



STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Review of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Annual Report 2019-2020



**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the report of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs on the review of the *Ministry of Youth and Sports Annual Report 2019-2020*. This review was undertaken in accordance with Standing Order (SO) 109 (2) (b) which mandates the committee to look into issues related to health, education, social services, labour, culture and media.

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs of the last term of Parliament was referred the *Ministry of Youth and Sports Annual Report 2019-2020*. In this new term of Parliament the Annual Report was re-introduced and referred to the current Standing Committee. As per the normal process for report scrutiny, the Committee was mandated by Parliament to review the Annual Report and report back on its findings.

This report will build on from the work compiled by the previous Committee in reviewing and highlighting the contents of the *Ministry of Youth and Sports Annual Report 2019-2020*.

The Financial Year 2019-2020 was the beginning of an extremely challenging era and the Ministry's rapid response plan in the wake of the global pandemic through the announcement and implementation of the Youth Farm Initiative Programme. The Ministry continued with its programmes under the Youth Empowerment Programs and simultaneously carried out the implementation of the Civil Service Reforms. The Ministry continued conducting accredited trainings at its five youth training centres, mobile skills training continued to be rolled out across the four divisions and there was a notable increase in number of youths attending these trainings.

The development of sports is ongoing with the Ministry through close collaboration with Fiji National Sports Commission. In raising our sporting standards, experts were brought in to enhance the participation of youth in local and international sports. In addition, the Ministry also conducts programmes through its own initiative targeting youth groups.

Over the years, the Ministry continued to uphold an all-inclusive approach towards sports development in the country and ensured that all Fijians received equal access to sports and sporting facilities regardless of gender, background or ability.

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 the Committee in the completion of this report.

I would also like to thank the Honourable Members of the current Standing Committee, the secretariat and other support staff for their valuable input and support.

I also extend my gratitude to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Mr Rovereto Nayacalevu, 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 House to take note of the Report.



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Hon. Alitia Bainivalu
Chairperson

ACRONYM

Acronym	
iTAB	i-Taukei Affairs Board
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
SO	Standing Order
YTCs	Youth Training Centres

COMMITTEE REMIT AND MEMBERS

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs (**‘Committee’**) is established under Section 70 of the Constitution and SO 109. The Committee’s mandate and functions are provided under SO 109 (2) and 110 (1) (a)-(d) & (f). The Committee consist of the following members:



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

RECOMMENDATION

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs conducted its review of the *Ministry of Youth and Sports Annual Report 2019-2020* and recommends that Parliament take note of this report.

1. INTRODUCTION

During the 2018-2022 Term of Parliament, the Standing Committee on Social Affairs (‘the **Committee**’) was referred the *Ministry of Youth and Sports Annual Report 2019-2020* on the 1st of September 2022 as pursuant to SO 38 (2). The Committee was mandated to review the annual report and table its findings back to Parliament. This did not eventuate as dissolution of Parliament was in effect from 30th of October 2022.

Therefore, the Annual Report was reinstated on 13th of February 2023, and referred to the current Standing Committee for review as mandated in SO 110 (1) (c).

1.1. Committee Procedure

The major work of report scrutiny was undertaken by the Standing Committee of the previous Parliament term (2018-2022). Deliberation and formulation of questions pertaining to the *Ministry of Youth and Sports Annual Report 2019-2020* were undertaken. Following this, the Ministry’s executive management presented on the responses. Upon receipt of all relevant information, the current committee compiled its findings and subsequently endorsed the report on 8th of September 2023.

The previous Committee received written response from the Ministry of Youth and Sports for this review. The response is available on the Parliament website, at the following link: <https://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-social-affairs/>

2. THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS

2.1. Background

The Ministry’s core responsibilities are focused on facilitating youth and sports development through the establishment of a conducive policy environment that provides strategic support systems, initiatives for personal development and character building, sports policy implementation, and community-based youth-led programs.

There are two core programs coordinated and facilitated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

(i) **Youth Development:**

The program centers on the provision of assistance to youths through advisory, empowerment, and capacity building, including specific skills training.

(ii) **Sports Development:**

The program focuses on the development of sports and its infrastructure nationwide through the provision of grants to the Fiji National Sports Commission, National Sporting Organizations, and Fiji Sports Council, as well as the provision of basic sports equipment and the development of rural playing fields.

3. KEY FINDINGS

Below are the key findings that the committee compiled through its deliberation and review of the Ministry's 2019-2020 annual report:

- 3.1 There were no new sports grounds developed in the year 2019–2020; however, it was noted that there were pending developments of sports grounds. The details of the sports ground are shown below;

Location	Detail of Work
Navutulevu Village, Serua	- The five sports ground had already visited by the HLK consultant and the company had also conducted consultancy works for the five ground. - Pending development. - This five still pending site visitation and consultation work. - Pending Development.
Sawanikula Village Wainimala, Naitasiri	
Lomolomo Primary School, Nadi	
Liwativale Primary School, Nawairuku, Ra	
Wainimakutu Secondary School, Namosi	
Wainiyavu Primary School, Wainiyavu, Namosi	
Vatoa Village, Bau Tailevu	
Waqavuka Rugby Club, Vatukalo Village, Ovalau	
Balevuto Village, Ba	
Solevu Secondary School, Solevu, Bua.	

- 3.2 The committee noted the large number of students enrolled in the youth training centers. Shown below is a breakdown of the number of enrolled students in the four youth training centers;

Youth Centre	Batch Year	No of Trainees (Intake)	After COVID19	Graduated/Pass out
Valelevu	2019 / 2022	61	-	42
Naleba	2019 / 2022	35		15
Naqere	2019 / 2022	28		22
Nasau	2019 / 2022	95		51

- 3.2.1 In addition to the above breakdown, the Ministry confirmed that reasons students dropped out of the training centers were due to financial constraints, peer pressure, a lack of intrinsic motivation, homesickness, and disciplinary issues;
- 3.2.2 To enable 100% graduation of students, the Ministry is working on the following measures:
 - a. Inclusion of a parent's day at Youth Training Centers (YTCs) in the ministry's operational plan will promote the program and strengthen parental support;
 - b. Adopting a collaborative approach with the NGO to address peer pressure while providing guidance to youth and trainees and continuous monitoring from respective divisions is ongoing;
 - c. Having partnerships with its stakeholders, for example, a MOU with the i-Taukei Affairs Board (iTAB) for respective provisional councils to support youth development;
 - d. Inclusion of programs such as leadership training by having guest speakers at YTCs provide guidance and inspire youths to become successful through the programs offered; and
 - e. Permitting a second chance to the school dropouts for course completion in the future.
- 3.3 Apart from the courses offered in different youth training centres, there is a need for the ministry to diversify the courses offered in line with current market demands. As such, the ministry should continue to innovate and explore opportunities with stakeholders to diversify the courses offered at the current facilities.

4. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommends that the Ministry:

- 4.1. To ensure timely submission of annual reports;
- 4.2. To strengthen internal control procedures to avoid and minimize loss of money;
- 4.3. To build and enhance on Public Private Partnership for proper execution of sporting development projects;

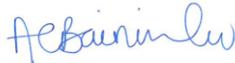
- 4.4. To review the training courses to suit the expectation of the target market;
- 4.5. To review and continue with the Specific and Mobile Skills Training;
- 4.6. To continue and build on youth grant initiatives that will elevate and strengthen youth development in Fiji; and
- 4.7. To collaboratively work with Civil Society Organisations, Faith Based Organisations and other stakeholders in addressing student drop outs and increase the number of graduates.

5. CONCLUSION

The committee has fulfilled its mandate to review the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. In this review, the committee highlighted various areas that needs to be strengthened by the Ministry and relevant recommendations formulated for resolution.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' E-SIGNATURE

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

Committee Member	E-Signature
Hon. Alitia Bainivalu Chairperson	
Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure Deputy Chairperson	
Hon. Sashi Kiran Member	
Hon. Viam Pillay Member	
Hon. Parveen Bala Member	
Date: 8 th September 2023	

APPENDICES

Published evidence

Written evidence, transcripts and supporting documents can be viewed on the Parliament website at the following link:

<https://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-social-affairs/>