



STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Consolidated Review Report of the Fiji National Sports Commission Annual Report 2020-2021 and 2021-2022



**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 annual review of *Fiji National Sports Commission Annual Reports for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022*. This review was undertaken in accordance with SO 109 (2) (b) which mandates the committee to investigate into matters related to health, education, social services, labour, culture and media.

The Committee with its thorough inquiry and deliberation, was able to fulfill its mandate and report back on its findings to Parliament for its noting. Through its inquiry and deliberation, the committee formulated recommendations.

Although the years under review were hampered with the presence of COVID-19, this did not impact the works of the Commission in delivering its services to every citizen to actively participate in sports and physical activity for a healthy nation. The Committee was grateful that during these years, sports development continued to be improved for our youths and communities and also for the welfare of our players to be taken care in a fair and just manner.

Though the annual reviews were from 2020-2022, the committee acknowledged the current data and information provided by the stakeholders. This assisted the committee in its review.

Therefore, I commend the work that is carried out by FNSC and extend my deepest gratitude to the Executive Chairman for FNSC, Mr. Peter Mazey and his staff for their timely assistance in this review process. Furthermore, I would like to thank the Hon. Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure, Hon. Parveen Bala and Hon. Viam Pillay and our new inclusion Hon. Aseri Radrodoro and our departed member Hon. Sashi Kiran for their valuable input and support. I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to Hon. Ketan Lal and Hon. Penioni Ravunawa for their assistance rendered during several occasions serving as alternate members for the standing committee.

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.



.....
Hon. Alitia Bainivalu
Chairperson

ACRONYMS

Acronyms	
FNSC	Fiji National Sports Commission
MP	Member of Parliament
NSOs	National Sporting Organisations
ONOC	Oceania National Olympic Committees
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SO	Standing Order

COMMITTEE REMIT AND MEMBERS

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs (**‘Committee’**) is established under Section 70 of the Constitution and Standing Order (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 Rakuita Vakalalabure, MP
Government Member



Member

Hon. Aseri Radrodro, 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 the *Fiji National Sports Commission Annual Reports 2020-2021 and 2021-2022* and recommends that Parliament take note of this report.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs (**‘Committee’**) was referred the *Fiji National Sports Commission Annual Report 2020-2021 on 17 February 2023 and 2021-2022 annual report on 14 July 2023* as pursuant to SO 38 (2). The Standing Committee was referred to review the annual reports as mandated pursuant to SO 110 (1) (c).

1.1. Committee Procedure

The Committee reviewed both the Fiji National Sports Commission Annual Report 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 through its committee meeting deliberation. The committee formulated questions pertaining to the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 annual reports. The executive management from FNSC presented on the responses.

The responses and any supporting documents are available on the Parliament website, at the following link: <https://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-social-affairs/>

2. FIJI NATIONAL SPORTS COMMISSION (FNSC)

2.1. Background

The Fiji National Sports Commission is established under the Fiji National Sports Commission Act of 2013, with the aim to enrich and empower the lives and health of all Fijians through physical activity and sports at all levels.

2.2. Highlights

The years under review that is from 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 were faced by the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic with its ongoing impacts on the world of sports and recreational activities. This did not affect the works of FNSC as it had to rely on its available resources to mitigate the ever-recurring challenges of the pandemic. FNSC continues to collaborate closely with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in safeguarding the safety of all stakeholders in the sporting and recreational activity sector which resulted in the establishment of Safe Sport protocols of the highest standards.

2.3. Achievements

Sports Development by Program Achievements and Impacts for the years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022:

2020-2021	No. of Programs Conducted	Total Participation	Gender Disparity	
			Males	Females
Sports in Community Camp	2	176	98 (56%)	78 (44%)
Train the Trainer Program	13	581	350 (60%)	231 (40%)
Educate the Educator Program	10	255 (conducted in 53 schools)	86 (34%)	169 (66%)
Kids in Community Sports Program	83	8196 (conducted in 37 schools and 46 communities)	4720 (58%)	3476 (42%)
Wellness Program	49	3026	1596 (53%)	1430 (47%)
Inclusive Program	19	542	261 (48%)	281 (52%)
Note: FNSC in conjunction with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Wellness Department at the Ministry of Health continue its Wellness Program virtually through zoom sessions around the country during the lockdown periods.				

2021-2022	No. of Programs Conducted	Total Participation	Gender Disparity	
			Males	Females
Sports in Community Camp	2	360	246 (68%)	114 (32%)
Train the Trainer Program	28	1285	671 (52%)	614 (48%)
Educate the Educator Program	5	171 (conducted in 43 schools)	171 (26%)	127 (74%)
Kids in Community Sports Program	104	12,606 (conducted in 43 schools and 99 communities)	6,589 (52%)	6,017 (48%)
Wellness Program	40	3,639	1,776 (49%)	1,863 (51%)
Inclusive Sports Program	19	1,021	528 (52%)	493 (48%)
Note: FNSC in conjunction with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Wellness Department at the Ministry of Health continued its Wellness Program virtually through zoom sessions around the country during the lockdown periods.				

3. KEY FINDINGS

The committee through its deliberation, formulated the following findings:

- 3.1. Compliance to grant application by National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) is still a recurring matter, as most NSOs fail to provide proper documentation. FNSC reported to the Committee that the monitoring and evaluation within the National Sports Policy is still yet to be finalised and endorsed.
- 3.2. The Committee was also informed that there are important policies that FNSC will need to take into consideration for the full functioning and execution of its roles to the nation:
 - 3.2.1 Safety in Sports Policy
 - 3.2.2 Drug Free Sports Act
- 3.3. JR White was one of the major sponsors that assisted FNSC in providing sports equipment and other sports assistance for NSOs. This was halted due to Covid-19 from 2020.
- 3.4. FNSC's challenge is the partnership with stakeholders in achieving the SDG target indicators. As identified by FNSC the agency is not able to measure sports through climate change, decent growth and economic growth.
- 3.5. The Committee notes the highlighted challenges as stipulated in the reports:
 - 3.5.1 Sports remains a pastime activity in villages' plan. Villages need to push for sport to be recognised as a key development tool.
 - 3.5.2 Movements of young people in communities, rural – urban drift is rapid, as movements within urban areas. Sustainability of good governance standards of sports clubs and associations need constant revisiting and supporting.
 - 3.5.3 Release of teachers to undertake sports training during official working hours. Lack of support from the Ministry of Education towards having sport as the ideal intervention for tackling obesity in children and long-term effects of non-communicable diseases.
- 3.6. Cash advance to staff
- 3.7. FNSC – strategic plans for most sports not in compliance

4. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommends:

- 4.1. Capacity Building to NSOs to improve the level of compliance for grant application.
- 4.2. FNSC to consider increasing the grant given for disability sports programmes held in the divisions and international meetings.
- 4.3. FNSC needs to review current sponsorship from JR White and also to vigorously pursue additional corporate sponsorship from private sectors.
- 4.4. FNSC to work with all sporting bodies in the recruitment of best available coaches to maximise performance of athletes.
- 4.5. The Commission through the Ministry of Youth and Sports needs to consult and liaise with the Ministry of Education to address the shortage of PE Teachers or personnel in promoting or advancement of all sporting activities in schools.
- 4.6. FNSC to consider having discussions with sporting facilities to allow for ease of payment of entry fees for use of sports facilities by any players and public.
- 4.7. FNSC to continue to promote key SDGs in all its activities and programmes and include this in its future reporting:

Goal 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10	Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
Goal 14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

5. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) ANALYSIS

5.1. **SDG 3 – Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all**

FNSC reported during the two financial years that it is making a difference through sport-based approaches in promoting and supporting participation in physical activity and healthy lifestyles. Although the targets related to SDG 3 are broad and far-reaching in scope, Target 3.4 specifically concerned with the growing burden of non-communicable diseases. In Fiji, one of the major risks to our population is the rising crisis of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In recent decades, NCDs have become the biggest killer in Fiji, causing thousands of deaths every year – many of those death premature – and affecting the lives of many more. Around 80% of deaths in Fiji are caused by an NCD and those numbers are growing.¹ FNSC highlighted that one of its important program is the Wellness Programme that is taken out to the community throughout the country. Such initiative was introduced to combat NCDs in the country.

Achievement:

During the year 2020-2021, FNSC had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services specifically to the cooperative work being conducted by both organisations to promote Wellness and Physical activities. Under the Wellness Program in 2020-2021, FNSC had conducted and achieved 49 programs to which 3,026 total participants were involved comprising of 53% males and 47% females. Under the same program in 2021-2022, 40 programs were conducted with 3,639 participants comprising of 49% of males and 51% females.

Challenges:

- a) There is a lack of registered Physical Education teachers in Fiji;
- b) The ability to put in place programmes that can continue within our communities however, due to our transient population, trained individuals do not remain in the same community.

5.2. **SDG 4 – Ensuring inclusive and quality education for all and promoting life-long learning**

FNSC in 2020-2021 conducted 19 Inclusive Programs to which 542 individuals participated in the program whilst in 2021-2022, FNSC also reported conducting 19 programs with 1,021 participation. Major program locations included Savusavu Special School, Lomani Au House in Labasa, Labasa Special School, Treasure Home, St. Tabith Home, St. Amina Home, Lovu HART Settlement in Lautoka, Lautoka Special School, Ba Special School, Sunshine Special School, Ra Special School, Sigatoka Special School. Dawasamu Tailevu (Women in Sports Awareness), Naitasiri Disability Association, Rewa Disability Association, World Down Syndrome Day

¹¹ Ministry of Health and Medical Services Website: [NCD – MHMS \(health.gov.fj\)](https://health.gov.fj/); accessed on 07.04.2024

Celebrations – Suva Special School and International Day for People with Disabilities – Nausori and Suva Bowling Club. Such programme was initiated to ensure that ‘no one is left behind’.

5.3. **SDG 5 – Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls**

Sport holds enormous capacity to propel gender equality and women and girls’ empowerment. It mobilizes the global community and speaks to youth. It unites across national barriers and cultural differences. It is a powerful tool to convey important messages in a positive and celebratory environment – often to mass audiences. FNSC has over the years ensured that there is gender equality across the board from staff recruitment and selection filtered down to its national sporting bodies and has been part of its Sports Community Association Programmes. FNSC is working closely with the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and a few other Government agencies in safeguarding its policy where gender equality and equity is important for those involved in sports. In comparison to the data provided in the two annual reports, the Committee notes that over the years, male participants dominates majority of the sporting programmes offered by FNSC. In order to drive change in the future, there needs to be joint force in implementing gender equality strategies, safeguarding policies, increasing the participation of women in leadership and at all levels of the profession, increasing resource allocation, doing better and more media coverage, marketing free from bias and promoting women’s achievements, and more.

PROGRAMMES	Gender Disparity 2021-2022		Gender Disparity 2020-2021	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Sports in Community Camp	246 (68%)	114 (32%)	98 (56%)	78 (44%)
Train the Trainer Program	671 (52%)	614 (48%)	350 (60%)	231 (40%)
Educate the Educator Program	171 (26%)	127 (74%)	86 (34%)	169 (66%)
Kids in Community Sports Program	6,589 (52%)	6,017 (48%)	4,720 (58%)	3,476 (42%)
Wellness Program	1,776 (49%)	1,863 (51%)	1,596 (53%)	1,430 (47%)
Inclusive Program	528 (52%)	493 (48%)	261 (48%)	281 (52%)

5.4. **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**

Sport programmes can foster and increase employability for women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, thus contributing to inclusive economic growth. Sport-based educational programmes as reported by FNSC provides skills for employability and opportunities to enter the labour market for youths. In terms of employability, FNSC can provide

detailed information on how its programmes and sporting activities have created employment in Fiji.

5.5 **SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries**

The right to equality and non-discrimination is a cornerstone of international law. Sport can promote equality and can serve as a platform to promote the value of diversity. Stakeholders in sport can amplify the message of equality and respect for diversity. Sport, including sport events, can be used to celebrate and value diversity. Stakeholders in sport can promote mutual understanding and address discriminatory practices and various forms of discrimination. Sport stadia that serve as stages for human behaviour can become platforms for human rights based inclusiveness and respect for diversity. Sport is recognised as a contributor to the empowerment of individuals, such as women and young people, and communities. Participation in sport offers opportunities for the empowerment of people with disabilities; it showcases ability, not disability, thus raising awareness and promoting respect. Sport can therefore be effectively used for the inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, race, ethnicity, origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion or economic or other status. FNSC reported that in the years under review, equal opportunities were given to potential organisation that represents individuals from different works of life regardless of age, gender, disabilities. In the years under review, FNSC reported that there was an increased allocation of total disability funding of \$45,717.00 in 2021-2022 in comparison to \$38,512.00 in 2020-2021.

5.6 **SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities**

Sport can help eliminate obstacles and barriers in the environment, transportation, public facilities and services to ensure access by all, including people facing those barriers and in vulnerable situations such as persons with disabilities. It can also promote the use of public safe spaces where diverse populations can interact and create friendly relations. Using major sporting events as catalyst for sustainable urban design and planning.

5.7 **SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

Sport provides a powerful communication platform for disseminating solidarity and reconciliation messages and fostering a culture of peace and dialogue, especially by promoting core values in sport such as respect, fair-play and team work.

5.8 **SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals**

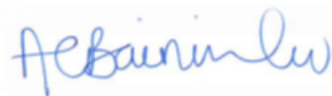



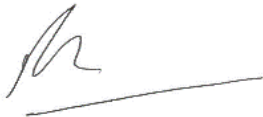
Sport can pool resources, create synergies, and build multi-stakeholder networks and partnerships for sustainable development and peace goals by bringing together a wide variety of actors from different sectors.

6. CONCLUSION

In this review, the committee highlighted various areas that needs to be strengthened by FNSC and relevant recommendations formulated for the resolution of issues.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' SIGNATURE

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

Committee Member	Electronic Signature
Hon. Alitia Bainivalu, MP (Chairperson)	
Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure, MP (Deputy Chairperson)	
Hon. Aseri Radrodoro, MP (Member)	
Hon. Viam Pillay, MP (Member)	
Hon. Parveen Bala, MP (Member)	
Date: 10 April 2024	

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/>

APPENDICIES

APPENDIX I

WRITTEN RESPONSES BY FIJI NATIONAL SPORTS COMMISSION

**FIJI NATIONAL
SPORTS
COMMISSION**



Your Ref: PARL/6-14

26 October 2023

Honourable Alitia Bainivalu
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Social Affairs
Parliament Complex, Gladstone Road,
PO Box 2352, Government Buildings
SUVA

Dear Madam,

Re: Classification on Issues – The Fiji National Sports Commission Annual Report 2021 – 2022

The Fiji National Sports Commission is in receipt of Standing Committee on Social Affairs ref :PARL/6-14, email received 18th October 2023.

- a. Attached find our written response to the questions raised by the Standing Committee on Social Affairs for your perusal.
- b. We are available to meet with the Standing Committee regarding any questions for the public submission at a date and time scheduled by your office.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience

Yours sincerely,

Peter Mazey
Chief Executive Officer

**RESPONSES TO PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE QUESTIONS ON 2021-
2022 ANNUAL REPORT DATED 18.10.23**

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1. **How was FNSC able to conduct sports development programs and achieve for the 2021-2022 financial year even though there was Covid restrictions in Fiji?**

In the reporting year of the Fiji National Sports Commission Annual Report August 2021 – July 2022, The Fiji National Sports Commission prepared a Sports Sector Guideline for Covid-19 to accredit National Sporting Organizations for the Safe Sports Certificate if they wished to resume sport & physical activities during the covid lockdown periods.

With the technical advice from Sports New Zealand, Sports Australian, Sports Canada and Sports UK, the commission was able to work with our sporting organizations, to meet the requirements for safe sports accreditation for the resumption of sports and physical activities in the country. Our Return to Sport Covid Process were in three phases using the traffic color indicators, red, amber, and green.

For the first three months of this financial year, we were in the Red phase where our sports development program were conducted using the virtual platforms via zoom means to reach out to the communities. There were two virtual Train the Trainer Programs conducted by our North Team. Followed by the amber phase from January 2022, where numbers were restricted to twenty (20) max participants which meant we would have to double up or triple up programs that required more in quota.

In addition to the Sports Sector Guidelines, Our Own Sports Development Programs had their own set of guidelines to ensure our program were delivered at the maximum requirement set by Ministry of Health Covid Restrictions and guidelines. These guidelines were followed and were adhered to the alignment to the Ministry of Health Guidelines for the phase of Covid 19 readiness.

Then March of 2022 things opened and this left us the remaining 5 months to deliver the programs reported.

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2. **Can FNSC provide an explanation on the Indian or Indo Fijian term used in sports specific associations and clubs?**

The term Indian or Indo Fijian used during this reporting period related to a group of Indo Fijian ladies in the west who wished to belong to an association of only Indo Fijians to play netball. They specifically requested that they use the term Indo Fijian. However this was changed to INDIANA NETBALL ASSOCIATION after their initial tournament after the commission had advised them for corrective measures for registration with the commission. This did not come into effect until the new

financial year and while they were doing registration and affiliation requirements with Netball Fiji.

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3. FNSC to provide breakdown of funds that were dispersed to the recipient under the short -term expert grants?

The following breakdown of Funds were dispersed to the National Sporting Organization for the following recipients under the short term expert grant

SHORT TERM EXPERT GRANT

NSO	Paid	Recipient	Comments
AFL Fiji	1,646.00		Allocated \$10,000 but only used \$1,646,00
Athletics Fiji	10,000.00	Albert Miller	
Fiji Badminton Association	2,500.00	Josefa Tarotaro & Ulaiyasi Ravugatini	Allocated \$10,000 but only used \$2,500.00
Fiji Islands Baseball& Softball Association	10,000.00	Inoke Niubalavu	
Fiji Judo Association	10,000.00	Simione Kuruvoli	
Fiji Swimming Ass	10,000.00	Adele Rova & Trisa Cheer	
Fiji Table Tennis Ass	10,000.00	Harvie Yee & Philp Wing & Vivienne Blake & Henry Yee	
Fiji Touch Association	10,000.00	Simione Bainivalu	
Tennis Fiji	10,000.00	Lemeki Veimateyaki	
Weightlifting Fiji	10,000.00	Henry Elder & Sade Vira	
TOTAL	\$84,146.00		

4. FNSC to provide breakdown of the cost involved in each international event that was hosted in Fiji?

The following breakdown of cost involved in each international event hosted in Fiji is as follows:

HOSTING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS Grant

NSO	Event	Grant Given	Grant allocated expenses the event
Fiji Football Association	OFC Womens Cup	115,000.00	meals, transportation, venue hire
Fiji Netball Association	Netball World Cup Oceania	45,966.00	accommodation, meals, venue hire, transportation
Fiji Rugby Union	World Pacific Rugby Challenge	100,000.00	accommodation, meals, venue hire, transportation
Fiji Rugby Union	Flying Fijian Test Series	70,000.00	accommodation, meals, venue hire, transportation

Fiji Rugby Union	Fijiana Test Series	100,000.00	accommodation, meals, venue hire, allowances, transportation
		\$430,966.00	

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5. FNSC to provide breakdown of the funds allocated on the Sports Organization.

The following breakdown of funds allocated on the sports organization under the Sports Scholarship grant were to as follows

Sport	Recipient	PAID
Athletics Fiji	Heleina Young	12,000.00
Athletics Fiji	Yeshnil Karan	5,425.00
TOTAL		17,425.00

6. FNSC to provide a breakdown of the grants provided to the coaching development.

The following breakdown of grants to international coaches is as follows

COACHING GRANT

Sports Organization	Purpose	Grants Paid Out
Fiji Rugby Union	Vern Cotter - Mens 15s	\$ 418,250.25
Fiji Rugby Union	Benjamin Golings - Mens 7s	\$ 156,739.09
Fiji Rugby Union	Senirusi Seruvakula - Fijiana 15s	\$ 83,336.69
Fiji Rugby Union	Saiasi Fuli - Fijiana 7s	\$ 95,356.57
Fiji Football	Flemming Mark Serritslev - National Coach	\$ 249,999.98
Fiji National Rugby League	Josaia Dakuitoga - Fiji Bati	\$ 83,000.04
Fiji Netball Association	Jenny Brazel - Fiji Pearls	\$ 9,083.33
Fiji Netball Association	Unaisi Rokoura - Fiji Pearls	\$ 47,896.05
TOTAL		\$ 1,143,662.00

7. Can FNSC verify the total number of the grant assistance provided to Sports Scholarship?

The Scholarship Grant was for Athletics Fiji only in this period and it was for two (2) athletes – one (1) male, Yeshnil Karan and one (1) female (Heleina Young).

The Sports Scholarship fund was paid to Athletics Fiji for Heleina Young at Griffith University, Gold Coast and Yeshnil Karan. Heleina Young withdrew her scholarship due to COVID-19 then Athletics Fiji requested funding for Yeshnil Karan who went into training in Brisbane with a Specialized Coach.

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- 8. Can FNSC provide an explanation on the term qualified participation as specified under ranking for the following sports; Squash, Swimming, Table Tennis, and triathlon?**

The term "Qualified Participation" refers to athletes who had qualified through their respective sports disciplines from other sporting events that qualifies them to participate at the Commonwealth Games.

- 9. Can FNSC verify if there are any involvement of tertiary institutions / students under the disability grant?**

During this period there were NO involvements of tertiary institutions/students under the disability grant.

**FIJI NATIONAL SPORTS COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 JULY 2022**

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- 10. What were the reasons for the net loss of \$20, 276 for the financial year added 31 July 2022? How is FNSC addressing this issue to avoid similar Losses in 2023?**

The net loss of \$20,276 was due to the increase of goods and services post COVID-19 due to the impact of freight cost. The cost of operations increased as the demand of goods and services post COVID led to decrease in supplies available in the IT sector and Motor Vehicle Spare Parts. Our operations costs were also impacted by the fuel costs increase. Overall, the expenses that were incurred and recognized in our financial statements within the financial year were greater than the revenue that was recognized within the financial year.

FNSC is monitoring the operational costs on a month to month basis and reviewing budgetary expenses to keep within the budget for all Financial Years. Although it must be noted that FNSC financials are based on accrual accounting, therefore revenue and expenses are recognized in our financials when it has been generated or incurred (Invoiced) and not when money exchanges hands (payments).

11. Can FNSC provide the detailed breakdown of the value of sponsorship rendered by JR white from 2013 to date?

The Sponsorship provided by J.R. White is \$25,000 annually as per calendar year (Jan-Dec) effective from 10th July 2013. The Sponsorship provided since 2013 is as follows

YEAR	SPONSORSHIP	REMARKS
2013	\$15,539	Sponsorship began from July (mid-year) therefore we were only able to utilize part of it.
2014	\$26,997	We used slightly more than our allocation
2015	\$24,873	-
Jan 2016 - July 2016	\$12,965	Financial Period was 7 months only
Aug 2016 - July 2017	\$29,109	Our financial year changed to Aug-July but sponsorship period was Jan-Dec. Overlapping of months therefore sponsorship reflected in Financial Statements is more than our allocation from J.R. White from this year onwards
Aug 2017 - July 2018	\$26,999	-
Aug 2018 - July 2019	\$14,397	Covid halted our outreach programs
Aug 2019 - July 2020	\$16,006	J.R. White requested to halt sponsorship due to the impact of Covid on their business.
Aug 2020 - July 2021	-	No Sponsorship due to post covid
Aug 2021 - July 2022	-	No Sponsorship due to post covid
TOTAL	\$166,885	

12. The recipients of the sports equipment are village heads, clubs, schools, and communities. How are these recipients chosen to be assisted through the sponsorship?

The Outreach programs coordinated and organized by FNSC are on requests and invitations from Schools, communities, and villages. Before commencing with the program, FNSC usually does a site-visit whereby they identify the number of villages, communities, clubs/association, and schools that will be participating in the outreach program. FNSC takes sports equipment based on the numbers identified. The sports equipment is also selected as per the sports participating in the outreach program. Thus, at the end of the program, the participating villages, schools, communities, and clubs are donated one set of sports equipment each. These sporting equipment enables them to continue their practice and games leading to tournaments at community level.

13. Can FNSC provide the list of recipients and the cost of the equipment provided? The list of equipment recipients for the year are as follows;

Equipment Recipients & Program	Equipment Costs
Nasavusasavu Train the Trainer Program	\$1,746.75
Waidradra Serua Train the Trainer Program	\$1,746.75
Lami Zone Train the Trainer Program	\$1,746.75
Central Urban Zone Train the Trainer Program	\$1,746.75
Nausori Train the Trainer Program	\$1,664.37
Ba Train the Trainer Program	\$1,664.37
Wainibuka Train the Trainer Program	\$1,664.37
Lakeba Train the Trainer Program	\$1,664.37
Nasinu Zone 2 Train the Trainer Program	\$2,1075.00
Dreketi Train the Trainer Program	\$2,1075.00
Nukuvoto Zone Women's Rugby	\$215.00
Nayavui SCC/TOT	\$1,783.66
Taveuni Train the Trainer Program	\$1783.66
Nakorovou Rewa Train the Trainer Program	\$1,783.66
Namadi Youths Volleyball Club	\$299.00
Naitutu Train the Trainer Program	\$2,604.00
Silana Tailevu Train the Trainer Program	\$2,604.00
Nausori Train the Trainer Program	\$2,604.00
Cunningham Blackout Volleyball Club	\$151.00
Waidradra Train the Trainer Program	\$2,257.00
Lami Zone Train the Trainer Program	\$2,257.00
Lau Train the Trainer Program	\$2,257.00
Namadi Community Sports	\$216.00`
Buca CSA	\$829.33
Dreketi CSA	\$829.33
Lakeba TOT	\$829.33
Navunikabi Namosi Train the Trainer Program	\$224.25
Tamavua Zone Train the Trainer Program	\$224.25
Totoya Lau Train the Trainer Program	\$2,435.00
Total	\$81,980.85

The following equipment were distributed during the report year.

Rugby balls, Rugby hitshields, Netball balls, Volleyball Balls, Water Bottles, Cones of various sizes, Whistles, Volleyball Nets, Cricket bats,stumps,balls,gloves Ball pumps Badminton nets, Badminton shuttlecocks (indoor and outdoors), Badminton rackets Soccer (balls, caps, water bottles, bags)

14. Can FNSC advise the committee on the sustainability aspects for these sports outreach programs?

The sustainability aspects of our Sports Outreach program is through our Train the Trainer Program and Educate the Educator Program. While we conduct seven programs under Sports Outreach, training teachers and members of the community, assist in maintaining the sustainable good practice and governance for the integrity of the sport they are a part of.

These two(2) programs are aimed at training community leaders to be; coaches, referees, umpires, first aid providers, strength and conditioning, match commissioners and sports administrators to manage clubs and associations in communities. The culmination of our training in community is the formation of Community Sports Associations and multi sports clubs, registered under the Fiji National Sports Commission to be the custodians of sport at community levels. Community Sports Associations are platforms for the promotion and advocacy of sports and related matters at community levels as the Commission's role is to continually provide trainings and programs that enhances the functions of these community structures.

Page 39

15. Can FNSC clarify with breakdown cost of the insurance (totaling amount to \$13,330) that is under operating expenses?

The breakdown of Insurance is as per below:

Insurance Breakdown

Fire & Named Perils Insurance	\$ 347.20
Burglary Insurance	\$ 1,945.65
Money Insurance	\$ 610.40
All Risk Insurance	\$ 708.34
Motor Vehicle Insurance	\$ 7,232.15
Public Liability Insurance	\$ 2,218.15
General Property	\$ 267.90
	<u>\$13,329.79</u>

Motor Vehicle insurance cover insures 6 vehicles: HY 177, HP 958, HE 113, HH 720, JB 814, JB 815, and JU 749 to the total value of \$220,000.

16. Can FNSC explain to the committee the decrease of website management and software support fees?

The decrease in the software support fee was due to the installation of the FORTINET Firewall for our Server security and its licensing fees from Telecom in the previous financial year. In the current year, software support fees were incurred for rollover of our payroll and our domain name renewals only.

The decrease in Website Management cost is due to the Re-development and design to our FNSC website by Softnet Solutions in the financial year 2020-2021. In the current year, we only incurred costs for content update.

17. Can FNSC explain to the committee the purpose of this Cash Advance to staffs under current assets? What is the Purpose of this and whether it is continuing?

The cash advance to staffs are money advanced to staff within the financial year for urgent needs or emergency which is then directly deducted from their salary. This is an employee benefit available on a genuine case to case basis. The purpose of the cash advance is to assist the employees financially in tough times so they can focus on work and family life with unwarranted burden and stress.

The cash advance to employees is also approved on the total value of outstanding annual leave days available to them with a maximum limit of \$500 per request. The balance of cash advance in the financial statement of 2021-2022 had all been paid off within the first half of the next financial year.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG's)

1. Can Fiji National Sports Commission elaborate on the implementation of the SDG's and its achievements? What were the challenges?

Implementation of the SDG's has been a difficult one for Sports. This is due to the fact there are no specific SDG Sports Indicators to measure against directly as the current SDG indicators do not reflect the contribution sports can make and data sources are multi stakeholder cross sectional. However under the SDG Goals only a limited number of the 17 Goals have emerged with indicators because the KAZAN ACTION PLAN of 2017 which is a commitment to link Sports policy development to the 2030 agenda of the United Nations, as well as support the overarching National sports policy with a follow Up Frame work in a few priority areas, for international and multinational stakeholder cooperation.

The adoption of this Plan was actioned by the Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for Physical Education and Sport. This is clearly under the mandate of UNSECO which principally sits with the Ministry of Education in Fiji and not with Ministry of Youth & Sports.

The following indicators we have were created by the Commonwealth Secretariat in 2020 now currently only allows us to report on these achievements against SDGS through Sports

SDG GOAL	INDICATOR
3 – Health & Well Being	% of population reporting that participating in sport and exercise has a positive impact on themselves, their family or community
3	% of i) adult and ii) adolescent population sufficiently physically active

3		% of population who participate once a week in sports and exercise
3/ 4		% of i) primary and ii) secondary schools reporting implementation of the minimum number of physical education minutes (120 minutes per week in primary school; 180 minutes per week in secondary school)
3/5		% of females who participate once a week in sports and exercise
4	Quality Education	% of schools reporting full/partial implementation of quality physical education as defined by UNESCO's QPE Policy Guidelines.
4		% of schools reporting PE specialist teachers in i) primary and ii) secondary schools [Teachers who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching physical education at the relevant level in each country]
5	Gender Equality	# of i) athletes ii) coaches/officials and iii) management/board members in funded national sport bodies / member organizations who were trained in the last year in a) governance and sport integrity b) safeguarding children, youth and vulnerable groups and c) prevention of violence against women and girls and d) promoting sustainable development
5		% funded national sport bodies /member organizations with a nominated focal point to i) co-ordinate child safeguarding and protection and ii) prevention of violence against women and girls
5		% funded national sport bodies / member organizations that have adopted formal policies (with procedures) to i) safeguard children and ii) prevent violence against women
5/ 16		% of i) presidents, ii) board members and iii) CEO/Secretary-general post-holders in national sport bodies / member organizations who are female
5/10		% national sport bodies / member organizations that have invested in a i) gender equality strategy and ii) strategy for the inclusion of people with a disability in sport
8	Decent Work & Economic Growth	% contribution of i) sports activities and amusement and recreation sector and ii) sport, exercise, and active recreation to GDP
8		% of workforce within the sport, fitness, and active recreation sector
8		% of population who volunteer in sport
8		% funded national sport bodies / member organizations that have adopted formal policies (with procedures) to i) protect the rights of athletes, spectators, workers, and other groups involved, ii) strengthen measures against the manipulation of sports competitions, and iii). ensure an adequate antidoping policy framework, its implementation and effective compliance

		measures, to protect the integrity of sport
10	Reduced Inequalities	Likelihood that a person with disability will participate in sport, fitness, and active recreation (leisure) once per week compared to the general population. [N.B. Indicator 30.23 is number and proportion of persons with disabilities who actively participate in sport, fitness, and active recreation, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location and, where relevant, kind of sport]
12	Responsible Consumption and Production	Annual % change in i) carbon footprint and ii) recycling rate from a) major sport facilities; and b) major sport events
13	Climate Change	of i) funded national sport bodies / member organizations ii) major sport facilities and iii) major events with operational strategies to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, foster climate resilience and lower greenhouse gas emissions
16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	% of population satisfied with the governance of sport
16/11	with Sustainable Communities	% of local governments / member organizations with sport and physical activity facility master plans
17	Partnerships for the Goals	% of national public expenditure invested in sport
17		% of sport budget directly invested in the contribution of sport, physical education, and physical activity to support sustainable development

Our challenges around this has been the data collection and housing this data, which Ministry or stakeholder is responsible to collect this data, aligning the reporting of this data information and education in physical activities across our multisectoral stakeholders. The scope is wide and growing.

Nevertheless due to the limited funding given to sports, we need to close the gaps on some of the challenges to have information to report these achievements against.

2. Can Fiji National Sports Commission Highlight its contributions towards SDG 5 (Gender Equality) in the organization and Implementation of its planned programs and initiatives?

In the reporting year of the Fiji National Sports Commission Annual Report August 2021 – July 2022, the commissions contribution towards SDG 5 – Gender Equality for the organization; we had a BOARD with 50% equal distribution of both genders. Senior Management 25% - which comprised of one woman in a team of four; Sports Development team women comprised of 20% of the team.

The Implementation of SDG 5 is in all our programs and initiatives are inclusive and the programs are encouraged to have equal gender participation. Women and Young

Girls are encouraged to take on or try the more male dominant role in sports such as refereeing in Rugby and areas around sports administration and governance.

File copy - CEO.

**FIJI NATIONAL
SPORTS
COMMISSION**



Your Ref: PARL/6-14

28 October 2023

Honourable Alitia Bainivalu
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Social Affairs
Parliament Complex, Gladstone Road,
PO Box 2352, Government Buildings
SUVA

Dear Madam,

**Re: SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS – The Fiji National Sports Commission Annual Report
2020 – 2021**

The Fiji National Sports Commission is in receipt of Standing Committee on Social Affairs
ref :PARL/6-14, email received 23rd October 2023.

- a. Attached find our written response to Supplementary Questions raised by the Standing Committee on Social Affairs for your perusal.
- b. We are available to meet with the Standing Committee regarding any questions for the public submission at a date and time scheduled by your office.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience

Yours sincerely,

Peter Mazey
Chief Executive Officer

"To enrich the lives & health of all Fijians through physical activity & sports at all levels"

Postal P.O Box GC78, Garden City, Raiwai, Fiji

| Landline (+679) 3300288

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Website: www.fjisports.com.fj



/fjinationalsportscommission



@FNSC_

Fiji National Sports Commission Annual Report 2020-2021

Supplementary Questions

- 1. Please explain the success of wellness program for the public sector and private sector? Is there data for agencies that have pledged to undertake this program and have embedded it into their organization's policy?**

It is difficult to measure the success of our Wellness Programs because most of the programs recorded by the commission were either ; a) conducted by the commission where the focus was on the conduct of physical activity sessions either through Zumba, aerobics, or sports activities to encourage physical activity participation in communities.

b) conducted by the commission in partnership with the ministry of health medical personnel who provided medical screening for participants. Data collected from the medical screening remains with the Ministry of Health.

Interestingly, some organizations particularly those of the civil service have been fully utilizing the Wellness Wednesday Programs where the commission have come in to assist with their sports programs. There is a Wellness Policy in place by the Ministry of Health that advocates the promotion of physical activity in the workplace and there are organizations that have incorporated this into their organization policy.

Interestingly, some organization particularly those of the civil service have been fully utilizing the Wellness Wednesday programs where the commission have come in to assist with their programs. There is a wellness policy in place by the Ministry of Health that advocates the promotion of physical activity in the workplace and there are organizations that have incorporated this into their organization policy. Therefore any screening data done in organizations with MOH is kept confidential and only shared with the organization corporate HR department. It is then the responsibly of the organization to act or not for the welfare of their staff.

- 2. Elaborate on the wellness initiative and what are these initiative programmes that FNSC has worked together with ministry of health and women crisis center?**

The Fiji National Sports Commission partnered with the Ministry of Health in the training of fitness leaders in the areas of aerobics instructions. Some communities have had these fitness leaders continue to run sessions for their communities. The

need to support these community fitness leaders is being incorporated into the MOU currently being prepared to sustain the programs in communities.

- 3. FNSC have hosted wellness programme for business communities, what is the criteria and requirements for these business/corporate organisations to be part of the programme and what fees is paid by these business/corporate organizations?**

Most of the Wellness Programs FNSC facilitates for business communities come in the form of aerobics sessions (physical activities) or sporting activities. Organizations contact the commission for the facilitation of wellness sessions at no cost to them.

- 4. What is the outcome of the MOU signed with the ministry of health, how is it able to support the wellness program in communities similar to Ra?**

The outcome of MOU with Ministry of Health is with the Wellness Department at present for vetting. This has been a long process as we allowed them to complete their strategic plan which will intern include an implementation frame be put in place to trace and support data collection of wellness programs conducted by FNSC in collaborative partnership with MOH – Wellness Unit.

The MOU will support roll out Programs the Commission has set up for those wishing to undertake this program with us. These roll out periods consist of 9 weeks with the first week for participant screening with MOH and 7 Weeks of Physical intervention conducted by FNSC and the 9th week, result driven into MOH database for data collection on inventions that would assist the Ministry of Health in their evidence based reporting M&E Report on Physical Activities intervention for better health status in the country.

- 5. Can FNSC clarify whether NSOs comply with the requirements or guidelines for grant applications or if there are some NSOs that lack in this regard?**

There are 43 NSOs recognized with Fiji National Sports Commission as National Body of different sport in the country. There were eight (8) NSOs that did not meet the requirements or guidelines of the Commission during this period. There were Billiard & Snooker; Bodybuilding Fiji; Darts Fiji; National Golf; Handball Fiji; Powerlifting; Shooting Assn; and Fiji Volleyball Federation. We are pleased to note the Fiji Volleyball Federation is now in order.

Their failure to compliance were related to the following –

- i. Not having reported their latest AGM minutes and newly Executive members
- ii. Not having their latest Financial audited accounts in place
- iii. Not having their updated or current Strategic Plan and Four (4) Year Development Plan
- iv. Not having in place their Implementation of Policies required such as Child Protection, Drug Free, Safe Sports to allow them to return to sports after COVID.

6. Are there any successful communities that have been assisted through the grants when affiliated with community sports association that have been required by Fiji National Sports Commission? (Provide a list of communities)

NSO Grants are not accessible to communities or community sports associations only to National Sports Organisations. At the community levels there was a community assistance grant under the sports development budget that was available communities that were part of training conducted by the commission or as part of the community sports associations. The communities that benefitted in the year from this grant are as follows;

1. Nausori Multi Sports Association (West)
2. Fiji Corrections Service
3. Nausori Rugby club
4. Waitui Waidroka Community Sports Association – Rewa
5. Nasinu Touch Association
6. Wairiki 7s Tournament
7. Nukuvuto Zone Women's Rugby
8. Cunningham Blackout Volleyball Club
9. Dawasamu Community Sports Association
10. Ba Follow Up Tournament
11. Namalata Tailevu
12. Namadi Community
13. Nadarivatu Community Sports Association
14. Dreketi Community Sports Association (North)
15. Buca Bay Community Sports Association
16. Vatukoro 7's
17. North State Rugby League
18. Wainibuka Community Sports Association
19. Wakanisila Sports Day
20. Namosi I Wai Community Sports Association
21. Indiana Netball Association

8 April 2024

Honorable Alitia Bainivalu
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Social Affairs
Parliament complex, Gladstone Road
PO Box 2352, Government Building
SUVA

Dear Madam,

Re: **Standing Committee on Social Affairs is finalizing the FNSC 2020-2021 and
2021-2022 Annual Reports Questions (Email)**

The Fiji National Sports Commission is in receipt of the standing Committee on Social Affairs remail received on Monday 8th April 2024 from Ms. Lia Korodrau. Below find our written response to the questions raised by the Standing Committee on Social Affairs for your perusal.

RESPONSE TO EMAIL

1. In the periods under review, the Committee understands that these were during peak season of COVID-19 period whereby restrictions were in place particularly for sports. The Committee is interested to know whether there were programmes conducted virtually? Please identify which programmes were those.

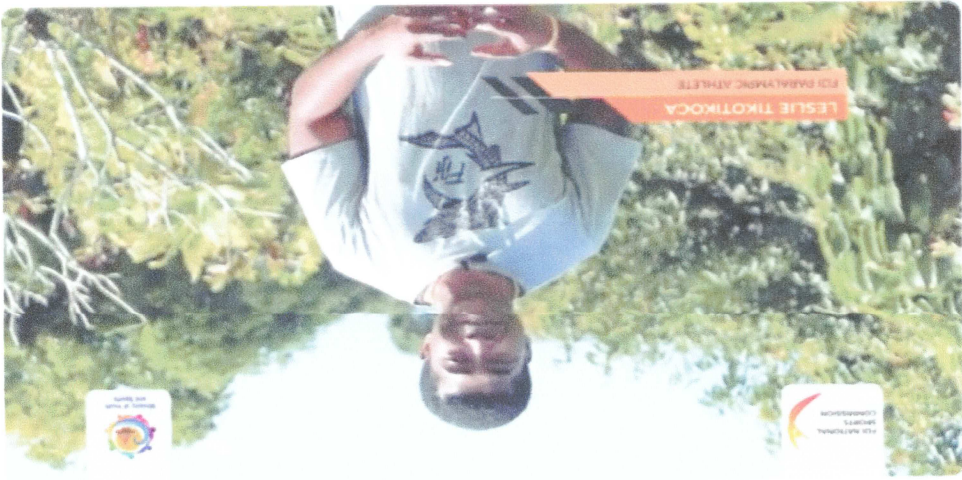
The Fiji National Sports Commission in conjunction with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Wellness Department at the Ministry of Health continued their Wellness outreach through Zoom Sessions around the country during the lockdown period. This also included You Tube videos created for COVID -19 Awareness and Physical activities that could be done at home.

"To enrich the lives & health of all Fijians through physical activity & sports at all levels"

Physical Activities for those with Disability - Home Exercise

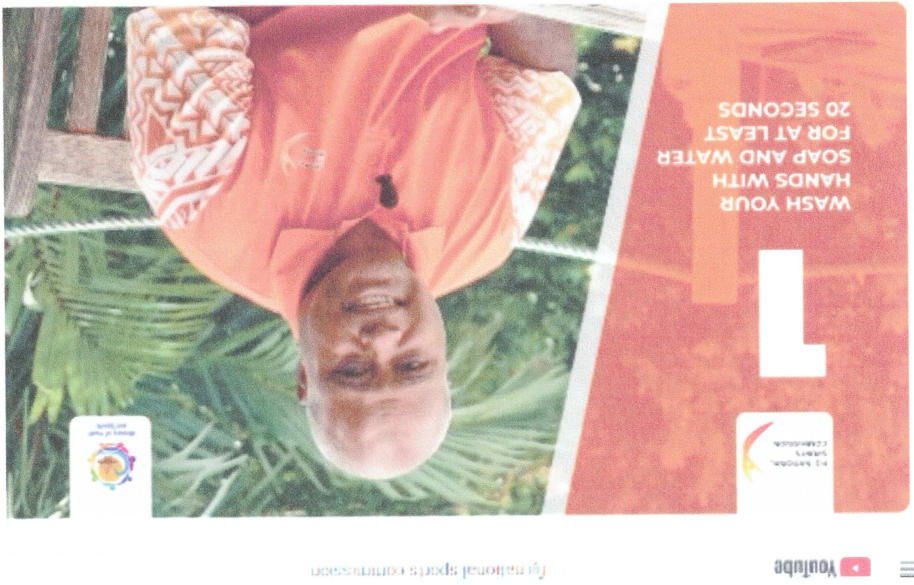


Physical Activities for those with a Disability at Home Exercise - General & Amputees



Fiji National Sports Commission grant must meet the following eligible criteria to receive any funding from the Fiji government: NSO Constitution; a TAX identification number;

2. What are some of the criteria's for accessing fundings (Grants)? Apart from government grants, was FNSC receiving funding from other sporting organizations? Please explain.



have in order their current financial accounts and it must be audited; list of their current executives; strategic plan and 4 year development plan; minutes of their last AGM and their current international ranking in their sport. The Commission does not receive any funding from Sporting Organisations. Funding given by International Sporting Federations is solely for the sporting organization they represent.

3. In terms of sponsorship in kind and cash, is JR White the only sponsor for such activities?

JR White generally is our sponsor for Sports development programs; however we do get funding to purchase equipment and run special programs which is funded by the UN, and or (TAFISA) The Association For International Sports For All.

It is very hard for a majority of our national sports to obtain sponsorship; we don't believe it is right for the commission to intrude or reduce the already limited sponsorship available.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience

Yours sincerely



Peter Mazey

Chief Executive Officer

APPENDIX II

VERBATIM REPORT FIJI NATIONAL SPORTS COMMISSION

[VERBATIM REPORT]

ON THE

**MEETING OF THE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiji National Sports Commission 2020-2021 Annual Report

INSTITUTION: Fiji National Sports Commission (FNSC)
VENUE: Big Committee Room, Parliament Precincts,
Government Buildings, Suva.
DATE: Wednesday, 16th August, 2023

VERBATIM REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE BIG COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST WING), PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH AUGUST, 2023 AT 9.09 AM.

Interviewee/Submittee: Fiji National Sports Commission

In Attendance:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Peter Mazey | - CEO |
| 2. Mr. Shalendra Ram | - Manager Finance |
| 3. Mr. Joji Liga | - Manager Sports Development |
| 4. Ms. Moira Maree Rodan | - Research and Development Manager |
-

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members, members of the media and the public, the Secretariat, viewers, and ladies and gentlemen; a very good morning to you all. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone this morning, especially the viewers who are watching this session. I am privileged to Chair this meeting, which is being aired live on the Parliament Channel through the Walesi platform and livestreamed through Parliament's *Facebook* page.

For information purpose, pursuant to the Standing Orders of Parliament, specifically Standing Order 111, all Committee meetings are to be open to the public. Therefore, this meeting is open to the public and the media, and will also be aired live, as I had mentioned earlier.

However, for any sensitive information concerning this submission that cannot be disclosed in public, it can be provided to the Committee either in private or in writing, but do note that this will only be allowed for a few specific circumstances, namely:

1. National security matters;
2. Third party confidential information;
3. Personal or human resources matters; and
4. Meetings where the Committee deliberates on all issues before it develops its recommendations and reports.

I wish to remind honourable Members and our invited submittees that all comments and questions asked are to be addressed through the Chairperson. Also, be mindful that only the invited submittee will be allowed to ask any question or give comments to the Committee. This is a parliamentary meeting and all information gathered is covered for under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act and the Standing Orders of Parliament.

Please, note that the Committee does not condone libel, slander or any allegations against any individual who are not present today to defend themselves. In terms of other protocols, please, be advised that whilst the meeting is in progress, movement within the meeting room will be restricted. Therefore, there should be minimal use of mobile phones, whereby answering of phones should be done outside this room, and all mobile phones are to be on silent or vibrate mode.

I would now like the honourable Members to introduce themselves

(Introduction of honourable Members)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- With us this morning, we have representatives from the Fiji National Sports Commission, who have been requested to provide a submission on their 2020-2021 Annual Report.

The Committee did their deliberation, formulated questions and sought clarification. The responses to the questions will be presented today by the Officials from the Commission, and this process will assist the Committee in making its recommendations in its Committee Report, which will be tabled in Parliament for its noting.

I now take this time to invite our guests to introduce themselves before we proceed with the submission. Please, note, if there are any questions by honourable Members, this will take place after the presentation.

(Introduction of Fiji National Sports Commission Officials)

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- You can proceed with your submission.

MR. P. MAZEY.- Madam Chairperson, it is a privilege to be able to present our Annual Report to you for the years 2020 to 2021. We welcome the questions that were given by the honourable Members of the Committee.

We have found that in the past, we have been able to improve on all our Annual Reports due to the questions raised through the various Standing Committees of Parliament. So, we hope that this will assist in understanding the work of the Commission.

Year 2020-2021 was, indeed, a challenging year for us, principally because of COVID-19 and the effects that it had. It is very much noted within our Annual Report and I think the issues were raised by your Committee that the major sporting events which we fund through the elite sports and Government funding programmes are the hosting grant which is bringing international teams to Fiji, and the overseas sporting grant. In this financial year, we had to restrict all of that because of the restrictions globally on travelling and on people coming to Fiji. Hence, in the overseas sports too, as you will note that we principally only attended the Olympics and the Pacific Games at that time.

I think we have responded to your questions and we are all here today to add to those, if you have any further questions to raise with us, but we are quite proud of the work that the Commission has been doing. We rose to the challenge during these years of 2020 to 2021, and we took responsibility for setting the guidelines on the amber, red and green process of moving back into sports.

Very much like tourism, Tourism Fiji was one of the first in the country to introduce us and we put it in place, and that meant that in March 2020, we had to close down everything. By September, we had reopened to an amber stage so that people could do physical activities. They could not really hold international events or hold any team events.

However, later in the year by November, we were able to move into opening the sports back up to fully open up, only to be closed again in January, and then we reopened in February and have stayed there.

However, throughout this process, realising the importance of people doing physical activities during the COVID-19 period, we worked with Ministry of Health and the United Nations in introducing programmes through *YouTube* and *Facebook* that gave families how to do physical activities at home and we produced television programmes, et cetera. We continued to contribute, but all of these issues very much affected this period of the financial report. I think all the answers are in here and we are here to answer anything else.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- I would appreciate if you could, please, just go through the questions that we have submitted to your Office.

MR. P. MAZEY.- Certainly, Madam Chairperson.

Question No. 1

Can the Fiji National Sports Commission elaborate on the support rendered (desegregate data on gender, age category, division) in the 2020-2021 operational expenses specifically on the following:

- (a) Sports grant;**
- (b) International coaches grant;**
- (c) Overseas tours;**
- (d) Scholarships;**
- (e) Outreach programmes; and**
- (f) Person with disability.**

Madam Chairperson, the support is very much dependent because all that sports that relate to our elite are not age or gender relevant, that is the elite that is with the male or female at whatever age in what sport. We do not look at what the gender is, we cannot do that at that level, especially when we are talking Olympics in that. But in our local programmes, certainly, and in our programmes for scholarships, very much.

We do look at the gender balance on this, and the statistics within the report shows how many are on our outreach programmes which are specific programmes to kids in community sports which is for introducing children to sports through our Train the Trainer Programmes which is our principal programme now under the Outreach Programmes and this trains individuals and communities to be administrators, to be coaches, to be referees, not just to be athletes. That is very, very important and that our statistics very much show clearly within the report and Moira can assist on that if you wish to know the statistics on that.

In that, we have talked about the international coaching grant which is one that would set up by Government to ensure that our elite athletes were given the very top coaching that they could, and that has been taken on board in this financial period by football, netball, rugby league, rugby union and surfing. Generally, these are international coaches that are of the highest standards, so if it is rugby, they would be Level 3 coaches. Regrettably, we only have a restricted number of top level coaches in Fiji, and a number of them have already left the country.

On the overseas sporting tours, we did have a number of requests initially for tours but most of those all got cancelled. So, as I have mentioned before, the only ones we did appear before was the Olympics and we had a test match in rugby and we also took the Olympic Games Women's and Men's Sevens Team where we achieved a gold medal and a bronze medal for women, so it was a very successful year for overseas tours.

In our scholarships, again, the same thing applied - a lot of them could not do their scholarship so a lot of them were done within Fiji, which means that we were assisting some athletes to actually attend to university, et cetera, while they train to be elite athletes.

Persons with disabilities - this was very much a grant we were quite proud of. This allows for our children principally, with disabilities or our Paralympians or our special Olympians, to receive funding, and in this year, we were able to provide funding for the Deaf Development Officer and we

had national COSIE games which are the schools games for people with special needs and disabilities. We hosted a white cane event and, of course, we provided funding for the Paralympians – the three athletes who participated at the Olympics Para Games.

The outreach programmes which are our local programmes and as I have said, we had to cut back on all of those, but we still managed to work under our sports community camps which is where we go in into communities and we take them through different sports so that they do not just learn that rugby is the only sport in the country - we will take them through a number of other sports, and usually out of those programmes, we will identify people who can move on to our Train the Trainer Programmes. These are all programmes of over one to two weeks, and we take them to every corner of Fiji,

As I have said, the Train the Trainer is very similar to the Educate the Educator Programme, but the Educate the Educator is how we are upskilling our school teachers so they can carry our message through the school system because regrettably, we do not have many Physical Education Teachers in Fiji. I think we only have one fully registered at the moment, and we really need 600 - that is the estimate.

We have PEMAC Teachers which is the music, arts and culture and most of them are not into sports. So, that is why we spend quite a bit of time on the Educate the Educator Programmes and would like to do more but we are restricted to doing that outside of the school hours and doing it during holidays and weekends. But we are amazed that more and more teachers are taking advantage of those programmes.

The Wellness Programme is one that we take to the community throughout the country. It is a programme that we conduct and as we have indicated in our response to you, it is a free programme for any citizen who wish to get involved in wellness activities, especially in trying to combat NCDs which is the major issue. Out of that, we have been going to communities and training individuals to run daily wellness programmes.

We are trying to put in place programmes that can continue within our communities and it seems to work but we have a very transient population, so we will train one person in one week, next week they have moved to another area. So, those are our problems in those areas.

However, we do a lot of wellness work within corporate. So, we will go to businesses and every Wednesday, we will be conducting wellness programmes. We do it here in Suva, we are at the National Stadium, there is wellness programmes for anyone who joined every Wednesday and that continues.

In the outer areas, we go to schools, we go to Pensioners' Homes, we go to Orphanages, and we spend a long time in places like Hilton. That also includes the inclusive programmes because I think we have 27 Special Schools in Fiji that we are working with at the moment. These are special schools for special needs people and remember that we fully support the Special Olympics where we have just gone into this year, and we had a very good record of that.

We realised that by going to our communities, we could introduce through our Train the Trainer or Educate the Educator Programmes, community associations so that our programmes do not just go in and do a numbers game of going to a community and saying, "Look, we have a thousand people here", and we go back. We have encouraged communities to set up their own community sports associations, and I will ask the Manager to relate further on that because we have now got community sports associations set up right around the country. They run their own events and we

will assist them with funding for those events and we assist them because by training up referees and coaches, they become employable. So, referees in all sports get paid, and so we assist in providing some funding for that. We teach them on how to go and get funding through sponsors and other things, and other people in the communities, and those community programmes are becoming very, very important because we are identifying a lead talent through them. So, we can go to an island community or any of our communities and you can guarantee, at least, one, if not two or three talented individuals are found, and we will work with them to get them into the system with the National Sporting Organization of their chosen sport so they can become part of our elite team of athletes. And that is when we start applying a scholarship grant, a short-term expert grants to assist to move them up the scale.

I think that is on our programme, Madam, on Question No. 1. I do not know if there is any further questions you would like answers on.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Mr. Mazey, we will have questions for you at the end of your presentation. Once we have gone through all the questions and the honourable Members will have questions for your Team.

MR. P. MAZEY.- Alright, I will continue on.

Madam Chairperson, you asked for our detailed organisation structure for the year 2021 and we are, the National Sports Commission, set up under the Act of Parliament and we report to the Minister for Youth and Sports. We have a Board that is appointed by the Minister, and I am the Chief Executive Officer.

A lot of people think we only just give money away for national sports, but we do not. Our main programme is sports development which comes under Mr. Joji Liga here, and his Department - Sports Development. We have offices in the North where we have three staff. We have an office in the West which has two staff. We have merged our Central and Eastern Divisions together to work with three staff and they work out of Suva. Because of the huge population in Suva, we have set up a Central/Urban Division for the Suva area as well.

Then we have our Finance Department that looks after all our finances, of course, and we fully acquit and hence, our Annual Report. We have a Grants Department because year grants to our national sporting organisations is very important. In fact, for most of our sports organisations, it is their only pathway/access to funding.

We only have about five major sports that actually have access to international funding and the funding in sports is quite substantial. I do not know if people are aware that in our major sports, for example, Fiji Rugby and Fiji Football, their income stream and total income to Fiji sports is round about \$20 million each. Other sports like cricket and others get a lot of support internationally, but the majority of our sports get none, except what comes from Government. So, how the Grants Department work? Because they have to acquit everything, every dollar has to be acquitted for fair audits and also we have very strict rules on how these allocations are made.

Then the research and development area is very important. It helps us with all our statistics in providing answers. Members of Parliament may be requesting and so the Research and Development Department works very closely with the various Ministries. It is working with the Ministry of Health at the moment on new wellness initiatives that we are putting in place with UNDP, whom we do a lot of work with, the Women's Crisis Centre we are doing a lot of work with them

and using sports to try and combat the various problems within those areas. So, the Research and Development Unit is very important to what we are charged to do.

You asked about the tabulated figures on the Sports Outreach Programmes, and I think we had an error on that and we have managed to correct them. We have corrected that, and all those figures are in there.

In our National Plan, I have mentioned that sports is to do seven sports outreach programmes annually. That was put in place so long ago that is, sort of, has not been relevant basically since the Commission was set up because initially when the Ministry of Youth and Sports ran these programmes, they did what we called an Outreach Programme, which we now call our Community Programmes, and all the funding from Government went into this Outreach Programme and that was seven. But now, we do an awful lot more by incorporating out of that funding the Train the Trainers, Community Sports, Wellness Programmes, disability programmes they all come out of that now. This has been reviewed and we now give out all the information. We just call the Budget that we get from Government now, just the Sports Outreach Budget, but it covers all the other programmes that we do which I have already mentioned to you, apart from our grants.

There is a question, I guess, from one of our Tailevu representatives about us not participating on the provincial level. Was there no Tailevu participation? There is, and we did run programmes in Tailevu and the Sports Development Manager could answer those more clearly, may be it did not show up.

The information queried on verifying the total number of students in each school that were assisted in Educate the Educator Programmes, this Programme is principally for the school teachers because we want them to go out and train, so we do not really take note of the numbers with those.

The questions on the Wellness Programme, is it continuing or a one-off programme? No, it is one of our most important programmes and it is going on everyday of the week. If anyone wishes to keep up to date with what Sports Commission is doing, we have a very active *Facebook* page which is posted to daily on what activities are happening where throughout the country and, as I have said, it is so important. Yes, the villages are supported through the Wellness Programme, and we have given you the list of all the villages that we have been to and as I have said, this was a very trying time. So, most of our work with wellness was through our television programmes and things to try and encourage them.

There is no fees attached to any Wellness Programme. We do not believe in charging for that. We would like to get more money or funding for it, of course, but it is a programme that is supported by the business communities. So, you will see a lot of the banks and the various corporates will ask us to host programmes in their communities or for their staff and we always facilitate.

While we have a limited staff in our own body, because we work with all the national sporting organisations, for all of these Programmes, we can call on the Sport Development Officers from any sport to work with us and as such, through the Commission, we actually pay the majority of Sports Development Officers their salaries annually. It is a grant of about \$15,000 per sport, so we use these Sports Development Officers for our Programmes and to assist in all our Wellness Programmes and other Programmes.

I think on the outcome of the Wellness Programmes, it is very hard to monitor them because it really comes down to our problems with NCDs, but a lot of them we are running with the Ministry

of Health and they are seeing that there is a reaction and that people are looking after their health a lot better, especially in our rural areas and rural communities and that is happening.

But when we go out to do a lot of our Wellness Programmes, we will take Ministry of Health in and one of the Ministry of Health's big programmes we did in the villages in Ra was, we ran Wellness Programmes every week over a period of 12 weeks. At the beginning, the Ministry of Health took all the Medical Team to see check on their cardiac, their sugar, and then at the end, they did this again and the results were good. The Ministry of Health says that because they were individuals, they were private, but it does show that it works. So, I think only last week we had meetings with Ministry of Health to again establish a Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) on this basis.

There is a question on the grants. All those grants for the National Sports Organisations and for a National Sports Organisation to get Government funding through the Commission, they must be an eligible sport. Thankfully now, they have, most of the sports are part of that. We have 43 sports in the country and to be eligible, that means they have to practice good governance. They have to show that they have got annual accounts, they have to show that they have had annual general meetings and that their members are involved. We are quite strict on that, but there is constant follow up programme.

Then to get grants, all the grants at the beginning of January, we issue letters to all National Sports Organisations. We put it through our social media, and we run very big *Viber* accounts between NSOs and the Commission, and we let them know that they have to submit to us their grant funding request for the following fiscal year. We start that process in February, so we need everything by 31st of January, and then we go through all their requests. That is done by a Grant staff and then it is presented to the Grants Committee of the Board. In that, we will look at the funding requirements for that year.

Those requests can be approximately up to \$50 million some years, but we know that that it is not going to be available so with meetings through Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Youth & Sports, we get it down to a realistic figure. We are in constant contact with all the sporting bodies requesting grants and then in March of the year, we hold a big conference for every sporting body in the country. It is generally a two-day conference and at that conference, every sport will be able to come and speak to the Board members and to the Grants people to go through their grants and work out what they need and what is really important for them because these grants relate to, if they are eligible to go to the Olympics, they will have qualifying rounds. If they are eligible for world events, they have what we called "Qualifying Events" and they will have to attend those. We work with them to make sure they can do this and that our elites are looked after.

We do not entertain grants from communities, unless that community is affiliated through their Community Sports Association, so Community Sports Associations can affiliate with what we encourage them to affiliate with - netball, basketball, so they can become part of the national sport and then they can apply for grants through the national sports.

Community grants are generally given out. We have our community grant programme and that is only given to those communities that we have already trained and taken through programmes. There is a lot of reasoning behind that, for example, if we are taking some sports - weightlifting and various other sports, especially those sort of sports, like boxing and taekwondo, we really have to make sure that the children and people involved are trained properly by experts from that sport. We have had accidents occurred where young children tried to use weightlifting equipment without supervision and so we try to make sure all of that is attended to as well.

Any grant from a community can be done through the National Sports Organization, or else they go direct to the Ministry of Youths & Sports, who also have funding for those sort of things through their youth programmes.

We do give grants out to the same groups every year, yes, that is quite common, in the International Coaching Grant, for example, the coaches are usually on three to four year contracts because they relate in the world cycle of sports which is Olympics to Olympics or World Cup to World Cup.

We have scholarship grants which are ongoing so we might have young athletes attending Griffith University in the Gold Coast which is very much into sports and those are ongoing. Then, we are looking after elite athletes, which needs to be constantly done.

There are some sports that Fiji is successful in. Globally, nowadays, there is a realization from all countries that we cannot fund every sport – no country can. Those sports that we have the capability to achieve success, especially gold medals and we all love gold, it is very, very important that that is where we look at our funding, instead of putting it into a sport that we are unlikely to ever be able to reach that standard.

There are a number of sports that because of the way they operate now, they are very much professional. So, where you get golf, tennis, even volleyball and indoor volleyball, they are very much run on a professional circuit that even if we put all our funding that we receive annually into one sport like volleyball, we still could not keep up with the cost of every week that approximately \$50,000 to attend tournaments all over the Asia/Pacific region.

So, while we look at the sport like volleyball and it is the most popular in the country, we will never be able to succeed or reach the standards needed to play the indoor game but, beach volleyball we can be very successful in and are already proving that we are, and so funding is put into that. So, that is how we look at sports – it is on global field and every country is doing exactly the same. I think Australia and New Zealand both now only select about five or six sports which they put big funding into, and those are ones which they know they are going to win the medals.

I think I have already answered the questions about communities getting grants. The allocation to each sporting body has been given in our response for this financial year and the changes in this year, again, was challenged by COVID-19 and it really related to what funding had to be given.

I have explained the allocation procedure. Once Budget is approved after we have done our process, we then go back into Committees because generally, the Ministry of Finance will allocate to certain sports and this year, they very much did it. So, we let that sport know that they will receive such and such funding.

But it does not mean to say that we do not continue to give out funding during the year because a number of events will be changed - cancelled, so it is our job then to make sure we do not have to give money back to Government and that we can spend it somewhere else. So, all sports know that even after 31st January deadline, if some event comes up, we will try and find the funding.

The Ministry of Finance has agreed that we can reapply through Cabinet papers and various other processes, and it has been receptive where we have suddenly had an international event that we needed funding for, and they have been able to help us. A prime example would be something like, we found out after the Budget process that the All Blacks want to play in Fiji, or a major country

wants to play. So, we will go back to Government and say, “please, can you assist us?” And if they can find the funding, we gratefully accept it, and go ahead and propose that. That is in any sports, if they do have urgent changes.

The International Coaches Grant is an interesting one in that, the Commission only funds the salaries of those coaches, but it does not get involved in the selection. The selection is done by the National Sports Organisation, but we have very strict criteria, and we will check with the international body that the person they are recommending is qualified. And in more than one instance, we have said, “No, it is not qualified under the international rules, therefore, not acceptable.” So, we will go through those.

They have to have a process where they advertise the position first because immigration laws come into play as well with work permits, so we have to make sure that their job is advertised, and that the person is taking up the position that cannot be taken up by anyone local with the same qualifications. We follow through on that.

Part of their contracts with the National Sports Organisation on coaches said, “all international coaches must have an understudy who is a local.” They must train our local coaches and over the past seven or eight years, we have now built up some locally qualified coaches. Sports that originally we only had international coaches such as Netball, we now have a local, and the coach for netball was trained and also coached internationally so she was very acceptable for it. Within rugby, we also do have locals in that who have now qualified, in our Women’s Sevens and Women’s 15s.

That is an ongoing process, but if you note worldwide, coaches for all sports come from every country. They move around and every country is trying to buy the best one. But I am afraid they are not cheap, and their salaries depend on their abilities and where they are at. So within the coaches salary, by individual contracts with the national sports body, I cannot release the independent coaches grant publicly but generally, the coaching salaries would range from \$80,000 a year up to nearly \$0.5 million. That is on the coaches. It is a programme that has proven its worth and the first international coach we ever had was how we achieved Gold at the Rio Olympics - a first ever.

The monitoring and evaluation within the National Sports Policy, we are still waiting for the National Sports Policy - this is our problem. It has been ongoing for quite some time, and I think it is due to go to Parliament quite soon. We have been working on it. We had promised it.

There are a number of policies that sports is missing. Our Safety in Sports Policy needs ratification. Drug Free Sports - if we cannot get the Drug Free Sports Act passed this year in Parliament, Madam, Fiji will not be competing in any Olympics or in any international events worldwide. We have received our warnings and the Act is being prepared as we speak but it was supposed to have been done by 31st July, and we are working very closely with the Ministry and with Drug Free Sports Fiji to get this in place.

What happened here is that, because Fiji is now no longer a Tier 4 nation because we have won Gold Medals in the Olympics and the World Cup events, we are now upgraded and have to have our own Drug Free Sports Act in place. I am happy to have that passed on to everyone to support us in that because we are quite urgent in getting that done.

Mr. Ram, I will now hand over to you to answer Question No. 18.

MR. S. RAM.- Madam Chairperson, in response to Question No 18, due to COVID-19, some of our grants were deferred which means, we were unable to use those grants. Those were Sports

Grants of \$46,237; International Coaches Grant of \$185,167; and there was a UNOSDP Grant of \$24,371.

Those grants were utilised in the new fiscal year and the breakdown were as follows:

1. Disability Grant of \$7,500 was paid to Special Olympics and Fiji Paralympic Committee.
2. Short-Term Expert Grant of \$22,500 was paid to various NSOs which included –
 - (a) Athletics Fiji;
 - (b) Fiji Baseball;
 - (c) Fiji Badminton Association;
 - (d) Fiji Swimming Association;
 - (e) Fiji Table Tennis Association;
 - (f) Weightlifting Fiji;
 - (g) Fiji Touch Association;
 - (h) Tennis Fiji; and
 - (i) Fiji Judo Association.
3. Outreach Grant of \$16,237 was paid out in the new fiscal year for Train the Trainer Programme and Educate the Educator Programmes.
4. International Coaches Grant of \$185,167 was paid to the following NSOs:
 - (a) Fiji Rugby Union Coaches (Gareth Baber, Vern Cotter, Saiasi Fuli and Senirusi Serevakula);
 - (b) Fiji Football Association;
 - (c) Fiji National Rugby League Coach; and
 - (d) Fiji Netball Association.
5. The UNOSDP Grant of \$24,371 was fully utilised to pay the Fiji Eligibility Workshop for Sports Inclusive Australia held at the Grand Pacific Hotel.

MR. P. MAZEY.- On the SDGs, it is very important to us and we have been involved with Parliament and the Government in ensuring these are in place because sports is a major path, but Moira here from Research and Development has been working with the Ministry of Finance and various other agencies on the SDGs. So, can I ask her to just respond on these last few questions?

MS. M.M. RODAN.- Madam Chairperson, the SDGs and our achievements, I would like to raise a note now that the global SDGs do not have indicators for sports. It has only come into recent years just before COVID-19 that sports indicators were placed against the global indicators, and that has enabled us to work out the indicators and the SDG goals that we need to do.

We have challenges with partnerships. Government priorities in the sports sector are slightly at a different level, and discussions sometimes can leave sports out of the areas in those SDGs that we are required to follow. We are left out of the climate change; we are left out of decent growth and economic growth as well.

However, there are indicators that are now available to us according to those SDGs. Most importantly, the one we are currently working on, and this is through the Commonwealth Secretariat,

is the infrastructure and transportation for sports.

The second question is, can the Fiji National Sports Commission highlight its contributions to SDG 5 - Gender Equality in the organisation and implementation of its planned programmes? I would like to raise that this is something that we have been working on from day one. Gender equality is all across our boards from that time and our staff, and it has been also filtered down to our national sporting bodies and is now going into all our Sports Community Association Programmes.

We try to ensure a balanced programme of both gender in both sexes and all sexes in the country, but we are also working with the Ministry of Women, the Women's Crisis Centre and a few other Government agencies on our safeguarding policy where gender equality and equity is rather important for those of us in sports.

MR. P. MAZEY.- I think that is our response, Madam Chairperson.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you, Mr. Mazey and Team, for that comprehensive presentation. I give this time to honourable Members if they have any questions to the submission that you have just presented to us.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Madam Chairperson, we all know that 2020 and 2021 was a very difficult year with COVID-19, and a lot of unemployment and movements occurred to athletes people and groups. I would like to ask, what sort of support assistance or advice did Fiji National Sports Commission provide to the athletes or groups under the Fiji National Sports Commission during those difficult times?

MR. P. MAZEY.- Yes, we were in constant contact, Madam Chairperson, all through that time with all our athletes, especially, our elite that we had to try and look after. They could not use any facilities for a large part of that time from March through to September 2021, and it was not really until September that they could start doing individual trainings, so we were working with them. However, most of them started doing training at home. It was quite amazing at how they were able to do it because remember in that period, we did go to the Olympics also in 2021.

We could not give financial assistance, but all of our whole sports team during that period, our motor vehicles and everything, became part of the Ministry of Health programmes out in the communities, and it was interesting that it was at that time that the Ministry of Health realised how important sports and sport people were to them getting their message across.

You may not recall but certainly, there were areas where they were going to communities and were being abused for asking questions and doing things. They found that by taking sports people with them or people who were now in the sporting arena, it seemed to calm everything down. So, our staff and our sports people assisted on a huge way during that period. It most probably have not been recognised as much as they did, but that is how we worked together.

There was nothing else we could do for our sports people of that time, except just be there for them, and we put in place very clear guidelines on getting back into sports, and that we brought into within the guidelines back in September 2021. But regrettably, they had to go back in January 2022 because of another outbreak, but then shortly we were able to get it cleared in late February. I hope that answers the honourable Member's question.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Madam Chairperson, through you, I echo the same acknowledgement as what our honourable Member has just stated. I have a few comments before I begin with my

questions.

As you know, I am a very new Member to Parliament, and I am representing the citizens and constituents here. The report that you have presented and was tabled and sent to the Committee, is well written. However, remember that when we are submitting reports such as this, it is also viewed by the public. We, as politicians or as representatives of the people may be able to understand, for example, you have given programmes such as Inclusive Programmes, Educate the Educator Programme, but there is no introduction of what these programmes really talk about. So, when a citizen is viewing this report via the parliamentary website, they want to know what is the Educate the Educator Programme. Unfortunately, there is no introduction here. That is one of the comments, so may be in next reports, your Commission can improve on that - more of the description, that sort.

The second comment I have is that the Finance Manager responded on Question No. 18 and stated that there were some leftover grants which you used in the following year. I understand that the United Nations Office on Sports for Development (UNOSDP) Grant was fully utilised to pay for the Fiji Eligibility Workshop which Sports Inclusive Australia conducted on our behalf at the Grand Pacific Hotel. So, using a hotel to conduct workshops. Perhaps, in future, we can use university facilities like, FNU, USP, and at the same time, you will open it up to students and we can save money there at the end of the day. so, those are two of my comments.

My question is on page 9 of your Report. I can see that there are sports developments for 2020 and 2021 and these were during the COVID-19 period. Those developments were for your staff, in particular. I am interested to learn more about the gender transformative institutional capacity development. Would you like to briefly explain what this capacity development was about, for the viewers as well?

MR. J. LIGA.- This was a programme that was conducted through the Ministry of Economy on budgeting processes where we looked at budget on a more balanced justification of what you want, so there has to be a gender balance. So, it was a new template that was put forward by the Ministry of Economy and our staff went through that training, just to familiarize themselves when submitting their budget for the new fiscal year so it was a Ministry of Economy training.

HON. K. LAL.- My second question is, do you provide funding to youth clubs for their sporting needs, especially if we say youth club, it can also include students association from the University of the South Pacific, Fiji National University, University of Fiji and other tertiary student bodies?

MR. P. MAZEY.- Currently no, Sir. Our funding is very restricted. We can give out and the Ministry of Youth and Sports are responsible for youth groups. There is a little bit of a difference which is I think is misunderstood, under the Commission's Act we are responsible for physical activity, wellness, wellbeing and sporting activity for any gender from the age of birth to death. The Ministry of Youth and Sports and the youth programmes only relate to those from 15 years to 35 years. So, they look after the funding for youth.

We do not have funding for community programmes for youth groups but if they come under our community sports associations, that is something that the Government only started providing some funding for last year, and we are glad that the honourable Minister of Finance did agree to continue with those programmes this year and, in fact, has added to the programmes.

HON. K. LAL.- Thank you. The reason why I am following up on youth is because there are some trainings you have provided under the inclusive programme which is, for example, on page 17

– the marker follow-up – nine villages actively participated in daily activities with all Tikina and youth reps identified as key contact persons on the ground, so there were trainings provided for you. So, my question was based on, is there any support provided for students' associations who are also organising sports at the end of the day in their individual universities? I understand you do not currently provide them but there are some allocated funding, if they come under the community sports associations.

Have you heard of the name, 'FUSA Games' - Fiji University Sports Association (FUSA)? Is there any support given from the Fiji Sports Commission to FUSA?

MR. P. MAZEY.- No, Sir. Currently, they do not come under the national sports organisation as such. Generally, the NSOs are Olympics sports, however, under the FUSA Games, et cetera, we do support them through rugby league, NSO and, of course, we had the rugby league competitions from universities overseas coming here.

We have worked a lot especially with FNU actually. As such, it has just been outdoor programmes and I think just all the FNU Campuses throughout the country. We do work a lot with them, but I brought up the issue that in most countries of the world, the university sports is a major area of sports, but it has not been that way here. It is starting to get that way a little bit but it certainly not one that would push like this in the international universities.

HON. K. LAL.- I think if we are supporting university student bodies, they are the ones who will be coming up and playing for our national leagues at the end of the day.

Moving on, my next question is on the inclusive programme. There are disability sections in Universities, such as the University of the South Pacific, FNU and other Universities, improving on their disability policies as well. Do you provide sport support to them as well or is it only outside the University premises?

MR. P. MAZEY.- In that case, Sir, there is one clarity - a lot of our elite sports people are at university and we are supporting them, not because they are at university but because they are in our elite sports. The same thing applies, and we have been doing a lot of work with the deaf sports and most of these disability groups have their own sporting organisations.

Yes, we do support them through the Disability Grants and in some cases, they can now get it through our main grant for some overseas tours because we now recognise that people with disabilities can be part of our national sports organisations as well, and people with special needs are now part of the Paralympics. So, we recently ran workshops to train people who can certify the disability of people with special needs, and we did that with USP. So, the psychologists at USP are now qualifiers for people with special needs to go to the Paralympics. So, yes, we do work with them very closely. For deaf sports, we are very happy to say that, I think, we are number two on the world now in Sevens.

HON. K. LAL.- Why I asked about the university was because on page 16, your programme locations did not include any universities or USP, nor FNU.

Nevertheless, the other observation I have noted is that there are no challenges that you faced under Inclusive Programmes, unlike your Educate the Educator Programme where you have listed your challenges. Are there any or some challenges you faced in the Inclusive Programmes that you have conducted?

MR. P. MAZEY.- There is always challenges, I have to say, I mean, I am not going to say that there is not. With the disability programmes we are doing it at every level.

Yes, it is a challenge in itself. We are providing sporting programmes for blind children, for example, which is a huge challenge because we have to bring them to a location, we have to make sure that their sports equipment is special.

Do we have all the sports equipment? No, we do not, so the challenge is getting it. We might have been lucky this year because of COVID-19 because we really had not much to do with people but there is always challenges, I agree with that.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members, since there are no other questions, I would like to take this time to thank the Team from the Fiji Sport Commission. Thank you, again, Mr. Peter Mazey, CEO for Fiji Sports Council; Mr. Shalendra Ram, Finance Manager; Mr. Joji Liga, Sports Development Manager; and Ms. Moira Rodan, Research and Development Manager. Thank you again for availing yourselves to be at our public submission this morning.

(Vote of Thanks – Madam Chairperson)

The Committee adjourned at 10.19 a.m.