



Parliamentary Response (Draft)

**Minister for Housing and Local Government,
Honourable Maciu Katamotu Nalumisa**

Parliamentary Response: March 29, 2023

**Parliament
Government Buildings
SUVA**

March 29, 2023

Written Question

Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure to ask the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the annual pay and other entitlements for all the past and current Councilors, Special Administrators and senior executives for each Municipal Council for the period January 2007 to 23 December 2022.

Mister Speaker Sir,

The Local Government Act was reviewed and amended in 2009. This amendment put in place the requirement for the appointment of the Special Administrators ('SAs') in accordance with Section 9A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('Act').

The amendment to the Act allowed the Special Administrators to be the Council in the absence of elected Councilors. The then Government in 2008 decided to rescind the 12 months extension granted to all municipal councils, so the life of elected Councilors expired in October 2008.

Mister Speaker Sir,

Prior to October 2008, the remuneration of Mayors and Councilors was published by the Minister through a gazette. This set the allowance that the Councilors would be entitled to for meetings that they attended. The Mayors could, according to Section 21(5) of the Act, be paid a quarterly allowance as prior approved by the Minister.

From 2009, the SAs were appointed by the Minister as per Section 9A by an order. The minimum number of SAs was set at 2. And as per Section 9A(2) the SAs were given the powers to perform and discharge all the rights, privileges, powers, duties and functions vested in or conferred or imposed on the Council, the mayor and any office of the Council. Hence, the SAs were entitled to remunerations as determined by the Minister.

Determining the suitable remuneration for Councilors, SAs and senior executive members of Councils is a challenge. Prior to the appointment of SAs in 2009, Councilors were paid a sitting allowance ranging from \$5 to \$35 per ordinary meeting in accordance with the Act.

It is sad to note that former Councilors for the two large Councils namely Suva and Lautoka were paid as low as \$35 and \$25 per meeting respectively. Councilors for medium Councils were paid \$25 per ordinary meeting and most of the small Councils were paid \$10 per meeting. Councilors for Levuka Municipality were only paid \$5 per ordinary meeting. During that time, there was no fixed salary for the Councilors and only few were provided with the entitlements. Since Rakiraki was declared a town in 2010, there were no allowances set for Councilors and Mayor. Please refer to **Annex 1 for details Mayors and Councilors allowance and entitlements.**

Mister Speaker Sir,

The change in 2009 saw an increase in the remuneration package for the appointed SAs. This is to create an opportunity to modernise local government, improve accountability and transparency and examine the regulatory system to ensure the legislative framework is relevant to shape the local government that we want in Fiji.

Mister Speaker Sir,

The SAs from 2009 to 2018 were paid salaries with allowances. In 2019, this was changed from salaries to annual allowances, which was paid quarterly.

The Ministry of Local Government from 2009 till to date has paid the salary and then allowances for the SAs. Councils such as Labasa/Savusavu, Nasinu, Nadi and Rakiraki paid additional allowances to the SA. This was a top-up to what the Ministry paid. For example Labasa/Savusavu, the Ministry paid \$45,000 and Council paid \$8,500.

Mister Speaker Sir,

Prior to the appointment of the new SAs in 2019, the SA for Suva City Council was paid a salary of \$45,000 per annum in 2009 and 2010, which was doubled in 2011 until 2018. For Labasa, Savusavu, Rakiraki and Nausori Town Councils, the SAs were paid \$45,000 per annum. The SA for Nadi was sitting on \$59,554 (which consisted of \$45,000 from the Ministry and topped up the Council), whereas the former SA for Nasinu was receiving \$60,000 per annum (\$45,000 paid by Ministry and topped-up by Council). The Lautoka City and Ba Town Council SA were paid \$13,000 and \$25,000 respectively.

Records show that the SA for Levuka Town Council was paid \$5,000 from 2009 to 2011. For Lami Town Council, the former SA was on volunteer basis and did not receive any salary from 2009-2019. In addition to the salary, the SAs were also provided with housing allowance, telephone phone limit, vehicle and entertainment allowance.

In August 2019, the new team of SAs were appointed by the Minister for Local Government. The team consisted of 4 members and a Chairperson appointed for Suva and Lami Town Councils; Nausori and Nasinu Town Councils; Lautoka and Ba Town Councils; Sigatoka and Nadi Town Councils. The SA Teams for Rakiraki and Tavua Town Councils, and Labasa and Savusavu Councils consisted of 2 members and 1 Chairperson. The Levuka SA team consists of only 2 members, one of whom was the Chair.

The remuneration offered to the SAs are paid quarterly on a pro-rata basis at a rate approved by the Hon. Prime Minister in accordance with the Higher Salaries Act 2011.

In addition to the quarterly allowance provided, the SAs are also entitled to meal and travel allowance for out of town or city expenses for any meetings such as local government forums, payable by the Council. Salary and allowances for the SAs is attached as **Annex 2**.

Mister Speaker Sir,

Section 35 (2A) of the Act provides that the Chief Executive Officers ('CEOs') of the Municipalities shall be paid such salary as is determined in accordance with the Higher Salaries Act 2011. The salary is determined in accordance with the approved Bands (as per **Annex 3**) depending on the size of the councils such as Large, Medium and Small. In the past, the CEOs were paid low salaries when compared to the responsibilities they had to undertake.

Mister Speaker Sir,

Over a period of time, several CEOs play a dual role attempting to cover the tasks of SAs, whilst also dispensing the "CEO responsibilities". The initial expectation for this role was for it to provide an overall chair to oversee the work of the Council, actively attending to the civic engagement and have a strong grasp over the councils' service deliverables and stakeholder management mechanisms in an accountable and transparent manner. As such, the Ministry in consultation with the Councils decided to evaluate and determine the

salary that is applicable to responsibilities of the CEOs. This is detailed in the CEO Salary as per **Annex 3**.

Mister Speaker Sir,

The above response is submitted. Thank you.

COUNCILORS INFORMATION - MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

#	Council	Year	Allowance (Mayors and Councilors)	Mayors additional Entitlement
1	Suva City	2007-2008	\$35/ordinary meeting	Vehicle Deputy Mayor - \$1,000/annum to be paid quarterly
2	Lami Town	2009-2009	\$10/ordinary meeting	Vehicle
3	Nausori Town	2007-2008	\$10/ Ordinary or Standing Committee meeting	None
4	Nasinu Town	2007-2008	\$18/Ordinary or Standing Committee meeting	None
5	Lautoka City	2007-2008	\$25/Councilor/Ordinary or Standing Committee meeting	
6	Ba Town	2007-2008	\$15/meeting/councilor - Ordinary/Standing Committee \$25/meeting/Councilor for Full Board Meeting Traveling allowance - \$10 per ordinary meeting/standing committee meeting	Vehicle/Meal/Driver
7	Nadi Town	2007-2008	\$25/Ordinary or Standing Committee meeting	Mayor - \$3,600/annum Deputy Mayor - \$1,440/annum
8	Sigatoka Town	2007-2008	\$20/ Ordinary or Standing Committee meeting	None
9	Savusavu Town	2007-2008	\$25/ Ordinary or Standing Committee meeting	\$3,500/annum

10	Labasa Town	2007-2008	\$25/ Ordinary or Standing Committee meeting	None
11	Tavua Town	2007-2008	\$15/ Ordinary or Standing Committee meeting	None
12	Rakiraki Town	None - Rakiraki declared in 2010 - hence no allowance was set for Councilors or Mayor		
13	Levuka Town	2007-2008	\$5/Ordinary meeting	None

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATORS INFORMATION - MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

#	Council	Year	Salary ¹²	Entitlement
1	Suva City	2009-2010	\$45,000	Housing/Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Entertainment
		2011-2018	\$80,000	
		2019-current	SA Chair - \$30,000 SA Members-\$23,000	Mileage claims, meal and accommodation, travel cost for meetings outside council
2	Lami Town	2009-2019	Volunteer Basis (only one SA)	Housing/Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit
		2019-current	SA Team for Suva and Lami	Mileage claims, meal and accommodation, travel cost for meetings outside council
3	Nausori Town	2009-2014	\$45,000 (only one SA)	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Housing/Entertainment
		2015-2018	No SA appointed	
		2019-current	SA Chair - \$30,000 SA Members-\$23,000	Mileage claims, meal and accommodation, travel cost for meetings outside council
4	Nasinu Town	2009	Transition period	
		2010-2019	\$60,000 (only one SA) also acted as CEO	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Internet [2017 - 2019 - including Housing]
		2019-current	SA Team for Nasinu and Nausori	Mileage claims, meal and accommodation, travel cost for meetings outside council
5	Lautoka City	2010-2014	\$25,000	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Housing
		2019-current	SA Chair - \$30,000 SA Members-\$23,000	Mileage claims, meal and accommodation, travel cost for meetings outside council
6	Ba Town	2009-2013	\$13,000	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Housing
		2014	No allowance paid to	

¹ 2009 to 2018 - there was only one Special Administrator appointed for each Council

² 2019 - The Special Administrators were appointed in clusters, so they were paid only one allowance, for example SAs for Suva and Lami were paid Chair - \$30,000 and Members - \$23,000

			the SA	
		2015 - 2018	No SA appointed	
		2019-current	SA Team for Lautoka and Ba (only one allowance is paid)	Mileage claims, meal and accommodation, travel cost for meetings outside council
7	Nadi Town	2009-2013	Sigatoka SA was given Nadi responsibility	
		2014-2019	\$59,554	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Housing
		2019-current	SA Chair - \$30,000 SA Members-\$23,000	Mileage claims, meal and accommodation, travel cost for meetings outside council
8	Sigatoka Town	2008	\$30/meeting allowance (only one SA)	
		2009 - 2012		
		2013-2015	Volunteer basis	
		2015 - 2018	No SA (CEO acted as SA)	
		2019-current	SA Team for Nadi and Sigatoka	Mileage claims, meal and accommodation, travel cost for meetings outside council
9	Savusavu Town	2009-2019	\$45,000	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Entertainment
		2019-current	SA Chair - \$25,000 SA Members-\$18,000	Mileage claims, meal and accommodation, travel cost for meetings outside council
10	Labasa Town	2009-2019	\$45,000	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Entertainment
		2019-current	SA Team for Labasa and Savusavu	Mileage claims, meal and accommodation, travel cost for meetings outside council
11	Tavua Town	2009-2013	SA - \$13,000	
		2019-current	SA Chair - \$20,000 SA Members-\$12,000	Mileage claims, meal and accommodation, travel cost for meetings outside council
12	Rakiraki	2010-2012	\$30,000	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile

	Town			Limit/Internet/Housing Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Internet/Housing
		2013-2014	\$40,000	
		2015-2019	None	
		2019-current	SA Chair - \$20,000 SA Members-\$12,000	Mileage claims, meal and accommodation, travel cost for meetings outside council
13	Levuka Town	2009-2011	\$5,000	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Internet/Housing
		2019-current	SA Chair - \$10,000 SA Members-\$8,000	Mileage claims, meal and accommodation, travel cost for meetings outside council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS INFORMATION - MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

#	Council	Year	Salary	Salary Range (this range was established in 2019)	Entitlement	shared responsibilities
1	Suva City	2007-2013	\$78,000	132,583-187,176	Housing/Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit	Suva CEO is acting CEO for Lami so only one salary paid
		2014-2020	\$104,000	Base - 155,980.00		
		2021-2022	\$94,000 - \$99,000		Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit	
2	Lami Town	2007-2008	\$29,000	37,007.68-55,511.52	Housing/Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit	
		2009-2022	\$40,000 - \$45,000	Base - 46,259.60	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit	
3	Nausori Town	2010-2022	\$34,000 - \$53,000	57,824.50-138,778.80	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit	
				Base - 115,649.00		
4	Nasinu Town	2011-2016	\$40,000- \$42,000	132,583-187,176	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Internet	Nasinu CEO is also CEO for Nausori, both Councils share the salary cost
		2017-2022	\$70,000- \$72,000	Base - 155,980.00	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Internet [2017 - 2020 - including Housing]	
5	Lautoka City	2007-2019	\$47,000 - \$53,000	132,583-187,176	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/ Housing	
		2020-current	\$140,000	Base - 155,980.00	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Internet	
6	Ba Town	2007-2020	\$30,000- \$40,000	57,824.50-138,778.80	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/ Housing	

		2020- current	\$57,000	Base - 115,649.00	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Internet	
7	Nadi Town	2007- 2015	\$40,000 - \$42,000	57,824.50- 138,778.80	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/ Housing	
		2016- 2018	\$70,000	Base - 115,649.00	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Internet	
		2020	\$84,000		Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Internet	
		2020- current	Acting		Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Internet	
8	Sigatoka Town	2007- current	\$27,000- \$48,000 Acting	37,007.68- 55,511.52 Base - 46,259.60	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Internet	
9	Savusavu Town	2007- 2022	\$17,000- \$46,000	37,007.68- 55,511.52 Base - 46,259.60	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Internet [2012-2019 - Housing included]	
10	Labasa Town	2007- 2018	\$22,000- \$33,000	57,824.50- 138,778.80 Base - 115,649.00	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Internet [2012-2014 - Housing included]	
		2019- 2020	\$73,000			
		2020- current	Acting			
11	Tavua Town	2007- 2019	\$24,000- \$30,000	37,007.68- 55,511.52	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Internet/Housing	
		2020- current	\$57,000	Base - 46,259.60	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile Limit/Internet	
12	Rakiraki Town	2014- 2019	\$30,000	37,007.68- 55,511.52	Vehicle/Telephone Mobile	CEO Rakiraki is appointed CEO for

				Base -	Limit/Internet/Housing	Tavua also, therefore,
		2020-	\$57,000	46,259.60	Vehicle/Telephone	only one salary paid.
		current			Mobile Limit/Internet	
13	Levuka Town	2009-	\$15,000-	37,007.68-	Vehicle/Telephone	
		current	\$50,000	55,511.52	Mobile Limit/Internet	
				Base -	[2012-2014 - Housing	
				46,259.60	included]	