



FIJI CORRECTIONS SERVICE
FBEU Building, 62 Gordon Street
(Corner of Kimberly & Gordon Street)
P.O. Box 114, Suva, Fiji
www.corrections.org.fj
Tel: (+679) 3303 512 Fax: (+679) 3302 523



23 July 2019

C/AC 8/61

Hon. Alvick Avhikrit Maharaj
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights
Parliament of Fiji
Suva

Dear Sir

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON ISSUES ON THE FIJI CORRECTIONS SERVICE
1 AUG 2016 – 31 JULY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

1. Kindly submitted are the Fiji Corrections Service response to questions on issues raised on Fiji Corrections Service 1 Aug 2016 – 31 July 2017 Annual Report.
2. Should there be any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Salesia Racaca on mobile no: 9905954 or email salesia.racaca@corrections.go.fj.
3. Respectfully submitted.

Yours sincerely


F.B. KEAN
Commander
Commissioner

RESPONSE TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

1. With regards to the recidivism rate and the efforts put in place to address this issue; the Committee seeks clarification on the following. It was noted that the national targeted goal for the rate of recidivism by the FCS for the period 2016-2017 was pegged at 4% however from the statistics provided in the Annual Report, it was noted that there has been an actual increase of 7.27% in the rate of recidivism.

- a. What are some of the contributing factors to this and how has FCS addressed the issue following the period reported in the Annual Report?

Contributing Factors

- i. Unemployment
- ii. No family support
- iii. No support from the Community
- iv. Total rejection from Community/ Society due to stigma of ex-convict
- v. Parents separation

FCS addresses the issue

- i. Job training and job placement for prisoners
- ii. Introduction of rehabilitation programs that inmates have to go through whilst under FCS custody.
- iii. Recruiting of Specialist such as Psychologist and Counsellors

- b. Are there specific offences, which are noted by the FCS that offenders are prone to recommit?
- i. Theft
 - ii. Burglary/ Theft

Most of these offenders are unemployed. They resort to theft as their main source of survival. When they commit the offence (e.g Theft), as a result they are incarcerated. Upon release, they refer back to the same offence (Theft) or even severe offences (Theft/ Burglary) as a result of stigma associated with imprisonment.

2. With regards to the ratio of corrections officer per inmate, the Committee seeks clarification on the following;

- a. It was noted in the Annual Report that there was a high number of staff engaged or employed by the FCS; what is the current number of staff employed by the FCS?

FCS employed an average of 760 staff with an approved staff establishment of 963. The 760 staff provides services for an average of 2,100 prisoners.

The 760 staff include 188 who falls under the National Headquarters Division who are employed in the Corporate Service Unit, Accounts, Logistics and Transportation Engineering Unit and the Emergency Control/K 9 Unit. There is another 55 support staff working in the Divisional Headquarters.

This brings the number of staff directly working in institutions to 517. Out of this number, only 325 staff that is distributed into three shifts within a 24 hour period performs custodial duties or directly works with prisoners daily. The other 192 staff works in supporting areas like logistics, administration, medical and rehabilitation services in the institutions.

b. Additionally, is the number of staff adequate for the total number of inmates incarcerated by the FCS or is there an imbalance in the ratio of officer per inmate?

The approved standard ration is 1 officer x 4 inmates and if we are to work out the ratio between staff who directly works with prisoners and the current number of prisoners incarcerated then the figures will be around 1:18 or 1 staff to 18 prisoners at any given time.

The transition of services from punitive containment to corrective rehabilitation significantly increased the demand of staff across the ranks and areas of services. New positions like those of Care Givers are created to ensure that appropriate services are given to elderly prisoners and those who are medically unable to look after themselves. The requirement of Corrective services widens our focus and efforts beyond the prison walls and into the communities.

3. With regards to the budget of the FCS and its implications on infrastructure; the Committee seeks clarification on a few infrastructure development projects by the FCS, specifically with reference to page 37 of the Annual Report concerning the projects listed in no.7 and no.10. For background reference on the above, the project listed in no.7 is specified in the Annual Report as being completed, however, there is no mention on the actual contract cost.

Project listed in no. 7 are the same as no.6 (Maintenance of Staff Quarters) hence it has broken down into two (6 & 7) since two different tenders were called. The funding was from the 2016 (January to July) financial period and also 2016 – 2017 (August to July) financial periods respectively.

Attached is the GTB approval number WSC 132/2017 break down for No 7 as per annual report.

Project	Cost	Contractor
COMMANDANT QTRS	\$56,000.00	A.NAIDU BUILDING WORKS
OC MEDIUM	\$50,000.00	A.NAIDU BUILDING WORKS
OC PRC	\$49,000.00	A.NAIDU BUILDING WORKS
Door Hardware – PC SUM	\$5000.00	A.NAIDU BUILDING WORKS
TOTAL COST	\$160,000.00	A.NAIDU BUILDING WORKS

Project	Cost	Contractor
OC TPT	\$68,885.75	CLASSIC BUILDERS (FIJI) LTD
Brick Duplex	\$42,785.75	CLASSIC BUILDERS (FIJI) LTD
Qtrs. 448 Ltk	\$28,885.85	A.NAIDU BUILDING WORKS
Transport Shed Naboro	\$30,885.75	CLASSIC BUILDERS (FIJI) LTD
Door Hardware – PC SUM	\$5000.00	CLASSIC BUILDERS (FIJI) LTD
TOTAL COST	176,443.10	CLASSIC BUILDERS (FIJI) LTD

And for the project listed in no.10, it is noted that the funds appropriated or set aside for the project was not utilized.

Project listed in no. 10,

The funding for this project was not utilized because the tender was called during the financial period however it was not awarded due to the bid price being very high compared with the budget allocation. Attached is TEC committee invitation and bid price (\$655,900.00) submitted by Bidder (Multi works). Consultants were not engaged for this project as well.

Later on consultant were engaged (attached is the GTB approval, Vetting of agreement memorandum from SG's Office and signed Agreement) to design and prepare tender documents thereafter tenders were called in 2017-2018 financial year.

4. Why has there been a reduction in the TMA revenue by 32% in 2016-2017 compared to 2015 total sales?

This reduction depends on the customer preferences in all SBUs. The contributing factor is the change in financial year from 31 December to 31 July periods.

In 2015, the financial period was from 1 Jan15 to 31 Dec 15 which accounted for 12 months Sales whereas the year 2016/2017 accounted only sales for the 6 months from 1 Jan 16 to 31 July 2016. The next financial year was then ended to 12 months thereafter, 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017.

All the revenue remitted to the Ministry of Economy and how has FCS benefitted in return of investment?

This Return of Investment (ROI) mainly allows the TMA to provide employment and business minded opportunities for inmates working in the SBUs. It will assist and help them develop their skills and ideas in running a business upon their discharge. They also receive funds from the daily hours monitored by timesheets at various SUBs which are paid also during their discharge.

5. A sum of \$100,000.00 was allocated for the poverty alleviation, 60 inmates were targeted in accordance to the ACP 2016/2017 with 11 being assisted. How was the allocation per recipient utilized?
Can there be a breakdown of how much each of the eleven recipients received?

PAP ASSISTANCE FOR 2016 - 2017

SRL	Date of Payment	Payment ID	Amount	Details
1	19/09/2016	643119	\$ 1,125.00	Diploma In Divinity Fees-G.Rodan
2	27/02/2017	643593	\$ 600.00	Partal Fees For Bukakeirewa
3	03/03/2017	10739	\$ 990.56	Pap Assitnc - Jekope Vukivou
4	11/04/2017	643719	\$ 2,999.89	Pap Asst-Jraitamata(Ex Offen
5	19/04/2017	643744	\$ 1,836.05	Pap_Olivia Smith
6	01/05/2017	11000	\$ 994.93	Pap_Josese Caginiwalala
7	03/05/2017	643796	\$ 300.00	Pap Jekope Vukivou
8	19/05/2017	11127	\$ 913.70	Pap_Seru Dolorua
9	13/07/2017	11460	\$ 1,063.14	Pap Viliame Samuelevu
10	13/07/2017	11460	\$ 1,063.14	Pap Iliesa Moimoi
11	13/07/2017	11460	\$ 1,063.14	Pap Samuel Brown
TOTAL			\$ 12,949.55	

6. A sum of \$200,000.00 was allocated to the Yellow Ribbon Project and the FCS achieved 100% of the ACP 2016/2017 with 53 extra awareness conducted in the year. This budget year and 2017/2018, 2018/2019 the allocation remains the same. Is the allocation sufficient to cater for the increasing awareness?

The Annual target for YRP awareness was 250 and FCS achieved 293 awarenesses. The extra 43 awareness programmes were conducted simultaneously with other Correction Centers programme. Some of these were during normal Visiting Hours on Saturdays, family consultations and Institutional Sentence Planning Board within the Correction Centers, preaching in Churches etc.

Therefore extra 43 awareness programmes were conducted without the utilization of any monetary resources, thus the \$200,000.00 is sufficient to cater for this in house programmes.

7. With regards to General Administration, a sum of \$7.1M was budgeted for 14 projects for the year. However, it was noted that there was an increase of 17 projects implemented amounting to \$10.2M.

Can there be a clarification on why was there an increase in the number and how was these extra projects funded?

There was no increase in the 12 Project items under SEG 8 and 2 Project items under SEG 9 but very important to note the number of Project Breakdown for 2016/2017.

The total budget for the 12 Projects items tabulated below are from SEG8 in the 2016/2017 budget amounted to \$9,775,700 as stated in the Annual Report 2016/2017. All these projects are all funded from the Capital Construction vote in SEG 8 of the Budget 2016-2017

#	PROJECTS ITEMS IN 2016/2017 BUDGET	Project Breakdown	BUDGET
1	Construction of Lautoka Remand Center	- Lautoka Segregation, logistics Office and Stores, - Kitchen and Dining - SWD office, 1x6 staff quarters and training block	\$4,020,000
2	Construction of new Women's Correction facility (Lautoka)	- Administration building - OC Quarters 520 - Security fence (internal/external)	\$1,350,000
3	Maintenance of Staff Quarters	- OC Pre-Release Qtrs 48 - OC Medium Qtrs 46 - COMDT Qtrs 45 - Transport Shed Naboro - Brick Duplex Suva Qtrs 25 A&B - Timber Duplex Suva Qtrs 20 A&B - Lautoka Quarters 448	\$500,000
4	Construction of K9 Dog Unit	- Earthworks - Lautoka K9 Unit facilities – office, accommodation and kernel	\$474,000
5	Repair and Maintenance of Institutional Infrastructure	- Naboro road upgrading and maintenance	\$500,000 (not utilized)
6	Construction of Transport Shed	- Nasinu CC, - Ba CC and - Lautoka CC	\$100,000
7	Cyclone Rehabilitation – Ba CC	- Ba CC Kitchen, Dining and Laundry	\$791,700
8	Institutional Boundary Fence	- Nasinu CC boundary fence	\$470,000
9	Civil Works	- Medium CC Landslide	\$20,000
10	Upgrade and Maintenance of Institutional Buildings	- Medium CC	\$1,000,000
11	Electrical Upgrading	- Suva HQ, Suva CC and Staff Compound	\$150,000
12	Up grading – Telecommunications and CCTV Cameras Network	-	\$400,000