



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

3 December, 2019

Hon. Alvick Avihikrit Maharaj
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Justice, Law & Human Rights
Parliament of Republic of Fiji
P O Box 2352
Government Buildings
Suva

Dear Hon. Assistant Minister,

Re: Clarifications on issues noted on the Office of the Prime Minister Annual Reports 2016 (Jan – July), 2016 – 2017 and 2017 - 2018

We kindly refer to the letter from the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji on the above mentioned subject dated 1 October, 2019.

Attached to this letter are the responses from the Office of the Prime Minister pertaining to the queries in the Annual Reports 2016 (Jan – July), 2016 – 2017 and 2017 – 2018.

Yours Sincerely,

Preeza Ali (Ms.)
for Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 – 2017

1.0 Question:

In reference to page 11 of the AR 2016-2017; clarification is sought on whether Government Ministry Annual Reports are tabled in Cabinet?

Response:

Yes, it was tabled on 27 August 2019. Cabinet Decision number 222 of 2019.

2.0 Question:

In reference to page 24 of the AR 2016-2017; specifically in regards to the Rotuma Subvention Fund; classification is sought on the specifics of utilisation of the \$108,000.00 for small development projects.

Response:

A total of nine (9) projects were funded including freight cost totalling \$95,183.33. This is 88% utilisation at the end of the 2016-2017 financial year. The nine (9) projects have all been completed and handed over to the community.

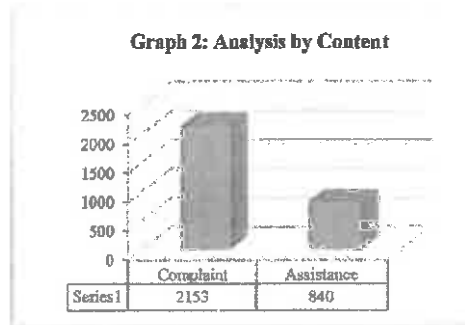
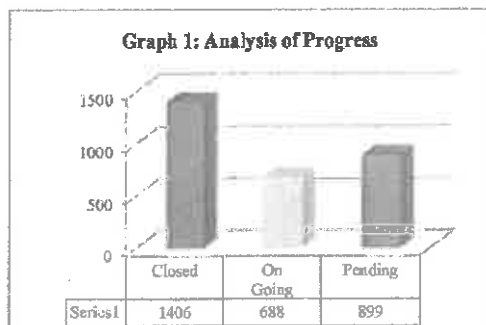
Details is as follows:

No	Name of Project	Cost
1	Sewing machines for Itumuta Women's Group	\$1,750.00
2	Water tanks for Itumuta Community	\$6,634.80
3	Electric coconut scrapper for REMCOL	\$5,940.00
4	Coconut press with 3 extra pot	\$14,196.00
5	2m*1m*900mm s/s table 304g-R	\$2,728.00
6	3m*1m*900mm s/s table 304g-R	\$3,528.00
7	Water tanks for Malhaha Community	\$17,770.00
8	Water tanks for Tuakoi Community	\$6,632.00
9	Water tanks for Rotuma	\$10,617.34
10	Freight charges and other Administrative costs	\$25,387.19
	Total	\$95,183.33

3.0 Question:

In reference to page 25 of the AR 2016-2017, specifically in regards to the Clients Unit and its role in client complaint investigation; clarification is sought on the total number of complaints that were addressed (i.e. something done about it) by the OPM?

Response:



In the 2016/2017 financial year a total of 2993 issues were reported to the CSU. The graph 1 shows that of the 2993 issues, 28% of the issues were requests for assistance while the remaining 72% were actual complaints. The graph 2 shows that as at July 31st 2017, 47% of the cases received have been resolved and closed, 30% are open and pending feedback from various ministries and agencies and 23% are on-going as officers' work with various parties and stakeholders to resolve.

4.0 Question:

Additionally, it is noted that there is a disaggregated data on the relevant line ministries that have purview of a particular complaint issue (refer to page 25). What efforts have been taken by the OPM to address such issues?

Response:

The Complaints Team has attended to all the 2993 complaints raised to OPM against agencies across government in the following approach;

- i. Assessing of Complaints and identification of issues;
- ii. Referral is made to relevant line agencies for action and feedback on progress with 14days;
- iii. Stakeholder meeting is arranged to address complex issues;
- iv. Site Visitation is made with relevant ministry for validation and resolution;
- v. An issue identified is aligned to current policy guideline for compliance purpose as OPM respects other agencies regulatory process.

The approach taken above enabled OPM to attend and close 1406 cases, 688 cases were in progress to closure status while 899 cases were pending. The pending cases were associated with legal context and other agencies regulatory process.

5.0 Question:

In reference to page 22: are there any mechanisms in place to monitor and evaluate the projects funded via the OPM Small Grant Schemes?

Response:

The SGS funded projects are monitored regularly by the project officers to ensure that they are undertaken and completed accordingly. In undertaking this exercise, we worked closely with the Divisional Commissioners, Provincial Administrators, District Officers, community leaders, contractors and relevant government agencies.

Listed below are the three ways of monitoring & evaluating SGS projects:

i. Quarterly Site Visit by OPM Staff

The OPM normally sent three teams for site inspection of SGS projects in the Northern, Western and Central Divisions on quarterly basis. Site inspection is conducted on all projects funded. During the site inspection, officers also meet with the recipients to get their feedback on the project. Details on the status of the projects are noted and a report is compile and table in the division's meetings. Responsible officers keep track of the on-going projects to ensure that they are completed. For projects in the Eastern Division, we normally rely on the District Officers and *Turaga ni Koro* to monitor and update the OPM.

ii. Site Inspection by Monitoring Agencies

The OPM constructed projects are monitored in phases by the respective monitoring agencies (MITDMMS and Min of Economy). Reports on the status of projects with photographs are sent to the OPM after every site inspection. These inspections are undertaken at every phase of the projects.

iii. Monitoring by Provincial Administrators and District Officers

The OPM also monitor and evaluate the SGS projects through the assistance of the Provincial Administrators and District Officers. They keep us updated on the status of the projects, challenges and always assist in solving complex issues that will affect the completion of projects. Regular reports are often submitted with photographs to the OPM.

**GENERAL QUESTIONS: ANNUAL REPORT 2016 (Jan – July); 2016 – 2017 and
2017-2018**

1.0 Question:

What is (and if there are any) the role of the OPM in overseeing and monitoring of the 5year -20year NDP and the SDGs?

Response:

- i. The monitoring of the NDP and SDG is currently undertaken by the Ministry of Economy, as it houses the focal points for both the NDP and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is also practical as it is the agency responsible for Government budget and finance.
- ii. The OPM maintains its oversight role to Government development plans and SDG through interventions and contribution to Policy vetting's, Policy reviews, National Committees and Sector assistance programs. In addition, the Office of the Prime Minister ensures that the aspiration of the NDP is included in bilateral discussions and overseas engagements of the Hon Prime Minister. Given government's many competing priorities, a number of initiatives in the NDP can be sourced through bilateral development cooperation in order to expedite implementation.
- iii. The OPM is planning to strengthen oversight of the National Development Plan. We are currently expanding our Policy Division with enhance capacity to allow provision of annual, sectoral progress updates on NDP deliverables. This will be done in coordination with the Ministry of Economy, in terms of budget utilization, project planning and implementation timelines.