

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 6TH AUGUST, 2025

[CORRECTED COPY]

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WEDNESDAY, 6TH AUGUST, 2025

The Parliament met at 10.41 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.

MR. SPEAKER took the Chair and read the Prayer.

PRESENT

All Members were present, except the honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation; the honourable Minister for Youth and Sports; the honourable Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs; and the honourable Assistant Minister for Information.

MINUTES

HON. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move:

That the Minutes of the sitting of Parliament held on Tuesday, 5th August, 2025, as previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed.

HON. A.V.B.C. BAINIVALU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the motion.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SPEAKER

Welcome

Good morning and a warm greetings to all the honourable Members who are present for today's sitting. To our guests in the gallery and those joining us via broadcast and online platforms, your interest in the affairs of Parliament breathes vitality into our democratic process and system.

Fiji Sunshine Group from US and Australia Volunteer Group

I am informed that we have in the gallery a particular visiting group, the Fiji Sunshine Group from US and Australia Volunteer Group for Sote, Vugalei in Tailevu. You are most welcome to Fiji's Parliament and to all of you, we deeply appreciate your presence and your commitment to being part of the ongoing journey, and thank you for staying connected and engaged.

Condolences – Late Honourable Vijendra Prakash

Honourable Members, on behalf of the Fijian Parliament, I extend our deepest condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of the late honourable Vijendra Prakash. Honourable Prakash served with distinction as a Member of Parliament under the first FijiFirst Party following his election in 2018. His commitment to public service was evident in his active contributions as a member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, where he brought thoughtful oversight and valuable insight to financial governance.

A dedicated educator and a respected leader in the community, the late honourable Prakash began his professional journey as a school teacher in Waidracia, Naitasiri. He was known not only for his guidance in the classroom, but for his enduring influence in cultural and spiritual circles. As a former president of the Rewa Branch of Sanatan Dharam Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji and former national secretary of Shree Sanatan Dharm Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji, he exemplified leadership grounded in values, tradition and service.

Although he stepped down from Parliament in December 2020, his legacy of public duty and community devotion continues to inspire. Fiji mourns the loss of a son who walked the path of service with humility and wisdom. May his memory live on in the hearts of all those whom he had served and worked alongside.

Oral Questions

Honourable Members, please, kindly take note that following the elevation of honourable Lynda Tabuya and honourable Tomasi Tunabuna to substantive Ministers, and in compliance with Standing Order 41(1), Oral Question No. 114 of 2025 listed on Thursday's Order Paper and Oral Question No. 122 of 2025 listed on Friday's Order Paper will now be asked by honourable Isikeli Tuiwailevu and honourable Taito Matasawalevu respectively.

Back to Office Report – Sixth World Conference of Speakers

Finally, the back-to-office report for the Sixth World Conference of Speakers which was held last week in Geneva, Switzerland, is now available in the Library for your perusal and reference. By way of summary, I had the opportunity to contribute to critical conversations around the unique challenges and opportunities facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

During the SIDS side-event, I emphasised the vulnerability of SIDS to climate change, the need for resilient institutions, and the importance of inclusive governance in advancing sustainable development and, therefore, crucial for the Fijian Parliament to commit to multilateral dialogue and regional solidarity, highlighting the role of parliamentary leadership in driving meaningful policy reforms and amplifying Pacific voices on the global stage. This engagement reaffirmed Fiji's proactive stance in shaping global discourse on equity, climate action and sustainable futures for island nations .

The Pacific Islands Parliamentary Group (PIPG) Conference which will be hosted by the Fijian Parliament from 26th August to 29th August, 2025, will embody its very essence. I strongly recommend your viewing of the full report for Members to gain comprehensive insight into the content and recommendations.

Clarification on Point of Order By Hon. J. Usamate

Finally, honourable Members, as a point of clarification, the Chair wishes to clarify the confusion which arose yesterday morning over the Point of Order raised by honourable Usamate against the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General on his Ministerial Statement. I first note that honourable Usamate had raised his objection before the Minister of Justice started with his statement. This, in itself, is out of order. A Member cannot raise an objection unless and until the matter in question is formally raised on the floor of the House. In this instance, the matter to which honourable Usamate was objecting to, had not been raised, and in any case, I had informed the Members in the beginning that the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General would be making two statements, so even honourable Usamate would not have known which of the two Statements the Minister was delivering at that time. I should have, in the circumstances, ruled honourable Usamate out of order.

Be that as it may, I had informed honourable Usamate that I am not privy to the contents of the Minister's statement, so I would not be able to make a judgment or rule on it. Honourable Usamate was referring to a document against which I was not also privy to and I would go on. Honourable Usamate's reference, as far as I am aware, was in respect of Standing Order 61 that prohibits any reference to any judicial proceedings where decisions have not yet been made.

That is why I advised that I would allow any general reference to matters pertaining to the rule of law, so long as it does not impinge upon a particular case pending before the Court. The Minister for Justice then informed the Chair that he was withdrawing that particular statement, and the matter was resolved then.

I now have the summary of the Minister's statement which honourable Usamate was referring to, and which was not available to me then, and it refers to a particular case that was before the Lautoka High Court. The matter is deemed to be still before the Court, if the appeal processes have not been adjusted.

I am, therefore, satisfied having now been fully conversant on the fact that honourable Usamate had a valid objection, although made prematurely on the Minister's intended statement, as it breaches Standing Order 61. That is the end of the matter.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Consolidated Review Report - Reserve Bank of Fiji 2021-2024 Annual Reports

HON. S. TUBUNA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, I am pleased to present this Review Report on the Reserve Bank of Fiji's Annual Reports for the past three financial years - 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

The Committee recognises the critical role of the Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF) in maintaining monetary stability, fostering sound financial institutions, and supporting sustainable economic growth. Over the review period, Fiji's economy experienced significant challenges and transitions, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and during the broader efforts towards economic recovery and resilience.

The Committee's review process entailed a thorough analysis of RBF's performance across key functions, including monetary policy implementation, exchange rate stability, financial system regulation and management of foreign reserves. The Committee also considered RBF's strategic interventions in support of economic activity and its initiatives to promote financial inclusion and digital transformation in the financial sector.

During their deliberation, the Committee identified the following:

- (1) Fiji's inflation rate has exhibited considerable variability between 2021 and 2024, influenced by both international and domestic developments. Following a period of deflation in 2020 and the early months of 2021, inflation began to rise, reaching 5.2 percent in July 2022, with an average of 3.1 percent, up from -0.4 percent in July 2021. This surge was primarily attributed to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, persistent supply chain disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the reopening of international borders. By 2023, global supply chain pressures, elevated freight costs and commodity price shocks had begun to subside, leading to a decline in inflation to 0.3 percent by July 2023. However, in 2024, inflation escalated once again, rising to 6.8 percent in July.

- (2) The total financial system assets grew from \$24.1 billion in July 2021 to \$30.9 billion by July 2024. This represented a 26.1 percent increase. The growth was broad-based across all productive sectors. It was supported by improved asset quality and increased lending. The return to normal business conditions post-COVID-19 also contributed.
- (3) The Committee highlights the National Payment System Act 2021 and National Payment System Regulations 2022 that promote digital payments and regulates providers. In 2022, the upgraded Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) improved transaction speed and security.
- (4) The new financial digital infrastructure, Central Securities Depository (CSD), was launched in November 2022 to automate securities administration to safekeep securities such as shares and bonds.
- (5) In 2022, RBF collaborated with financial providers to develop FinTech solutions, including a parametric micro insurance product under the Regulatory Sandbox framework.
- (6) The RBF is commended for the financial inclusion programme *Noda i Lavo*, a TV show in the *iTaukei* language now in its seventh season. This programme has received positive feedback and encouraged community financial literacy programmes.
- (7) Mr. Speaker, RBF's efforts are commended in financial inclusion, showing positive results. As of 2023, 86.4 percent of adults are financially included. This surpasses the short-term target of 86 percent set for 2024. The Committee recognises this as a significant achievement.
- (8) The RBF is commended for adhering to the code of conduct and fraud policies, as well as compliance and conflict of interest declarations.
- (9) The RBF is commended for their collaborative strategic planning process which resulted in the formulation of a new RBF 2025–2029 Strategic Plan. The Plan sets a clear direction with a vision of a “Progressive and Resilient Central Bank, Trusted by Our People.”
- (10) During COVID-19, RBF reduced the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) to a record low of 0.25 percent in 2020 and since then, the RBF has maintained the low OPR while fulfilling its mandates. This helped to ease liquidity constraints and support credit access for households and businesses.
- (11) The RBF has maintained strong and steadily increasing profits over the past three reporting periods, driven by prudent reserve management, sound investment strategies, and favorable global interest rates supporting its financial independence and credibility.
- (12) The Bank continues to lead in climate finance through support for renewable energy, inclusive climate-related financial products, and its role in issuing Fiji's Blue Bond in 2023.
- (13) In 2024, the Bank advanced regional and gender-focused initiatives by launching the Natadola Roadmap for Inclusive Green Finance and endorsing the Women in Finance (We-Fi) Code to support women-led MSMEs.
- (14) Cyber risk management remains a top priority for the RFB, which recognises the heightened risks from rapid digitalisation and is committed to maintaining robust preparedness to protect the national payments system and financial sector.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the honourable Members of the Committee for their valuable contributions and commitment throughout the review process. On behalf of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, I commend this review report to Parliament and request all the honourable Members of this august House to take note of this Report.

(Report handed to the Secretary-General)

HON. S. TUBUNA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, pursuant to Standing Order 121(5), I hereby move:

A motion, without notice, that a debate on the content of the Report is initiated at a future sitting.

HON. P.D. KUMAR.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the motion.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

Review Report – Investment Fiji 2020-2021 Annual Report

HON. S. TUBUNA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, I am pleased to present this Review Report on Investment Fiji Annual Report for the financial year 2020-2021. This year has been a defining period for both, the organisation and the Fijian economy, marked by unprecedented challenges and significant adaptation in response to the ongoing impact of the COVID- 19 pandemic.

Despite the global slowdown, Investment Fiji remained resilient and proactive in its mandate to attract foreign direct investment and support domestic exporters. The organisation has swiftly adapted to the changing economic landscape by leveraging digital engagement, strengthening partnerships and enhancing service delivery to investors and businesses.

During the reporting period, Investment Fiji facilitated numerous investment inquiries, supported exporters in accessing new markets and played a critical role in policy advocacy. Notably, several investment projects progressed, despite the prevailing uncertainties, reflecting the continued confidence in Fiji as an investment destination.

As we look ahead, Investment Fiji is committed to playing a transformative role in driving sustainable economic recovery. Investment Fiji's strategic priorities should remain focused on fostering a conducive investment climate, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship, and aligning their initiatives with national development goals.

The Committee wishes to draw Parliament's attention to the fact that the 2020-2021 Annual Report falls within the period covered by the 2019-2022 Report. Whilst the Committee has already tabled the 2020-2021 Annual Report, the Report was subsequently referred to the Committee following that tabling.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the management and staff of Investment Fiji for their professionalism, dedication and adaptability during the most challenging year. I also acknowledge the invaluable support of our stakeholders, including the Fijian Government, development partners and the private sector.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the honourable Members of the Committee for their valuable

contributions and commitment throughout the review process. It is our hope that this Report provides constructive insights and supports Parliament's oversight responsibilities in advancing sound economic governance in Fiji.

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, I commend this Review Report to Parliament and request all honourable Members of this august House to take note of the Report.

(Report handed to the Secretary-General)

HON. S. TUBUNA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, pursuant to Standing Order 121(5), I hereby move:

A motion, without notice, that a debate on the content of the Report is initiated at a future sitting.

HON. P.D. KUMAR.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the motion.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

MR. SPEAKER.- The following Ministers have given notice to make Ministerial Statements under Standing Order 40, the –

- (1) Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications;
- (2) Minister for Environment and Climate Change;
- (3) Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection; and
- (4) Minister for Information.

The Ministers may speak up to 20 minutes. After the Minister, I will then invite the Leader of the Opposition or his designate, to speak on the Statement for no more than 5 minutes. There will be no other debate.

Deployment of the Universal Service Scheme Across Fiji

HON. M.S.N. KAMIKAMICA.- Mr. Speaker, the honourable Prime Minister, honourable Deputy Prime ministers, the honourable Leader of the Opposition, honourable Cabinet Ministers and Assistant Ministers, honourable Members of Parliament, visitors from abroad present here today and the people of Fiji who may be listening in today; *ni sa yadra vinaka* and a very good morning to you all.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to provide a statement on one of Fiji's most transformative national initiatives - the roll-out of the Universal Service Scheme (USS), a cornerstone of your Government's commitment to digital inclusion and sustainable development.

At the heart of this initiative, Mr. Speaker, is a single powerful principle - every Fijian, regardless of geography or circumstance, deserves meaningful and secure access to connectivity and the vast opportunities that it offers. The USS is our strategic tool to bridge the digital divide and realise the goals of our National Digital Strategy 2025-2030, which is based on the targets set out in our National Development Plan and Vision 2050.

The USS is being administered by the Telecommunications Authority of Fiji (TAF), with the guidance of the Universal Service Advisory Committee made up of the Permanent Secretaries of Communications, Finance, Rural and Maritime Development, alongside the Heads of TAF, Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC), and representatives from licensed telecommunication operators. Crucially, this work is being done in collaboration with the Ministries of Education, Health, Women, iTaukei Affairs and Disaster Management, bringing a whole of nation approach to ensure the Scheme remains inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, according to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), over 2.6 billion people globally remain unconnected, many of them living in rural and remote areas, just like our furthest rural and maritime communities.

It must be said, Mr. Speaker, since the Universal Service Fund (USF) was established in 2013, that not a single dollar had been deployed for its intended purpose. This inaction represents a missed decade of opportunity, during which thousands of Fijians in rural and remote areas remained digitally excluded. We are now changing that narrative. This Government is deploying the USF for the first time and in doing so, with precision, innovation and urgency.

Mr. Speaker, TAF, in collaboration with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and other stakeholders, has used a data driven framework to verify previously-declared 240 universal service area remote communities where the service providers had little incentive to invest. Survey, socio economic profiling and community consultations informed this process. The framework prioritized areas based on remoteness and terrain, population clusters, income levels, proximity to health centres, schools and economic activity, and disaster risk and recovery needs. This ensures that the USS is not just equitable, but tailored to address the unique context of each of these 240 areas.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not stopping at these 240 communities. Telecommunications Authority of Fiji continues to work with stakeholders to identify any and all of the remaining communities that are currently not covered. I thank the communities who have reached out directly, and these have been sent to TAF for verification and will be added to this programme.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are exploring new and emerging technologies that are being introduced which can best assist in our efforts and to ensure resilience in our digital connectivity and digital transformation journey. This was further emphasised during the communications blackout experienced by the volcanic eruptions in Tonga in 2022.

The ITU highlighted the growing role of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite technologies in bridging connectivity gaps in hard to reach areas and disaster prone areas. We responded by establishing an enabling policy environment to welcome new satellite technologies and today, we are reaping the benefits.

As part of our due diligence, in November 2024, TAF conducted live demonstrations of Starlink's LEO satellite solution across multiple terrains in Fiji. The results were decisive. The solution performed reliably and consistently, particularly in the rugged and dispersed geography of our islands, as you well know, Mr. Speaker, Sir. This enabled TAF to adopt a satellite-based managed wi-fi model for immediate deployment to underserved areas.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the first deployment phase, we will cover 126 out of 240 sites with the following distribution:

- (1) 36 sites in Kadavu;
- (2) 36 sites in Lau;

- (3) 15 sites in Lomaiviti;
- (4) 13 sites in Namosi;
- (5) 2 sites in Navosa; and
- (6) 24 sites in Tailevu.

I wish to emphasise, Sir, that I had no say in the selection of the sites, just to be clear.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a deliberate strategy, focussing on areas with the greatest connectivity gaps and where the impact will be most transformative. Each site will feature -

- (1) minimum of two wi-fi access points;
- (2) solar powered systems for off-grid sites;
- (3) emergency satellite phones for disaster response; and
- (4) a voucher based access model to manage usage and encourage responsible digital behaviour.

These systems are energy efficient, modular and technology neutral, allowing for future upgrades or backhaul replacements without overhauling infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not just delivering technology, we are investing in our people. Through the smart hands model, we are training our young Fijians in these communities to serve as first responders or system troubleshooting and maintenance. Women's groups and cooperatives will be empowered to manage these voucher systems, enhancing financial inclusion, local accountability and also economic opportunity through MSME. This will ensure community ownership, which is key to long term success and sustainability.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, phase one of the USS will directly benefit 111,300 Fijians - individuals who, upto now, had little or no access to internet or reliable voice services. For these communities, connectivity means –

- a child attending and participating in virtual classes;
- a grandparent being able to video call their grandchildren overseas;
- a nurse accessing special support from Suva via telemedicine;
- a fisherman checking real time weather and tide forecasts; and
- a small business owner reaching new customers online.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not just connectivity, this is empowerment.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me share a critical insight. The ITU reports that extending connectivity to rural and remote areas often costs up to ten times greater than urban deployments which explains why commercial operators have been reluctant to invest. This was the same when we assessed Fiji. Initial costing for terrestrial towers was in excess of \$400,000 to \$500,000 per site. This would have limited up to 35 or 40 sites, not accounting for Operating Expenditure (OPEX), which is no surprise and would surpass the funding in the USS in a couple of years.

In contrast, Mr. Speaker, our current satellite based model costs approximately \$29,000 per site, including installation, equipment and solar power where required. This allows us to scale across all 240 communities efficiently and sustainably.

Phase 1, alone is valued at around \$3 million, Mr. Speaker, including one maintenance visit to ensure longevity and performance.

In a country as vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters as Fiji, Mr. Speaker, connectivity is not optional - it is a lifesaving infrastructure. This is why each site is equipped with an emergency phone system, linked to national disaster coordination systems. This ensures that communities can receive early warnings, coordinate evacuations and remain connected during times of crisis.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, TAF is working with the Ministry of Finance to finalise the disbursement mechanism for the fund - a crucial final step before physical deployment begins. The deployment will prioritise sites with existing electricity supply in Namosi, Navosa and Tailevu, followed by solar-powered sites as equipment arrives.

Planning for Phase 2, which will connect the remaining 114 sites and communities, is already underway with the validation of sites in collaboration with Provincial Offices.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the USS will only thrive with inter-agency, private sector, civil society and community partnerships. While the global mobile coverage gaps has shown and highlights that there is a persistent and critical gap in usage, this coverage shows that about 2 billion people in the globe who are still remaining offline. This underscores that connectivity alone is not enough.

Our USS is designed to bridge the coverage and usage gaps here in Fiji, enabling real and sustained digital inclusion for all our people. Therefore, we are already collaborating within Government, for example, with the:

- Ministry of Health to support telemedicine integration;
- Ministry of Education to support remote learning platforms;
- Ministry of Women to lead community awareness and digital inclusion;
- Department of Cooperatives to support cooperative ownership and entrepreneurship models; and
- Ministry of iTaukei Affairs to ensure traditional structures are respected and empowered.

I also encourage our partner organisations and countries, private sector and civil society groups, to roll out initiatives and solutions for these communities that are being connected.

Mr. Speaker, this is a whole of government, whole of society approach, one that is designed for sustainability.

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude, I promise that if I had time, I would just read out the sites just for clarity and because I have six minutes, I will do so in the interest of transparency.

For Kadavu - Dravuwalu, Jioma, Muanisolo, Nacomoto, Niudua, Soso, Vukavu, Vunisei, Yavitu, Tiliva, Lawaki, Lomanikoro, Matasawalevu, Nakaunasele, Nakaunakoro, Nakoronawa, Naceva, Namajiu, Nukuvou, Solotavui, Solotina, Vacalea, Vunivaivai Kavala Wharf, Wainicokula, Gasele, Levuka, Naioti, Nauciwai, Rakiraki, Korovou, Naqalotu, Natokalau, Tawava and Yakita.

For Lau – Lomaji, Naikeleyaga, Namuka, Natokalau, Udu, Boitaci, Daliconi, Levukana, Lomaloma, Malaka, Mavana, Mualevu, Muamua, Narocivo, Sawana, Tuvuca, Uruone, Cakova, Maluku, Nasoku, Nuku, Vadra, Komo, Nayau, Lovoni, Matokana, Nukuni, Vatoa, Dravuwalu, Ketei, Tovv, Udu, Muana-i-cake, Muana-i-ra, Naividamu and Ogea.

For Lomaiviti – Batiki, Kade, Mudu, Nakodu, Namacu, Nairai, Nawaikama, Sawaieke, Somosomo, Yadua, Lamiti, Lekanai, Malawai, Nacavanadi, Vanuaso, Namosi, Narukunibua, Nasigatoka and Nuku.

For Namosi – Namosi, Naqarawai, Naraiyawa, Nakavika, Navunibau, Navunikabi, Saliadrau, Vunidavo, Wainimakutu, Nasaucoko and Vatubalavu.

For Tailevu – Nasinu, Delaikuku, Dranu, Lawaki, Naburelevu, Nadrano, Nananu, Qelekuro, Burerua, Dakuinuku, Lodonu, Naivicula, Sawakasa, Sawakasa 2, Nalidi, Nameka, Vatukarasa, Kumi, Naivuruvuru, Naloto, Navunimono, Sawa, Ucunivanua and Ululoli.

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude, the research by ITU and World Bank indicates that an increase in broadband penetration can directly impact a country's GDP growth. By expanding connectivity through USS, Fiji is investing in its economic future, enabling new economic opportunities or innovation, entrepreneurship and social development. This tells us that the USS is not simply about building networks, it is about building a fairer, more connected Fiji.

We are fulfilling longstanding promises, Mr. Speaker. We are deploying unused resources, and we are delivering where others could not. This initiative represents the best of what good governance can achieve - equity, opportunity, resilience and national pride.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let us continue to work together to bring every Fijian into the digital era because when we connect communities, we connect hope, potential and the future generations to come.

MR. SPEAKER.- I thank the Deputy Prime Minister for his Statement. I especially thank him for including my village, way out in Southern Lau. So, we can now get off our RT set.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Mr. Speaker, I am so glad that the honourable Deputy Prime Minister has actually started off his note. I am sure you will have some fun with this today. However, in response to what he said, first of all, jokes aside, this is a serious matter - it is about connectivity of all Fijians, and I think we could read a list until the cows came home with respect to who has done what. But the point here is that this connectivity will ensure that every Fijian citizen is digitally connected. From my information, Sir, subject to correction, I think 95 percent of our population is already digitally connected, Mr. Speaker, Sir .

Mr. Speaker, Sir, also when this was initiated in 2008 when the legislation was brought in, 300 sites were identified then. Currently, the same people - the telecom authorities, et cetera, have now brought it down to 240, so 60 sites (I am not going to read the list) in accordance with who needed it done, have probably already been done. So, you cannot really say that nothing was done. But, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fact that the honourable Minister has read a long list just tells you how much work is actually required with respect to this particular area. It does take time to do. I remember quite clearly, the honourable Leader of the Opposition was talking from his perspective at that time as Minister for Rural Development about all of these during the speeches when the Bill came about and a lot was raised.

I think we all are on board with this. We all need to know how much connectivity there is with respect to people, but there is one grave issue, and I only have two minutes left, which we all must pay heed to, Sir. With the advent of digital connection, et cetera, that we have, it is fantastic. Some people even say that we have got more phones than people in terms of connectivity in Fiji. But the point here is, when you start doing this, there are ills that we must make sure that we legislate against.

Now, I am talking about when we do this, there is a National Digital Strategy that is in play that actually deals with that. I am talking about cybersecurity, Sir. With respect to cybersecurity issues, when we do this, our rural population must also be educated and taught with respect to being guarded when using the digital space. It is a space where phenomenal amount of activity happens. Fijians use it on a daily basis and, jokes aside, Sir, this is a serious issue. I think a concerted effort on that particular area in terms of the universal service that is being provided also should be absolute paramount, especially

for our vulnerable populations who may or may not be digitally savvy, so that is a very important part.

Again, Sir, this has not been mentioned by the honourable Minister but I am sure he would have if he had remembered and this is also such an important issue with respect to our MSMEs, especially out in the rural areas. We have a very diverse, dispersed population all around the country and when you get them connected, these are MSMEs that are being able to use that digital space to get more done. It is an important aspect and a part of it.

In finishing off, honourable Minister, I hope there is a lot more education and work that is going to be done with respect to the digital space, online safety, et cetera, and the empowerment of our Online Safety Commissioners and their officers and our Police Force, to ensure that it is being kept in check and in order because these things bring things that we do not know about. Our population is very gullible and we all know, Sir, it is something that needs to be done and it is an important part of it. I thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER.- Honourable Members, I think this is an appropriate time for us to suspend proceedings for our morning break. Parliament will resume in half an hour.

The Parliament adjourned at 10.28 a.m.

The Parliament resumed at 11.14 a.m.

Revised National Approach to Climate Finance

HON. M.D. BULITAVU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, the honourable Prime Minister, honourable Cabinet Ministers, honourable Leader of the Opposition, honourable Members of Parliament, ladies and gentlemen; I stand before this august House to discuss innovative and bold measures taken by the Government of Fiji, through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, to mobilise the much needed climate finance for Fiji's development ambitions. The world needs US\$7.4 trillion each year through to 2030 to keep the fight against climate change alive. Of this amount, Fiji requires 0.019 percent of US\$1.4 billion per year to achieve its climate goals. Yet, despite our efforts, the gap between what we need and what we receive is widening.

On that note, I would like to thank you for edifying the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) voices in the recent Sixth World Conference of Speakers in Geneva, and highlighting our vulnerability and the reality of the climate crisis we face as SIDS.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to put it plainly, the international climate finance system is inefficient and irrational, particularly for small island nations like ours. We face complexity and bureaucracy when accessing global funds and managing bilateral flows, which only exacerbates our capacity constraints. This is an unfortunate irony, considering that the purpose of the funds to access is often to increase capacity and not strain it.

There is no one stop-shop for the support we need. Instead, we are required to gather what we can from a range of sources through small scale projects. Each project requires design, negotiation, recruitment, procurement, reporting and management oversight. We navigate not only one, but multiple lengthy processes simultaneously. This overburdens our small teams, irrespective of their capacity, and detracts from time spent on existing operational responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, unfortunately, the previous government took pride in developing national climate change plans, policies and strategies, but failed to translate them into bankable and investment-ready projects that could yield benefits for Fijians who are on the frontlines of climate change. Important questions, such as how much will it cost to protect Fiji's low lying coastal communities with phased implementation of nature-based seawalls, or how much will it cost to electrify Fiji's rural community using 24/7 renewable, clean and reliable energy, are not only just being answered. The irony is that this is happening. A solid nine years after Fiji held the COP23 presidency, and 10 years since, we became the first country to do so. Needless to say, there needs to be more practical and decisiveness in our approaches to addressing climate change at the national level.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is now clear that the current geopolitical situation has further exacerbated the challenges we face. Inter-state conflicts, changes in government policies, the rise of cost of living, rise in debt levels and increased competition for financial resources are further limiting the already inadequate support available for developing countries confronting the climate crisis.

These dynamics and practices are major impediments to Fiji's ability to pursue our resilient development goals. Therefore, we cannot continue to play the victim card and lament the lack of climate finance flowing into the country. We must be masters of our destiny and chart a bold new course to unlock climate finance through a combination of domestic and international sources, using innovative and capital-stacking approaches.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are rethinking of how we engage with development partners to unlock climate finance. We are playing to our strengths. We know that as a national agency, the Government

plays a strong role in compelling bilateral, multilateral and private finances to invest in Fiji's climate ambitions. However, we also know that Government agencies are ill-equipped to implement large scale transformative projects. This is a common problem faced by governments across the developing world, so we are forming strategic alliances with proven development partners that implement projects, on behalf of the Government of Fiji, as implementing partners for sector-specific trust funds. We are successfully piloting this approach to roll out 399 mini-grids across Fiji's rural and maritime communities through the Government of Fiji's Rural Electrification Trust Fund (FREF).

The implementation of FREF has been outsourced to the United Nations Development Programme Multi-Country Office, which has since helped mobilise FJ\$16 million to electrify 20 rural communities in the next 18 months. We have been able to do this because we quantified the need for 399 rural mini grids, costing just over FJ\$500 million over the next 10 years, which is FJ\$50 million per year.

With this number in mind, we are aggressively mobilizing our development partners to raise resources for Fiji and let our communities reap the benefits. We plan to replicate this approach in other sectors, particularly in the blue economy space. I take this opportunity to thank the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom for supporting the innovation, that is, FREF.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are thinking big, bold and ambitious when it comes to climate finance. This requires the Government to shift its focus from small scale climate projects to developing proposals for large-scale programmes that can be supported through a range of financing sources. Rather than developing single projects and concept notes for smaller initiatives and pitching them to specific donors or funds, we need to begin developing long-term programmes which can then attract the required support from a consortium of donors and funds.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that also means thinking differently and interacting differently with the sources of finance we engage in. It will require inter-ministerial collaboration to develop a multi-sector pipeline of shovel-ready investments, focussing, to a large degree, on adaptation priorities and resilience-building efforts.

We are demonstrating this by working with the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Capital Development Fund to develop a comprehensive sustainable waste management project for the Western Division of Fiji. This includes remediation of the Sigatoka, Lautoka, Ba and Rakiraki dumpsites into Material Recycling Facilities (MRFS), and the creation of an entirely new sanitary landfill in the Western Division with the MRFS, serving as collection points. This project is valued at over FJ\$100 million, with seed capital of FJ\$5 million already secured by the Government of Fiji in collaboration with the Global Fund for Coral Reefs and the Joint SDG Fund to finance remediation works at the current dumpsites. We expect additional capital contributions from a combination of bilateral and multilateral sources in the near future.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Fijian financial sector holds over FJ\$2.5 billion dollars in liquidity. This shows that the money market can provide investment in Fiji's climate programmes, provided that these investments demonstrate investor returns and the projects identified for funding are investment-ready. Therefore, the Fijian private sector can play a key role in Fiji's climate finance journey through the creation of investment vehicles such as national thematic bonds.

In 2017 and 2023, the Government of Fiji mobilised a combined FJ\$120 million from the Fijian capital market through the issuance of green and blue bonds respectively. Both were oversubscribed, and the blue bond ended up being the cheapest bond issued by the Fijian Government in recent history. These funds have been used to support climate-centric projects which would have never received private sector funding without a bond mechanism.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is already working on an exciting pipeline of projects for a possible new blue or green bond issuance in the next financial year. The pipeline is expected to leverage thematic bond financing to unlock resources from multilateral and private funds, such as the Green Climate Fund and the Bezos Fund.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in light of the recent COP29 decision on the new Collective Quantified Goals for Climate Finance, which the honourable Minister for Finance had led the Fiji delegation in COP29 last year where this goal was achieved, the clear legal clarity provided through the ICJ's Advisory Opinion which the honourable Attorney-General delivered in his statement yesterday.

In the overarching international discussion on the need to reform development financing, Fiji must ramp up its engagement with international financiers, funds and treaty negotiations. Fiji has been selected by Brazil's COP30 Presidency to join a high-level arrangement referred to as the "Circle of Finance Ministers", which has been tasked with developing recommendations and strategies for improving climate finance performance and scaling up its impact. We must continue to amplify our voice within these critical platforms and ensure that we are positioned to directly inform new strategies and approaches.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, honourable Members, the time for talk is over. We must act. I urge this august House to unite behind the whole of society approach in delivering climate action. Our efforts will be rewarded if we are bold, pragmatic and strategic in designing the activities and investments needed to counter the threats we face. If we can work together to think bigger, innovate and develop proposals that are both evidence-based and transformational, we will increase our chances of securing the resources needed to turn these nationally driven ideas into reality.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Fiji has been a global voice for climate justice. Now, we must ensure that that voice is translated into resources, action and results. My fellow Members of Parliament, let us rise to this challenge for our people, for our future and for generations to come.

HON. A.A. MAHARAJ.- Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the honourable Minister for Environment and Climate change for his Statement that he has delivered before this august House.

Mr. Speaker, I think with this statement, whether people like it or not, it goes to the former Prime Minister for being the voice at the global arena for all the small island nations - the fight that he actually brought at the global arena with regards to what small island nations are facing.

Mr. Speaker, on that same note, there is a bit contradiction on what the honourable Minister has stated today and what is in his Budget speech whereby he stated that the amount of funding given to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is sufficient, however, he stood here today and said that we need close to US\$1.4 billion every year to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Mr. Speaker, Fiji as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, despite contributing very little to greenhouse gas emissions. The nation has been proactive in developing comprehensive strategies and seeking innovative financial solutions and to address this threat.

Mr. Speaker, Fiji's approach to climate change finance is guided by its National Climate Finance Strategy (NCFS), which serves as a blueprint for attracting and directing investment towards priority projects. The NCFS synthesizes various national climate strategies, including the National Adaptation Plan and Low Emission Development Strategy to create a detailed roadmap for a climate resilient low carbon economy.

Our strategy identifies key investment priorities across 12 economic sectors for both mitigation and adaptation. The energy sector is the major source of greenhouse gas emission in Fiji, achieving 100 percent of national electricity from renewable sources by 2030 and net zero emission by 2050.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think Government is committed to this and I will give an example. I do not know whether the honourable Minister is aware of this or not, but EFL continues to increase the number of diesel generators. It has already installed a couple at Kinoya and now plans to set up some more in the Western Division.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is that diesel generators that have been brought in by EFL uses Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) which significantly produces more black carbon and other pollutants than refined diesel fuel. Sir, EFL is doing that because HFO is cheaper than refined fuel, thus ripping the customers and making heavy profits.

Honourable Minister, your Ministry should seriously investigate this matter and, please, update Parliament on the nine generators that have already been installed and the six that are yet to be installed in Buca side.

Mr. Speaker, EFL and Government should focus on renewable energy, expanding utility scales, wind and solar generation for the mainland and for Viti Levu and developing mini grids for remote outer islands and communities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government should focus on sustainable transport. Fiji was actively working to transit the transportation sector, which was another significant source of reducing emission by electrifying public transportation and government vehicles, investing in charging infrastructure for electrical vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, the next issue that the Government can look into is the development of carbon sinks. With that, we very well know that we have a Climate Act in place, so I urge resource owners not to just get involved with anyone coming from overseas but to follow the process and the structure that has been set up by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. We have had two scenario whereby resource owners in Namosi and Macuata were misled by overseas investors and some of them had to wait for years before payment was made.

Mr. Speaker, Government needs to focus on the coastal erosion protection programme, as well as look into communities that are facing imminent threats from sea level rise and coastal erosion. Planned relocation is necessary and urgent adaptation measures. More than 80 communities require relocation and I thought the honourable Minister will talk more on that as that is something that is affecting our citizens today.

Fiji Disability Policy and Implementation Plan

HON. S. KIRAN.- Mr. Speaker, the honourable Prime Minister, honourable Ministers and Assistant Ministers, honourable Leader of the Opposition, honourable Members, those who have joined us in public gallery and people of Fiji joining us online; *ni sa yadra vinaka*.

May I first offer my congratulations to our new Minister for Information, honourable Tabuya; Minister for Agriculture, honourable Tunabuna; and Assistant Minister for Agriculture, honourable Kuridrani.

I also wish to pay tribute to George Fiji Veikoso, someone who grew up in a broken family in Raiwaqa, and went on to become a legend - a lesson for many of us who work with children at risk on the potential of our young. May his grieving family and fans find peace during his sad loss.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to update this House on the work of our Ministry to support people living with disabilities in partnership with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD), Organisations for Persons with Disabilities, Disability Service Providers and Development Partners.

To provide some context on disability, Mr. Speaker, the 2017 national census found that there were 113,595 persons above the age of five years old with some degree of disability, or 14.3 percent of our population.

The incidence of disability in the population is likely to have increased since, as Fiji has one of the highest rates of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the world, in particular diabetes and stroke. Fiji has a prevalence of diabetes of 16 percent compared to a global average of 8.5 percent, leading to amputations as well as blindness.

In Colonial War Memorial Hospital (CWMH) alone, there is an amputation every eight hours, that is, three persons who could lose a limb a day, Mr. Speaker. There is also a high rate of accidents in Fiji which result in injury and disability. The population of Fiji is gradually ageing and as most disabilities occur in older age groups, this will increase the overall prevalence of disability.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to provide a comprehensive framework for disability, equity and rights and to help improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities, the Disability Policy 2008-2018 has been reviewed through consultations around the country in 2023 and 2024.

On 4th June, 2025, Cabinet endorsed the Fiji Disability Policy and its implementation plan, a key milestone for inclusive governance. The Fiji National Policy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2025-2035 is for all stakeholders who aim to improve the lives of persons with disabilities through a human rights based approach. This approach has replaced the medical model which focused on persons impairments and the charity model which saw persons with disabilities as objects of pity and charity.

The human rights based approach moves away from viewing persons with disabilities as objects of charity, medical treatment and social protection, towards viewing persons with disabilities who have rights, are capable of claiming those rights and making decisions for their lives based on their free and informed consent, as well as being active members of the society.

The engagement of persons with disabilities and their organisations is central to this policy, both in its formulation as well as in its implementation and monitoring. The principle of 'nothing about us without us' is a central value of organisations of persons with disabilities and, indeed, of this policy.

Disability service providers are affiliates of the National Council for Persons with Disability (NCPD) and they are all vital actors in this policy implementation, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The National Council of Persons with Disabilities was established under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018, and falls under the responsibility of our Ministry and coordinates organisations of persons with disabilities, disability service providers and it will ensure the implementation of the National Disability Policy.

The NCPD also coordinates advisory committees of different sectors of the Government. These committees comprise of Government Ministries and Departments, statutory bodies, CSOs and OPDs, each headed by relevant Permanent Secretary.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the revised policy takes its primary guidance from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) that the Government of Fiji ratified in 2017. The CRPD provides a comprehensive human rights based framework to ensure the protection,

promotion, respect and fulfilment of the rights of the persons with disabilities.

The revised policy ensures that disability is mainstreamed across all Government and private sector through mechanisms such as sectoral advisory committees and district level coordination. The strengthening of the existing mechanisms will also ensure that the policy is implemented and will help achieve the disability target outputs mentioned in the Fiji National Development Plan and Vision 2050 is achieved.

The revised policy has 13 priority areas, Mr. Speaker, Sir, as follows:

- (1) coordination of the policy and mainstreaming;
- (2) advocacy and awareness;
- (3) data and research;
- (4) health and wellbeing;
- (5) education and training;
- (6) employment and economic security;
- (7) promoting the rights of women, children, youth and older persons living with disabilities;
- (8) accessibility;
- (9) access to justice;
- (10) social protection and housing;
- (11) assistive devices and technology;
- (12) sports and recreation; and
- (13) disaster risk reduction and climate change.

Much of the work is continuing, not only through our Ministry, but also through collaboration with relevant Ministries, in partnership with Fiji organisations for persons with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry is working with the Australian Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), to carry out capacity assessment for the disability sector, beginning with the structural review of the NCPD. This will address capacity gaps to clearly demarcate roles between NCPD and the Ministry, and to work towards the review of the current Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018, hopefully by 2027.

I would like to thank Fiji Bureau of Statistics and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) for publishing the 2023 Fiji Disability Monograph, which has been recognised as a lead published article on disability services in the Pacific. The Ministry is using the recommendations of this published research to map the way forward in all the 13 strategic areas of the policy, to ensure credible data is used for informed policy decisions. Disability data informs service planning and delivery, and can highlight discrepancies and inequities in terms of access to services.

Government Ministries and statutory authorities, including the Land Transport Authority and the National Disaster Management Office, need data on the number of persons with disabilities in different areas so that they can provide relevant services. In addition to the need for the data at the national level, both the SDGs and the CRPD require the collection of high quality, accessible, timely and reliable data disaggregated by disability. The disability data would make such information readily accessible.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with the assistance of DFAT, there is work on building centralised data hub for disability. At present, all ministries and disability service providers collect disability data in different forms for global regional reporting requirements for their relevant Ministries or donor funded programmes. The centralised data hub will harmonise these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, social protection plays a key role in realising the rights of persons with

disabilities of all ages, and this precondition to equity and inclusion, providing an adequate standard of living, a basic level of income security, thus reducing levels of poverty and vulnerability. To demonstrate Government's commitment, the 2025-2026 National Budget includes a 5 percent increase in the Disability Allowance Scheme, at an estimated \$18.5 million. For this month's pay out – August – an estimated 14,000 disability allowance recipients will receive this increase.

Social assistance is provided to the most vulnerable communities, including women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons. A total of 107,599 beneficiaries are supported through the four main programmes, namely the Family Assistance Scheme, Care and Protection Programme, Disability Allowance Scheme and Social Pension Scheme. The highest percentage of individual support is provided to the older persons aged 65 years and above and persons with disabilities, which combined make 66 percent of the total beneficiaries.

The 2017 Census showed that disability occurs more frequently in the population from the age of 55 years, and it increases dramatically from the age of 70 years. This is also the age group where disabilities are rapidly increasing and lowers the quality of life. In addition to the above, the Transport Assistance Scheme provides an additional monthly cash top up of \$26 to all persons with disabilities who qualify for Disability Allowance Scheme and eligible Social Pension Scheme beneficiaries aged 70 years and above. This is to assist them to travel in their preferred and accessible mode of transport.

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry continues to deliver its services through an integrated and inclusive approach. We are piloting economic empowerment of the beneficiaries of social protection programmes. This includes providing business skills, training and project materials to eligible beneficiaries, either individually or in groups, co-operatives or through institutions. Sir, 34 single mothers, many with children with special needs at Koroipita Model Town in Lautoka have been beneficiaries for set up or scale up of the small enterprises. These micro-enterprises allow flexibility of caregiving, yet is developed to improve income of the beneficiaries.

Many children, after completing their education at the special schools, lack employment opportunity. We have developed a bakery and sewing centre at the National Council for Persons with Disabilities in Lautoka and are working with a similar project for Suva. Under the pilot Cash Transfer, Anticipatory Action and Parametric Insurance Programme, selected beneficiaries from both the Disability Allowance Scheme and eligible Social Pension Scheme are listed for assistance, if the payout activation triggers are met.

The Disability Disaster Risk Reduction Tool Kit is currently under review in partnership with UN Women's Resilience to Disaster Programme, Fiji Disabled People's Federation and with technical assistance from the National Disaster Resilience Management Office. The Ministry and the disability sector are looking forward to this tailor-made tool kit for people with disabilities, which should be ready by the end of this financial year.

The Fiji National Gender Policy 2014, which is due for review, and the 2022 Fiji Country Gender Assessment recognise the intersection of discrimination which can arise from being a woman and having a disability. Abuse, violence and harassment for women with disabilities are prevalent, including sexual abuse and rape.

While the Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls 2023-2028 has an inclusive approach towards women with disabilities, we need the whole of community approach to protect our women and girls living with disability from abuse and sexual violence.

Mr. Speaker, our Ministry also coordinates 18 District Committees on Disability that operate throughout Fiji and brings together government ministries and other stakeholders to discuss matters

pertaining to disability. This allows for the voices to be heard from the districts and services to be taken all the way to the grassroots.

The Coalition Government is committed to policy implementation for active participation, economic empowerment, independence and social inclusion of all people living with disabilities. We will continue to empower persons with disabilities through the realization of the human rights and the creation of an equal, peaceful, barrier free and inclusive society for all.

HON. V. LAL.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise today to contribute to the discussion on the Ministerial Statement by the honourable Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection regarding the Fiji Disability Policy and its implementation plan. I want to first commend the honourable Minister for her statement and for bringing this vital topic to the floor of Parliament. It is a sign of a maturing democracy where we can openly discuss the challenges and aspirations of our most vulnerable citizens.

We, on this side of the House, believe that the rights of persons with disabilities are not a matter of charity, but a fundamental issue of human rights and dignity. We fully endorse the Government's stated commitment to this cause, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2017, and the subsequent passing of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act in 2018 were significant milestones that we as a nation should be proud of. They laid a strong legal foundation for a more inclusive Fiji.

However, Mr. Speaker, it is one thing to have a policy on paper and quite another to see it translate into a meaningful, tangible reality for our people. A policy without effective implementation is little more than a promise unfulfilled. The honourable Minister's statement speaks of progress and achievements, and we must scrutinise these claims with the data available to us.

Let us be frank, Mr. Speaker, about the most glaring challenge - economic empowerment. The true measure of an inclusive society is not just the number of training programmes we have, but the number of citizens who, as a result of these programmes are gainfully and meaningfully employed. The latest data paints a sobering picture. The 2023 disability statistics monograph from the Pacific Community tells us that a staggering 27 percent of people with disabilities aged 15 and over are economically active. Let that number sink in. Sir, 73 percent of our fellow citizens are not participating in the economy. This is a powerful indictment of our collective failure to move from policy to practice.

The honourable Minister rightly highlighted vocational training and awareness programmes. We applaud the new initiatives such as the Job Discovery Programme, but we must ask the critical question - what happens after the training is complete? Are these individuals finding real, sustainable jobs that allow them to live independently and contribute to their families and our economy or are they simply being prepared for jobs that do not exist, or for workplaces that are not ready to accommodate them?

We heard about the tax reductions for companies that employ persons with disabilities. This is a positive step. However, can the Minister provide this House with a full and transparent report on the success of this incentive? How many companies have taken it up, and how many new full time jobs have been created as a direct result? Without this data, we cannot assess its effectiveness.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, true empowerment means creating job creators, not just job seekers. We need to ensure that government schemes like the Young Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) are fully accessible and tailored to the unique needs of aspiring business owners with disabilities. Are we providing dedicated grants, accessible mentorship, and support networks to help them turn their ideas into successful enterprises?

Furthermore, we cannot ignore the physical and social barriers that persist. The law requires reasonable accommodation, but how is this being enforced? Many workplaces, both public and private,

remain physically inaccessible. There is a deeply ingrained attitudinal barrier, a form of prejudice that sees disability as an inability rather than a different way of being. This discrimination limits opportunities from the classroom to the boardroom. I urge the honourable Minister to make public the results of any accessibility audits conducted on public buildings and government ministries, as transparency is key to accountability.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must raise the fundamental principle that guides all our work on this issue -Nothing About Us Without Us. The Fiji Disabled People's Federation and its member organisations are not just partners, they are the experts on their own lived experiences. It is imperative that they are not just consulted but are equal partners in the design, implementation, and evaluation of every policy programme.

In closing, we welcome the Minister's Statement as a reaffirmation of the Government's commitment, but we must insist that this commitment is measured not by the rhetoric we hear in this House, but by the concrete results and the real change we see in the lives of our citizens with disabilities. Let us move beyond good intentions and policy documents and into a future where every Fijian, regardless of ability, has the equal opportunity to work, thrive, and contribute to our beloved nation.

Update on the Ministry of Information

HON. L.D. TABUYA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, the honourable Prime Minister, honourable Leader of the Opposition, honourable Deputy Prime Ministers, honourable Ministers, honourable Assistant Ministers and Members of Parliament. *Yadra vinaka, namaste!*

I rise today not just with pride, but with purpose. The honour of returning to Cabinet as Minister for Information is not lost on me. It comes with humility, with reflection, and with an unshakable commitment to serve. If I speak with more clarity today, it is because of what has been learnt and what it means to be misinterpreted. If I seem more determined, it is because I know what it means to be given a second chance - not just by the honourable Prime Minister, by our people. Let me get this out of the way early.

What happened last year was personal. It became public. It was not political, but its consequences were. I do not hide from it. But I do not carry it like a wound. I carry it like a lesson, a lesson in humility and in what it means to hold public trust. Regardless of its legal implications, that lesson now guides everything that I do.

This portfolio that I have been blessed to be given may not build roads, it may not build hospitals but it builds something just as essential, that is public trust. We do not cut ribbons but we connect our citizens to what those ribbons stand for. We are the Ministry that makes sure the people of Fiji know what their government is doing, why it matters, and how to be a part of it.

Now, I have read the jokes on social media and I quote, "Oh, so you are the Minister for *Facebook* posts now?" Or my favourite, "The Minister for likes and shares." To that, I say, "Yes, I am proud of it because the post you scroll past may be the one that tells you, your daughter's school is reopening, or where the nearest health clinic is, or how to get disaster relief." If it takes *TikTok* to get that message across, we dance, Mr. Speaker. We will do the work and will make sure people know about it.

Information, Mr. Speaker, is a lifeblood of a healthy democracy. As we have seen at the Fiji Media Association town halls in Savusavu and Labasa - through it, people hold us accountable, through it they participate meaningfully in the life of the nation. When information flows freely, democracy deepens. When it is delayed or distorted, democracy suffers. That is why, I am beginning my tenure, it is a simple and powerful commitment. This Ministry will champion facts, truth and we will do so plainly,

promptly and persistently.

People do not want white papers. They want straight answers. They want to know when will the next water cut be? Where the cyclone shelters are? What the Government budget means for their families? They want that in simple *English*, *iTaukei* or *Hindustani* or if we must in diagrams, if we have to. This Ministry will speak like people speak. We are not trying to impress. We are just trying to inform.

To my fellow Ministers, your Media Liaison Officers are not afterthoughts. They are your front liners. They understand your process and priorities. For the Ministry of Information, they are our extended support systems. We will invite them into our meetings, we will let them help us shape your narrative before the critics may shape it for you.

Starting this quarter, Mr. Speaker, will be asking every Ministry to submit a one page communication plan. What are you doing? Who needs to know? How will you tell them?

We are also building a central digital dashboard, a real time calendar that tracks Government announcements, prevents overlaps and coordinates messaging because, yes, sometimes it does feel like every Ministry picked the same Friday to make an announcement. We will coordinate. We will plan better and we will respect the audience short attention span.

I am deeply encouraged by the honourable Deputy Prime Minister Kamikamica's announcement and plans this morning to connect the unconnected in our remote, rural and maritime areas. This will ensure the Government's effort to bridge the digital divide and the right of our people to factual and prompt information.

By January 2026, we will re-launch our Government's website, not as a static archive but as a live platform for policy, programmes, services and feedback. It will be mobile friendly. It will be accessible for persons with disabilities. It will speak in all our three official languages and it will be updated regularly because information is a living thing. It is time we stopped expecting Fijians to hunt down Government updates like their friends from high school. They should find what they need in seconds, not search through PDFs from 2018.

In crisis communication, Mr. Speaker, it is lifesaving work. We have seen what happens when there is silence during disaster or worse confusion. To this day, I am still not sure why everyone ran for toilet paper during COVID, but this Ministry will introduce a National Crisis Communications Protocol. This will outline, who speaks, on what platform, in which language and how quickly?

We will train for it and we will drill it. When the time comes, we will deliver calmly and through clarity. Our people should never be left wondering why the siren is wailing and why there is a government official talking about seismic shocks on TV and before the realisation of what is happening hits them, the big waves or the tidal waves hit them first. They should be told plainly, promptly and persistently.

Digitising our memory, Mr. Speaker, the National Archives of Fiji must not be a warehouse of dust. It must be a library of living memory. By December 2025, we will complete the digitisation of Indian Indenture records. By the end of 2026, we will digitise up to 50 percent of our National Historic Collections, making them available to students, researchers and every curious citizen. I want a child in Taveuni, Mr. Speaker, to be able to research for their great great grandfather's immigration record from a phone. I want a university student in Lautoka to write a thesis without having to travel to Suva. That is how we build the foundations of history, by connecting people with their ancestors at the touch of a button.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of our strategic direction, I would like to tie the vision of the Ministry's strategic plan to the National Development Plan:

- Nation-building - we will launch a civic media fellowship to train 50 young journalists and digital creators by the end of 2026;
- Equitable access - we will be deploying digital information kiosks to all government service centres;
- Responsive information - we need to pilot and use AI-powered SMS alerts for rural and maritime areas;
- Partnerships - we need to institutionalise our media liaison officer network, and this will be co-chaired with the civil society and media leaders;
- Records access - we also need to look at building regional archive centres in Lautoka and Labasa, and a knowledge society, that is to launch an open government portal with raw data sets and policy reports by the middle of next year.

Mr. Speaker, these are not buzzwords. These are blueprints for the Ministry. We need to reclaim the public broadcaster space. Now public funds, I believe to the tune of about \$11 million, comes with public responsibility. Every public service broadcast grant will now be tied to measurable public outcomes. We will require:

- (1) weekly civic education programmes;
- (2) local language youth debates;
- (3) balanced rural coverage; and
- (4) transparent reporting on viewer and listener reach.

We are not funding fluff, Mr. Speaker. We are funding facts and fairness and in the people's language always. I will say this again because it matters. You go to the market in Savusavu and you ask someone, "what do they think of honourable Deputy Prime Minister Prasad's new tax reform?" They will not reply, well, I believe it aligns with our macroeconomic recalibration strategy. They are going to say, "well, how does this help me pay for my *dinau* at the corner store?" That is the language we must use. That is the clarity we must aim for.

In fighting disinformation, Mr. Speaker, this Ministry will launch a Rapid Response Unit to tackle misinformation, especially during elections, during disasters and health emergencies. We will run media literacy programmes in secondary schools. These are not just for the students, but also for teachers, for parents and the curious citizen because an informed public is a nation's best defence against chaos. Next month, Mr. Speaker, and hopefully in partnership with the Fiji Media Association, we will carry on with the town hall meetings, partnering with the Ministry of Information.

On a personal note, I know what it is like to be judged. I know what it means to fall. But I also know what it means to stand back up, not because you forget what happened, but because you remember why you serve.

Mr. Speaker, truth builds a nation. This Ministry is committed not just to managing narratives, but for stating facts, putting it out in a way that our people will understand. Let every Fijian, whether it is a farmer in Bua, or whether it is a student in Nadi, or whether it is someone who lives in my village in Tiliva, Nakasaleka, Kadavu, they should be able to say, "my Government spoke to me, clearly, honestly, in my language", and of course in Ra as well, in Nalawa.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is the Ministry I hope to build, that is the promise that our Ministry makes, and now the work begins.

HON. J. USAMATE.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the honourable Minister for her first Ministerial Statement in the new portfolio that she has been assigned to. I congratulate her also on her appointment as a fellow Wakanisila-an.

I think access to information, Sir, is a constitutional right, and information is very important because it empowers, and when you have the wrong information, it disempowers or weakens you. So, it is absolutely critical for all entities to be able to do this. I think also, as has been highlighted, one of the things that I have liked from the Statement so far is, talking about the focus on truth. I think that is very important because too many times in this House we hear a spin.

We heard, for instance, yesterday when we were talking about provincial councils, their blame was attributed to the previous government, whereas, in fact, that problem had been existing from the 80s, and 90s, begun the cleaning up from 2003 and bringing it up to 2011 till today. It is important to have the actual truth out there, not just a spin.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- Hogwash!

HON. J. USAMATE.- See, that is more untruth, that kind of statement, based on absolutely nothing, just expunging hot air.

This is very important for us to be able to build that truth, to correct inaccuracies in social media and also in the general media. You must ensure balanced reporting. Government needs to report what it has done and what it has not done, what it also has not been able to do, because when you do that, you achieve absolute transparency.

I was hoping to listen to the vision. If she had talked about that, I did not really get to it but I heard about a lot of the old programmes that were there, a lot of them are very good - rapid response unit to correct misinformation, the digitisation of records at the archives and so forth. These are all very good records, Sir. Also, information is not only in terms of what you say, what you perceive; information is also done to be witnessed in what you do.

One thing that came to mind, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and one of the things that we see, this is no personal attack on honourable Tabuya, but earlier in March of this year, the honourable Prime Minister had said that he would not be appointing honourable Tabuya back to Cabinet. Now he has flip-flopped. I take the second chance and all that, but I think this flip-flopping is a hallmark of this Government. Says one thing one day and does another thing the next day.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. J. USAMATE.- You will see this all throughout what his done.

The other aspect that we would like to see also, this Ministry is a very small one. We already have an Assistant Minister with 40 staff. Why does it have to have a Minister and an Assistant Minister?

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- Hogwash!

HON. J. USAMATE.- There is more of that hogwash coming from there.

One of the things that we have seen so far, we are one of the countries that has the most Ministers for the ratio of staff. We did some quick analysis and in terms of some countries around the world, for each of their Ministers, each member of the population pays around \$1.15, \$0.13. Here in Fiji, we are 100 times, 200 times that amount of money. It shows to me, Mr. Speaker, Sir, maybe the calibre of Ministers

here is such that they do not have the capacity to be able to do the portfolios, that is why they have to have so many. You know what happens, Sir, when you have Ministers with very small portfolios, they start doing the job of the Permanent Secretaries and the Directors, because they do not have much to do.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know as we move forward, we have other people who are capable. Honourable Aliko Bia, someone who was a journalist, information; honourable Lenora Qereqeretabua, they could have also been chosen. Not to denigrate my friend honourable Tabuya, I am just saying, these are some of the things that we need to consider. I hope that all of this is not just political play for the future. However, that aside, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the honourable Minister.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. J. USAMATE.- I am not attacking her, I am attacking issues. You have got to learn to distinguish between personal attacks and attacking issue. I am talking about the issues at play here, what I see in this Government.

Information is very important and I wish the Ministry very well. You have good people around you so that you can get truth. Remember this, the truth that you would like to express and the ones you want to hide, put the truth out there, so that the people of this country really know what is going on, what is happening well according to Government's plans and what the Government is not delivering. All the best honourable Minister in the years ahead.

MR. SPEAKER.- If I may add my bit, I am not a social media creature, but with the Minister's enthusiasm to closely involve the Ministries with the people through the digital process, I am reminded of being told in our regional speakers gathering last month in Nauru by one of the more advanced and sophisticated speakers from our midst, that he has an official Facebook page dedicated directly to the people and involving the public and his office. The people are able to ask questions directly to him. I was wondering if I were to follow that example, but that is for another day.

QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

Plans to Diversify Into Ethanol Production (Question No. 96/2025)

HON. V. PILLAY asked the Government, upon notice:

Can the honourable Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry update Parliament on plans by FSC to diversify into ethanol production as previously announced?

HON. C.J. SINGH.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to answer the question raised by honourable Pillay regarding plans to diversify into ethanol production. If the honourable Member had listened carefully to my Budget speech on 15th July, 2025, he would have found the answer to this very question.

(Honourable Member interjects)

HON. C.J. SINGH.- It is coming, it is coming! When the Rakiraki Mill was dismantled, why were you sleeping? You are the ones who destructed the industry.

I will quote from my Budget speech on 15th July, 2025, on Page 1164 of the *Uncorrected Daily Hansard*, and I quote:

“Our immediate priority is to stabilise and boost sugar production before we move towards product diversification. While ethanol is sustainable and aviation fuel remains on the table, it is crucial that we first strengthen our production base to ensure long term viability.”

So there you have it. Our top priority is production recovery, starting from the most critical input – the sugarcane stalks.

As I had clearly stated in my Budget address, we have set up the year-on-year target to increase sugarcane production by 200,000 tonnes. This growth is essential not only to achieve breakeven thresholds, but both at the scalable farm level within current factory capacities, to ensure that any future diversification efforts are grounded with economic viability.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the current production level, it is simply not viable to diversify into ethanol or any other alternative product. The base volume of cane needed to sustain...

HON. P.D. KUMAR.- We know that.

HON. C.J. SINGH.- When you knew it, why could you not do it? You are the one whom I have told several times when the Rakiraki Mill was being butchered, you people were sleeping.

HON. J. USAMATE.- Tell the truth!

HON. C.J. SINGH.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am telling the truth. You listen!

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the current production level, it is not simply viable to diversify ethanol or any other alternative product. The volume of cane needed to sustain both the traditional sugar production and ethanol output is simultaneously not there yet.

That being said, we are not ignoring possibilities. A feasibility study has already been undertaken by the Asian Development Bank in partnership with Fiji Airways and Fiji Sugar Corporation to explore the production of ethanol for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). It affirms that there is scope for ethanol and SAF production in Fiji, but only if we build a strong production base.

Let me be clear - it is the Government's priority is to fix the foundation. First, land tenure, labour shortages, mill infrastructure and farmer confidence - those are the real issues holding back production. Once we address those and if we can achieve the projected annual increase of cane yield, then we will be in a position to invest in product diversification.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I make no promises today, but what I can say is this, if the industry consistently achieves 200,000 tonnes increase per year starting this year, then by the third year, we expect to begin actively progressing the ethanol initiative, experts to begin studies and, if possible, move into the infrastructure setup for ethanol and potentially SAF production.

The long-term vision is to position the Fiji sugar industry in such a way that we can pivot flexibility between raw sugar, refined sugar, ethanol and sustainable aviation fuel, depending on the global demand and price signals. This will help maximise returns for our farmers and strengthen Fiji's resilience in the global commodities market.

Let me also consider the economic reality. While ethanol prices may currently be higher than those of the raw sugar, the yield from sugarcane does not offer a significant advantage for ethanol production. On average, one tonne of cane yields approximately 8,200 kilogrammes of raw sugar, or about 70 litres of ethanol. Furthermore, ethanol prices, particularly as fuel remains highly volatile so, despite the apparent price differences, the financial benefit becomes marginal when the numbers are fully assessed.

As the whole world accelerates towards cleaner and more sustainable fuels, we cannot afford to be left behind. The sugar industry must be ready to see its future opportunities. But let us be clear that readiness starts with one non-negotiable priority - more sugarcane is to be on the ground. Without it, there is no ethanol, no diversification and no future profit.

MR. SPEAKER.- Honourable Members, we have time for few questions, but let me remind you that the questions are supplementary questions and that means the questions are linked directly to the principal question and the theme. That is the qualification for questions.

HON. F.S KOYA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the honourable Minister for his answer. I know that he mentioned that there is a feasibility study that has actually occurred or is occurring with respect to the alternative industries, meaning ethanol, et cetera. Have you been able to ascertain the cost of producing that ethanol or is it part and parcel of the current machinery that we will be able to produce ethanol or will it require a separate mill to do that?

HON. C.J. SINGH.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, generally, ethanol plants are attached to the main sugar mill. Of course, currently, a study has been conducted and we will table that to the Joint Parliamentary Committee once we sit and, perhaps, that will address that issue.

HON. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the honourable Minister for the explanation that he has provided. The honourable Minister indicated that to produce ethanol, there is a need to increase production by about 200,000 tonnes. If I remember correctly that that was what you stated. I wanted to ask, these 200,000 tonnes, are you looking at the productive farms that exist now, or are you going to move into areas that have not been cultivated for sugarcane?

HON. C.J. SINGH.- I was saying that the 200,000 tonnes of cane, we are looking at targeting increasing biannually. So, the idea is to increase the full tonnage to around 3.5 million tonnes to make the ethanol industry viable.

Currently, to just achieve a break-even threshold, we need to produce about 1.75 million tonnes of cane. We are currently hovering at about 1.3 million tonnes and this year we are expecting 1.5 million tonnes. So, as we go along in the next five to seven years, that is the whole thing but coming to your second question, we have to increase the hectares and acreage of farming. We are currently talking to some big investors who are willing to come in and do commercial farming, more so, in the Rakiraki area and then of course, later on putting up a mill there.

Fiji-Solomon Islands Cooperation in Trade and Climate Resilience
(Question No. 97/2025)

HON. J.R. VOCEA asked the Government, upon notice:

Can the honourable Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises update Parliament on the key initiatives planned to strengthen the Fiji-Solomon Islands cooperation in trade, security and climate resilience?

HON. S.L. RABUKA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the honourable Vocea for his question. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to go back a few years while you were Fiji's High Commissioner, at that time Ambassador, to the United Kingdom. When you called and asked me if I could be available to be the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Peace in the Solomon Islands. I remember I was at a Provincial Council meeting in Yaroi in Savusavu at that time, but I have maintained close interests on the affairs of the Solomon Islands since then.

Our association goes further back. We share an enduring relationship that is rooted in our shared Melanesian heritage, our mutual respect, and a commitment to advance our shared vision for a resilient and peaceful Pacific region. We have a long history, Mr. Speaker, Sir, of strong people-to-people links, dating back to when the Fijian Methodist missionaries were called to go to Solomon Islands with the European missionaries in Fiji at the time, to spread the good news and even during the Second World War when our battalions participated in the Pacific Campaign, particularly in the Solomon Islands.

We have the late Sefanaia Sukanaivalu buried now in an area known as Papua New Guinea, but at that time it was known as part of the Solomons. We also had the late Reverend Usaia Sotutu of Bua, who was decorated as a scout during the war. Mr. Speaker, Sir, our common diplomatic relations with the Solomon Islands was established on 28th July, 1978, not long after the Solomon Islands achieved independence. Since then, we have worked together to grow the relationship across many, many sectors. Symbolic of this, Fiji has set aside a piece of land for the Solomon Islands to build their chancery, for which a soft lunch was recently held in Muanikau on the margins of the MSG Leaders Meeting held here in Suva a while ago.

In the maritime boundary negotiations, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in early July this year, Fiji deposited three Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) claims to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) - a body established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to review submissions from coastal States regarding the outer limits of their continental shelf beyond the 200 nautical miles.

Two of the three submissions, Mr. Speaker, Sir, covered the –

- (1) North Fiji Basin, jointly submitted by Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu; and
- (2) Melanesian Border Plateau, jointly submitted by Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

This is a major achievement because it reflects years of scientific co-operation, legal diligence and the collective vision of the three Melanesian countries to secure and preserve our shared ocean space for future generations.

The Maritime Affairs Coordinating Committee (MACC), chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Fiji, with members including the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, Solicitor-General's Office and Fiji's Hydrographic Services under the Republic of Fiji Navy, have been working on Fiji's ECS claims since 2006. This submission was made possible through significant technical support from the Pacific Community, Geoscience Australia, the University of Sydney, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and others.

On trade, Mr. Speaker, Sir, Fiji enjoys a healthy trade relationship with the Solomon Islands under two regional trade agreements - the Melanesian Spearhead Group Trade Agreement (MSGTA) and the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA). An MSG meeting in the 1990s was held on my estate in Vanua Levu, where we consolidated these Trade Agreement and it was called initially the Valavala Agreement.

In 2024, Fiji achieved one of the highest total export earnings from the Solomon Islands with a value of \$25.4 million, almost \$25.5 million. Fiji's top export into the Solomon Islands in 2024 was biscuits at \$3.69 million, followed closely by sausages and similar meat products - \$3.38 million, and electric conductors - \$2.05 million.

These figures, Mr. Speaker, Sir, reflect a strong demand across both, food and non-food sectors, supporting household consumption, infrastructure and retail needs in the Solomon Islands. While the balance of trade is in Fiji's favour, there remains opportunities for increased trade, and we will continue to work towards reducing trade barriers and encourage business-to-business collaboration.

On security, Mr. Speaker, Fiji has long supported the Solomon Islands in their nation-building efforts. Fiji's tradesmen and administrators were deployed in the 1960s for the development of Honiara. One of those pioneers was the late Mr. Balekana, who also composed the Solomon Islands' national anthem.

Our security personnel have been deployed to the Solomon Islands to assist them in their times of need. In 2003, a contingent was deployed as part of the Regional Assistance Mission that finally concluded its work a few years ago. You will also recall, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) came out of my report as a Special Envoy to the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth for Peace in the Solomons.

More recently, in 2024, during the national elections, Fiji responded to their call for support, and we will continue that. We are working on a draft agreement between Fiji and the Solomons, and we will ensure ease of movement if there is a need for future deployment, and the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs being the lead in those discussions.

Looking ahead, Mr. Speaker, Sir, Solomon Islands is preparing to host the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in September. One of the key items of discussion will be the Ocean of Peace Declaration, and I look forward to discussing this further with the forum.

Climate resilience, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is a cornerstone of regional cooperation in the Pacific, driven by the shared vulnerability of the Pacific Island Countries to the impacts of climate change. Collaboration is anchored in the Pacific collective approach, guided by regional frameworks and institutions that promote solidarity, resource-sharing and coordinated action. This is closely related to our cooperation in the ocean space and the collaborative work on climate resilience.

Fiji and the Solomon Islands have supported each other's climate positions at regional and global forum, including during COP negotiations and through the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). We collaborate on regional initiatives as active participants in the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), which emphasises integrated approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. Fiji has been a strong advocate and implementer of the FRDP, providing models as peer learning and peer learning opportunities.

There is also a number of green climate fund projects that Fiji and the Solomons are part of and will enhance access to climate finance, implement locally-led adaptation solutions, and establish impact-based early warning systems to reduce vulnerability and build resilience to climate change and extreme weather events. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

HON. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the honourable Prime Minister for the answers he has given. I wanted to touch on trade. Honourable Prime Minister, my discussions with the honourable Minister for Fisheries on PAFCO, she had briefed me on an approach to go to Kiribati and Tuvalu, as they have more fish resources for provision of those to PAFCO. I know that

in Papua New Guinea, there is a lot of value-adding and canning that is being done now, however, in thinking about the resources that are available in the Solomons, under the MSG, would you consider allowing them to get tuna from there and provide it to PAFCO in Levuka?

HON. S.L. RABUKA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, the honourable Deputy Prime Minister has been whispering to me that development in the trade agreements with other countries are ongoing and discussions are ongoing, which may allow us to buy from other sources, repack in Fiji for onward transmission. You will know that SolTuna is a very common brand and a very popular brand in the Pacific, which indicates that they have a good area of catchment where they source their tuna from. Yes, there is discussion in those areas, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER.- Honourable Members, we will resume Questions after lunch. At this point, we will suspend proceedings and Parliament will resume at 2.30 p.m.

The Parliament adjourned at 12.35 p.m.

The Parliament resumed at 2.38 p.m.

Collaboration with France - Drug Trafficking and Transnational Crime
(Question No. 99/2025)

HON. I.S. VANAWALU asked the Government, upon notice:

Can the honourable Minister for Policing update Parliament on the future collaboration with France in strengthening efforts against drug trafficking and transnational crime?

HON. I. NAIVALURUA. - Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank honourable Vanawalu for his question - a very relevant question to our fight against drugs in Fiji and the support network we are building to harden our response in tackling transnational crime.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, by way of background, the Pacific region is increasingly becoming a target for transnational criminal organisations, serving as a key transit hub for illicit activities such as drug trafficking, human smuggling and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Criminal syndicates exploit our vast maritime domain, porous borders, and limited law enforcement resources to move illicit commodities across the region and beyond. These ongoing threats cannot be tackled in isolation. While these challenges are immense, our response is growing in strength to be resolute, coordinated and proactive. Fiji is not alone in these efforts. Our regional partners face similar challenges, and it is through co-operation and collaboration that we will develop comprehensive responses to transnational crime.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for over 50 years, Fiji has shared longstanding diplomatic relations with France, including law enforcement cooperation since we gained our independence. Fiji's relations with France on crucial security matters is deepening, bringing technical expertise, capacity building and coordinated law enforcement efforts to the forefront of Fiji's fight against drug trafficking and transnational crime.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, France, like Fiji, faces an increasing trend in illicit drug related violence, trafficking and transnational crime. The use and distribution of cocaine, which has become the most sought-after drug in Europe, has led to the exploitation of their young people, placing a heavy burden on their communities.

Evidence of this was recently seen in the seizure of 40 tonnes worth of cocaine that was seized in 2024 by the French authorities. This reality is further perpetuated with French foreign territories closer to home with us being caught up in illicit drug trade. In July this year, New Caledonia reported a record 2.5 tonnes of cocaine that was seized of a Panama-flagged vessel bound for Australia.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our French partners understand that it takes collaboration to grow and develop effective mechanisms and practical avenues that will assist in our fight against drug trafficking and transnational crime, not just in Fiji, but throughout the Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year, the Commander of the French Armed Forces in New Caledonia, General Yann Latil, visited the Fiji Navy and talked about opportunities for co-operation to harden border security. In June this year, I met the Ambassador of France, Her Excellency Julie Le Saos, at our Ministry and we had a very fruitful meeting and discussion. Our discussion ranged from issues of the general security within our territories and within our region, to the specific issues of transnational crime and drugs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, France has pledged their support in our fight against drug trafficking and related crimes. Their assistance includes enhanced operational and technical cooperation. The collaboration will involve sharing expertise and resources to improve Fiji's ability to combat drug-related issues, especially

specialised training offered to the Fiji Police and our Counter-Narcotics Bureau Unit. This partnership is part of the broader effort to strengthen Pacific regional security and address the global challenges of drug-related issues.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the coming months, my Ministry will hasten the process of securing and processing this particular relationship to secure a formal co-operation with France. This will take a few months, but we are assured of the French Government's support in this particular case. We do not have a formal arrangement at this point, but we are working towards establishing that.

Proactive Steps to Prevent Religious Sacrilege
(Question No. 100/2025)

HON. J. USAMATE asked the Government, upon notice:

Can the honourable Minister for Policing inform Parliament on the proactive steps being undertaken by the Police to prevent a recurrence of incidents such as the recent religious sacrilege in Samabula?

HON. I. NAIVALURUA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank honourable Usamate for this important question and for the opportunity to address this august House and the nation on the recent religious sacrilege. It allows us to reaffirm our firm position and outline the proactive measures being taken by the Fiji Police to prevent such incidents from reoccurring.

The actions of the perpetrator were rightly condemned and widely reported. Our honourable Prime Minister addressed the matter in a clear and forthright manner, condemning the attacks on sacred spaces and reaffirming our Government's commitment to uphold respect and harmony in our multi-religious and multiethnic society.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our strength as a nation lies in our ability to embrace our differences, our distinct identities, histories and religious faiths, while celebrating one another's festival and values with warmth and goodwill. It is through this shared diversity that we build a nation where everyone belongs and contributes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we must agree that it is a most regrettable and unfortunate incident. We must also agree to let the law take its own course. As the Minister responsible for policing, I acknowledge the profound importance of religious freedom and tolerance, and I reaffirm our commitment to protecting all places of worship as part of our national identity and shared peace.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on proactive steps taken by the police, the Fiji Police Force has taken a series of proactive and strategic steps to prevent any recurrence of such sacrilegious acts. We are actively strengthening partnerships with religious leaders, community organisations and civil society actors to promote community vigilance and mutual respect. Together, we are developing joint security protocols, conducting public awareness programmes, and fostering a shared commitment to the protection of all sacred spaces.

To this, I mean, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have gone to the extent of asking this particular place to review their security plans, and if they can adopt, and even form security committees in the various communities, and have a template for the other faith-based organisations, including this particular one. We are sending a clear and firm message - sacred spaces across all faiths must be protected.

In line with this, the Fiji Police Force is working closely with Hindu religious leaders to co-design customised security plans aligned with our standard operating procedures. This template will be adopted

and made available to all religious communities. Where appropriate, we have increased police patrols, particularly around key places of worship, and this will continue during upcoming significant religious festivals.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Community Policing Division is deeply engaged with youth groups, schools and communities. For example, during the Cyber Safety Pasifika Roadshow, awareness sessions were conducted with secondary school students to educate them on religious tolerance and responsible conduct in the digital space, especially refraining from religious slurs and inflammatory posts online.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Fiji Police Force's Intelligence and Surveillance Unit is actively monitoring both online and offline activity to identify any signs of extremism or religious intolerance that could lead to sacrilegious acts. This enables timely interventions and prevention.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, ongoing training for police personnel has also been enhanced. There is now greater emphasis on cultural and religious sensitivity, as well as community policing principles.

Recently, officers participated in a week-long Blue Light Training of Trainers Workshop, which equipped them to lead programmes targeting potential offenders and victims and to identify early warning signs of religious tensions in communities.

I will end, Mr. Speaker, Sir, with an emphasis on collective responsibility. While the Fiji Police Force holds the primary mandate for security, protecting our places of worship is a shared responsibility. I say that again, protecting our places of worship is a shared responsibility. Each of us, whether Muslim, Hindu, Christian or another faith, has a duty to look out for our neighbour.

Our religious leaders and congregations must continue to build bridges within their communities, uniting people across backgrounds and encourage collaborations that enhance community safety. By working together Mr. Speaker, Sir, by being alert and compassionate neighbours, we build a shield of protection over our homes, our communities, and our places of worship. This is how we deter those who seek to harm or divide. This is how we uphold the dignity, peace, and sanctity of all our faiths in our beloved nation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you.

HON. J. USAMATE.- I thank the honourable Minister for his reply to the question. One of the issues that he raised was the issue of religious intolerance. One of the things that I have noticed, and I am not sure whether it affected that particular case, but one of the undercurrents that I am seeing across Fiji now when you go into social media is the heightened sense of a lot of ethnic and religious vilification.

One of the things that we see in social media is a sort of syncretism between different sorts of ideologies. We are talking about religious ideologies and nationalism, and ethnic ideologies. Given that an undercurrent, that can be leading to this sort of action by certain parties. I know it is probably outside the ambit of the Police, perhaps together with the Online Safety Commission, is there any thought about addressing that particular issue because it is running rampant in social media?

HON. I. NAIVALURUA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a valid point raised by honorable Usamate, but as I have emphasised in the later part of my response, it is really about our ability as a nation, as a community, and within this august House to be able to say right things. The language that we use, the signals that we send and how we relate with our communities are equally important as to what the honorable Member has mentioned.

From the side of the police, we are endeavouring and working hard to make sure in one of our major roles of the police is the prevention aspect of police work - enforcing law and preventing the commissioning of it and, that is, where we need to be very watchful, vigilant and alert, if there are

indicators.

This is what we have at this point. We have a landscape ahead of us before we head out to the election. That is another different period, and this is what I am trying to say, that we need to be mature. We need to exercise a lot of wisdom and maturity in whatever we say whether in the community and in our responses to issues. That is equally important to what we have heard from the honorable Member this afternoon.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask honourable Minister, since he has made a very important point that the religious organisations need to have their own security system, is there any provision for cost sharing in terms of keeping the security? Why I am saying this, is because not only for the religious groups, it also promotes tourism. One example I can give is the national temple in Nadi. Is there any provision for cost sharing, since you have made it very clear that religious organisations must have their security system?

HON. I. NAIVALURUA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, that point is noted. However, to be clear to the honourable Member, the Police Force does not have funding provisions for it, but the idea of taking responsibility is something that needs to be done. We are no longer in what we call five years ago, a landscape that we went through. The landscape today is totally different. The way we look after our home is also the same way that we should look after places like schools and places of worship, and I am just asking that we take greater responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I may say this, I have gone to the point of discussing with officials from that particular temple to design and even come up with a security plan, even to have a security committee which I alluded to earlier, and to start thinking in manner and in that way. That is the first stage of securing your home, your community, or even a faith-based place.

Strategic Master Plan and Concept Master Plan
(Question No. 101/2025)

HON. P.K. RAVUNAWA asked the Government, upon notice:

Can the honourable Minister for Housing and Local Government update Parliament on the Strategic Master Plan for Viti Levu and Concept Master Plan for greater Suva, Nadi and Lautoka?

HON. M.K. NALUMISA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the honourable member for his question. At its heart, the Strategic Master plan for Viti Levu and the Concept Master Plan for greater Suva, Nadi and Lautoka present a bold and necessary shift from fragmented development to coordinated long-term, future-focused planning that meets the demand of a growing population, climate resilience, as well as modern infrastructure systems.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the project was initiated by the former Government in 2017 and formalised in 2018 through an agreement with the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise. It was described at the time as visionary, and it had the potential. But what followed was not implementation nor reform, but five years of inaction.

Despite spending approximately US\$1.5 million, equivalent to FJ\$3.5 million in public funds, no final presentation was made to Cabinet. There was no inter-agency framework and no roadmap for delivery. The master plans were produced, and nothing further was done.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this was not due to lack of technical work or funding, it was a failure of political will. The plans were not embedded into national priorities or coordinated across Ministries. That is where the People's Coalition Government has fundamentally changed course.

In January 2023, the oversight of the Department of Town and Country Planning was restored to the Ministry of Local Government, its rightful institutional home. A comprehensive technical review was undertaken and by September 2024, all deliverables of the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise were received, and the Strategic Master Plan and Concept Master Plan were submitted to Cabinet. Unlike our predecessors, we did not stop here.

The Cabinet Steering Committee was established to review the deliverables. Now, a dedicated Cabinet subcommittee, which I will chair, has been formed to oversee and drive the implementation of the Master Plan. It is no longer a concept. This is a coordinated government priority.

With Cabinet's support, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are moving into the next critical stage, which is the detailed Master Plan Phase with \$1.95 million allocated in the current financial year. What will the detailed phase plan of this phase deliver?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is where vision becomes action. The detailed phase will identify priority growth corridors investment zones, phase out infrastructure development to match demand and resilience planning, restructure outdated zoning systems, and moving towards special and digital based frameworks, also the keeping of all municipal councils with partial based planning tools for evidence-based decisions, as well as aligning planning with infrastructure capacity in terms of future population trends and climate risks, as well as institutionalised planning with national and municipal systems. This will be a game changer for local governance in Fiji and we will no more be involved with *ad hoc* or shallow decisions. No more 30-year-old planning schemes, instead, we are building an integrated modern system fit for 2025 and beyond.

On the benefits of people and nation, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the benefits of this work are far-reaching. For the Ministry of Local Government, it means moving from reactive regulation to proactive leadership. For communities, it means that access to infrastructure, jobs, housing and transport. For investors, it means clarity, confidence and a predictable urban framework for the environment. It ensures that development is compact, climate smart and resilient.

This approach, Mr. Speaker, Sir, fully aligns with our 2025-2029 National Development Plan and Vision 2050, as well as our National Blue Town Framework our Coalition Government initiative for compact, as well as sustainable cities. It delivers on our Sustainable Development Goals - SDG 11 which is – sustainable cities and communities; SDG 13 on climate action; SDG 9 on infrastructure innovation; and SDG 17 on partnerships for delivery.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government understands the plan is not paperwork, it is a tool of empowerment, a tool that ensures our youth, workers, families and the elderly can live in communities that are liveable, inclusive and forward-looking. It is the future of urban Fiji, guided by strategy, driven by data and grounded in fairness and resilience.

HON. P.D. KUMAR.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to correct the honourable Minister.

(Honourable Member interjects)

HON. P.D. KUMAR.-Yes, I am coming to that.

He fails to recognise the fact that we had COVID-19 from 2020 to 2022 and during that period,

the borders were closed. Obviously, it took a longer time for the Singaporeans to deliver the product, but there was a term of reference, there were deliverables and everything was there. So, I am just correcting the information.

My question now is, he is talking about spending \$1.5 million in the master plan. It is very high level. That is how planning happens. You have to have high level plans and then you come to the town planning stage and zoning stage. It seems that the honourable Minister is not aware of how the planning is done, unfortunately.

Now, that they have gone into the second phase, it makes me wonder, Mr. Speaker, Sir, why has he chosen the second phase, if the first phase was not good enough? That is my question.

MR. SPEAKER.- Honourable Minister, do you wish to respond?

HON. M.K. NALUMISA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the honourable Member for raising that, but she failed to realise that there was an agreement with the Singapore Co-operation Enterprise in 2018. Why did it take so long to ensure that this job or the agreement with Singapore Co-operation Enterprise was carried out even before the COVID-19 era? We are not saying the first phase of the master plan is not right. What we are trying to do now is lay a platform for Government or the Ministry to do the second phase, which is the most important phase. This is a detailed plan. We have the master plan, now we are moving on to the detailed master plan.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have engaged all the important stakeholders - all the landlords, all public utility providers, as well as all agencies that are related that make this master plan effective. That is something we have done. We have taken this very seriously and now the Cabinet Sub-Committee is going to go ahead with the detailed phase of this particular plan.

HON. P.K. RAVUNAWA.- Mr. Speaker, let me bring the horse back home. Can the honourable Minister inform Parliament on how the master plan will actually help the ordinary citizens, particularly those who are living in informal settlements in peri-urban areas?

HON. M.K. NALUMISA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, this master plan is going to act as a blueprint. It is going to provide us with the direction on how we are going to do development, especially if you look across our towns and cities, there are a lot of informal settlements around. That is something we are trying to do now. We need to look ahead and also come up with a more detailed and structured way of developing our nation. I think that is something that we look forward to. It is going to benefit not only the people that live in peri-urban areas, but will also benefit those in urban settlements. We are going to address people that are drifting and migrating to urban settlements.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the honourable Minister will do better if he stops blaming the previous government. Every time he stands up, he talks about the previous government.

(Laughter)

HON. P.K. BALA.- When are you holding elections?

(Honourable Members interject)

MR. SPEAKER.- Ask the question, honourable Bala.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the money has gone down into drains now for the first stage, that was Suva-Nausori-Lami Corridor. That is what we heard from the honourable Minister. I just

want to know from the honourable Minister whether relevant Ministries or agencies are aware of this Singaporean company?

HON. RO F.Q. TUISAWAU.- Yes.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Yes, your own Fiji Roads Authority is not aware that there is a masterplan being drawn.

(Laughter)

MR. SPEAKER.- Honourable Bala, please, ask your question. Do not get detracted. You are easily detracted. Go ahead and ask your question, please.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think you should warn the honourable Minister. What I want to know from the honourable Minister is whether the relevant ministries and stakeholders are aware of this master plan? Yes or no?

HON. M.K. NALUMISA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, yes.

Digitising Department of Town and Country Planning Records
(Question No. 102/2025)

HON. F.S. KOYA ask the Government, upon notice:

Can the honourable Minister for Housing and Local Government update Parliament on the level of digitisation the Ministry has undertaken with respect to digitising all Department of Town and Country Planning records?

HON. M.K. NALUMISA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the honourable Member for the question. I believe he started the process, but I think because of the task which is humongous and needs more planning as well as more funding.

Some history on the Department of Town and Country Planning, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Town Planning Board was established under the Town Planning Act 1946, making it Fiji's first statutory authority on planning matters. The Department of Town and Country Planning was established in the 1970s to support the Board and lead functions in zoning, development, control, as well as forward planning.

Over time, the Department has accumulated 74,477 physical files, including 42,381 building files; 21,698 subdivision files; and 4,289 rezoning files. These files are stored in offices across Suva, Lautoka and Labasa, and many of these files date back to early 1960s. These include fragile, large format plans and even some have deteriorated due to ageing.

The 13 municipal councils also hold planning records, especially for building permits, rezoning or scheme amendments and subdivisions. Only Suva and Lautoka City Councils maintain independent subdivision records. These are the only municipalities with gazetted subdivision bylaws and full authority with clearly defined boundaries. For rural areas, town planning records were once held by rural local authority but with limited storage and archive policies, many were destroyed after five years, resulting in data gaps for these regions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am pleased to report that all approved amendments to the 13 gazetted town planning schemes have been digitised into Geographic Information System (GIS) up to year 2022.

Rezoning and rezoning layers will be fully updated in the current financial year. This modern special system improves evidence-based planning, speeds up assessments and ensures greater transparency in urban development decisions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there were also challenges, as I have alluded to in my introductory statement. It started way back in 2015 and, unfortunately, because of the size of the server, we were not able to hold these documents that were scanned around those periods. Also, in 2020, there were some submissions done by the Department for digital infrastructure. I am sure the honourable Member is aware that in 2021, there were specific budget proposals which were submitted to safeguard these critical records. However, no funding was approved.

Since 2024, our Coalition Government has taken decisive action to fix what was long neglected. The approach is deliberate, well-resourced and already producing results. We have invested \$26,500 to procure four large-scale format scanners. There are two in Suva, one in Lautoka and one in Labasa. The progress so far, Labasa has digitised 1,003 out of 3,123 files. Suva has commenced daily scanning and Lautoka will begin full operations this quarter after office refurbishments are completed.

We have also adopted a reverse chronological approach, prioritising recent active files first because of the nature of the files, and because of numbers that we have now, we are scanning whatever files that we are receiving. Once it is done, then we continue to scan the old files that we have in our records. These files are scanned and renamed with unique digital IDs, indexed under central protocol and archived securely for future integration into a digital record system. The idea now is, once we scan documents, we want to ensure that there will be a digital system in the future to record everything that we have already scanned.

The Department is also engaging youth who have already enrolled with the National Employment Centre (NEC), working as attachés to support their training in digitisation and techniques while contributing to national development.

On the building permit approval system, it is also very important for me to mention. We are also launching a fully cloud-based platform. The Building Permits Approval System (BPAS) will digitise the application process. This system will enable online submissions, allow real time assessments and automatically store documents in a secure cloud environment with backup. Eventually, the system will expand to include subdivision and rezoning applications, once proven stable and scalable.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, digitising over 74,000 records, some dating 60 years back, is no small feat. It requires time, resources, and resolve. We are committed and not deterred by these difficult reforms. To invest in the right tools and the right people, we will try building a digital system that will protect Fiji's planning records for generations. This is not just about preserving the past, it is about creating a resilient, efficient, and transparent planning system for all Fijians. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, honourable Minister, it is very commendable about trying to get the digitisation done. We all want it done. At the same time, are you still archiving the hard copies, and will you be looking at putting it all into one place, or are they being destroyed?

HON. M.K. NALUMISA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are now archiving and keeping all the old records. We are trying to do some renovations at the Lautoka Office. I have also asked the team to look for compactors to store and preserve all the files. That is something that is lacking in my Ministry. The storage areas where the files are kept are not really safe, and the compactors can store and maintain these files, and the future files that we are going to receive.

HON. N.T. TUINACEVA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, can the honourable Minister clarify how the

digitisation initiative benefits ordinary Fijians, particularly those applying for development approvals?

HON. M.K. NALUMISA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, at this time and age, it is very important that we digitise our records, because it is going to assist in terms of the efficiency of our response to the public; and for those who are applying for building permits and rezoning and building applications and to easily access records once we digitise. It is very important.

A few things we are going to do is that we will reduce the time that the Ministry will respond to the customers or the public in terms of getting what is required by them and even approving some of the applications that we have. That is the future of the Department of Town and Country Planning by digitising records and making the processes more efficient and timely when responding to those who apply to the Department.

ROI Programme – 2024-2025 Financial Year
(Question No.103/2025)

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU asked the Government, upon notice:

Can the honourable Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management update Parliament on the construction of rural roads for farmers under the Rural and Outer Island Programme in the 2024-2025 financial year?

HON. S.R. DITOKA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to start by acknowledging the honourable Minister for Finance, National Development and Statistics and his team for setting the fiscal direction of the 2025-2026 Budget for the new financial year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, all of us in this august House know how things are in our communities in remote Fiji. We also know how difficult life is when your farm lacks a decent road. Our Ministry is operationalising our plans do so by trying to reduce bureaucracy. We want to build roads that make real change. In this past year, under our Rural and Outer Island Programme, we worked with 22 local contractors to build 30 farm access roads across 152.4 kilometres in 11 Provinces, all for approximately \$2.2 million.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Northern Division, a total of 64.38 kilometres of roads have been constructed, benefiting 1,664 people across 387 households, including 849 males and 815 females. Major rural community farm access roads in the Northern Division include the gravelling and upgrading of the 15 kilometre road from Sese to Kedra in the Cakaudrove Province, connecting to the district boundary of Udu Point. In phase two, the upgrading of the 10 kilometre community farm access road from Nacula to Volavoni, linking the interior of Cakaudrove to the Macuata provincial boundary.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Western Division, 28 kilometres of roads have been constructed, benefiting a population of 1,724 across 397 households, including 879 males and 845 females. The major construction in the Western Division include the second phase of upgrading the 9 kilometre Nasaucoko Rural Community Farm Road. This road links the highlands of the Sigatoka Valley to the Nausori Highlands in the Navosa Province, providing farmers, women, vendors, schoolchildren and the elderly with essential access to public services in urban areas.

The second phase of construction for the Uluimagadro Community Farm Access Road involves grubbing and gravelling to ensure proper compaction and road quality in line with the scope of works provided by the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) engineers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Eastern Division, 14.6 kilometres of community farm access roads have been constructed, benefiting 1,120 members of the population and 430 households; 730 of them being male and 393 females. A new 8 kilometre road from Naqalotu to Tawava adjacent to Mount Washington, was constructed in the last financial year, which improves transportation connectivity in the southern part of Kadavu, serving the districts of Nabukelevu, Yawe and Tavuki.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Lau group, a new 7.5 kilometre access road on Moala Island connects the villages of Cakova and Vadra. It now helps the *yaqona* farmers in these villages to access their farms via their new access road. These villages used to be accessible only by fibreglass boats.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Central Division, 45.5 kilometres of community farm access roads have been constructed as phase one. The new access road will benefit 2,150 people and 430 households, with 1,120 males and 1,030 females. The major project in the Division includes the 15 kilometre community farm access road connecting the village of Wainimakutu in the province of Namosi and Nasava Village in Naitasiri. This construction was made possible through a Public Private Partnership between Southern Forest Fiji, landowners and the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management will continue to invest in new farm roads in the future with the support of the government. It is part of the broader objective for the rural and outer island programme in improving infrastructure access, benefiting not only the farmers but also vulnerable groups in society. Thank you.

HON. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the honourable Minister for the areas that he has covered. I just wanted to ask a question specific to the south of Kadavu. You had said that the road will connect Naqalotu to Tawava. Honourable Minister, I just want to ask if this will cover Dagai, Talaulia and Lomaji - the three villages next to Tawava. They do a lot of farming for *dalo* and *yaqona*.

HON. S.R. DITOKA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank honourable Koroilavesau. I believe that it is planned for the next phase of the work.

HON. S.S. KIRPAL.- I just kindly request the honourable Minister, if you can look into the Marasa Road in Nadi which has been neglected for long.

HON. S.R. DITOKA.- I believe he wants a part of the work in Nadi. We will certainly have to have a look at it. The Commissioner Western is there. He is the right office to make contact with.

Civil Service Structure and Emoluments
(Question No. 104/2025)

HON. I.B. SERUIRATU asked the Government, upon notice:

Can the honourable Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises update Parliament on the progress of the review of the entire Civil Service structure and emoluments?

HON. S.L. RABUKA.- I thank the honourable Leader of the Opposition for bringing this matter to the attention of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Fiji has allocated \$440,000 for a limited scope functional review for this financial year. This initial phase will focus on assessing capability across people, processes and systems rather than conducting a whole of Government productivity review.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the honourable Leader of the Opposition would have noticed that in the eight years he was in Government, there was a continued review or reassessment of the Civil Service. Civil Service everywhere continues to evolve. If I remember, a Committee will be formed with diverse expertise in public sector administration comprising three nationals and two international members and the chairperson will be a senior national expert with extensive knowledge of Government systems.

Mr. Speaker, while the Ministry is targeting market engagement by October 2025, the Government will continue engagement with development partners for co-funding support for the remaining phases of the functional review. Upon completion of the functional review, consideration will be given for undertaking a job evaluation exercise. That will be based on the findings and recommendations and the way forward as agreed to by Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the second phase, a limited scope functional review of the Fiji Civil Service is a focused, time bound assessment, designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness and alignment of specific functions, ministries or systems within the Civil Service. It does not attempt to overhaul the entire public sector, but instead zooms in on critical areas with the potential for high impact reform and performance gains.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the purposes of the review are to:

- (1) identify overlaps, inefficiencies and capacity gaps in selected Government functions and Ministries;
- (2) support rationalisation of mandates, roles and structures to improve service delivery;
- (3) ensure alignment with national priorities, for example, Fiji National Development Plan, public sector reform agenda; and
- (4) inform budgetary planning, workforce management and digital transformation.

Mr. Speaker, a limited scope functional review will focus on:

- (1) a subset of ministries, for example, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Civil Service, and key service delivery agencies;
- (2) a specific function across ministries such as:
 - (i) HR and workforce planning;
 - (ii) ICT and digitisation;
 - (iii) policy development and coordination; and
 - (iv) procurement of financial management.
- (3) How well the Ministry of Civil Service supports merit-based recruitment, individual performance, job evaluation and training.
- (4) How aligned the current structures of ministries is with their mandate and core functions.
- (5) The readiness of ministries to digitise their services.

It is envisioned that the review will entail realignment of roles, merger of overlapping functions, including staffing levels, job analysis and redesign, reducing excessive recruitment, evaluating roles and responsibilities as essential. In the long term, these measures will enhance efficiency and lead to more sustainable staffing and budgeting. Remuneration setting, aligning ministry functions more closely with current needs and fiscal realities, thereby optimising government operations.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the review is essential and we must support that initiative.

HON. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me convey my apologies as well to the honourable Prime Minister, because we were both at the COC meeting and I would have amended this question to make it more clearer. Honourable Prime Minister, thank you.

You have mentioned about the limited functional review scope, but this question was raised because of what was stated by the honourable Deputy Prime Minister and perhaps I can consider it as a commitment from Government in last year's budget Address, in which he stated that Government will work with the Australian Government to undertake a holistic, functional review of the civil service and the salary structure as well across public entities. Will that still be considered as perhaps the second stage, as you had alluded to, a holistic, functional review of the civil service?

HON. S.L. RABUKA.- Mr. Speaker, the fact that the whole review is taken, does not mean that there is going to be a whole restructuring of the civil service. They will continue to look at every aspect of the service, but carry out those reforms where they are immediately needed.

HON. P.D. KUMAR.- Sir, I am a little bit confused if the honourable Prime Minister can clarify this. I understand there is a first part of the review, which is more to do with finding solutions to the current problems that may exist. But the other one is the commitment that was made and announced by the honourable Prime Minister when he was in Australia, where he said that under Vuvale Partnership, Australia is going to collaborate with Fiji and undertake a comprehensive review of the civil service that will look at structure, salary, et cetera. The statement is available online – whether the second part will continue or not.

HON. S.L. RABUKA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will continue. It is part of the holistic process, and also phase to adopt or adapt with the immediate requirements and also financing.

Refugee Status Determination
(Question No. 105/2025)

HON. K.V. RAVU asked the Government, upon notice: .

Can the honourable Minister for Immigration update Parliament on Fiji's ongoing efforts and commitment to refugee protection and the significance of the recent signing of the RSD Standard Operating Procedures?

HON. V. NAUPOTO.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank honourable Ravu for his interest in this area of immigration work, asylum seekers and refugees. This question, Mr. Speaker, Sir, allows me to also highlight a role that immigration performs that is perhaps not very well known. By way of background, the foundation of this very important role that we do is the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees and its 1967 protocols. It was adopted in the aftermath of the Second World War, a period that was marked by massive population displacement across Europe. It was adopted by the United Nations on 28th July, 1951, but the work was started by the League of Nations, which is the body before the United Nations, in trying to deal with the displacement that was happening across Europe because of the war.

At its inception, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Convention scope was very geographically and temporally limited. It was applying only to refugees in Europe and only to those who were displaced before 1951. However, in recognition of the evolving nature of global displacement, the 1967 Protocol to the Convention was introduced. This Protocol removed the temporal and geographic limitations, therefore, universalising the Convention's application to refugee situations worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Fiji acceded to both - the Convention and its 1967 protocol way back in 1972, two years after independence. The Convention and its protocol have been domesticated into our

laws, Part 6 of the Immigration Act provides the legal framework for refugee status determination. Today, 53 years later, from when Fiji acceded to the Convention and its protocol, I am reporting to this House that we finally have a standard operations procedure for refugee status determination, which was signed with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on 12th June, 2025. The UNHCR, as we know, is the authority on refugees, and they are always involved at some stage in the determination process.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we as a nation have ownership of our process. Fiji is a country that stands for compassion and dignity, and as a signatory to the Convention, we honour our humanitarian obligations. While we are not a primary destination for asylum seekers, we are prepared to respond when a situation arises and we do so, guided by fairness, justice and respect for human rights. This SOP will certainly help us do this work right.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the SOP very quickly outlines clear roles and responsibilities and steps for all government agencies - Immigration, Foreign Affairs, the Police, et cetera that are involved in receiving, processing and determining asylum claims. It provides clear referral pathways and importantly it allows integration into the UNHCR process who are the key agency when it comes to refugee determination.

HON. P.K. RAVUNAWA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the honourable Minister for his answer to the primary question. Supplementary question, can the honourable Minister briefly outline the process or steps taken when someone claims asylum at our borders?

HON. V. NAUPOTO.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, very briefly when someone arrives at our border and seeks asylum, the first thing is that we cannot deny them entry or remove them. So, the asylum claims are formally recorded, and the case is referred to the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Unit. Step two is we have to allow temporary entry. So, the asylum seeker is issued with a special permit. This is under section 9 of the Immigration Act. A basic screening and registration process is done, and this is just to establish identity, background and immediate protection needs.

Step three kicks in, and this is when the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that we had just signed is used to guide the conduct of interviews and collection of evidence. The asylum seeker is allowed to present their case and provide supporting documents, and this is a very confidential process. Decisions are made by immigration officers with support from UNHCR who usually provide technical and legal support.

There is a step four and that is referral to UNHCR and that is, if we determine that the case is complex or if additional legal expertise is required, the case may be referred to UNHCR's Regional Office in Canberra for review, or they can conduct a direct refugee status determination under their own UNHCR mandate.

HON. N.T. TUINACEVA.- My supplementary question, Sir, can the honourable Minister provide information on the outcome of cases in the past?

HON. V. NAUPOTO.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, maybe if I can just go back to 2018. From 2018 to 2025, we conducted a total of 65 RSD processes and out of the 65, 38 were recognised as refugees. I have been using those two words "asylum seekers" and "refugees". So, if you are an asylum seeker, you go through the process and out of that process, you can be determined as a refugee. Once you are determined as a refugee, you get entitled to the protection and the rights that are afforded to refugees under the convention that we are signatory to.

Sir, 38 were recognised as refugees, and out of these 38:

- 10 resettled in New Zealand;
- 2 have voluntarily returned to their own home countries, situation there is much better; and
- 26 remained in Fiji.

Let me put that number into perspective. At the end of 2024, there were a total of 36.8 million refugees in the world and 26 of them are in Fiji.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, out of the 26 who are here, 18 are working at the Grand Pacific Hotel as housekeepers, Salvation Army, Extra supermarket, a few of them operating their own businesses (selling perfumes), one is a market vendor in one of our local markets, one is running a small eatery restaurant, four are students in high and primary schools around Suva, four are still looking for work but they are supported by their families from overseas.

HON. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the honourable Minister for his answers and, of course, we have our obligation because we have acceded to both the Protocol and the Convention in 1972. Fiji and the Pacific have a more serious, more relevant and sensitive issue about these refugees, because under the same definition, in 1951 on the Convention, it is related to people who were displaced because of war. Refugees is about cross-border migration.

The challenge in Fiji and the Pacific today is, the diplomatic term that is used now is climate migrants. They are not allowed in the UNFCCC process to be called climate refugees. That is perhaps a more serious issue that I would suggest to Government and to the honourable Minister to look into, and not only about climate migrants or refugees, but internally displaced as well. That is a very, very important issue, and I wish to raise it to the honourable Minister if we can consider this seriously.

HON. V. NAUPOTO.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I certainly agree with the honourable Leader of the Opposition. Climate displacement is an issue now, but we cannot say that, that is more important than those who are fleeing from their homes because of prosecution and seeking refugee elsewhere. They are the same, in my view. I am sure the world is looking at frameworks that can help those who are displaced because of climate related issues.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- Supplementary question. Honourable Minister, do you see this new SOP as a milestone achievement for your Ministry and for Fiji?

HON. V. NAUPOTO.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, 53 years in the making, and when I made that statement, maybe yes, it is a milestone achievement. When I make the statement that it is 53 years in the making, our mind floats across 53 years, but I think that the more important words are the last three ones “in the making.” In 1972, the leaders are young, country is an independent nation now. Two years after independence, they decided that okay we are going to commit to this. Even the Convention was struck around the displacement that was happening in Europe, and we were far away from it. They said, “okay, we are going to sign up on this.” In 1972, I was in Class 6 in the village. I had no idea of what the world does in Vatoa.

Today, we are talking about having this SOP that will help us do this work right. It is so sensitive and confidential. The people that we deal with are vulnerable so we have to do it right. In a way, I would say, “yes, maybe it is a milestone achievement.” But if we just look at it that way, I think we miss the point. If you look at Fiji, a small economy, small island nation, a young democracy, we tell people who have spare capacity, we look at tourism as if it is manna from heaven, come to Fiji, spend a little bit of their spare capacity over here in exchange for our warmth and hospitality because we know the benefits. Our kids go to school, people can go to the hospital, get medicine and we will keep advertising, asking people that have spare capacity to come.

However, this is telling the world that we as a country, we are saying, “okay, we want those people with spare capacity to come but in the case when someone who has nothing, absolutely nothing, not even hope arrives at our doorstep, at our border, we are determined as a nation not to look away. We do not push them away. We have set ourselves up to have a process where we can deal with them, and in that process, we inject hope back into that life. And we pick them up, we dust them off and say, “hey, there is your life in front of you.”

You heard the stories. They are now working at GPH, Extra supermarket, studying in some of our schools, even local market vendors. That is what happens when hope is injected back to a soul that is fleeing because of hopelessness. That is us as a nation, that is our psyche. It started way back in 1972 and we keep working, as I said, I think when I say 53 years in the making, the more important words are the last three ones - “in the making”. We never stop. We keep working and all those governments before us up until today, we have our hand, keep working and ensure that our country's determination not to look away when someone who has nothing that arrives in our borders, is alive and we make sure that we deal with them appropriately, justly, with all the respect they deserve.

So, a milestone achievement, yes, but I think that point of our determination to not look away when people who have nothing that arrive at our border is worth celebrating, rather than looking at this as a milestone achievement.

Written Questions

Bus Industry - Yearly Fuel Subsidies (Question No. 106/2025)

HON. P.D. KUMAR asked the Government, upon notice:

Can the honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics inform Parliament on the yearly fuel subsidies paid to the bus industry from 2023 to-date?

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will table my response at a later sitting date as permitted under Standing Order 45(3).

Donor Supported Programmes and Implementation Status (Question No. 107/2025)

HON. S. TUBUNA asked the Government, upon notice:

Can the honourable Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts provide Parliament a list of any externally funded or donor-supported programmes currently administered by the Ministry and their respective implementation statuses?

¹ HON. I. VASU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hereby table my written response.

Analytical Data on Digital Marketing Campaigns (Question No. 108/2025)

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU asked the Government, upon notice:

¹ Editor's Note: Reply to Written Question No. 107/2025 tabled by the honourable Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts, under Standing Order 45(3), is appended as Annexure I.

Can the honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation provide Parliament with analytical data on digital marketing campaigns executed by Tourism Fiji, including website traffic, social media reach and lead conversions over the past 12 months?

HON. J. USAMATE.- Point of Order. The honourable Member did not have to read out the full content of the question.

MR. SPEAKER.- You can summarise the question if you wish to.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- My apologies, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

² HON. RO F.Q. TUISAWAU.- I hereby table a written response, on behalf of the honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation.

Provincial Engagements - Ministry of iTaukei Affairs
(Question No. 109/2025)

HON. I. KURIDRANI asked the Government, upon notice:

Can the honourable Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts update Parliament on the number and nature of consultative meetings, provincial engagement or awareness campaigns conducted by the Ministry between November 2024 and July 2025?

³ HON. I. VASU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hereby table my written response.

MR. SPEAKER.- Honourable Members, Question time is over. Before we suspend proceedings for a break, we will proceed with a Suspension Motion and for the purpose of complying with the Standing Orders with respect to sitting times, I now call upon the honourable Leader of the Government in Parliament to move a Suspension Motion.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

HON. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move under Standing Order 6:

That so much of Standing Order 23(1) is suspended so as to allow the House to sit beyond 4.30 p.m. today to complete the remaining items listed in today's Order Paper.

HON. A.V.B.C. BAINIVALU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the motion.

HON. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have three Motions in Schedule 2 on the Consolidated Review Reports.

Question put.

² Editor's Note: Reply to Written Question No. 108/2025, tabled by Hon. Ratu J.B. Niudamu, on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, under Standing Order 45(3), is appended as Annexure II.

³ Reply to Written Question No. 109/2025, tabled by the honourable Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts, under Standing Order 45(3), is appended as Annexure III.

Motion agreed to.

MR. SPEAKER.- Honourable Members, we will now suspend proceedings for a break. Parliament will resume in half an hour.

The Parliament adjourned at 4.00 p.m.

The Parliament resumed at 4.36 p.m.

TRADEMARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025

HON. S.D. TURAGA.- Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 51, I move:

That the –

- (a) Trademarks (Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 28/2025) be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (b) Bill must pass through one stage in a single sitting of Parliament;
- (c) Bill must be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence;
- (d) Standing Committee must report on the Bill at the September or October Sitting of Parliament and that upon presentation of the report on the Bill by the Standing Committee; and
- (e) Bill must be debated by Parliament, but that one hour will be given to debate the Bill with the right of reply given to me as the Member moving this motion.

HON. RO F.Q. TUISAWAU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the motion.

HON. S.D. TURAGA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Trademarks (Amendment) Bill 2025, a legislative proposal aimed at strengthening and modernising Fiji's Trademark Framework. At this juncture, I will only speak as to why Parliament must consider the Bill without delay under Standing Order 51. It is hoped that Members of this august House will also limit their contribution, if any, to the motion and any substantive contribution to the merits of the Bill shall be made once the relevant Standing Committee has presented its report.

The Trademarks Act 2021 was enacted to replace the outdated Trademarks Act 1933. The Act establishes a modern regime for the registration, protection and enforcement of trademarks, bringing Fiji's laws into alignment with international standards and obligations, especially under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, or what is commonly known as Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement with the Paris Convention. However, while the Act was passed in 2021, it has not yet commenced. Recent expert reviews by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has identified certain gaps in the enforcement provisions of the Act.

The review conducted by WIPO also noted the absence of certain preventative measures, especially the equivalent of Anton Piller Orders, which allows for preservation of evidence before legal proceedings commence. Additionally, the Act lack provisions to prevent infringement before it occurs. While some of these procedures exist under High Court rules, the clarity and consistency provided by the legislative amendments will better support the Act's objective and Fiji's international commitments.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of us would have come across instances where our traditional and cultural designs have been misappropriated for financial gain, without the rightful owners being compensated. Accordingly, to address these and other concerns, the Bill has been introduced to ensure that our Trademark Laws provide explicit recognition and protection for intellectual property rights, safeguarding them from exploitation.

To summarise the Clauses of the Bill, Mr Speaker, there are only six key Clauses:

- Clause 1 provides for the short title commencement.

- Clause 2 expands grounds for refusal to register a trademark, where the proposed mark includes culturally or religiously significant symbols or phrases.
- Clause 3 inserts new Section 107A to allow trademark owners to seek provisional court measures to prevent infringement or preserve evidence before formal proceedings.
- Clause 4 defines commercial scale to include a wide range of activities likely to harm the rights of a trademark owner.
- Clause 5 reduces the response time in infringement matters under section 131, streamlining dispute resolution and resolving timeline inconsistencies.
- Clause 6 ensures that any existing trademarks which include indigenous words, marks, symbols or images may not be renewed upon their expiry without the express written consent of the Minister.

The rationale for Standing Order 51, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand concerns when Standing Order 51 is used, especially from the Opposition. However, let me be clear, honourable Members still retain their full rights to debate the Bill, and if there are concerns they should be raised. It is exactly for this reason that the Bill will be referred for further deliberations before a relevant Standing Committee of Parliament.

Rather than letting the Bill sit idle between readings, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are choosing to put it immediately before a Standing Committee of Parliament where experts can be heard, stakeholders consulted and amendments considered. This course of action balances our need to act swiftly with a responsibility towards consultation and scrutiny.

I, therefore, move that the Trademarks (Amendment) Bill 2025 proceed under Standing Order 51 and I urge all honourable Members to support this motion so as to reinforce Fiji's commitment to innovation, economic development and the protection of our intellectual property rights.

MR. SPEAKER.- Honourable Members, the floor is now open for debate on the motion. Members may speak for up to 20 minutes. At the end of the debate, I will give back the Right of Reply to the honourable Minister.

HON. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I acknowledge the Government and the honourable Acting Attorney-General for the Bill that is before the floor of Parliament. We are thankful although that it comes under Standing Order 51, that it is referred to the Committee. At least, the Committee will be given some time to scrutinise the Bill and, of course, consult the very people that need to be consulted and those that we represent.

However, I just have one question and probably the honourable Acting Attorney-General can clarify because in moving the motion, he has also mentioned about some *iTaukei* issues related to intellectual property rights. I know that this has also been developed for quite a while, and I know that Government, as well, is going to come up with a separate Bill, but I do not know how soon.

The cultural expression and tradition and language and whatever. So that is what I want to clarify because that will cover the *iTaukei*, specifically on the *iTaukei* Intellectual Property Right issue. It has been renamed as the Knowledge, Traditional, Cultural Expression, Traditional Language and Generic Resources Bill, which was earlier referred to as the Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expression simply because the honourable Acting Attorney-General has stated issues relating to *iTaukei* matters, I just wanted to raise that Mr. Speaker, Sir. So, if the honourable Acting Attorney-General can clarify that, because there is also anticipation from this side of the House on that to be brought later on.

In fact, I was just following up on this issue with the relevant office yesterday - the Office of the Solicitor-General's Office on where it is, because I wanted to talk on it yesterday when we looked at the

Ministry of iTaukei Affairs Consolidated Report. I was looking for the opportunity to perhaps sneak that into the debate, but I did not continue with that initial intention. Mr. Speaker, Sir, but little did I know that there is going to be this Bill today and this is the appropriate time for me to raise that issue.

Again, we are thankful that this is going to be referred to the Committee and brought back into the September sitting, gives time for the Committee to peruse, scrutinise and consult. We are thankful for that opportunity. But if the issue that I have raised, particularly in relation to the *iTaukei* issues, can be clarified by the honourable Acting Attorney-General.

MR. SPEAKER.- Honourable Acting Attorney-General, do you wish to comment?

HON. S.D. TURAGA.- Yes, it is covered in the Amendment. There is also a Traditional Knowledge Bill that will come in September.

MR. SPEAKER.- Are there any further intervention?

HON. J. USAMATE.- I thank the Government for finally seeing the light and start referring things to committees. I have just one request. I think whether it is a possible, rather than limit the debate to one hour to possibly to enhance it.

(Chorus of interjections)

HON. J. USAMATE.- Let me finish. Let me finish.

HON. P.D. KUMAR.- We put it to vote.

HON. J. USAMATE.- Maybe the honourable Minister would like to consider extending the time of debate, maybe around two hours to allow full participation by those who are not part of it.

MR. SPEAKER.- Are there any further interventions?

HON. F.W.R. VOSAROGO.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bill only contains a proposal for six amendments. They are not big amendments, they are small amendments and I am sure that now that it is going to the committee and the committee will have time to consult on it. Whatever the views are that needs to be expressed by the Opposition can be expressed through the committee members. So, even if we have one hour for discussion, we could put our two best speakers and they could have 20 minutes each.

I think the opportunity to discuss the Bill is a very favourable one. We are not rushing it, we are allowing the Opposition to have an opportunity in relation to the issue that has been raised by the honourable Leader of the Opposition. Not only is the *iTaukei* expression sought to be protected in the proposed amendments, it also applies to the Hindi expression as well as the Rotuman expressions. But it only relates to trademarks.

The later Bill, at the later part of the year, is going to be an overarching, specifically for *iTaukei* expressions in every other area. This opportunity that we have now is one that I think is very fair, and where the Committee will have an opportunity to pull the amendments apart and look through it in details. The one hour that is being proposed, is in my view, I would implore on the Opposition to take the opportunity to make known to the Members of the Committee, whatever your concerns are, so that we can have that discussion later on.

HON. P.D. KUMAR.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard what honourable Minister for Lands had just stated, that if we have concerns, we can go through the Committee and let the Committee know, and therefore, the debate time should be just for one hour. I would like to say, yes, we can make our views known to the Committee, that is fine, but Parliament is the last vetting place where debates take place. When the Committee looks at the proposal of everyone, we do not know what they take, what they leave and how they formulate their recommendations. This is the place for debate on any laws that are made, and that is the reason why we are kindly asking an extension of just one hour to have this debate. That is all.

HON. S.D. TURAGA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to highlight that this Act was enacted in 2021. It is this Government that now sees the merit in making some amendments so it can benefit the *iTaukei*. Yesterday, we talked about how the FijiFirst Government seemed to totally ignore the needs of the *iTaukei*. The issues have been well canvassed. I fully support the motion.

MR. SPEAKER.- The Parliament will now vote.

Question put.

Motion greed to.

REVIEW REPORT- FIJI REVENUE AND CUSTOMS SERVICE 2020-2022 ANNUAL REPORTS

HON. R.R. SHARMA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move:

That Parliament debates the Consolidated Review Report on the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service 2020-2021 and 2021- 2022 Annual Reports, which was tabled on 29th April, 2025.

HON. I. TUIWAILEVU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the motion.

HON. R.R. SHARMA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee's inquiry into the operations of Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) for the reporting periods of 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 has revealed several critical areas requiring attention to enhance national security, operational efficiency and service delivery. I will now summarise our key findings and outline some of the recommendations accordingly.

On strengthening human capital and customer service, the restructuring of FRCS saw the loss of approximately 300 experienced staff which significantly impacted service quality and institutional knowledge. Despite recruitment efforts, gaps remain. To address this, we recommend that FRCS establish an organised knowledge sharing system and commit to continuous training and performance evaluation for staff, especially those in customer facing roles. This will ensure improved stakeholder trust and service delivery across all regions.

Enhancing digital transformation and cybersecurity. The digitization journey, including the rollout of the taxpayer online service has shown promise despite early challenges. Yet issues like digital literacy, especially in rural and elderly populations persist. The FRCS is encouraged to continue digital outreach and education programmes while prioritizing system resilience and cloud migration. Moreover, as FRCS continues its digital transition, the threat of cyber-attacks intensifies. The Committee recommends on the ongoing cybersecurity investments, regular audits and partnerships with experts, ensuring that taxpayer data remain secure and digital infrastructure robust.

Border control and surveillance capacity. Surveillance remains a critical concern. Despite the MOU with Denarau and improve inter-agency coordination, gaps in enforcement persist due to legislative loopholes and limited infrastructure. The Committee recommends legislating mandatory Automatic Identification System (AIS) used for all yachts in Fiji waters, expanding scanning facilities to all ports, especially secondary ones like Labasa and Savusavu, investing in customs protocol, patrol vessels and strengthening K9 units to counter trafficking.

Furthermore, the rise in ferry-borne contraband, particularly through provincial ports highlights the need for enhanced ferry surveillance and improved airport technologies such as body scanners. The Committee urges FRCS to place outdated screening tools and resolve land disputes, hindering development at strategic border points.

Trade facilitation and inter-agency collaboration, administrative bottlenecks remain a hindrance to trade manual systems within key agencies such as Health, Biosecurity and Justice Department delay processing. Therefore, the Committee recommends the development of a single window system that enables digital integration among relevant agencies. Inter-agency maritime surveillance, particularly involving the Navy and Police should be formalised and expanded to improve intelligence sharing and enforcement.

Infrastructure and operational resilience. The Ba lockout incident demonstrated the vulnerability of relying on private premises, while recognising the need for specialised facilities for enforcement functions. The Committee recommends that FRCS gradually transitions to government-owned buildings where are feasible. This will ensure operational independence and cost efficiency.

Regional, capacity and mobility. Mr. Speaker, Sir, with economic activity growing in the Northern Division, the Committee recommends the appointment of a Principal or Chief Customs Officer to lead and oversee operations in the region. Additionally, there is a critical need for new four-wheel drives and patrol capacity to enhance operational reach in remote and high risk areas.

Lastly, on the cultural sensitivity and legislative oversight. With increase in yacht traffic and access to culturally sensitive maritime zones, the Committee recommends amending legislation to strengthen and monitor the enforcement of coastal cruising permits, ensuring the protection of traditional *iTaukei* areas while balancing tourism interests.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the recommendations aim to improve border security, service delivery and technology use, enabling FRCS to better protect Fiji's borders and support national development. On that note, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the motion before the House.

MR. SPEAKER.- I have a list of speakers with me. Each speaker has seven minutes to deliver.

HON. P.D. KUMAR.- Mr. Speaker. Sir, I rise to speak in support of the motion and in particular the nine recommendations made by the Committee. I also wish to highlight the outstanding performance of Fiji Revenue and Customs Service during one of the most difficult time in our nation's recent history with the COVID-19 pandemic. This Report is from 2020 to 2022 and between 2020 and 2022, our nation was shaken to its core. The economy contracted, borders were closed and thousands of families struggled to make ends meet. It was a crisis like no other and yet through it all FRCS stepped up and delivered. It exceeded expectations.

In the 2021 and 2022 financial year, FRCS collected \$1.692 billion in revenue which is \$11.7 million above the forecast, despite the economic chaos. The following year collections were even higher, \$2.28 billion, up 35 percent from the year before. During this period, the VAT was low, duties were taken off on thousands of products and various concessions were given to the businesses so that our economy

could recover and consumers can also recover from the shock they had with COVID-19. This was not luck, Mr. Speaker, Sir. It was the result of effective policy, strong institutions and bold recovery measures that help revive tourism, boost retail and lift business confidence but revenue collection was only one part of the story.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during this period, FRCS embraced digital transformation. With the launch of Taxpayer Online Services Platform, we saw major reforms in how taxes are filed, payments made and businesses registered. Less bureaucracy, less waiting and more efficiency. That is real reform that made a difference on the ground, especially for businesses trying to stay afloat.

Sir, FRCS also gave businesses a lifeline. In the middle of the crisis, they released \$192.8 million in VAT refunds, money that helped keep businesses running, protected jobs and kept our economy alive.

On the border security front, FRCS introduced the Container Control Programme and deployed scanning units to protect us from illicit trade and trafficking. These steps did not just secure our ports, they aligned Fiji with international standards and boosted confidence in our enforcement capacity, and internally FRCS did not sit still. In 2022, they formed a new executive leadership team to drive service excellence and organisational reform. That shows vision and commitment to change.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, supporting this motion does not mean blind praise. It means holding institutions to account. It means recognizing where work still needs to be done. So, let us talk about the gaps that we identified:

- (1) Tax compliance and enforcement remained patchy, particularly in the informal sector and in the emerging digital economy. This is where we need sharper tools, stronger audits and smarter enforcement and I know this issue was addressed during the National Budget. I remember the Minister for Finance introducing some new policies to address this.
- (2) Custom clearance delays are still hurting trade. Bottlenecks at the border means higher cost, slower turnaround and lost opportunities; that is not acceptable. The FRCS must work with other agencies to speed up these processes.
- (3) There is a real digital divide in the country. Yes, Taxpayer Online Services (TPOS) is a success, but many rural communities cannot access or use these services. The FRCS needs to step up the outreach training and support programme so that no one is left behind; and
- (4) Dispute resolution, which is a bit slow, complicated and unclear for many taxpayers. That undermines trust and we need faster processes and clear rulings.

Again, I must say, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the FRCS is working in this area by having regular meetings with the businesses and taxpayers.

Finally, we need better performance measurement. Annual reports tell us what FRCS did, but they do not always tell us what impact they had. We need clearer indicators on service, equity, contribution to development.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I commend FRCS for its resilience, its reform and its revenue results but we owe it to the Fijian people to demand better from FRCS. What we would like to see is the continuous improvement and that is the direction FRCS is currently taking, but as Members of this House, we also have the responsibility to push for further improvements. What we need is a stronger compliance and enforcement, faster dispute resolution, wider outreach especially to rural areas and clearer measurement of real impact. I am confident that under the current CEO's proven leadership, FRCS will further enhance

efficiency and become increasingly result oriented. Supporting these recommendations will definitely help FRCS better protect national revenue, support economic growth and maintain the trust of all Fijians.

Mr. Speaker, finally, I would like to say and reiterate that FRCS plays a very, very important role. If they do not collect the revenue, there is no way the government can deliver the services people want. Therefore, FRCS needs to continue striving for excellence so that every cent is collected and used on the people who contribute their taxes.

HON. M.S.N. KAMIKAMICA.- Mr. Speaker, I rise to contribute to the Report of the FRCS Annual Reports for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. I commend the Standing Committee for its thorough review and the bipartisan approach to the report and, of course, acknowledge the efforts to consult broadly.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, FRCS plays a very an indispensable role in our economic and national development. As the central agency for tax administration and collections and customs enforcement, FRCS remains not only the primary revenue collector, but also the key enabler for trade facilitation and broader protection. It is through their operations that we are able to safeguard public finances, maintain the integrity of our borders and foster a more predictable and secure trading environment.

The review covers two challenging years, as mentioned by honourable Premila Kumar, and that is when COVID hit our country. So, I will focus on some of the findings put forward by the Committee and align them to some of the initiatives that are being undertaken in conjunction with the Ministry of Trade.

Mr. Speaker, we acknowledge the Committee's Report, which is underscoring the need for a single window digital platform to seamlessly integrate multiple agencies and facilitate trade. In line with this, to enable the deployment of a single window digital platform, the Ministry of Trade, with the assistance of agencies such as FRCS, recently launched the Fiji Trade Information Portal on 21st July, 2025. This actually serves, Mr. Speaker, as the foundational platform from which the single window will actually be constructed. Building on this milestone, discussions have now commenced with the phased implementation of a single window with FRCS leading implementation efforts.

The Ministry is absolutely committed to supporting FRCS and its leadership for an implementation of a single window, primarily because, Mr. Speaker, a single window is a critical and will streamline border processes, allowing traders to submit all regulatory documents through a single digital platform, thereby reducing clearance times, improving transparency, and enhancing the ease of doing business in Fiji.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, to the recommendation, the Committee put forward other practical forward-looking proposals in strengthening FRCS' institutional effectiveness, border enforcement, digital transformation, and regional service delivery. These recommendations are well-founded and supported, and they directly address operational risks, improve service delivery, and enhance national security and trade efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, the call to address surveillance gaps through mandatory AIS usage for yachts, expanded port scanning capacity, and the acquisition of dedicated custom-controlled patrol vessels reflects the growing complexity of our transnational smuggling and trafficking threats. These proposals are supported as they will enable FRCS to proactively detect, deter, and respond to illicit activities across Fiji's extensive maritime border. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the recommendation to upgrade outdated airport security screening tools, such as replacing the walk-in metal detectors by modern body scanners, is fully justified, particularly as our passenger numbers are now reaching a million visitors, to ensure that

Fiji's border controls meet international standards.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we also support the enhanced delivery that is now focused in the North. It is also justified because of the Government's intent to ramp up economic activity in the North, and we can see that with the increased investment that is happening in the North. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do commend the Standing Committee for their review and fully support their recommendations and look forward to the implementation of the single window system over the next 24 months in Fiji.

HON. V. LAL.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand before you to present the contradicted review report of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service for the financial years 2020 to 2021 and 2021 to 2022. This report, a product of the diligent work of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, offers a comprehensive look into the operations of an agency vital to our nation's prosperity and security. The Fiji Revenue and Customs Service is not merely a collector of taxes, it is the bedrock of our economic and social development, tasked with efficiently collecting revenue, facilitating legitimate trade, and safeguarding our national border.

The period under review 2020 to 2022 was undeniably challenging, marked by the unprecedented impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic, as alluded to by the previous speakers. Yet, it was also a period that showcased resilience and adaptability within the FRCS. I must commend my fellow committee members for their bipartisan approach and the Secretariat for their invaluable support in producing this thorough and insightful document.

Our review process was designed to be as comprehensive as possible. Beyond the formal public submission from FRCS, which was live-streamed for public access, we undertook critical site visits from Nadi to Savusavu and Labasa. Our on-the-ground inspections proved instrumental, revealing several important matters not previously covered during the oral submission. This direct engagement allowed us to gain a true, unfiltered understanding of FRCS operational realities, enhancing the credibility and robustness of our findings. While our committee's usual mandate focusses on foreign affairs and defence, this assignment, undertaken to ease the workload of other Standing Committees, underscores Parliament's commitment to comprehensive oversight across all Government agencies, prioritising good governance and accountability. Despite the immense pressures of the pandemic, FRCS demonstrated remarkable resilience in revenue collection.

While 2020-2021 has unexpected shortfalls, particularly in VAT and corporate tax, the subsequent year, 2021-2022, witnessed a strong rebound. Collections in income tax, corporate tax and notably domestic VAT, driven by the resurgence of our tourism sector and wholesale trade, exceeded forecasts, signalling a robust economic recovery and improved compliance. The significant increase in water resource tax collection from \$6.7 million to \$83.6 million highlights a successful diversification of our revenue base, a proactive measure to build fiscal resilience.

In customer service, FRCS evolved from physical outreach to a centralised digital engagement model, improving its call centre and launching a revised customer service charter with International Monetary Fund support. A formal customer survey confirmed improved service delivery and satisfaction by the taxpayer online services or TPOS system, a testament to their digital transformation efforts.

The rightsizing exercise, while challenging, was a strategic response to automation and the transition of a self-assessment environment. It paved the way for long-term institutional reform and operational efficiency. Crucially, FRCS has made commendable strides in gender equality, increasing female representation in its workforce from 50 percent to 57.4 percent and achieving gender balance in its executive team, with four out of eight leadership positions held by women. This aligns perfectly with our Sustainable Development Goals for gender equality, decent work and reduced inequalities. However,

our review also identified critical areas requiring urgent attention. The restructuring, while necessary, led to the departure of experienced personnel, negatively impacting customer service and institutional knowledge.

Cybersecurity remains a persistent concern as FRCS accelerates its digital transition, necessitating continuous vigilance to protect sensitive taxpayer data. The ambitious shift to digital platforms is hampered by digital literacy barriers, especially among the elderly, requiring sustained education and outreach efforts. Perhaps most critically, our border security faces significant vulnerabilities. Outdated airport security technologies, notably the absence of body scanners, create a significant vulnerability, allowing undetectable items to bypass screening. The lack of legislative mandate requiring yachts to operate Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) in Fijian waters, is a glaring loophole.

Without AIS, vessel tracking is nearly impossible, creating significant security and compliance gaps that is exploited. Furthermore, yachts scanned in Nadi, are not reinspected at other ports like Labasa and Savusavu due to a lack of scanning facilities, creating systemic vulnerabilities across our maritime border. Operational expansion is hindered by unresolved land disputes, particularly involving *mataqali* land stalling key construction projects.

The lack of digital integration with agencies such as health and biosecurity, who still rely on manual record keeping, causes significant trade delays, underscoring the urgent need for a single window system. Finally, Fiji's 2019 blacklisting by the European Union as a non-cooperative jurisdiction for taxation highlighted past systemic weaknesses. While significant progress has been made, this remains a critical national imperative to align with international tax standards.

To address these challenges our committee has put forth nine comprehensive recommendations which collectively form a strategic roadmap for FRCS and indeed for our nation's future. We recommend legislative amendments to enhance enforcement and monitoring of vessels in culturally sensitive zones balancing tourism with cultural preservation. These recommendations signal a strategic pivot towards a more proactive, intelligence led and risk-based governance model, enabling FRCS to anticipate and prevent illicit activities more effectively.

In conclusion, this report is more than just an assessment of FRCS as it is a blueprint for strengthening Fiji's economic stability, national security and adherence to international standards. The challenges are significant, but the clear articulation of problems and a detailed set of recommendations provide a strong foundation for future strategic action. The success of FRCS modernisation is not solely an internal matter. It requires a concerted, multi-sectoral national effort, highlighting the interconnectedness of good governance, economic growth and national security in Fiji.

I urge all Members of Parliament, and indeed all stakeholders, to consider these recommendations with the gravity they deserve. Let us work together to ensure FRCS is equipped with the tools, resources and legislative backing it needs to fulfil its vital mandate.

I thank the Honourable Lenora Qereqeretabua, my fellow committee members and the dedicated Secretariat for their tireless work and to the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service. We commend your efforts and look forward for your continued progress.

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD. - Mr. Speaker, I thank all the honourable members who have spoken before me. The FRCS has accepted all the recommendations, but let me say that some of it might already be outdated, as the honourable Kumar had pointed out. Crisis does two things. One, it provides an opportunity to look at what exists at a particular time of the crisis, the systems, structure, et cetera, and it provides an opportunity for us to do that.

There was a good timing when we came into Government, and we put forward a number of strategies to ensure that FRCS remains and becomes a very agile, efficient and effective organisation. The Deputy Prime Minister, honourable Kamikamica highlighted some of the changes that have already been made. I agree the staffing situation, the redundancy that was done. To some extent it was a bit ill-conceived and rushed. We lost a lot of experienced people, but we were able to get a lot of them back and that helped.

As I had announced in the Budget, a number of changes – as alluded to by honourable Kumar – in the new digital framework, new digital space, new international imperatives of border control, et cetera, all that is part of the reforms that FRCS has been able to achieve in the last two years.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to top that up, we have just launched a new tax compliance strategy, based on a very clear pathway to look at not only different sectors, but also different stages of taxpayers preparedness, in terms of how they would be able to pay and meet their obligations. We are not only looking at compliance, we are looking at facilitation, and how we can support businesses to overcome the challenges that they may have in terms of paying taxes.

Some of the technological changes – I must say – was very challenging. It was not handled very well at the time of the implementation. FRCS has ended up spending a lot of money on Tax Payer Online Service (TPOS) and BMS, and we are still trying to upgrade some of those digital platforms, ensuring that it becomes efficient.

The issue about blacklisting, during our term, we have actually taken this head on. We have done a number of things, so I do not think there are any big issues. The only big issue is the export tax reduction. That is the issue that the European Union has, and that is something that we are looking at. A lot of our businesses would not be very happy if we just remove that tomorrow, so we have to look at alternative ways as to how we can help.

Having said all that, let me also say that the reforms that we have made in the last two and a half years, also shows in our revenue collection. For example, in the 2023-2024 financial year, we collected tax revenue that reached almost 99.6 percent of tax revenue budget target. In the first budget, we are almost there. In the second budget, 2023-2024 and the 2024-2025 budgets, we have actually exceeded our revenue collection, exceeded the forecast in the budget by about \$150 million. This is the record that FRCS has achieved.

(Hon. P.D. Kumar interjects)

HON. PROF. B.C. PRASAD.- Honourable Kumar is making some noise there, but let me just tell her, she spoke from Indonesia, she was on a holiday there.

In 2018 and 2019, the revenue forecast was \$4.2 billion, but only \$3.2 billion was collected. It was not COVID. They had a shortfall of more than \$1 billion, Mr. Speaker, Sir. All the doubts they were expressing about revenue collection, about our deficit Mr. Speaker, Sir, it falls flat because they did not look at the numbers.

In the last two years, we have put in significant reforms in the FRCS. There are still areas, border control, container scanning- these are new measures that we are putting in place. We are also making sure that the structure of the organisation is agile, is effective and efficient and we have the right people.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the board chairman Mr. Malakai Naiyaga and the CEO, Mr. Udit Singh. Our board members and all the senior staff of FRCS, Mr. Speaker Sir. We have a very, very good team now in FRCS and I think the reforms that they have undertaken, Mr. Speaker Sir, this is

a new team, new CEO, new Board, is reflected in the work that they have done in the revenue that we have collected.

I want to thank all the Committee Members and as I have said, I want to congratulate FRCS - the chairman, CEO, board and all the staff members for the sterling job that they have done, in collecting \$150 million, more than they forecasted in the budget.

MR. SPEAKER.- I now call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense, to speak in reply.

HON. R.R. SHARMA.- Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to thank all the speakers for this motion and their various perspectives around the recommendations. They have highlighted the challenges, issues and alternatives. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it needs to be noted that this was a FRCS was coming from COVID. As we move forward, Mr. Speaker Sir, the FRCS needs to keep up with the growing complexities of the world, with the various strategic steps and significant reforms.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to acknowledge and thank the team of FRCS for their dedication, passion and hard work. And especially, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to highlight this in Parliament, to some of the senior staff who we met during the public submission, who have nothing but absolute pride in the years they have served in FRCS. I would like to thank the Committee Members. I would like to thank the Chair and the Secretariat and thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER.- Parliament will now vote to note the content of the Report.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

REVIEW REPORT - CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF FIJI 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

HON. R.R. SHARMA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move:

That Parliament debates the Review Report on the Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji 2023 Annual Report, which was tabled on 30th April, 2025.

HON. I. TUIWAILEVU.- Mr. Speaker, I beg second the Motion.

HON. R.R. SHARMA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to present the findings of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, following the review of the Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji 2023 Annual Report. The Committee acknowledges the vital role of CAAF that plays in improving our aviation safety, security and international compliance.

However, several key issues demand urgent attention and strategic policy responses. A central concern remains the outdated legal framework, some of which dates back to 1976, leaving our aviation sector ill-equipped to deal with modern threats such as hijackings, cyber incidents and chemical and biological attacks. Additionally, Fiji is yet to ratify key international treaties, including the Beijing Convention and the Montreal Protocol which are essential for strengthening legal preparedness and compliance with the Convention on International Civil Aviation standards. To this end, the Committee strongly recommends that the Government to expedite the review and modernization of aviation laws and fast track the ratification of these vital international agreements.

Another key gap identified is the absence of an independent accident investigation body. While we commend Fiji's record of zero aviation fatalities from 2020 to 2023, we must not become complacent. We must be proactive in our safety assurance framework. The Committee recommends that the establishment of a dedicated and well-resourced Accident Investigation Unit to ensure impartial and timely investigations in accordance with ICAO's requirements.

Operationally, we note that internal capacity constraints continue to hinder the effectiveness of departments such as aviation security and ground safety. At the same time, the key National Aviation Committee's essential platforms for inter-agency coordination have remained inactive since 2009. The Committee recommends targeted internal capacity building and the reactivation of these essential oversight mechanisms to improve service efficiency and policy coordination.

Further enforcement challenges remain. Despite existing regulations on sensitive issues such as carrying firearms on aircrafts, lapses in compliance, especially involving high level individuals raised serious concerns. The Committee calls for stronger monitoring systems, improved public awareness and the formalisation of security breach reporting protocols to ensure transparency and uphold security standards.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, aviation threats are evolving. Fiji cannot afford to remain reactive. Our porous maritime borders and the increasing misuse of technologies such as 3D printed weapons and drones, and the growing incidence of drug trafficking through aviation channels, all highlighted the need for an anti-participatory security posture. We, therefore recommend that CAAF revisits its domestic threat assessments, upgrade screening technologies and government expedite the introduction of comprehensive drone legislation. Border security also depends on collaboration to address drug related threats, real time data sharing through systems such as Advanced Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) be fully operationalised in cooperation with police and border agencies.

The Committee also recognizes the challenge of talent retention and human resource capacity, with many skilled personnel lost to overseas markets. While CAAF has made notable efforts to reverse this trend, more must be done. We recommend a targeted retention strategy and a more distributed workforce model to improve national coverage and oversight.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in support of sustainable aviation, we commend Fiji step towards adapting sustainable aviation fuel and recommend continued research and investment in this area. Equally important in our recommendation for CAAF to monitor secondary radiation exposure from aviation operations to protect long term health of staff and the public. Mr. Speaker, Sir, our aviation sector is a strategic national asset. These recommendations form a comprehensive roadmap to ensure its resilience, compliance and sustainability in the face of modern challenges. We urge swift action by the Government and all stakeholders. On that note, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the motion before the House.

MR. SPEAKER.- Now the floor is open for debate and I have a list of speakers with me. Each speaker has seven minutes to deliver.

HON. P.K. RAVUNAWA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise in full support of the Review Report of the Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji 2023 Annual Report, a comprehensive bipartisan tabled by the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, of which I am privileged to be a Member. At the outset, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I acknowledge the exceptional effort of the Fiji Aviation Authority of Fiji in fulfilling its regulatory and oversight mandate under increasingly complex regional and global conditions. As a Committee, we have carefully considered the content of the 2023 Annual Report, oral submissions and conducted site visitations and inspections at the Civil Aviation Authority's facilities and this review culminated to 14 key recommendations which are both practical and forward looking.

On urgency of legislative reform, Mr. Speaker, one of the most pressing issue is the outdated aviation legislation, some of which as being alluded to, have been around since 1976. In today's world of drone cyber threats and transnational crime, such outdated legislations is no longer adequate. The Committee recommends that the Government expedites the review and modernisation of the Fiji Aviation Law including consolidating them – there are about four to six Acts that the CAAF staff work with. So, consolidating them into one single Aviation Bill, without this, we will continue to face legal loopholes, poor audit scores and limited prosecutorial powers for serious offences including aircraft hijacking and unlawful interference.

On the ratification of key international conventions, Fiji has not yet ratified major treaties such as the Beijing Convention 2010, Montreal Protocol 2014 and the Supplementary Protocol to the Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft. Mr. Speaker, failure to ratify these treaties limits our legal preparedness, undermine our compliance with ICAO standards and exposes us to risk associated with terrorism, weapons trafficking and the use of aircraft as weapons. We urge the executive to prioritise this matter. Treaty ratification must not be delayed any further.

The Committee recommends the establishment of an independent and well-resourced aviation accident investigation body. While we commend our zero fatality aviation in the period under review, safety must be proactive and not reactive. Accident investigation must be independent of the current regulatory body to ensure credibility, transparency and alignment to ICAO standards.

On domestic security and emerging threats, as a Committee we heard growing concern regarding Fiji's exposure to transnational drug trafficking, illegal immigration, even the use of advanced technology such as a 3D printed weapon. Fiji must upgrade its screening system, not only at international airports but across domestic airports especially given our porous maritime borders. Furthermore, the Committee also has recommended enhancing inter-agency co-ordination between CAAF, Police, Customs and Immigration to optimise the use of the PNR and API systems for tracking potential passengers who are coming into our country.

On drone regulation, the use of drones in Fiji has increased exponentially while some operators are licensed, many operators operate without accountability due to our legislative gap. The Committee recommends the introduction of updated drone law and regulating recreational and commercial drone use, protect national security and preserve public safety especially near airports and infrastructure.

We thank CAAF for their OHS sensitivity and oversight using device to measure the level of radiation on their staff who are on the ground in our borders. In addition, the push for sustainable aviation fuel has been mentioned. We thank CAAF for their feasibility study and the infrastructure development in that area. There was a need for staff retention, so it is important that we keep our limited, talented staff who are operating at our airports and borders. It is important that we keep them for the purpose of mentoring and staff retention, also for succession planning for our staff who are manning our borders at the airport.

Mr. Speaker, finally the Committee also looked at reactivating the National Aviation Security Committee. It is important that we have the Committee be reactivated so that there will be better monitoring systems and whistleblowing protection to ensure public trust in our aviation security.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we proudly support all the 14 recommendations in the Report. They are targeted reforms on legislation, regulation, operational and also institutional that will make our sky more safer, our institutions stronger and also our nation more compliant with international aviation obligations. I thank the Secretariat and the Committee for their effort in putting together this Report for review this afternoon.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief because there are a lot of findings that the Report has actually come up with. I want to thank the Committee for such a comprehensive report that has actually come out. One of the things that was actually quite glaring is the fact that we need to ensure that our legislation is up to speed with respect to the way that we behave in the aviation circle. So there is a lot of work for the Attorney-General's Chambers, coming up with that needs to be done and I think there is also some ratification that needs to be done in terms of treaties. Specifically, they mentioned the Beijing Convention 2010, Montreal Protocol and the 2010 Protocol for supplementary to the Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft Convention. These things need to be done to bring us in alignment with ICAO standards, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, there are very important observations that have been made by the Committee. Those are the two that stand out glaringly that need to be attended to and I think also one of the things that needs to be attended to from a legal perspective is the regulatory framework that needs to be updated. I know there are efforts underway to strengthen these regulations and align with international standards, but it is very important, I mean, after having a discussion yesterday with respect to aircraft disasters, et cetera. It is important that we get a regulatory framework in place so that we are aligned. I think there is a lot of work and assistance that actually can be given by ICAO and they have got an office where we can actually do that.

There are several other issues and I think one of the other issues that we currently face is the retention of talent with respect to the skill development and in aviation, that is something that is important that we must look at because our talent is so good that they get recruited and we lose them very quickly. We must ensure that we pay these people well and we are looking at a systematic way in which we are able to retain them. The technical personnel have been lost to overseas opportunities, but I do understand that CAAF is actually engaged in strategies, et cetera in enhancing benefits, et cetera to ensure that we keep them.

I also understand that the salary competitiveness is being looked at, which is a good thing, and this is a recommendation from the Committee and the scarcity framework is actually being developed. These are the things that are only helpful to us. We stand apart from many other Pacific Island countries, but we are also an example to them at the end of the day to do all these things and we are of assistance.

One other thing that the Report actually came up with, and it is quite important, there are gaps in our domestic aviation security and our local borders being porous is something of great concern and I think that is something that CAAF needs to look at in terms of the current threats that exist around our aviation atmosphere.

In short, Mr. Speaker, I think it is a very comprehensive Report that has actually been given, quite a few recommendations in there for Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji to be looking at, and it is actually very important that they do so. Again, I cannot say enough about the legislation that needs to be updated and looked at very carefully and thoroughly vetted, et cetera, even sitting down with ICAO to make sure that we are in an alignment with all the legislation that needs to be done.

HON. M.S.N. KAMIKAMICA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to provide my contribution on the debate of the Review of the Civil Aviation Authority Report for 2023. I thank the Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs and Defence for conducting quite a thorough review of the Annual Report. Just to note, 14 recommendations in total.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the role of regulation and oversight of civil aviation comes with immense responsibilities, as we all know, and therefore the continued effective operation of the civil aviation is very important in terms of the delivery of aviation in our country. In fact, we could argue that aviation is somewhat the lifeblood of Fiji.

In looking at the recommendations, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I felt I just touch on a couple, given that the fellow speakers who have spoken before me have covered almost all of the recommendations. The first one that actually leaps out is the modernisation of the civil aviation laws. Perhaps, it is worthwhile just to reflect very briefly on where we have gotten to with legislation. Unfortunately, the honourable Minister for Civil Aviation is not here, but I recall him saying very distinctly to me when we got into office, that the Civil Aviation Ministry in itself did not exist as a proper one. That, perhaps explains the long delay in formalising the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the legislation is antiquated, as we have noted, and requires updating. I have seen a draft of the legislation, and I am sure the honourable Minister will bring forward the amendments or the Bill as soon as it is ready. Perhaps just a comment broadly, one of the things that the Government of Fiji should be looking at with the development of legislation, particularly when it has regional implications, is to look at whether we can start synchronising or harmonising legislation and rules of aviation across the Pacific, and maybe looking at other countries so that we have a more harmonised set of rules that govern aviation. What it will do, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will make aviation much more seamless and easier.

The second point was the ratification of some of the conventions, and we agree with the recommendations of the Committee. We note that the Beijing Convention, the Montreal Protocol, and the 2010 Protocol on Supplementary to Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft Convention still have not been ratified, and I am sure that we should bring them to the House as soon as possible so that Fiji continues to be contemporary and relevant in terms of its overall honouring of conventions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also note with interest the recommendation to start considering an independent, dedicated accident investigation body. I guess, from being in the aviation industry for a while, you can correlate these kinds of bodies to the number of incidences that happen in our country. Rather than look at something just for Fiji, I wonder whether we should be looking at something on a more regional basis, so that it involves cost-sharing, and then we can use it as a tool to assist with the oversight of all accidents around the Pacific, and of course bring donor funding to bear in that exercise.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other two recommendations that I thought I just mention briefly, one was the rules governing carriage of firearms. We agree with the sentiments raised by the honourable Minister earlier this week around firearms and some concerns around the bullets that were found in an aircraft. We support those recommendations.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Sir, in terms of the retention of talent, it is something I support. The Civil Aviation industry is a very high demand industry. A lot of our talent is lost offshore because of the expertise that a lot of our young men and women have. We lose them to other countries. It is something that can be pursued a bit more by the Civil Aviation Authority, perhaps with some support from the Ministry, to ensure that as we try and keep our airways safe, we ensure the Civil Aviation is managed by our very own.

With those few words, I wholeheartedly support the recommendations, and I congratulate the Committee for such a comprehensive list of recommendations and support the motion before the House.

HON. I.B. SERUIRATU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to also acknowledge the work of the committee and add a few contributions on the motion before the House. This is a very important report, and I will just comment on a few areas in the recommendations.

One of the first things I asked and I consulted with the other honourable Members was, why did we not ratify the Beijing Convention? Was it overlooked or do we have some reservations? I urge the Government, if we can expedite. I know it came into force in 2018 and it has taken a few years now. For

us, being a travel hub, this is one of the important documents that we need to ratify. Why we did not ratify it when it came in 2010 and entered into force in 2018.

It is important for us because Fiji is a small island State and active ICAO member. I remember we joined in 1972, if I am correct. I also know for a fact that at some stage we were relying on our domestic legislation, particularly when it comes to the Fiji Crimes Act of 2009, and the Aviation (Security) Act of 1994, which criminalises hijacking and bomb threats, but not expressly cover the use of aircraft as a weapon, deployment of weapons of mass destruction aboard a plane, and so forth. I will not go into the list. We fully concur with the recommendations of the committee. This needs to be ratified without delay.

With that, comes the amendment to our domestic laws as well, so that we are compliant and aligned. Most importantly, our responsibility to the global commitments in ensuring that there is safety in the airline industry. Recommendation 8 on border control. That is important.

Perhaps I will skip and go right through to Recommendation 11. The committee recommends that the Government expedite the introduction of updated drone legislation to address regulatory gaps. This is an interesting issue. Our national security review has already been, and we are looking forward to the national security strategy. Just the other day, the honourable Minister for Defence talked about traditional and non-traditional threats.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this really caught my attention because in 2006, in Staff College, I opted on campaign studies to write an essay on the use of airpower in Afghanistan and the Iraqi War, because I just wanted to learn. There are more familiar topics and this is fascinating, particularly the use of drones. The argument was, is this a conventional war or a non-conventional war because of the use of drones?

However, drones can be used on the positive side as well. We use it during disasters, of course in agriculture, Brazil and Israel are the leaders in this in terms of pest control and application of pesticides. They are well ahead with the use of drones. On the other side it is a worry. Let us not rule out the possibility because it can be used for other purposes as well by our non-traditional threat stakeholders and I think this will be a very important piece of legislation that we might need to look into.

On the capacity issue, I think there were some recommendations as well, for us to establish that independent and dedicated accident investigation body. The only question, and I think linking to that finding on capacity is, how prepared are we in terms of going in that direction? What are the gaps and what actions do we need to take in order to address those gaps so that we are again compliant meeting our obligations as well?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, unfortunately, the honourable minister is not here today, but in his capable hands, we hope that we will also expedite these areas. That is my comments on the report, and again, thank you to the committee and hope that we will take the necessary actions according to the recommendations to fulfill our obligations.

HON. RO F.Q. TUISAWAU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the committee Chairperson and the members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence for this report. The Coalition Government remains committed to its obligation to strengthen the capacity of Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji. Thus Fiji continues to lead the Pacific in civil aviation. Established under the Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji Act 1979, CAAF is mandated to ensure the compliance with the Chicago Convention and the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The authority works in close partnership with key stakeholders to uphold the highest standards of aviation safety, security and operational efficiency, contributing to sustainable development and

enhancing domestic and international connectivity for Fiji and its people. The Coalition Government has consistently provided substantial funding to ensure its operational sustainability, which has been crucial in supporting the authority's recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

From 2021 to 2025-2026 Financial Year, CAAF is provided with an operational grant of \$25.6 million. The increased funding over the years reflects the Government's commitment in ensuring CAAF's operational budget has a direct and positive impact on its ability to deliver on its safety, security and regulatory mandates. In terms of the recommendation one as already discussed by the various honourable Members, a comprehensive review of Fiji's aviation laws is scheduled for 2025. The goal is to modernise and harmonise legislation such as the Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji Act 1976, Civil Aviation Reform Act 1999 into a unified Civil Aviation Bill that meets International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards and recommended practices.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, from 2023/2024 to 2025/2026 financial year, ICAO is allocated a total of \$1 million under the CAAF grant allocation. The ICAO Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) Liaison Officer is based in Fiji and is leading several key initiatives that support aviation security, safety and capacity building across the Pacific region including bridge gaps with ICAO technical support including analysis and recommendations for policy development and implementation. This will progress the harmonization as raised by the honourable Deputy Prime Minister, honourable Kamikamica.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, referring to Recommendation No. 3, Fiji does have a formal Accident Investigation Framework so it does not yet fully operate an independent commission like other countries. Instead investigations are carried out as per the regulation. Again, this is noted including the suggestions for a harmonised Regional Accident investigation body. A sum of \$200,000 is allocated for accident investigation under the CAAF 2025/2026 Budget.

Recommendation Nos. 9 and 14, on capacity development with an increased budget in 2025/2026, CAAF will invest its resources in professional development through training, workshops, conferences and participation in ICAO working group meetings. This will ensure that staff remain up to date with evolving standards and practices. Funding has allowed CAAF to hire key technical staff in scarce skill areas and improve remuneration packages and this has strengthened CAAF capacity to carry out core oversight functions such as audits, surveillance, investigation and enforcement.

Sir, CAAF has been able to modernise its systems and infrastructure including critical software and hardware upgrades to support more efficient oversight processes and stakeholder engagement with strong collaboration across agencies between CAAF, Ministry of Immigration, Border Police and Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority to support border security, passenger facilitation and compliance monitoring. This agency we have integrated systems, namely the Advanced Passenger Information System and risk based profiling tools at Nadi and Nausori Airports.

The Ministry of Immigration 2025/2026 Budget has also increased by \$2.9 million in relation to the specific functions. Specific funding allocations are provided to improve the systems and processes and upgrade IT related infrastructures.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, COVID-19 has had a profound impact on Fiji's aviation and tourism sectors with significant reductions in international passenger traffic and associated revenues. As part of the Government's recovery strategy the departure tax has been revised gradually from \$140 to \$270 and now \$200 effective from 1st August, 2025. This phased approach supports economic recovery while cushioning the impact on travellers and the tourism industry.

The departure tax is a Government imposed levy collected by FRCS of which \$5 VIP is allocated to CAAF. Through this CAAF has received a total sum of \$13.3 million of departure tax from 2021 to

2025. As part of the recovery strategy, transit hours have been reduced from 96 hours to 48 hours effective from 1st August, 2024. This adjustment aims to streamline transit arrangements and better align with international aviation norms, facilitating smoother movement through Fiji for short staying visitors.

I commend Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji in its performance and the board, CEO and all staff for the critical role they play in Fiji's aviation sector and overall economy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the motion before the House.

HON. R.R. SHARMA.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would sincerely like to thank all the Members who have spoken on this motion before the House. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the ratification of this treaty is very important to Fiji, every Fijian, our backbone industry, which is the tourism industry.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to note a few things. Drugs, ammunition trades, bullets or capsules, explosives, hijacking, these are all interconnected and part of transnational crime. Fiji should never be in the position to be negotiating with terrorists, and all whatever comes into Fiji comes through either the ocean or by air.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Members have strongly spoken about the ratification of the treaty, and I have been informed that it is not before the committee as of yet, but I urge Government to speed up this process with amended legislation and looking at the policy frameworks that need to be strengthened, proper financing and enhanced capacity.

Mr. Speaker, Fiji can strive towards strengthening its borders and combat the complexities of transnational crimes. Mr. Speaker, Sir with the recommendations in the report and the points raised by all the Members, I think there is a lot of work for CAAF, Parliament and the Government to do in the upcoming year that we have. I would like to thank all the staff of CAAF for their commitment and hard work and the committee members.

MR. SPEAKER.- Parliament will now vote to note the content of the Report.

Question put.

Motion agreed.

REVIEW REPORT – MINISTRY OF FISHERIES 2021–2023 ANNUAL REPORTS

HON. K.V. RAVU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move:

That Parliament debates the Consolidated Review Report on the Ministry of Fisheries Annual Reports 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, which was tabled on 1st May, 2025.

HON. J.N. NAND.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the motion.

HON. K.V. RAVU.- Mr. Speaker, honourable Prime Minister, honourable Deputy Prime Ministers, honourable Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition and honourable Members of Parliament. On behalf of the honourable members of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources, I take this opportunity to speak on the motions in regard to the Committee Review Reports on the Ministry of Fisheries Annual Reports for the period of 2021- 2022 and 2022-2023, which was tabled in Parliament on Thursday, 1st May, 2025.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this committee was mandated under the Standing Orders 109(c) and 110(1)(c) to oversee the stewardship of sustainable management of our country's natural resources. It is in this capacity that we have carefully examined the Ministry's report. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fisheries sector is a cornerstone of the Fiji economy, providing livelihoods for thousands of families, contributing significantly to food security and supporting our export markets. The Ministry of Fisheries holds a critical mandate to sustainably manage and develop vital resources and ensuring its preservation for the present and future generations. The committee has conducted a thorough review on the Ministry's performance over the two reporting periods, focussing on key areas such as resource management, regulatory enforcement, community engagement, financial stewardship and adaption to emerging challenges such as climate change and marine ecosystem degradation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the principal observations of the Committee include:

- (1) Sustainable Fisheries Management - The Ministry has made commendable efforts to implement sustainable fisheries management practise. This includes establishment and enforcement of marine protected areas and community-based resource management initiatives that empower local stakeholders.
- (2) Regulatory Framework and Compliance - There has been progress in strengthening the legal and regulatory framework governing fisheries activities. However, the Committee notes the ongoing need to enhance monitoring, control and surveillance mechanism to better address Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.
- (3) Community Involvement and Capacity Building - The Ministry has prioritised working closely with coastal communities, promoting awareness and capacity buildings to foster sustainable fishing practice. The Committee encourages continued expanded support to those community partnerships.
- (4) Climate Change and Environmental Challenges - Recognising the vulnerability of marine ecosystems, the Ministry has begun to incorporate climate resilience strategies into fisheries management. Nevertheless, increased resources and inter-agency collaboration are necessary to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change effectively.
- (5) Financial and Operational Performance - The Committee acknowledges the Ministry's prudent financial management, though there remains opportunities to improve operational efficiency and optimise resource allocation to priority programmes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in light of these observations, the Committee respectfully submitted the following recommendations:

- Enhance enforcement capacity and invest in modern surveillance technologies to combat IUU fishing effectively.
- Increase funding technical support for community-based fisheries management initiative.
- Strengthen collaboration with other government agencies, research institutions and regional bodies to address climate change impacts on marine resources.
- Promote innovation and diversification within the fisheries sector to bolster economic resilience.
- Implement continuous training programmes for Ministry's staff to build technical expertise and operational efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in conclusion, the Committee recognises significant achievement of the Ministry of Fisheries amidst numerous challenges and calls on stakeholders to support the continued

advancement of sustainable fisheries management in Fiji. By doing so, we safeguard the health of our marine environment and secure the livelihoods of our people for generations to come. I commend the Report to this honourable House and look forward to a meaningful, constructive debate.

MR. SPEAKER.- Honourable Members, the floor is now open for debate. I have a list of four speakers, with me, I remind that each of the speakers will be given seven minutes for their delivery.

HON. J.N. NAND.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to contribute to the debate before the House. The Committee was fortunate to go on a site visit after reviewing the Report and managed to note some significant findings. The Committee wishes to thank the hardworking staff of the Ministry of Fisheries in ensuring that our marine resources are protected and regulatory measures are in place. However, this can be further strengthened if there is an improvement in the data collection from rural communities. At the moment, the major challenges in data collection are limited human resources, absence of specified budgetary allocation, and most importantly lack of transportation. We do hope that the current budget of the Ministry will address this.

Whilst headquarters and divisional offices are doing their level best, the Committee noted that there were gaps in co-ordination between the two centralised offices, and policies, programmes implementation were delayed relating to slow service delivery.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have seen firsthand how the fisheries staff are engaging themselves to create awareness in the rural communities. However, this is not sufficient as there is a greater need for more national public awareness and regular consultation on fisheries regulation and policies. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Fisheries prioritise effective preparation of the Aquaculture Development Plan and National Fishing Policy by ensuring adequate resources, staffing and training at the divisional level. Regular monitoring and evaluation should be conducted to ensure the goal of these policies are achieved.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to remote stations, the Committee recommends the Ministry of Fisheries to provide well-defined, targeted support, prioritising the upgrading of infrastructure and increasing financial resource allocation to ensure effective service delivery. Reviewing the staffing structure, better remuneration package and formulation of staff rotation policies would greatly assist staff in remote stations.

Generally speaking, the fisheries sector has continued to face challenges over the years, such as our fishing and illegal fishing. As many of the fishing spots are over-exploited, particularly near the urban centres, the exploitation of fish stock has both ecological and economical challenges. Also, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the prevalence of IUU fishing is a major concern and this requires a consolidated effort from all the stakeholders to curb this. In small rural communities, small scale fishers often face difficulties in accessing offshore fishing grounds and lack adequate infrastructure and equipment. Coupled with this, market access is another major challenge connecting remote fishing communities with urban markets in regard to transportation and storage, which is not very effective.

Aquaculture development has more potential, and I must commend the Ministry of Fisheries for taking the lead role in this. However, it faces challenges in terms of poor infrastructure and technical expertise. The Committee understands that the challenges faced by the sector requires a multifaceted approach involving policy change, improved enforcement, and involvement in sustainable practices and infrastructure.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank the Chairperson, who is now elevated to a Ministerial position, and I also congratulate him on his appointment. I am thankful that under his leadership, the Committee has learned a lot considering his immense knowledge of the agriculture sector.

I also thank the Committee Members and the Secretariat team for their contribution in compiling this Report. With this, Mr. Speaker, I support the motion before the House.

HON. A.V.B.C. BAINIVALU.- Mr. Speaker, honourable Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and Assistant Ministers, honourable Leader of the Opposition, honourable Members of Parliament, *ni sa yadra vinaka*. I rise to provide a response to the Consolidated Report of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources for the Ministry of Fisheries Annual Report for the period 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. The Ministry formally acknowledges the former Chairperson, honourable Tunabuna and the honourable Members of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources for the assessments, findings and recommendations presented in their Report. This Report will be instrumental in the Ministry's strategic planning, the realignment of its priorities and the allocation of resources to enhance service delivery to our diverse stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the achievements outlined in the annual reports are built upon the efforts of many. I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the hardworking staff and officials of the Ministry of Fisheries who are on the ground, turning policy into action. Their work, along with the foundational efforts of my predecessors and the vital support from our community and industry stakeholders, is what drives our progress.

The Ministry launched its National Fisheries Policy and Aquaculture Development Plan 2024-2028 in last October, and the plan serves as a roadmap with strategies and policies that guide and ensure effective resource allocation to achieve the targeted fisheries and aquaculture objectives.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this fiscal year, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has extended its financial support to the Ministry for implementing the Aquaculture Development Plan and also to promote the development and commercialization of the nine key aquaculture commodities. The Ministry is collaborating with partners such as the Pacific Community and the Australia Centre for International Agricultural Research to address feed challenges. With our partners, we are conducting research and trials on using local materials to produce feed that will be affordable and reasonable for our farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also wish to inform this august House that efforts are underway to help farmers transition from subsistence to commercial farming through our food security, development, freshwater and commercial brackishwater shrimp programmes, and consultation with financing agencies.

One of the key deliverables of the Ministry is creating awareness and education on fisheries related programmes, including its policies and regulations for all Fijians. As outlined in our Strategic Plan 2024-2028, the Ministry of Fisheries will work closely with relevant Government agencies and partners to conduct outreach to communities to improve our services to all Fijians, and ensure they are better informed about fisheries programmes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our community empowerment remains at the core of our strategy. We will continue to support and engage with fishers and aquaculture farmers. Our commitment to transparency and accountability is steadfast. We will keep involving all stakeholders, including Government agencies, private sector partners, civil society and all communities we serve in ensuring that decision making is inclusive, and that, progress is communicated openly.

HON. A.A. MAHARAJ.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise today to speak on the Consolidated Review Report of the Ministry of Fisheries 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Annual Reports. The Standing Committee on Natural Resources undertook a thorough review of this vital sector. The Committee examined the Ministry's performance, its ambitious plan and the challenges it faced. This review included valuable site

visits to various fishing communities and facilities, particularly in the Western Division, which provided the Committee with crucial on the ground insights.

During the visit to the farms and fishing communities in the West, the Committee witnessed firsthand the immense potential of Fiji's fishery sector, the dedication of our local fishers and aquaculture farmers and the natural abundance that our waters offer. However, the Report also brought to light some significant concerns that if left unaddressed would hinder the sustainable growth of the sector and impact the livelihoods of the countless Fijians.

One of the overarching issues that became apparent is poor monitoring across the various aspects of the fisheries industry. While the Report outlines the strategies for monitoring and compliance, the reality on the ground suggests that these efforts are not consistently effective. Without robust and visible monitoring, even the best policies and regulation struggle to achieve the intended impact. This lack of consistent oversight creates vulnerabilities to both our marine resources and people who depend on them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a critical area the Committee observed was challenges pertaining to our ice plant. These facilities are the backbone of post-harvest quality and market access for our fishers, especially those in the remote areas. The Report acknowledges the Ministry's effort to operate 24 ice plants nationwide, recognising their vital role in fishing, preservation and food security. However, the observation revealed that many of these ice plants are aging, frequently suffer from power outage, and face limited availability of spare parts, as even noted by the Ministry itself in its response. This directly impacts the ability of our fishers to preserve the catch and get it to the market in good condition.

What is even more concerning, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is, the feedback the Committee received in some places; priority for ice supply is given to the middlemen, rather than directly to the hard working small scale fishers. This creates an unfair playing field, focusing on our primary producers to either sell their catch quickly at lower prices or risk spoilage, undermining the economic viability and the very purpose for these crucial facilities. The Ministry must ensure that these vital resources serve the best interests of all fishers, not just a select few.

Furthermore, the Report reveals serious issues concerning enforcement and public safety. The Report reveals instances where undersized crabs were being sold openly in markets. This is a direct violation of the fisheries regulations designed to protect the juvenile species and ensure a long term sustainability of the crab population. Allowing such practice to continue unchecked threatens the future of our valuable resources. Even more alarming, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the revelation that fish species, known to be poisonous, are being sold openly in some areas. This poses a great public health risk to our citizens.

While the Ministry report mentioned strengthening, monitoring, control and surveillance units, the collaboration effort with Fiji Police Force and Navy to combat illegal fishing, this incident demonstrates that current measures are insufficient to protect the consumers and uphold basic safety standards. There needs to be much more stronger presence and more rigorous enforcement at the local market level, to prevent these dangerous practices.

The Ministry of Fisheries plays an indispensable role, in safeguarding one of Fiji's most precious natural resources. The Report highlights commendable efforts in areas like, aquaculture development and empowerment of women in fisheries. However, the issue I have raised today, the problem of poor monitoring, the critical state of our ice plant infrastructure and unfair prioritization of middlemen, and the alarming scale of undersized crabs and even poisonous fish, underscores the significant gap between the policy and the practice. These are not merely administrative oversight, they are fundamental challenges that directly affect the livelihood of our fishing communities and sustainability of our marine ecosystem, and the health and safety for every Fijian consumer.

I urge the Ministry to move beyond plans and reports and translate its commitments to tangible, impactful action on the ground. This requires not only increased funding and resources, as the Committee has recommended, but also renewed focus on effective implementation, transparent accountability, and genuine engagement with our local communities. Let us ensure that our fisheries truly contribute to the well-being of prosperity of all Fijians now, and for generations to come. With these, Mr. Speaker, I support the Report before the House.

HON. RO. F.Q. TUISAWAU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Committee Chairperson and the Members of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources for this Report. The fisheries sector plays a vital role in the overall growth and development of the country. It is one of the top five contributors to Fiji's GDP and national food security. The Fiji National Development Plan 2025-2029 and Vision 2050 provides clear goals, policies and strategies to achieve sustainable management, development and protection of Fiji's fisheries resources by strengthening offshore, inshore and aquaculture fisheries, with a sustainable market access environment supported by some governance in innovative service delivery.

The fisheries sector remains a cornerstone of Fiji's economy, contributing \$207 million in 2022, accounting for 8 percent of our national export earnings. The combined fisheries related activities within the fisheries sector contributed \$65.1 million or 6 percent to GDP. In terms of annual budget provisions, the Ministry of Fisheries from 2021 to 2022 till 2025 to 2026 financial year is allocated approximately \$96.3 million. The funding support demonstrates the Government's commitment towards the Ministry of Fisheries as a whole in terms of the recommendations:

Recommendation One: Upgrading infrastructure over the years - Government continues to allocate funding to ensure that the necessary infrastructure and support is provided for research. Offshore fisheries, inshore coastal fisheries, aquaculture, fisheries, regulatory reform, extension and advisory services, training, monitoring and enforcement of fisheries activities, that improves the livelihood of coastal communities in order to have a sustainable and thriving fisheries sector.

Furthermore, effective collaboration with other relevant stakeholders such as the iTaukei Affairs Trust Board, Marine Safety Authority of Fiji, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Finance, to name a few, is evident through successful completion and ongoing projects, such as the ongoing construction of the Koro Fisheries Station, Cawaro Fisheries Station, Ra Multi-Species Hatchery, and procurement of aluminum boats.

Recommendation Two: Decentralizing Budget Controls - The establishment of the new FMIS system to replace the current two decade old FMIS provides a great deal for the Ministry in bridging greater efficiency and accounting processes, improve financial reporting, strengthening internal controls and audit trails. Moreover, the new FMIS system has improved the turnaround time for processing and releasing of funds in a timely manner.

In terms of projects in the 2025-2026 Budget - The Ministry of Fisheries is allocated \$24.9 million. Some of the major projects and programmes:

- (1) \$1.35 million is allocated for coastal development to support the sustainable growth of inshore fisheries through development assistance and advisory services to maritime and coastal fishing communities. Priority areas include capacity building, conservation fisheries, path to market initiatives, monitoring and surveillance, and enforcement, and the Fish Aggregation Devices (FAD) Programme.
- (2) \$620,000 is allocated for the ongoing construction works at the Koro Ice plant Station, which aims to establish a fully-fledged ice plant station that will create economic opportunities for Koro Island and to nearby maritime islands. Funding is to cater for an office and staff quarters, purchase and installation of a new ice plant, machinery and logistics.

- (3) \$484,000 is allocated for the purchase of new ice machines for Vanuabalavu and Lakeba to create economic opportunities, especially given their life is heavily dependent on marine resources.
- (4) \$563,000 is allocated to cater for the ongoing construction of multi-species hatchery in Ra as mentioned. This aims to produce and supply *tilapia* fry and prawn post larvae to farmers in the Western Division to become a well-established research station and to be able to host fisheries conferences. For this financial year, major construction works will include the construction of new staff quarters.
- (5) \$392,000 is allocated to undertake renovation works at the Naduruloulou Research Station, \$937,000 Makogai Research and Development Programme, research on potential mariculture species, including new species, \$1.3 million support fresh aquaculture tilapia prawn through the production of tilapia and post larvae productions in Naduruloulou and Dreketi. It also caters for research, \$1.1 million for Food Security Programme to assist farmers with start-up capital, and one-of assistance up to 7,000 is available to existing farmers and up to 10,000 for new farmers and 10,000 for a dormant farmer.
- (6) \$562,000 has been allocated for hosting the 9th Tuna Trade Forum in Fiji. This highlights the Government's commitment to increasing consumption, improve competitiveness and creating jobs. There are various tax incentives which has reduced the fiscal duty on the importation of frozen fish, including salmon from 15 percent to 0 percent.

In terms of human resources, the Government continues to support the Ministry's human resources development capacity building to ensure the Ministry's staffing to carry out the Ministry's core responsibilities. In the 2025-2026 Budget, seven project staff were regularised whereby they will be part of the Ministry's establishment.

In addition, additional funding is allocated to cater for the two new Deputy Director positions and four new Executive Officer positions. The Coalition Government fully supports the development of the fisheries sector and the Minister for Fisheries, the Permanent Secretary and all staff. I commend the Minister for Fisheries, Permanent Secretary and all hardworking staff for the continued great work and I support the motion before the House..

HON. K.V. RAVU.- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all the honourable Members who have contributed to the Report. I also express my sincere thanks to the Committee Members – the former Chairperson of the Committee, who is now the Minister for Agriculture, honourable Vijay Nath, honourable Joseph Nand and honourable Taito Rokomatu for their dedication and bipartisan contribution throughout this review process. I have no further comments.

MR. SPEAKER.- Parliament will now vote to note the content of the Report.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

MR. SPEAKER.- Honourable Members, that brings us to the end of today's sitting. Parliament will now adjourn until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

The Parliament adjourned at 6.34 p.m.

ANNEXURE I

Reply to Written Question No. 107/2025 tabled by the honourable Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts (Ref. Page 1598)



MINISTER FOR ITAUKEI AFFAIRS AND CULTURE, HERITAGE AND ARTS
(Hon. I. Vasu)

Reply to Question No. 107/2025 is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, HERITAGE AND ARTS

Parliamentary Response

Donor Funded/Technical Assistance Projects

2023-2024 Financial Year/2024-2025 Financial Year

	Project Title	Summary	Project Status	Funding/Technical Assistance
1.0	<p>Fiji Capacity Building on the Development of a community led safeguarding plan for <i>meke</i> (traditional dance) and Associated <i>Vucu</i> (chants)</p> <p>Funded by International Training Centre for ICH in Asia and the Pacific (CHRIHAP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is part of Fiji's progressing the Implementation of the 2003 Convention for ICH Safeguarding at national level – Fiji as state party partners with CHRIHAP to enhance its works. Safeguarding plans for Fijian ICH currently focus on inventorying and documentation of our living heritage. The concern of the sector is on the viability, continuity and sustainability of Fiji's living heritage that are endangered yet communities continue to practice. The proposed Development of a Safeguarding Plan in Fiji on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) will ensure this is achieved that focuses on traditional dance (<i>meke</i>) and chants (<i>vucu</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The three-day workshop was successfully completed, held from 2nd to 5th July, 2024. Report finalised and submitted to CHRIHAP Office, China. Recommendation from the workshop will be tabulated and submitted to the line Ministry implementation in this new fiscal year. A key outcome of the three-day discussion is to facilitate similar workshop on the Safeguarding Plans for Fiji's ICH around the remaining three Divisions in Fiji and correlating activities regarding progressing the project. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The village of Nataleira, Dawasamu in the province of Tailevu was selected because of recent efforts undertaken by the village youths on revitalisation programmes in the use of their dialect, traditional <i>meke</i> and <i>vucu</i> (chants) which has been lost for some time. • Engaging youth, practitioners and the <i>vanua</i> in the preparation of community driven Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Safeguarding Plan. 		
2.0	<p>The initiative was part of the broader UNESCO-supported programme titled “Advancing the SDGs by Improving Livelihoods, Social Protection, Human Rights and Resilience of Vulnerable Communities via Economic Diversification and Digital Transformation” for Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a significant effort to strengthen the legal and professional capacities of Fiji’s creative community, a multi-stakeholder workshop was convened to deepen understanding of copyright in the music industry. • Bringing together composers, musicians and performing arts professionals, the initiative focussed on intellectual property protection, copyright registration, licensing, royalty management and the role of digital platforms in today’s music landscape. • This Copyright on Music Awareness Workshop held from 23rd to 25th October, 2024 was jointly organised by the Fiji Arts Council (FAC), the Department of Culture, Heritage & Arts (DCHA) and Oceanica Law, with the financial and in-kind support of UNESCO in terms of guidance and advisory throughout the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Copyright on Music Awareness Workshop, held from 23rd to 25th October, 2024 has been successfully completed. • Report finalised and submitted to UNESCO Samoa office. • It was through the networking and <i>Talanoa</i> session held that identified the need to organise Business Entrepreneurship training specifically targeting musicians and composers. • A key outcome was the recognition of the need for a dedicated Collective Management Organisation (CMO) for music producers, who are currently not covered by FIPRA. Following the workshop, discussions have commenced to explore this initiative further with FIPRA’s potential support. 	FJ\$20,531.21

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through a combination of expert-led presentations, interactive group work, and peer-to-peer learning, participants were equipped with critical knowledge and practical tools to navigate copyright challenges and opportunities. • A total of 41 participants attended including 9 government officials (56% of whom were women) with active engagement across all sessions. • The workshop offered a comprehensive exploration of copyright and the music industry, with a strong focus on empowering composers, musicians and other creatives with legal and practical knowledge. • Led by Mr. Niubalavu, participants received in-depth instruction on copyright law, ownership, infringement, and the specific rights attached to various musical works, including traditional knowledge and cultural expressions. • Sessions also addressed real-world issues such as licensing, enforcement, and dispute resolution, equipping attendees with tools to protect and manage their creative outputs. • Notably, artists Phil Dakei and Natalie Raikadroka added real-life context, through their experiences, underscoring the importance of copyright 	
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		awareness in sustaining artistic careers.		
3.0	The initiative was part of the broader UNESCO-supported programme titled “Advancing the SDGs by Improving Livelihoods, Social Protection, Human Rights and Resilience of Vulnerable Communities via Economic Diversification and Digital Transformation” for Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the economic resilience of Fiji’s creative sector, the Fiji Arts Council (FAC), in partnership with the Department of Culture, Heritage & Arts (DCHA) and Oceanica IP, delivered a Business Entrepreneurship Training in late May 2025. • The three-day training session brought together 36 participants from various sectors of the music and creative industries, including composers, musicians, record labels, and government officials. • This training was specifically tailored to equip participants with practical business knowledge, covering financial literacy, marketing strategies, business planning and the utilisation of digital platforms to support and monetize creative work. • A key goal of the training was to help artists shift their mindset from seeing themselves solely as creators to also understanding their role as entrepreneurs. Interactive sessions, case studies, and facilitated discussions allowed participants to reflect on their current challenges and develop concrete strategies for building more sustainable careers. • The workshop provided a comprehensive overview of the music industry and copyright fundamentals, equipping participants with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 3-day Business Entrepreneurship Workshop was successfully conducted from May 23-25, 2025. • The final report has been submitted to the UNESCO Apia office. • There has been ongoing discussion on further areas for collaboration in the next financial year. 	FJ\$21,049.60

		<p>essential knowledge about the roles of key stakeholders, types of royalties, and the challenges within licensing and distribution systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through panel discussions and interactive Q & A sessions, attendees explored critical topics such as digital streaming platforms, royalty collection, and the evolving landscape of music consumption. Real-life experiences shared by artists enriched the learning, highlighting practical challenges and opportunities in protecting creative works and maximising income. • Building on this foundation, the workshop also focussed on the business and entrepreneurial aspects of the music industry. • Sessions covered effective marketing strategies, developing an entrepreneurial mindset, formalising creative enterprise, and monetizing live performances. • The final day emphasized navigating digital distribution channels, expanding revenue streams through branding and merchandise, and understanding contract essentials to safeguard artists rights. • Collectively, these sessions empowered participants with practical tools to build sustainable careers, 		
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		<p>adapt to the digital economy, and confidently engage in contract negotiations and business development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The training also fostered valuable networking among participants and sparked important industry conversations. This business entrepreneurship training marked a meaningful step in advancing creative industry development in Fiji. • The Fiji Arts Council, together with its partners, is committed to building on this success by offering further training, mentorship and advocacy to ensure that local artists are not only creatively empowered but economically equipped to thrive. • The support from UNESCO was critical in making this initiative a reality, and the FAC looks forward to continued collaboration in promoting sustainable livelihoods through the arts. 		
4.0	Capacity Building for Safeguarding ICH during Emergencies – (UNESCO Funding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main purpose of this project is for people to be aware of what to do before, during and after any natural disaster and to implement the programmes and all the activities to safeguard ICH elements in Fiji. • The project engaged with participants from NDMO, weather office/experts, youths both men and women, disabled peoples, advocates and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of workshops was carried out from 23 February, 2024 to 25 October, 2024. • This was successfully completed. • A Report was submitted to UNESCO. 	US\$25,000

		<p>ambassadors with ICH, connect with schools, where we focus this initiative on the communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are the communities that were greatly impacted by the disasters, cyclones, flooding and were hit the hardest by the recent COVID19 pandemic and <i>TC Winston</i>. • The workshop was held in Suva for the Central/Northern Division, Nadi for the Western Division and in Levuka Town for the Eastern Division. The community inventory was carried out in Naisausau Village, Namara, Tailevu and Nauonuo Village in Levuka, Ovalau to gather data on the community needs for the safeguarding of elements in Fiji. 		
5.0	Fire Assessment and Training at the Levuka World Heritage site – UNESCO Funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of this funding programme is to fund a Fire Assessment and Training at the Levuka World Heritage Site in Levuka Town. • The workshop will include consultation with the National Trust of Fiji, Levuka Town Council and key stakeholders in Levuka. • A key outcome of the workshop is for participants to be able to develop a Levuka Heritage Site Fire Management Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation in-progress and expected to be completed by 31st December, 2025. 	<p>US\$26,000</p> <p>(Funding is yet to be released by NATCOM Office under the Ministry of Education)</p>
6.0	Technical Assessment of State to Heritage Buildings in Levuka.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JICA assisted by bringing on two separate occasion world heritage technical experts from Japan to assist the Fiji Team in determining best way to rehabilitate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Experts Visit was completed. • Both reports of Technical Experts were provided to the Department of Culture, Heritage & Arts. 	<p>JICA Funding of Technical Experts from Japan.</p>

	Funding by JICA	<p>dilapidated heritage buildings in Levuka that had endured the test of time since <i>Cyclone Winston</i> in 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that repair works must continue to meet world heritage standards, and since Fiji does not have world heritage technical experts on wooden structure conservation, the Japanese experts are key to the Department's progressing rehabilitation works in Levuka. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reports assisted the Department in putting together a grant disbursement guideline for Levuka World Heritage Rehabilitation. • The reports were also used to assist our local technical experts – architect, engineer and carpenters in preparing material costs for submission to the Ministry of Finance for the release of capital grant for Levuka. • Capital funds were not released by Ministry of Finance. 	
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ANNEXURE II

Reply to Written Question No. 108/2025 tabled by the honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation (Ref. Page 1598-1599)



MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (Hon. V.R. Gavoka)

Reply to Question No. 108/2025 is as follows:

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Over the past year, Tourism Fiji has achieved significant progress in leveraging digital marketing to enhance destination awareness, attract highly probable visitors, and stimulate commerce for our local businesses.
- 1.2 Tracking website traffic, social media read, and lead conversions is critical in destination marketing for several strategic reasons. These are measured as follows:

Metric	Insight Provided	Action Enabled
Website Traffic	High interest in a blog about eco-tourism	Create more content around sustainability
Social Media Reach	Big audience in Korea, low in Canada	Launch Canadian-targeted ads or influencer collabs
Lead Conversions	Many brochure downloads, few bookings	Improve booking links, add promotions

2.0 WEBSITE TRAFFIC

- 2.1 Tourism Fiji's website is crucial for converting potential travellers, and its performance results are detailed below:

Website Performance Metrics

Metric	FY2023/24	FY2024/25	Growth %
Website Traffic (visits)	4.85 million	15.15 million	211%

Leads to Operators	21,587	49,736	130%
Page Views	6.3 million	19.5 million	207.97%
Unique Visitors	3.04 million	8.61 million	189.25%

- 2.2 Fiji's global reach and engagement are expanding, as evidenced by these growth figures. Although session times are shorter – a trend consistent with global mobile browsing habits – the quantity and quality of traffic to our platforms have never been better.
- 2.3 Key drivers of this performance include:
- Targeted Digital Campaigns: Strategic advertising across platforms like Meta (Facebook, Instagram), Google Ads, and TikTok effectively engaged travellers at opportune moments.
 - Enhanced Content Strategy: A focus on fresh, relevant and engaging content successfully positioned Fiji as a highly desirable destination.
 - Expanded Global Presence: Increased visibility on digital and social media platforms significantly boosted Fiji's international engagement.
- 2.4 These achievements reflect how our digital efforts are enhancing traveller experience, increasing product demand, and producing tangible results for our tourism industry. These strategic investments in digital marketing have yielded significant returns, enhancing Fiji's global destination profile.

3.0 SOCIAL MEDIA AND CONTENT REACH

- 3.1 Tourism Fiji's social media presence has surpassed 1.08 million followers across major platforms:
- Facebook
 - Instagram
 - LinkedIn
 - TikTok
 - Twitter (X)
 - YouTube
 - Pinterest
 - Threads
- 3.2 These platforms are vital for travellers in the dreaming and planning stages, offering visual and narrative inspiration about Fiji. Growth in social media following confirms increasing global interest in Fiji and the resonance of our content.

- 3.3 Tourism Fiji's strategy leverages captivating imagery and authentic storytelling that highlights Fiji's natural beauty and culture. This organic growth is amplified through targeted digital campaigns that support travel planning and decision-making.

Digital Advertising Impact

Platform	Reach/Impressions	Clicks
Meta (Facebook/Instagram)	11.4 million reach/ 39 million impressions	1.35 million
Google Ads	1 billion impressions	16.3 million

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 These outcomes highlight Fiji's strategic transition towards performance-based marketing. The utilisation of data to inform campaigns not only enhances awareness but also directly links prospective travellers to Fiji's tourism offerings. This approach has yielded a greater volume of qualified leads, increased engagement, and fostered sustainable growth within the tourism sector.
- 4.2 In summary, Tourism Fiji's digital marketing strategy is effectively positioning Fiji as a premier destination, while simultaneously empowering local businesses and bolstering the national economy.

ANNEXURE III

Reply to Written Question No. 109/2025 tabled by the honourable Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture and Heritage and Arts (Ref. Page 1599)



MINISTER FOR ITAUKEI AFFAIRS AND CULTURE AND HERITAGE AND ARTS
(Hon. V.R. Gavoka)

 Reply to Question No. 109/2025 is as follows:

iTaukei Institute of Language and Culture
Quarter 1 Performance

Priority Area 4: Safeguard and Promote the iTaukei Language and Culture

Core Outcomes	BP Targets	Targets	
Strategy 7: Protection of traditional Knowledge, Culture & Heritage	261	61	
Strategy 8: Promotion & Revitalisation of Language and Culture	43	1	
	304	62	20.39473684 16.31578947

Priority Area 2: Enhance Good Governance, Culture and Wellbeing of iTaukei through effective legislations and policy

Strategy 2: Review and Develop Legislations and Policies	45	2	
Output 2: Policy Development for Informed Decision Making	142	12	
	187	14	7.486631016

Priority Area 5: Strengthen Institution Through Performance Management and Organisational Effectiveness

Strategy 10: Modernised Human Resource Management Development	147	22	
Strategy 11: Robust and Vibrant Information Technology & Communication	36	11	
	183	33	18.03278689
			1.803278689
Qtr 1			18.86773126
Qtr 2 Performance			

Priority Area 4: Safeguard and Promote the iTaukei Language and Culture

Core Output	BP Targets	Targets	
Strategy 7: Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Culture & Heritage	261	185	
Strategy 8: Promotion & Revitalisation Of Language and Culture	7,660	2,570	
	7,921	2,755	34.780962
			27.8247696

Priority Area 2: Enhance Good Governance, Culture and Wellbeing of iTaukei Through Effective Legislations and Policy

Strategy 2: Review and Develop Legislations and Policies	45	8	
Output 2: Policy Development for Informed Decision Making	142	26	

187	34	18.18181818
		1.818181818

Priority Area 5: Strengthen Institution Through Performance Management and Organisational Effectiveness

Strategy 9: Financial and Risk
Management

45	3
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Strategy 10: Modernised Human
Resource Management
Development

147	31
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Strategy 11: Robust and Vibrant
Information Technology &
Communication

36	23
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183	54	29.50819672
		2.950819672

Qtr 2		32.59377109
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Quarter 3 Performance

Priority 4: Safeguard and Promote the iTaukei Language and Culture

Strategy 7: Protection of Traditional
Knowledge, Culture & Heritage

261	247
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Strategy 8: Promotion & Revitalisation
Of Language and Culture

7,668	3,328	
7,929	3,575	45.08765292
		36.07012234

Priority Area 2: Enhance

Good Governance, Culture and Wellbeing of iTaukei Through
Effective Legislations and Policy

Strategy 2: Review and Develop Legislations and Policies	45	15	
Output 2: Policy Development for Informed Decision Making	142	32	25.13368984
	187	47	2.513368984
Priority Area 5: Strengthen Institution Through Performance Management and Organisational Effectiveness			
Strategy 9: Financial Risk Management	45	3	
Strategy 10: Modernised Human Resource Management Development	147	33	
Strategy 11: Robust and Vibrant Information Technology & Communication	36	23	25.87719298
	228	59	2.587719298
Qtr 3			41.17121062
COP Performance			
Priority Area 4: Safeguard and Promote the iTaukei Language and Culture			
Strategy 4: Protection of Traditional, Knowledge, Culture & Heritage	43	30	
Strategy 8: Promotion & Revitalisation			

Of Language and Culture

463

252.75

506

282.75

55.87944664

Tuvatuva ni Karua Wasewase ni Veigaravi 2024-2025**Tabana ni Vanua**

NOVEBA		
06/11/24	Nodra veisiko na Turaga Veitarogivanua ena valelevu e Nairisere & Matanikutu	Naitasiri
15-15/11/24	Bose Levu Vakaturaga	
11/11/24	Vakacalai ni tara ni vale ena qele ni Mataqali Naivi e Qarani	Lomaiviti
11/11/24	Sasaga me vakadaberi na Takalai Gau	Lomaiviti
13-15/11/24	Vakasukai ni qele ni Tokatoka kawaboko e Gau	Lomaiviti
18-22/11/24	Awareness – Tikina Nairai	Lomaiviti
19/11/24	Nodra veisiko na Turaga Veitarogivanua ena valelevu e Nakuruvakarua	Nadroga
20/11/24	Veitalevi – Tui Noikoro	Nadroga/Navosa
21/11/24	Veileti ni qele ni Mataqali Nalotawa kei Volivoli ka gadrevi kina e dua na veivakararamataki me vaka ni ratou a cabe mai kina vei ira na Turaga Talai	Nadroga
05/11/24	Vunivalu e Nadakuni ka kerea na Turaga Veitarogivanua me ratou talevi mada	Naitasiri
05/11/24	Turaga ni Vunivalu ena Koro o Vuniduba, Matailobau [NLC (11/4-300)]	Naitasiri
06/11/24	Sikovi ni Mataqali Nawaisomo kei Mataniqavi ka ratou tiko mai Namosi ena vuku ni qele ka tiko mai Delailasakau, Nawaidina [NLC 14/5-14)]	Namosi

06/11/24	Qele ni kawa nei Adi Vasiti Denicagi kei na kawa nei Lewatutuvi na kena vakararamataki (me caka e Nageledamu, Tikina Namata). Qo e rua na qele ka tiko na duidui en vuku ni kena taukeni.	Naitasiri
07/11/24	Veileti ni TY Matanikoro ena koro o Nukui, Rewa	Rewa
18/11/24	Vakamatatataki ni qele ni Yavusa Namoa ena koro o Nasau e Wainikua kei na kena yalayala kei ratou mai Naivacula	Tailevu
25/11/24	Nodra Veisiko na Turaga Veitarogivanua ena valelevu e Cakaunitabua	Bua
26/11/24	Na nodratou sega ni duavata e dua nai wase ni Vuvale e Koroivoco ena kena vakadeitaka na itutu ni TM Koroivoco, TY Koroivoco ka Vunivale e Tawake	Cakaudrove
26/11/24	Talevi tale mada duidui e basika mai ena vuku ni tutu ni Vunivalu e Tawake	Cakaudrove
26/11/24	Kauwai ena kena vakatawani na Mataqali Vatudravu ena koro o Sese, Saqani ena Yavusa Vunivatu	Cakaudrove
27/11/24	Na nodrau sega ni duavata na iTukutuku Raraba ni Yavusa Dewala e Nagigi, Nasavusavu kei na iVola ni Kawa Bula ni Yavusa	Cakaudrove
27/11/24	Duidui ena itutu ni Turaga ni Yavusa Nukubolu e Koroalau	Cakaudrove
27/11/24	Kena curu na lotu ka digitaka na Sauturaga ka basika kina na duidui ena loma ni Mataqali Wainunu ena loma ni Tokatoka o Nasakea kei Lovelove qo ena Yavusa Navatukawa e Bagata	Cakaudrove
28/11/24	Coqai na vakadeitaki nei Tevita Manaleba ena itutu ni Turaga ni Mataqali ena koro o Qaranivai, Dogotuki, Yasawa	Macuata
28/11/24	Veitalevi ena Yavusa Wainikoro, Mouta, Nadogo	Macuata
29/11/24	Vakasukai ni Qele kawaboko, Lot 1 – Chief of Nabekavu, Nabou [NLC9/3-4]	Macuata
29/11/24	Vakamatatataki ni Turaga ni Mataqali Vunibaka ena koro o Niurua	Macuata
29/11/24	Coqai ni sasaga ni Tokatoka Nawaivuvu ena qle ni itikotiko makawa ni Yasana o Macuata mai vei iratou na Yavusa Naduri	Macuata
28-29/11/24	Formal Sitting – TM Solia, Vuna [NLC 11/4/3A – 2	Naitasiri

TISEBA		
	Nodra veisiko na Liuliu ni Veitarogivanua	
02/12/24	Veitalevi e Nawaka – Tutu ni Turaga ni Yavusa Maumali	Ba
02/12/24	Vakadeitaki ni kawaboko ni Tokatoka Nasalaulu, Mataqali Bua, Yavusa Senibua Tikina Nawaka NLC 3/32A-2 p.208-209	Ba
03/12/24	Dredre e sotavi tiko ena Mataqali Ketenavu kei na Yavusa Ketenavunivalu e Naibulukau, Bulu (NLC ¾ - 49)	Ba
03/12/24	Laveta mai o Seleti Vidiri nai volai vakatawadodonu ni kawa nei Inoke Radreu (3/669) ena mataqali, Yavu Ketenavunivalu, Bulu, Ba	Ba
04/12/24	Takoso i Yasawa	
05/12/24	Veitalevi e Tamusua, Yasawa - Kisi ni TM Tamusua	Ba
05/12/24	Vakadeitaki ni Taukei ni Yanuyan o Sawailau	Ba
06/12/24	Taukei ni Yanuyan o Kuata – Waya, Yasawa	Ba
06/12/24	Lesu mai Viti Levu	Ba
02/12/24	Veileti ni Turaga ni Yavusa Nasuva ena koro ko Waisa, Kubulau e vakaraitaka tiko nai Liuliu ni Mataqali Dalomo ko Rupeni Busa 40/26 ni gadreva me tiko talega ko Waseroma Rasauvou 27/27 nai Liuliu ni Mataqali Navalekula ka ratou Sauturaga	Bua
02/12/24	Nodrau bokoci vakatawadodonu e Vesidradra Namara (1/31) kei Di Mala Namara (2/31) mai na Mataqali Nawairuku, Yavusa Nawairukuena koro o Valeni, Wailevu West me rau lai volai ena Mataqali Niuma, Yavusa Levuka ena koro o Waisa, Kubulau, Bua	Bua
02/12/24	Nodrau bokoci vakatawadodonu o Vesidradra, Namara (1/31) kei Di Mala Namara (2/31) mai na Mataqali Nawairuku, Yavusa Nawairuku ena koro o Valeni, Wailevu West me rau lai volai ena Mataqali Niuma, Yavusa Levuka ena koro o Waisa, Kubulau, Bua.	Bua
03/12/24	Nai tutu ni Buli Navere e Nadi e ratou vakaraitaka ni na qai dabe na Bose Vanua o Nadi me na qai vakadeitaki kina mai na rarama ni veivakararamataki kei na veitalanoa ka qaravi e Nasavu	Bua

03/12/24	Na Mataqali Natukuta e Navave e tiko kina na duidui ka gadrevi me ratou na dabe tale mada me rtou walia na duidui ka tiko ena nodratou mataqali	Bua
03/12/24	Qele o Naicuru – Kanakana me baleti Sesarina Rakavosa kei Sisilia e Navave, Vuya (NLC 4/5-6, folio 59-64)	Bua
04/12/24	Kerei ni vakasala ena nodratou bokoci na kawa nei Viliame Batinivuaka me ratou tokitaki lesu kina mataqali nei tamana ni sa mai vakavuna tiko na veileti ena Mataqali Navuani e Nabouwalu ka ratou sega talega ni rokova na Turaga ni Yavusa Daviko.	Bua
04/12/24	Talevi ni Mataqali o Matanatabua ka ra vakaitikotiko ma Nawaca. Era vakaraitaka na Turaga na Tui Bua ni ra sega ni tiko e nakoro ka ra sa va koro tani tiko.	Bua
09-20/12/24	Veitalevi – Yasana o Tailevu	
JANUERI		
	Nodra veisiko na Liuliu ni Veitarogivanua	
13/01/25	Duidui ni Mataqali Vunivesi ena koro o Nausori kei na Mataqali Nadrenivalu ena koro o Naitilevu ena qele ka rauta tiko ni 946 na eka na kena levu.	Ra
13/01/25	Kerei ni veivakararamataki ena Yavusa Vatudamu, Rewasa	Ra
14/01/25	Kerei ni veivakararamataki ena Yavusa Nawaqavesi	Ra
15/01/25	Veivakasalataki ena coqa ni tutu ni Turaga ni Yavusa Leweivulani kei na wali ni dredre e sotava tiko na Turaga ni Yavusa mai vei ratou nad Trustees ni Mataqali Nalevaka ena veika e vakayacora tiko o Epeli Turuva.	Ba
15/01/25	Gagadre ni Tokatoka Vunaivitabasevu me baleta nai veisautaki ni Yaca ni Tokatoka e Namotomoto, Nadi (NLC 4/5-6. Folio 32-33)	Ba
16/01/25	Veiletitaki ni Turaga ni Yavusa Tunuloa e Naviyago	Ba
16/01/25	Vakatututaki mai ni yacai Tomasi Tataumailautoka (97/147) me TM Lalalo ia era tiko na kawa ni tagane me ra rogoci	Ba
17/01/25	Kerei ni veivakararamataki ena Yavusa Nasikawa ena koro o Nawairabe	Nadroga

	Kerei me vakacurumi o Lasalini Ravucake kina vanua va kawa nei Waqairapoa ena Yavusa Korovatu, Naivivi, Qamea (NLC 5/2-29)	Cakaudrove
	Veileti ni tutu ni Tui Laucala, sa tiko na digidigi nodra na Tui Cakau ka sega ni ciqomi tiko mai vanua	Cakaudrove
	Veileti ni Tui Rabe e Lovonivonu, sa ra digitaka tiko e dua na Turaga na Tui Cakau ka duatani era digitaka tiko mai vanua.	Cakaudrove
22-31/01/25	Talevi o Lakeba kei Vanuabalavu	Lau

TLFC Land Management 2nd Quarter Works Plan
[November – January 2024-2025]

1.0 **Demarcation of unsurveyed iTaukei lands**

Tikina of Batiwai (Nuku) - SERUA

No.	NLC Ref.	Yalayala Me Qaravi	Koro	Taukena
1.	187	Navau	Nabukelevu	Mataqali Navau

Tikina o Sikituru – Ba

No.	NLC Ref.	Yalayala Me Qaravi	Koro	Taukena
1.	246	Natukiko Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Namatua, Mat. Nalevaka, Yavusa Leweivulani
2.	249	Naitaunilawa Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Vunavibubu, Mat. Nalevaka, Yavusa Leweivulani
3.	256	Vulo Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Draunaio, Mat. Nalevaka, Yavusa Leweivulani.
4.	256	Vunasautavi Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Draunaio, Mat. Nalevaka, Yavusa Leweivulani
5.	268	Serua	Yavusania	Tokatoka Sautorotoro, Mat. Nawasakubu, Yavusa Leweivulani
6.	313	Soneisali	Yavusania	Mat Lovonakoto, Yavusa Nailavutu

1.1 **Preparation of Register of iTaukei Land (RTL)**

Preparation and Endorsement of Register of iTaukei Land once survey plans are approved.

2.0 **Survey of Unsurveyed iTaukei Lands**

No.	NLC Ref.	Yalayala me Qaravi	Koro	Taukena
1.	187	Navau	Nabukelevu	Mataqali Navau

Tikina of Sikituru

No.	NLC Ref.	Yalayala Me Qaravi	Koro	Taukena
1.	246	Natukiko Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Namatua, Mat. Nalevaka, Yavusa Leweivulani
2.	249	Naitaunilawa Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Vunavibubu, Mat. Nalevaka, Yavusa Leweivulani
3.	256	Vulo Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Draunaio, mat. Nalevaka, Yavusa Leweivulani
4.	256	Vunasautavi Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Draunaio, mat. Nalevaka, Yavusa Leweivulani
5.	268	Serua	Yavusania	Tokatoka Sautorotoro, Mat. Nawasakubu, Yavusa Leweivulani
6.	313	Soneisali	Yavusania	Mat Lovonakato, Yavusa Nailavutu

2.1 **Drawing of Survey Plans**

Drawing and lodgement of survey plans.

2.2 Attending to Requisition of survey plans from Lands Department.

3.0 **Redefinition of iTaukei Land Surveys**

No.	Mataqali/Yavusa	Koro	Vanua
1.	Tokatoka Vunatawa, Mataqali. Manu, Lot 10 & Lot 12, NLC 729 (7 mounds)	Koroiaca	Ba
2.	Mataqali Naqaucia, Lot 18, NLC 1249, NLC 962 – M/2,4 (2 mounds)	Tavualevu	Ba
3.	Mataqali Nasekavo, Yavusa Naloto, Lot 33, NLC 520B	Naivacula	Tailevu
4.	Mataqali Naivusaratu, Yavusa Naivusaratu, Lot 1, NLC 361, J/15,3	Naikorokoro	Lomaiviti
5.	Mataqali Wailevu Yavusa Dere, Lot 12, NLC 626, H/132	Qelekuro	Tailevu

6.	Tokatoka Uru, Mat. Koroinasau, Yavusa Davutukia	Tonuve	Nadroga/Navosa
7.	Mataqali Nasalia	Taunovo	Vatulele, Nadroga

3.1 Inclusive to the above any request approved by Chairman TLFC and PSTA.

4.0 **Survey of Mahogany Lease**

No.	File Ref.	Land Name	LOU	Tikina	Yasana	Area
1.	09/013426	Uluiwaciwaci	Mat. Naikadra	Seaqaqa	Macuata	1.52 ha
2.	15/13860	Korotari	Yavusa Sokena	Wairiki	Cakaudrove	240.34 ha
3.	15/13861	Korotari	Yavusa Sokena	Wairiki	Cakaudrove	120.37 ha
4.	15/13862	Korotari	Yavusa Sokena	Wairiki	Cakaudrove	64.96 ha
5	15/13863	Korotari	Yavusa Wairikibuca	Wairiki	Cakaudrove	15.46 ha

5.0 **Survey (GPS) of Village Boundaries**

A] VB GPS SURVEY -

No.	Date	Day	Time	Village	District	Province
1.	04/11	Moniti	10am	Bau	Bau	Tailevu
2.				Lasakau	Bau	Tailevu
3.				Soso	Bau	Tailevu
4.	05/11			Cautata	Bau	Tailevu
60	09/12	Vukelulu		Naivikisara	Burebasaga	Rewa
61				Suvalailai	Burebasaga	Rewa
62				Nabuli	Dreketi	Rewa
63	10/12	Lotulevu		Nalase	Dreketi	Rewa
64				Vunisinu	Dreketi	Rewa
65				Nadoria	Dreketi	Rewa
66	11/12	Vakaraubuka		Nukutubu	Rewa	Rewa
67				Burebasaga	Burebasaga	Rewa
68	02/12	Moniti		Nasigatoka	Rewa	Rewa

69				Nabua	Rewa	Rewa
70				Nadoi	Rewa	Rewa
71	03/12	Tusiti		Tavuya	Rewa	Rewa
72				Nakaulau	Rewa	Rewa
73				Vunuku	Rewa	Rewa
74	04/12	Vukelulu		Narocivo	Rewa	Rewa
75				Muanaira	Vutia	Rewa
76				Muanaicake	Vutia	Rewa
77	05/12	Lotulevu		Nukui	Rewa	Rewa
78				Laucala	Vutia	Rewa
79	06/12	Vakaraubuka		Navatuyaba	Toga	Rewa
80				Vunisei	Toga	Rewa
81				Muana	Toga	Rewa
82	09/12	Moniti		Lokia	Rewa	Rewa
83	10/12	Tusiti		Kalokolevu	Suva	Rewa
84				Togalevu	Suva	Rewa
85				Wainawa	Suva	Rewa
86	11/12	Vukelulu		Muaivuso	Suva	Rewa
87				Nabaka	Suva	Rewa
88				Waiqanake	Suva	Rewa
89	12/12	Lotulevu		Lami	Suva	Rewa
90	13/12	Vakaraubuka		Suvavou	Suva	Rewa

5.0 **Plotting of Captured Village Boundaries – GIS Portal**

Plotting of village boundaries into GIS systems – 90 villages.

6.0 **Information Dissemination**

- 6.1 Participate at Ministry/Government Roadshows
- 6.2 Part of Government official tours
- 6.3 Presentation on Project Work Progress

TLFC Land Management 3rd Quarter Works Plan
[February – April 2024-2025]

1.0 Demarcation of Unsurveyed iTaukei Lands

Tikina of Vanuabalavu – Lau

No.	NLC Ref.	Yalayala Me Qaravi	Koro	Taukena
1.	301	Naibili	Malaka	Mat. Naibili, Yav. Malaka
2.	302	Delainatuvu	Malaka	Kawa nei Toakalou
3.	303	Naibili 2	Malaka	Kawa nei Josefa Savu
4.	304	Kalacamoa	Malaka	Kawa nei Josefata Soqe
5.	222	Valevono	Mavana	Mat. Valevono, Yav. Qalitu

Tikina Sikituru – Ba

No.	NLC Ref.	Yalayala Me Qaravi	Koro	Taukena
1.	257	Vunatawa Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Nalekava, Ma. Nalekava, Yavusa Leweivulani
2.	290	Edelele Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Vunavutu, Mat. Keteisaba, Yavusa Yavusania
3.	354/3	Naquaqua Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Nalevaka, Mat. Nalevaka, Yavusa Leweivulani
4.	323	Vunavauvutuka Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Nawasakubu, Mat. Nawasakubu, Yavusa Leweivulani

1.1 Preparation of Register of iTaukei Land (RTL)

Preparation and Endorsement of Register of iTaukei Land once survey plans are approved.

2.0 Survey of Unsurveyed iTaukei Lands

Tikina of Vanuabalavu – Lau

No.	NLC Ref.	Yalayala Me Qaravi	Koro	Taukena
1.	301	Naibili	Malaka	Mat. Naibili, Yav. Malaka
2.	302	Delainatuvu	Malaka	Kawa nei Toakalou
3.	303	Naibili 2	Malaka	Kawa nei Josefa Savu
4.	304	Kalacamo	Malaka	Kawa nei Josefata Soqe

Tikina Sikituru – Ba

No.	NLC Ref.	Yalayala Me Qaravi	Koro	Taukena
1.	257	Vunatawa Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Nalekava, Ma. Nalekava, Yavusa Leweivulani
2.	290	Edelele Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Vunavutu, Mat. Keteisaba, Yavusa Yavusania
3.	354/3	Naquaqua Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Nalevaka, Mat. Nalevaka, Yavusa Leweivulani
4.	323	Vunavauvutuka Island	Yavusania	Tokatoka Nawasakubu, Mat. Nawasakubu, Yavusa Leweivulani

2.1 **Drawing of Survey Plans**

Drawing and lodgement of Survey Plans

2.2 Attending to Requisition of Survey Plans from Lands Department.

2.3 Proper Survey of Sabeto District School, Sabeto, Ba.

2.4 Proper Survey of Ba Provincial Secondary School, Ba.

3.0 **Redefinition of iTaukei Land Surveys**

No.	Mataqali/Yavusa	Koro	Yasana
1.	Mataqali Naivusaratu, Yavusa Naivusaratu, Lot 1, NLC 361, J/15,3 (2 mounds)	Naikorokoro	Lomaiviti
2.	Mataqali Wailevu Yavusa Dere, Lot 12, NLC 626, H/13/2	Qelekuro	Tailevu
3.	Mataqali Nasekavo, Yavusa Naloto, Lot 22, NLC 520B	Naivacula	Tailevu
4.	Mataqali Nabativulagi, Yavusa Natakala	Verata-Wailevu	Tailevu

5.	Mataqali Vuninokonoko, Yavusa	Rakiraki	Ra
6.	Tokatoka Mataniwai, Mat. Vunativi, Yavusa Lomolomo	Lomolomo	Ba

3.1 Inclusive to the above any request approved by the Chairman TLFC and PSTA.

4.0 **Survey of Mahogany Lease**

No.	File Ref.	Land Name	LOU	Tikina	Yasana	Area
1.	09/013426	Uluwaciwaci	Mat. Naikadra	Seagaqa	Macuata	1.52 ha
2.	15/13860	Korotari	Yavusa Sokena	Wairiki	Cakaudrove	240.34 ha
3.	15/13861	Korotari	Yavusa Sokena	Wairiki	Cakaudrove	120.37 ha
4.	15/13862	Korotari	Yavusa Sokena	Wairiki	Cakaudrove	64.96 ha

5.0 **Survey (GPS) of Village Boundaries**

5.1 A] VB GPS SURVEY –

5.2 Province of Rewa Tikina o Rewa – 8 villages
 Tikina o Vutia – 3 villages
 Tikina o Raviravi – 4 villages
 Tikina o Sawau – 4 villages

5.3 Province of Bua Tikina of Bua – 7 villages
 Tikina of Vuya – 5 villages
 Tikina of Dama – 7 villages

5.4 Compilation binding of RTV for Serua and Namosi provinces.

5.5 Viseisei Village, Vuda, Ba boundary awareness and consultation.

6.0 **Plotting of captured village boundaries – GIS portal**

Plotting of village boundaries into GIS systems – 90 villages.

7.0 **Information Dissemination**

- Participate at Ministry/Government Roadshows
- Part of Government officials tours
- Presentation on project work progress

TUVATUVA NI KATOLU WASEWASE NI VEIQARAVI 2024-2025

TABANA NI VANUA

FEPERUERI			
06/02	Awareness	Yavusa Lakeba, Tubou	Lau
06/02	Awareness	Yavusa Delaikorolevu, Lasakau	Lau
07/02	Awareness	Yavusa Lomanikoro & Tarukua, Waciwaci	Lau
07/02	Awareness	Yavusa Waitabu, Waitabu	Lau
07/02	Awareness	Yavusa Muanakaull, Nukunuku	Lau
08/02	Awareness	Yavusa Drekeivuci, Yadrana	Lau
08/02	Awareness	Yavusa Atapu-u, Vakano	Lau
08/02	Awareness	Yavt.isa Naseuvou, Nasaqalau	Lau
10/02	Awareness	Yavusa Oneata, Waiqori	Lau
11/02	Awareness	Yavusa Liku, Aliku	Lau
12/02	Awareness	Yavusa Devobalavu, Salia	Lau
12/02	Awareness	Yavusa Maumi, Narocivo	
			Lau
05/02	Awareness	Yavusa Yavusavuetl, Dakuilomaloma	Lau
05/02	Awareness	Yavusa Namasi, Levukana	Lau
06/02	Awareness	Yavusa Sikenivatu, Tuvuca	Lau
07/02	Awareness	Yavusa Matanicagi, Cikobia	Lau
08/02	Awareness	Yavusa Vanuanawa, Susui	Lau
08/02	Awareness	Yavusa Vuniivi, Namalata	Lau
10/02	Awareness	Yavusa Kavika, Narocivo	Lau
10/02	Awareness	Yavusa Toga, Sawana	Lau
05/02	Awareness	Yavusa Vusawaitui, Daliconi	Lau
05/02	Awareness	Yavusa Muamua, Muamua	Lau
06/02	Awareness	Yavusa Malaka, Maiaka	Lau
06/02	Awareness	Yavusa Salia, Boitaci	Lau
07/02	Awareness	Yavusa Senimoli, Yaro & Nadave, Mualevu	Lau
07/02	Awareness	Yavusa Qalitu, Mavana	Lau
08/02	Awareness	Yavusa Delaiyatova, Avea	Lau

10/02	Awareness	Yavusa Qala, Buca & Naturuku, Lomaloma	Lau
10/02	Awareness	Yavusa Navusaqa, Uruone	Lau

06/02	Sotavi na vakatataro nei Basarosaro Kapaiwai mai na Tokatoka Naivi, Mataqali Vuanirewa ena vuku ni yalayala ni Vanua o Verata kei na Mataqali Taqalevu	Lau
06/02	Gagadre ni Mataqali Taqalevu me vakamatatataki na qele o Tadravula (Karo Makawa) ka tiko kina na c;luidui kei na koro vaka Vuanirewa	Lau
20/02	Vakamatatataki ni qele ni Mataqali Nawavatu ka kerekere mai kina na turaga na Qaranivalu. Me Na tiko tale ga na Matabose ni Qele Maroroi	Naitasiri
21/02	Qaravi ni Yavusa Tumavia na lwro o Tumavia, Nakelo	Tailevu
26/02	Vakadeitaki ni Turaga ni Mataqali Nadawa ena Yavusa Ovalau e Savu, Viria	Naitasiri
27/02	Veitalanoa ena itutu ni Komai Nausori me baleta na ivola ka qai vola tale mai e dua na ilawalawa	Tailevu
	Nodra veisiko na Liuliu ni Veitarogivanua	
MAJI		
03/03-05/03	Vakasukai ni qele ni Tokataka kawabaka e Gau	Lomaiviti
06/03	Sasaga me vakadaberi na Takalai Gau	Lomaiviti
07/03	Vakacalai ni tara ni vale ena qele ni Mataqali Naivi e Qarani	Lomaiviti
10/03-14/03	Awareness – Tikina Nairai	
	Duidui ena vakadeitaki ni Turaga ni Mataqali Utori ena kkoro o Visoto, Lomaiviti	Lomaiviti
17/03-28/03	TY ka liuliu ni vanua o Naduadua. Me na dabe mada na lewe ni mataqali veiliutaki, Naibita, Nailaga	Tailevu
	Kerei me vakamatatataki na qele ni Mataqali Nasaubati, Nailaga	Tailevu
	TM Drata me ratou na veitalanoa ena siganisucu ni yaca mai o Vilikesa ka tiko mai Lautoka, Wailotua, Wailevu	Tailevu
	Mataqali Bureta ka ratou gonedau e ratou sa tu ga e Dakuinuku ka ratou sa via mai volai kina. E ratou sa qarava tu ga na itavi e Dakuinuku ka sega ni via qarava na itavi, Dakuinuku, Sawakasa	Tailevu
	Veitalevi ki na Mataqali Navitilevu me baleta na nodratou Turaga ni Mataqali ka Turaga ni Yavusa talega, Lodon, Sawakasa	Tailevu
	Laveta mai o Kamai Navunisale ni sega ni marautaka na nona vakadeitaki o Levi Seduadua ena itutu ni Turaga ni Yavusa Nawaibuta. Ratou taura vakacava na itutu ni sega na kedratou qele na Mataqali Navunikavika, Navunisale, Namalata	Tailevu
	Vakararamataki na Yavusa vakararavi o Kubulau (Mataqali Nasavalevu) ena Yavusa Waidina, Matalata erarou sa la'ki vakaitikato e Naitutu ka ratau sa via vakayavusa kina, Matalata, Namalata	Tailevu
	Na Yavusa o Kubulau era sa vakatikotika mai Naitutu, Namalata, Tailevu. Erarou gadrevi me ratou vakadeitaki kina- Naitutu, Namalata	Tailevu
	Na nodratou sega ni duavata e dua na iwase ni Mataqali Natovola na kena vakadeitaki na nodratou TM ka TY Coloinasau talega- Burerua, Namalata	Tailevu

	E tiko e Valeniveivesu a Seru Waqanikalau ka ra a sa valiua tu. Ena yabaki walu e lama ka ratou vakasalataki me ratau lai veitalanoa kei koya ena vuku ni tutu- Naimasimasi, Vugalei	Tailevu
	Laveta mai o Adi Seniana ni sega ni dra ena vuvale o Mikaele Delana ni sega ni luvena na ganena- Logani, Namata	Tailevu
	E ratou Tikina o Namata ia na veika kece ena gauna qa ratou sa qarava tu ga e Bau wili kina na Bose ni Tikina.	Tailevu
	Vakadeitaka o TY Cakova me ratou sa na dabe na Mataqali Cakova ena nodratou raice me butuki na yalayala ni koro – Naila, Dravo	Tailevu
	Turaga ka vakadeitaki me Tudrau e tiko kina na kawau ni tiko e Suva ka Lotu Vanua tiko. Me na dua na veitataunaki Dravo	Tailevu
	Veivakararamataki ena vuku ni nodrau veilecayaki tiko na Yavusa e rua o Lobau ei Delai ena nodra veiletitaka tiko se o cei e yaco mai e liu ena vanua era sa vakaitikotiko kina nikua – Mokani, Dravo	Tailevu
	Vakadeitaki ni TY Naqau. Me ratou na qai veitalanoa kina kei PS Rural Development ni ratou vakaliuca tiko – Matainoco, Buretu	Tailevu
	Kerea me na soli tale na gauna vei na Yavusa o Wakaniu me vaka ni tiko na duidui e na lama ni Mataqali veiliutaki. Era kerea na vei Turaga ni Mataqali me na talevi tale Mataqali Dakuinakasavu kei na Mataqali Nadulumi- Buretu	
	Tiko na duidui vei ratou na vuvale ni Tui Naivakacau mai Namara, Buretu, Tailevu. Ni tiko na veibeitaki ni ra sega ni kena kawa dina- Naivakacau, Buretu	
	Vakarubeci ka sega ni tokoni na nona vakadeitaki o Isireli Naivakacokotabua enai tutu vaka TM Nakelituinoco/TY Sawa e Daku, Buretu, Tailevu. Eratou vakaraitaka ni a caka vakabutobuto na nona vakadeitaki ka ratou gadreva me cabeta nai tutu ogo o Meleti Saurara (30/327). Sa duavata tiko na TY vakadeitaki me ratou talevi ka rogoci vinaka na yavu ni veivakadeitaki- Daku, Buretu	
	Kauwai nei TY Nageleba vei ira na nona lewe ni Yavusa ka ra sega ni tiko e na koro ka ra sega talega ni dau basika yani ena koro se vakaitavi ena kena oga. Ogo o ira na lewe ni Mataqali Vatuvale kei na Mataqali Wainuqa. (A sega talega ni vakadeitaki rawa na itutu ni veiliutaki ena Mataqali e rua)- Nabouva, Nasautoka	
	Nodra veisiko na Liuliu ni Veitarogivanua	
EPERELI		
	Nodra veisiko na Liuliu ni Veitarogivanua	
	Gadrevi me vakamatatataki na soli ni lave ni lisi ni Black Rock, CAAF Quarters, Aiport Run Way ka Gazette taki ena 22/12/2000 ka okati kina na FNU Namaka Campus. E vakacala na mataqali e ono ena Yavusa Ua ni vagole tiko ga vei Taukei Ua na kena votavota. Volavola mai o Raikadroka & Associates.	Ba
01/04	Vakasukai ni qele ni Tokatoka kawaboko o Rurugu ena Mataqali Daga, koro o Tau, Tikina o Wai	Nadroga
01/04	Duidui ena itutu ni Tui Davutukia, Tikina o Korolevuiwai	Nadroga
02/04	Talevi Iesu ni Mataqali Nalotawa kei Volivoli me muri Iesu na qaravi ni matai ni kalawa ni veivosaki na Veisorosorovi	Nadroga
	Veitalevi vei iratou na Mataqali Natakali ena dredre e tiko ena vuvale nei Seremaia Bikanaca kei Sailosi Bolavucu ena vuku ni TM Natakali/TY Vugalei, Naiborebore, Tai	Tailevu
	Veitalevi ki na Mataqali Nakorovou me baleti Peniasi Seru kei iratou na ganena kei na veileti ni vale sa lewa na Mataveilewai me walia na Tabacakaka iTaukei- Dravuni, Tai	Tailevu
	Duidui ena kena vakadeitaki na Turaga ni Yavusa Batiki, e levu na vakavakadewa ka vakacalai na TTR, Natila, Bau	Tailevu
	Talevi na Mataqali Nukulau ena dredre ni ratou sega tu ni veitalanoa me baleta na TM-Vatani, Bau	Tailevu
	Me dikevi na nodratou curu tuna luvei Alesi (Ba) ena Tokatoka Vunisalato ka sega tu ni matata na tamadratou.- Vatanl, Bau	Tailevu

	Me talevi na Mataqali Muaikaba ena vuku ni duidui e tiko ena Tokatoka veiliutaki- Vatani, Bau	Tailevu
	Na itutu vaka Turaga ni Mataqali Sauturaga ka Turaga ni Yavusa Nakorolevu e Waicoka, Bau e nanumi me na qai talevi malua tale mada me vaka ni se tiko voli ga na duidui kivei iratou na Tokatoka o Nabukaiviti. Me na vakadeitaki tale ga na iyalayala ni qele ka dabe tiko kina na Karo kei na soli qele taumada- Waicoka, Bau	Tailevu
	Na kena sa vakarubeci na itutu ni TM Gusuna ka sa na qai waraki na kena veivakadeitaki vakaivola. Sega ni vakadeitaki rawa na TM Nakula kei na TM Koroni Cautata, Bau	Tailevu
	Me cakacakataki ni kena sa kawaboko na Mataqali Naviyabaki kei na kena vakalutumi na kena uma qele, Vuci, Tokatoka	Tailevu
	Na veilecalecavi ka koto ena Mataqali veiliutaki ena vuku ni itutu ni TM Nasava ka TY Naiwau- Vanuadina, Tokatoka	Tailevu
	Vakamatatataki na qele NLC 5/11Lot 26 -1115 acres, Naivacula, Naloto	Tailevu
	Era sega ni duavata na nona vakadeitaki na Turaga ni Yauvsa o Nakaulevu. Era tukuna ni vakayacori e dua na sala butobuto, Nakaulevu, Nakelo	Tailevu
	Duidui e tiko vei ratou na Mataqali Vutuvo mai vakavuna na kena sega ni rawa ni vakadeitaki kina na Turaga ni Mataqali ka Turaga ni Yavusa Vutuvo-Vunivaivai, Nakelo	Tailevu
	Veivakararamataki ena itutu ni veiliutaki ena Yavusa Nabukani, ni sa kawaboko na mataqali veiliutaki. Me na qai talevi tale ga na Yavusa ravi o Dravuni ka vakamatatataki na veika me baleti ratou kei na yavu ni ravi, Visama, Nakelo	Tailevu
	Sa soli vei ratou na Mataqali o Buremaci kei Masi me ratou veirogoci ni rau dau veisolitaka na itutu vakaturaga ka me qai waraki na iloku ni Veitarogivanua tarava- Tonia, Taivugalei	Tailevu
	Yavusa o Taivugalei na kena vakadeitaki vei ira na lewe ni yavusa na tavi ni vei Mataqali e na lama ni Yavusa- Nameka, Taivugalei	Tailevu
	Talevi tala mada na Mataqali Tabakau, ena loma ni Yavusa o Macoi- Naivuruvuru, Verata	Tailevu
	Talevi na Mataqali Tui-Daviko ena vuku ni TM Tui Daviko kei na TY Daviko. Eratou na dabe rawa ena 13/2/25 ka waraki na veivakadeitaki ni Veitarogivanua, Navunimono, Verata	Tailevu
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sega ni vakadeitaki rawa na TM Vunivalu ka TY Naigani. Sa tiko na veivakaliuci e Vani. Ja ia e via tara na itutu o koya e qase ka sega ni tiko e Vanua. • Na nodrau veiletitaka tiko na Tokatoka erua ena Mataqali Rokotakala na itutu ni TM Naigani, Verata 	Tailevu
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waraki ni nodratou veitalanoa na lewe ni Mataqali Qelema, ka me na qai dua tale nai loku, me vakadeitaki kina na Turaga ni Mataqali Qelema ka Turaga ni Yavusa Qelema. • Mataqali Nabitudua ena Yavusa a Qelema, eratau vakaraitaka ni se tiko na mavaa ena lama ni Mataqali ka ratau kerea me ratau na qai talevi tale mai Nasaibitu, Nayavu 	Tailevu
	TY Nagele - Me ratau na dabe tale mada vaka Vanua qai raici na veisasamitaki ena itutu vakaturaga- Qelekuro, Namena	Tailevu
	Talevi lesu ni veivakadeitaki vei ira na Marama Tui Nawainovo kei na kena vakadodonutaki na veika baleti ira ena VKB, Namena	Tailevu
	Kerei me vakacurumi o Lasalini Ravucake kina Vanua vaKawa nei Waqairapoa ena Yavusa Karovatu, Naivivi, Qamea (NLC 5/2 - 29)	Cakaudrove
	Veileti ni tutu ni Tui Laucala, sa tika na digidigi nadra na Tui Cakau ka sega ni ciqomi tika mai Vanua	Cakaudrove
	Veileti ni Tui Rabe e Lovonivonu, sa ra digitaka tiko e dua na Turaga na Tui Cakau ka duatani era digitaka tiko mai Vanua	Cakaudrove
	Talevi na Tikina a Ono, Vatoa, Vulaga, Kabara kei Moce	Lau
	Nodra veisiko na Liulu ni Veitarogivanua	

VEITAROGIVANUA KEI NA WAINIQOLIQOLI

TUVATUVA NI IKAVANI WASEWASE NI VEIOARAVI 2024-2025

TABANA NI VANUA

Me		
05/05/25	Talevi na Mataqali Nukulau ena dredre ni ratou sega tu ni veitalanoa me baleta na TM- Vatani, Bau	Tailevu
05/05/25	Me dikevi na nodratou curu tu na luvei Alesi (Ba) ena Tokatoka Vunisalato ka seqa tu ni matata na tamadrato.- Vatani, Bau	Tailevu
05/05/25	Me talevi na Mataqali Muaikaba ena vuku ni duidui e tiko ena Tokatoka veiliutaki- Vatani, Bau	Tailevu
06/05/25	Talevi lesu ni veivakadeitaki vei ira na Marama Tui Nawainovo kei na kena vakadodonutaki na veika baleti ira ena VKB, Namena	Tailevu
06/05/25	Veitalevi vei iratou na Mataqali Natakali ena dredre e tiko ena vuvale nei Seremaia Bikanaca kei Sailosi Bolavucu ena vuku ni TM Natakali/TY Vuqalei, Naiborebore, Tai	Tailevu
06/05/25	Veitalevi ki na Mataqali Nakorovou me baleti Peniasi Seru kei iratou na ganena kei na veileti ni vale sa lewa na Mataveilewai me walia na Tabacakacaka iTaukei- Dravuni Tai	Tailevu
07/05/25	Duidui ena kena vakadeitaki na Turaga ni Yavusa Batiki, e levu na vakavakadewa ka vakacalai na TTR, Natila, Bau	Tailevu
07/05/25	Veivakararamataki ena itutu ni veiliutaki ena Yavusa Nabukani, ni sa kawaboko na Mataqali veiliutaki. Me na qai talevi tale ga na Yavusa ravi o Dravuni ka vakamatatataki na veika me baleti ratou kei na yavu ni ravi, Visama, Nakelo	Tailevu
08/05/25	Talevi na Mataqali Tui-Daviko ena vuku ni TM Tui Daviko kei na IY Daviko. Eratou na dabe rawa ena 13/2/25 ka waraki na veivakadeitaki ni Veitarogivanua Navunimono, Verata	Tailevu
05/05/25	Na veilecalecavi ka koto ena Mataqali veiliutaki ena vuku ni itutu ni TM Nasava ka IY Naiwau- Vanuadina, Tokatoka	Tailevu
05/05/25	Era sega ni duavata na nona vakadeitaki na Turaga ni Yauvsa o Nakaulevu. Era tukuna ni vakayacori e dua na sala butobuto, Nakaulevu, Nakelo	Tailevu
06/05/25	Na itutu vaka Turaga ni Mataqali Sauturaga ka Turaga ni Yavusa Nakorolevu e Waicoka, Bau e nanumi me na qai talevi malua tale mada me vaka ni se tiko voli ga na duidui kivei iratou na Tokatoka o Nabukaiviti. Me na vakadeitaki tale ga na iyalayala ni qele ka dabe tiko kina na Kora kei na soli qele taumada- Waicoka, Bau	Tailevu
06/05/25	Vakadeitaki ni Turaga ni Mataqali Gusuna e Cautata, Bau	Tailevu
06/05/25	Vakadeitaki ni Turaga ni Mataqali Nakula e Cautata, Bau	Tailevu
06/05/25	Vakadeitaki ni Turaga ni Mataqali Koroni e Cautata, Bau	Tailevu
07/05/25	Vakadeitaki ni Turaga ni Mataqali Qelema ka Turaga ni Yavusa Qelema e Nasaibitu, Navavu	
07/05/25	Duidui e tiko ena Turaga ni Mataqali Nabitudua ena Yavusa o Qelema, e Nasaibitu, Navavu	

07/05/25	Duidui e tiko vei ratou na Mataaali Rara e Naselai, Nuku	
08/05/25	Dade ni kena vakamatatataki na Qele ni Teitei ni Karo o Namuamua kei Deladamanu	
13/05/25	Vakamatatataki na qele NLC 5/11 Lot 26 - 1115 acres, Naivicula, Naloto	
13/05/25	Sa soli vei ratou na Mataqali o Buremaci kei Mosi me ratou veirogoci ni rau dau veisolitaka na itutu vakaturaga ka me qai waraki na iloku ni Veitaroqivanua tarava- Tonia, Taivuaalei	
14/05/25	Sega ni vakadeitaki rawa na TM Vunivalu ka TY Naigani. Sa tiko na veivakaliuci e Vanua ia e via tara na itutu o koya e qase ka sega ni tiko e Vanua.	
14/05/25	Na nodrau veiletitaka tiko na Tokatoka erua ena Mataqali Rokotakala na itutu ni TM Naiaani, Verata Tailevu	
15/05/25	1Y Naele - Me ratou na dabe tale mada vakaVanua qai raici na veisosomitaki ena itutu vakaturaaa- Oelekuro, Namena	
15/05/25	Talevi tale mada na Mataqali Tabakau, ena lama ni Yavusa o Macoi- Naivuruvuru, Verata	
16/05/25	Yavusa o Taivugalei na kena vakadeitaki vei ira na lewe ni yavusa na tavi ni vei Mataqali e na loma ni Yavusa- Nameka, Taivugalei	
16/05/25	Duidui e tiko vei ratou na Mataqali Vutuvo mai vakavuna na kena sega ni rawa ni vakadeitaki kina na Turaga ni Mataqali ka Turaga ni Yavusa Vutuvo - Vunivaivai, Nakelo	
21-22/5/25	Bose Levu Vakaturaga	
25-31/5/25	Vakadeitaki Tutu e Lau I cake (Tikina o Ono, Vulaqa, Kabara kei Moce)	
	June	
04-06/06/25	Veiqaravi ni vakadeitaki Tutu kei na Boko Mate ena Yasana o Namosi	Namosi
16-27/06/25	Veiqaravi ni vakadeitaki Tutu kei na Boko Mate ena Yasana o Naitasiri	Naitasiri
	Veileti ni Tui Levukana	Lau
09/06/25	Tui Davutuki-Mataqali Kawabu	Nadroga
10/06/25	Vamatatataki ni Yalayala-Oele ni Yavusa Salatu-Nakalawaca	Tailevu
	July	
01-02/07/25	Formal Sitting – Turaga ni Yavusa Koroinasau e Burerua, Sawakasa	Tailevu
03/07/25	Formal Sitting – Turaga ni Yavusa, Matanikoro, Nukui	Rewa
01/07/25	Vakamatatataki ni qoliqoli e Navatu – Michelly Investment (Fiji) Limited	Cakaudrove
02/07/25	Vakadeitaki ni Turaga ni Mataqali Veiniuniu – Solomone Catarogo	Macuata
02/07/25	Duidui e tiko ena Mataqali Namaka me vaka e volavola mai kina na Minister Bulitavu	Macuatu
03/07/25	Yavalati ni Tui Cawaro ena vukudratou na timi ni masumasu	Macuata