



---

## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

### **Review of the Ministry of Youth and Sports 2017 - 2018 Annual Report**



**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI**  
**Parliamentary Paper No. 23 of 2020**

*September 2020*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.....3

CHAIRPERSON’S FOREWORD..... 4

LIST OF ACRONYMS .....5

RECOMMENDATION .....6

BACKGROUND.....6

ABOUT THE MINISTRY .....6-7

ISSUES RAISED.....7

Need to Increase Enrolment at the Five Youth Training Centres in Fiji .....7

    Recommendations .....7

Partially Completed Capital Works at the Naleba, Naqere and Yavitu Youth Training Centres...8

    Recommendation.....8

Boat Master’s Training.....8-9

    Recommendation.....9

MINISTRY’S OVERALL PERFORMANCE.....10

COMMITTEE MEMBERS’ SIGNATURE .....11

APPENDICES

    Published Written Evidence .....12

# COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP



## **Chairperson**

Hon. Viam Pillay MP  
Government Member

---



## **Deputy Chairperson**

Hon. George Vegnathan MP  
Government Member

---



## **Member**

Hon. Alipate Nagata MP  
Government Member

---



## **Member**

Hon. Salote Radrodoro MP  
Opposition Member

---



## **Member**

Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu MP  
Opposition Member

---

## CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the report of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs on the Review of the Ministry of Youth and Sports 2017- 2018 Annual Report.

This review was undertaken in accordance with Standing Order 109(2)(b) which mandates it to look into issues related to health, education, social services, labour, culture and media. The review looked at nine key areas covering the period from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018, conducted into: The Ministry's administration; structure; budgetary allocation; programmes and activities; policies; challenges; highlights; priorities for the coming years; and its implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The committee first met on 10 and 11 March 2020 to deliberate on and formulate questions pertaining to the 2017 - 2018 Annual Report of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. We were unable to conduct a public hearing with the Ministry due to COVID-19 restrictions put in place around the country when the hearing was scheduled to take place. In order to comply with health directives and social distancing measures in place, the committee requested for a written response from the Ministry in lieu of an annual review hearing.

Following our deliberations on its written response, we wrote to the Ministry of Youth and Sports requesting for further clarification on other related matters. Upon receipt of all relevant information from the Ministry on the committee's queries, the committee compiled its findings on the Annual Report and subsequently endorsed its report in the latter part of August.

At this juncture, I wish to thank the acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Ms. Jennifer Poole and her staff for their assistance in this review process. I also extend my gratitude to my Committee colleagues namely: Hon. George Vegnathan (Deputy Chairperson), Hon. Alipate Nagata, Hon. Salote Radrodoro, and Hon. Dr. Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu for their contributions. Finally, I thank the Secretariat, Ms. Sheron Narayan, Ms. Marica Tuisoso, and Ms. Atelaite Leba for the assistance provided during the committee's deliberations

I, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, commend the Review Report on the Ministry of Youth and Sports 2017- 2018 Annual Report to Parliament and request all members of this August House to take note of the committee's Report.



**Hon. Viam Pillay**  
**Chairperson**

# **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

- EFL - Energy Fiji Limited
- MP - Member of Parliament
- MSAF - Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji
- YTC - Youth Training Centre

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs has conducted a review of the Ministry of Youth and Sports 2017-2018 Annual Report and recommends that Parliament take note of its report.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Ministry of Youth and Sports 2017 – July 2018 Annual Report was tabled in Parliament during the February 2020 meeting and referred to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs for its scrutiny.

Standing Orders 109(2)(b) allows Standing Committee on Social Affairs to examine matters related to health, education, social services, labour, culture and media.

Furthermore, Standing Orders 110(1)(c) authorises the Standing Committee to *scrutinise the government departments with responsibility within the committee's subject area, including by investigating, inquiring into, and making recommendations relating to any aspect of such a department's administration, legislation or proposed legislative program, budget, rationalisation, restructuring, functioning, organisation, structure and policy formulation.*

## **ABOUT THE MINISTRY**

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is responsible for engaging with Fiji's young people to help develop skills that help them reach their full potential and enable them to access greater opportunity to better themselves and uplift their communities. The Ministry carries out work to foster and support community networks and run initiatives that help young people build character, learn valuable life lessons and promote entrepreneurship and innovation.

The Ministry offers training to youths through five Youth Training Centres around the country and through mobile training in rural and urban areas. The training is run in close cooperation with other Ministries, particularly Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests, and iTaukei Affairs. The training is aimed at empowering young people to be productive members of the community and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to venture into specific income-earning opportunities.

The Ministry also drives sporting development in Fiji to encourage healthy lifestyle choices among the Fijian people and maintain Fiji's position as the hub of athletic competition in the Pacific. The Ministry's work falls within the framework of a number of existing policies that govern national sporting development.

The Sports Development Unit of the Ministry plays an important role in the promotion and development of sports. In 2017-2018, The Ministry invests in developing and upgrading Fiji's sporting infrastructure and facilities, particularly in the rural areas. This includes upgrading Rural Sports Fields in various schools and Rural Sports Complexes in identified regional hubs.

The Ministry of Youth & Sports was allocated **\$23.1 million** in the 2017-2018 Budget which is an increase of **\$6.7 million** from 2016-2017.

## **ISSUES RAISED**

### **NEED TO INCREASE ENROLMENT AT THE FIVE YOUTH TRAINING CENTRES IN FIJI**

We note that there are five youth training centres in Fiji. These are at Naleba, Naqere, Nasau, Yavitu and Valelevu. In 2017-2018, a total of 324 students graduated from the training centres. The Ministry informed us of the various challenges faced in trying to increase student enrolment in the five centres. These pertained to resources, funding, staff, facility and location of the YTCs. We were informed in particular that YTC Yavitu is too isolated which may be the reason for low enrolment of 15 students in the fiscal year.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Ministry increase its awareness and promotion of the various trainings offered at the five Youth Training Centres.
2. That the Ministry change its marketing strategy to attract more students in the Training Centres.
3. That the Ministry review the programmes offered at the Training Centres.

### **PARTIALLY COMPLETED CAPITAL WORKS AT THE NALEBA, NAQERE AND YAVITU YOUTH TRAINING CENTRES**

We noted the partial completion of works to the Naleba, Naqere, and Yavitu YTCs in the period under review. We enquired the Ministry on the reasons for the partial completion of works.

The Ministry informed us of the following:

- **YTC Naleba - \$109,000** was Budget for Naleba Youth Training Centre. Works were partially completed for Electrical power extension due to delay in assessment and costing

by EFL due to other major projects initiated in Northern Division. Only 20% was committed to EFL during the end of final year for contract commencement sum. VT set installation was also not fully completed due to delay in Installation by the Contractor as per the timeline proposed and also due to the issue not while conducting actual installation to identify a suitable location for better internet speed. The Construction of Smokeless stove was not completed due to issues with the current facility set-up, where a suitable location was to be identified in Naleba, which needs to be safe and accessible during wet weather.

- **YTC Naqere - \$90,000** was budgeted for Naqere Youth Training Centre. The Construction of new 24 x 16 House for was delayed due to the slow supply of materials for timely completion of works and also due to non-availability of Labourers and also adverse weather conditions affecting timely completion of the project. The fencing materials were procured during the financial year, however the physical implementation was delayed due to training break at Youth Training Centre Naqere, where the current trainees were on vacation.
- **YTC Yavitu - \$70,000** was budgeted for Yavitu Youth Training Centre. The funds were for the extension of the current workshop building at YTC Yavitu. The Ministry was initiating all Purchase of Materials from Main land Vitilevu through approved supplier and at various occasion noted delay in the supply of materials. Also, it was challenging for the Ministry to transport the Materials to Yavitu from Vunisea Jetty, which was risky during adverse weather conditions and also the non-availability of skills Laborers, works were to be carried out with the existing trainees at Yavitu YTC. The hardship faced with obtaining timely materials and availability of Labour was the key factor that led to delay in the physical implementation of the projects. Purchasing of Vunisea Workshop tools and Generator was completed during the financial year.

The Ministry informed us that work at these centres was still in progress.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the Ministry strengthen its internal processes and develop a strong partnership with communities to ensure the timely completion of projects.

## **BOAT MASTER'S TRAINING**

We note that the Boat Master's training is offered by MSAF which is responsible for providing the training and is the licensing authority for Boat Master and Boat Captain Class 6 (restricted) licenses. The Ministry's role is to coordinate trainings only.



The Ministry informed us that MSAF levy for the boat master's training is exorbitant. Usually, the Ministry pays for training fees and the trainer's transport to and from venue in addition to one meal for trainees per day for the duration of two weeks (10 days). The community provides meals and accommodation for trainers while MSAF pays for their subsistence. However, recently, if Ministry wants training it is required to pay for the trainer's subsistence as well which is expensive. We note that the Ministry is collaborating very closely with MSAF for an integrated approach which will best meet the needs of everyone.

We note that the boat master's training is in high demand as requests for trainings keep coming from those youth wishing to have Boat License and those from coastal populations who depend on the sea for their livelihood. We note that funding is a major constraint in this area.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the Ministry allocate more resources towards the Boat Masters training and also strengthen its partnership with other agencies.

## **MINISTRY'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE**

The Ministry of Youth and Sports' core responsibilities are the establishment of a policy environment that provides strategic support systems, initiatives for personal development, character building, sports policy implementation and community based youth led programs.

Overall, the committee is satisfied with the performance of the Ministry in 2017/2018. However, more work needs to be done to increase enrolment at the five Youth Training Centres, strengthen its partnership with other stakeholders in the provision of services, and in ensuring that there is timely completion of capital works.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS' SIGNATURE

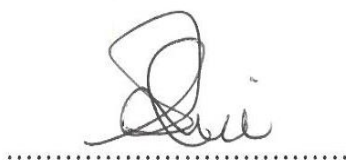
We, the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, hereby agree with the contents of this report:



Hon. Viam Pillay  
(Chairperson)



Hon. George Vignathan  
(Deputy Chairperson)



Hon. Alipate Nagata  
(Member)



Hon. Salote Radrodoro  
(Member)



Hon. Dr. Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu  
(Member)

# APPENDICES

## Published written evidence

---

Written evidence and supplementary information was received from the Ministry of Youth and Sports and can be viewed on the Parliament website at the following link:  
<http://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-social-affairs/>