



STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Review of the Land Transport Authority 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2016-2017 Annual Reports



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
Parliamentary Paper No. 26 of 2023

March 2023

Published and printed by the Department of Legislature, Parliament House, Government Buildings, SUVA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.....	3
CHAIRPERSON’S FOREWORD.....	4
RECOMMENDATION.....	5
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	5
1.1 Committee Procedure.....	5
2.0 ABOUT LAND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY	6
3.0 KEY FINDINGS.....	7-8
4.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.....	8-9
5.0 CONCLUSION.....	10
COMMITTEE MEMBERS’ SIGNATURE.....	11
APPENDICES.....	12
Published Written Evidence.....	12

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP



Chairperson
Hon. Alitia Bainivalu MP
Government Member



Deputy Chairperson
Hon. Ratu Rakuira Vakalalabure MP
Government Member



Member
Hon. Sashi Kiran MP
Government Member



Member
Hon. Viam Pillay MP
Opposition Member



Member
Hon. Parveen Kumar Bala MP
Opposition Member

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the report of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs on the annual review of the Land Transport Authority from 2014 to 2017.

This review was undertaken in accordance with Standing Order 109(2)(b) which mandates the Committee to look into issues related to health, education, social services, labour, culture and media. The Committee first met to deliberate on and formulate questions pertaining to the 2014-2017 Annual Reports of the Land Transport Authority.

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs of the last term of Parliament was referred the Land Transport Authority 2014 – 2017 Annual Reports. The same report had been re-introduced in this new term of Parliament and have been referred to the current Standing Committee on Social Affairs. As per the normal process for report scrutiny, the current Committee was mandated by Parliament to review the Annual Reports and report back on its findings.

The Committee took note of and deliberated on the previous Committee's succinct work and deliberation done on the mentioned report. This Report will reiterate the work done by the previous Committee in reviewing and highlighting the contents of the Land Transport Authority and make recommendations on the anomalies noted therein. It will also highlight the discussions held by the Committee with the Authority with regards to the issues noted from its report.

The year in review saw the opening of the new Nausori LTA office, Risk management strategies, 5S quality concept, and Go Green Project were successfully implemented. The year also saw the installation of the Queuematic Software at the Nakasi Office. Nationwide bus and fleet audit was conducted. Red light and Speed cameras were installed at new sites. The Japan Vehicle Export Inspection Centre (JEVIC) went live in 2016. Furthermore, e-services were introduced by LTA. Also, Performance Management Systems and Job Evaluation exercises were conducted in the course of the year. All LTA offices also underwent upgrading and refurbishing works.

At this juncture I would like to acknowledge the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs in the last term of Parliament for their efforts and input, which has greatly assisted our Committee in the formulation and completion of this report.

I would also like to thank the Honourable Members of the current Standing Committee on Social Affairs, the Secretariat staff and all other support staff for their valuable input and support.

I also wish to thank the former Chief Executive Officer of Land Transport Authority, Mr Flagon Bekker and his staff for their timely assistance in this review process.

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, I commend this Report to Parliament and request all members of this august Parliament to take note of the Report.


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Hon. Alitia Bainivalu
Chairperson

RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs has conducted the annual review of the Land Transport Authority for 2014-2017 and recommends that Parliament take note of its report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 2014-2017 Annual Reports of the Land Transport Authority was tabled in Parliament in the May 2022 meeting and referred to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs for its scrutiny.

Standing Orders 109(2)(b) allows Standing Committee on Social Affairs to examine matters related to health, education, social services, labour, culture and media.

Furthermore, Standing Orders 110(1)(c) authorises the Standing Committee to “*scrutinise the government departments with responsibility within the Committee's subject area, including by investigating, inquiring into, and making recommendations relating to any aspect of such a department's administration, legislation or proposed legislative program, budget, rationalisation, restructuring, functioning, organisation, structure and policy formulation.*”

1.1 Committee Procedure

The previous Committee met in September to deliberate on and formulate questions pertaining on the 2014-2017 Annual Reports of the Land Transport Authority. Following this, the Committee held an audience with the Executive Management of the Authority for their response to the Committee's questions and clarification of issues. Upon receipt of all relevant information on the Committee's queries, we compiled our findings on the Annual Report and subsequently endorsed it in October.

We received written response from the Land Transport Authority for this annual review. It is available on the Parliament website, at the following link:

<http://www.parliament.gov.fj/Committees/standing-Committee-on-social-affairs/>

2.0 About the Land Transport Authority

The Land Transport Authority was established under the Land Transport Act 1998 under section 6(2) "A body corporate". The six LTA Regulation 2000 came into effect on 10th July 2000.

The Land Transport Authority's core functions are:

- Establishment standards for registration and licensing of vehicles and drivers;
- Develop and implement effective and efficient enforcement strategies consistent with road safety and protection of the environment;
- Develop traffic management strategies in conjunction with relevant authorities;
- Develop and improve customer service levels in all areas of operations; and
- Ensure equitable and affordable fare schedule for all Public Service Vehicles.

3.0 KEY FINDINGS

3.1 We enquired with the Authority on the high number of Traffic Infringement Notices and Defect Orders issued and vehicles seized across 2014 to 2017. We were informed that this was mainly due to an increase in vehicle population over the years on Fiji Roads. In addition, this was attributed to more random checks conducted by LTA as more enforcement officers were recruited in all branches and more joint operation with Fiji Police. Detailed information on the increase in TIN issuance in proportion to the vehicle population from 2014 to 2017 is provided below:

	2014	2015	2016-2017
Tin issuance	25,503	28,586	42,614
% Increase		12%	49%
Vehicle Population	95,940	101,425	117,623
% Increase		6%	16%

The Committee noted the extensive efforts made by the Authority to reduce the issuance of TINS through the following means:

- Regular combined operation with Fiji Police;
- Training and empowerment of municipal councils to carry out traffic enforcement in their municipalities while LTA and police to concentrate on the Highways;
- Road safety community outreach programs;
- School visitations;
- High visibility operation along black spot areas;
- Radio talk back shows;
- Billboards;
- DDC Training; and
- Media awareness.

3.2 Given the increase in the number of pre-owned vehicles on our roads, the Authority has contracted a service provider for offshore vehicle inspections, Japan Export Vehicle Inspection Center (JEVIC), to carry out inspections for used vehicles imported from Japan, Australia and New Zealand. We note that JEVIC inspections include verification of vehicle age, confirmation to emission standards, and verification of vehicles damage/write off history, visual structural inspections, tailpipe emission tests and hybrid vehicle battery diagnostics amongst general

vehicle inspection. The offshore inspection together with the vehicle specifications and OEM compliance certificates ensure that the vehicle is fit for registration in Fiji.

- 3.3 Additional information was sought from the Authority on the challenges associated with the implementation of the e-ticketing system and LTA's plans to address them in collaboration with stakeholders. The Committee was informed of issues of operationalization of TOP up agents in rural areas, technological challenges in hard to reach places, and loss of bus cards being by the public.

To resolve this, the Authority will focus on monitoring E-ticketing in calibration with private bus operators, create a task force with Vodafone and MEHA to coordinate on e-ticketing issues, and aggressively engage in media awareness.

- 3.4 We note that the auditor issued a qualified audit opinion on the 2016-2017 accounts of the Authority on the basis that titles for leasehold land amounting to \$3,595,000 were not registered in the name of the Authority. The Authority informed us that it had obtained the land lease agreement for LTA Valelevu, Lautoka, and Ba land as follows:

Division	Cost	Comment
Valelevu	\$ 2,450,000	Lease title registered on 26 July 2019
Lautoka	\$ 570,000	Lease title registered on 8 December 2021
Sigatoka	\$ 95,000	In process with Lands Department
Ba	\$ 280,000	Lease title registered on 26 April 2022
Labasa	\$ 200,000	Lease document prepared, awaiting for signing
Total	\$ 3,595,000	

- 3.5 We also enquired with the Authority on the Emphasis of Matter raised by the auditor in respect of the contingent liability of \$55,859,759 disclosed by LTA as at 31 July 2017. The Authority informed us that the contingent liability of \$55,859,759 has been reduced to \$2,588,500 as at July 2019.

The breakdown for the contingent liability of \$55,859,759 that was included as at 31st July 2017 is provided in the Authority's written response to the Committee as Annexure 1.

4.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends:

- 4.1 That the Land Transport Authority continue to further enhance its awareness programs on Road Safety through the use of various means such as, community outreach programs, roadside advertisements, school visitations, radio talk back shows, etc.
- 4.2 That the Land Transport Authority work in collaboration with mobile service providers (such as, Vodafone), private bus operators, Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, and other stakeholders to address challenges associated with E-ticketing.
- 4.3 That the Land Transport Authority work in close collaboration with all bus companies to achieve 100% compliance to the Quality Assurance Maintenance System within set timeline.
- 4.4 That the Land Transport Authority, together with the Fiji Roads Authority work closely in the constructions of road humps, zebra-crossing, speed limit signage and other safety mechanisms to prioritise the safety of school children.
- 4.5 That the Authority work in collaboration with Fiji Roads Authority, to prioritise and complete the mapping of existing bus operators' Road Route Licenses (RRL) on its GIS platform so as to implement standard and accurate stage fare.
- 4.6 That the Land Transport Authority work with Transport stakeholders and Government Departments to design a comprehensive strategy to implement carpooling initiatives, in an effort to reduce traffic congestion around towns and cities.

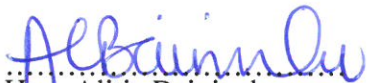
5.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee has fulfilled its mandate to review the 2014-2017 Annual Reports of the Land Transport Authority. As part of its review process, the Committee heard evidence from the Executive Management of LTA and received a written response.

In this review report, the Committee has highlighted various areas that need to be strengthened by the Authority and relevant recommendations have been made for the resolution of issues.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' SIGNATURE

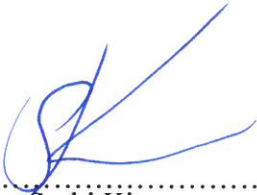
We, the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, hereby agree with the contents of this report:



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Hon. Alitia Bainivalu
(Chairperson)



.....
Hon. Ratu Rakuira Vakalalabure
(Deputy Chairperson)



.....
Hon. Sashi Kiran
(Member)



.....
Hon. Viam Pillay
(Member)



.....
Hon. Parveen Bala
(Member)

29/03/23
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APPENDIX

Published written evidence

Written evidence was received from the Land Transport Authority and can be viewed on the Parliament website at the following link:

<https://www.parliament.gov.fj/Committees/standing-Committee-on-social-affairs/>