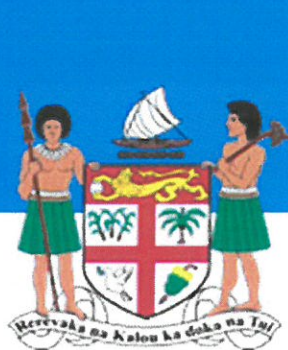


APPENDICES

Appendix One

Written Response by the Ministry of Youth and Sports



Ministry of Youth and Sports

Clarification of Issues – Ministry of Youth and Sports

Annual Report 2018 - 2019



**Ministry of Youth
and Sports**

PARLIAMENT STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Questions Annual Report 18-19

1. How has the Ministry's youth development programme assisted youth through advisory, empowerment and capacity building including provision of specific skills training?

The Ministry of Youth and Sports has programmes in place to empower individual youths and youth groups through advisory, capacity building and specific skills training to develop their abilities to find employment and generate income through entrepreneurship and small scale businesses.

These training programs are essential avenues to promote skills development, improvement of existing skills and attaining new skill sets that will provide youths with opportunities to become empowered, employed and sustain their livelihoods. Many of our programs are designed to foster life skills as we believe the importance of enhancing competencies to enhance and support the progression of our vulnerable youths. The Ministry has continued to offer trainings to youths through our five Youth Training Centres around the country, along with community based mobile skills training in rural and urban communities. The trainings often run in cooperation with other Ministries, particularly the Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forests and iTaukei Affairs to ensure prudent and effective use of resources.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports through the implementation of Youth Empowerment and Livelihood programs has contributed to ensuring that youths are encouraged and supported through initiatives centred on development either through the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills, volunteer and work attachments and formal or informal employment.

The Ministry's Specific Skills training programs taught at the 5 youth training centres throughout the country has seen many youths graduate with accredited certification. Several of our graduates through the knowledge and skills attained have either gone on to start their own businesses or joined the workforce in their fields. Additionally, the community based empowerment training that the Ministry implements in areas such as financial literacy, law and order, climate change, health and wellbeing, project management and other subjects have seen over many youths benefit. The Youth Empowerment program is a community-based program focused on empowering and building capacity in Fijian youths geared towards enhancing socio-economic development. The Ministry conducts regular monitoring and advisory of youth groups before and after training to ensure skills and knowledge obtained are put to practise and various youth groups are also assisted through funding support either directly through the Ministry or through donor funding to start their income generation projects.

Moreover, the Ministry's Mobile Skills training program which derived its name from its ability to be conducted wherever the need arises is an outreach capacity and skills building program that utilizes vocational education to teach individual youth's new skills and to improve their existing skills. This program has seen over 3500 youths gain new skills between 2017-2020 assisting them to in finding employment or in starting up their own small businesses.

Additionally, the Ministry conducts conferences, summits and workshops on various youth issues and priorities for youths and youth leaders to provide knowledge, up skills young people, identify strengths and weakness and provide an opportunity to learn about various types of services provided by government and civil society organizations. Information and knowledge gained by the youth club leaders on programs, services and entrepreneurial opportunities are taken back and shared to their respective club members for engagement and active participation to overcome challenges.

The programs being implemented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports are essential in providing training to develop both soft and hard skills, encouraging networking, and mentoring, providing opportunities to build leadership skills through local level implementation, and promoting entrepreneurship and innovation. By doing so, Government is enabling Fiji's next generation of leaders -an investment in developing the youth of today to improve Fijian communities of the future.

2. What has been the impact of the sports development programme in the development of sports and its infrastructure throughout the country?

With the provision of Sports Development program by the Fiji National Sports Commission and the Sports Infrastructure assistance by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the following are the identified impacts on the ground:

- ***Increase in Physical Activity and Sports participation***

With the increase in NCD cases around the country, more emphasis has been put into the implementation of development programs into communities who often find difficulty in accessing such services. This also saw the collaboration with other stakeholders in the introduction of women participation into recreational activity and sports which would have been a challenge from the Cultural or Traditional perspective.

The provision of the Sports Facilities has created a space for communities to work together and develop weekly programs for their community through the assistance of the Sports Development Officers from the Fiji National Sports Commission and the Youths Officers of the Ministry.

- ***Accessibility of sporting facility***

The Community now have a proper sports facility to utilize for their recreational activity, training or sports competition with other communities, schools and community sporting associations. This would have been a challenge for most communities as they would have to travel far for a training or competition venue and also incur a lot of cost in travel alone.

- ***Creation of Sports Associations in communities***

Sports Development Program has also assisted the National Sporting Organisation through the establishment of Community Sports Association, These association is the hub of all sports within

the community and is directly affiliated to their provincial/district association and also affiliate to their National Sporting Organisation. Through this structure and the support of the Youth Development Program, talent has been identified and also supported by the Ministry and the national Sporting Organisation to continue the Long Term Athlete Pathway for prospective athletes and officials.

- ***Income Generation***

Sporting Facilities not only provide the space and accessibility to more participation, it is also an Income Generating Opportunity as well for the Community. They can host sports events with fees being paid by participating clubs which is return also caters for the maintenance and up keeping of the facility. Community members also trained on Events and Facility Management through the Fiji National Sports Commission Development Program for Club Administrators.

3. Rural Sporting Grounds:

a) In the period under review, how many rural playing fields were developed and how many were successfully completed?

Vunidawa Primary School Ground, Naitasiri – Completed

Maumi Village Sports Ground, Tailevu – Completed

Niusawa Secondary School Ground, Taveuni – Completed

Upgrade of Stanley Brown Gym, Walu Bay – Completed

b) Highlight the Ministry's total allocation for rural sporting grounds for each financial year from 2018 to 2021 and how they were utilized.

<u>FY 2018-2019</u>			
<u>Summary of Rural Sports Facilities Utilization</u>	-		
Annual Provision	\$ 500,000.00		
Actuals	\$ 249,429.00		
Available funds	\$ 250,571.00		
<u>Details of Actuals:</u>			

Maumi Village, Nausori	\$ 48,700.00	100%	Payment
Vunidawa Primary School Ground	\$ 49,500.00	100%	Payment
Walu Bay Gym Upgrade	\$ 42,012.00	90%	Payment
Waidina Secondary School	\$ 11,750.00	25%	Retention
Niusawa Secondary School	\$ 44,442.00	90%	Payment
Vanuavou Secondary School	\$ 11,625.00	25%	Retention
Labasa Sangam School	\$ 41,400.00	90%	Payment
	\$ 249,429.00		

<u>Actuals : FY 2019 - 2020</u>				
Date	Vendor	Description	Total	Balance
Rural Sports Field Actual Expenditure				
\$69,594.00				
30/08/2019	Shiuvan Construction	10% payment_Retention_Walu Bay Gym Upgrade	\$ 4,668.00	\$ 64,926.00
23/08/2019	Ruz Hire Services	10% payment_Retention_Niusawa Secondary School	\$ 4,938.00	\$ 59,988.00
4/10/2019	Bula Earthworks Ltd	10% payment_Retention_Labasa Sangam School	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 55,388.00
06/12/2019	Houng Lee Kaba Jacob Pte Ltd	Lead consultancy services for upgrading & construction of sports playground	\$ 52,320.00	\$ 3,068.00

29/11/2019	Vinod Patel	Purchase of goal post material_Sawaieke, Gau	\$ 154.00	\$ 2,914.00
29/11/2019	Carpenters Hardware	Purchase of goal post material_Sawaieke, Gau	\$ 614.80	\$ 2,299.20
29/11/2019	Kasabias	Purchase of goal post material_Sawaieke, Gau	\$ 1,647.80	\$ 651.40
29/11/2019	Resene Paints	Purchase of goal post material_Sawaieke, Gau	\$ 74.50	\$ 576.90
02/15/2019	Pacific Coatings	Purchase of goal post material_Sawaieke, Gau	\$ 27.29	\$ 549.61
05/12/2019	Kasabias	Purchase of goal post material_Sawaieke, Gau	\$ 550.00	\$ (0.39)
22/06/2020		Clearance of over expenditure due to reduced COVID-19 budget	\$ (0.39)	
			\$ 69,594.00	

2020 – No allocation

2021 – *NO Allocation for Upgrading of Rural Sports Fields as the Ministry had requested funding for the construction of Hard Courts in FY 20/21.*

4. Youth Training Centres:

a) Provide an update on the Youth Training Centres and whether they are all operational.

The Ministry has 5 Youth Training Centres throughout the nation with all training centres except Yavitu are currently operational. The Yavitu Youth Training Centre sustained extensive damage due to cyclone Harold and has been not been operational since then in 2018.

Youth Training Centre - Valelevu

The Centre delivers a yearlong two semester certificate IV program. The Certificate in Music, Bandsman and Performance was developed solely to capture the interest of young people who are inclined towards music in general. The program is an avenue to assist young musicians to establish themselves in the music industry or as a means of finding employment opportunities. The trainees are also taught traditional mekes, (ITaukei folk dances) and some ceremonial ITaukei cultural

protocols. Trainees are engaged in full time studies and from semester two also perform with the band or in mekes as part of their practicum and training.

Program: Certificate IV in Music

Youth Training Centre - Nasau

The Centre is a youth empowerment and skills training residential facility located approximately five (5) kilometres from Sigatoka town up the valley road.

The Centre focuses on delivering market oriented non formal education courses for unemployed and rural based youths.

Program: Certificate III in Carpentry

Certificate IV in Organic Agriculture.

Youth Training Centre - Yavitu

The Yavitu Youth Training Centre is a youth empowerment and skills training residential facility located approximately 18 kilometres from Vunisea Government Station on Kadavu Island.

Program: Certificate III in Carpentry

Carpenter General III National Trade Test Certificate

Youth Training Centre - Naleba

Located 20 kilometres from Labasa town, the Youth training Centre offers a 10 months course aimed at empowering and providing qualifications to youths in organic agriculture systems, practices and approaches.

Course: Certificate IV in Organic Agriculture.

Youth Training Centre - Naqere

The Youth Training Centre is located 5km from Savusavu Town and offers a 10 months intensive course including practical training.

Course: Certificate III in Carpentry

b) Provide a breakdown of the total number of students enrolled in each training programme at the various YTC's in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Institution	Programme	Programme Level	2018-2019		
			Male	Female	Total
Youth Training Centre - Valelevu	Music and Performance	Certificate IV in Music	91	28	119
Youth Training Centre - Nasau	Organic Agriculture	IV in Organic Agriculture.	24	6	30
Youth Training Centre - Nasau	Basic Carpentry Training	Certificate III in Carpentry	35	0	35
Youth Training Centre - Naleba	Organic Agriculture	IV in Organic Agriculture.	20	22	42
Youth Training Centre - Naqere	General Carpentry	Certificate III in Carpentry	25	0	25
Youth Training Centre - Yavitu	General Carpentry	Certificate III in Carpentry	22	0	22

c) Highlight the total budgetary allocation for each training centre in 2018/19.

YTCs	Budget Allocation Items	2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Nasau	Salaries / Wages	123,103	123,103	118,055	197,600	178,586	177,319
	Rations	8,200	40,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	20,000
	Stationery	2,500	2,500	2,000	2,500	2,500	2,000
	Live Stock Expenses	55,000	50,000	50,000	80,000	50,000	20,000
	Minor Works	20,000	30,000	57,000	50,000	15,000	
	Upgrading Works - Capital	130,000	90,000	256,000	300,000	0	100,700
	Sub - Total	338,803	335,603	533,055	680,100	296,086	320,019
Valelevu	Salaries / Wages	0	0	54,011	55,545	54,703	63,574
	National Youth Band	350,000	350,000	308,445	308,445	280,000	250,000
	Minor Works	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	15,000	10,000
	Upgrading Works - Capital	140,000	270,000	1,175,799	0	0	23,000
	Sub - Total	500,000	630,000	1,548,255	383,990	349,703	346,574
Naleba	Salaries / Wages	23,406	51,256	51,256	58,040	44,121	42,117

	Rations	5,000	15,000	33,500	33,500	17,000	10,000
	Stationery	1,500	1,500	1,000	1,500	1,500	2,000
	Live Stock Expenses	5,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	30,000	20,000
	Minor Works	4,500	5,000	20,000	7,500	4,500	5,000
	Upgrading Works - Capital	250,000	109,000	228,170	221,000	370,273	16,300
	Sub - Total	289,406	191,756	343,926	341,540	467,394	95,417
Naqere	Salaries / Wages	23,406	37,331	37,331	41,479	43,066	39,943
	Rations	3,000	10,000	33,500	33,500	17,000	10,000
	Stationery	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000
	Minor Works	4,500	5,000	15,000	7,500	4,500	15,000
	Upgrading Works - Capital	50,000	90,000	134,460	140,000	0	60,000
	Sub - Total	81,906	143,331	221,291	223,479	65,566	126,943
Yavitu	Salaries / Wages	65,720	65,720	65,720	69,333	72,193	68,911
	Rations	3,000	7,000	15,000	15,000	16,000	0
	Stationery	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,000
	Minor Works	11,000	10,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	0
	Upgrading Works - Capital	136,000	70,000	123,000	230,000	0	0
	Sub - Total	216,720	153,720	220,220	330,833	99,693	70,911
	Total	1,426,835	1,454,410	2,866,748	1,959,942	1,278,442	959,864

d) How many graduates from each YTC in the 2018/19 FY have been absorbed into employment?

Institution	Programme	Programme Level	2018-2019	
			Total Graduated	Number found employment or self-employed
Youth Training Centre - Valelevu	Music and Performance	Certificate IV in Music	41	17
Youth Training Centre - Nasau	Organic Agriculture	IV in Organic Agriculture.	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 employed, • 4 pursuing further studies • 15 self-employed in farming

Youth Training Centre - Nasau	Basic Carpentry Training	Certificate III in Carpentry	24	6 employed
Youth Training Centre -Naleba	Organic Agriculture	IV in Organic Agriculture.	14	14 self-employed in farming
Youth Training Centre -Naqere	General Carpentry	Certificate III in Carpentry	22	7 employed
Youth Training Centre -Yavitu	General Carpentry	Certificate III in Carpentry	22	22 employed

5. Provide an update on the progress of the development of the National Academy of Sports.

Cabinet Papers for the establishment of the National Sports Academy were prepared and presented to Cabinet through the Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2013, 2014, and 2015. Regrettably Cabinets approval was not received.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports in their 2018 Program and Project Review of the National Development Plan stated that [2018-2019] Land has been identified in the Laucala Bay area as part of the Fiji Sports Council Development Plan. This has now been reverted into the Reviewed National Sports and Recreational Activity Policy under Thematic Area 1 Role of Government in Sports Development. The Policy is in its final stages of validation before it is being table into parliament later this year.

With the proposed academy reverting into the National Sports Policy the Commission has reviewed alternatives.

Currently discussions have been held with Boxing, Athletics, Swimming, Weightlifting, and Volleyball on the establishment of their sports elite hi performance units for the whole Oceania Region. Further discussions have been held with regard to a National Academy specifically for Strength & Conditioning and Sports Nutrition as a number of NSO's have identified this as being the gap in elite training especially with us now having international coaches.

In 2019 the Commission working with Ministry of Foreign Affairs ensured that under the Vuvale Partnership Agreement with Australia, sports and elite training is recognized. Support pathways for elite sports people in high performance training is recognized now under Pillar One: Strengthening our people to people links.



6. What are some of the success stories of youth groups assisted by the Ministry in farming programmes and other business ventures and explain how these youth groups are monitored? Provide details of the assistance provided to these youth groups.

The Ministry's Youth Grant continues to provide income generating activities aimed at empowering youths towards creating more employment opportunities and income generation that will stimulate economic growth. With Fiji having a young and dynamic populace and abundance of land resources the Ministry of Youth and Sports is also driving youths to cultivate and utilise

land resources. The Ministry continues to rigorously provide assistance in the form of training and grant assistance to establish small scale projects or improve ongoing income generating projects for youth groups to ensure our young people have the necessary resources at their disposal to establish their business projects, attain success and become self-reliant. Assistant Youth Officers and Youth Officers in the respective divisions regularly monitor the progress of activities and submit regular reports to the Divisional Managers, which is compiled and submitted to the Monitoring and Evaluation Team. The Monitoring and Evaluation team also conducts systematic and objective assessment of the program to ensure efficient, effective, sustainable and impactful program implementation and results.

Over the years, the Ministry has had many successful youths and youth clubs through its grants program who have gone on to operate successful businesses. A summary of a few of this successful projects can be found below.

Project Type and Year Assisted	Type of Assistant Provided	Progress
Small Maintenance Material Assistance Recipient: Asis Chand Year Assisted: 2018	Grinder, Big grinder 7'', Router, Jigsaw, Small driller, Welding plant. Total cost - \$1,814.75.	Since receiving assistance in the form of maintenance tools and materials from the Ministry in 2018, Mr. Asis Chand has been able to establish a small maintenance business in Nabua. The Ministry had conducted a follow up with the recipient as part of its monitoring and evaluation on 16 th February, 2021 and the recipient is still operating his business and earning approximately \$300 weekly. He has also been able to employ youths from his community as maintenance boys.

		<p><i>Pictures of a few tools that were provided to the recipient</i></p>  
<p>Mini phone accessories</p> <p>Recipient: Sanjashni Prasad</p> <p>Year assisted: 2018</p>	<p>Phone Accessories, Chairs & Folding Table, Travelling Bags</p> <p>Total Cost - \$1,199.30</p>	<p>Sanjashni Prasad was assisted by the Ministry in 2018 to start up her Mini Phone Accessories business. She is currently operating her business in Suva and sells Phones accessories, socks, razor blade, Panadol, other sort of accessories. She is able to earn approximately \$800- \$1000 a month. The Ministry had conducted a follow up with the recipient as part of its monitoring and evaluation on 18th November, 2020 and was advised by the recipient that she has plans of expanding her business.</p>

		 <p><i>Sanjashni at her stall in Suva</i></p>
<p>Auto Repair Services Recipient: Atonio Waqairatavo Year assisted: 2018</p>	<p>Angle Grinder, Grease Gun, Measuring Tape, Hacksaw set, Wrecking Bar, Wrench Pipe, File set, Booster cable, G Clamp, Adjustable Wrench, Screwdriver set, Electronic Drill, Ratchet Spanner, Trolleyjack, Electronic tool, Emergency powerstarter`</p> <p>Total Cost- \$1,990.93</p>	<p>Atonio Waqairatavo operates his own automotive repair business from the assistance he received from the Ministry in the form of tools. He is responsible for a family of three and takes care of them with income earned from doing auto motive repairs. He is able to earn approximately \$500 on a monthly basis. He is currently operating his business from Nadi.</p> 
<p>Wood Carving Recipient: Makutu L Year assisted: 2018</p>	<p>Makita Router, Makita Jigsaw, 4ltrs Red Paint, 4ltr Yellow Paint, 4ltrs White Paint, Stanley Beam Level, Interior Plyboard, Combination Square, Makita Router Bit Set, Makita Circular Saw, Ingco Cordless Drill</p>	<p>Makutu from Vunato subdivision was assisted by the Ministry with equipment and materials to start up his Wood Carving business. He makes art designs on wood and sells it to tourists and local customers. He finds wood carving as relaxing and fun and he is very satisfied for creating different things out of wood. His business is currently operational and he is able to earn \$200-\$400 a month.</p>

	Total Cost: \$1,953.42	
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7. How does the Ministry collaborate with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs in the planning and implementation of youth development programmes?

The Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and other line ministries are mandated to report to the National Youth Policy Multi Sector Stakeholders Committee Consultation (NYPMSCC) on a quarterly basis. This is where they report on their alignment to the National Youth Policy and how much they have implemented the policy thematic areas. The National Youth Policy is the overarching document that aligns all Ministry of Youth and Sports Youth Development programs.

An example of our collaboration is the implementation of Traditional Leadership programs to youths in rural villages by the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs. The other area of collaboration was on the Saemaul Undong program (SMU). This is a community development program that refers to any community development movement, which builds a village or community to improve villagers' quality of life based on the spirits of diligence, self-help and cooperation, and approaches by the villagers, of the villagers and for the villagers. Saemaul Undong (SMU) is also based on self-reliant decision-making through the process of planning, implementation, evaluation, and feedback to the next phase under the advice from SMU Korea and guidance of a SMU consultant stationed at the MYS HQ. Through this, the Ministry managed to identify 11 villages for the SMU projects with the assistance of the iTaukei Affairs and the Provincial Council Offices.

8. The Committee notes that the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (DEIA) is for youth between the age group of 14-24. Does the Ministry have a similar programme in place to accommodate youth who are ineligible to the DEIA programme?

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (DEIA) is recognised as the world's leading youth achievement award and the Ministry of Youth and Sports is licensed with the International Award body to implement the program throughout Fiji as the National Award Operator (NAO). The Ministry of Youth and Sports works with the Ministry of Education to implement the award in secondary schools throughout Fiji. The ministry creates awareness on the program to selected schools and youth clubs registered under the ministry, trains award leaders and volunteers, monitors the progress of the participants as well as assesses and recommends graduation or completion. The DEIA program is an all-inclusive voluntary program for anyone between the ages of 14-24. It does not discriminate based on ability as the activities undertaken by participants are chosen by them for them based on their interests and the targets they set for themselves. Additionally, the award has 3 levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold and four sections which are skills, service, physical recreation and adventurous journey. The Award concept is one of individual challenge. It presents to young people a balanced, non-competitive programme of voluntary activities which encourages personal discovery and growth, self-reliance, perseverance, responsibility to themselves and service to their community. Through participating in this program, youths are learn to take responsibility for their goals and choices; become connected to and actively

engaged within their immediate community; make a real difference to society through their positive contributions and involvement; learn to persevere and overcome barriers to success; learn important life skills; and Increase their career opportunities.

The program as it is licensed has a strict age criteria however youth above 24 years are participating in the program through assisting as award leaders and volunteers in monitoring the progress of active participant, providing guidance and motivation. In addition to this, the Ministry conducts various workshops and empowerment programs on youth issues and priorities for youths and youth leaders to provide knowledge, up skills young people, identify their strengths and weakness build character and provide an opportunity to learn. Information and knowledge gained by these programs, services and entrepreneurial opportunities are taken back and shared to their respective club members for engagement and active participation to overcome challenges.

9. Page 19 of Annual Report - Explain the reasons for the underperformance of the three youth centres and highlight why the disciplinary issues and lack of guidance were the causes of underperformance. How has the Ministry addressed these issues and what measures are in place to prevent their recurrence?

The Ministry had set a target of 176 for the combined number of graduates but achieved a total number of 145 graduates combined for all the training centres. The Ministry recognises that this was due to several trainees dropping out in the middle of the program either due to peer pressure, inadequate family support systems or financial reasons. The Ministry provides its trainings at almost no cost to youths, however few young people drop out early to get engaged in employment to assist their family member's. Another reason identified was inadequate family support systems where there is not enough encouragement and support provide by family members to trainees. Furthermore, we have noticed that some of these trainers stay with dependent relatives which also has an impact on their studies and attendance.

The Ministry has provided several support structures through its ongoing empowerment programs at the training centres such as the Seeds of Success Program which empowers young people through self - reflection and goal setting as individuals, members of communities and citizens of Fiji. The Duke of Edinburgh's International Awards program is also implemented at the Youth Training Centres for youths to learn to take responsibility for their goals and choices; become connected to and actively engaged within their immediate community; make a real difference to society through their positive contributions and involvement; learn to persevere and overcome barriers to success; learn important life skills; and Increase their career opportunities. In addition to this, the trainers at the centre regularly check on the progress made by the trainees and provide focused support for those that need it. Parents are advised to take an active role in motivating and encouraging the trainees to do their best and to assist the Ministry in ensuring student are able to reach their full potential. Furthermore, four out of our five training centers have boarding facilities which have just been recently improved to accommodate students and ensure attendance is closely monitored.

10. Provide us with an update on the redevelopment of the Labasa Sangam Primary School sports ground.

This work has been completed with the additional work done on the Gabion Basket so as to eliminate the current problem of soil erosion. This work costed the Ministry \$46,000.00 and work was undertaken by Bula Earth Works Limited.

11. Mobile Skills Training:

a. What are some of the success stories of the trainings conducted in each division by the Ministry to empower youth and create self-sustainability?

Mobile skills trainings conducted by the Ministry provides an important pathway to many youths who have dropped out of the formal education system. Through the skills and qualifications attained youths are able to find employment or even start up their own businesses. Waisele Waqa and Andy Khan are two youths who exemplify the importance of such community based skills trainings.

Waisele Waqa age 33 was part of the Carpenter General III Trade Test Refresher Training held in the Youth Training Centre Valelevu on in 2019. He had previously worked for a number of construction companies without much knowledge and skills in carpentry. After completing the training with the Ministry he managed to start his own construction company as Dignity Contractors. This work includes General Maintenance and constructing New Buildings. He is grateful to the Ministry of Youth and Sports for giving him an opportunity to realise his full potential The pictures below shows Waqa's registered company profile and some New buildings and Maintenance work he carried out after the Mobile Skills Training provided by the Ministry of Youth and Sports.







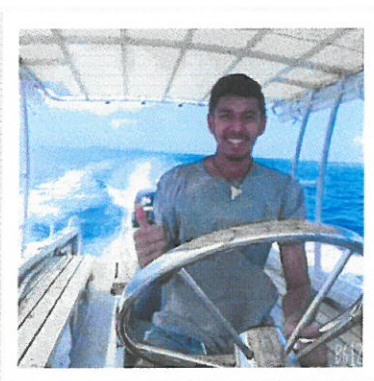



Similarly, 27 year old Andy Khan was also part of the Carpenter General III Trade Test Refresher Training held in the Youth Training Centre Valelevu in 2019. Prior to joining the training program by the Ministry, he was working at Fix well Builders and Krapika Construction with some basic knowledge of carpentry work. Upon completing the training, he is now doing private jobs and supporting himself and his family. According to Mr. Khan, the training was very helpful and also provided him with new insights into carpentry work. Below picture shows Andy doing some private jobs.



The Table below provides details of a few youths who have successfully completed the mobile skills training provided by the Ministry and following that had found employment.

PROGRAMME	TRAINING		
Mobile Skills	Food and Beverage Training 4-8 th Feb 2019 at Uprising Beach Resort, Pacific Harbour		Name: Ita Lewadravu Current Position: Chef at Malamala Resort, Kadavu
			Name: Kereni Fifita Uludole Current Position: Baking & Pastry Chef at Musket Cove Kitchen
		No Picture	Name: Niko Nawaidomo Current Position: Kitchen Hand at Colonial Lodge, Suva

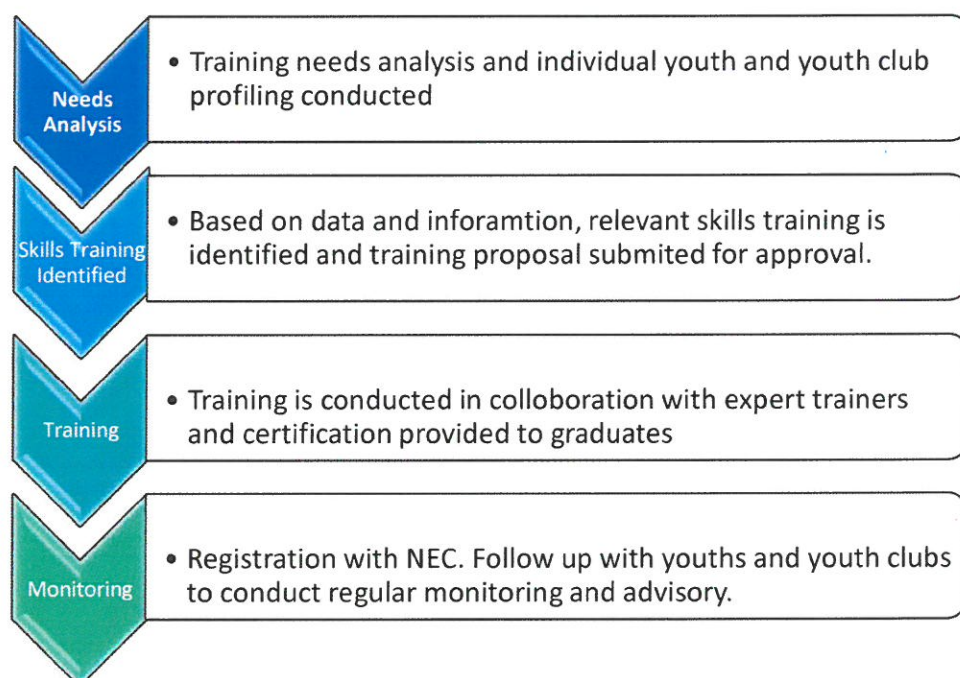
			Name: Pratinesh Kumar. Current Position: Chef at Malamala Beach Resort, Kadavu
	House Keeping Services Date: 4-8 th Feb 2019 at Uprising Beach Resort, Pacific Harbour		Name: Vora Rayasidamu Current Position: Waitress at Uprising Beach Resort
	Boat Masters License and Class 6 Restricted Target Group: Youths 18 – 34yrs		Name: Eparama Tawake Current Position: Skipper at Beqa Lagoon Resort & Diver at Lawaki Beach House
	Hairdressing Skills Training venue: PA Serua/ Namosi conference room		Name: Ayuesh Chandra Current Position: Established his own hairdressing saloon in Navua and employs 3

			youths to assist him in the business.
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b. What monitoring and evaluation mechanisms does the Ministry have in place to ensure that youth, following the completion of trainings, successfully implement their learning into practice?

The Ministry conducts training needs analysis and individual youth and youth club profiling to identify the current skill and empowerment trainings needs. Through conducting this assessments the Ministry is able to ensure that its trainings are focused on areas of need and resources are allocated and used effectually. This approach also allows the Ministry to identify Youth interests, attitudes and knowledge gaps and address areas that need urgent attention. The Ministry of Youth and Sports then conducts trainings in the areas of skills shortage identified through training needs data collected and information obtained through stakeholder consultations for in demand skills.

Following training and certification youths then are referred to the National Employment Centre for registration. Youth Officers and Assistant Youth Officers follow up with youths and youth clubs to conduct regular monitoring and advisory of youth groups before and after training to ensure skills and knowledge obtained are put to practise and various youth groups are also assisted through funding support either directly through the Ministry or through donor funding to start their income generation projects.



c. Provide the way forward for the Ministry to continuously improve youth trainings especially in the current times with the COVID-19 pandemic which may require readjustments to how these programmes are implemented.

The COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdown and physical distancing measures has caused unprecedented disruption in the provision of education and training. The Ministry recognises the need to adopt innovative solutions and have training programs in areas of skills shortage or reskilling young people in areas that will allow income generation and sustainable employment. In this regard, the Ministry has initiated work with experts on developing curriculum that can be utilised for both in person and online based Entrepreneurship and Business Trainings. Together with this the Ministry is using the online platforms such as zoom whereby during the lockdown trainers from the Youth Training Centre in Valelevu are able to conduct theory classes a few hours in a day and provide notes and instructions to ensure learning continues. Additionally, the Ministry will push for innovation in training wherever possible in the urban areas keeping in mind that all segments of the population do not have access to electronic devices and decent internet connection. For the rural areas, the Ministry will continue in person training with COVID safe measures once the COVID-19 situation improves and COVID restrictions are lifted. In all areas the Ministry will continue to conduct training needs analysis to identify the current skills and employment trainings needs. Through conducting this assessments and through consultation with relevant stakeholders and employment experts the Ministry will ensure that its trainings are focused on areas of need and resources are allocated and used prudently.

12. Provide a gender breakdown of the staff composition at Ministry in the 2018-2019 FY and the percentage of women in managerial positions.

Gender breakdown of the staff composition at Ministry in the 2018-2019 FY and the percentage of women in Managerial positions

Items	May 2018	July 2019
Male	62	59
Female	32	29
Managerial Positions Male	11	11
Managerial Positions Female	1 (8.33%)	0 (0 %)

Managerial Positions:

1. Minister
2. Assistant Minister

3. Permanent Secretary
4. Director
5. Manager Central
6. Manager Eastern
7. Manager Western
8. Manager North
9. Manager Research & Development
10. Head of HR
11. Head of Sports
12. Head of Finance

Appendix Two

Supplementary Response

Supplementary Questions

Ministry of Youth and Sports 2018 – 2019 Annual Report

1. Explain why the Ministry of Youth and Sports has not provided a substantive response to the Standing Committee's review report on the Ministry's 2017 – 2018 Annual Report, in accordance with [Section 121 \(6\)\(b\) of the Standing Orders of Parliament](#).

The Ministry had responded earlier in this regard. Attached please find Ministry's response.

2. Are there counselors based in the Youth Training Centres to provide academic, careers and personal counseling to students?

The Ministry does not have specified staff for such responsibility however the Ministry recognises the importance of this exercise and therefore Academic and Career Counselling is embedded as part of the curriculum. Personal counselling is also critical for our students given that they are predominantly school dropouts and our trainers conduct this exercise on a regular basis and as when the need arises. The Ministry also collaborates with other stakeholders like Empower Pacific, Youth Champs for Mental Health and Ministry of Education when the need arises for referrals.

3. Inform us of the plans to reconstruct the Yavitu Youth Training Centre and by when it is expected to be operational?

Yavitu Youth Training Center was established in 1997 as part of government's initiative to boost rural youth capacity especially in agricultural production and marketing for the youths of Kadavu.

Over the years, the Ministry has noted the decrease in the number of enrolments from the Province and hence changed our curriculum to include carpentry training and small engine repair and have also enrolled youths from around Viti-Levu. With competitions from other stakeholders such as FNU under the Sustainable Livelihood Program brought to Kadavu; this has seen a great reduction in the number of enrolments at the center. Actually, the center is located in Yavitu, Soso in Naceva. It is about 45 minutes to 1 hour boat ride from Vunisea depending on the condition of the sea and this location is also a hindrance to trainees attendance.

In April 2020, Yavitu sustained significant damages after cyclone Harold and has not been operation since then. Lease status of the land will expire in 2026 and serious discussions are currently being held regarding the future of the center.



Ministry of Youth and Sports

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE 05/06/21

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS –
Review of Ministry of Youth and Sports 2017-2018 Annual
Report**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Ministry increase its awareness and promotion of the various trainings offered at the five Youth Training Centres.

- From the usual word by mouth and enrollment advertisements in the daily newspapers, the Ministry has utilised other platforms to advertise such as the newly refurbished website and our social media pages such as face book and twitter.
- Our participation in the quarterly radio talkback shows have helped promote our Youth and Sports programs
- The Ministry has also participated in Stakeholder and Line ministry roadshows where Youth Training Center programs are being promoted to the public
- Attendance to Provincial and District Council meetings have also provided an opportunity to create the much needed awareness.
- In addition to the normal Ministry of Youth Staff, last year the Ministry recruited 29 Assistant Youth Officers which serve youths in different areas around Fiji, part of their responsibility is to register youth clubs and ensure these youth clubs and youths in general are made aware of Ministry programs and services including Youth Training Center Programs
- Furthermore the Ministry established the Fiji Youth Council as a platform to harness the voices of young people, they have also assisted in promoting our programs in the respective communities they visit.

- Moreover, our donor partners and stakeholders (NGOs) such as Think Pacific, OISCA, Vodafone, have also contributed to increasing and promoting our programs and services under signed MOUs.
- From these platforms we have noted the overwhelming responses however, only limited places are available due to the capacity of our youth centers and funding.

2. That the Ministry change its marketing strategy to attract more students in the Training Centres.

- While the Ministry considers this recommendation to be important, it is also mindful of the capacity of the Youth Training Centers and the resources needed to effectively implement the program on an annual basis.
- As alluded to earlier, social media has been an attractive marketing platform that provides the extensive awareness and reach to our target audience given that most of them are youths.
- The traditional media platforms have always been prominent in its role and we have also depended on it.
- A big plus in our program awareness is the fact that our programs are subsidized by government and are almost free of charges.

3. That the Ministry review the programmes offered at the Training Centres

- The Ministry has started its review of Youth Training Centers with the Youth Training Center Valelevu.
- The first review in 2019 was for the - **Evaluation and Review of Ministry of Youth and Sports Youth Training Center (YTC) Valelevu**
- A few recommendations from the review included:
 - Structural Reforms - where by the Ministry has now advertised for a new position as a Center Manager to manage the Center.
 - Curriculum reforms - where by a review is currently underway for the - **Review YTC Valelevu Training Curriculum**
 - Develop Center for dual program implementation in Creative arts and TVET – this is also a work in progress
 - Viability of the Center and Revenue Generation – Recording of talented youth musicians at the YTC Valelevu Recording Studio and the appointment of a Recording Engineer is a work in progress.
 - This review exercise will be carried out across all our Youth Training Centers to ensure they remain competitive and relevant to the needs of youth and the job market.
- A new program will be introduced at the Center beginning next year, this is the **Certificate 1 in Resilience (Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation)**

RECOMMENDATION

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

- The Ministry had further strengthen its planning and execution of capital Works at the Youth Training centres through timely coordination with key stakeholders in to ensure timely completion of projects earmarked at Youth Training centres.
- The Ministry had through coordination with the Ministry of Infrastructure able to ensure construction projects at the Youth Training Centres are properly documents, designed and executed in accordance to the scope of works and effective monitoring of projects ensuring timely completion works.
- The Ministry is now ensuring that in house upgrading works well planned through respective carpentry trainers at Youth Training centres, where most materials are procured in advance to avoid delays in project implementations and progressive supply of materials during the duration of projects from recommended suppliers.
- Projects are timely designed, scoped and awarded for implementation through Government Tender processes.
- The in-house capital works are planned to be completed prior to the trainees going for their breaks and also engagement of ex-trainees for continuity and timely completion of projects at Youth Training Centres.

- The Divisional Managers are responsible for ensuring timely procurement of Assets and Equipment's for the Youth Training Centres in accordance to the allocated budget and ensuring timely projects implementation for Youth Training Centres

RECOMMENDATION

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

- Boat masters training (BML) is a sought after program by youths in maritime and coastal areas given their surroundings and need in place. It is still part of the Ministry's programs and the course is offered by MSAF. They provide the training and also the licensing authority for Boat Master and Boat Captain Class 6 (restricted) licenses. MYS coordinates trainings only.
- Recently we have noted the increase in the requirements to implement this program hence the implementation rate has reduced.
- The program is still prominent as per the Ministry's mobile skills training and we intend to roll the program to areas in the maritime that have not accessed the training but considers the program as a need.
- Actually MYS is not mandated to conduct training to all maritime areas and to all people. Our targets are our client's, youth age 15 to 35. However over the period many requests were raised through village and tikina meetings for MYS to coordinate BML trainings for

rural people and maritime islands. Majority of request came from fisherman beyond the youth age group. In fact Ministry of Fisheries should coordinate trainings for their clients (Fishermen). Even MSAF should take the lead role and take the training to the rural and maritime communities for they are the licensing authority.

- Now, MSAF levy for the training is exorbitant. Usually, MYS pays for training fees and trainers transport to and from venue plus one meal for trainees per day for duration of two weeks. (10 days) The community provided meals and accommodation for trainers. MSAF paid their trainers subsistence. However, recently, if MYS wants training we have to pay for their trainer's subsistence as well which is expensive. We are collaborating very closely with MSAF for an integrated approach which will best meet the needs of everyone.
- We are also collaborating with Fiji Maritime Academy on this program to boost the program implementation at a more reasonable cost to ensure sustainability.