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## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

### **Review of Ba Town Council Annual Report for the Year 2019**



**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI**  
**Parliamentary Paper No. 46 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 *Ba Town Council Annual Report for the year 2019*. 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 *Ba Town Council Annual Report for the Year 2019* was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Affairs during the 2018-2022 parliament term. 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.

The committee acknowledged the commitment of Ba in the upkeep of urban sanitary and the continuity of rezoning in the district. This contributes positively to the district of Ba for the year 2019.

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 Ba 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

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## **Deputy Chairperson**

Hon. Ratu Rakuira 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 *Ba Town Council for the year 2019* and recommends that Parliament take note of this report.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs ('**Committee**') of the 2018–2022 Parliament was referred the *Ba Town Council Annual Report for the Year 2019* on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

Therefore, the Annual Report was reinstated on 13<sup>th</sup> 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 *Ba Town Council Annual Report for the Year 2019* 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 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2023.

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

## 2. BA TOWN COUNCIL

### 2.1. Background

In 1905, Ba Rural Local Authority was established under the Public Health Ordinance to administer the district of Ba on various matters. The urbanized area of Varoka was proclaimed as Township under the Township Ordinance in 1939. The Local Government Act was enacted in 1972, hence Ba was elevated to town status in June 1972.

### **3. KEY FINDINGS**

Below are the key findings that the committee compiled through its deliberation and review of Ba Town Council 2019 annual report:

- 3.1 The council's coordination with stakeholders to improve work processes and ensure that economic continuity and development is utmost priority for the Ba district;
- 3.2 The government allocated \$2.8 million to complete the remaining works at Govind Park, Ba;
- 3.3 New satellite markets in Varadoli and Namosau Wards, as this will ease traffic and give more options for market vendors and customers;
- 3.4 The improvement of rate arrears collection by the council; and
- 3.5 The council collected a revenue of \$3.074 million in 2019 as compared to 2018 amounting to \$1.940 million.

### **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 continue building and strengthening its interagency relationship for better infrastructure development plan to mitigate flooding in Ba;
- 4.3. The council to work with the Ministry of Local Government to see the completion of the construction of Govind Park; and
- 4.4. The council to continue the construction of the satellite markets for Varadoli and Namosau wards.

### **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' 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	



# ANNEXURE

## 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/>