The current Committee was satisfied with the clarification provided by the Ministry of Civil Service. Copies of the submission documents can be obtained from the Parliament website: www.parliament.gov.fj.

3.0 GENDER ANALYSIS

The Committee took into account the provisions of SO 110(2) which states when a committee conducts an activity listed in clause (1), the Committee shall ensure that full consideration will be given to the principle of gender equality so as to ensure all matters are considered with regard to the impact and benefit on both men and women equally.

The current Committee noted that there was a lack of disaggregated data on gender during the consultation with the Ministry of Civil Service. However, the Committee appreciated the apparent gap in placing emphasis on such requirements when the Reports were drafted and tabled in Parliament.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

After reviewing the *Public Service Commission Annual Report 2014*, the Committee has no contentious matters to bring to the attention of the House. The Committee recommends that the House take note of its Report.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights has fulfilled its mandate approved by Parliament, which is to examine and review the *Public Service Commission Annual Report 2014* with due diligence.

The Committee's review findings showed no contentious matters and this was reflected in its recommendation.

The Committee through this Report commends the *Public Service Commission Annual Report 2014* to the Parliament.

SIGNATURES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS



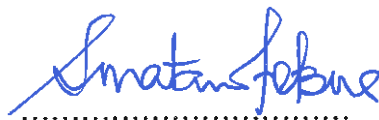
.....

Hon. Alvick Maharaj
(Chairperson)



.....

Hon. Rohit Sharma
(Deputy Chairperson)

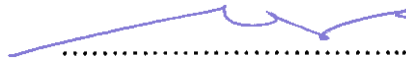


.....

Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua
(Member)

.....

Hon. Dr. Salik Govind
(Member)



.....

Hon. Mosese Bulitavu
(Member)

9/05/19
.....

(Date)