



STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Review of the Ministry of Youth and Sports 2018 - 2019 Annual Report



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
Parliamentary Paper No. 69 of 2021

September 2021

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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 Ministry of Youth and Sports for 2018 – 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 Ministry of Youth and Sports in lieu of a face-to-face hearing. Following our deliberations on its written response, we wrote to the Ministry 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 Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Mr Rovereto Nayacalevu, 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 Radrodro 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 Ministry of Youth and Sports for 2018 – 2019 and recommends that the House take note of its report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 2018 - 2019 Annual Report of the Ministry of Youth and Sports 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 Ministry of Youth and Sports which was sent to the Ministry for its response.

Following our deliberations on its written response, we again wrote to the Ministry 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 Ministry of Youth and Sports 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 ABOUT THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS

The Ministry of Youth and Sports has put in place opportunities for our youth to be empowered and self-sustainable through its Mobile and Specific Skills, empowerment and capacity building training programmes.

These programmes in the Youth and Sports ministry fill a vital gap and addresses youth who have not made it in the formal education sector.

To complement this, the Ministry of Youth and Sports focuses on the facilitation of youth and sports development through the establishment of a conducive policy environment that provides strategic support systems, initiatives for personal development, character building, sports policy implementation and community based youth led programs.

3.0 COMMITTEE’S OBSERVATIONS

3.1 Partnership with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs in Implementation of Youth Development Programmes

We note that Ministry collaborates with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs in planning and implementing its youth development programmes. An example of its collaboration is the implementation of Traditional Leadership programs to youth 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. Through this, the Ministry has managed to identify 11 villages for the SMU projects with the assistance of the iTaukei Affairs and the Provincial Council Offices.

Recommendation

1. That the Saemaul Undong program be expanded and piloted in other provinces.

3.2 Specific Skills Training at the Five Youth Training Centres

We note that 145 youths graduated from the five Youth Training Centers by the end of 2019 representing an 82.8% achievement. The shortfall is attributed to the underperformance of the three YTC’s (Naleba, Naqere, and Yavitu), youth disciplinary issues and lack of guidance which recorded less intake from previous years.

The Ministry informed us 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.

We understand that the Ministry has provided several support structures through its ongoing empowerment programs at the training centres such as the Seeds of Success Program and the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Awards program. In addition to this, the trainers at the training centres 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 students are able to reach their full potential. Furthermore, four out of the Ministry’s five training centers have boarding facilities which have just been recently improved to accommodate students and ensure attendance is closely monitored.

- Recommendations**
1. That the Ministry conduct more community outreach programmes to create awareness on the various skills trainings provided in these training centres.
 2. That the Ministry undertake detailed research to ascertain the reasons for students dropping out and take remedial actions accordingly.
 3. That the Ministry introduce income generating activities for students while they are engaged in their training programmes.

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 gender breakdown of the staff composition at Ministry in the 2018-2019 financial year and the percentage of women in managerial positions is provided below:

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

5.0 CONCLUSION

The committee has fulfilled its mandate to review the 2018-2019 Annual Report of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. As part of its review process, the committee received written and supplementary responses from the Ministry.

In this review report, the committee has highlighted various areas that need to be strengthened by the Ministry 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:



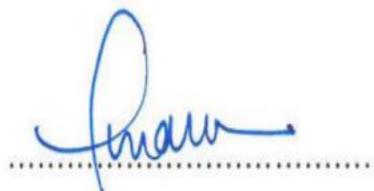
Hon. Viam Pillay
(Chairperson)



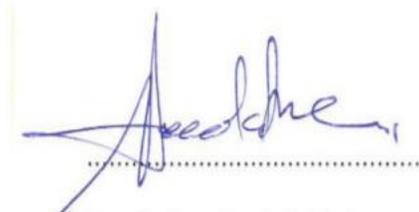
Hon. George Vegnathan
(Deputy Chairperson)



Hon. Alipate Nagata
(Member)



Hon. Salote Radrodoro
(Member)



Hon. Dr. Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu
(Member)

APPENDIX

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/>