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## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

### **Consolidated Review of Levuka Town Council Annual Reports for the Year 2012 and 2013**



**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI**  
**Parliamentary Paper No. 44 of 2023**

*September 2023*

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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 *Levuka Town Council Annual Report for the year 2012 and 2013*. 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, labor, culture, and the media.

The Levuka Town Council's 2012 and 2013 Annual Reports were referred to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs during the previous parliament's term. In this new term of Parliament, both the annual reports were re-introduced and referred to the current standing committee. Through its normal process for report scrutiny, the committee was mandated by Parliament to review the annual reports and report back on its findings.

The vision of Levuka Town Council (LTC) is to uphold the significance of Levuka's heritage to derive sustainable livelihoods for all. The mission is to promote economic growth through improved partnerships and efficient service delivery.

During the year 2012 and 2013, the council highlighted a few events that made it special. For instance, the courtesy visits from:

1. The Special Administrator Rakiraki for the Levuka and Rakiraki Tourism Partnership;
2. The Director of Local Government and Chief Executive Office Nadi;
3. The Minister for Labour, Industrial Relations, and Employment; and
4. The Parliament Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Further to the above, the Council carried out the following activities:

1. Launched the nomination dossier, and later Levuka Town was inscribed in the World Heritage Listing;
2. Hosted the arrival of the *Uto Ni Yalo*; and
3. Increasing human resource capacity to enhance the services provided by the council.

The committee acknowledged the work carried out by the Town council in 2012 and 2013. It also noted the challenges and opportunities that Levuka can build on to boost its economic viability and its status as a municipal council.

Therefore, I take this time to acknowledge the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs in the last term of Parliament for their efforts and input, which have assisted the Committee in the completion of this report.

I would also like to thank the current standing committee, the secretariat, and other support staff for their valuable input and support.

I also extend my gratitude to the Special Administrator and staff of Levuka Town Council 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 that all members of this august house take note of the report.



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**Hon. Alitia Bainivalu**  
**Chairperson**

# ACRONYM

Acronym	
SO	Standing Order
LTC	Levuka Town Council
MP	Member of Parliament

# COMMITTEE REMIT AND MEMBERS

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs (**‘Committee’**) is established under Section 70 of the Constitution of Fiji 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

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## **Deputy Chairperson**

Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure MP  
Government Member

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## **Member**

Hon. Sashi Kiran MP  
Government Member

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## **Member**

Hon. Viam Pillay MP  
Opposition Member

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## **Member**

Hon. Parveen Kumar Bala MP  
Opposition Member

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# RECOMMENDATION

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs conducted the review of *Levuka Town Council Annual Report for the year 2012 and 2013* and recommends that Parliament take note of this report.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs (the **Committee**) was referred the *Levuka Town Council Annual Report for the Year 2012 and 2013* on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2022, during the 2018–2022 Parliament term 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 due to the dissolution of Parliament which was in effect on 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

Therefore, the Annual Report was reinstated on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and referred to the current Standing Committee to review the report 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). The deliberation and formulation of questions pertaining to the *Levuka Town Council Annual Report for the year 2012 and 2013* were undertaken. Following this, the executive management presented its responses. Upon receipt of all relevant information, the current committee compiled its findings and subsequently endorsed the report on 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2023.

The previous committee received a written response from Levuka Town Council for this review. It is available on the Parliament website at the following link: <https://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-social-affairs/>

## 2. LEVUKA TOWN COUNCIL (LTC)

### 2.1. Background

Levuka was the first municipality proclaimed in Fiji after the passing of the Town Ordinance in 1877. Through this, the residents of Levuka were given the right to govern the town, thus appointing wardens to oversee the work being carried out in Levuka. However, changes came into effect after independence when the Local Government Act 4 of 1972 was passed, giving all townships in Fiji municipality status and the power to elect their own town council, councilors, and mayors.

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

### **3. KEY FINDINGS**

Below are the key findings that the committee compiled through its deliberation and review of the Levuka Town Council's 2012 and 2013 annual reports:

- 3.1 Relocation of businesses and offices to Suva and Nausori resulted in the decline of economic activity in Levuka; and
- 3.2 Accessing funding is a challenge, as this determines the improvement of infrastructure to boost economic activity.

### **4. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1. The committee recommends that the council build on the private-public partnership model and strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations to improve the image of Levuka as a heritage site.






### **5. CONCLUSION**

In this review report, the committee highlighted various areas that needs to be strengthened by the council 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 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	

# APPENDICES

## Published evidence

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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/>