



# **STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE**

## **Consolidated Review Report of the Savusavu Town Council 2011-2013 Annual Reports**



**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI**  
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## Table of Contents

Acronyms.....	3
Chairperson’s Foreword .....	4
<b>1.0 Committee Remit and Composition .....</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1 Committee Secretariat Team.....	7
<b>2.0 Background and Terms of Reference.....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 Procedure and Program.....	7
<b>3.0 Committee Deliberation and Analysis.....</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1 Introduction.....	8
3.2 Summary of the Savusavu Town Council 2011 to 2013 Annual Reports.....	9
3.2.1 Financial Snapshots.....	9
3.2.2 Public Health, Sanitary Services and Environment.....	9
3.2.3 Projects.....	11
3.3 Committee Findings .....	12
<b>4.0 Sustainable Development Goals.....</b>	<b>12</b>
4.1 Gender Equality in Parliamentary Scrutiny .....	12
<b>5.0 Conclusion.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6.0 Committee Members’ Signatures .....</b>	<b>14</b>

## **Acronyms**

MHMS	- Ministry of Health and Medical Services
SCFAD	- Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence
SDG	- Sustainable Development Goals
SO	- Standing Order

## **Chairperson's Foreword**

The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence (SCFAD) hereby submits to Parliament the Consolidated Review Report of the Savusavu Town Council 2011-2013 Annual Reports.

These reports were during the periods when there was no Parliament and the Government that was in place was unelected. For these reasons, and the fact that 13 years have lapsed on these reports, the Committee is recommending that this bi-partisan review report be noted by Parliament and no further debate is warranted.

The Municipal Councils in Fiji are legislated under the Local Government Act 1972. The Municipal Councils provide overall policy direction to maintain and improve the quality of services and facilities for their ratepayers.

The Savusavu Town Council (Council) serves an estimated population of 6,000 in the greater Savusavu area and is responsible for the provision and maintenance of a wide range of services to its ratepayers and residents.

The report captures the various activities reported in the three (3) Annual Reports from 2011 to 2013. Given the number of years that have lapsed, the Committee makes no assessment on the efficiency or otherwise of the Savusavu Town Council. The Committee is, however, grateful to the Council for the information and data that are presented in these Annual Reports. The Committee is of the view that a consistent reporting structure would assist in a fair analysis of the report and urges the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to work in collaboration with relevant town councils to identify a standard reporting template for use in all future annual reports.

I wish to thank the Savusavu Town Council for compiling and submitting its Annual Reports from 2011 to 2013.

I thank the members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence for compiling this bipartisan report and also thank the Secretariat for their invaluable support.

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, I submit this report to Parliament.



**Hon. Viliame Naupoto**  
**Chairperson**

## **Recommendations**

1.0 The Committee recommends that Parliament take note of the contents of this report.

## 1.0 Committee Remit and Composition

Pursuant to Standing Order 109(2)(e) the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence is mandated to look into matters related to Fiji's relations with other countries, development aid, foreign direct investment, oversight of the military, and relations with multi-lateral organizations. The members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence are as follows:



**Hon. Viliame Naupoto**  
*Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence*



**Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua**  
**Deputy Chairperson**  
*Deputy Speaker of Parliament*  
*Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs*



**Hon. Jovesa Vocea**  
**Member**  
*Assistant Minister for Rural, Maritime Development*  
*and Disaster Management*



**Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu**  
**Member**  
*Assistant Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Heritage and Arts*



**Hon. Rinesh Sharma**  
**Member**

## **1.1 Committee Secretariat Team**

Supporting the Committee in its work is a group of dedicated Parliament Officers serving as the Committee Secretariat. These officers are appointed and delegated by the Secretary-General to Parliament by Standing Order 15(3)(i). The Secretariat officers are as follows:

- Mrs. Susana Korovou – Senior Committee Clerk
- Mrs. Elesi Tabuyaqona – Deputy Committee Clerk

## **2.0 Background and Terms of Reference**

The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence (the Committee), was referred the Savusavu Town Council 2011 to 2013 Annual Reports on 30 September 2024. The referral of the Annual Reports was done in accordance with SO 38(2), whereby the Committee was assigned to investigate the contents of the report and provide a report to Parliament at a future Sitting. This report is outside the usual mandate of the Committee, but the referral was made to help ease the workload of the other Standing Committees.

### **2.1 Procedure and Program**

#### Oral or Written Evidence Received

In accordance with Standing Order 112(1)(c), the Committee had agreed not to seek oral or written evidence from the Savusavu Town Council given that 13 years have lapsed and it was sufficient for the Committee just to review the information that was provided in the annual reports.

## **3.0 Committee Deliberation and Analysis**

### **3.1 Introduction**

The Municipal Councils in Fiji are legislated under the Local Government Act 1972. The Municipal Councils provide overall policy direction to maintain and improve the quality of services and facilities for their ratepayers. The Special Administrator, Chairs and Teams for each Municipal Council have been tasked with reforming their Council administrations into forward thinking and agile organisations focused on customer service. Each of our cities and towns are unique in their quality of lifestyle and range of investment opportunities and over time each Council will be guided by a Community Plan and Local Economic Development Strategy.

The Savusavu Town Council (Council) serves an estimated population of 6,000 in the greater Savusavu area and is responsible for the provision and maintenance of a wide range of services to its ratepayers and residents. The Council aims to achieve the following:

- 1.0) Facilitating access to the basic services needed for a healthy and safe life;
- 2.0) Promoting an attractive and healthy environment for work and leisure;
- 3.0) Encouraging sustainable development which brings continuing prosperity;
- 4.0) Delivering the statutory responsibility of local government; and
- 5.0) Encouraging the people of Savusavu to contribute to the decisions about their town/community works and the developments.

The Council provides the following services:

- 1.0) Town Boundary Area
  - 1.1) Garbage Collections;
  - 1.2) Maintenance of roadsides mainly through grass cutting and drainage cleaning;
  - 1.3) Clean-up campaign; and
  - 1.4) Landfill for discarding of rubbish.
- 2.0) Main Town Area
  - 2.1) Provision and maintenance of toilet facilities;
  - 2.2) Provision and maintenance of market facilities; and
  - 2.3) Provision and maintenance of civic amenities including taxi, carrier and bus stand base.
- 3.0) Other Services provided by the Council are:
  - 3.1) Maintenance of sporting facilities, in particular, Ratu Ganilau Park and Narayans Park;
  - 3.2) Conducts building inspections;
  - 3.3) Process and approves building plans; and



- 3.4) Conducts food surveillance by the Health Inspector around business houses in town to ensure proper and safe trading of processed foods and items.

### **3.2 Summary of the Savusavu Town Council 2011 to 2013 Annual Reports**

#### **3.2.1 Financial Snapshots**

The Council from 2011 to 2013 delivered a surplus/profit for the years under review. The majority of the Council's income is generated from town rates and rental properties whilst majority of the expenses included salaries and wages, administrative and operating costs and maintenance costs. Table 1 shows the breakdown of total income, total expenses and profit earned from 2011 to 2013:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>Total Comprehensive Expenses</b>	<b>Total Comprehensive Profit</b>	<b>Council Equity</b>
<b>2011</b>	\$513,240.00	\$482,898.00	\$30,342.00	\$7,015,411
<b>2012</b>	\$613,718.00	\$534,385.00	\$79,333.00	\$7,094,745
<b>2013</b>	\$712,485.00	\$586,155.00	\$126,330.00	\$7,221,075

*Table 1: Total Comprehensive Profit attained during the financial periods from 2011 to 2013*

The Council reported that actions have been undertaken against defaulting ratepayers. The actions taken included the following:

- 1.0) Deduction at source
- 2.0) Arrangements
- 3.0) 7 days demand notice
- 4.0) 14 days demand notice
- 5.0) 21 days demand notice
- 6.0) Data bureau registration
- 7.0) Atonement of leases given to the tenants
- 8.0) Lodging of Fiji Charge (caveat) on land
- 9.0) Summons through Small Claims Tribunal
- 10.0) House to house rates collections

#### **3.2.2 Public Health, Sanitary Services and Environment**

##### **3.2.2.1 Building Development Control**

Any building or rebuilding activities including internal renovations require development permission through the respective Municipal Councils and the Department of Town & Country Planning. The Savusavu Town Council received 69 applications in 2011, 80 applications in 2012 and 76 in 2013. Table 2 shows the breakdown of total applications received and approved for the years 2011 to 2013:

	<b>Total Applications Received</b>	<b>Approved applications</b>	<b>Completion Certificate Issued</b>	<b>Total value for buildings requiring permits</b>
2011	69	52	12	\$683,866.00
2012	80	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported
2013	76	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported

*Table 2: Breakdown of total applications received and approved for the years 2011 to 2013*

During the years under review, the Council reported on two (2) major building construction works in progress including the construction of a 3-storey JKS building worth \$2 million situated in Main Street, Savusavu and the J. Dayaram commercial complex which was still under construction in 2013.

#### 3.2.2.2 Squatter Settlements

The Council during the years under review reported on the development of a squatter settlement in Nakama Heights. In 2011, the Council in consultation with the Housing Department facilitated the formation of Nakama Squatter Committee to assist squatters on the Council property at Nakama Stage 3 to improve their living standard and also to control illegal development of land. In 2011, a total of twenty-six (26) tenants were registered with the Council and paid ground rentals.

#### 3.2.2.3 Food Control

During the years under review, the Council continued its food surveillance by monitoring all food premises for compliance to the Food Safety Act. This is done in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS). A total of twenty-two (22) restaurants were issued Health License in 2011.

#### 3.2.2.4 Waste Management

The Council continued to support waste minimization and environmental protection through its waste management system. Garbage collection for the Savusavu area is conducted three (3) days per week. The Council also conducts quarterly cleanup campaign for backyard rubbish. Special wastes are collected on arrangements and payment of fees levied accordingly.

#### 3.2.2.5 Pollution Control

The Council reported that the development of neighboring areas adjacent to the municipal boundary are contributing factors to pollution through siltation. It was noted that there is an absence of proper sewerage system in the municipality, however, it utilizes the use of septic tanks for disposal and treatment of night soil waste.

#### 3.2.2.6 Complaints

For the years under review, the Council reported that in 2011, twenty-four (24) intimation notices were issued for complaints received on non-compliance with

environmental laws or regulations such as, overgrowth removal, waste removal, abate smell nuisance, litter removal, new soakage pit, animal/poultry nuisance and grease trap clearing.

### 3.2.3 Projects

The Council undertook a number of projects from 2011 to 2013. Table 3 shows the list of projects that the Council had implemented and those projects it anticipates to undertake during the years from 2011 to 2013:

	2011	2012	2013
On-going Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nakama Drainage (2<sup>nd</sup> Phase)</li> <li>- Footpath at Housing Road/Naqere and Fenton Road</li> <li>- Footpath at Hooper Street adjacent to the main road.</li> <li>- Footpath at Savusavu strip, Westpac to Waterfront building</li> <li>- Upgrading of Ganilau Park/Naqelekula (Ground No. 2)</li> <li>- Shiu Chand Road</li> <li>- Roads and drainage upgrade</li> <li>- Foreshore reclamation (phase 1), Market to Copra Shed Marina</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Milo/Nestle Exercise Station</li> <li>- Foreshore reclamation</li> <li>- Drainage upgrading</li> <li>- Road upgrading project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health Board Walk (Phase 1300m)</li> </ul>
Proposed Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Market Extension: Fish Market and Curio Centre</li> <li>- Town Civic Centre: to be located at the market foreshore ground</li> <li>- Ratu Ganilau Ground: New Stadium 1000 sitting capacity</li> <li>- Industrial Subdivision and residential subdivision at Naqere - by Directors of Lands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Market Extension: Fish Market and Curio Centre</li> <li>- Town Civic Centre: to be located at the market foreshore ground</li> <li>- Ratu Ganilau Ground: New Stadium 1000 sitting capacity</li> <li>- Industrial Subdivision and residential subdivision at Naqere - by Directors of Lands</li> <li>- Cakaudrove Women Resource Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Market extension: Fish market</li> <li>- Ratu Ganilau Ground: Formation of Ground No. 2</li> <li>- Dump upgrading</li> <li>- Drainage upgrading at foreshore</li> <li>- Foreshore beautification project</li> <li>- Parcel sellers shed</li> </ul>

*Table 3: Summary of a list of on-going projects and proposed projects from 2011 to 2013*

### **3.3 Committee Findings**

- 3.3.1 The Committee noted that there is no consistency in the reporting template used by the Council for the three periods therefore making it difficult for the Committee to properly analyse the Council's performance. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government work in collaboration with relevant town councils to identify a standard reporting template for use in all future annual reports. It would also be useful to report on the Council's objectives, key performance indicators and achieved outputs.

## **4.0 Sustainable Development Goals**

SDGs came into effect in 2017 and therefore do not apply to these reporting periods.

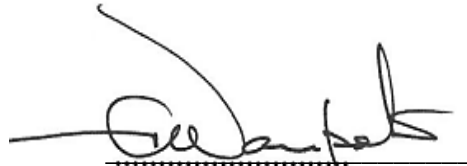
### **4.1 Gender Equality in Parliamentary Scrutiny**

The Parliament of Fiji Standing Orders 110 (2) requires the Committee to give full consideration to the principle of gender equality to ensure all matters are considered about the impact and benefit on both men and women. The Council during these reporting periods did not indicate gender segregation in any of its reports. The Committee suggests that in future reports, an indication of gender information be provided.

## **5.0 Conclusion**

The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence has conducted a thorough review of the Savusavu Town Council 2011-2013 Annual Reports. These reports were during the periods when there was no Parliament and the Government that was in place was unelected. For these reasons, and the fact that 13 years have lapsed on these reports, the Committee is recommending that this bi-partisan review report be noted by Parliament and no further debate is warranted.

## 6.0 Committee Members' Signatures



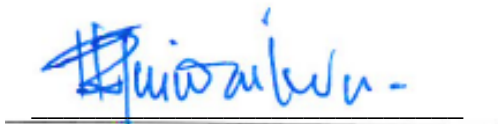
Hon. Viliame Naupoto  
**Chairperson**



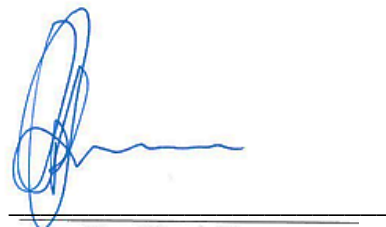
Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua  
**Deputy Chairperson**



Hon. Jovesa Vocea  
**Member**



Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu  
**Member**



Hon. Rinesh Sharma  
**Member**