



STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Review of the:

Film Fiji 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017 Annual Report

Film Fiji 1 January to 31 July 2016 Annual Report



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
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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 Film Fiji for 2016/2017 and January to July 2016.

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 of this year and formulated questions pertaining to the Annual Reports, which were sent to Film Fiji for its response. Upon receipt of all relevant information on the committee's queries, the committee compiled its findings and subsequently endorsed its report in May.

Some of the pertinent findings emanating from the scrutiny of Film Fiji's Annual Reports include:

- In 2016/2017, 58 productions were filmed in Fiji. These productions came from various continents and countries including, the USA, France, Poland, Scotland and Hong Kong.
- The 58 productions that came to Fiji in 2016/2017 generated \$212.3 million dollars of New Economic Activity in the Fijian economy.
- Film Fiji was given a grant of \$1.4 million in 2016/2017, up from \$0.535 million received in the previous year.

At this juncture, I wish to thank the Chief Executive Officer of Film Fiji, Mr. Ramiro Tenorio, and his staff for their timely assistance in this review process. I also extend my gratitude to my Committee colleagues namely: Hon. George Vegenathan (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.



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Hon. Viam Pillay
Chairperson

RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs has conducted the annual review of Film Fiji for 2016/2017 & January – July 2016 and recommends that the House take note of its report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 2016/2017 and January – July 2016 Annual Reports of Film Fiji were tabled in the February 2021 Parliament sitting 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 2016/2017 and January – July 2016 Annual Report of Film Fiji, which were sent to the entity for its response.

Upon receipt of all relevant information on the committee's queries, we compiled our findings on the Annual Reports and subsequently endorsed it in the early part of this month.

We received written and supplementary responses from Film Fiji 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 FILM FIJI

Film Fiji is the film commission of Fiji, tasked with managing the government's filming incentives. The commission provides location services, administers the rebate process, grants film permits and facilitates necessary approvals from authorities such as the tax department, immigration and other government departments.

Film Fiji also provides advice on production budgets and assists with administrative procedures, with the aim of making the business of filmmaking exciting, stress-free, and ultimately positioning Fiji as one of the most sought-after film destinations in the world.

As a government statutory body, Film Fiji has a large network of local stakeholders who are directly involved in the film industry, ensuring that production companies have a pleasant experience while shooting in Fiji.

3.0 COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS

- 3.1 The committee is generally satisfied with the operations of Film Fiji in the period under review and has no issues to bring to the attention of the House, except one:

We note that the Board of Survey was not carried out for Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) as at 31 July 2017. The survey needs to be carried out to strengthen the internal controls over the existence of PPE.

Upon querying Film Fiji on this audit issue, we were informed that it had its financial year changed in 2016 from annual calendar year to follow Government financial year from August to July each year. The Board of Survey is usually carried out yearly before the end of each year. In 2017, a Board of Survey was carried out in September but because of the change in financial year, this issue was raised by OAG with the recommendation that the survey be carried out before the end of the financial year on 31 July each year.

In noting the recommendation, Film Fiji has since carried out the survey before the end of each financial year.

4.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We recognise the challenges faced by Film Fiji during the COVID-19 pandemic and the strategies adopted to address them and therefore, recommend that Film Fiji continue working steadily on improving their operations.
2. That Film Fiji explore opportunities with the tourism industry to be able to recapture the European market and establish new ones.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The committee has fulfilled its mandate to review the 2016/2017 & January – July 2016 Annual Reports of Film Fiji. As part of its review process, the committee received written and supplementary responses from Film Fiji.

The committee is generally satisfied with the operational and financial performance of Film Fiji for the period under review.


COMMITTEE MEMBERS' SIGNATURE

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


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Hon. Viam Pillay

(Chairperson)


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Hon. George Vegnathan

(Deputy Chairperson)


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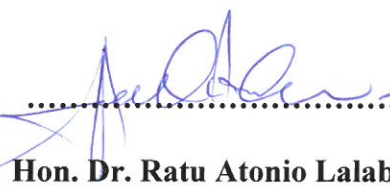
Hon. Salote Radrodro

(Member)


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Hon. Alipate Nagata

(Member)


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Hon. Dr. Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu

(Member)

APPENDIX

Published written evidence

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