FIJI CORRECTIONS SERVICE
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30 October 2020

C/AC 8/61

The Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights
Parliament of the Republic Of Fiji
Government Buildings
SUVA

Attention: Mr Jackson Cakacaka

RESPONSES TO ISSUES ON FCS ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

1. With reference to your letter Parl Ref No: 7/29 of 22 Sept 20, we would like to acknowledge with appreciation your commendable comments. As requested, we have attached the responses to the strategies that FCS has adopted in ensuring the audit recommendations are implemented.

2. Submitted for your information.

Yours sincerely

F.B.KEAN
Commander
Commissioner

PARLIAMENT OF FIJI

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

RESPONSES TO ISSUES RAISED ON THE FCS 2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee has commenced its review of the Fiji Corrections Service 2017-2018 Annual Report and have identified the following findings, which are now submitted for the attention of the Commissioner of FCS

	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
1	Reference is made to the statistics provided on Page 15 and Page 16 of the Annual Report pertaining to disaggregated data of inmates according to ethnicity and religious/denomination representation. The Committee seeks clarification on the reasons for having such statistics.	• To effectively rehabilitate all inmates through our rehabilitation programmes, the records enables us to fully analyse and advice the church, the vanua and community leaders on the number of their members and clan that are under our care. • This statistics are critical data that enables the FCS to deliver its rehabilitation programs and initiatives. The work of rehabilitation requires a whole of nation effort to ensure we deliver on our mission of positively restoring lives. It enables FCS to work smart.
2	Reference is made to page 17, which provides for records on recidivism. The Committee has reviewed the statistics provided in the Annual Report and compared these with the national target provided in page 67 on the 5 year and 20 year National Development Plan. It has been identified that the FCS has managed to reduce the recidivism rate from 4.4% in 2015 and 7.2% in 2016/2017 to 1.4% for the reported year (2017-2018). The Committee notes and commends the achievement in reducing recidivism, however the Committee seeks clarification on the formula used by the FCS in calculating the percentage of recidivism as provided in the Annual Report.	**Recidivism Calculation** **A. Previous year'stotal discharge** **B. Current year s total discharge** $= \dfrac{\textbf{Total Number of Recidivist}}{\textbf{(A+B) Total Discharge}} \times \dfrac{\mathbf{100}}{\mathbf{1}}$ **= Recidivism Rate** $= \dfrac{\mathbf{27}}{\mathbf{(790+1044)}} \times \dfrac{\mathbf{100}}{\mathbf{1}} = \mathbf{0.70\ \%}$ This formula covers a two year period. Note: Total Recidivist Rate in the Table 8, should move down to the last line.

3	Reference is made to page 21 of the Annual Report, which provides for records on 'untoward incidents and contrabands'. The Committee notes the statistics provided regarding the number of untoward incidents and the contrabands for the years 2016/2017and 2017/2018. In this regard, the Committee seeks clarification on the measures being put in place or are in place to combat or address the aforementioned matters.	A key factor in the execution of daily corrections operations is honesty. This message continues to be preached in daily parades to inmates and to serving personnel. All prisoners are thoroughly searched at all points of entry in all our Correction Centers. We have also introduced portable electronic metal detectors in all our Correction Centers. Similarly, we have installed permanent electronic metal detectors at the Lautoka Remand Center and the Maximum Correction Center. We plan to install two more permanent detectors this year at Medium Correction Center and Suva Remand Center. The intention is to install permanent electronic detectors in all our CCs. We have also invested in our K9 capability with the purchase and training of a Labrador and Spaniel sniffer dogs to assist our personnel in the detection of illegal contrabands into our Correction Centers. This capability has been working well for FCS. The intention is to have this capability in all our Correction Centers; currently we only have two such capability based at our Southern Division in Naboro. We are also working very closely with our counterparts in the Fiji Police Force to ensure that remand prisoners are closely monitored during their transit to and from our remand centers. Remand prisoners are the most problematic in relation to the smuggling of illegal contraband into our remand centers. Please be informed that the FPF are responsible for the safe transit of remand prisoners to and from our remand center. There has been a significant improvement in this area as a result of close collaboration between the FCS and FPF.

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<td>In reference to page 46 of the Annual Report, it was identified that there was an increase in staff turnover for the reported year compared to earlier years, the benchmarking from 2015. In that regard and taking into consideration the national target and international benchmark of the ratio of Corrections Officers to inmates; the Committee seeks clarification on what measures are in place to address the issue of staff turnover. Additionally what measures are in place to ensure that there is minimal impact on the service provided by the FCS?</td>
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<table>
<tr><th></th><th>2015/2016</th><th>2016/2017</th><th>2017/2018</th><th>2018/2019</th></tr>
<tr><td>Total Staff Turnover</td><td>26</td><td>103</td><td>125</td><td>93</td></tr>
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The Table shows the total turnover of staff during their respective financial years. This turnover of staff includes the periodical engagement and termination of Temporary Relieving Custodial Officers (TRCOC) whom we engage on a three months basis to support our Musudovu operations which occurs from June to Dec every year. Please note we have established a Temporary Correction Center (TCC) in Rakiraki and Tavua which engages 54 TRCOCs. This two TCCs have been established to support our Musudovu operations in this two districts. Similarly, we engage 45 TRCOCs to support our engineering staff to undertake capital projects within the FCS. These TRCOCs are engaged on a three monthly basis and terminated on the completion of this period i.e. end of Musudovu season and completion of capital projects. The number of TRCOCs engaged is dependent on the capital projects that are undertaken internally by our permanent engineers. The balance of turnover covers for retirements, resignations and dismissal.
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<td>5</td>
<td>The Committee seeks clarification on the current gender related policies in place for the FCS.</td>
<td>FCS currently operates two female and twelve male Correction Centers (CC), therefore our man power will be male dominated to commensurate our operations. The strength of our two female CCs is 50. This excludes the number of other female personnel holding appointments outside these two CCs.

Recruitment in the FCS for civilian staff is based on an open merit system. Please be informed that the following senior appointments in FCS are held by females: Assistant Commissioner Corporate Services, Director of Rehabilitation, Senior Psychologists and Senior Accounts Officer.</td>
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6	Reference is made to page 55 of the Annual Report, which provides for the statement of receipts and expenditure for the financial year 2017-2018. The Committee reviewed the statement and has identified a few issues, which it requires clarification on and these are as follows:	
	a. The Committee compared the amount noted under the 'Capital Construction' expenditures which is $3,540,439(million), with the amount specified for the same expenditure, provided in the 2017-2018 Actuals found in the 2019-2020 Budget Estimates. It was noted that the amounts for this expenditure are different. In that regard, the Committee seeks clarification on the differing figures provided.	The Annual Financial Statement was finalized after the audit, endorsed by OAG and signed on 16 Oct 2019, as Page 54. The Budget Estimate for 2019-2020 was published prior to the financial year ending in July 2019 after the Budget was announced on June 2019. The Annual Report for 2017-2018 showed the audited AFS whereas the Budget Estimate published showed an unaudited financial budget.
	b. The Committee compared the amount noted under the 'Total Capital Construction' expenditures which is $4,026,741(million), with the amount specified for the same expenditure, provided in the 2017-2018 Actuals found in the 2019-2020 Budget Estimates. It was noted that the amounts for this expenditure are different. In that regard, the Committee seeks clarification on the differing figures provided.	Same as above, the Annual Financial Statement was finalized after the audit, endorsed by OAG and signed on 16 Oct 2019, as Page 54. The Budget Estimate for 2019-2020 was published prior to the financial year ending in July 2019 after the Budget was announced on June 2019. The Annual Report for 2017-2018 shows the audited AFS whereas the Budget Estimate shows an unaudited financial budget.
	c. The Committee noted the amount under the 'VAT' expenditure which is $1,070,049(million), with the amount specified for the same expenditure, provided in the 2017-2018 Actuals found in the 2019-2020 Budget Estimates. It was noted that the amounts for this expenditure are different. In that regard, the Committee seeks clarification on the differing figures provided.	Same as above, the Annual Financial Statement was finalized after the audit, endorsed by OAG and signed on 16 Oct 2019, as Page 54. The Budget Estimate for 2019-2020 was published prior to the financial year ending in July 2019 after the Budget was announced on June 2019. The Annual Report for 2017-2018 shows the audited AFS whereas the Budget Estimate shows an unaudited financial budget.
	d. The accompanying notes provided in page 64 for the financial statement in page 55, does not correlate with the items the Notes are affixed to; these notes include Note 3(f), Notes 3(g) and Notes 3(h). The Committee seeks clarification on the aforementioned.	Your comments are correct as this was misprinted and should read Note 3(g), Note 3(h) and Note 3(i).

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

PARLIAMENT COMPLEX, CONSTITUTION AVENUE
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Ref: PARL 7/29 **Date: 22 September 2020**
Delivered via electronic mail

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Commander Francis Kean
Commissioner of Corrections
Fiji Corrections Service
Headquarters, SUVA.

Dear Commissioner,

RE: **Questions on Issues on the Fiji Corrections Service 2017-2018 Annual Report**

1. As you may be aware, the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights has been referred the Fiji Corrections Service 2017 – 2018 Annual Report ("**Annual Report**") to review and to report back to Parliament on its findings.

2. The Committee has begun in its review on the Annual Report and has identified certain matters that the Committee would require clarification on. The Committee now submits a set of questions based on the noted matters and request clarification on these. A copy of the questions is appended to this letter.

3. The Committee would be grateful for responses to the questions, however, please be advised that this does not restrict you from giving input on any other aspect of the Report that you may feel would assist the Committee in its review.

4. The Committee requests for the above-mentioned to be provided to the Committee by **close of business 30 October 2020** and if there is a need for further clarification on the response, the Committee would be grateful to have a virtual meeting with your office, at a later date.

5. For any clarification or any urgent matter pertaining to the aforementioned, please contact the Committee Secretariat staff; Mr. Ira Komaisavai or Mr. Jackson Cakacaka on phone number; +679 9908 595.

6. Looking forward to your response, please.

Sincerely,

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Hon. Alvick A. Maharaj
Chairperson