

APPENDICES

Appendix One

Written Response by the Fiji Ports Corporation Limited



FIJI PORTS CORPORATION LIMITED

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8th March 2022

Honourable Mr. Viam Pillay
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Social Affairs
Parliament of the Republic of Fiji
P O Box 2352
Government Buildings

SUVA

Dear Chair,

**RE: CLARIFICATION OF ISSUES IN RELATION TO THE FIJI PORTS CORPORATION LIMITED
2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

We acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 25th February 2022 in regard to the abovementioned subject and thank the Standing Committee on Social Affairs' deliberations.

With reference to the Committee's queries in relation to Fiji Ports Corporation Limited's (FPCL) 2019 Annual Report, we would like to provide the following clarifications:

1. What plans are there to expand the ports and wharves managed by FPCL?

FPCL aims to be the Smart Green Gateway for trade in the Pacific region. FPCL operates major port and facilities, in Suva and Lautoka and the secondary port of Levuka and oversees the operations and International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) requirements of Vuda, Malau, Rotuma, and Wairiki.

The Ports are constraint (land and wharves) in terms of its ageing infrastructure and limited expansion options. However, in line with FPCL's 5-Year Strategic Plan (2019-2023), there are plans to rehabilitate the ports and wharves, further develop the Lautoka and Levuka Ports, review regulatory requirements and responsibilities for declared and nondeclared ports and wharves, to name a few. The Yard 3 Development Project in Lautoka is nearing completion, which will improve container / cargo storage.

In regard to the Suva Port, comprehensive condition assessments conducted, and rehabilitation works are ongoing. Further, with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank, a consulting firm has been engaged to perform a strategic review of Suva Port, undertake the maritime sector review and identify a preferred site for partial relocation of Suva Port. The feasibility study is expected to be completed towards end of 2022.

- 2. As a result of the implementation of various energy saving measures in 2016, FPCL saw an annual reduction of 62 tonnes of GHG emissions. Enlighten us on how FPCL measures GHG emissions and the additional energy saving measures it has in place.**

In 2016, FPCL carried out an energy audit to identify energy upgrades which can be implemented to make reductions in its energy consumption and GHG emissions. FPCL then implemented a dedicated Energy Track to measure its energy usage and GHG emissions. Majority of the reductions have been achieved through various energy efficiency upgrades such as upgrading of facility lighting to LED lighting, upgrading of AC systems, upgrading of the port incinerator, etc.

FPCL hopes to further reduce the energy consumption and GHG emissions over the coming years through further upgrading of the port lighting, installation of solar systems, etc. FPCL launched its Green Port Master Plan (2019-2023) which describe the approach and activities that FPCL will implement to reduce its environmental impact in line with FPCL's 5-Year Strategic Plan (2019-2023).

- 3. What was the outcome of the feasibility study of the Suva Port relocation which was undertaken with the assistance of ADB and what challenges were encountered in the process?**

In 2020, ADB engaged a consulting firm to perform a strategic review of Suva Port, undertake the maritime sector review and identify a preferred site for partial relocation of Suva Port's current infrastructure.

The Project was initially expected to be completed by end of June 2021. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions in 2021, timelines were re-looked, and the project is now expected to be completed by end of December 2022.

Some of the challenges encountered were travel restrictions imposed both locally and internationally, thus, geotechnical and other key assessments could not be initiated, and project timelines had to be revised.

- 4. Provide an update on the initiative to develop Labasa as a port of entry.**

The Ministry of Economy did some studies through FPCL and due to the cost, connectivity, finding a suitable place and Government having other priorities, this project has been put on hold.

- 5. How does FPCL ensure that its premises including ports and wharves under its responsibility, are disability friendly and that employees with disabilities are sufficiently equipped in order to carry out their work without any impediments?**

FPCL has obtained accreditation which ensures quality and safety in both products and services is maintained to meet international trade guidelines: ISO 9001:2015 Quality

Management System, ISO 14001: 2015 Environmental Management System, and ISO 45001: 2018 Occupational Health & Safety.

FPCL being a certified company for all above international standards, has moved the company to a next higher level. Certification has enabled FPCL to improve its performance, provide better quality service, reduce risk, enhance workplace safety, increase innovation and revenue.

It is important to note that people with disabilities are able to access all port facilities, e.g., availability of ramps for cruise ship tourists. There are plans in place to improve access further for people with disabilities.

FPCL has a Pilot Boat Engineer who is partially physically impaired assisting in Pilot Boat duties. Similarly, FPCL has employed a Wharf Attendant that is partially sensory impaired but has been one of the most dedicated employees for FPCL in the same workforce category. These employees with partial disabilities have been able to perform their duties without any hinderance. Like all employees, trainings and other self-development opportunities have been equally provided to these employees who are partial disabled.

FPCL's Learning & Staff Development Strategy is inclusive of supporting disability friendly stakeholder interactions including its employees.

Similarly, FPCL had employed employees in previous years that were either physical or sensory partial impairment. Therefore, FPCL remains equal opportunity employer.

We hope the above information would suffice. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information or clarification.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Fiji Ports Corporation Limited

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vajira Piyasena", followed by a horizontal line.

Vajira Piyasena
Chief Executive Officer