



STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Review of the Fiji National Sports Commission August 2018 – July 2019 Annual Report



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ACRONYMS

NSO - National Sports Organisations

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 Radrodro 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 annual review of the Fiji National Sports Commission for the period from August 2018 to July 2019.

This review was undertaken in accordance with Standing Order 109(2)(b) which mandates the committee to look into issues related to health, education, social services, labour, culture and media. The committee first met to deliberate in April and formulated questions pertaining to the Annual Report.

In order to comply with health directives and protocols on public gathering and social distancing, the committee accepted a written response from the Fiji National Sports Commission in lieu of a face-to-face hearing. Following our deliberations on its written response, we wrote to the Sports Commission requesting for further clarification on other related matters. Upon receipt of all relevant information on the committee's queries, the committee compiled its findings and subsequently endorsed its report in August.

At this juncture, I wish to thank the Executive Chairman of the Fiji National Sports Commission, Mr Peter Mazey, and his staff for their timely 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 during the committee's deliberations.

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, I commend this Report to Parliament and request all members of this august House to take note of the Report.



Hon. Viam Pillay

Chairperson

RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs has conducted the annual review of the Fiji National Sports Commission for August 2018 – July 2019 and recommends that the House take note of its report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 2018 - 2019 Annual Report of the Fiji National Sports Commission was tabled in Parliament during the December 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.*”

1.1 Committee Procedure

We first met in April to deliberate on and formulate questions pertaining to the 2018 - 2019 Annual Report of the Fiji National Sports Commission which was sent to the Sports Commission for its response.

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

We received written and supplementary responses from the Fiji National Sports Commission for this annual review. They are available on the Parliament website, at the following link: <http://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-social-affairs/>

2.0 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE FIJI NATIONAL SPORTS COMMISSION

The principal activity of the Sports Commission is to guide and enhance the delivery of sports programmes in Fiji through a coordinated approach at all levels of participation by government statutory bodies and the community and to ensure the development of sports in Fiji. The Commission was established under the Fiji National Sports Commission Act of 2013.

3.0 COMMITTEE’S OBSERVATIONS AND AREAS OF CONCERN

3.1 Income Generation Strategies of the Sports Commission

We enquired the Sports Commission on the initiatives that it is embarking on to generate income in addition to the operating revenue received by government in order to meet all of its targets and deliverables. The Sports Commission informed us that it will be reviewing its 2019 – 2023 Strategic Plan relooking at the current situation and working in partnership for sustainability. The Sports Commission’s programmes continue to be redesigned to meet deliverables that are effective in the transformation of communities and individuals from grassroots level to elite. One such example is its Community Sports Associations which may enable this change. Seed funding at the initial stage of such Sports Associations will allow other stakeholders to buy in to gaining access and funding of projects that will be available to the community at all levels.

The Sports Commission is now working in partnerships with other countries, National Sports Organisations, Non-Government Organisations and other Government departments to meet its own and also their targets. This has enabled it to access additional funding as provided for specific programs especially in the communities, for women, children and inclusive development programs.

Recommendations

1. That the Sports Commission strengthen its partnerships with the youth groups and the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries, and Ministry of Forests for the establishment of farms, aquaculture and other income generating initiatives.
2. That the Sports Commission continue to review its Strategic Plan to accommodate income generation activities.

3.2 Lifting the World Ranking of our Athletes and Sports Teams

We asked the Sports Commission to explain to us its work in lifting the world ranking of our athletes and sports teams. The Sports Commission informed us that world rankings of any sport are determined by the results of National Sports Organisation’s national teams or athlete’s performance on the global stage at what are termed as “ranking events”. The Sports Commission works at facilitating funding to enable our National teams to attend these world ranking events. We note that a number of our sports have shown good improvement but other sports have very much become professional and our individual athletes have shown their ability to become world class athletes as seen by a number of our rugby, rugby league, football, and golf individual athletes. Funding provided for overseas trainers being short term experts to come to Fiji has greatly assisted in bringing not just athletes to better results but also provided training for their coaches.

Furthermore, scholarships provided has enabled athletes to improve their ranking by competing and training with overseas athletes and coaches. The International Coaching Grant has enabled teams to advance their ranking and the results are evident in the improved ranking for Rugby, Football, Yachting and Surfing.

Recommendations

1. That the Sports Commission assist individual sporting bodies to improve their financial resources and technical expertise to boost their performance.
2. That the Sports Commission work in partnership with National Sports Organisations in the setting and achievement of targets to improve their ranking and standards.

3.3 Urban-Rural Migration of Youth and its Impact on the Sports Commission’s Sports Outreach Programmes

In light of more young people moving back to rural areas due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, we asked the Sports Commission on what challenges and opportunities this has posed for its Sports Outreach programmes. We also queried the Sports Commission on whether a database was maintained to capture such information.

The Sports Commission informed us that given the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country, the assumption is that young people will move back to rural areas due to its impact. As such, the Sports Commission is in the process of data collection for evidence based results that do indicate that there are challenges that pose a risk which can be turned into opportunities. This can only be done through partnerships with other non-government organizations, civil society organizations and other government ministries.

One of the biggest challenges for the Sports Commission is the age group targets as it is commissioned to ensure that we have a healthy nation for all Fijians. The definition of young people in Fiji is those individuals who are between 15 years to 35 years of age (inclusive). Within this group, the Sports Commission has married people with young children and extended family members of a household. Major opportunities to date in communities have been through the consolation of programs that fit all age groups in the rural community.

We note that the increase in movement of people from urban to rural communities has provided more opportunities than challenges to the Sports Commission. This has allowed the Sports Commission to activate its community sports structures through membership registrations in clubs to allow more competition in the communities. The Sports Commission also informed us that it does not have comparative data to reflect these numbers before and after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recommendations

1. That the Sports Commission develop short term non-sporting physical activities as an alternative to the Sports Outreach Programme to address the urban-rural movement of youth.
2. That the Sports Commission update its community database to facilitate a holistic approach with all stakeholders in consolidating their resources and efforts to improve sports development in rural and urban communities.

4.0 GENDER ANALYSIS

Standing Order 110(2) provides that where a committee conducts an activity, 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 Sports Outreach Programmes of the Sports Commission equally target the participation of men and women. This is reflected below:

Sports Outreach Programmes conducted between August 2018 to July 2019

A: Sports Camps in Communities

Conducted:

4

Programs and achieved the following:



Program Locations:

- Navutulevu Village, Serua
- Korotasere Village, Cakaudrove
- Lamiti Village - Gau, Lomaiviti Group
- Tavualevu Village, Tavua, BA



Number of Tikinas:

- Serua - 4 Tikinas, 9 Villages and 2 Settlements
- Lomaiviti - 3 Tikinas and 14 Villages
- Ba - 1 Tikina, 4 Villages and 6 Settlements
- Cakaudrove - 3 Tikinas, 10 Villages and 11 Settlements



Gender:

265
Males

152
Females



Participation:

417

Total Participants

B: Train the Trainer Program

Conducted:

18

Programs and achieved the following:



Program Locations:

- Central Rural Division: 4 TOT's – Serua, Burebasaga, Matainisau and Muaria
- Eastern Division (Maritime): 2 TOT's – Vunisea and Gau
- Western Division: 5 TOT's – MoYGS – Lautoka, Nadroga, Naidrodro, Nadi and Tavualevu
- Northern Division: 3 TOT's – Waiyevo, Korotasere and Labasa
- Central Urban Youth: 4 TOT's – Nausori, Lami, Tamavua and Raiwai



Covered:

- 9 Provinces
- 31 Tikinas
- 69 Villages
- 11 Settlements
- 1 School
- 8 Clubs
- 40 Urban Communities



Gender:

537

Males

220

Females



Participation:

757

Total Participants

C: Educate the Educator

Conducted:

14

Programs and achieved the following:



Program Locations where Teacher attended:

- **Central Rural Division:**
 - Held at Suva Grammar – 22 Suva Schools participated
- **Eastern Division (Maritime):**
 - Held in Ovalau – 4 Schools participated
 - Held at Vunisea Secondary School – 1 School participated
 - Held at Vugalei District School – 7 Schools participated
 - Held at Lamiti, Gau – 1 School participated
 - Held at Nakelo Distirt School – 5 Schools participated
 - Held at Vabea District School – 5 Schools participated
- **Northern Division:**
 - Held in Savusavu – 20 Schools participated
 - Held in Wairiki (Tavenui) – 15 Schools participated
 - Held in Labasa – 21 Schools participated



Gender:

195

Males

193

Females



Number of Schools:

101

Schools



Participation:

388

Total Participants

5.0 CONCLUSION

The committee has fulfilled its mandate to review the 2018-2019 Annual Report of the Fiji National Sports Commission. As part of its review process, the committee received written and supplementary response from the Sports Commission.

In this review report, the committee has highlighted various areas that need to be strengthened by the Sports Commission and relevant recommendations have been made for the resolution of issues.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' SIGNATURE

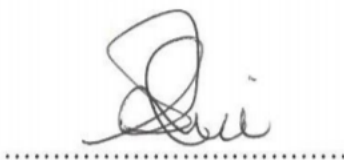
We, the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, hereby agree with the contents of this report:



Hon. Viam Pillay
(Chairperson)



Hon. George Vignathan
(Deputy Chairperson)



Hon. Alipate Nagata
(Member)



Hon. Salote Radrodru
(Member)



Hon. Dr. Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu
(Member)

APPENDIX

Published written evidence

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