### Nadi Town Council

### **NADI TOWN COUNCIL**

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Your Ref:

All communication to be addressed to the C.E.O

Our Ref:

A1/1/383

Date:

31 March 2022

The Chairperson Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Affairs Government Buildings Suva.

Dear Honourable Viam Pillay

Re: Request for Clarification on Issues in Relation to the Nadi Town Council 2004 – 2015 Annual Reports.

Reference is made to the above.

Kindly please find attached the response to the queries that was raised.

Should the Honourable Committee require any further information or clarification please feel free to let us know.

Yours faithfully

Muni Gopal Reddy

**Acting Chief Executive Officer** 

MGR/iq

### Questions

1. What are some of the challenges faced by the Council in meeting its strategic objectives and how is it planning to address these challenges?

The challenges that Council is faced with is the recent Covid pandemic. The pandemic had its major impact in Nadi as the economy of Nadi is greatly dependant on tourism. This led to a reduction in the payment of Town rates and tenants not able to pay their rents. The businesses suffered a huge loss as the town was mostly empty and this led to less spending.

This had resulted in reduced collection of town rates thus the budgeted revenue was not collected which led to some projects to be put on hold.

These challenges were addressed as follows:

- A. Recruitments were put on hold to avoid spending on human resources budget
- B. Contracts were revisited and tendered out for 3 years which brought in savings. Particularly Insurance, Air-conditioned servicing, market cleaning and annual accounts preparation.
- C. Grass cutting contract was reduced from 2 cycles to one cycle on a monthly basis during the dry spell. The growth of grass during the dry spell is very slow therefore the reduction in 1 cycle led to a savings of approximately \$14,000.00 a month.
- D. House to house rates visit was undertaken and people were given opportunity to pay town rates in instalments, through direct deduction by employers etc.
- 2. Inform us of the work the Council has undertaken to address the issue of widespread flooding in Nadi town during adverse weather and why despite such measures, flooding is a recurrent problem in the municipality and its surrounding areas. Can the Council provide us with a strategy to improve the town drainage and consequently reduce flooding?

To address the issue of flooding in Nadi requires significant budget which Council does not have. This was continuously raised to the government. The project is being undertaken by the government to address the flooding in Nadi. Some of the works that has already being undertaken are the 5 retention dams built on the upper catchments.

The ongoing works are as follows:

- Nadi Flood Alleviation Project (Part A) the components for this part will be the improvements to the Nadi Town drainage systems, dikes, retention catchment for the protection of the town.
- ii. Nadi Flood Alleviation Project (Part B) the components of this part will be the overall protection of town and continuation of the dikes from part a, retention catchments, river widening and deepening, channel improvements etc.
- iii. Nadi Flood Alleviation Project (Part C) the components of this part will be the improvement to the catchment area. Improving the farming techniques, rehabilitation of the degraded slopes, planting of trees on deforested areas.

3. What is the staffing complement of the Health Department and are there sufficient staff available to carry out its functions?

There are a total of 6 staffs in health department.

1x senior health inspector, 3 x assistant health inspectors and 2x litter prevention officers.

The whole department structure has been amended to focus on the service delivery. Now it is referred to as the Community Services. Now the department will look after health, market and enforcement. This will create the focus on service delivery in terms of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation, litter prevention and traffic infringements.

The previous structure was not adequate to carry out the functions. The council is also in the process of Town Boundary Extension therefore a new structure has been done to compliment this increase.

4. Plans to declare Nadi as a city has been in the pipeline for six years now. Inform us of when this plan will be materialised, the associated challenges and how the Council, in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government, is planning to address these issues.

The plan has been on hold as a result of the pandemic. Works were ongoing to prepare Nadi with the facilities and the resources and then declare it to City. As a result of the pandemic and its impacts this will need to be revisited. With the newly appointed SA's board this will be discussed and a plan will be drawn to get Nadi Declared as a city.

To compliment Nadi becoming a city the town boundary extension exercise is ongoing. The extension area has been gazetted and currently works are underway for the draft scheme. Once the scheme has been completed then the valuation will be carried out. The valuation will take approximately 9 months to complete. This will be finalised by end of May and the valuation to commence from June this year. Our Ministry is actively assisting with the ongoing exercise.

### 5. 2015 Annual Report:

a. Pages 10 of Annual Report (Item 3) - Provide a breakdown of the activities approved under *Miscellaneous*.

The applications under this item are as follows:

- Liquor license request
- Billboards
- Telecommunication antennas
- Private taxi bases
- Private Hire bases

### b. Page 11 of Annual Report (Table C) - What were the outcomes of the 103 complaints investigated by the Building Department?

The complaints were investigated and were addressed as follows:

- the illegal developers were issued with notices to stop work and lodge plans
- Those developers that failed to adhere to stop work notice and continued works were taken to court and the matter was dealt with before the courts.
- Lots of developers complied with the notices and stopped work and got there plans lodged and approved.
- There were also some complaints which were for non-confirming works on zones for example from residential area operating a garage, shop and workshop for joinery. In this case notice under Town Planning Act was issued. Once the notice was issued the owners complied.
- There were 17 complaints that were received but were not genuine in nature. For example illegal construction but upon inspection it was identified that painting and tiling works were done which does not require a permit. Another case was operation of garage but the owner was repairing his own vehicle. Other issues were shared driveways, trees encroaching into neighbours compound, excessive noise etc.

### c. Page 14 of Annual Report (Health Department):

### · Summary of Inspections – Elaborate on the areas of inspection. The areas of inspection are as follows;

- House to house inspection
- Investigation of complaints, nuisance, etc.
- Hotels, Motels and guest houses
- Factories and Workshops
- Dance Hall, night clubs, cinema houses etc.
- Schools
- Laundries
- Hairdressers and Chiropodists etc.
- Food shops, food stores, markets, etc.
- Restaurants and refreshment bars
- Aerated Water and other food factories
- Bake houses
- Inspection of public conveniences
- Butcher Shops
- Food vehicles and food carts
- Storm water drains

- Refuse Dumping
- Inspection of vacant lots
- Inspection of sweetmeat kitchens
- Inspection of sewer manholes
- New Bldg Works in progress, site inspection final inspection
- Inspection of taxi, carrier, mini bus stand, bus bay
- Inspection of private car park
- Inspection of Alleyways & service lane/Arcades
- Inspection of Public Litter Bins
- Inspection of Civic Park & Children
- Inspection of Commercial Building Shops/Offices
  - · Summary of Sanitary Improvements, etc to all types of premises Inform us on what actions were taken against those premises that did not comply with the required sanitary improvements as shown in the Table and what measures were taken to improve the sanitary conditions of these premises.

Inspections are carried out and upon non -compliance (verbal and written) warning is given to the offenders to comply within the allocated timeframe. Depending on the nature of sanitary improvement, notices are also prepared and served for e.g. Abatement of Nuisance Notices, Intimation of Insanitary notices, litter notices etc. Follow up inspections are carried out to ascertain and ensure compliance.

### d. Page 15 of Annual Report (Complaints) – Explain the nature of these complaints and whether they have been resolved.

Complaints - Nature of complaints are as follows and all complaints recorded were complied with and resolved

- Waste water
- Overgrowth of Grass
- Garbage
- In discriminant Dumping
- Sewer
- Water main leakages
- Food Complaints
- Complaints from eateries , supermarkets , butcher –unhygienic conditions
- Burning
- Poultry and animal nuisance
- Drainage
- Mosquito Breeding and vector related complaints
- Noise Nuisance
- Dog Complaints

- Schools –washroom facilities ,canteens
- 6. 2010 Annual Report We note that the Council engaged Mr. Tony Laciura, an American Peace Corp to help with the construction of the Nadi Town Master Plan. Confirm whether the Master Plan has been completed. Was the tender process followed in the recruitment of the consultant and how much fees was the consultant paid for the work done?

Mr. Tony Lacuira was a Peace Corp volunteer who was brought in to work on the master plan for Nadi Town Council. The plan that he compiled was presented to the Director Town Planning but was refused on the ground that the proposed area was taking into the whole of the Nadi District and it was not viable for the Council to take control of such a massive area taking into account of the current resources owned by the Council.

As per the advice a new plan was done which is the current Nadi Town Boundary Extension plan which has been approved. This is where the area was reduced which makes up the current extension.

The consultant was appointed as a volunteer and was not part of the payroll at the Council. He was paid a housing allowance and utility bills by the Council. That was in the amount of \$12,334.18

- 7. 2004 Annual Report (Page 20) Inform us of the requirements for the extension of the Nadi town boundary and whether these requirements were met prior to approval being granted for the extension of the peripheral boundaries by 200 hectares. What were the challenges associated with the town boundary expansion and how were these addressed?
  - 8. Provide a breakdown of the following information for each year from 2004 to 2015:
    - √ Number of ratepayers;
    - ✓ Rates collected for each year (monetary value);

| YEAR | # OF Ratepayers | Rates collected each year (Monetary Value) |
|------|-----------------|--|
| 2004 | 1298            | \$1,035,263                                |
| 2005 | 1298            | \$1,712,314                                |
| 2006 | 1298            | \$1,222,062                                |
| 2007 | 1298            | \$1,222,893                                |
| 2008 | 1298            | \$1,141,305                                |
| 2009 | 1298            | \$1,585,429                                |
| 2010 | 1298            | \$1,375,252                                |
| 2011 | 1298            | \$1,522,609                                |
| 2012 | 2613            | \$1,944,490                                |
| 2013 | 2613            | \$1,759,383                                |
| 2014 | 2613            | \$1,689,829                                |
| 2015 | 2613            | \$1,696,672                                |

### ✓ Rental arrears for each year from 2004 to 2015 (provide the monetary value); and ✓ Total arrears up until the present time.

| YEAR            | Rental Arrears<br>(Monetary Value) |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 2004            | 8,726.00                           |
| 2005            | 17,720.00                          |
| 2006            | 14,869.00                          |
| 2007            | 28,923.00                          |
| 2008            | 30,883.00                          |
| 2009            | 14,483.00                          |
| 2010            | 36,274.00                          |
| 2011            | 27,442.00                          |
| 2012            | 64,323.00                          |
| 2013            | 90,809.00                          |
| 2014            | 214,105.00                         |
| 2015            | 261,515.00                         |
| 2016            | 296,375.00                         |
| 2017            | 240,685.00                         |
| 2018            | 111,846.00                         |
| 2019            | 149,913.00                         |
| 2020            | 274,653.00                         |
| 2021 (jan-july) | 347,952.00                         |

### a. What are the causes of the accumulation of rental arrears?

The major attribute is the natural disasters that the people had to go through which were the floods and Cyclones in 2009, 2011, 2012 January and March, 2016, and 2018.

But from 2020 as a result of the pandemic the situation got worse. The tenants are not paying the rental dues on time and in full.

We are in the process of recruiting a legal officer for the Council who will be responsible for recovering the dues from the tenants through legal actions.

### b. What are the challenges faced in the collection of rental arrears and their method(s) of collection?

The major challenge arouse as a result of the current pandemic. We had initiated a person responsible for collection of arrears for all rental tenants and after the lock downs and closure of borders the tenants were not paying. Despite calls and visits every week by an officer small instalments are received.

### c. Has the Council conducted a survey or research on the reasons for non-payment or delayed payment of town rates?

Yes, the survey was carried out last year and some of the reason for non- payment and delayed payment are below

- 1. Probate yet to be done
- 2. Beneficiaries and owner are of unsound minds
- 3. Land is under dispute and is before court
- 4. Financial Constraint
- 5. Parents or owner need to rely the message of town rates to their children
- 6. Financial Constraint
- 7. Pandemic

### d. What is the Council's plan to address this issue and what punitive and non punitive measures are taken against non-compliant rate payers?

- We are in the process of recruiting an in-house lawyer who will be responsible for placing caveats, taking the matters to small claims and magistrate's court to prosecute to recover the sums owed.
- If the property will need to be sold in order to recover the rates council will also pursue that which will be in close consultation with Ministry of Local Government.
- Council is also doing house to house visits to all the ratepayers who owe rates to get them to enter into payment plans.

### e. How is the non-collection of full town rates impacting the service delivery of the Council?

- It creates challenges on the provision of better services for example Council is not able to upgrade the current plants and machinery which could enhance better and quality service delivery in less time.
- Human resources is not able to be upgraded which leads to increased response time for handling queries and issues.
- Council is not able to upgrade the level of infrastructure such as parks, open spaces for the ratepayers

### f. Provide details of vacant lots in the municipality.

| Assessment No. | Ratepayer                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1              | SEVEN DAYS SUPERMARKET PTE LTD |
| 231/31         | SAILENDRA SHARMA               |
| 446/03         | MUNIAMMA                       |
| 448/09         | XUAN YAO CHEN                  |
| 517            | PATRICK GOCK                   |
| 520            | DOO SUN KWONG                  |
| 521            | DOO LEANG KWONG                |
| 523            | KWONG NAI MING                 |

| 524     | JOHN MOON FONG                                 |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|
| 526     | RAYMOND LEE                                    |  |  |
| 528     | TITO MARIKO DAUREWA, G.M.Y VELMA GOCK DAUREWA, |  |  |
| 531     | MARTINTAR INVESTMENT                           |  |  |
| 606     | SHIU CHARAN                                    |  |  |
| 617     | AMRATLAL RATANJI AND MAHESH KUMAR              |  |  |
| 655     | SARAS WATI                                     |  |  |
| 667/24  | ANIL PILLAY AND CHANDRA PILLAY                 |  |  |
| 667/32  | FEDERATED AIRLINE STAFF ASSOCIATION            |  |  |
| 667/47  | TUPOU CHANG                                    |  |  |
| 997/77  | MOHD SHOUKAT ALI                               |  |  |
| 1000/39 | RAJESHNI DEVI REDDY                            |  |  |
| 1000/50 | VINOD PATEL CO LTD                             |  |  |
| 1000/51 | VINOD PATEL CO LTD                             |  |  |
| 1000/52 | VINOD PATEL CO LTD                             |  |  |
| 1000/53 | AJIJUNISSA HUSSEIN SAHIB                       |  |  |
| 1007/01 | PREM CHAND                                     |  |  |
| 1017/05 | CONCAVE INVESTMENT                             |  |  |
| 1321    | ELENOR B THAGGARD                              |  |  |
| 1329    | GEORGE BOLEA                                   |  |  |
| 1343    | PARAS RAMLU                                    |  |  |
| 1360    | NARSHIM SWAMY                                  |  |  |
| 1362    | MOHD TAABISH AKBAR                             |  |  |
| 1455    | RAKESH CHAND                                   |  |  |
| 1552    | SHAILENDRA SINGH                               |  |  |
| 1751    | JAI PEE KAY GROUP (FIJI) LTD                   |  |  |
| 1764    | VINOD PATEL CO LTD                             |  |  |
| 1765    | AJIJUNISHA HUSSEIN SAHIB                       |  |  |
| 1807    | LUKEK  |  |  |
| 1849    | ILIESA DELANA                                  |  |  |
| 1850    | MOHAMMED SHEERAZ YUSUF & YASREENA YASMIN MENAZ |  |  |
| 1982    | SANJAY KUMAR & IREEN DEVI                      |  |  |
| 2008    | SENIMILI VANA                                  |  |  |
| 2018    | PRAVINDRA NARAYAN                              |  |  |
| 2151    | RENAL RITESH CHANDRA                           |  |  |
| 2152    | ALIKI & LEILANI M FIFITA                       |  |  |
| 2166    | KUBUNAVITILEVU KAMENIELI                       |  |  |
| 2238    | ANIL GOUNDAR                                   |  |  |

### 9. Has the Korociri settlement evacuation centre project been completed?

The funds that was given to the Council was utilised and the shelter has been constructed. The evacuation centre is being used by the residents during the disasters. There were some internal works (tiling, painting) pending for which the application was made but no funds were received.

- 10. Considering the high number of illegal works taking place in the municipality each year, what actions is the Council taking to deter such activities? What has been the effectiveness of these measures?
  - The notices were issued to the illegal developers and were prosecuted in court. Once they were fined then people came to respect and recognize the law.
  - The block rezoning was carried out to provide more commercial space.
  - The amendment to allow certain business to operate from home has reduced the people doing illegal operation from home.
  - The approval processing time has been reduced whereby there are weekly meetings between DTCP and Council to assess and approve applications. This has resulted in faster approval thus people lodge plans.
  - Awareness has been created in housing subdivisions where the lot sizes are small and the ratepayers were not aware of the building setback requirements.
- 11. The Council has experienced frequent changes of Chief Executive Officers between 2004 and 2015. What are the reasons for this and the impact this has had on the governance of the Council and resulting shortfalls in meeting yearly targets and deliverables?

The reasons are as follows:

- i. terminated
- ii. charged by FICAC
- iii. resigned
- iv. expiry of contract

As a result of this we have seen that there were lots of unresolved issues which were carried on, lots of acting positions, projects were not completed on time, staff recruitment were delayed, audits were not done and submitted on time.

### 12. Since the appointment of the Nadi Special Administrator in 2019:

a. What improvements have been brought about in the collection of arrears by the Nadi Town Council? Provide relevant statistics.

| Year           | Collection | Percentage |  |
|----------------|------------|------------|--|
| 2019           | \$214,349  | 15%        |  |
| 2020           | \$155,726  | 10%        |  |
| 2021(7 Months) | \$127,294  | \$6%       |  |

This reflects the collection that was done on the rates arrears. We had started with 15% but as a result of the pandemic the collections decreased. People were not paying as they lost jobs, houses were vacant, etc.

Through the administrators the following strategies were and are being implemented:

- i. the house to house visits
- ii. payment plans
- iii. legal notices to the debtors
- iv. recruitment of legal officer in progress
- v. recruitment of Manager Finance and Corporate Services in progress
- vi. recruitment of internal auditor in progress
- b. What measures have been put in place to promptly address the grievances of ratepayers? How many grievances were recorded from 2004 to date and what were the nature of these complaints?

Currently we have an officer (Grievance Officer) to handle all the complaints. She receives all complaints then registers it and sends it to the respective departments to resolve. The departments are given 3 days to check, verify and respond to the grievance officer on the way forward or in case the issues have been resolved.

In case the departments or responsible officer does not respond within 3 days then the grievance officer sends another follow-up email and the CEO is copied for reference and full explanation has to be provided as to the reason for the delay.

The complainant is updated every 3 days depending on the urgency and nature of complaints.

Total complaints received from 2004 to 2015 were 3,758 and from 2016 to date is 1932. The nature of complaints is as follows:

- illegal construction
- non-conforming use
- garbage disposal
- waste water
- road conditions
- drain cleaning and grass cutting
- dogs
- public convenience cleanliness
- streetlights
- customer service
- delay in development application processing
- keeping of poultry
- c. How have the following services and facilities provided to ratepayers in the Nadi municipality been enhanced:
  - · Maintenance of public amenities;
    - New Namaka Market construction

- Nadi market construction of additional stalls and vendor hostel
- New car park near bus station
- Renovation of public washrooms with disable friendly access
- Resealing of car parks
- Concreting of bus station

### · Rubbish collection and grass cutting; and

- Introduction of 3r
- Composting
- Compactor trucks used for collection of refuse
- In-house collection leading to savings
- Grass cutting outsourced to contractors and comparison done with grass cutting team in house. SA board decided to get all grass cutting to be done in house as the quality of the work is better and achieve cost saving during dry season.
- Road maintenance and drainage seeing as certain roads are not maintained on time as evidenced by several potholes forming on roads within the municipality.
   Also of concern is no change to the constant flooding of the town in adverse weather.

All roads are being managed by Fiji Roads Authority.

The drains are looked after by the Council. Major works have taken place in drain upgrades. From 2020 to 2021 council did almost \$270,000 in drain maintenance works in the town boundary.

### d. How has service delivery in the following areas been enhanced:

- Health and Hygiene; renovated public washrooms, installation of fountain taps, cleaning of all parks and open spaces for people to utilise, restaurant grading, weekly inspections of all public places, daily washing of public convenience, user pay systems for washrooms.
- · Security and Safety; establishment of a police post at Nadi Market and installation of CCTV at Nadi Market. Plans are underway for installation of CCTV at Namaka Market. Proposal is being done to install CCTV in the Nadi Central Business District.
- · Impacts of Climate Change/Environment; central government has constructed 5 retention dams in the upper catchments, introduction of 3rs in the town boundary to reduce the generation of waste, shredding of tree branches to use as mulch rather than throwing, flood works being undertaken by the government.
- Poverty; additional market spaces created for both Namaka and Nadi Market, development application processing has been relooked at to promote faster approval process resulting in job creation in the construction sector, eco bags promotion.
- · Squatter Settlements within town boundaries; there are no squatter settlements within the town boundary.
- · Disaster Risk Analysis; and disaster management plan has been in place for the Council. This leads to faster response to disaster preparedness and recovery.

- Gender Mainstreaming. All recruitments are based on merit and equal opportunity is given to both genders. All leadership positions has been advertised for recruitment.
- f. How has accountability, transparency and good governance at the Council been strengthened seeing as the Committee is yet to receive outstanding Annual Reports of the Council from 2015 to 2020 with the annual audited financial statements?

This has been done in the following ways:

- Board of Special Administrators to oversee the Council operation
- Filling of all vacant positions in process
- Recruitment of CEO in process
- In house lawyer recruitment in process
- Implementing a more responsive structure to deal with the challenges
- All services to be tendered through the tender process and police to witness the tender opening
- Strong focus on audits to be completed. Currently 2017 accounts have been audited by Auditor General's Office and 2018 and 2019 accounts are in the final stage of completion. 2020 and 2021 to be completed by September this year. Annual report narratives have been completed from 2016 to 2018. 2019 to 2021 will be completed by end of May and submitted to Ministry.

### Financial Statements of the Council for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

- 13. Unsupported balances in the financial statements -
- a. Why did the Council not keep the necessary accounting records to substantiate the balances reported in the financial statements?

Some of the amount presented in the Financial Statement has been carried forward from 2005. There was poor book keeping and records keeping. We are working on to rectify these issues.

As a way forward all the records are reconciled on a monthly basis and all monthly records are filed accordingly.

b. Does the Council now keep sufficient appropriate documentation of all expenses and transactions that occur in the course of the financial year?

Yes, and also works are ongoing to get software which could integrate all the financial information into one software.

c. As unsupported balances indicate serious irregularities and possible fraud, has the Council reported the matter to the relevant authorities for further investigations? If so, inform us of the outcome of these investigations.

No, Council did not report the matter to relevant authorities. For Receivables amounting to \$26,565 council believe it was incorrectly stated in the financial statement. The Fund was fully utilised and council has all the supporting documents for the grant received and the acquittals. Also we have submitted the acquittals to department of Housing. The

Deferred Income issue was not raised in 2014 Accounts and Council was of a view that all the prior year's grant documents and working paper is with the Office of Auditor General since they carried out the Audit. In 2015 Council received \$293,250 which we have the supporting documents.

Council is trying to resolve the issues that have been raised and exhaust all avenues. For those issues that cannot be resolved then the matter will be reported to FICAC.

### 14. Page 4 of financial statements (Emphasis of matter):

### a. Item I – Explain the reasons for the improper use of funds and whether internal controls have been strengthened to prevent the recurrence of such misuse of funds.

The matter of emphasis was in relation to the balance of the loan rates that was used for operational activities. Council had taken loan for capital works and the loan rate was not revised. Currently Council is closely working with Ministry to rectify this issue. This will be resolved as a way forward by revising the current loan rates to meet the repayment.

The other issue was in relation to sundry deposits held by the Council. Council as a way forward has kept a separate register to reflect all the sundry deposits. We are also in the process of locating these documents and preparing refunds for tender deposits, base fees refunds that had to be returned as a result of the advance payment. Currently Council is maintaining a separate register for all tender and other such refundable deposits.

### b. *Item 2* – Explain whether this issue has been rectified in the 2016 financial year and beyond.

The first issue is being rectified in the current financial year, which is 2021-2022. The issue with the sundry deposits is still ongoing as the records date back from 2005. We are reconciling the records from last year and progressing to prior years. Currently we have completed 2021, 2020 and are working on 2019 and 2018. Our target is to get this completed by October 2022.

### 15. Does the Council have a risk management policy in place?

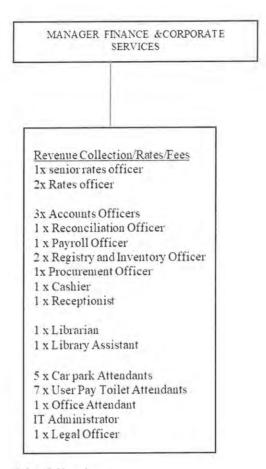
Currently Council does not have a risk management policy in place. Council has requested the assistance of FICAC to carry out the risk assessment audit for Council operations. This will enable us to prepare a policy.

FICAC has already launched the anti-bribery campaign which will be completed by 30/04/2022. After this they will proceed with the risk assessment audit. A date is yet to be confirmed.

Council has also advertised for an internal auditor which will be recruited by end of May. This position will directly report to the Board of SA. This will ensure that any fraud, errors or discrepancies are caught in the early stages.

### 16. Provide the current staff structure of the Accounts Section. Indicate the positions, whether they have been substantively filled and the **qualification** of these Officers.

This is the approved new structure for the Finance Department. Currently the position of Manager Finance has been advertised and will close on 09/04/2022.



Accounts section consists of the following:

| Position                | Qualification   |  |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Accounts payable        | Diploma in Business Accounting  |  |
| Accounts receivable     | Diploma in Accounting (FNU)   |  |
| Debt collection officer | Vacant- recruitment will commence early May   |  |
| Payroll officer         | Diploma In Business(Accounting)   |  |
| Reconciliation officer  | BA in Accounting and Business Administration - resigned<br>Currently being looked after by accounts payable |  |
| Procument Officer       | Advance Diploma in Accounting (TAFE)  |  |
| Cashier                 | Diploma in Business Accounting (FIT)  |  |

Council is proposing to have another position which will be the Senior Accounts Officer. This position will be responsible for the entire accounts section and will ensure that the department is functional and adheres to the new approved manual of accounts. This will be endorsed in the next Council meeting.



# NADI TOWN COUNCIL



### STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

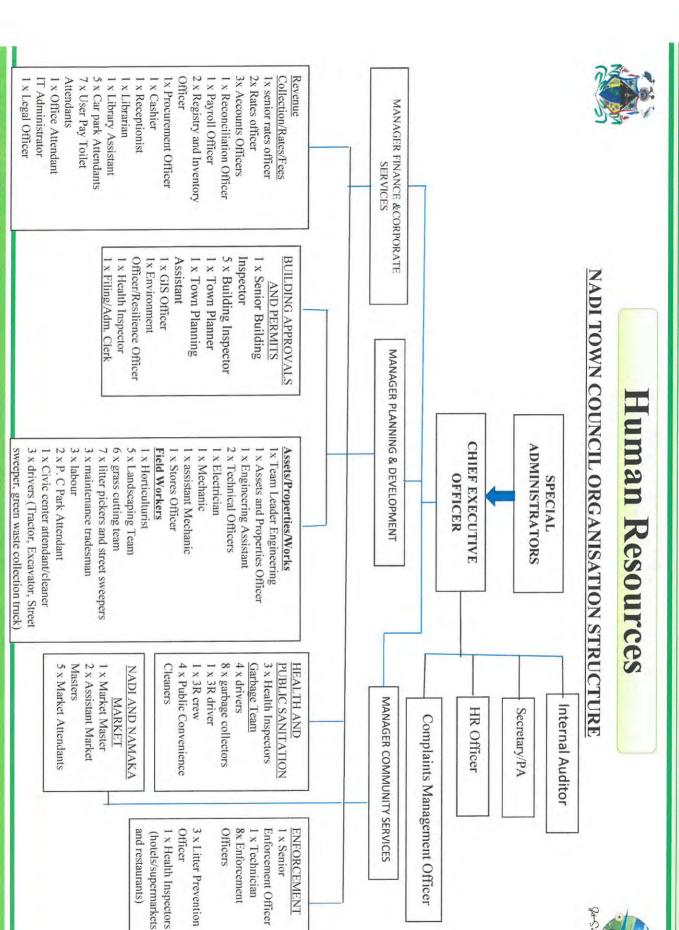


### **Financial Update**



### Financial Accounts

- 2017 FS completed by the Office of Auditor General
- 2018 FS to be submitted to the Office of the **Auditor General**
- 2019 Accounts Submitted to Ernst & Young for preparation of FS
- Finance 2020-2021 FS to be completed by New Manager



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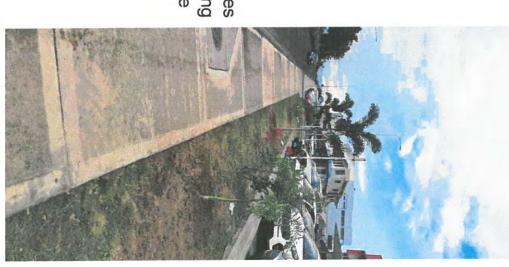


### Ongoing Projects



Seating on Main Street















Changed garden layout and flowers

Garden opposite bus station













- Extension of canopy over juice vendors
- Construction of new juice stalls near market
- Beautification along Koroivolu park
- New gardens opposite Nadi Bus Station
- New gardens after Nadi Bridge
- complex New sail installation over sittings near NTC
- Installation of CCTV cameras at Nadi Market
- Red palms planted in main street



## Restructuring of Services



- Grass Cutting Contracts reduced from 2 cycle to 1 cycle per month achieving \$14k savings/month during dry seasor
- Waste Management for Extended Boundary from \$10k/month. Contracted to in-house with a savings of approximately
- approximately \$833/month Insurance given for 3 year term achieving a savings of
- savings of \$667 per month Restructuring of air condition contract to achieve







### Supplementary Response by the Nadi Town Council

### Nadi Town Council

### Supplementary Question

1. We note that the Council has not provided a response to question 7. The question is as follows:

2004 Annual Report (Page 20) — Inform us of the requirements for the extension of the Nadi town boundary and whether these requirements were met prior to approval being granted the extension of the peripheral boundaries by 200 hectares. What were the challenges associated with the town boundary expansion and how were these addressed?

### The requirements for the extension are as follows:

- The proposed areas have to be marked and application made to DTCP for provisional approval which is published in the dailies and the Gazette for objection by the public.
- After this is done then the proposal with any objections is sent to DTCP for final approval. In the case for 2004 extension there was no objections received therefore the application was finally approved. This was also notified in the dailies and the gazette for information of the public that the extension has already been approved.

Yes the process was followed for the extension done in 2004.

The major challenge with the Town Boundary Extension is that if there are public objections then this could lead to the exercise to be stopped. But Council carried out prior public awareness to the areas that were to be included into the boundary therefore we did not receive any objections.