



STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Review of Tavua Town Council Annual Report for the Year Ended 2015



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 *Tavua Town Council for the year ended 2015*. 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 media.

The *Tavua Town Council Annual Report for the Year Ended 2015* was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs during the 2018-2022 parliament term. However, in this new term of Parliament, the annual report was 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 report and report back on its findings.

It was grateful to note that in 2015, Tavua Town Council assisted stakeholders in achieving its ultimate objective by recognizing its contribution to socio-economic development, which uplifts the standard of Tavua town, for instance:

- a) The council assisted the Ministry of Agriculture in organizing the agriculture show in Tavua. This was the first of its kind, and it was an advantage for the people of Tavua to witness activities and programs piloted by the Ministry of Agriculture;
- b) The establishment of the ex-offender's association and the engagement of offenders in the Council;
- c) Tavua Town was awarded the Clean Small-Town designation in 2015, this can be seen as boosting recognition of the town;
- d) Interagency meeting on child abuse, neglect, and abandonment with government officials; and
- e) Tavua Town Council organized its first ever New Year's Street Party.

The Committee commends the work carried out by the council and would like to recommend that it continues to promote community engagement to achieve a healthy environment and an efficient infrastructure.

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 Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and management of Tavua 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	
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
MP	Member of Parliament
SO	Standing Order

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 has conducted the review of *Tavua Town Council Annual Report for the year 2015* and recommends that Parliament take note of this report.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs (the **Committee**) of the 2018–2022 Parliament was referred the *Tavua Town Council Annual Report for the year ended 2015* 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 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). Deliberation and formulation of questions pertaining to the *Tavua Town Council Annual Report for the year ended 2015* 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 it on 8th of September 2023.

The previous committee received a written response from Tavua 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. TAVUA TOWN COUNCIL

2.1. Background

Tavua was formally incorporated as a Town in 1992 with the appointment of its first Mayor, Iliesa Vula from Tavualevu. Tavua town covers a land area of 102 square kilometers.

The town's fortunes have risen and fallen but continued rebuilding its town due to its economic viability through agriculture. Apart from the agricultural sector contributing to the economic boost of Tavua, it also acknowledged the Gold Mine and Mineral Water Factories that it continued to develop to sustainably provide for the town and its people.

3. KEY FINDINGS

Below are the key findings that the committee compiled through its deliberation and review of Tavua Town Council 2015 annual report:

- 3.1 A loss of \$5,142 was incurred in 2015 and from 2010 to 2015 it resulted in the accumulative loss of \$1,035,178;
- 3.2 Funding constraints faced by the council to carry out programs and initiatives to improve infrastructure in Tavua; and
- 3.3 Shortage of technical expertise in the council.

4. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon deliberation and review of the annual report, the committee recommends;



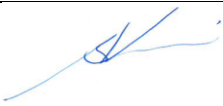


- 4.1. The council to ensure timely submission of its annual report;
- 4.2. The council to work with government, non-government organizations, donor agencies and landowners to develop Tavua town as it has economic potential;
- 4.3. The council to continue its work in prioritizing the development of its own dumping site; and
- 4.4. Well-established municipal councils that are well resourced should share their qualified personnel to assist small municipalities in their operations, which will enhance service delivery.

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 th September 2023	

ANNEXURE

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/>