WRITTEN RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Parliamentary Question No.: 153 / 2025

Asked by: Honourable Iliesa Vanawalu

Directed to: Honourable Ifereimi Vasu, Minister for iTaukei Affairs

Sitting Date: Tuesday, 30 September 2025

Subject: Revenue Collected by the iTaukei Land and Fisheries Commission from

Redefinition Surveys

Submitted by:

Hon. Ifereimi Vasu

Minister for iTaukei Affairs

Parliament of the Republic of Fiji

30 September 2025

Written Response

Honourable Speaker,

I thank the Honourable Member for the question regarding the revenue collected by the iTaukei Affairs Land and Fisheries Commission from land boundary redefinition surveys over the past three financial years.

Revenue Collected and Utilisation

The revenue collected from redefinition surveys for the last three financial years is as follows:

• **2023–2024:** \$6,500

• **2024–2025:** \$77,707.50

• **2025–2026 (up to February 2025):** \$15,500

This brings the total collection over the period to \$99,707.50.

Disputes Resolved and Impact

In the past two financial years, the Commission successfully resolved or narrowed 40 land boundary disputes nationwide.

Most disputes arose because landowning units lacked a clear understanding of customary boundaries first surveyed nearly 100 years ago. Redefinition surveys have:

- Confirmed customary land boundaries, providing security of tenure;
- Enabled landowning units to unlock land for economic activity and development projects; and
- Helped schools and community institutions **regularise their land status** for long-term use.

The Commission measures impacts through:

- The number of disputes resolved or narrowed.
- · Land developments and institutions progressing with confidence after surveys; and
- Feedback from communities on improved understanding and certainty.

These indicators confirm that redefinition surveys not only settle disputes but also enable economic and social progress.

Affordability and Service Delivery

Recognising the sensitivity and complexity of land disputes, the Commission has ensured that redefinition services are both **affordable and prompt**:

- Reduced Cost: The Commission has received an increase in survey requests primarily due to the high fees charged by Private Surveyors. The Commission delivers the same service at a significantly reduced cost, building trust and goodwill with landowning communities.
- **Dedicated Redefinition Unit:** A specialised unit now responds quickly and efficiently to requests.
- **Annual Budgetary Support:** Funding for equipment and resources ensures professional standards are maintained.
- Awareness Programs: After surveys are completed, awareness sessions are conducted so landowners clearly understand their boundaries and can pass this knowledge to future generations.

Conclusion

Honourable Speaker, the redefinition of land boundaries is more than a technical exercise. It is about restoring certainty, building trust, and giving security of tenure to landowners.

By making survey services affordable and professional, the Commission is helping iTaukei communities reduce disputes, strengthen unity, and utilise their land confidently for **economic and social development**.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Ifereimi Vasu

Minister for iTaukei Affairs

30 September 2025