



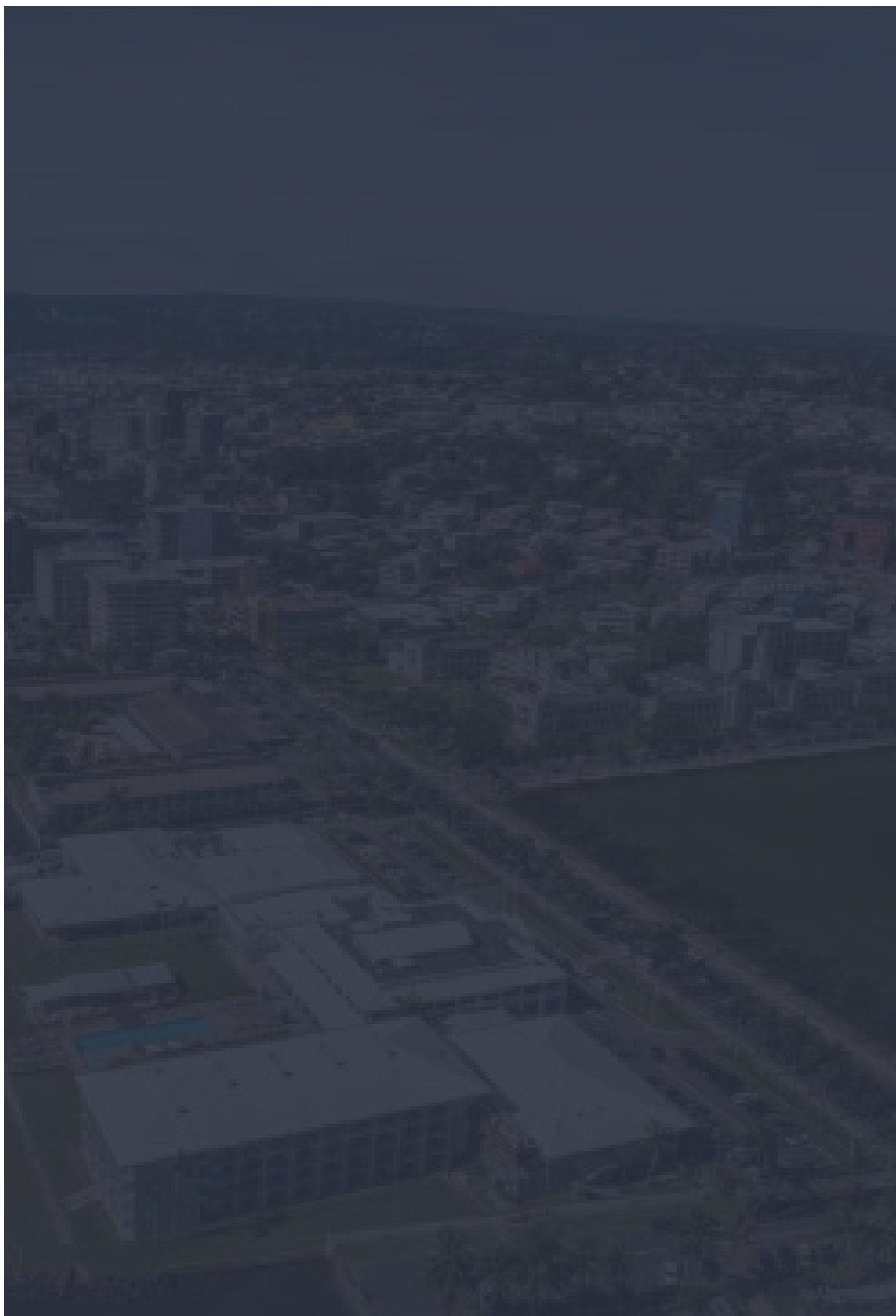
MINISTRY OF
INDUSTRY, TRADE
AND TOURISM

ANNUAL REPORT

Parliamentary Paper No: 65 of 2022

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LETTER TO THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER

17 February 2022

Rear Admiral (Retired) Honourable Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama
Honourable Prime Minister,
Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs
4th Floor, New Wing, Government Buildings,
Suva

Dear Honourable Prime Minister

Annual Report 1 August 2018 – 31 July 2019

I am honoured to submit, on behalf of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, the combined performance report of the Ministry for the period 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Honourable Faiyaz Siddiq Koya
Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport

STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY



As we conclude another successful year, I am delighted to present the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism's 2018-2019 Annual Report. The report details the Ministry's key achievements in delivering on our strategic priorities. It is through our strategic focus that the Ministry works to attain the vision set out in the 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan.

The Ministry represents the interests of some of Fiji's most important sectors. Tourism is the greatest single contributor to overall economic activity and through the revamped International Visitor Survey we will be informed better than ever before of the total value and distribution of tourism related spend throughout the country. This data will track our progress against the key targets within the sectoral development plan (Fijian Tourism 2021) and provide insight to help generate even more value from the tourists who visit our shores.

In April 2019, the Ministry was mandated to lead the doing business reforms, through the Ease of Doing Business Taskforce. By reviewing and redesigning the processes for starting a business and obtaining construction permits, we have already made it easier to do business in Fiji. The launch of the bizFIJI portal in July 2019 brought about a streamlined resource for starting a business and to obtain a construction permit. Combined with the continued work on the Investment Bill, the Ministry is proud to make it easier for businesses to formally establish and grow.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are the lifeblood of many communities. Entrepreneurs all across Fiji run sustainable businesses that provide the foundation for the economy to be robust and resilient. This year, we began the establishment of MSME Fiji, a dedicated team within the Ministry family who are responsible to formulate, implement and enhance policies and strategies for the development of MSMEs. As well as representing the achievement of a key National Development Plan goal, MSME Fiji will empower ordinary Fijians' ability to tap into their economic potential, all while growing the economy as a whole.

The Ministry continued to implement the policies and strategies of the Fijian Trade Policy Framework to enhance growth of key sectors of the economy, investments and export of Fijian made products and services, with its smooth integration into the Global Value Chains. This year we ensured continuity of trade relations with the UK following their withdrawal from the European Union through the UK - Pacific Interim Economic Partnership Agreement. In addition the Ministry launched negotiations with Indonesia on a Preferential Trade Agreement and we hosted the New Caledonia Government on its first trade and investment mission to Fiji. In doing so, the Ministry has helped improve access to large overseas markets and boost Fiji's international competitiveness.

The flagship "Fijian Made-Buy Fijian" campaign continued its efforts to successfully promote Fijian products. The campaign has one of the most prominent social media profiles in Fiji, having now achieved over 280,000 likes. Through the Young Entrepreneurship Scheme we stimulate the entrepreneurial spirit of our youth. This year, we invested in four more thriving entrepreneurs. Internally too the Ministry continued to welcome a number of the Best and the Brightest graduates to the team through our Graduate Trainee programme. We are committed to investing in their development and a confident that their knowledge and skills will help empower the Ministry long into the future.

The efforts of a united and focused team has delivered another successful and productive year. I am happy to report that yet again the Ministry has accomplished an unqualified audit report for this financial year.

The achievements this year would not have been possible without the support of all stakeholders and guidance of the Hon. Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism. We look forward to the continued support from all stakeholders in the year ahead.

Shaheen Ali
Permanent Secretary for Industry, Trade and Tourism

MINISTRY OVERVIEW



● Our Vision

“Brighter Economic Future for All”



● Our Mission

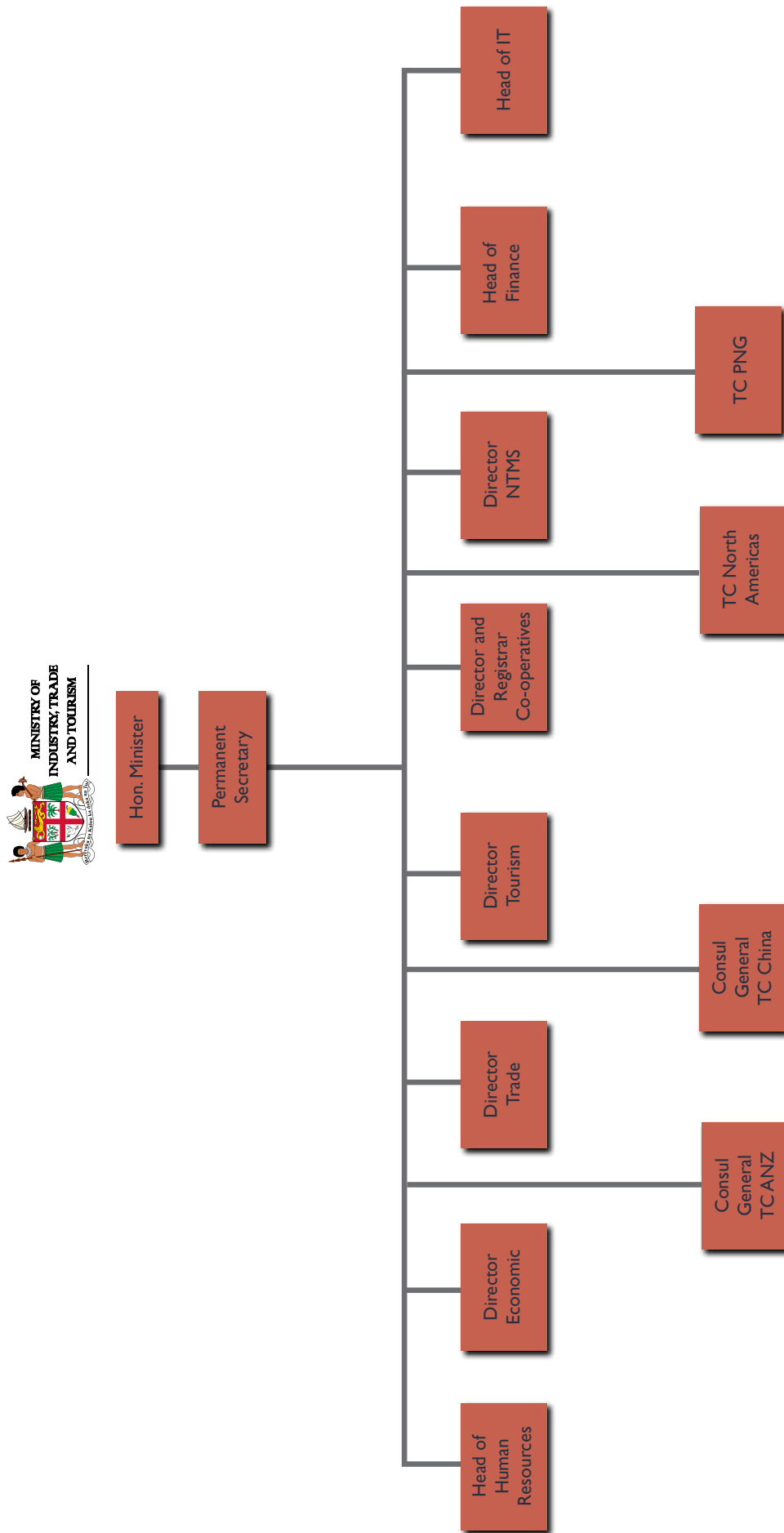
“Creating sustainable growth of commerce and industry through innovative and sound policies that lead to improved livelihoods for all Fijians”



● Our Values - ‘GREATEST’

Good Governance
Respect and value for people
Excellence in Service – innovation in delivery
Affirmative – being positive
Trustworthy
Equality for all and equal participation
Socially Responsible
Team Fiji – collaboration with our stakeholders

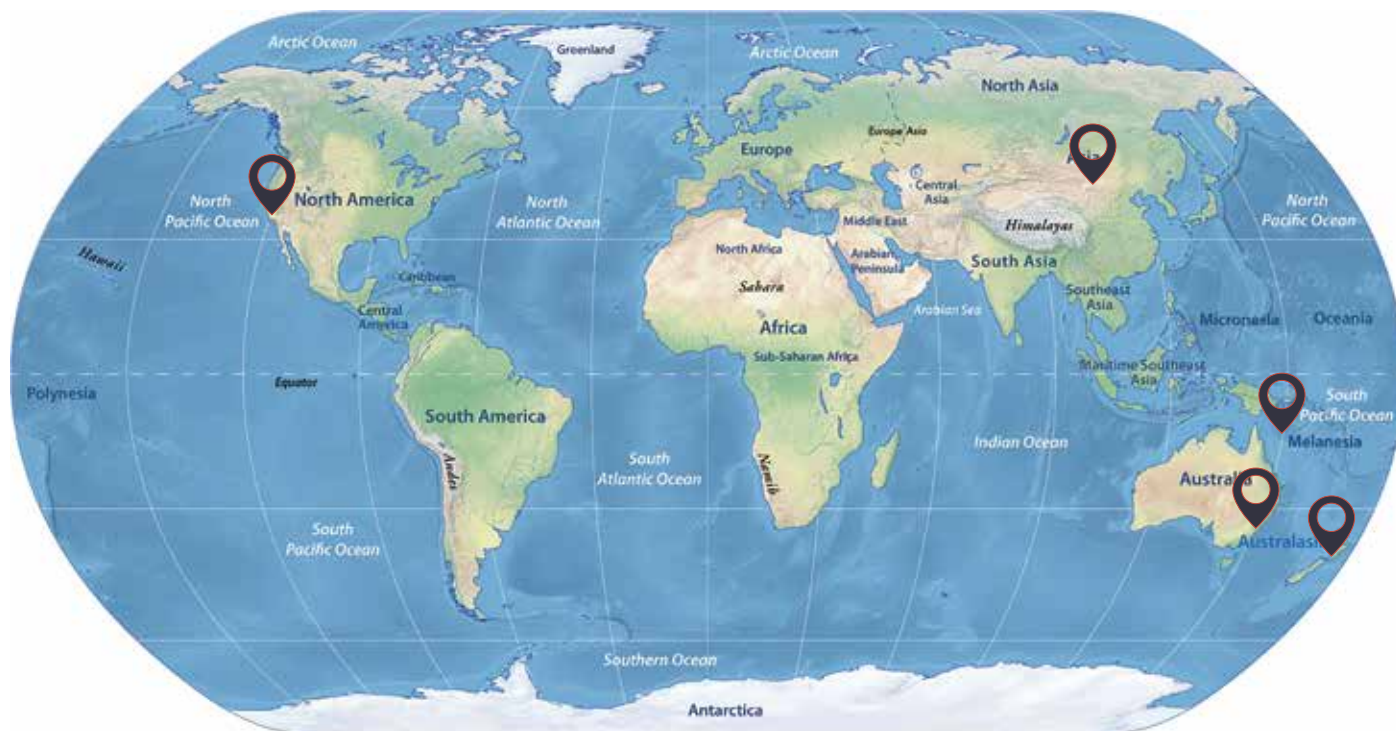
ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



WHAT WE DO

The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism formulates and implements policies and strategies to facilitate growth in industry, investment, trade, tourism, co-operative businesses, micro and small enterprises, and enhance metrology, standards and consumer protection.

These roles and responsibilities are undertaken by our Economic Unit, Trade Unit, Tourism Unit, Department of National Trade Measurement and Standards, Department of Co-operative Business, Human Resources Unit and Finance Unit, within the Ministry, including Trade Commissions in North Americas, China, Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.



We are supported by seven statutory organisations namely Consumer Council of Fiji, Investment Fiji, Film Fiji, Tourism Fiji, Real Estate Agents Licensing Board, Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission and The National Centre for Small and Micro Enterprises Development.



Human Resources Unit

The Unit is responsible for providing administrative support to management, departments/units, Statutory Agencies and Trade Commissions. It is also responsible for the effective and efficient management and utilisation of resources in a transparent and accountable manner. The Unit also handles matters pertaining to staff recruitment, training, and discipline and works closely with management in planning and formulating strategies for the growth and development of the Ministry.

Finance Unit

The Unit provides financial support services to the Ministry and its Statutory Agencies. This includes sound advice and information to assist in strategic decision making. The Unit is responsible for managing the Ministry's cash-flow, timely financial reporting and preparation of budgetary submissions.

Department of Co-operative Business

The Department is responsible for formulating and implementing policies and strategies to facilitate the promotion, establishment and monitoring of Co-operative businesses in Fiji. The training and upskilling of Co-operatives' members and officials are also key roles of the Department.

Department of National Trade Measurement and Standards

The Department is responsible for the implementation of laws and regulations that protects consumers from unsafe and poor-quality products and creates favourable conditions for exchange of goods. It develops national and adopts international standards in order to raise levels of quality, safety, reliability, efficiency and interchangeability of products and services. The Department maintains the national system of units and standards of measurement to ensure fair and just use of units of measurement and measuring instruments. The Department also regulates the trade of scrap metal to prevent the illegal trade of public infrastructure metal.

Tourism Unit

The Unit formulates and implements policy initiatives, plans and strategies to develop the Fijian tourism industry in a sustainable manner while ensuring greater retention of the tourism income. The Unit also oversees the performance of Tourism Fiji, which is responsible for marketing and promoting Fiji, as a tourist destination.

Economic Unit

The Unit is responsible for formulating, implementing, monitoring and reviewing policy initiatives and projects, to enhance private sector development in commerce, industry, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), investment, services, competition and consumer protection. The Unit oversees Consumer Council of Fiji, Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission and Real Estate Agents Licencing Board and is also responsible for providing policy advice and administrative support to its stakeholders, both within government and externally.

Trade Unit

The Unit's role is to formulate and implement policies and initiatives to enhance Fiji's international trade portfolio and coordinate trade and investment missions both inward and outbound. The Unit also advances negotiations to create favourable global market access opportunities for Fijian goods and services. The Unit is concurrently tasked to increase Fiji's regional and global economic integration to enhance Fiji's economic performance. The Unit monitors the performance of six Trade Commissions, as well as, Film Fiji and Investment Fiji.

Trade Commissions

The five Trade Commissions based in North Americas, Australia, New Zealand, China and Papua New Guinea are responsible for undertaking investment and export marketing missions, organising and participating in trade and investment exhibitions, and creating and strengthening networks with relevant public and private stakeholders. Trade Commissions also undertake market research in order to identify potentials for investment and export opportunities available in the host country and relevant regions.



STRATEGIC ACHIVEMENTS

AN EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE SUPPORTED BY A MODERN AND EFFECTIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT

Staff Establishment

The approved staff establishment of the Ministry during the 2018-2019 financial year was 161 posts, with 140 established posts and 21 Government Wage Earners (GWEs) posts.

Employment Status

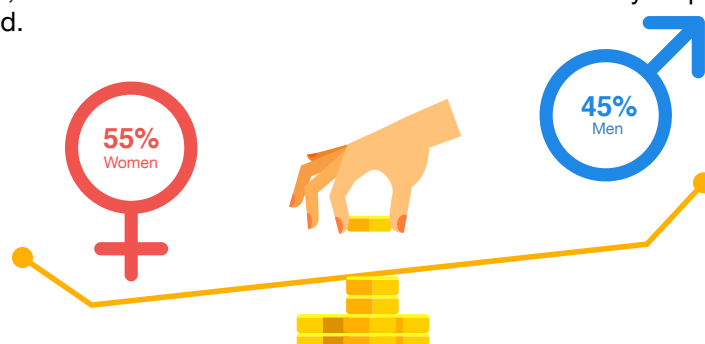
As illustrated in Table 1 below, the Ministry employed 107 staff in the 2018 - 2019 financial year, of which 105 were on contracts and 2 staff on permanency. A total of 54 posts were vacant by end of July 2019.

Table 1 – Employment Status

P2P Programme/ Department	Employment Status				Gender	
	Contract	Permanent	Vacant	Total	Men	Women
Executive Office	4	-	-	4	1	3
Finance Unit	11	1	5	17	6	6
Human Resources Unit	9	-	5	14	-	9
IT Unit	5	-	2	7	4	1
Economic Unit	3	-	9	12	2	1
Trade Unit	7	-	4	11	0	7
DNTMS	9	-	8	17	5	4
Tourism Unit	14	-	8	22	2	12
Department of Co-operative Business	18	1	6	25	11	8
IHRDP	6	-	1	7	1	5
Trade Commissions	2	-	2	4	1	1
Drivers/ Messengers	17	-	4	21	15	2

Gender Balance

From the 107 staff employed, 48 were men staff and 59 were women. The Ministry employed more female (55%) than male (45%) during this period.



Staff Movement

Table 2 below illustrates the movement of Ministry staff establishment in the 2018–2019 financial year based on new appointments, resignations, retirements, end of contract and/or terminations.

Table 2 – Movement of Ministry staff

Movement Type	Number of Staff
Appointments	38
Promotions	0
Postings	0
Resignations	17
Deemed resignations	3
Retirements	3
Re-grading	0
End of Contract	0
Termination	1

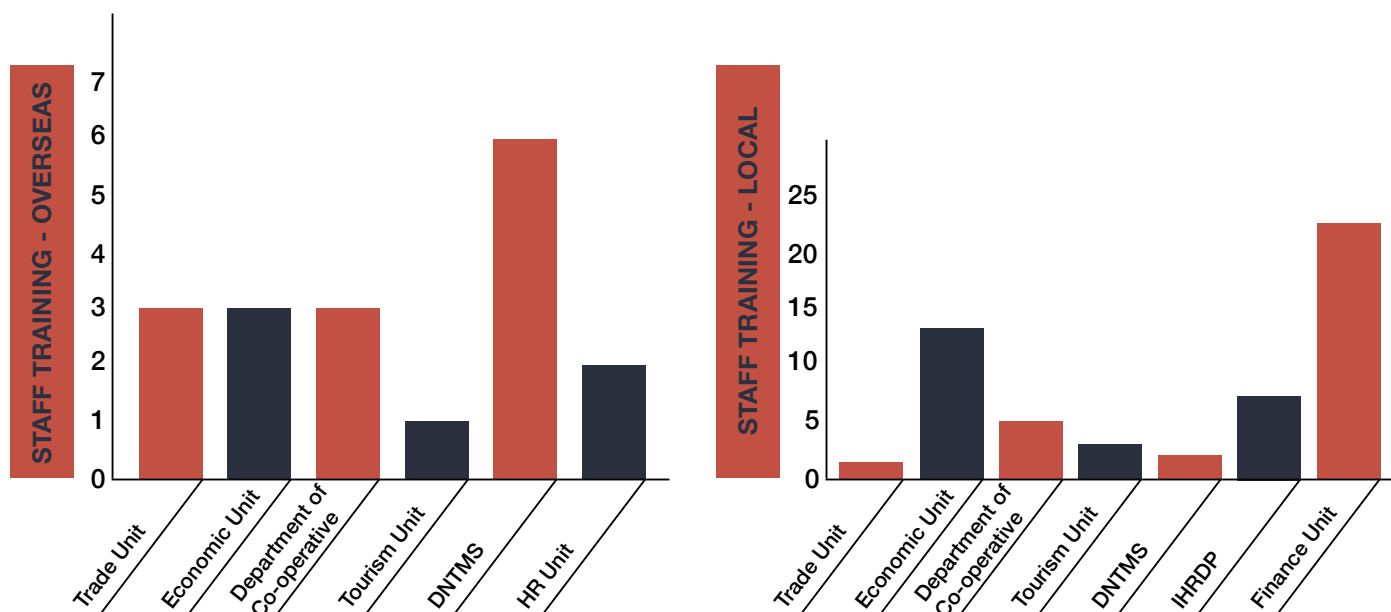
Source: Human Resources Database, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism

Staff Development

Staff development and training continues to foster and support learning and performance by providing innovative, high-quality programmes, resources and services. A Training Policy has been put in place to guide the up skilling and capacity building of the Ministry's workforce. During this financial year, the Ministry had received its first ever reimbursement \$4,891.25 under the FNU Levy Grant Reimbursement for 2017.

During this financial year, a total of 43 (36%) officers attended local training whilst 15 (13%) attended overseas training. Officers are nominated for training programmes and seminars/workshops based on their knowledge and skills development requirement, matched with relevance of training programme to Individual Work Plans. The training enhanced the knowledge and skills of the employees and enabled them to better serve their clients and introduce new and innovative thinking in the organisation.

Graphs 1 and 2 below is a graphical illustration of staff training records for 2018 – 2019



Graduate Trainee Programme

The Ministry initiated the Graduate Trainee (GT) programme, through which graduates were engaged in the Ministry for six (6) months. The GT programme aimed to recruit “Best and the Brightest” graduates and train them to get a confirmed placement either in the Ministry or any other agency of choice.

Key Responsibilities of the GTs included:

- 1) Learn through hands-on work on all aspects of the Ministry
- 2) Undertake special assignments, support and duties delegated by the Supervising Officer
- 3) Draft relevant papers, documents and correspondence
- 4) Prepare briefs, meeting papers, speeches and Cabinet Papers
- 5) Provide assessments and presentations on assigned tasks

Internal Human Resources Policies

The Human Resources Unit has formulated a number of internal HR Policies which will guide the administrative processes and procedures relating to staffing matters. The policies are:

- Leave (Establish and GWE);
- Staff Internal Rewards;
- Laptop and Mobile;
- Grievance;
- Recruitment and Selection;
- Training;
- No Gossip;
- No Smoking in Workplace;
- Overtime and Meal Policy; and
- Risk Management.



Corporate Social Responsibility

The Ministry continuously strives to give back to the community, particularly the most vulnerable Fijians. Key activities undertaken as part of the Ministry's commitment to its Corporate Social Responsibility during the 2018-2019 financial year include:

- (i) Visit to Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Fiji whereby food items were donated for the animals housed under SPCA.
- (ii) Along the margins of the World Tourism Day (WTD) 2018, the Ministry also organised a special visit to the Samabula Senior Citizens Home as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility activity. This exercise, whilst promoting social inclusivity, allowed the officials to provide some essential items to the Home whilst sharing the joy of WTD.

Health and Wellness

The Ministry has allocated Monday and Wednesday afternoons for staff to conduct their own physical activities from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. The Ministry initiated work on an in-house gym. This is an initiative to promote staff healthy living and wellbeing in the prevention of non-communicable diseases through awareness programmes and physical activities.

The Ministry also conducted a health screening in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Medical Services for staff to undergo medical check up.





Let's Make Everyday a Fijian Day!

PROMOTE THE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF FIJIAN MADE GOODS AND SERVICE

The **Fijian Made - Buy Fijian Campaign** creates a Fijian brand – to promote Fijian Made products and produce both domestically and abroad. In the 2018-2019 financial year, the Campaign continued its successful marketing efforts and licensing of products.

The Ministry launched the **Fijian Organic** brand. The Fijian Organic brand is a new inclusion to this growing brand and gives recognition to local producers who make an effort to use organic farming methods. It strengthens Fiji's position as a niche and quality exporter and enables us to target the high-end consumer in our existing and emerging markets.



Throughout the year, the Ministry organised and participated in numerous promotional events to showcase the Fijian brand. This included training sessions conducted at the Fiji Beachouse for chefs on the use of “Fijian Made” and “Fijian Grown” ingredients in their menus. These trainings help promote the use of local ingredients which helps to increase the share of Tourism revenue spread in the economy. Other notable events included the ‘Farmers Market’ at the HOTEK Kana Bula event, the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank and the 2019 National Women's Expo where 76 artisans received their accreditation as part of the Campaign.

The Ministry in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture participated at the World Food Day Celebration at Lawaqa Park, Sigatoka on 17 October 2018 to create awareness about the Fijian Made-Buy Fijian Campaign.

The Fijian Made Facebook page has achieved over 280,000 ‘likes’, giving the Campaign one of the most prominent social media profiles in Fiji.

A total of 218 businesses and 525 products were added to the “Fijian Made” family, for the use of **Fijian Made**, **Fijian Sewn**, **Fijian Packed**, **Fijian Product**, **Fijian Grown** and **Fijian Crafted** brands. At the end of the financial year, the total number of businesses licensed under the Campaign is 627, with 2,729 products.



IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS THROUGH CO-OPERATIVES, YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS AND MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISE

Establishment of MSME Fiji

The Ministry continued work on the establishment of a dedicated team to focus on the needs of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), known as MSME Fiji. The MSME Fiji would become a single point of contact for business training services, business incubation, business advisory services and access to finance to name a few.

The establishment of MSME Fiji will be an attainment of the goals set in the 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan to improve the institutional setting, access to finance, business incubation and training and better connecting MSMEs to markets.

Department of Co-operative Business

In this financial year, the Department successfully registered and established the National Co-operative Federation Limited (NCF) on 16 August 2018. The NCF is the sole apex co-operative, intended to represent the interest and welfare of all types of co-operatives and help promote the co-operative movement in Fiji.

"COOPS 4 DECENT WORK"

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Co-operative members with Her Excellency Smt. Padmaja

International Alliance

Fiji has ensured that our national policies adequately cover the commitments given at the international level. In April 2019, Fiji officially became a member of the International Cooperative Alliance. To this end, through the Department, Fiji intends to pursue further its goals to ensure co-operatives remain a driving force for growth in Fiji.

Strengthening Co-operatives

The demand for Co-operative registration is ever increasing in Fiji – owing to the ease in its formation and recognition as a legal entity by law.

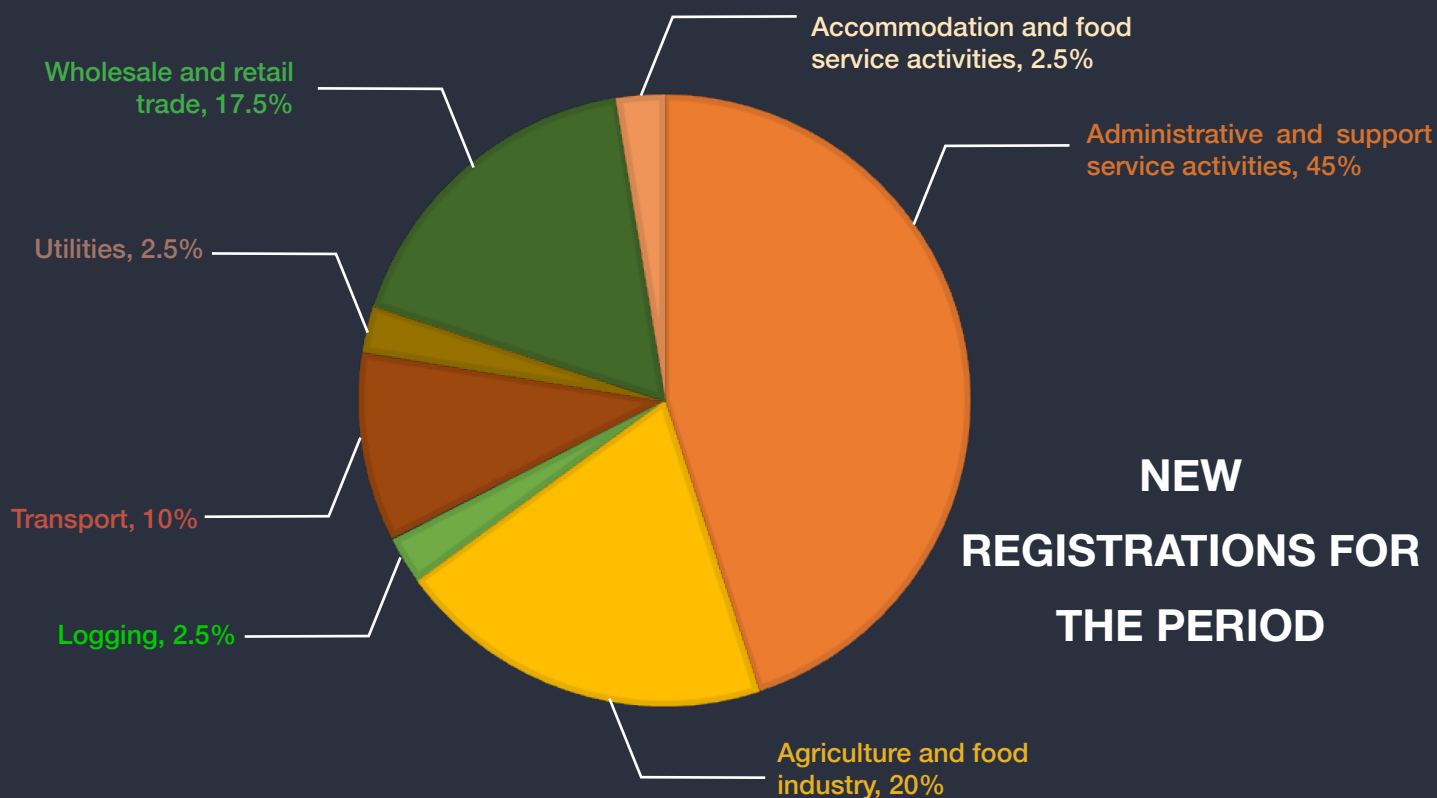
There are currently 371 co-operatives operating in Fiji, of which 152 are in the Western Division, 98 in Central, 71 in Northern Division and 50 in the Eastern Division. During the financial year 2018-2019, the Department conducted a total of 105 awareness compared to 110 in the last financial year. This resulted in the Department promoting the co-operative business model to 1,184 Fijians of which approximately 20% were women and 30% were youth.

Through on-going awareness sessions, the Department registered a total of 40 new co-operatives. Eighteen were involved in providing administrative and support services through the hiring of mechanical harvesters for sugar harvesting. Most of the co-operatives registered were service-based co-operatives, however, the Department also targeted resource-based co-operatives.



Awareness conducted in Northern Division

Chart 1 - New Registration for the period



Empowering Women and Youth

Sixty-one women and youth have been appointed into leadership roles – creating better opportunities and more involvement of minority groups into co-operative business.

Through the registration of new co-operative business, a total of 93 employment opportunities were created when compared to 90 in 2017/2018 financial period. This greatly contributed towards promoting decent work for everyone including women, youth and persons with disabilities.

Target 100

The Target 100 project was implemented to assist co-operatives become fully compliant to the Co-operatives Act 1996, including the submission of annual accounts. It is important to note that the 110 financial statements were received.

The Department also conducted 26 trainings of through the Co-operative College of Fiji. 12 were conducted in the Central Division, 6 in the Northern Division, 2 in the Eastern Division and 6 in the Western Division. The department managed to training 910 Fijians in the areas of Financial Literacy, Start your own Business and Co-operative Management & Leadership greatly enhancing their entrepreneurial skills.



Training for Pine Trust Group Employees



Young Entrepreneurship Scheme

The **Young Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES)** is an initiative to stimulate employment and encourage young Fijians to become job creators. It supports the development of young entrepreneurs with innovative ideas who will contribute positively towards the development of the Fijian economy. The Ministry partners with private sector professionals who possess significant business acumen to mentor applicants and offer training to budding entrepreneurs.

In the 2018-2019 financial year, the Ministry re-evaluated the qualifying criteria for YES. The changes included a removal of formal educational requirements, adjusting the age criteria to include those aged between **18 and 40 years old** and increasing the available **grant funding to \$30,000**.

During the financial year, **174 YES applications were received**. Of these, 4 were approved for full funding support, bringing the total number of young entrepreneurs receiving the full support to 8. The successful business proposals included an outdoor boot camp “BoxFit on the Park”, Ariel and Geographic Information System Mapping services and the application “Traffic Essentials Fiji” to monitor traffic flow.

There were several awareness and promotional activities conducted by the Ministry under YES. These included presentations at the University of the South Pacific (USP), Fiji National University, the National Youth & Sports Conference, the Fiji Youth Speak Forum, the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation Tech Trade Show and Start your Business Training in the Western and Northern Division. In addition, YES Selection Panel Chair Mr. Saud Minam delivered a motivational talk and briefly presented on YES at USP on 11 September 2018.

The YES was strengthened with the launch of motivational YES videos featuring Fiji Sevens Champion **Jerry Tuwai** and Commonwealth Medalist and YES recipient **Winston Hill**. The achievements of YES recipients were recognised with **Adelene Tutu and Winston Hill being honoured as 30 Under 30 recipients** at the ADB’s Annual General Meeting in May 2019.



Standardised Roadside Stall

As part of the Fijian Government initiative to assist MSMEs across the country and make their businesses stronger, the Ministry through the **Hon. Prime Minister** launched the Roadside Stall pilot project in May 2018.

The Roadside Stalls Project provides vendors with structured stalls that are safe and hygienic with the ability to withstand adverse weather conditions. These stalls are constructed along highways in rural areas, outside municipal boundaries. The stalls provide clean and consistent market access for small rural vendors. This helps generate income from the vendor's produce.

The Ministry constructed and handed over **72 new stalls** along the Highways in rural areas around Viti Levu and Vanua Levu in the financial year. These stalls have been leased to the vendors at no cost.



Micro and Small Business Grant

The Micro and Small Business Grant (MSBG) provides **funding of up to \$1,000** for micro and small businesses. The MSBG initiative was initiated in 2015 and evolved over the years. The grant programme is jointly administered by the Ministry and Fiji Development Bank (FDB).

The Ministry successfully provided assistance to **14,249 recipients** with grant funding of \$14,112,951.03. The MSBG reached the whole of Fiji, with disbursement events in Nausori, Lawaqa, Navua, Rakiraki, Taveuni, Savusavu, Nabouwalu, Seaqaqa, Labasa, Suva and Nadave in the 2018-2019 financial year. Financial Literacy Training was also conducted for 1,668 recipients of the Micro Small Business Grant.

From January-February 2019, the Ministry together with FDB carried out post disbursement monitoring across the country to assess the performance of micro and small businesses that were funded by the MSBG in the 2015 and 2016-2017 financial years. A total of 2,390 micro and small businesses were monitored, this represents a robust sample size of 15 percent of those assisted. Forty-four% of those monitored were female entrepreneurs. At the time of monitoring, 75% of recipients were successfully operational. MSBG has successfully offered a brighter economic future for its recipients.



“The Fijian Government has placed its trust in you that you will put into proper use the investment that has been made into your various business ventures with the hope that we will all work towards the common goal of making Fiji's MSME sector the engine of Economic Growth.”

— Hon. Faiyaz Koya —

National Export Strategy

The National Export Strategy (NES) is a Fijian Government initiative, which aims to assist existing and new exporters in achieving competitiveness, value addition, export diversification and growth in targeted markets overseas. The primary objective of NES is to increase exports, improve balance of payment position and foreign exchange earnings for the Fijian economy.

For the 2018–2019 financial year, after careful assessment, which included site validations, 5 companies were assisted under NES with the total value of \$608,358. These companies represented agri-business, aquaculture and light manufacturing. The NES grant funding supported capital upgrades such as, machinery, equipment and logistic solutions.

EXPAND INDUSTRIAL BASE AND PARTICIPATE IN GLOBAL VALUE CHAIN

Special Economic Zone

The Special Economic Zones (SEZ) are not novel to the shores of Fiji. There exists several successful economic zones such as the **Kalabu Tax Free Zone**, **Savusavu Industrial Zone** and various Tax Free Regions, which have immensely contributed towards Fiji's economic growth and development over the years. The SEZ is one such addition to the existing economic zones that is supposed to be a modern economic zone with supporting infrastructure and utilities for seamless business opportunities for significant Information and Communications Technology (ICT) operations, warehousing facilities and medium to light manufacturing based activities.

The plan also constitutes a multi-story, all-encompassing shopping complex, which would accommodate international shopping chains, restaurants, supermarkets, banks, day care centers and other activity-based operations.

The Ministry was pleased to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fiji National Provident Fund for the development of the SEZ.



“Riding the waves of happiness”

DUBAI EXPO

The Fijian Cabinet, on 11 May 2017, endorsed Fiji's participation at the EXPO 2020 Dubai (Expo), which will be held from **20 October 2020 to 10 April 2021 in Dubai**. The Expo is part of the Bureau of International Expositions with the theme “Connecting Minds, Creating the Future”. During each Expo, Fiji has been able to stamp a mark and create economic interests in Fiji. Similarly, the Dubai Expo provides Fiji an opportunity to explore the many untapped trade and economic potentials in the Middle Eastern market. The Fijian pavilion will be in the “Opportunities” District of the Expo.

The National Coordinating Committee consisting of a number of agencies, from the public and public sector, and civil society representatives, has been formed to guide Fiji's participation at the Expo. In the coming financial year, Fiji will undertake all the preparatory work for its participation in partnership with all stakeholders to ensure that Fiji is able to display the best it has.

Competition and Consumer Protection Policy and Legislation Reform

The Ministry commenced work to enhance the competition and consumer protection environment across the economy. This will be achieved through a policy and subsequent reform to the legislation governing competition in our market.

The reform was discussed as a dedicated topic in the 20th Attorney-General's Conference. This made clear how the reform will promote competition, enhance consumer welfare and intends to spur private sector led sustainable development.

For the purpose of this reform, the technical assistance of the Asian Development Bank's Private Sector Development Initiative's was sought. With ADB's technical assistance and Cabinet endorsement the Ministry began the work on policy and subsequent legislative reforms in consultation with the Technical Working Committee.

Work on this substantial reform will continue into the 2019-2020 financial year.



IMPROVE FIJI'S OVERALL TRADE PERFORMANCE THROUGH A MORE COMPETITIVE ECONOMY AND THEREBY HELP ESTABLISH FIJI AS THE MODERN HUB OF THE PACIFIC

Fijian Trade Policy Framework

The Fijian Trade Policy Framework guides Fiji's long-term vision to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. The Ministry continued to implement of the policy recommendations and strategies to enhance growth of the key sectors of the economy, industries, investments and export of Fijian made products and services, with its smooth integration into the Global Value Chains.

The key milestones, amongst many others, implemented by departments/units within the Ministry, as part of the Fijian Trade Policy Framework:

- (i) Development of Investment Policy and the Investment Bill Reviewed
- (ii) Ease of Doing Business processes reviewed and redesigned for starting a business and obtaining construction permits
- (iii) Cabinet endorsed the development of Competition Policy and review of the competition and consumer law
- (iv) Cabinet endorsed the review of the standards legal framework
- (v) Continued implementation of the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement
- (vi) Implementation of the Fijian Tourism 2021



Skilled Professionals Evaluation Committee

The Registration of the Skilled Professionals Act commenced on 21 March 2016. The Act provides for the establishment of a Committee to evaluate the need for professionals in Fiji and to provide for special registration of the professionals for the related matters.

The Skilled Professionals Evaluation Committee is responsible to identify skills gaps in Fiji and assess Special Registrations for individuals with specialised skills that are needed in Fiji.

The SPEC has continuously worked towards improving the process and steps associated with assessing the applications received in a fair and equal way. The SPEC has ensured that all processes are followed thoroughly and that there is no biasness towards the application.

A total of 14 applications were received, by SPEC during this reporting period. Out of the 14 applications received, 10 were approved, 2 disapproved and 2 applications were withdrawn.



Pharmacy - 5



Medical Specialist - 1



Veterinary Surgeon - 2



Academics - 2

IMPROVE MARKET ACCESS OF FIJIAN MADE GOODS AND SERVICES IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

United Kingdom (UK) - Pacific Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (IEPA)

In anticipation of the impending withdrawal from the EU, the UK has been working closely with its trading partners to ensure continuity of trade relations. Fiji entered into technical discussions with the UK to ensure continuity of trade following the UK's withdrawal from the EU. The UK-Pacific IEPA has been negotiated as a standalone agreement that replicates the existing IEPA with the EU, as much as possible. Subsequently, Fiji and Papua New Guinea (PNG) signed the UK-Pacific IEPA on 14 March 2019, in London. This has ensured that Fijian exports continue to enter the UK market duty free.



Fiji-China Proposed Trade Arrangement

With the objective of undertaking discussions on Fiji-China Trade Arrangement, the Ministry commenced a Feasibility Study to review the economic performance and foreign economic policies of Fiji and China. This study will provide the Ministry basis to advise the Fijian Cabinet on the way forward with regards to bilateral economic and trade engagement with China. The Study is expected to be presented to Cabinet in the 2019-2020 financial year.

Preferential Trade Arrangement between Fiji and Indonesia

In March 2019, the Permanent Secretary for Industry, Trade and Tourism and the Indonesian Director-General for Asia Pacific and African Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs H.E. Desra Percaya jointly announced the launch of negotiations on a Preferential Trade Agreement. Fiji and Indonesia expressed the need to strengthen the bilateral trade and economic partnership through a more structured approach.

The Indonesia-Fiji Preferential Trade Arrangement will cover trade in goods a limited number of priority products. The date of the initiation of negotiations will be determined in the 2019-2020 financial year, following a feasibility study by Fiji on the priority areas. Through this trade arrangement, we will provide Fijian businesses a new market.

New Caledonia-Fiji Business Forum

The New Caledonia Government led its first trade and investment mission to Fiji from 29-30 July 2019. The Mission was led by the Member of New Caledonia Government in charge of Economy and Trade, Hon. Christopher Gygès, which included 40 members from the business community. The areas of interest included health, agriculture, forestry and construction. The New Caledonia Government also expressed interest in discussing a formal trade arrangement with Fiji to enhance our bilateral trade and economic relations.

Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement

The overall objective of Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) is to facilitate wider trade integration between members at both regional and multilateral levels. Fiji is one of the Members of the Rules of Origin Committee (ROC), which will review the current PICTA Rules Of Origin (ROO) and consider amendments and related provisions to engender increased interregional trade. A draft review report was considered by Forum Island Countries.

The findings of the PICTA ROO review will be presented at the Forum Trade Ministers Meeting, which will be held in February 2020, in Suva.



World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement

As per commitment made under the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement, Fiji continued its implementation of the Agreement, through the National Trade Facilitation Committee and the various Working Groups. The World Bank Group supported and guided the Working Groups, which included:



- I. Assistance to trade facilitation agencies to develop an operational plan for single submission of a shipping manifest and implement a model to enhance manifest screening by the trade facilitation agencies.
- II. Training provided by the Fiji Revenue and Customs Services to the various trade facilitation agencies on the ASYCUDA System.
- III. Time Value Survey (TVS) across all trade facilitation agencies to test the manual manifest screening time, prior to the implementation of the single online manifest screening procedure.
- IV. The Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) was officially launched in January 2019, as required under Article 7 of the Agreement. Under this programme, trusted traders would be accorded benefits by the customs administration to assist in the movement of international cargo.

The Trade Commissions through the key trade and investment promotion events, tap into market access opportunities in the various market and attract high quality direct foreign investment into Fiji to achieve this.

I) Consulate General/Trade Commission Australia

The Consulate General and Trade Commission to Australia undertook a number of trade and investment promotion activities, which included, successful investment promotion missions both in Australia and to Fiji, International Sourcing Fair in Melbourne, Fijian Made booth at the Fine Food Show, which hosted 6 micro, small and medium enterprises. In addition, the Office supported Fiji-Australia Business Forum and became a member of the New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia Chambers of Commerce, which will serve as a key source of information, network building and contact as trade and investment ties in these markets. Fiji became the only Pacific Island Country to participate in the World Forum for Foreign Direct Investment in Sydney.

II) Trade Commission New Zealand

The Trade Commission in New Zealand facilitated the Hon. Minister's first official visit to New Zealand. The Trade Commission continued to work closely with investors at various stages of the investment and also built relationships with Fijian exporters in the food and beverages, beauty and skincare, textile and clothing and other manufacturing sectors. The Trade Commission also hosted the first trade and investment roadshow in collaboration with the New Zealand-Fiji Business Council (NZFBC) and the Fijian High Commission, over 3 events in Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland.

III) Consulate General/Trade Commission China

The Consulate General/Trade Commission was involved in activities that promoted Fijian Made and Fijian Grown products and services in Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau. Fiji's presence in the markets was significantly increased by events such as Quzhou International Economic & Trade Center opened in June; Hong Kong International Tourism Expo; Bula Lunch and most importantly, preparations continued for the inaugural China International Import Expo (CIIE).

In April 2019, the Hon. Minister launched the Macau-Fiji Chamber of Commerce in Macau, in presence of over 200 Macanese business and government officials. The activities of the Office led to new Fijian made and grown products entering the Chinese markets. These included products such as beer, beauty products, bottled water, to name a few.

The Consulate General/Trade Commission supported the Hon. Minister at the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, People's Republic of China from 24-26 April 2019. The Hon. Minister was also accompanied by the Minister for Infrastructure, Hon. Jone Usumate and Minister for Fisheries, Hon. Semi Korolavesau. This forum had attracted 37 Heads of State and Heads of Government and 370 Ministers from all over the world and provided an opportunity for Fiji and the Pacific to engage with China in a way that create mutual benefit.

IMPROVE INVESTMENT AND BUSINESS CLIMATE, AND EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

(i) Doing Business Reforms

The Ministry continued work on the review and redesign processes for starting a business and obtaining construction permits. In July 2019, the **bizFIJI portal** was launched by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy.

The bizFIJI portal is the doing business portal for Fiji, which currently hosts, information on starting a business and obtaining construction permits. There are available forms, checklists and service catalogues to give users clear direction on how to do their applications. Over the next financial year, more business process information will be made available on bizFIJI.

Work will begin in 2020 towards making bizFIJI a submission, approvals and payment portal.



In addition, in August 2018, the World Bank Group Regulatory Reforms supported the Ministry in an assessment of the regulatory procedures. The Cabinet in April 2019, mandated the Ministry to lead the doing business reforms, through the Doing Business Taskforce. The Taskforce includes all the key agencies that deal with any form of doing business processes. Lead agencies were appointed to undertake recommended reforms to improve doing business processes.

(ii) Investment Reform

The Investment reform project began in the last financial year and continued in this financial year. In January 2019, the Investment Policy Statement was endorsed by Cabinet. The Investment Policy Statement sets out the vision, objectives and principles, amongst others, of the Fijian Government in terms of investments.

The draft Investment Bill will be endorsed by Cabinet in late 2019. The new legislation will set out the obligations and protection for investors. It will for the first time incorporate the interests of domestic investors. The revised legislation is principled on international best practices.

The Investment Bill is expected to be presented to Parliament in 2020.



ENSURE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SUSTAINABLE AND GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE TOURISM SECTOR

FIJIAN TOURISM 2021

The Fijian Tourism 2021 (FT 2021) is a **development plan**, prepared by the Fijian Government to grow Fiji's tourism industry to an industry worth \$2.2 billion by 2021. The overarching focus of the FT 2021 is to **maximise tourism yield**, while achieving a sustainable rate of visitor arrivals growth. Increasing the value that tourism brings to Fiji is the cornerstone of the strategy.

While implementation of strategies is on-going, in this financial year, Cabinet endorsed the FT 2021 and the implementation of key strategies under each of the 9 Thematic Areas. Simultaneously, the Ministry in partnership with key Government and industry stakeholders, embarked on a number of these strategies.

CREATING TOURISM AND AGRICULTURE SYNERGY

Launch of "From the Farm to the Tourist's Table" study

The Ministry, in partnership with the International Financial Corporation (IFC) and Ministry of Agriculture, launched a study, "**From the Farm to the Tourist's Table**", on the sourcing of imported and local fresh produce by Fiji's hotel sector.

The report sets a baseline, compiles essential information, and supports knowledge sharing and collaboration. It aims to demonstrate the size of the fresh produce market for Fiji's hotels and resorts, discuss trends in hotels, identify key barriers to increasing local production and outline recommendations so that the two sectors can work together in the future.



Chefs Training



Participants with Training Coordinators in Korolevu

The Culinary Training Workshop or Chefs training is an ongoing initiative of the Ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture. Since its inception in 2016, the training supports the Fijian Government's vision of reducing imports and increasing linkages between Tourism and Agriculture. The initiative aims to train local chefs to appreciate the value of locally grown produce and to use them in restaurant menus. At the same time, the participating properties are encouraged to link-up and strengthen partnership with local farmers/suppliers who are encouraged to produce and supply local agricultural products, indigenous fruits and vegetables.

The 2018 Chefs Training was held from **6-10 August** at the Fiji Beachouse by world renowned Chef, Colin Chung and Pacific Island Resort Consultant partner, Greg Cornwell. A total of 13 participants from 10 properties participated in the 5-day training.



Participants with their Certificates in Rakiraki

Building on the initiative, a Chefs Training was also conducted at the Dreamview villas in Rakiraki from the 27 - 31 May 2019, featuring a total of 26 participants at the week-long workshop. Participants ranged from hotel chefs, small restaurant operators along the Suncoast area as well as villagers involved in food preparation from Nadarivatu, Nubutautau, Naga, Navai and Nabalasere in the interior of Ra. These villages partner with Talanoa Treks, a dedicated trekking company that take trekkers up to these villages.

2018 HOTEK Trade Show

At the 2018 Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association (FHTA)-organised HOTEK, the Ministry partnered with the FHTA, Ministry of Agriculture and the Pacific Island Consultants to establish a Farmer's Market with the aim of creating market access for Fijian farmers into the tourism industry.

The Farmer's Market included activities such as cooking demonstrations and lessons by world-renowned Chef Colin Chun using local produce and recipes from the Kana Vinaka cook book, a display of varied local produce from select farmers and overall promotion of the Fijian Grown, Fijian Organic and Fijian Made brands.

ASSESSMENT OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CRUISE TOURISM IN FIJI



On 5 November 2018, the Ministry and the IFC initiated a study titled "Assessment of the Economic Impact of Cruise Tourism in Fiji", through an inception meeting and industry workshop with key cruise sector stakeholders.

The study is a key strategy of the FT 2021, "Investing in Tourism Related Infrastructure" which requires an economic impact assessment of Fiji's cruise industry. The study will therefore:

- Quantify the direct and indirect economic impacts of cruise tourism in Fiji, generating baseline data on the effect of cruise tourism on the Fijian economy; and
- Identify and quantify through a cost-benefit analysis, opportunities to inform investment decisions by the Government, donor partners, and the industry to further grow cruise tourism and its links to the economy.

Two stakeholder workshops were held in Suva and Nadi on 13 December 2018 and 14 January 2019, respectively.

INTERNATIONAL VISITOR SURVEY

Following the completion of a diagnostic review of Fiji's International Visitor Survey (IVS), the Ministry successfully rolled out a new IVS Online data collection system. The new IVS is administered online with the existing Ministry enumerators collecting email addresses through a recruitment survey and full data collection occurring through an online survey sent via email.

The new IVS also includes a revised sampling, questionnaire, data collection and analysis methodology, and has adopted an online IVS data collection system effective from January 2019. Concurrently, the Tourism Research Officers were trained to implement the new IVS.

FIJIAN HOSTS

FIJIAN HOSTS is a Ministry-led customer service training initiative aimed at improving the interactions of service providers with their customer base, primarily focused on the border front line agencies at the Nadi International Airport.

In the reported period, close to 90 border officials were trained with ongoing support to the University of the South Pacific students who are enumerators for the International Visitor Survey.

Table 3 - FIJIAN HOSTS Training - August 2018 to July 2019:

Date:	Organisation:	No. of Participants:
31/08/18	Fiji Revenue and Customs Services	13
	Ministry of Health	2
	Fiji Police Force	8
30/11/18	Fiji Revenue and Customs Services	22
	Biosecurity Authority of Fiji	8
16/04/19	University of the South Pacific (Lautoka branch)	5
17/04/19	University of the South Pacific (Lautoka branch)	30
TOTAL		88

TOURISM AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Undertaking community engagement and capacity building allows the Ministry to keep a pulse on the ground tourism products. It also enables informed decision making in terms of investment and potential for product development and diversification at the regional level. The Ministry, in partnership with key stakeholders, conducted a total of 6 engagements in the reported period as follows:

- Radio Talk back show (August 2018) – collaboration with Fiji Broadcasting Corporation to create tourism awareness and highlight MSME success stories.
- Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association, Digital Media Workshops (November 2018 and June 2019) – capacity building initiative to assist the industry, in particular MSMEs, to leverage and maximise benefits from online and digital presence.
- Nausori and Navosa Highlands Familiarisation Trip (April 2019) – joint collaboration between Tourism Fiji, Destination Dreaming and Rosie Holidays to understand the current products on the ground and identify the potential for future growth in the Nausori and Navosa Highlands.
- Yalobi village, Waya, Yasawa Islands (July 2019) – a collaboration with South Sea Cruises to assist the community develop day tour products.
- Waikubukubu village, Tavua, Ba (July 2019) – joint awareness session with the Ministry of Forests, to facilitate the community's eco-park venture.

WORLD TOURISM DAY CELEBRATION

As a member of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation, Fiji celebrates World Tourism Day (WTD) on **27 September** each year. In 2018, the theme of WTD was “Tourism and Digital Transformation”. In line with the 2018 WTD theme, the Ministry hosted an awareness seminar in Rakiraki, targeting tourism MSMEs in the Nadi to Tailevu corridor.



World Tourism Day Seminar at Tanoa Rakiraki

The event was used as a tool to empower tourism MSMEs to harness technology and contribute sustainably to the Fijian tourism industry. More specifically, it aimed to create awareness and provide pertinent information on digital platforms that could assist in their business processes and marketing efforts.

The seminar was officially opened by the Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism, Hon. Faiyaz Siddiq Koya, followed by presentations from 9 speakers, including Government, industry, statutory bodies and development partners who shared insights on the theme.

Along the margins of the WTD 2018, the Ministry also organised a special visit to the Samabula Senior Citizens Home as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility activity. This exercise, whilst promoting social inclusivity, allowed the officials to provide some essential items to the Home whilst sharing the joy of WTD.

KEY TOURISM EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

(i) Fiji International presented by Fiji Airways

In an effort to strengthen Fiji's position as a MICE and sports destination, the Ministry with the Professional Golf Association (PGA) of Australasia, continued its executive level support for the Fiji International tournament. The 2018 Fiji International presented by Fiji Airways, was held at the Natadola golf course from 2-5 August 2018 and saw **132 professional golfers** from 16 countries participate in the event. The event was won by Mr. Gangangeet Bhullar of India.



The Fijian Government's investment in the tournament was based on the potential global exposure for Fiji, through the tournament's television broadcast, the development of a high-end tourism niche, i.e. golf-tourism and the development of Fiji's events/sports events capabilities.

The format of the event also included Golf roadshows conducted with approximately 1,000 primary school students around Viti Levu to create awareness and develop the sport in local communities. Events like the Fiji National University (FNU) volunteer drive, school golf programmes, schools “behind the scenes tour” of the event, ‘Give golf a go’ roadshow and interclub golf challenge were also proven successful. Other direct benefits to the local community included engagement of local volunteers, Fijian suppliers, provision of scholarships valued at FJD 5,000 for two FNU students and skills and development workshop in partnership with the Fiji Arts Council for the Sanasana Women's Group, to name a few.

(ii) China Pacific Tourism Year

The Ministry in collaboration with the China Cultural Centre Fiji, successfully organised the inaugural Fiji – China Tourism Symposium on 23 August 2019 at the Sofitel Resort & Spa. This event was part of Fiji's celebration of the Chinese Pacific Tourism Year 2019 (CPTY) 2019.

A total of 24 Fijian representatives from the local tourism industry attended the Symposium and had business meetings with 36 Chinese counterparts from 9 provinces in China. The objective of the event was to create more business opportunities in the area of tourism between Fiji and China.

The CPTY and the China Pacific Tourism Development Initiative 2019-2023 were a result of the 2017 High-Level Dialogue on the Belt and Road Initiative in Beijing, China. Both concepts were endorsed by the Board and the Council of Tourism Ministers during the 2018 Board Meeting in Samoa.

(iii) Fijian Tourism Expo

Organised by Tourism Fiji, the Fijian Tourism Expo is a key tourism industry event that allows buyers the opportunity to understand and experience the diverse and quality of products available whilst local suppliers have the opportunity to establish and strengthen relations with existing and new international partners.

In 2019, the Ministry, with Investment Fiji and Film Fiji collaboratively participated in order to promote Fiji as a destination for film and investment. The event was an overall success with 2019 seeing more than 150 international buyers, 14 international media and over 4,000 scheduled meetings over the 3-day event.

(iv) Super Rugby

Following its inauguration in 2016, the Investec Super Rugby match has become an annual feature in Fiji's sporting calendar. The Ministry, through the Executive Level Committee, provided high-level support for the hosting of the final Super Rugby event at the ANZ National Stadium on 1 June 2019.

The match between the Gallagher Chiefs and the BNZ Crusaders was a tremendous success which was won by the host team – the Gallagher Chiefs.

31ST JOINT MEETING OF THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AND THE UNWTO COMMISSION FOR SOUTH ASIA

The 31st Joint Meeting of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and Commission for South Asia (CAP-CSA), and the UNWTO Regional Conference on Sustainable Development through Tourism was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, 3-5 June 2019.

Fiji's participation in the 31st CAP-CSA Joint meeting, which is UNWTO's principal annual event in the Asia-Pacific region, was led by the Consul General/Trade Commissioner, China, Dr Yolinda Chan.

Along the margins, Fiji presented its membership candidature to the UNWTO Technical Committees, including the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness (CTC) and was successfully elected. Fiji's membership to the CTC will ensure that our interest and that of the Pacific region is represented within the UNWTO, particularly on issues impacting the region.



A PREMIER METROLOGY AND STANDARDS ORGANISATION IN THE REGION

Review of the legislation

The demand for product quality is dynamically rising in Fiji and in order, to improve products and services sold in the Fijian market, specific quality Standards need to be developed. Presently this is governed by the Trade Standards and Quality Control Act 1992 (TSQCA).

The Ministry is in the process of reviewing the TSQCA. This review will involve a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of the TSQCA and the National Standards Body (NSB) and implement changes that will ensure that the NSB delivers a Standards service that meets the needs of Fiji.

Standards

National Standards development (including Standards reviews, international and regional Standards adoption) is one of the core activities of DNTMS. The table below (Table 4) provides statistics on the number of Standards development projects that were undertaken by DNTMS in this financial year.

Table 4 – Standards development projects

Project Type	Number	Notes
Approved Fijian Standards	2	1. FS AS 1397:2019 (Coating requirements for Steel Coils) 2. FS 12:2018 (Roof Sarking Foil)
Approved Fijian Standards Amendment	1	1. Fuel Standards
New Projects Commenced	2	1. Gold articles 2. Tour operators
On-Going Standards Projects	6	1. Wind loads for housing 2. Sheet roof and wall cladding 3. Reinforcing steel materials 4. Energy performance labelling for refrigerators 5. Energy performance labelling for televisions 6. Fireworks

In addition to Standards development activities, the Ministry worked with the World Bank Group to develop Guidelines for strengthening single storey houses and schools in rural areas and villages in Fiji. This guideline will provide minimum guidance to build resilient building structures to withstand category 5 cyclones. The proposed Guideline will be presented to the stakeholders in early August 2019.



Stakeholder meeting conducted in May, 2019

Stakeholder Awareness

As part of Standard Development process, the Department has conducted stakeholder engagement activities throughout Fiji, raising awareness of Standards and their benefits.

These sessions are a critical aspect of Standards development. They demonstrate the capacity of Standards to provide solutions, ultimately leading to future projects and a catalogue that meets the needs of the nation.



Stakeholder Awareness Meeting on Cyber Security with the assistance of Standards Australia



Digital Trade Standardisation Workshop conducted with the assistance of Standards Australia

Fiji's Engagement in Cyber Security Regional Standardisation Enhancement

The Ministry is engaged under Cyber Security Standardisation Enhancement Programme with Standards Australia (SA). The purpose of this programme is to strengthen cyber security protection through the use of International Standards.

SA conducted stakeholder meetings on ISO/IEC 27000 - Information Technology-Security Techniques - Information Security Management Systems Series Standard with assistance from DNTMS on 19 March 2019.

Furthermore, Fiji participated in the Cyber Security Forum which was held on 4-5 April 2019 in Sydney. This forum provided attendees with an industry perspective, on cyber security and the importance for implementing standards to strengthen protection in the Pacific region.

Digital Trade Standardisation Workshop

Digital trade is an increasingly important component for today's economies. Standard Australia (SA) under the Indo-Pacific Digital Trade Standardisation Initiative is working with Ministry to increase the use of international standards that will support and enable digital trade and digital transformation.

A Joint SA and Ministry workshop was conducted on 11 July 2019. This provided an opportunity for stakeholders in Fiji to put forward their perspective on the current digital trade environment and explore the role of international standards.

The outcome of this workshop is to help stakeholders in the region to deploy digital technologies and improve cross-border business opportunities.

ENHANCE AND STRENGTHEN CONSUMER PROTECTION THROUGH FAIR TRADE POLICIES, LAWS AND ENFORCEMENT

Consumer Protection

The diagram below shows some of the effective ways in which the Department of National Trade Measurement and Standards ensured that quality products and services are provided to the public. Key measures undertaken include responding to complaints, undertaking inspections, and assessing products through independent accredited lab reports.



As part of enforcement responsibilities, the Department undertook the following:

- Inspection of 1,126 traders to check for compliance with the declaration of dangerous goods and fireworks labelling.
- Responding to complaints on the product quality and weighing and measuring instruments. Six complaints were received in the financial year, with 4 complaints solved and 1 complaint under process of further investigation.

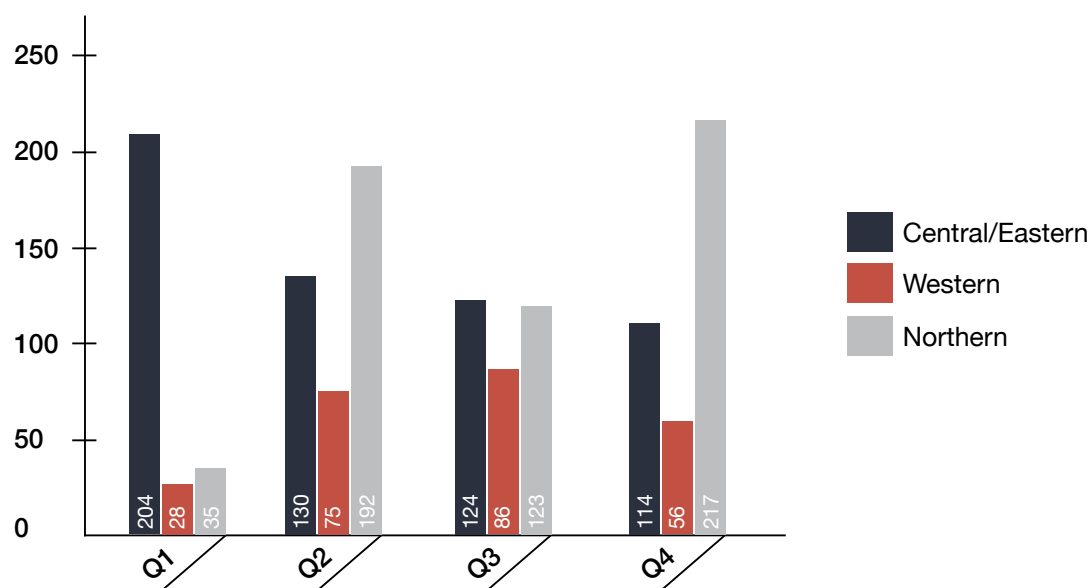
Verification and Certifications of Instrument

From August 2018 to July 2019 a total of 1,384 traders were visited by our inspectors from three divisions.

Table 5: Total Traders visited by the three divisions

Divisional Office	No. of traders visited 2018 - 2019				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Divisional Office	204	130	124	114	572
Western	28	75	86	56	245
Northern	35	192	123	217	567
Total	267	397	333	387	1,384

Graph 3: Total Traders visited (Aug 2018 – Jul 2019)



Certification of weighing and measuring equipment are undertaken annually. As shown in Table 3 below, from August 2018 to July 2019, a total of 3,739 instruments were verified or stamped and 57 instruments were rejected from the three divisions.

Table 6: Instruments verified from August 2018 to July – 2019

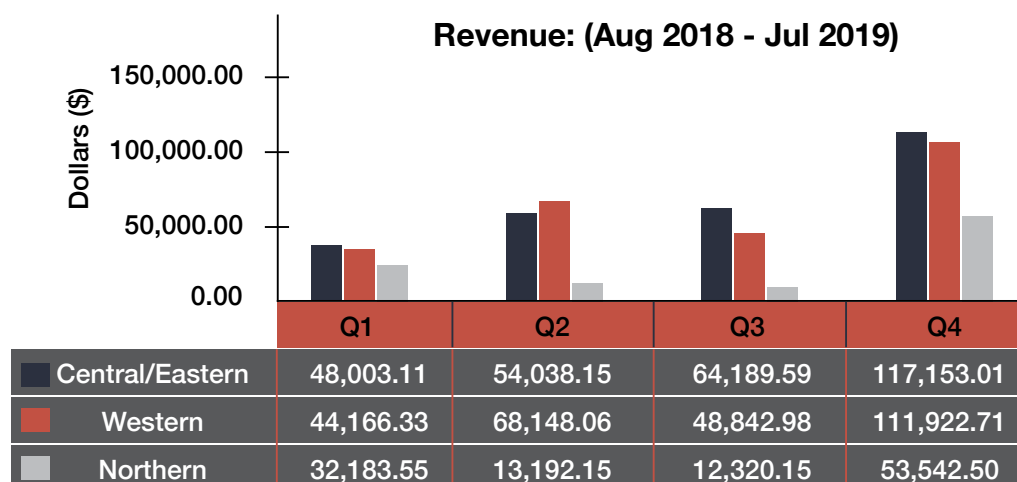
Divisional Office	Total number of instruments	
	Total	Rejected
Central/Eastern	1,655	0
Western	1,742	0
Northern	1,107	57
Total	3,739	57

The Laboratory calibrated total of 3,739 instruments or devices in 3 Divisions, which normally deals with trading. The different types of instruments or devices that were verified were scales, drive flow meter, energy meter, watermeter, weighbridge, parking meter, steel ruler, gantry, breathalyser, speed camera, radar guns and reference masses.

Revenue Collected

The Department undertook verification and certification of instruments, licensed traders and issued import roofing coil and screws. The Department collected \$667,702.29 for this financial year.

Graph 4: Revenue Collection



The core responsibilities of the Laboratory are the renewal and issuance of Principal, Repairers and Public Weighman licenses as well as the issuance of Fiji Pattern Approval Certificates and certification of instruments.

In addition, the Laboratory also maintains Primary, Secondary and Reference Standards. The Primary and Secondary standards are sent to National Measurement Institute of Australia for calibration and certification on periodical bases. These Primary and Secondary Standards are then used for certification of references standards and instruments in Fiji by various private sectors and government agencies.

The table below shows number of Principal license, Repairers licenses, Public Weighman, import license and Pattern Approval was issued by NML.

Table 7: Shows different types of licenses issued by NML from August 2018 to July 2019

No	Type of License	Total No. of License Issued
1.	Principal	22
2.	Repairers	37
3.	Public Weighman	27
4.	Pattern Approval	23
5.	Import Licence for Roofing Material	261
Total		370

The Laboratory issued 22 principal license, 37 repairers license, 27 public weighman license, 261 import licence to import roofing coil and cyclonic screws and 23 Pattern Approval were given to traders to bring new model equipment.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

Promoting Public Sector Accountability and Sustainability Through Our Audits



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File: 344

27 October 2020

The Honourable Faiyaz Siddiq Koya
Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism
Civic Tower, Level 3
SUVA

Dear Honourable Koya

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

Audited financial statements for Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism for the year ended 31 July 2019 together with my audit report on them are enclosed.

Particulars of the errors and omissions arising from the audit have been forwarded to the management of the Ministry for necessary action.

Yours sincerely

Ajay Nand
AUDITOR-GENERAL

cc: Mr. Shaheen Ali, The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism.

Encl.



MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Industry, Trade and Tourism

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, which comprise the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure, Appropriation Statement, Statement of Losses and Trust Account Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 July 2019, and the notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004, Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016, Finance Instructions 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016.

Basis for Opinion

I have conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). My responsibilities under those standards are described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the Ministry in accordance with the International Ethics Standard Commission for Accountant's Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Fiji and I have fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Responsibilities of the management and those charged with governance for financial statements

The management of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004, Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016, Finance Instructions 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016 and for such internal control as the management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Ministry's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud and error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Ministry's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and related disclosures made by the Ministry.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Ajay Nand
AUDITOR-GENERAL



Suva, Fiji
27 October 2020

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM
MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

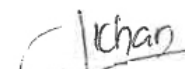
We certify that these financial statements:

(a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism for the year ended 31 July 2019 and

(b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act, Finance Instructions 2010 and Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016.



Shaheen Ali
Permanent Secretary



Joy Khan
Principal Accounts Officer

Date: 23/10/20

Date: 23/10/20

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

	Note	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
REVENUE			
State Revenue			
Fees		684,143	656,555
Commission		1,433	655
Interest Consumer Cooperatives		948	887
Miscellaneous Revenue		291,125	124,600
Other Grant in Aid	3 (a)	9,261	
TOTAL REVENUE	3 (b)	986,910	782,697
EXPENDITURE			
Operating Expenditure			
Established Staff		3,062,508	3,203,286
Government Wage Earners		433,806	448,669
Travel and Communications		254,992	348,467
Maintenance & Operations		664,861	830,519
Purchase of Goods and Services		232,608	224,737
Operating Grants and Transfers	3 (c)	19,266,963	21,368,913
Special Expenditures	3 (d)	8,564,551	8,999,578
Total Operating Expenditure		32,480,289	35,424,169
Capital Expenditure			
Capital Purchases		166,004	401,478
Capital Grants and Transfers	3 (e)	42,342,886	62,988,065
Total Capital Expenditure	3 (f)	42,508,890	63,389,543
Value Added Tax		313,575	361,115
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		75,302,754	99,174,827

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM
 APPROPRIATION STATEMENT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

SEG	Item	Budget Estimate (\$)	Appropriation Changes (\$)	Revised Estimate (\$)	Actual Expenditure (\$)	Lapsed Appropriation (\$) (a-b) (Note 4)
				a	b	
1	Established staff	4,079,722	(39,200)	4,040,522	3,062,508	978,014
2	Government Wage Earner	444,975	39,200	484,175	433,806	50,369
3	Travel and communications	486,600		486,600	254,992	231,608
4	Maintenance & operations	1,030,300		1,030,300	664,861	365,439
5	Purchase of goods & services	399,710		399,710	232,608	167,102
6	Operating grants & transfers	22,208,855	354,866	22,563,721	19,266,963	3,296,758
7	Special expenditures	11,464,032	(84,369)	11,379,663	8,564,551	2,815,112
	Total Operating Expenditure	40,114,194	270,497	40,384,691	32,480,289	7,904,402
	Capital Expenditure					
9	Purchases	770,000	-	770,000	166,004	603,996
10	Grants and Transfers	57,100,938	(270,497)	56,830,441	42,342,886	14,487,555
	Capital Expenditure	57,870,938	(270,497)	57,600,441	42,508,890	15,091,551
13	Value Added Tax	1,273,600		1,273,600	313,575	960,025
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	99,258,732		99,258,732	75,302,754	23,955,978

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM
 APPROPRIATION STATEMENT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

(continued)

Details of Appropriation Changes

The Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Economy approved the following virement of funds during the 2018- 2019 financial year.

Virement No.	From	To	Amount (\$)
V34001	SEG1	SEG1	8,000
V34002	SEG10	SEG10	1,000,000
V34003	SEG10	SEG10	2,000,000
V34004	SEG10	SEG10	1,500,000
V34005	SEG10	SEG10	1,000,000
V34006	SEG10	SEG7	1,311,106
V34007	SEG1	SEGI	242,500
V34007	SEG1	SEG2	39,200
V34007	SEG2	SEG2	10,300

Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism approved the following Virements under delegation from the Minister of Economy:

Virement No.	From	To	Amount (\$)
DV3401	SEG7	SEG10	40,609
DV3402	SEG7	SEG10	1,000,000
DV3403	SEG7	SEG7	116,198
DV3403	SEG13	SEG13	10,457
DV3404	SEG7	SEG6	144,000
DV3405	SEG7	SEG6	44,066
DV3406	SEG7	SEG6	166,800
DV3407	SEGS	SEGS	7,000
DV3407	SEG13	SEG13	630

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM
STATEMENT OF LOSSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

Losses of Money

There was no loss of money recorded for the year ended 31 July 2019.

Losses of Revenue

There was no loss of revenue recorded for the year ended 31 July 2019.

Losses of Assets (other than Money)

There was no reported losses (other than Money) recorded for the year ending 31st July 2019.

The Board of Survey was conducted by the Ministry and the following items worth \$91,541 were recommended for write-off for the year ended 31 July 2019.

Items	Amount (\$)
Computer Equipment	46,703
Office Equipment	8,555
Furniture and Fittings	29,710
Kitchen Equipment	6,573
Total	91,541

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Economy approved the above write off of the unserviceable assets reported in the Board of Survey report.

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM

CO-OPERATIVE TRUST ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR

ENDED 31 JULY 2019

	Note	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Cooperative Training Institute			
Training Fees		14,910	16,494
Re-print Certificate			10
Interest Received		1,175	1,039
		<u>16,085</u>	<u>17,543</u>
National Cooperative Federation			
Sales - Stationery		793	3,137
		<u>793</u>	<u>3,137</u>
Total Receipts		16,878	20,680
<u>PAYMENTS</u>			
Cooperative Training Institute			
		-	11,993
Training		227	153
Bank Charges		-	5,000
Catering		948	887
Interest Paid to Revenue		1,175	18,033
National Cooperative Federation			
Stationery		-	-
VAT		1,559	1,437
		<u>1,559</u>	<u>1,437</u>
Total Payments		2,734	19,470
Net Surplus		14,144	1,210
Balance as at 1 August 2018		94,588	93,377
Closing Balance as at 31 July 2019	5(a)	<u>108,732</u>	<u>94,588</u>

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM

INTEGRATED HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME TRUST ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS
AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

	Note	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
RECEIPTS			
Community Contributions		-	-
Total Receipts		-	-
PAYMENTS			
Bank Charges		70	70
Concrete - Cautata Village Bakery		6,649	22,000
Merchandise- Matainasau Bakery		1,344	2,610
Gas Oven & Spiral Mixer- Lawaki Bakery		12,051	12,804
Total Payments		20,114	37,484
Net Deficit		(20,114)	(37,484)
Balance as at 1 August 2018		109,203	146,687
Closing Balance as at 31 July 2019	5(b)	89,089	109,203

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

NOTE 1: REPORTING ENTITY

The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism formulates and implements policies and strategies to facilitate growth in industry, investment, trade, co-operative businesses, micro and small enterprises; and enhance metrology, standards and consumer protection.

These roles and responsibilities are undertaken by the Economic Unit, Trade Unit, Department of Tourism, Department of National Trade Measurement and Standards, Department of Co-operative Business and Corporate Service Division, within the Ministry, including Trade Commissions in New Zealand, North America, China, Australia and Papua New Guinea. The Ministry is supported by seven (7) statutory organisations namely Consumer Council of Fiji, Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission, Investment Fiji, Film Fiji, Tourism Fiji, Real Estate Agents Licensing Board and National Centre for Small and Micro Enterprise Development.

NOTE 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**a) Basis of Accounting**

In accordance with Government accounting policies, the financial statements of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism is prepared on cash basis of accounting. All payments related to purchase of fixed assets have been expensed.

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the Financial Management Act and the requirements of Section 71(1) of the Finance Instruction 2010 and the Finance (Amendment) Instructions 2016. The preparation and presentation of a Statement of Assets and Liabilities is not required under the current Government policies, except for that of the Trade and Manufacturing Accounts.

b) Accounting for Value Added Tax (VAT)

All income and expenses are VAT exclusive. The Ministry on a monthly basis takes out VAT output on total money received for expenditure from Ministry of Economy. VAT input on the other hand is claimed on payments made to the suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred.

The VAT payment as per the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure relates to the VAT input claimed on payments made to the suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred and VAT payments to Fiji Revenue and Customs Services. Actual amount paid to Fiji Revenue and Customs Services during the year represents the difference between VAT Output and VAT Input.

c) Comparative Figures

'Where necessary, amounts relating to prior years have been reclassified to facilitate comparison and achieve consistency in disclosure with current year amounts.

d) Revenue Recognition

The major source of revenue for the Ministry is fees collected from the national trade measurement assessments. Revenue is recognised when actual cash are received by the Ministry.

NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS

a) Other Grant in Aid consist of \$9,261 received from Ministry of Agriculture as the cost of sharing booth with Trade Commissioner Sydney for the Australian Fine Food Show held on 9 September 2018.

b) Total revenue increased by \$204,213 or 26% in 2019 due to refund received from Nivis Motors for failing to deliver the vehicle for financial year 2017-2018. In addition, fees collected from the Department of National Trade Measurements Standards and miscellaneous fees collected by Trade Commissioner Australia to facilitate Immigration and BDM services increased in 2019 compared to 2018.

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM

(continued)

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

c) Operating grants and transfers decreased by \$2,101,950 or 10% in 2019, since the fourth quarter grant was not released to Tourism Fiji (\$2,584,211), Film Fiji (\$553,448) and Textile Clothing Footwear Council (\$50,000) as agencies have sufficient savings for the fourth quarter operations.

d) Special expenditure decreased by \$435,027 or 5% in 2019 due to the removal of the budget expenditure item for the 30th UNWTO Joint Meeting, Trade Commissioner Taiwan, CCA Support (UNDP) and Preparatory Works Astana Expo from the Ministry Budget for the financial year 2019 as compared to 2018.

e) Capital purchase decreased by \$235,474 or 59% in 2019 due to less expenditure incurred for Accreditation of National Measurement Laboratory and also for the ICT equipment.

f) Capital grants and transfers decreased by \$20,645,179 or 33% in 2019 as the Fiji International Golf Tournament was removed from the budget item and fourth quarter marketing grant was not released to Tourism Fiji.

NOTE 4: APPROPRIATION STATEMENT - DETAILS OF SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS

SEG	Item	Revised Estimate	Actual Expenditure	Lapsed Appropriation		Remarks
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(%)	
1	Established Staff	4,040,522	3,062,508	978,014	24	The savings was due to staff movement and vacant positions.
2	Government Wage Earners	484,175	433,806	50,369	10	
3	Travel & Communication	486,600	254,992	231,608	48	The savings was due to controls implemented to reduce expenditure for meal allowance, subsistence allowance and travel cost.
4	Maintenance & Operations	1,030,300	664,861	365,439	35	The savings was due to controls imposed to reduce paper utilisation, IT consumables, office equipment and use of energy.
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	399,710	232,608	167,102	42	The savings was due to controls implemented to reduce expenditure.
6	Operating Grants and Transfers	22,563,721	19,266,963	3,296,758	15	The savings was due to the non-release of the 4 th quarter grant for Tourism Fiji (\$2,584,211), Film Fiji (\$553,448) and Textile and clothing Footwear Council (\$50,000) as agencies had sufficient savings for the fourth quarter operations.

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM

(continued)

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

7	Special Expenditure	11,379,663	8,564,551	2,815,112	25	The Fiji China Trade Agreement Negotiation Meeting was not held due to absence of cabinet approval. In addition all discussions with Australia and New Zealand on Fiji's position were held via video conference for the Pacer Plus Meetings. There were no official negotiations. Minister's travel being funded by host countries or hosting organisation.
9	Capital Purchases	770,000	166,004	603,996	78	The new lab equipment were not purchased which has resulted in the savings as the Ministry was focusing on accreditation of National Measurement Laboratory before purchasing the lab equipment.
10	Capital Grants & Transfers	56,830,441	42,342,886	14,487,555	25	The savings was due to non-release of the 4 th quarter marketing grant (\$7,445,704.50) to Tourism Fiji as there was sufficient savings for the fourth quarter operations.

NOTE 5: TRUST FUND ACCOUNT**a) Co-operative Trust Fund Account**

The Trust fund account was established to administer the training services delivered to co operative members. The receipts consist of fees charged to trainees and payment relates to the operation of the training institutes. As at 31 July 2019, there were funds amounting to \$108,732 in the Co-operative Trust account.

b) Integrated Human Resource Development Programme (IHRDP) Trust Fund Account

The Integrated Human Resource Development Programme is established pursuant to section 66 of the National Employment Centre Act 2009 ('Act'), as a designated Self Employment Service under the Act.

The Programme was designed to address unemployment and improve livelihood of semi urban and rural communities in a holistic and integrated approach for all relevant stakeholders. This is achieved through the provision of quality business skills training and advice for unemployed persons and retirees to facilitate their active participation in the formal, informal and rural employment markets through creation and sustaining of their own small or micro-enterprises or other forms of self-employment.

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

(continued)

The primary objective of the Programme is to:

- facilitate an enabling environment for business investment through economic and empowerment in communities and settlements;
- create jobs through direct interventions in the informal and semi-formal sectors particularly in the pen-urban, rural and remote areas; and
- make jobs sustainable through skills development and encouraging self employment

The Trust Account shall have contribution from the following sources:

- Fijian Government grants;
- Cash contribution from project recipients of not more than 25% of the project costs, to support operational and equipment cost for the project;
- Monies held on behalf of the project recipients under the Trust Account; and
- Development partners, donor agencies and Government ministries who wish to support IHRDP projects.

In particular the Trust Account shall meet the following approved expenditure items:

- Purchases of equipment for projects;
- Purchases of other project related items;
- Payment of project operational expenses
- Purchases of materials needed for improvement of project
- Payment of wages for project workers;
- Payment for project related expenses and
- Payment for bank fees.

As at 31 July 2019, there were funds amounting to \$89,089 in the IHRDP Trust account.

NOTE 6: Subsequent Events

The Department of Transport was transferred from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport to Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism as per Legal notice number 39 of 2020. The transitions was effective on 17 April 2020 as per date of legal notice. The Ministry name changed from Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism to Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport.



MINISTRY OF
INDUSTRY, TRADE
AND TOURISM

ANNUAL REPORT

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