VERBATIM NOTES OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE LAUTOKA CITY COUNCIL OFFICE ON MONDAY 15TH JUNE, 2026 AT 2.55 P.M.

In Attendance

1. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	-	Chairperson
2. Hon. A. Bia	-	Member
3. Hon. V. Pillay	-	Member
4. Hon. P.K. Bala	-	Member
5. Hon. A.N. Tuicolo	-	Member

Ministry of Health

1.	Mr. Luke Vonotabua	-	Chief Health Inspector
2.	Mr. Toga Vosataki	-	WASH Coordinator

Interviewee/Submittee		**Lautoka City Council**
1. Mr. Shalend Singh	-	Lautoka City Council
2. Mr. Mithun Prasad	-	Lautoka City Council
3. Mr. Daniel Chand	-	Lautoka City Council
4. Mr. Alshiek Ashad Ali		
5. Ms. Denise Gibson		
6. Ms. Elbourne		
7. Ms. Litia Sam		
8. Ms. Loami Lawai		
9. Ms. Emele Ranadi		
10. Ms. Shaolin Lay		
11. Ms. Shabia Khan		
12. Mr. Hafiz Ali		
13. Mr Komal Kmar		
14. Mr. Rauhad Shah		

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, the team from the Lautoka City Council ratepayers who are present here with us and members of the public who are here this afternoon to hear on the public submission on the Public Health (Amendments) Bill No. 4 of 2026.

(Introduction of honourable Members and Ministry of Health Services)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We also welcome the Special Administrator for your presence here this afternoon. Thank you very much for coming down to allow on our discussion which concerned about the Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 of 2026.

I believe we are here for the essence of time and hope that will take much of time. Straight into our subject area this afternoon I will just give us a brief overview of the Bill and I hope that you have access to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 of 2026 that copies circulating around. I hope that you are going to access to that. Our discussion area will be based on the 69 Clause has been amended from enacted in 1935, So, currently the Bill is almost 90 years now. So, down the line we need review on this. It has to be tabled in Parliament. Here in front of you is the Standing Committee from Social Affairs from Parliament we are tasked by the honourable Speaker to take this Bill around Fiji. This is more a public consultation. f you need to come down to Parliament on the public submission feel free to notify the team. You can come down to Parliament and present to us on your key finding and the area you need to amend and other relevant clause that should be amended and what are your views on those.

Moving forward, the Bill seeks to amend the Public Health of 1935 that was actually enacted in 1935 to update policy procedures and improve compliance. We also aim to modernize for this public and environmental health framework by introducing updated definition, strengthening institutional arrangement, enhancing enforcement powers and increasing policies to reflect the current public health risk. So, when looking at the amendments in front of us we have to respond to the evolving challenges such as disease outbreak environmental pollution, waste management and of course the safety of our water management.

When talk about the Bill in 1935 the Public Health Act itself from the Principal Act it was mostly covered the people who are living in the urban centre and we are aware that there is a noble centre there is a Council that looks after the rate payers in terms of the cleanliness, waste management, the affairs of the ratepayers because they pay their rates for that service to be provided to them. So, including in the Bill the coverage of these Amendment Bills is for both the rural and the maritime areas. We will discuss further when we come to that area. So

,the key objective of the Bill stated. We have to strengthen the Public Environmental Health Governnace to improve monitoring, enforcing mechanism The coverage of these amendment bills, each proposed ruling and the modified areas, we'll discuss further when we come to that areas. The key objective of the bill stated.

We have to strengthen the public environmental health governance to improve military and forcing mechanism in place to ensure to enhance preparedness and respond to communicable diseases with an outbreak this is where this clause comes into the picture. To ensure safe water, sanitation and waste management system. Also update penalties to deter the non compliance and likewise to align the law with the modern public health practice that are present at this point of time. So in the nutshell, hopefully that I have make the objective criteria of the bill itself. So, as I have said and alluded this is our public consultation. You can present but you need to come back to us on a public submission, take note our secretaries are around. We can do that and inform us to come back to Parliament that is the area where we have access to the public during that public submission. I hope that make myself very clear on that.

So, before I open up our discussion this afternoon, I will ask, honourable Tuicolo just to give us a brief idea of how best the Bill is.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- As alluded to by, Mr. Chair, the four main key changes brought about by this Bill the modernise role, expanded enforcement, strict penalties and nuisance definitions. I would like to speak on the strict penalties.

According to the proposed amendments on the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026 there is substantially increase on fines for offences like contaminating water or obstructing officials or poor waste disposal.

One thing we must remember that health cannot be bought. So, a corporate body polluting the environment with poor waste disposal or an individual intentionally contaminates the water source in the village or both criminal Acts and it will affect the health of the general public, therefore, any offender, whether it be a corporate body or individual the penalty must be the same across the boar and increasing heavy fines of service are deterrent to breaching the law

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chair, through you, I hope you have a copy of this Bill. For your iformation once this Bill is passed it will now apply to all villages and settlements in Fiji.

With the penalties associated with the bill and the current infrastructure in our villages and many areas and some of the villages must be pulling in the time boundaries, and fairies and main final settlements. So, the way I see with the penalty is associated with the Bill and the current infrastructure in our villages and rural areas that some of the villages must falling in the town boundaries and having some main power settlement. The penalties are bit high because the same penalty applies in the urban and peri-urban areas and the same applied to the rural and maritime areas. So, as Mr. Chair, said, we are here to hear your views and the Committee will then make a decision once return to Suva.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Before I go any further I just want to know from Salend why you chose to do a presentation here rather than coming to Suva.

MR. S. SINGH.- Mr. Chair, the reason being because we will be having a consultation in Lautoka.

HON. P.K.BALA.- So, you are just waiting for the Committee to come here so that you can give your submission.

As mentioned by honourable Members this Public Health (Amendment) Bill is very important. I would also like to acknowledge these two beautiful ladies. They have been very vocal as far as city leaders are concerned even during my term. So, we would like to welcome you both of you on behalf of the Committee.

If you go through this Public Health (Amendment) Bill as far as the municipality is concerned there are three areas that you will have to focus and if you are not prepared to give any views on those three areas that are any speak you can always do a submission. There has been a lot of issues in regards to the stray dogs, drinking at public place and noise pollution. These are some of the things that matters to the municipal council. If you go through the Public Health (Amendment) Bill you will find out where is going to work both ways. You will enforce after this becomes low, you will enforce certain areas to the right place. If they fail to upkeep certain things but there is also a provision now where the Council does not carry out its work, ratepayers can complain and the board will appoint certain people to carry out such work and then it will be levy to you. So, for quite some time this was missing and this was a missing link outside I would say and now it is in this amendment. Just to make sure that as a municipality you have some degree of responsibility as well.

So, for now, that is all I have to say but take this as a positive because after so long as mentioned earlier on but gradually there has been amendments. The major one was during COVID-19. This amendment is basically to modernize the public health. I think you all will support that but you can also raise concerns in the areas that matters to the municipalities.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I believe we are clear about the Bill. If you have that copy of the Public Health (Amendment) Bill with you there are 69 Clause from the Principal Act of 1935 which was enacted during this time, 69 Clause has been amended and that is where the center all of our discussion today has to be focused on the amendments. For further discussion I will open the floor now. You can refer to the Bill which Clause you are talking about and we can turn to the same page and we discuss it over.

MR. S. SINGH.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, cola vinaá to everyone. Today we will be making a presentation on behalf of the Lautoka City Council with our Executive Chair and Acting CEO, Mr. Taitusi Rasoki and also our Health Inspectors sitting in this room.

At the outset, the Lautoka City Council welcomes the introduction of the Public Health Bill No. 4 and comments the current Government for undertaking a comprehensive review of the Fiji's Act and 91 year old Public Health Act.

Finally, our dream is coming true. The Council would like to also take this opportunity to thank my colleagues from the Ministry of Health, the Chief Inspector and his team for doing a lot of hard work for the past two years. We all accept the fact that reviewing this vital legislation is indispensable to address modern day public health challenges including rapid population growth, emerging diseases like COVID-19, urbanization, climate change, waste management, food safety and public health challenges experience now which was not an issue of concern during the colonial era.

As the arm of Government at local level and closed to the communities municipal councils play a critical role in addressing these environmental issues. Hence for us the Public Health Act is like a Bible for us and Environmental Officers in the Council as well as Ministry of Helath. Having said this, Lautoka City Council supports the Bill objective to review and update the Act. Application of the Act to whole of Fiji including the villagers and informal settlements. Modernize the technology which is generally applicable internationally. Example renaming of the traditional sanitary inspectors to every health practitioners, modernizing public

Board of Health competition and administration and strengthe enforcement powers for us the Council.

Reduction of spot penalties and also the increased fines.

With inclusive new offenses under nuisance and advises improving water quality and sanitation standards enhanced wasteland practices at the respectable diseases such as dengue and powers of entry. However, the Council would like to seek some clarificatioons and minor amendments. In terms of clarification as we all know that establishment of Rural Local Authority was repealed wider amendment in year to 2018.

We note in the amendment, say Section 8(b) and Section 10 still makes reference to Chairperson and local authority. We seek further clarification where the rural locality will be reestablished and whether all these trees and power as result of the amalgamation of rebound with municipalities will be retraced back to Rural Local Authorities.

The Council, Mr. Chairman, since 2018 has been empowered to downplanning and development control with waste management without allocation of additional staff and limited fees and charges. We just talk about Lautoka. So, we are covering areas from Bara towards Nadi and Tuvu towards Ba, inland towards Delaitomuka and the Yasawa, Mamanuca and Malolo. It is a quite big area that we are managing now in terms of planning and development control. So, the Council currently is only receiving 2.5 percent of the town planning fees. However, we thank Ministry of Local government For the waste subsidy from which is now expanded to additional 30,000 population in rural areas. Clause 11, it also mentioned quroum of the Rural Local Authority.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Mr. Salend, may I intervene. When you talk about 30,000 people outside your boundaries that you serve currently are there any mandate for you to walk beyond your boundaries because we know that we will provide that service comes up with the cost and how do you incur that in your operation?

MR. S. SINGH.- Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned earlier in the amalgamation we were empowered to collect waste from the rural areas which we are doing successfully with the help of Ministry of Local Government, they give us the fund allocation and then we use that to service. That is why we ask in the proposed amendment whether this power should stay with us or will refer it back to rural authority. S, that was our clarification that we want, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Let us go offline. We will ask the Ministry to answer that question with us. They are saying currently the power that has been given to them when they took out the very rural local authorities and given that power to the Council to provide that service beyond their boundaries which is approximately about 30,000 people which they serve they provide the budget for that for them to operate on that circumstances. While the part of the amendment is to rope in the rural local authority.What does the Bill indicates that, that service or that authority will be coming back to rural local authority or still remain with them. It is a bit like offline question but we need some clarity.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, thank you for that point brought up the intention in the proposed Bill is to bring back the Rural Local Authority and try and resume all services that used to be carried out by the Rural Local Authority. We understand there might be some need for some time for smooth handing over but at the end of the day we would like to see that the burden that the Council has been handling for some time is being uplifted with the assistance of the rural local authority to manage outside town boundary and allow the the Council to focus on the town boundaries and the ratepayers.

HON. P.K. BALA.- When the power was vested to the municipalities it was not a burden. It was basically the municipalities that were complaining about the peri-urban and the rural. Municipalities need to get this right. At that point in time, municipalities were complaining that we do our part but local authority does not carry out their work. I believe when the power was vested to these municipalities request for the rubbish collection.

Now you are saying that it will go back to local authority which Committee will basically decide on that but municipality they do not have any issue of providing their services because they have got resources,everything what they need is funding. That's all. So, by changing here and there does not solve the problem. So, I hope we can note this and then we can resolve it at our own level.

MR. S. SINGH.- So we just talked about the waste management. How about the town planning and building it will also go back or still remain within the Council?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Has been alluded to when you talk about rural local authority those are the areas which will focus in if you look at the amendments Bill even when you have to include outside in the village boundaries there are some specifications ndicated in the Amendment Bill even when you go down to building, connect a pipe or septic tank they are happy to provide. It as to be approved and has to be registered with local authority. Those are

some of the suggestion and amendments in the Bill. So, hopefully when we consult around Fiji the decision making when we get all the information relevant to this amendment.

MR. S. SINGH.- Mr. Chairman, the other issue is not waste management and environmental health. Waste management is a core service provided by Council. Waste management is closely linked to disease burdens especially leptospiris, typhoid and dengue, unmanaged waste including open burning of waste impact adversely through diseases, actual mission, social impacts, economic impacts and environmental degradation and climate vulnaribility.

The Central Board of Health will agree that thousands of citizens get ill every year from NCDs and some cases a especially laptos. LCC supports stronger provisions relating to waste management and public nuisances. Councils and rural health officers are inundated with complaints ranging from open burning of waste, illegal dumping, improper use of garbag resulting in waste catering not variants to collection schedules of garbage.

The Councils all this well were unable to effectively address this issue due to the current reports in the current law. We had to bear the pressure from the public for the lack of action. With 20 years of marketing expert experience,both the Ministry of Health and municipality I can say that lack of civic pride and civic responsibility is one of the major contributing factors towards the poor waste management practices in Fiji despite massive awareness, services and infrastructure, citizens tend to do the opposite. T

The current garbage collection fees levied by some councils like Suva and Nadi is only $25 per year per rate per year which is insufficient to service for the whole year of services. Sir, we propose to be increase and applicable to every tenant may be not a rate payer becasue you already pay the city rate on a tenant on a user pay basis not only that the rate payer can meet the person and disposal cost. So, at the moment we are also aware that there is plans for Regional Western landfill. We do not know where it will be cited may be in Ba or Tavua. So,m we expect the transportation cost and disposal cost to be also increased and come to councils to pay. On this note we recommending that there should be additional garbage fee or the tenants but the repair with the payment rate but on the tenants to pay for the data for this cost because some houses having four to five tenants opening like the Air BnBs. So, this is something to cater extra waste that will be collecting. The tenants is alright because they are paying city rate. They are talking about an extra tenants.

Currently LCC is the only Council in Fiji not levying any garbage fee only the rates. Other Councils are levied. The tenants should pay the garbage fees.

We also recommend buring of waste as an ofence with spot fixed penalties similar to Liter Act 2018. This is one of the easiest offense to enforce as smoke can be seen distance away and it can be tracked and monitored. Burning of waste can be included in the Bill.

However, despite the service being provided the continuity and ignore the costs and services and the schedules we are recommending that open burning of waste should be a offers with fixed penalties with of course awareness.

Also proposed that we provide a section on garbage collection with rules on manadatory of use garbage bins with tight fitting lids of approved design. Adherence to courts and schedules and set reasonable garbage ees based on number of households with remedies for non payment of garbage fees. The offenses will be possible through all sport physical fixed penalties. This is not to penalize but to ensure the citizens that taking responsibility of their waste they produce. At the moment we are providing more because of service.

HON. P.K. BALA. – Mr. Chairman, through you, how many days of collection you have? You have mentioned about burning. If the Council go and pick the rubbish and tomorrow you see again. So, how may days collection per week?

MR. S.SINGH.- Mr. Chairman, for city area we have twice a week. For commerical, industrial, health centres and schools we do it daily except Sunday. We include Public Holidays. We also promoting waste management to home composting and other means to reduce the waste.

HON. P.K. BALA.- You and I know, it is a real issue not only for Lautoka. So, what is the solution may be to increase the days of collection because the only reason why people buried because they have rubbish. So, will it help to increase the days of collection?

MR. S.SINGH.- Mr. Chairman, through experienced two days is sufficient for waste to be disposed from the incinerator. The issue here they ignore the collection schedule. After collection then they follow late in the night, next day. Sometimes they want to put it everyday but the two days is adequate. Even in rural areas is one day per week. We are not facing problem. The only issue when they want to put after. They are not following the collection schedule. If it is Monday they want to put it on Tuesday and it just stays there for one week then come next Monday. So, we want to increase the offence if someone been caught then we

can fine them. We are there to provide service. The only issue for them is to adhere to the timeframe and also the design of bins to use. At the moment they are using shopping bags, cartons, et cetera. When dogs come and scatter it becomes a nuisance and this is the issue that we are facing at the moment.

MS. D. GIBSON.- Mr. Chairman, regarding what, Mr. Salend just mentioned about the burning of waste I think we discussed this in one of our mat meetings it is usually the burning of grass cuttings and branches. We believe Suva and for us at Lautoka we have collection of I think once or twice a year for this kind of refuse but I believe in Suva they have it more often and this is free. You can have it collected at your door but you need to pay for it, if it is outside the time is given by the Council. Our query is why cant we have more frequent collection that will prevent the burning of glass and branches and trimmings or whatever. And I know the Council have compost bins that we have been trying to advertise so that people can have them installed and put their rubbish in this in as approach to burning.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- There was a question raised from the ratepayers on how best if you can look after those rubbish especially the ones that they burn. It can be grass cutting likewise the tree branches kindly look at it from the respective of the Council and you serve these ratepayers.

MR. S. SINGH.- We agree that some residential also burn rubbish in terms of grass. I have mentioned before Lautoka City Council is the only Council in Fiji who does not imposed garbage collection fee on the ratepayers unlike other Councils.

We do ones or twice of free pick-up of green waste but in between if there is a wedding if they cut down trees they are reliable for the payment of collection ad it must be paid to the Council. The Council will only do ones or twice. Just like we did one last month after the cyclone and one will be done in around August and September before Diwali and Christmas.

So, in terms of the burning grass this is why we are promoting the home composed bins. So, we buy for $435 and we are only selling for $31. So, encouraging people to use the compose bins to compose the grass, the leaves and the yard trimming or otherwise they can pay on the user concept. So as you know, we do not a garbage facilities so they can use those savings to pay for the bulky waste whenever the need arises but we do provide once and twice a year of free collection.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, I believe the subject area here is how best to look at the Public Health (Amendment) Bill in corporation with the operations of the Council and other stakeholders involved likerwise the ratepayers.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, this was something that we had wanted to include in the Bill, however, we felt that it was comprehensively covered in the Environmental Management Act. It has Regulation 21 with 7 specific subsections. I have just read few just to clarify or inform the forum this afternoon. Regulation 21(1) says, a person who burns fire commit an offence unless the burning is done at the premises or facility that has a permit that covers the resulting emission. The penalty for that is $10,000 across the board residential or commercial industrial or whatever.

Regulation 21(2), a person who intentionally burns household garbage in a municipality area commits an offense unless the local authority has a permit that covers the resulting emission. The penalty for that is also $10,000 across the board, residential, commercial or industrial.

Regulations 21(3), a person who burns wire coated with any material commits an offence unless the wire is burn at the premises of facility that has permit that covers the emission the penalty is also $10,000. It goes on to say other materials like $10,000, burning oil that is lose oil or any type of oil, open burning of oil is $10,000 social and I think the Management Act gives the local authority where the urban or rural for the empowerment to enforce decision.

MR. S. SINGH.- Mr. Chairman, through you, I would like to thank Mr. Toga for the response. I would like to clarify, yes, I was in the workshop two weeks ago with Ministry of Environment. I did raise this issue. Since the enactment of the Environment Act not a single case admit to court on burning of waste. The powers on arrest with the Ministry of Environment Officers and not the Council. We talk about the nuisance and public healh if someone burns rubbish will definitely impact public health. That is why we are recommending if it can come under the nuisance section. So we are. We are, we can enforce with the powers given under this law and the environment. We do not have powers. So, it is only the environment officers who can.

MS. ELBOURNE.- While Mr. Shalend is still on this, I just want to ask one question you have changed in the amendment the dust bin and garbage bag changed to the term waste

bin could you entlight me if this is related to how broad a term is this referring to. Is this the garbage bin or what is this related to?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- So, you need some clarity on the waste bin.

MS. ELBOURNE.- Yes, I asked this because just getting back to or what Shalend was saying he actually mentioned that there is a need for a a garbage bin, a receptacle with a fitted. I actually totally agree with this so I have been pushing this with him for the last 10 years. Probably, I have asked the Ministry of Environment at one stage there quite a few times and they told us that I think this Act had to come into place. So, the question here is you have got a garbage bin but there is no enforcement o, just that as being the restrictive law with the bin only. You have got plastic bags. You have got woven containers. You have got open leaded containers so this causes a problem obviously. If you have a restricted,this is to the household people I am talking residential areas but with the residents and ratepayers only use a bin with a fitted lid. There is no other receptacle that we use because this is a problem which you will take care of the dogs as well. I work very closely with the dog clinics. When I was running the ratepayers with Denny Yees we organised many clinics in Lautoka. This was a major problem. Dogs ripping everything, baby napkins all over the place. So, I think if you there has to be some clarification on what exactly are the rate supposed to use in terms of a waste waste bin? And I am presuming that the change from garbage burning dustbin relates to the waste bin of the resident rubbish bin. Is that correct?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- That is a good question. Ministy of Health official can you give us some adhere about type of waste bin. If you are talking about waste bin it is more likely a general statement. Can be a garbage, container or whatever. You are taking some clarity on that.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, part of the Bill that we are proposing is to modernize the Act and also to change the technology that I use. So, you will see that in the proposed Bills we are changing this dust bin to garbage bins. You will also notice that we have mentioned in the current Bill lding cesspit which we are proposing to be changed to septic tank and also to be changed to sanitary facilities. So , I think those are the things to modernize the terms that you use including the sanitary inspector to be changed to Environmental Health Officer.

MS. ELBOURNE.- I am sorry if I could just mention it is not so much the term it is what yo are referring to here is the waste bin considered a dust bin, garbage bin also a waste

bin because you have to differentiate what is the resident using as a garbage bin as opposed to a medical like where is.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- If I may, through you, Mr. Chairman, through the submission that Mr. Shalend is doing for us to have as part of the regulation the specification and then Bill to include the tight fitting lid, the size of the beans so that can be part of the submission to be part of the submission to be part of the regulations.

MS. ELBOURNE.- Can they restrict it to just that and not use like plastic bags because if they were to actually come down on any given collection day, Council could be collecting tons of money in revenue from the amount of plastic bags piled on the road. I think residents have taken or use use now where they actually build those you know the three stands with the aluminum. So, what happens is we go back to what Shaolin was saying there is a tendency there are two where they do not actually just load those high containers on the collection day they actually you will find people from outside in my area people from outside drive by at night and drop their rubbish into that container which is outside someone's home. So, it is s piled full and falling all over the ground and falling into the waterfall area. I am just giving you an example. So, that has to be looked at as well because that just goes with what he was saying and I really believe if you look at what like overseas what is it that they use as a resident for a resident? It is a rubbish bin whichever you want to label it as rubbish, bin waste bin. You have to define what it is that the ratepayer must use and that only nothing else. No plastic, no. You put anything else out you will get fine. If you take care of scattered rubbish and allow the Council to penalize those that abuse this, yeah.

MS. D. GIBSON.- Just furthermore on what Ms. Elbourne Naud said there is a specification in the act as to the size of the receptacle but then again it does not relate to what what Mr. Elbourne was was saying, the exact whether it is a bin or plastic or whatever but there is a specification in the Act itself bit it still does not restrict it to a certain receptacle.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, so the terms that has been used in the Principal Act is not limited to the recepticle that we use for collection. It is actually a broader term that is used in terms of ensuring there is a sanitary system in place in building. If you look at where we are replacing these words building occupied or owner has to provide a waste bin or what is to be written there is a task bin within the building so that waste generated within people are now able to put it somewhere in the bin. So, if you were to just focus on what we put out for collection be mindful that the Act is also for rural areas as well not only through within the

municipal council but what I would suggest is maybe focusing a little more on external in the submission can focus on in case of garbage collection and then state there that there is to be enclosed deal with like being mentioned to be mentioned the the size and the durability and the type of material that has to be used for the. However, to completely use that standard for interior bins as well is is maybe I would too adventurous because small rooms might need a small bins and bigger rooms might need big bins and so on and so forth. So, the suggestion from the ministry is maybe to the Council can make submission in their focusing maybe a section that focuses on garbage collection is the type of bin that you want to see.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Any other submission to us?

MR .S. SINGH.- The other issue is an effective control measures. Mosquito borne diseases remain a major public health challenges in Fiji. Central Board of Health will agree with thousands of citizens get ill every year from mosquito borne diseases. Remember, dengue fever is very traumatic and claims innocent lives. Mosquitoes have no boundaries. Virus can be spread from mosquitoes breeding as far as 300 meters away.

If anyone is too worried about the fines you just need to refer to his test from year 2014 when we had major dengue fever outbreak with more than 28,000 cases and 14 deaths in Fiji in our country.

So, on a personal note, I was also then the dengue fever patient and spent five days in hospital. My condition be treated to obtain my platelet counts fell to 35,000 requiring 11 liters of intravenous fluids and 4 lbs of tasma. It was deeply traumatic experience that I will never forget.

So, the solution does not need rocket science. It only need to focus on source reduction of mosquito breeding and harboring sites. Basically means eliminating any water breeding sites and keeping compounds clear of overgrowing grass and vegetation.

Council supports the emphasis on elimination of mosquito breeding sites cleaning of overgrown grass and vegetation and application of fines which self-serve as a deterrent to defenders.

Recommendations:

Prevent environment powers to issues spot fixed position every positive mosquito breeding grounds on every upon failure of the owner, occupier of person in control of the

premises to clear overgrown grasses and vegetation within seven days of resource notice. Seven days notice if you do not cut your then we can fix month notice after 7 days. We will give time to cut. We have taken a lot. Whatever is because I will say this is one of the regular complaint we face specially in rainy weather.

If you plant small trees up to eight metre plant three metres away from the fence. If it is a medium tree 8 to 15 metre tall, 5 metres away from the fence. The reason being we are facing this complain on a weekly basis. Neighbours are planting breadfruit tree, falling on the neighbors roof, decaying, smelling, flies, insects, leaves falling down they do not even bother to clean and this neighbor has to clean.

When times for hurricane they start calling us. My neigbor is having this. Please can you come and cut it down. These are pertinent issue that we faced. Currently, the Act only says overgrown grass. Harboring mosquitoes is not an offence currently. It is a vacant lot.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, you know on one hand we are talking about public health and on the other hand there are different Government arm which promote backyard gardening. When we talk about cassava and all those things I mean what is the solution. I mean we cannot just say you cannot do it becasue there are Government arms which are promoting backyard. So, we need to be very catreful on that.

MR. S. SINGH.- I also agree with honourable Bala. He is true. I know we need food to put on a table. The type of things they plant like egg plant, bele, dalo things which are not very bushy. Few cassava patch, alright, but what happen ,Sir, in residential area there are vacant lots they used it to plant cassava. I am the owner and someone else will come and plant it. That brings two things, breeding mosquitoes and risky for break-ins.

MR. A. ALI.- Mr. Chairman, there are some challenges and there are some serious issues as well. When we do backyard farming we all understand it will be small veggies and stuff like that, not 10-15 metre palm tree or any other tree, rain tree or anything else that really poses a risk to the neighboring property. In terms of branches approaching on the other neighbors roof and stuff is a very high risk in terms of profit damage. It is a big mental challenge as well because when ythe other neighbour does not want to listen then what we can do we cannot do anything. Even we try to use one of the tallest ladders we cannot even reach there. So, what do we do in those cases? We should limit the size in height and may be the distance where you plant all those. I think in city areas we want to make our city green but make it proud like keep it small. The Council should encourage people to keep our compounds

clean. That is how we are going to promote our city towns, our country, residential areas where we ratepayers are staying. We need to be proud of ourselves as ratepayers and we support City Council. If you do not listen to them because there are some by-laws or laws within City Council which are very weak. They issue notices but they cannot do anything. So, what is the use of issue notices? There should be spot fine as I think the some of them mentioned and those specially note adhering to it take them to court.

MR. A.A. ALI.- Mr. Chairman, right now I am here in my individual capacitybut the institute that I work for my work is actually looking at the Bills that come out of respective ministries and section by section and word by word, I vet it. Internal contradiction, contradiction with other Acts and other issues. So, I will not be talking about the technical things or other the procedural matters from the aspect that they have been talking about because even my qualification is not in this field.

So, after reading this Bill in line with the Principal Act what I have observed is that since now the coverage is for the entire country but a reasonable defense is actually missing. Plus, when you are actually limiting a liberty or right or anything and you are actually giving a legal consequence to a person that if you do something then there will be some issues that will follow as a result of breaching. I feel there needs to be requirement. There needs to be qualifiers for instance. A lot of sections, it plainly says if you do this, it will be a bridge and you will be held responsible for that particular underperformance or non-performance and all other things but the issue here is that there is no reasonable that is actually accorded to to a particular individual and graduated penalty is not there. Not every place notices is observed. Not every place the process is there because firstly it needs to be noticed and then it needs to be graduated.

One confusion that I had was I understand that the aim of this Bill was to have it modernized excellent. In doing so, I feel still we have introduced a lot of terms technology which is actually not defined yet and the things that were defined actually it has been removed it is still mentioned in sections, for example the terminology food. It is very easy to understand. It was removed so the understanding was that when the definition is deleted it will not be used anywhere but actually it is used. So, I do not know why things are deleted when it is actually retained by the Bill.

Mr. Chairman, from my side I was not able to understand the allocation of individuals like they were given a lot of powers but who is head of environmental health? The issue is this,

when you actually come up with a particular Act or any Bill we need to understand that it needs to be in harmony with other legislation, for example, Environment Management Act plus tax regime that we currently follow in Fiji plus the most important one is Medical and Dental Practitioners Act. Like you are now using caps labels for individual removing or joining definitions but actually other Acts have definitions, for example medical officers of health replaced with practitioner and defined as medical practitioner. I think like I know any institute you will have your issues but that does not mean that you actually introduce a totally new framework that actually results in contradiction with other frameworks that will result in confusion that we have resulted in consistencies. Maybe you have been working in a particular field and that is the reason why you are familiar. When you look at a Billyou are familiar as to what this word means, how this is but we cannot imply and read things into it. If the intention of a particular section is there it needs to be like you read it, 1 + 1 is equals 2.

Judicial oversight warrants entering a property seizure. I feel there needs to be a lot of reconsideration of this because a lot of places, a lot of powers have been given to people. I think it is just like a gift like let us establish one position and give them some authority. It is not supposed to be like that. Constitution does not allow arbitrary nature of like this is arbitrary. There needs to be some form of check and balance appeal mechanism.

Role and power, I am still confused of the Head because it is not clear like you keep on reading the Act as you complete it you will be confused because I was. There are definitions used sanitary facility, dust bin, waste bin and across dozens of sections. It is actually not like even nuisance and the standard and other thing because we need to understand nuisance has a precious aspect meaning thoughts. Meaning if you hold someone you can go civil route plus criminal as well. So, if you are actually bringing in as part of not a regulation but as a low you need to actually make it clear and qualify why. It cannot be just used as you like and as you wish.

Delegation of powers of the Board.

Clause 5, Section 5(b)(2), it talks about the temporary performance during vacancy and names as a National Health Adviser and office not defined or mentioned elsewhere. So like assumption is a lot like how are you actually fulfilling the qualifications are not there for person. Who that person will be? What will be the level of liability? Where will you go and appeal? Right now we are seeing a lot of people appointed here and there and then there is a lot of drama afterwards.

Usage of Words

I feel see the issue is this portable waters. I think it should be potable water, remove 'r'. Portable water means safe to drink. So, like when you actually look at the word and how it has been slided into sentence it talks about health, health and then you shift the water from here and there. So, it is about consumption when you look at the structure of how this sentence is worded out. I think you usage of word same way suffers should be suffered because suffrage is attempt but I do not think so that is how it was intended to use. There is a lot of from my side type errors, for example, Clause 65, Section 132. It says Environment Health Pratiioner and not Practitioner.

Also, when emergency or anything equivalent is actually stated in a particular legislation we need to understand that like after creating a legislation, first of all, it needs to be in harmony with other legislation. In 2(b), not in contradiction with the Constitution. So, state of emergency, the Constitution is quite clear as to how you are actually establishing it but how are you using it here? What is the formal framework? That will suppress a lot of rights and from my side I see a lot of issues as a result of that. There are more things to this Bill. So, the effect is commended and there are some places where I see that a lot of improvement was done but I feel like there needs to be a comparative study done to this. I have actually assisted some Parliamentary Committee as a critical friend.

Explanatory Note

That explains as to even though it is not part of the Bill but it explains why a particular section was amended. When you look at that and look at the section it does not match in many instances. I will be giving this copy. It is a brief one because my exam was also going on and my health was not good, so I made a brief one. It was because of his video, Mr. Bala, he was urging everyone to come, so I came. So thank you so much. That was from my side. If you have any question other than the technical aspect, I will be happy to from my side.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The question has to come through the Chair because I am chairing this Committee. The questions have to come from the public. Let me correct that we are here task by the Government by your Parliament. You can bring your submission. Most of the point that was highlighted we already detect during the first and second reading of the Bills. So, here the key focus now is how best you can bring in the submission whether it is in written to help us in amendment of the Bill. You remember this Bill is done by an expert through the Cabinet to Parliament and that is why we are here. Any amendments to the Bill is the prerogative of

this Committee. So, we want to hear from you. Whatever suggestions are wether is in written or whatever to help us incorporate that in the bill that where we come from. I hope that I make myself clear. The amendments of the Bill is the Committee's responsibility not the public. Your job here is to come and present to us because we have got legal expert too that will healp us out and it has been through the processes for quite sometimes. Remember, this is after 19 years when it comes to this stage. I hope that the message is very clear. You could present whatever your thoughts are but for the amendment of the Bill that is our work. You can pick up any simple word or whatever in the Bill but just comes to us through writing.

MR. S. SINGH.- Mr.Chair, the next issue is one of the most important part of the Act, which is the environmental health nuisances. Make the largest friction of complaints received by municipalities where we normally receive are poultry and animals, open burning of waste, improper waste disposal, separate of septic tank effluents. overflow of sewage from Water Authority of Fiji, sewer mains including discharge into waterway, hygienic central facilities like washroom facilities, noise, garbage scattering by dogs and so on.

In terms of an offensive trade from access areas, Mr. Chairman, if we talk about dog nuisance dog waste is more than the submissions. It has significant public health environment issue when not properly managed.

I'm just to clarify on the point that shelling is about the noise issue and in the local government, it's very specifically as to the disabilities and how many, how many, the distance and all that. It's very specific.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, just want to make it very clear, Parliament did ask us an individual Members to do a video inviting general public for consultation. I think base on that my good friend from Ba has come and I want to thank him.

I will go back to you on the fines that you are talking about. At the moment is accros the board. We would like to see that Lautoka City Council does a submision to us to the Committee stating the types of fines. This has been going on. It has been a lot of talks abou this during our consultation and we will appreciate large municipalities and I think you people will be in a better position to suggest some fines on certain areas specially within the municipality.

MS. D. GIBSON.- Mr. Chairman, just to clarify on the noise issue. In the Local Government Act it is very specifically as to how many distance and all that it is very specific

but I do not think it is covered in this one. I do not know what noise nuisance are you referring to? Noise from animals or music from your neighbours I think it needs to be more specific.

MR. S. SINGH.- Mr. Chairman, that can be looked at by the Committee and Ministry of Health. We proposed that noise nuisance should be top of the solutions under the law.

Sir, we note that Section 47 currently now that the issuance of notice requiring abatement of nuisance is now replaced no more. Fixed penalty of $1,000.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene. This issue was brought before the Committee in other cases as well. We will talk about noise uisance but how do we monitor? How will you monitor a noise at the carnival? How would you monitor a noise level at a religious function and how are you going to determine?

MR. S. SINGH.- There will be some guidelines for that. In terms of religious events we have to give certain hours for that, for example, 10.00 p.m. cut off time. We respect the the rights of religion but there should be some guidelines may be 10.00 pm or 12.00 pm whatever the Government decides but certain time frame.

MS. D. GIBSON.- Mr. Chairman, I really would like to elaborate much on the noise problem which is the major problem in the residential areas. I just recently dealt with one with the Council and I can tell you there are some procedures which need to also be put into place in terms of how they tackle it. Police in terms of how they tackle it, but just getting back to the levels of noise at the moment. I think it is the Local Government Act, the level of noise is only limited to 70 decibels and 90 as far as I know and there was one limit on the use of lawn mowers on Sundays between 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

So, there is nothing which actually is done which actually has the decible number for night time hours. The question is why has not there been that you cannot use 70 or 90 which is defining and as a result it is abused. People do not know about the laws for nuisance. This is another problem. I have dealt in the last 10 years with about not exaggerating with about 12 issues with the Council including one where we closed the pub and a nightclub on the street. So, what I am saying here is with regards to the noise there are two things. What are the times if you look at overseas clauses and by-laws this times at night where there's supposed to be some limits of peaceful quiet time. This is normally from around 10:00 pm to 11:00 pm and it goes to either 6.00 am in the morning or 7.00 am. This should be stipulated in the Local

GovernmentAct all through the times and I speak here of the towns of course I did not differentiate with the bins I am sorry but I was talking about bins the regulations there.

In terms of the noise there has to be a time limit when the the decibel comes down to 45 or 40 decibels and it should be stipulated there because at the moment there is not. Now, what happens is you have a time ranger that comes to the house and it only operate from Monday to Friday correct me, Shalend,. I think 8:00 am to 4:30pm. So you have a night time incident which is when most of this happens. Who do you go to? That is not clarified as well. I can tell you if you call the Police on one incident, I call them five times. They did not come. They called me the next morning to just check. So, who's coming to take the actual incident and documented and where is it? Who documents it. So, if you have the range and you have got under his job description that he actually has to monitor noise and noise problems he is limited to the day from what I can see there. I mean, they did come out and attempted this problem and I have had one in the past where we had religious noise. Now religious noise is a sensitive issue but it has to be dealt with. I have had the Police come to a neighbor who who had the whole of this *talatala* and the pulpit about 100 people there for two full years. We ended up ith the Prime Minister's office to actually attend to that. We went through the Police and the Lautoka City Council at the time that you are not. They all did not want to attempt to it because of the sensitivity of this. It must apply across the board whether it is industrial, residential the law if it stipulates it must apply to that now. If I could, while I am just talking about religious whenever there is a and I speak mostly I am a Christian, so I speak from that point of view to give you an example. Many of the houses of religious rorganizations are too loud for the magnification amplification of whatever they are using their bands. In our area we I am about three blocks away from one religious organization that actually in an industrial area bordering within meters of a residential area now their music is beautiful, the sermons wonderful. I can hear it from mine past mine three blocks when they sing. So, there was no checks and balances as well on giving them the warehouse and one has attended to lowering that limit even though I have seen it come up. People complaining because of that sensitivity. So, what I am saying is this noise application must apply to religious buildings wherever they heard if it is not insulated we have another in the residential area Waiyavi Stage 5 where they have actually rezoned one small block right next to all the houses. It is sitting within a bloc and we had the neighbor moved out because he is actually doorway is 3 meters from the building.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- May I intervenes. You are talking on the same subject area. What did you recommend? That will help us in our amendments.

MS. D. GIBSON.- Yes, I am recommending it. I just sort of giving that as an example because it is a serious issue in the residential areas. You have to have a time limit. You have to have a decibel limit as well on all and this is missing from the Local Government Act as it stands from what I can see.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Alright, so you got it in writing or you just support what is coming up from the submission?

MS. D. GIBSON.- I have submitted it in writing and I am giving it here because I am not sure somethin is overlap it seem where it goes. So, I am just reiterating what I what I have said then and what I wrote in to the Local Government Act for them to look at as well. So just one other thing please before I go.

I should give reasons again as Shalend did not say this, you know, excessive noise it actually causes a lot of stress and tension between neighbors in my area. This is the case. It causes intimidation where people start stoning houses because it goes all night long. People drinking grog and they like aplaying ukuleles. If you ask them nicely they believe that it is their right it is their home. So, the other thing here I think is with all these new laws that come out and especially in terms of I mean in an urban area with Lautoka City Council not only enforcement there must be more engagement in the areas of the residential areas. I can tell you if you go to my area and ask them about the specifics of a noise law or one of the other laws they have no idea. Most of the staff is sitting in the town areas. The only time it becomes known is if we complain and then it becomes an issue. Even that before I finish has to be dealt as well in a a more considerate ways in the way that the Council actually approaches this.

Mr. Chairman, another example is if you complain about a house which actually has a band playing for one whole year and they on a hill everyone just keeps quiet because they are afraid of offending that neighbor. I make the complaint, the Council, the rangers actually come with one car and six people to my house I am the complainant begging at the gate and stand outside. I have stipulated where it is. I do not care but what I am saying is this also causes people to hesitate from making the complaint because they do not want to be looked at as the neighbor complaining.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Vinaka*, that wil be part of the recommendation which is being discussed by the Council.

MR. S. SINGH.- Mr. Chairman, Section 47, for nuisance will be directly fixed penalty or there will be time given. I know that under Section 57 the requirement to issue notice requiring abatement is now replaced is gone which come replaced with the fixed penalty. So, we just want to seek clarity because for example I was recommending for poultry we need some time to remove. So, I seek approval from Ministry of Health whether will it be direct to miunicipalities.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I believe it is straight forward. After the Bill passed we can go through a process. We are still in a process stage now. The Ministry of Health will comew with the picture they will do their awareness programme. Penalty does not come up straight away if you make a mistake whatever. There will be time given like on a first offences, second, third that is where the penalty comes into the picture. For other severity of the offenses like spreading of HIV and AIDS that can take you to court. If you happen to come across that you are staying in a isolated area or a village and you are passing on these to others without telling them that you are being infected and if you are positively answered that is another area but the Public Health (Amendment) Bill covers it all. Just to help you out on that.

MR. S. SINGH.- So, we recommend that Section 55 to be amended to include immediate nuisance arising as a result of raw sewer discharge or overflows from WAF facilities. At the moment is the owner of the premises but it does not apply to WAF.

Moving forward on buildings, Mr. Chairman., we have got clarification that the powers will go back to Rural Local Authorities. Having said that if it does not go through them it remains with us when we proposing these accommodations.

Mr. Chairman, strengthening the Building Surveyorsa Rules similar to a normal health practitioners.

MS. D. GIBSON.- Mr. Shalend just to clarify you keep saying the rural to go back to Rural Local Authority. If it is taken off you guys so who will monitoring then.

MR. S. SINGH.- No, it is coming back.

MS. D. GIBSON.- Another thing you mentioned about hair dressor issue. So, what are you monitoring at the moment when you visit the salons? I know the sterilization, sanitisation and all that is definitely not been followed. So, when you visit the salons what are you looking for?

MR. S. SINGH.- Mr. Chairman, thank you madam for that question. The requirement for them is to submit a plan. Once they do that we will go through all the process, checklist they have and to check on the compliance. If it is alright then we will give the permit and the licence to operate.

Currently we have a regulaton but we do not have one for the hairdresses and that will be fixed penalites. The fine is $10. If this can be amendend.

MR. R. SHAH.- Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to ask the Ministry officials to return the Health Licence Policy back to the Council because I myself I run a retail shop. On 31st of January you have to pay your health licence and everything through portal. Am I right or wrong? Until todate I have no received a Health Certificate for the shops which is a big ,NO, NO. I had a Council representative coming into our shops three weeks ago to visit that we have complying with the thing or not. When I show then the receipt they jumped. They said, oh, it looks like there is a confusion between the Ministry and the Counl. So, I would like to request the Ministry if they could return the Health Licence Policy back to the Council. I know it is an extra work for the Council but they are doing briliant work and I think they can keep a track of it. Through portals sometimes the net goes down and up. That is where a lot of people can be in trouble. We as a registered business, taxpayers we follow the policies and procedures and the legislation guided by the Ministry but at the end of the day when we follow it then it does not follow on our side. So, it is an extra work for us. The staff will call me and say, boss the Council is here .So, I have to rush from the city to the shop to show them that the receipt is paid but we have not received the health licence.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, we totally agree to what has been mentioned by the gentleman. I think this is the Government intend to do the online business. The ease of doing business now. So, all the licence needs to go thorough the digital platform. It is something new that was launched last year. The issue is with our villagers and our informal settlements becasue they cannot meet the requirement that is in the Food Safety Act. So, that is another discussion under the Food Safety Act and Food Safety Regulation. We are in the process of reviewing the Food Safety Act and Food Safety Regulations so that we can some how assist those who are running the business as I have already alluded to in villages and informal settlements.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- How best they can get their licence the one that they have already paid in a portal?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, at the moment for those who do not meet the requirement still doing manual licence. When we review the Food Safety Act we put the new requirements for the informal settlements and the villages.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- How will they inform about the checklist that they need to appear in certain areas about the licence is issued?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, we were waiting of the review of the legislation.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, I think the issue is not requirement. They issue is they have paid but they have not received the certificate.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, they are making the online payment and the requirements are not met in the portal.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Through you, Mr. Chairman, when you paid were you informed that you have not met the requirments?

MR. R. SHAH.- No, sir.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, when you go through the portal it requires that you fulfill all the requirements of the National Fire Authority, Ministry of Labour and other requirements to go through including the tax registration. These are the requirements that needs to be met before the licence is generated on line.

MR. R. SHAH.- Mr. Chairman, just on that, as far as I know last year all the requirements everything whatever was given, this year also was given. We even pay the anniversary fees to business registration which most of the businesses not aware about it. Every time whenever there is an anniversary we go through the portal, we pay to business regisration. We have gone through OHS, NFA, tax compliance, we have done everything then only you will come to that stage where you will submit the paymeny. If there is any red mark there your portal will not take payment. Your payment will only go through if you follow whatever is required there. So, I do not see where you are coming from that the requirement is not fulfill becasue no one will take the money until the requirement is followed. It just like you are applying for the visa.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Alright, there is a lot of discussion on that. What we will do now we will take that on board. We will try to come back to you. From the Ministry if you can give

us some assurance that will look into that case to come back with the relevant explanation or the issue of the licence is the main thing. If it got some area to do with other stakeholders they need to be advised.

MR.R. SHAH.- Mr. Chairman, on the other issue I would like to ask the Committee what will be the requirements if you running a BBQ stall. You know with the improper packaging, in hygienic where you go in a bakery or restaurant you need a hair net, handgloves, et cetera. So, I would like the Ministry to look into this people they also contributing towards our community. If they not sell BBQ then our lamb chops will be sitting in the freezer. So, I would like to request the Ministry that there should be a legislation or some sort of workshops to educate our BBQ stall holders too.

MR .CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, that is noted. Please be reminded our focus area is the amendments of the Bill. That should be our vocals of the importance on why we are here. We accept your suggestion because our secretariat everything is recorded.

MS. ELBOURNE.- Mr. Chairman, I am very much for the high penalties that are been imposed. My only concern of course is how will you go about ...

MR. CHAIRMAN.- May I intervene any practical penalties because it is there in the Bill.

MS. ELBOURNE.- Just all of it anything above $1,000 to $5,000. I can understand businesses actually paying for but I am sure that is why I am asking you this. I just wondered how are you going to go and get around actually getting it of people who are in poverty or live in an area which were they cannot pay you. Are you expecting them to pay you immidiately upon the fine?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Remember, there are processes and procedures in place. We are just here to see what are your opinions the penalties distract is not to be the last resort. It has to go through the severity who is the complainer and what is happening. Based on the severity of the cases that is where the allocation of penalties comes up in the picture whether you stay in the village or in the urban centre. Currently is stranded but if you want that to be classified then we would to put up as your recommendation.

MS. ELBOURNE.- Mr. Chairman, what I am asking is actually how if they cannot pay it are they given a timeframe?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- That was exactly I was trying to say. They will give a timeframe to work on that.

MS. ELBOURNE.- So, where is that written?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- If you look at Clause it includes in this amendment Bill.

MS. ELBOURNE.- It is then I am oversight on my part.

MR. A.A. ALI.- Mr. Chairman, I also here for that purpose becasue I read the Bill. Things that I flagged aere actually important legal questions.One thing just to assist the Committee for noting purposes only nothing other than that. Niusance has been highlighted a lot. Just when the Committee revisits this Bill for the benefit is Crime Act 2009 may be on nuisance provision, Section 374(c) and Section 376 common niusance currently what is happening is that there is a risk of duplication. A duplication, meaning there will be issues in jurisdiction and enforcement. Where now one agency is doing the job or not but it is already performing. There is a concept when we look at any drafting material is how is burden given to individual and how much burden is given to one institute and a department.

So, Mr. Chairman, they I think just for the record purposes it needs to be made in such a way that there is no duplication, no conflict in jurisdiction and there is no enforcement issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN.-Vinaka, I will just add on to that. When you talk about how best the Bill align to other stakeholders that is part of the Committee we have been doing that from day one until now. We call them in the office, they provide the written submission to us and that we be part of how best we can incorporate before we actually make our final draft.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, I just seek in clarification there is a real difference in the definition of common nuisance in the Criminal Act which describes anyone bring you know a common nuisance may a drunken shouting, making noise, maybe someone to loud with the radio those are the common nuisance on the Crimes Act.

The one on the Public Health Act is the actual that can be injurious to public health meaning the definitions which stipulated in Page 11 of the proposed Bill. Those are two very different. Common Nuisance meaning of drunkard or someone creating nuisance in the public swearing or things like that when Public Health Act deals with health issues on specific health issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We need to get the message right at the first place.

MS. D. GIBSON.- Mr. Chairman, just on the noise issue that you brought up, I mean nuisance. Unlike for the noise issue which is covered on the nuisance I think that is where mental health comes in as well. It can be quite stressful. So, that does not that being mental health not physical health where you actually get injured. Since we leading to more towards mental health now rather than just concentrating on physical,can you just clarify that?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, that is absolutelyt correct. There have been previous submissions to include specifications of noise in the Bill. So, we welcome Lautoka City Council to have that as part of their submission. Once that is included then we can have the specifics in the regulations that is we put together as we speak. So, when we talk about controlling we are talking about maybe 70 or 90 decibels but from how far from that particular premises? It if is within the the premises. If it is 70 or 90 or is it 5 steps outside of the boundary or 10 steps, these are things that we will need to consider. You know the night spots, how long the music you can hear outside? Also take into account how loud the music inside for the people that are there which have direct effect on their health as well. So, these are things that we can consider down the line. So we welcome the submission from Lautoka City Council and the Committee can then look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, I believe that comes up to the end of our discussion today representation from the Lautoka City Council as well as the member from the public who are here with us.

Before we call it a day I will ask honourable Tuicolo to give us some assurance on the Committees task ahead of us and in the incorporation from the Council.

Lastly but not the least if you happen to come accross an issue that does not discuss today feel free to provide me with the solution back to us. The contact people are around here. Our secretariat always can communicate with them. Remember, this is just the process. We just going around collecting ideas of how best we can come up with a final draft that is convenient to everyone whether you are in the rural or urban centre we are trying to get as much information as possible. So, no one is left behind. There is a lot that has been discussed from other municipalities especially when we were in Nadi Town yesterday. So, this is sort of information that we are trying to get to the people out there. Maybe another two to three months during our consultation period.

MS. D. GIBSON.- Mr. Chairman, could I have just clarify one more thing about the penalties where there is a timeframe where does it actually say in the Bill about is there certain time given? Where is it covered exaclty?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, thank you for that question. There is similar to what I was describing earlier the principality is put in the Act and once the ACT has the ceriling of $1000 for nuisance penalties up to $1000 in the regulations there will be specification of all that needs to be there including the categorizing or the including of the schedule that talks about this particular nuisance, particular fine just like the LTA , have a list of offences and and penalties. That will be in in the regulations if the Bill is passed in Parliament then there will be a process as well.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- On behalf of the honourable Speaker of Parliament, the Chairperson and Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, I would like to thank you for taking your time to be here and be able to take part and contribute to this consultation session. We are all aware that public health is the cornerstone of nuisance prosperity. It protects our population from disease, reduces health care costs and drives economic growth. Robust systems ensure productive workforce enhance quality of life and build resilience against emergencies.

Therefore, the amendment of the Public Health Act 1935, I believe that once it is passed it will improve the standard of our health system and allows the Ministry of Health ffort to work freely and perform their work and duties without any restriction. I would also like to thank the Ministry of Health personnel who have been assisting us with this consultation exercise and not forgetting the secretariat for their continuous support.

The Committee adjourned at 5.00 p.m.

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE BA TOWN COUNCIL ON THURSDAY 18TH JUNE, 2026 AT 2.30 P.M.

In Attendance

1. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	-	Chairperson
2. Hon. A. Bia	-	Member
3. Hon. V. Pillay	-	Member
4. Hon. P.K. Bala	-	Member
5. Hon. A.N. Tuicolo	-	Member

Ministry of Health

1.	Mr. Luke Vonotabua	-	Chief Health Inspector
2.	Mr. Toga Vosataki	-	WASH Coordinator

Interviewee/Submittee : Nadi Town Council

1.	Mr. Prem Singh	-	Administrator
2.	Mr. Saliceni Raiwalui	-	Chairman
3.	Mr. Muni G Reddy	-	Chief Executive Officer
4.	Ms. Priya Lata	-	Legal Officer
5.	Ms. Carey Osborne	-	Cluster General Manager - Hilton Hotel Resort
6.	Ms. Premila Pathak	-	Manager Community Services
7.	Ms. Nafiza Ali	-	Senior Health Inspector
8.	Mr. Aisake Raratabu	-	Principal Town Planner (Ministy of Local Government)
9.	Ms. Caroline Tasere	-	Assistant Health Inspector
10.	Ms. Shagofa Ali	-	Sub-Divisional Health Inspector
11.	Mr. Esira	-	
12.	Ms. Sisillia Kinikinilau	-	Assistant Health Inspector
13.	Mr. R. Kumar	-	Health Inspector
14.	Mr. Mohammed Sameem	-	Assistant Health Inspector

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members and the team from Ministry of Health, this afternoon we have the team from Nadi Town Council. Thank you very much for appearing to us this afternoon. Likewise, one of our former parliamentarians, Mr. Prem Singh, bula vinaka, Sir.Thank you for joining us this afternoon. We have a rep from Hilton, Ms. Carey Osborne, welcome madam for this consultation and presentation about the Public Health (Amendment) Bill before us.

Hopefully we are all in good health to start it off and discuss issues of concern. I will give a very brief opening about the Bill. Before that, I will ask all the members to introduce themselves.

(Introduction of Committee Members and Ministry of Health and Medical Services officials)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I beleive we have to welcome thew owner of the building the Fiji Police Force at Nadi, thank you, Sir, for availing yourself this afternoon.

Before we start, I believe we have a copy of the Public Health (Amendment) Bill at hand. There are three translations, one is in *itaukei*, English and *Hindi* and hopefully that our guests here this afternoon have access to that but the important part is how well you understand that amendment. We are here as parliamentarians of the Social Affairs Committee.

The Public Health Amendment Bill No. 4 of 2026, to Parliament this year. This information brief provides a summary of the Public Health Amendment Bill of 2026. It was tabled in Parliament on the 29th of April, 2026. It is prepared for a Standing Committee on Social Affairs to serve as a guide and support research during the Committee's review of the Bill. So, we are here to discuss the review of this Bill.

On the overview of the Bill let us give a very short set of words. The key objective part is to:

1. strengthen public and environmental health governments;
2. improve monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in place from the Ministry of Health;
3. enhance preparedness and respond to communicable diseases;
4. ensure a safe water, sanitation and waste management system;
5. update penalties to deter non-compliance; and to

6. align the law with our modern public health practises that are currently in place.

I hope that is very clear to all of us. That is the key objective of these amendments. Out of the regulation of the principal Bill, this Bill is almost 90 years now from 1935 until today this is the review part of it to modernise and to harmonise how we do business at each respective regional level or from the institution that you come from.

Another area of concern is how best this Bill aligns to your working environment from the CEO's position right up to the grassroots level when you talk about the council.

Likewise, those people are looking after our tourism industry they are all in the same principle that applies. Out of that, there are about 69 amendments of the Bill. I hope that you got part of that amendment in front of you. Our discussion will be centred on those amendments.

So, holistically approach, which will be better if you talk about the council you have to refer back to which area of concern from that 69 clause that will affect your operation or it will align you on how best the Bill can fit into how you do your work. I am talking about operational level. I hope that it is very clear to everyone.

So, moving forward if the council prefers to present or we discuss it thoroughly from the Committee whatever you need to we will start off with that.

When we wrap it up feel free if there is an area that needs to be addressed which is not covered on the amendments you can use that platform on your written submission back to the Committee.

So, our secretaries are around here with us. We hope to have that communication link with them. So, that today it is just like a process stage for us moving across Fiji. So, in three months' time we have been tasked to come back to Parliament and present this Bill based on our key findings, amendments to be tabled back to Parliament. That is the process. Within this period from today onwards for the next three months or so you can always utilise that vacuum if there is an area that needs to be addressed but it does not tie up with amendments of the Bil, maybe later on when you go back to your office or whatever feel free to submit with your written submission. So, I hope that everything is clear.

If someone wants to talk about the Bill itself you have to refer it to the 69 amendments clause in front of us. So, that when you refer to that chapter of the clause it will be easy for us to talk on the same page and it will be easy to understand. It will be easy for us to manoeuvre as we move along. So, nothing is left behind.

Hopefully, in general, if you want to ask another question apart from the amendments Bill, that will be part of a motion. I hope that is very clear. Anything that is not covered in the amendments Bill, you can bring it up to our attention as a motion and there should be someone to second that motion. We will take it on board. It will be part of our discussion and our report when we go back to Parliament.

MR. M.G. REDDY.- *Ni sa bula vinaka*, Mr. Chair and and honourable Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs. On behalf of the Nadi Town Council, I take immense pleasure in coming and presenting before the honourable Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs in terms of the amendments to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill. As it is, we thank the Committee for bringing up this Bill as we all understand that it has been quite a long time and with the current challenges on the ground this Bill will definitely provide more clarity in terms of how we do our job. We are thankful to the Committee.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the technical committee for preparing this Bill and for all the consultations that we have been through.

So with that, first and foremost, I would like to introduce myself.

(Introduction of the Submittees)

MS. P. LATA.- Respective Members of the Standing Committee, administrative staff and respected attendees. I have much pleasure in presenting the comments from the Nadi Town Council. As instructed there are certain comments that arise from the Bill and I will go through those clauses. There are certain general clarifications that we require and for that I will make a motion.

Without any further delay the first clause that we have a comment on respective Members is clause 5 of the Bill which amends the Principle Act to include Sections 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D and 5E. We have comments on Section 5D which has the heading General Powers of Supervision of the Board.

Our understanding as the Council is that the Central Board of Health has and exercises General Powers of Supervision and Inspection over all local authorities and may give directions and make orders for due compliance with its directions as the board sees fit.

Second and third paragraph our understanding is that in case if the Council or the local authority duly appointed under the Act does not perform those duties then the Central Board of Health has the powers to get someone else to do it and then later on recover expenses from the Council.

The first issue with this is resources. We can receive a lot of directions from the board, for example, to attend to various complaints which can go beyond what we are attending to now. As it is, we are not provided with any funding, so our understanding is that the Central Board of Health functions with a government grant but there is no such grant provided to the Council.

So, in order for us to follow any directives of the board or to carry out any functions, roles and responsibilities under this Act we will need resources. So, what we are trying to say is there should be some funding provisions for the Council in this Bill. Should I move on to the next issue? I would give you an opportunity to respond.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We will have to discuss it as we move along. Just the criteria understand the legal partthat is your area but for us we will have to go it one by one so that we clarify all the clarity that is there.

Honourable Members, we all understand where madam is coming from? They were talking about the Principal Act. If we are on the same page it is on Page 5(d).

MS. P. LATA.- Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Consider the report or what?

MS. P. LATA.- All three, sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Anyone want to highlight some of the criteria that is with us for discussion?

HON. A. BIA.- Just in regards to the amendment that was mentioned in 5(d). Now, the detail of this amendment is that if there is a complaint that has been raised by a resident a couple of times to the Council and at times some of these complaints are not addressed by the Council. If this complaint ends up with the Ministry of Health and this is where they will

exercise their powers according to this Act. So, it is not that when the complaint comes in just suddenly they will come in and do the work. You issue warnings to do the work.

So, if you fail to do it then the complaint still comes and this is where the action comes in. They will come in, do the work and the cost of the work done will be borne from the Council. I hope that is clear. This is just to be there. We went to Nausori Town Council and we have had discussions with them. What we have advised them, you know, it is time that the Council leave their game and sometimes you too in a sense that maybe some of the work that needs to be done is beyond your jurisdiction but this amendment is just to ensure that residents living within the boundaries of our municipal councils are protected from the disease that could be an outbreak if the issue is not being solved by the Council. I hope I am clear on that.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chair, just to assist in clarifying it is not really to police the work. It is sort of to assist the local authorities both urban and rural in terms of doing removal of nuisance. Some might require external assistance that might not exist in that area. So, the Central Board of Health may come in, bring a contractor in, clear the nuisance and make it easy for the local authority but the cost still has to be borne by that local authority. When you are talking about the grants again we believe that through the rural local authorities if the bill is passed, if the local authorities are being brought back of course funding is available for that. This can be part of your submission to the Committee to consider that the Bill requires works that may need some funds for the councils and be part of your submission for them to consider in their final submission to Parliament. Just to inform you that at the end of the day it is what the honourable Member is talking about. The nuisance is finally removed the ratepayers and the public are safeguarded in terms of health impacts that can be brought about by that particular nuisance.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chair, what Nadi Town Council is trying to raise in a situation where Central Board of Health gives directive to do the job and the cost is again given back to them. They are talking about the resources and the funding. There is nothing in the Bill about that. All we can say is they will have to look to their line ministry for the allocations and the budget because there is nothing in this Bill actually now that you will provide funding and then you will require them to do the work.If they do not do the work Central Board of Health gives directive, delegates people and the charges are given to Nadi Town Council.

So, that is one area they are speaking about. All we can say is they will have to look for the budget from their line ministry to do all the work.

According to the Bill here if they do not do the work you will send people to do the work and they will be charged from there.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that is very clear. Let us move forward.

MS. P. LATA.- The next issue arises from the same provision that is Clause 5(d) now what we are concerned about here is the directives of the Central Board of Health. We understand these directives will be legal at all times, however, mistakes are bound to happen. Sometimes in case if there is a directive given and we action it. Later on, there is a claim against us maybe in court which the judiciary finds that we acted incorrectly and unlawfully and these penalties or damages are awarded against the Council.

So, given that the directive was from the Central Board of Health we submit that there should be a provision whereby the Central Board of Health indemnifies the Council for any such directives.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, we are taking note. That is like a submission to us. It is not included in our amendments of the Bill. What you can do you can bring it up as a motion and someone has to second it.

MS. P. LATA.- Noted, sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that I am very clear. You have to bring it up as a motion...

MS. P. LATA.-I apologise, sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN. - ...and there should be a seconder for the motion. Feel free to talk. It is not included. That is why I ask you to bring it up as a motion. It will be included as part of our submission.

MS. P. LATA.- Very well, sir. Just a clarification do I need to move the motion now or later on?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Right now because we are on the subject right now.

MS. P. LATA.- Very well. I move that there should be an indemnity provision under the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 2006, which is currently in the form of a Bill whereby the Central Board of Health indemnifies the Council for any directions that it gives to the Council which is in the future if challenged it is deemed unlawful and damages penalties are awarded against the Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Any senconder?

MR. M.G. REDDY.- I second.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chair, a good motion. I think in terms of indemnity it will be good that it comes under regulations as well to detail, because it is a contractual obligation between two parties. So, it should be simplified more into the regulations that is available.

MS. P. LATA.- Mr. Chair, Clause 64 of the Bill which is regarding the recovery of costs and expenses.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Is it Clause 64?

MS. P. LATA.- Clause 64, Page 23, this is regarding recovery of costs and expenses by local authority. So, we require clarification on how this provision will work. It states here where a local authority has expended funds for which the property owner is legally responsible.What does this fund refer to? Generally, can you please explain this Clause and how can the council utilise this to recover what kinds of costs and expenses?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, the team from the Ministry just give us your input on that and we will back it up from the Committee. It is Page 23, Para 64, Recovery of Costs and Expenses. Is that the right one?

MS. P. LATA.- Yes, sir. I understand but we want to know what that particular provision means.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Provision 130, it states the recovery of costs and expenses where a local authority has expended funds for which the property owner is legally responsible under this Act or any contractual agreement the local authority may seek recovery of those funds plus a good interest at a rate not exceeding five per annum calculated from the date of formal notice to demand until full payment.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chair, this section applies to any works that the local authority may do in rectifying any nuisance that the premises defaults on rectifying. I think that is covered well in the Principal Act around the nuisance section where the owner of the premises is required to review or do a certain improvement work and defaults on that with a specific period that has been given. The local authority then takes upon itself to do the work and the costs, the expenses that is undertaken is taken from the owner of the premises where that work was carried out.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, anybody want to add into that?

MS. P. LATA.- Mr. Chair, I would like to make a motion that under this particular section the costs and expenses that can be recovered by the Council should be specified not in an exhaustive list but at least something like including but not limited to what all we can recover. So, there is clear guidance to the Council.

MR. M.G. REDDY.- Mr. Chair, I second the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- It is noted by the secretariat team who are here. Any other rea?

MS. P. LATA.- Mr. Chair, Clause 67 of the Bill which states that Section 140 is deleted. Now, this is with respect to villages. We understand that this particular Act will now be applicable to villages and we have some issues about the application of the Act. I seek permission to allow our Senior Health Inspector to shed some light on our comments.

MS. P. PATHAK.- Good afternoon, honourable Members. As the Manager of Community Services what our concern here was if we remove the villages from this Act the current villages and the current concepts in the villages may be too difficult for the Councils to manage. However, moving forward, if this is implemented and passed maybe we should have a date that from this date any new construction or issues in the villages that we can do but whatever is existing we can get it improved but we may not be able to meet with the current requirements that is in the Bill. So, that was our concern especially in the villages and settlements.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- You are talking about the people in the villages. I believe it covers your village inside your boundaries.

Alright, let me make it straight. The Amendment Bill on the Principal Act only covers the boundaries of the municipalities like in urban areas but for these amendments it covers both urban as well as rural coverage. That is why we are trying to rope in the Rural Local Authority on board as part of this. They are the ones to bridge that gap from the Council to the rural areas. We were told that the Rural Local Authority was taken out in 2018.

So, once that authority was taken out it played a very critical role. In that case too they will be the arm of the governments. So they will work out their budget whatever is there to suit whatever way or boundaries are likewise connected to the villages. Here we are complicated in terms of like rubbish collection looking at if there is any sudden outbreak of diseases. We

experienced what happened at COVID-19. This is where the amendment of the Bill is very important to give us a proactive approach and message moving forward if anything of that sort happens we are all prepared to function.

The government, municipal councils likewise the government is right up to the village level. In this case we are trying our utmost best to get them on board as part of the Public Health (Amendment) Bill. They will be actually playing that critical role as we move along. So, no one left behind in this case. When the Bill is passed we are all covered. As long as we are in Fiji whether it is in rural or maritime or wherever it comes up with some responsibility like building new houses. Before they build any new houses they have to go through registration through Local Authority Board. They got some registered architect structural which they prefer to be undertaken. Looking at the distance wise from house to house how well the rubbish is being kept and collected these are all part of this exercise.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chair, I think the subject matter that is before us which has been brought by the Nadi Town Council is that once this Amendment Bill becomes a law so they will enforce for the new ones. Their concern is the existing one. So, if you can explain that.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We believe that there will be awareness programme going on. For the local authority come to the picture they will re-look at the whole process again. Mostly in this Bill it talks about the new ones. What they have mentioned to us you can bring it like a motion is to relook at those who are already there on the ground. I believe that is where you are coming from.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chair, thank you so much for raising that point. Just for clarification. This intention is to try and improve the living standards within the itaukei villages. While outside the itaukei villages development has returned to a certain standard itaukei villages has sort of left behind. In the motto that the government always says leave no one behind we sort of now moving into that arena of including everyone with this public health. Of course, not overnight. What you have existing may not meet the requirements of the Public Health Act now but over the year or two of awareness and advocacy in the village council meetings, tikina council meetings, provincial council meetings through the radio and television informing everyone that now there is a law that you need to raise your living standard. So, new ones will have to apply for approval before they can build. Existing ones will need to upgrade. It may take time but this is something that we

are trying to deal with the incidence of communicable disease that we get every year. Honourable Chair, if you would allow me just to state a few.

In 2014, we had the largest dengue outbreak in Fiji. Over 15,000 cases and 12 deaths. In 2015, 315 cases. In 2016, 3,429 cases. In 2017, 2,200 cases and 6 deaths. In 2018, 4,000 cases and 9 deaths. In 2019, 1,464 cases and 1 death. In 2020 and 4,000 cases. In 2021, 335 cases and 1 death. In 2022, 3,033 cases. In 2024 over 2,000 cases. Last year the second largest dengue outbreak, 11,599 cases and 8 deaths.

So, we believe that this annual burden of the dengue fever, typhoid and leptospirosis can be prevented if we lift the standards through inclusion of this legislation. It may take some time to eventuate but we believe that this is the right step and that is where the intention is coming from.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We have got some data to prove that. Any other area that we need to before we pass it on to other stakeholders who are sitting down there?

MS. P. LATA.- The next issue is in terms of the issuance of fixed penalty notices. So, that is Clause 27 of the Bill regarding fixed penalty notices for nuisances.

There is another reference under Clause 13 of the Bill. Now, we kindly seek clarification on where would the penalty or the fine under the fixed penalty notice, who will it be paid to? The Central Board of Health or the respective local authority?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We are very interested to know that. They want to know where that money goes to. Remember the Bill is for the Ministry of Health. You got your line ministry to report to but this Bill let them answer it first then I will continue.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chair, the infringement notice is something that we want to introduce in this current Bill. When we take people to court the payment is made to the court and that goes to the Government Consolidated Fund not to the Ministry. It goes to the Government. I am sure that the Council too also receives the subsidy from the Government in every budget. So, that is the same money that is coming around. You do not receive any money from the Government. So, maybe you can put up a motion for the infringement notice because it also happens with the tobacco, food the health licence it all goes to the Government.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chair, may I intervene? I think they are trying to tell us to have a portion just like the Litter decree just passed recently. So, if they can have a motion.

MS. P. LATA.- Mr. Chair, before I move the motion I would like to bring this to the Committee, it is not part of the Bill but it is part of the Public Health Act.

Section 133, of the Current Public Health Act 1935

Fines Recovered by City or Town Council

It states, all fines, penalties and forfeitures recovered under this Act by or on behalf of a City or Town Council shall be paid into the general revenue of that City or Town. So it does not go to the consolidated funds. That is my understanding. It should come to the respective City or Town. With this, I move for any fines and penalties for any fixed penalty notices issued by the respective local authority. The fines should be payable to that particular local authority who has issued the fixed penalty notice or who has initiated that particular action.

Section 133 of the current Public Health Act, 1935.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- You are talking about the Principal Act?

MS. P. LATA.- Yes, sir. Basically to explain that the Act allows the Council or the City Council to keep the fines, penalties and forfeitures. I do have a copy here with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- If it is in the Principal there is no change in that and it is still active.

MS. P. LATA.- Yes, sir. So, my understanding is under this section if we take the matter to court if we recover we can keep it. The motion that I have just made is any infringement notices or fixed penalty notices issued the fines should come to the respective local authority because we incur a lot of expenses in enforcing the Act and use a lot of resources so we need to be compensated in a manner.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Let us take that as a motion.

MR. P. LATA.- I have moved a motion, sir.

MR. G. REDDY.- I second thye motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, that is taken on board.

HON. A. BIA.- Just to correct that the current one. The 1935 it does not go to the Town Council. If you read the whole sentence structure it is collected on behalf, act by or on behalf. So, if it is paid to the court on behalf of a council the revenue goes to government. It does not say it is supposed to be paid to the council. Just to correct because you said in your understanding from 1935 it is supposed to go to the council but it does not.

MS. P. LATA.- I would just like to refer again. I again seek clarification. I will read out the particular section. It is a very small section. In section 133 it says fines, et cetera, recovered by city or town council. I stand to be corrected on this as well.

The section reads all fines, penalties and forfeitures recovered under this Act by or on behalf of a city or town council shall be paid into the general revenue of the city or town. So, my understanding is that the general revenue is the revenue of the council.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We provide that as a motion. We will stick to that. We will clarify that on our way back.

MS. P. LATA.- Yes, sir. I will be making a motion that in the new amendment any fines, penalties forfeitures including fines under the any infringement notices should be payable to the council.

MR. M.G. REDDY.- I second the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, noted. This is the second time to second the same motion. No worries as long as we are informed.

MS. P. LATA.- Just a last issue. Again, this will come in the form of a motion. Before I move the motion just to explain what the motion is going to be about. It is about our administrative costs. At the moment we are not able to recover our administrative costs like costs of various inspections, costs of reports that we prepare and cost of overtime works that our employees engage in.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Madam, let me intervene. We are talking about the amendments of the Bill not the cost of the council.

MS. P. LATA.- Yes, so it was just an explanation. Now I will move that the Bill should contain provisions which allows council to levy administrative costs.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sure, you can bring it as a motion. The Committee will work on that and see how best they can fit you.

MR. M.G. REDDY.- I second the motion.

MS. P. LATA.- That is all from Nadi Town Council.

MS. P . PATHAK.- Mr. Chair, I have on Page 2 as offensive trade we had discussed this previously in our consultations. We want the word beach-de-mer to be included as part of offensive trade. And it should also be included in the Schedule 2 of the offensive trade.

Upon our research we find that beach-de-mer is considered as an animal and the processes that happens towards the end product of it becomes very offensive. We have had issues happening in residential areas so we would like this to be really taken on board.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Which clause is that?

MS. P. PATHAK.- This is in the definitions.On Page 2 right at the bottom Clause 3 in the definition of animals where you have added bird in (a). So, we want beach-de-mer to be added there as well.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Your point has been noted. To the Nadi Town Council in this Bill which is passed in this current form there is a huge penalty associated to this. Now all the villages, settlements and people in the urban and peri-urban areas all will be paying the same penalty.

A residence in town or a villager out in the interior or residence from the settlement the penalty has been increased from $10 to $1000, $20 to $2000 is this fair because a businessman in town a hotelier pays the same penalty under nuisance and a normal residence in the community pays the same penalty under nuisance. Also by hearing some of the points this Bill should not allow for councils or local authorities to start thinking of making money and running their daily operations.

Mr. Chair, the way I see or the way I feel that with the huge penalties associated this can somehow also will give immediate powers once this is passed for this Bill to be implemented on the ground.

What we have been hearing from Ministry of Health that a lot of awareness will be given out for a year and so the regulations and other things that is not part of the Bill.

So, I am just thinking how our community with the infrastructure in place currently the way villages and settlements for people have been living and with the huge penalties same applies to a person who is earning thousands of dollars and a normal villager by fishing and getting the same penalties. What are your views on that? .

MR. G. REDDY.- Mr. Chair, through you I will just provide a brief in terms of our thoughts. I think there are lots of consequences or scenarios in terms of ECT and business to people staying in a squatter settlements.

So, I think these facts should be taken into account in terms of the determination of the fines because some of the factors on the ground that we have seen or we are encountering at the moment is while we go into a squatter settlement at times what we have found is there are not even adequate space for people to have a soakage pit and it becomes a huge challenge in terms of how we are going to do it.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chair, through you may I have I think we have raised this issue. Before I go on to that how many informal settlements and villages are within the Nadi municipality?

MR. M.G. REDDY.- Mr. Chair, currently there are 13 villages and in terms of the informal settlements we do not have any informal settlements within the boundary but through the extended town boundary that we are working on we have two.

HON. P.K. BALA.- So, my next question is I think we have raised this earlier on. We all know we should not pretend.

1. In Sakoca informal settlement houses are just one metre half metre away and so far we are told that all those informal settlements will be formalised. You know, I know everyone knows here it will take time. By the end of this year it will become law and then if there is a complain from one resident from an informal settlement you people will have to act and that will put a lot of pressure on the authorities. So, this is the time for you people to give suggestions the way out I mean how are you going to handle because if law is in place then you will have to enforce.

So, maybe this is the right time for you people to come up give us some suggestions maybe not now. If you want to give a written submission you can do that because I know it is not easy to say but when time will come for enforcement it can become an issue. I mean there is no point to have a law when you are unable to enforce.

2. As honourable Pillay has talked about this is basically if an offence is created by a rate-payer or a resident you have all the powers now. Wherever there was a gap it is been now filled. If you see the other way round in this Bill

there is also a provision if council fails to carry out. I mean you know I know, and Mr. Prem Singh knows when we used to be councillors then there used to be a lot of complaints and we were not even bothered to take care of it but now council will have to do that otherwise they will come in, the board will come in, they will clear everything and levy that to the council. So it works both ways and that is something very important.

3. The last one that I do not know whether this been discussed about the nuissance. There has been a lot of talks about the stray dogs. Ministry of Agriculture comes to this as well but I would like to see the council submission on this so that it is easy for the Committee to deal with that as well because it becomes a huge problem for all the towns. If you can give us a submission on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Vinaka,* CEO, you are done or still some more to discuss? If that is the case thank you very much much Nadi Town Council for your submission.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- Vinaka vakalevu, Mr. Chair and Members for the invitation to attend today. First of all please accept my sincere and humble apologies. This is my first time attending something like this and I am sure I perhaps you kow articulate correctly I mean in the correct form and manner. So, please excuse my lack of understanding in regards to the process before I start.

First of all, Mr. Chair and Members of the Standing Committee we understand that as per Clause 3(h), that a hotel is not added into the definition of the house let as lodging so that anything under the Public Health (Amendment)Act with this therefore then impact the hotel and subsequent tourism industry.

As such and perhaps I am addressing this in the correct manner I do note from reading the documents that were sent to me yesterday that a lot of the language used within the Public Health (Amendment) Act are very generalised and there is nothing specific to the actual hotel and tourism industry apart from rights of entry, et cetera. So, I just like to make that general comment before I move on so I just wanted to clarify that the hotels were included.

If we move to Clause 5 on Page 5, please, where it comes to Clause 5D, I think one of the other Members made comments from the Committee that the regulations need to be quite defined. Further to that comment made by the Committee Member, we would also request that the regulations need to be very specific and defined to impact the specific operations of hotels,

resorts and tourism industry because we operate very very differently from a town council, a manufacturing plant, sugarcane mill that is burning off and excluding emissions. It does refer to water, land, air and noise pollution or any other complaints of public and environmental health in nature which is Clause 5D(2).

We would like to know how this would be determined to be applicable to hotels where we offer extensive entertainment to our guests in the nature of bands, fireworks and other things. We also do lovo. So, how would that particular clause pertain to the hotel or tourism industry?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for that. We are referring to Page 5, Clause5D(2). The Board, on it being proved to its satisfaction that any local authoirity has made default in performing its duty under the Act with respect to the removal of any nuisance or sources of water, land, air and noise pollution or any other complaints that are not public and environmental health in nature of the institution of any proceeding of the duty in matters of the default, and in addition the board may summon a local authority to carry out all the appropriate work to institute and proceeding the board consider necessary.

I would like to ask the team from the ministry to give us some light on this.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chair, thank you so much for the question. So, this in particular refers to administrative work for the the Central Board of Health and the two bodies of rural and urban local authorities. Just in ensuring that complaints that they receive of nuisance they deal with accordingly. If they do not deal with it if it is escalated the Central Board of Health may give directive for them to deal with it. If they still do not deal with it within a given period the board may step in and get someone to do the work that is necessary and then bill it to the urban or local authority that is in charge of that particular area.

For your question on the nuisances that is covered on the water, land, air and noise that is on Page 11.

On page 11 there is a list of what is encompassed as a nuisance that can be committed by a personal entity and that is listed there from (a) to (s).

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much staff from the Ministry. Madam, is that covers what you were after?

MS. C. OSBORNE.- I will come back to you on that if that is alright with a formal submission.

Further to that, on the same page Clause 5E, the Board may, in addition to the powers and authorities conferred on it by this Act exercise all powers and authorities vested in a local authority by this Act within the district of that local authority.

When a guest purchases a room for a night we are legally obligated that they actually own that room for that evening. That is the way hotels work as such.

So, putting that into perspective people just cannot enter into a guest room without that particular guest authority and approval and obviously from a tourism and hotel perspective if the right of entry was given into someones hotel without that guest's particular express approval that creates a series of issues for the hotel industry from a legality perspective, also a level of risk and also could cause severe reputational damage within the impact of Fiji's overall perception in market with guests coming in to that. That is something that in other locations through Southeast Asia when there has been entry into properties and to guest rooms that has caused issues in those countries.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- With due respect to your question, madam, when you talk about the Clause 5 that talks about the board in this amendment.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- Mr. Chair, Clause 5E. There are other clauses where it does talk about right of entry at any reasonable time. There is obviously a connotation about what is reasonable from a guest's perspective as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will give you an overview about that. This is in case if there is an outbreak. What is already there in place when you talk about all your confidential about the guests inside the house unless and until if there is an outbreak or whatever comes into place, this is where the Bill will come into the picture.

We are not there to over or supersede any bylaws that is already within the Ministry of Tourism and it covers where all the tourism are coming to the picture but for this the ministry will give us a very clear outline on the topic as we are all aware that these bylaws is only important about the importance of sanitation, the spread of diseases, any outbreaks these were the core function of where the Bill amendments coming to the picture. Not really in depth to where you are coming from and hopefully the ministry will clarify that.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chair, in the Principal Act there is a power of entry already there for Environmental Health Practitioners. Under the proposed Bill we are just listing the reasons why we need to enter. It has never happened in Fiji where an inspector will enter into a room where the guest is. So, that will not happen. Under 16A (a) to (g) on Page 8, just detailing the work that will be done. There is an inspection that is done towards the end of the year for the renewal of licence where the local authority and health department will forward the recommendation to the hotel licencing on the approval or renewal of the licence. That is an inspection that is done where everything is inspected including rooms but that is done in consultation with the hotel owners.

The reason why we have powers to enter on 16A is basically to do activities in subsection (a) to (g). I hope that we are clear and that can never happen.

You mentioned that coming to a room and that will never happen. There is a reason for entering the premises to either take a sample of water, beverage or check on the bedding so if there are complaints that have been received.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- We are quite aware obviously the licencing we have that. We have had a number of inspections this year from the relevant government authorities.

I think the concern is, I know that you have said that no one would ever enter into a guest room but it is actually not stipulated.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chair, through you, yes, I agree with you, madam. Once this law is passed they will have the power to enter. If there is any obstruction anyone can be also fined. It is up to I think, $5,000.

So if they are coming to your hotel and they are not allowed to enter under obstruction you can be charged. They have also mentioned about any outbreak. I agree to that but in this law it gives them the power to enter. If there is any obstruction that particular person or institution or owner can be fined.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chair, I think the confusion is here. Maybe they are sitting here today, tomorrow they will not be here. The explanation that they are giving is based on assumptions. What she is saying is what is written here. It says, enter any place or premises and inspect the same. The response from them is that they will go and *talanoa* but nothing of that reference is made here and that is where their concern is. So I think that needs to be

clarified. I mean it is good to say now but when this thing comes into place then they will just take a stick and go on.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chair and the representatives from the resort. This is nothing new. The power of entry has been there from 1935. All that has been put in the Bill is the reasons to enter. If we do not put the reasons then we will still have the Principal Act that says powers of entry as it is. So, the bill now gives a reason to enter. So, you can just enter and roam around or enter and go and disturb someone or just for the room to be a public nuisance. You enter for the reasons stated in (b) up to (g). That specifies the powers to enter. So, if someone is exercising the power to enter you can ask on which section are you entering? If I say, I am entering on subsection (b), please, I am coming in to take a sample. That is all.

S. C. OSBORNE.- Respectfully, Sir, I understand that and that has been around for a long time, however, this particular Bill specifically changes the definition back.

I am sorry,if we go back to Clause 3 Section 2 (h) where it is now stipulated. We are not talking about a houselet. We are now stipulating a hotel and that is new. So therefore, changes within sorry my humble opinion as a hotel operator we need to protect the tourism industry. We need to protect reputational damage to brand industry. Fiji is a wider concern that if we are now stipulating a hotel is now covered specifically as a hotel lodging in the Act then there does need to be have clarity around the right and ability to enter as the honourable Member had mentioned previously when I initially raised it.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chair, I think our purpose here is to listen. If there is a genuine concern I think we should take on board. What you have explained from Ministry of Health I not agree because Clause16A says, blah, blah, blah, and then (a), enter any place or premises and inspect the same, (b), take sample.

So, maybe what we can do is to reword this because as it is (a) gives the power. It does not talk about to enter and take this sample and that sample.

I think what we can do we can note it down and then we can reword this. Enter any place or premises and inspect the same as follows or something like that because honestly what she has put forward is quite right.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, let us take it forward. Let us put this as a motion.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- Mr. Chair, I would like to move that the wording of Clause 16A(a), enter any place or premises and inspect the same is revised to reflect the hospitality and tourism industry.

MR. P. SINGH.- I second the motion.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- Mr. Chair, moving on to Page 26, which the honourable Member mentioned in relation to what is the definition of nuisances which goes through on what I was sent (a) through (s). I suppose there are just a few things here that we sort of believe to be missing actually. One being golf courses, sewage treatment plants, greywater waste irrigation ponds, waste removal and dumping in sidewalks on separate pieces of land, et cetera. How does this also cover bulk landfill and dumping sites used by waste collectors?

So, for example, this is on Page 11, if you drive onto Denarau and as you are heading up to Denarau before you cross over the bridge on the left-hand side you can see a beautiful landfill which a waste collector is dumping waste on.

So, I imagine within that there are receptacles that are gathering water breeding mosquitoes. I have not been able to go on that. It is a private property but it is quite visual.

So, from what I can see in the Clause 26, the Principal Act is amended by Section 56 and then this thing of the nuisances some of those things that I have just mentioned including causeways which dry out and then fill up and then stagnate depending on tidal movements. None of those are actually listed.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, madam, for that. What we can do now it is not covered in these amendments. You can move it as a motion.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- I would like to move as a motion the inclusion of other water holding receptacles such as waste removal and dumping sites, sidewalks, sewage treatment plants, golf courses, causeways. I am sorry I do not know what you call them here in Fiji but it used to be like a piece of land where river or water would flow and then it dries out but then when you have wet season it fills again and then it sits there until it drains.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- It is a lake.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- It is not a lake. I am not sure. I I apologise. I do not know the right word to use. If you know what I mean you have a piece of land that is dipped, for want of a better word and it used to be a natural waterway or low lying areas of land where after

particularly heavy rain and flooding the water can actually sit there for a number of weeks sometimes months before that dries away that then also becomes a breeding site for mosquitoes, et cetera.

HON. A. BIA.- It has already been metioned golf course have some small ponds ....

MS. C. OSBOURNE.- Yes, some of them have ponds. Some businesses we cannot do this because of the way my resort is structured but some businesses capture grey water coming from guest rooms and then that water is held and then used to irrigate.

So, this is probably not really pertaining to a hotel but just thought I would.

MR. CHAIRMAN.-We need someone to second that motion.

MR. P. CHAND.- I second the motion.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- Just further to that particular clause I think the determination needs to be linked back to the legislation which I am sure it would be as well as the regulations to make sure it is very directive. So, there is no room for any subjectivity and interpretation of an individual inspector.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- You already moved that motion or there is a new motion again on that.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- That is a new motion.

MR. P. SINGH.- Mr. Chair, I second the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Can you just explain it further for understanding?

MS. C. OSBORNE.- So right now, if I can refer to a different Act if you do not mind apologies for what I am about to say.

In the Food Act on Page 53, there is a clause that talks about storage in a freezer and what goods are allowed to be stored in a freezer. The Act says you are allowed to store ice, water, water-based drinks, milk or milk-based drinks in a freezer with other meats as an example.

However, and I am not saying that this is an individual interpretation because this has happened with a number of inspectors, cheese which is a food is when someone comes to site is reflected in that. So while it is actually not covered by the Act we then had to go out and buy

other freezers and about to build another 40-foot container to hold all of the cheese that we use in one week.

So, sorry not to digress but what I am saying is it needs to be very, very specific and defined at a high enough level so there is no room for individual interpretation because what one inspector may deem to be a hazard or a nuisance under the Public Health Act you may get a completely different inspector that has a different view and then that also then impacts fines, licencing, reputational damage, et cetera.

So, I am just motioning, sorry, I hope I am articulating clearly that the definitions of what nuisances are or anything else under the Act are very well-defined and very clear so that there is no room for any ambiguity depending on an interpretation of an individual inspector.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Vinaka*, we already take that as a motion. It is already been second.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- Moving to Clause 33, which is on Page 15(6). I think that probably is already covered off, actually.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Is it Clause 33, Page 15?

MS. C. OSBORNE.- Page 15, Clause 33(g)(6)(a), I believe that is probably covered off under the previous discussion in relation to right to enter.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We already covered that one.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- Page 18, Clause 48, which pertains to section 106 of the Principal Act. Again, just as per my previous point it does not cover areas such as other water masses such as ponds, irrigation, receptacles, natural drainage ditches or any other tidal waves. So, it is quite broad in its current format.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- You want to add that as a motion too?

MS. C. OSBORNE.- Yes, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- It is not covered. The only thing we can help you on is to bring this a motion or a written submission. So which one do you prefer?

MS. C. OSBORNE.- I will do that by a written submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- That will be good because you have got the explanation part of it. It has to be explained in details on that amendment.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- Just on Clause 54, Page 19, which is actually pertaining to shipping, 112A(2). I would move that this should also include it does talk about vermin and seepage. However, it does not pertain to any fuel, oil or chemical seepage from a ship.

The reason I raise that is I have had a ship parked out the front of my hotel now for three years, which I have been having tried to get moved for three years and obviously that has a huge environmental impact if there is any fuel, oil or chemical seepage. So, I am not sure if I should move that or do that in a written submission but we just wanted to raise that.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I prefer to give it up in a written submission because you can include it in that.

For an example like that ship that has been there for quite some time nothing has been done about it.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- Thank you very much for listening to my to my points and apologies for anything that I have done inappropriately or incorrectly.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, you are are welcome.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chair, the colleagues from Hilton, I think you made some additional submissions on the pond, lakes and you mentioned about breeding of mosquitoes. We have a part I think one of the parts in this Bill that you have mentioned about the receptacles that capacity of holding water in residence together with the fines.

In your submissions can you also propose the fines because you brought it up now you have to propose the fines for lakes and pools of water that you have mentioned that breeds mosquitoes. We have because covered the receptacles and one of the things we are finding the challenge now is the fine. So, we are also requesting that you put in your submissions the fine for people who have pools or lakes that breed mosquitoes.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- Mr. Chair, would you have any guidelines for me to make a recommendation on that?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Based on the mosquitoes in the residence we have mentioned about the receptacles. So, before, a receptacle that contains a larva is $10, I think we are moving it up to $50. We have categorised receptacles, for example, if a dry container is found in a residential premises that is one of the offences and a notice can be given. Same container if inspection is done contains water that is another fine. There is a fine already proposed in the

Bill and if the container, tyre, vase or drum of water in a residential area contains a larva that has a higher penalty.

So, it only covers those receptacles that are in a residential area but it has not covered the additional.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- I suppose for me this is not just about residences. It is aboiut the surrounds. So, as I mentioned that area going onto down around the left-hand side I do not know who is policing that. I have never been in there but the amount sort of seems to get larger. There is also another block of land obviously on the way down to Sigatoka.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- So, we still have to have the power to enter and check all those.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- Inaudible.

MR. L. VONOTABUA .- Mr. Chair, we are very focused on the two species of mosquitoes that transmit dengue fever. That is the white and black that lives in clear water and I think that is why this particular Bill specifically addresses receptacles around the house because that is our concern. There is about 26 or 27 species of mosquitoes. There is one that lives in the mangrove and the lakes but that is just a nuisance mosquito that comes and bite us. The one we are worried about is the one that lives in clear water and that is why I have mentioned receptacles that contain water, drums, water for drinking because that is the two species of mosquitoes that transmits dengue that we are worried about.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- Mr. Chair, I would also suggest the Zika mosquito because that actually stops people particularly ladies who are pregnant travelling to Fiji because if they get bitten by that it can obviously impact the unborn child. So, perhaps that might be in the second mosquito variety that you are talking about but that is something that should be under consideration because it actually does impact the tourism industry and people booking to come and fly to our beautiful country.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- All noted are taken on board with our secretariat who are around here. Any other submissions there?

HON. A. BIA.- Just for clarification in regards to .... It is covered under the Environment Act and the Environmental Safety Act.

If you look up those Act they are fines of maybe up to $250,000. If you bring it up to the right authorities, they can deal with the issue.

MS. C. OSBORNE.- Yes, I quite agree.

MR. M.G. REDDY.- Mr. Chair, my apologies for not bringing this earlier.

I just have a clarification in terms of Clause 16, Page 9, the Principal Act is amended by deleting Section 19 and substituting the following:

"Notice to be given and plan furnished

19. An owners or lessee who intends to utilise any area of land for the construction of a dwelling house or building for business purposes must, so does this include villages? Just seeking clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I already said that from the report it is all covered. Whether you are rural or urban in this amendment Bill we are covered.

MR. M.G. REDDY.- Mr. Chair, the other clarification regarding the same is in terms of the squatter settlements since this says an owner or lessee.

Now, since this Act includes squatter settlement as well how do we determine the owner or lessee because in squatter settlements they are neither owners nor lessees.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Very interesting question.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chair, in regards to the first point you brought up, yes, we are intending to guide development in villages now. Spacing, looking into the structure at least to be up to standard with the cyclones that we are having year after year.

In regards to the first point you brought up is, you know, sometimes you are not the owner but the land is being leased but you have a title. That is the reason why it says the owner or lessee because of the title that will be there.

So, if they intend to utilise that land for construction and then they have to follow the normal development as stipulated in the Town Planning Act and that is why it is making reference to the Town Planning Act.

If the land is someone else's, the title is someone else's I cannot build anything because you need a title in order for you to apply for development through council or through local

authority and that is why it is just putting that owner or lessee these are only to legalise people to construct the building.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chair, through you, as we all know that in informal settlement majority of them are deciding on a *vakavanua* arrangement. So, the owner is the *mataqali*. So, they will be punished.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chair, outside of the title the property we all know as long as they have authorisation from the *turaga ni mataqali* something agreement or something that authorises them to build they can build in regards to areas where you will need the title. For those informal settlements all they need is a letter from the *turaga ni mataqali* or the landowning clan authorising. We have people from Kalabu giving land in Cunningham as long as they have something that states that, that will do. We are alright with it. This is in regards to areas that are subdivided aand that is why owner and lessee is there. So, you are either owner of the property or you are lesseeing or sub-lesseeing that particular property. For *itaukei* villages and informal settlement it will be further defined in the regulation how we are going to go about processes but for the rest what used to be defined in the process in the public health we have repealed it. We are now redirecting people to Section 7 of the Town Planning Act that is the BPASS talking about application process and all the fees to be paid here and what not.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chair, just for clarity and I also want to know about this. Like informal settlement just beside the municipal boundary and it is not a *mataqali* land. It is a state owned land. The Rural Local Authority officials or the municipal council officials see that there is a construction going on. It is not a mataqali land or a state land. You know in the informal settlements how they come and construct. So, how this law will apply to that? What actions will rural local authority do according to this law or municipal council will do?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chair, it is not covered legally having them follow a set of requirements, however, we can advise them as to the distance that they can build away from the nearest house. We can advise them as to the structure strength that they need to build and things that they can do in order to meet the sanitary requirements that is in the Act that does not provide public nuisance but to have them go through the same process as we do people that have subdivided property, no, it is not specified in the Bill.

MR. P. CHAND.- M Mr. Chair, just on that issue we have the section says owners or lessees. In a Court of Law this is what will be held whether you are an owner or a lessee. Owners are people who occupy land which is freehold. Just to add to it I think if all the

amended sections that you have mentioned to give an effect to that if the word occupier or occupiers could be included so that when you make a recommendation you an add that word and send it to the Solicitors-General Office they would probably put it in the legal language. I think that would cover actually anybody who occupies the place whether he is a lessee or he is just a trespasser. So, you other provisions in this amendment hold on.

MR. CHAIRMAN.,- Vinaka, we can take that as a motion. Any seconder to that motion? Second.

MR. M.G. REDDY.- Mr. Chair, I second the motion.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chair, I am sorry for interjecting a lot. Our role is just to clarify things and try to get perspectives on the proposed amendment.

So, you are talking about a land that is there. There is no one occupying it at the moment. Someone wants to build something. So, if we put occupier there not being an owner in leasser so if a particular land in your council area is vacant the owner is overseas and I come in and I submit plans according to Section 7 of the Planning Act to build there, will you approve that? When the owner will come I already built my house and I am staying there. In my opinion that is a very dangerous kind of room that you want to open. So, the reason why the owner in leaser is there because of the title. I already explained the title that proof that ownership. This is not regarding itaukei villages and informal settlement. This in regards to your normal subdivision within your normal zones in your normal town council area.

If someone wants to build in the land this section will tell them if you are an owner then can only build there. You will have to apply for the process that is described here then you can build. Just trying to clarify where the terms are there.

MR. M.G. REDDY.- Mr. Chair, just in relation to our motion that was just elaborated on, you know, why we mentioned and we say included the occupier in case in between the two the owner and the leaser and then occupier just comes in an agreement can he does that? So, that is why we moved that motion that the occupier be included.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- What he is talking about it is only applied to the title owner which is the ownership that is why it is there. If they want to build on that land that has a title we are aware that it is either the landlord whoever is a tenant it rests with the landowners because he is the one responsible for the title of that land apart from the other settlement that we are talking about. That one is only emphasis on that title that are within the new subdivision within the

municipality. We already clarified. If you put someone there it does not work out because if you try to track it out occupier has no responsibility in that. It is a title holder of that parcel of land is involved.

It is very specific. Not apply to other informal settlement but it was taken as a motion and it is already recorded. We will try to revisit again and come up with a compromise solution to that.

Thank you very much who are present here this afternoon especially the council that came up in numbers. I know it played a critical role in how you run your daily business. Whatever inspired today is all recorded and that is why the mic was moving around. It gives us a very clear demarcate platform when we go back to the office, when we try to summarise these amendments all those points that we have gathered whether it be in written submission or motion that is part of our work that we are here in front of you. Hopefully whatever has been captured today it is in record. It gives us some hints on the importance of this Bill being amended regarding your operation and everything.

Lastly, the importance of written submission is very important because what we have discussed today it may lapse. When you go back to the office after two, three weeks discussion new avenue will start popping up. Hey, we did not report this to the Committee.

So, we urge you, I already said from the beginning, today is just the process to come out and hear your voice. What you recommend, what you feel is covered in these amendments because once it is tabled and approved by Parliament that is where the law will come into the picture. The law will cover everyone here in Fiji whether they were in rural, maritime or in urban the law stated otherwise. Hopefully that we understand the business that we are in here. We give you that option to weigh it out whether to come back to us in a written submission please do clarify your written submission on which clause does the Bill come into effective on amendments part.

Remember, I already mentioned it is about 69 amendment clause here. You have to be based on that so that it will be easy for us to check it out what we are doing today.

JHON. A.N. TUICOLO.- On behalf of the Speaker of Parliament, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee and also the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, I would like to thank you all for attending this consultation session and making an effort to be

here and contribute to the discussion and most importantly handing in your submissions in regards to the Public Health Amendment Bill 2026.

I believe from today's discussion, we are able to understand what the proposed amendments are all about and how it will affect us and improve the nation's public health.

I would also take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Health personnel who have been accompanying us during this exercise and the secretariat for their continuous support.

Once again, we know our level and should you wish to add on to your submission feel free to do so in writing and get in touch with our team before you leave.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Just to conclude it, we need a photo session for the whole of the team that were present here.

The Committee adjounred at 4.10 p.m.

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE NADROGA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL BOARD ROOM ON TUESDAY 16TH JUNE, 2026 AT 11.05 A.M.

In Attendance

1. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	-	Chairperson
2. Hon. A. Bia	-	Member
3. Hon. V. Pillay	-	Member
4. Hon. P.K. Bala	-	Member
5. Hon. A.N. Tuicolo	-	Member

Ministry of Health

1.	Mr. Luke Vonotabua	-	Chief Health Inspector
2.	Mr. Toga Vosataki	-	WASH Coordinator

Interviewee/Submittee : Nadroga Provincial Council

1.	Mr. Aseri Uluinavua	11.	Mr. Luke Baleinawai
2.	Mr. Isimeli Tuivaga	12.	Mr. Maikeli Julian
3.	Mr. Sosiceni Nawaqaliva	13.	Ratu Solomoni K
4.	Mr. Samuela Vaturaga	14.	Mr. Ponipate Sigatabu
5.	Mr. Mohammed Shaiful Islam	15.	Mr. Jese Biuvanua
6.	Mr. Musidomi B	16.	Mr. Jonacani D
7.	Ms. Lusiana Tiqara	17.	Ms. Unaisi S
8.	Mr. Josefa Sotava	18.	Mr. Jone Aravoro

9. Mr. Tomasi T

10. Ms. Mere Rogotava

MR. CHAIRMAN.- On behalf of our Committee I hope we are all in good health. Hopefully it will be a good day for us today. Our discussions today in regards to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill and I hope that there will be a fruitful discussion as we move along for todays undertaken.

(Word of Prayer from honourable Tuicolo)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa kidavaki tiko e na loma ni tikotiko saka vakaturaga oqo e Nadroga e na i tikotiko ni bose ni yasana vakavinavinaka vakalevu vua na Kalou ni yaco tiko na nona lewa me da tou mai sota ni kua e na bula vinaka kei na marau. E dina ni da lako curuma tiko na draki kudukudua e na loma ni vica na siga sa oti se na i vakatatao e na noda mai qarava tiko na i tavi e eda kacivi kina e na vuku ni veiqaravi levu e na noda Palimedi me vaka ni ra veitalai saka tiko mai na Turaga Speaker kau vakabauta ni da tiko vata e na dua na i naki e dua na i tuvatuva na kena vakatetei, vunautaki tiko se vei vakararamataki e dua na lawa tu e tiko qo e matada. Au vakabauta ni sa tiko vei kemudou na vale ni volavola ni yasana na kena i lavelave beka e na i vosa vaka i taukei ka tiko kina na Tabana e 69 na yavu koya e yaga me veisautaki e na vakasama ni Bill koya tiko qo e matada Public Health (Amendment) Bill No.4 of 2026.

E tiko kina e 69 na tabana duidui ka yaga me na veisautaki. Kevaka e da wilika vakamatata sara e matata sara tu ga na kena volai tu. Na ka e volai tiko kina vakacaca na lawa e tiko e sa tiko rawa o ya na current Act beka se na Principal Act koya a cici tiko mai na 1935. Au vakabauta e daidai e sa via yabaki 90 na tamata levu qo nona cici tiko mai. E da qai vakasomuna vata na draki ni veiqaravi e da sa tiko kina ni kua e sa yaga me na veiveisau e vuqa sara na tabana. E 90 na yabaki o ya sa gauna balavu sara na noda saga me biu vata kei na draki ni bula bolebole ni veiqaravoi e da sa tiko kina ni kua. E tiko talega kina na yavu e na kena veisau se na vakaturi na proposal changes koya tiko kina. E tiko talega kina na vuna e yaco kina na veisau se the reason for the changes of that Act qai

tiko kina na yasana i matau e lavaki tale tikoga e so na i totogi rabailevu sara. E so e tekivu mai na $2, $5, $10 sa lai yacova sara $100, $200 yacova saka tiko na $1,000, $2,000 ka lako yani. O ya na kena vakaduiduitaki na yavu tu oqo e na kena veisau. Au nuitaka niu sa dolava rawa na kena vaksama o ya. Au qai krei ratou na i tokani mai na lewe ni noda Palimedi me ratou na qai vakamacalataki ratou kei na vanua e ratou rawa ni vakamacala kina vakalekaleka sara e na lawa tu sa tu qo e matada me da na veitalanoa kina e na mataka e daidai.

(Introduction of Committee Members)

HON. A. BIA.- Ni sa bula vinaka na nodatou vakailesilesi ni vale ni volvola ni yasana. Me vaka sa vakamacalataka tiko na Turaga Chair ena vuku ni lawa e kau tiko mai e na mataka ni kua. Na Public Health (Amendment) Bill e sega i tiko me vakavoutaki e so na tikina e toka e na vuku ni lawa vakaturi oqori. Ni o raica na i lavelave e tiko qori vei iko. E 69 taucoko na veisau e nanumi me na vakayacori kina. Ia, e dua na ka me vakadeitaki vei keda na i vakailesilesi ni bose ni yasana ni lawa vakaturi oqo e oka sara vakatabaki dua talega e na vuku ni noda veiqaravi. Kevaka me da na taroga e na oka vakacava? Na lawa oqo e na kena lako tu mai e na 90 na yabaki mai na 1935 e sega ni kovuti ira na noda veikoro. Ia, na veisau lailai oqo e sa tiko kina na vakatutu me sa na kovuta na lawa oqo na noda vei koro taucoko se i tikotiko vagalala e tiko e na noda yasana. Na kena i balebale e dua tale na yasana e da na rawa ni raica ni sa sega tale ni dua e na vakawai mai na lawa oqo. E da sa na oka kece kina. E cava na kena yaga? E oka e na vuku ni kena vakavoutaki na lawa qo sai koya na kena vaqaqaco se da vakacokotaki kina na lewenivanua se na kawa i taukei e na vanua e da tu kina e na kena tovolei me vakadeitaki na noda bula ni tiko bulabula vaka kina na tiko savasava e na vuku ni noda koro se na vanua e da dui tiko kina. E dua na ka bibi e tiko e na lawa qori sa i koya na kena qarauni na tiko savasava e na loma ni koro. Ni na raica mai e na benu ca ka yaco na kena vakadrodroi na wai ca ka ra dau gole mai e na noda vale ni vakacegu se na noda vale me dau vakadrodroi vakavinaka me kua ni lai vakavuna tale na tauvimate vei ira na veivale e ra tiko e na loma ni koro. e dua na tikina bibi na kena sagai me vakavoutaki na lawa oqori sa i koya na kena taqomaki na noda i vakaso ni wai ni gunu. E dua na kena i vakaraitaki qo taura mada kevaka e dua e ninivaka beka e dua na ka e na vuku ni bose vaka koro se dua na ka e cudruvaka e lako ga lai ta tu

na paipo ni wai ni koro se la i vakaleqa tu na i vakaso ni wai ni gunu na i vurevure ni wai ni gunu.

Na lawa qo e na kena mai vakavoutaki qo e sa na rawa ni oka e na lawa o ka mai vakayacora na i tovo oqo.

E tiki bibi sara tikoga e na noda veiqaravi. E dua e na gauna bolebole e da sa tu kina ni kua e dua na mate e sa veidewavi vakatotolo tiko sa i koya na mate ni vei yacovi. E dua na lawa bibi e tiko e na vuku ni lawa oqori sa i koya na nona biu vakalawa e dua e sa kilai tiko ni tauvi koya tiko na mate oqo qai nakita tiko me vakadewa wavoki e na vanua e tiko kina. E dua na tiki bibi vou ni lawa qori sa i koya na noa biu vakalawa se totogitaki vaka i lavo. Na totogo e tiko talega e na vuku ni kena vakavoutaki na lawa qori e ra dau tu ga e na $20, $2 ka so $50. Ia, na kena mai vakavoutaki qo e sa laveti cake kina $1,000. E so sa lako kina $500 ka so e $2,000. Kevaka ni o raica na totogi e so na tukuna, na cava e sa rui levu kina va qo na totogi? E sega ni tukuni ni biu na i totogi lavo me vakavuna na dredre ni bula se me rawa ni totogitaki kina vakalevu o iko na lewenivanua. Oqo e biu tu ga na kena vosa vakaperitania e biu tiko as a deterrent me ra kila na lewenivanua ni kevaka au vakayacora e dua na ka e rawa ni vakavuna e dua na mate me dewa vakatotolo e na loma ni koro se na i tikotiko e tiko kina e na rawa ni totogitaki vaka i lavo.

Na kena i otioti ga o rau na raica talega mai na yasana qo. O ratou na tabana ni bula e na veiyabaki e ratou dau raica ni oso tu ga yani na noda valenibula e na vuku ni vei mate dewa vakatotolo e so me vaka na typhoid, mi ni masu e so na mate va qo e oso tu ga yani na noda valenibula vei keda ga na kawa i taukei e da tiko e na vei koro. Ia, na kena da gole tiko yani vakalewe levu i vale ni bula me da lai dikevi vakavuniwai se vei ira na nasi e sega ni dua e tukuna ni ca o ya na vanua dodonu me da lako kina. Ia, sa vakadikeva na tabana ni bula e dua na vanua e rawa ni maroroi kina nai lavo me vakayagataki tale e na so na ka e na vuku ni tabana ni noda bula sa ratou vakayacora e dua na kena i walewale e tukuni ni levy taki na proactive approach. Sa lako sara ga e na veikorokoro me sa tarovi rawa se bera ni dua e yaco yani i vale ni bula ka so na gauna dau qai yaco yani sa bibi tu na mate. Na kena i balebale sa tarovi rawa e na noda veikoro me rawa ni qarauni na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava ni bra ni o qai lako yani i valenibula me lai dikevi vakavuniwai se vaka nasi. Vakacaca o ya na veika e vukei keda kina na lawa vakaturi vou oqo. Ia, na

kena matalailai e ratou tiko na tabana ni bula kevaka e so tale na vakatataro se vakadidike me baleta na lawa vakaturi qo e ratou sa na rawa ni saumi taro kina.

HON. V. PILLAY.- As, Mr. Chair, has already mentioned about the Public Health (Amendment) Bill and also the number of years after this amendment is taking place. I hope this Bill is also been discussed within the villagers or Turaga ni Koro's. I hope that the translated version in itaukei is also distributed. You need to go through this Bill well. Today is the opportunity for the community and the people of Nadroga to share their views in regards to the Bill. The Bill is very good. As I have been saying there are some penalties that has been increased like from $10 to $1,000 and $20 to $,2000, upto $5,000 people can also end up in court and prison now.

So, you need to give your views in regards to the Bill. Today is the time. You can also go through the Bill and share your views to the Committee.

HON. A.N. TUICOLO.- Au vakabauta ni rau sa vakamacala oti rau na noqu i tokani e na veika e tiko va na veiveisau e nanumi tiko.

Au via vakadewataka ga ni na lawa koya bula tiko na gaua qo e vakatabui ira tiko na tabana ni bula mai na curuma yani na veikorokoro vaka viti. Na veiveisau koya gadrevi me na caka va na lawa oqo nai matai sara ga na i matai sara ga na repeal taki na Section 140 baleta me rawa ni vakadonui ira na tabana ni bula me ra curu yani e na veikorokoro me rawa ni qaravi na nodrau i tavi. E rawa ni totogitaki ke dau vakalatilati tiko vei ira na noda tabana ni bula ke ra curu yani e loma ni veikorokoro vakaviti. E vaka kina e so na mate me vaka na COVID-19.

Na gauna ni COVID-19 e dredre vei ira na tabana ni bula me ra enforce taka na safety protocols na gauna o ya baleta ni lawa qo e vakatabui kina me ra curu yani e vei korokoro vakaviti me rawa ni ra cakava vakavinaka na nodra veiqaravi. Ke dua na nomuni nanuma me baleta na nodrau i tavi na tabana ni bula e so beka na nomuni nanuma se vakatutu e rawa ni o ni biuta cake mai kina Committee. E tiko qori na neitou dau ni veiqaravi e rawa ni katona sobu na nomuni vakatutu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa i koya o ya na introduction lekaleka mai vei keitou na lewe ni Palimedi. Au vakabauta ni na raica tiko mai ni sa raica tiko na name tag o ya na yacai keitou kei na neitou i tavi e tiko e na loma saka ni Committee.

Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni yaco mai na wekadatou qo, honourable Bala. Thank you very much for joining us today in Nadroga. I hope that will continue with us with the journey and hopefully our contribution from the honourable Member the level impact of the public as wel as the staff who are here with us.

(Introduction of Ministry of Health and Medical Services officials).

E rau na veivuke tale tikoga e na vuku ni vakatataro e na gole tiko mai e na nodatou i tikotiko e na vale ni volavola ni yasana vaka kina ke so e gadreva me na vakararamataki vakarabailevu sara vakatitobu na Bill qo e tukuni koya tiko na Public Heath (Amendment) Bill No.4 of 2026 ka tiko e matada ni kua. Kevaka e dua e vinakata me vosa se via vakamacala se tomana na kena veivakararamataki e na tiki dua e tiko e matada koya na kena vosa vakaviti tiko qori e vaka sa rogo tiko vei kedatou yacova sara tiko na tabana 69 koya gadrevi tiko qo me veisautaki. Mai na Public Health Act koya tiko e matada o koya ka tukuni tiko na kena lawatu levu koya na Principal Act. Au vakabauta kevaka o ni gadreva mo ni na vosa e na tabana 69 qo koya gadrevi tiko me veisautaki ni na lako yani na nodatou gusu ni vosavosa qo e tiko qo vei ratou na liga ni veiqaravi. Ni na qai vakadeitaka mai na tabana cava e volai tiko qori mai na 1 kina 69 koya ni via vosa kina baleta me rawarawa na nodatou veitalanoataka e na kena veisau na lawa tu levu oqo. Na kena sabolo e tiko o ya.

Taqa ni pepa 1 No.2, sega ni matata na vanua e vakayagataki kina na section. Ena tabana 1(a), me vakamacalataka ni rawa qo e baleti Viti taucoko. Me vakadeitaki e taurivaki na lawa oqo e na veiyasai Viti taucoko, vakadeitaki na veiqaravi e tautauvata e na veivanua. E matata sara tu ga o ya.

E ratou sa kaya oti na noqu i tokani i liu na lawa tu qo e baleti ira tikoga na tiko e na loma ni veikoro lelevu. Na rai rabailevu e ratou sa rai mai kina na tabana ni bula e sa yaga me na vakatetei yani. Me qai oka talega kina o keda na tiko e na taudaku ni veikoro lelevu se tiko vagagala, settlements se dua na tikina, yavusa se cava ga o ya na vuna e sa rabailevu kina na nodratou veiqaravi na tabana ni bula.

E dua na kena vakasama e rogo tiko vei keitou na mataka ni kua ni laurai vakatautauvata o ira e ra oso yani me ra lai qaravi nodatou lomani health centre se valenibula se vanua cava ga e ra veiqaravi kina na tabana ni bula e kaya tiko o ratou e via yacova sara tu ga e 70 pasede e ra lako yani o ya e ra gole tiko mai na taudaku ni veikoro lelevu. Na kena i balebale e sa via matata toka ya.

Na kena lako yani na veivakararamataki ni veika e tiko e na loma ni lawa tu koya gadrevi tiko qo me veisautaki me rawa ni yaco yani na veiqaravi ya vei kemuni. O ya na vuna koya kaya tiko na wekaqu etiko e yasaqu qo sa ratou cakava mai e dua na i tuvatuva ni se bera ni yaco mai sa da taqomaki rawa tu proactive measures. Baleta na vuna tiko ya? Ni sega ni yaco yani na i tukutuku dodonu me ra kila na lewenivanua na ka e datou rawa tiko vei kedatou ya e da tou na vakaosota tiko na valenibula kei na valeniwai. Ia, na rai levu e tiko e na taudaku ni vakasama o ya ni sa rai yacova e 70 na pasede e ra qaravi tiko e na taudaki ni vei koro lelevu e dua talega na okaoka ni veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula se budget beka na yacana e lako tiko e na tiki ni veiqaravi levu o ya. Na kena i balebale keda vinakata me da tekivu cakava yani na i tavi oqo e sa na yaga me na vakalailaitaka mai na rai levu ya. E dodonu o keda na tiko e na taudaku ni vei koro lelevu sa rawa ni da vakatoka ke da vakamuria na lawa tu oqo e na kena maroroi na bula, tiko savasava kei na tiko duadua e na noda loma ni noda vei koro o ya sara ga na vuna koya veiveisau tiko kina qo me sa kovuti keda yani na tiko na veitaudaku ni koro lelevu. Sa rogo oti tiko vei keda me vaka baleta na noda i gunugunu se na i so beka ni wai e na kena maroroi. Me da kila tiko na i so ni wai na vanua e tiko kina e tarai keda raraba o gone, qase, uabula, cakacaka vakamatanitu se tu vakavanua e da dau gunuva kece na wai. E tiko talega na lawa levu ni matanitu cokovata kei vuravura ia oqo me da guilecava mada o ya baleta ni ra sa okata na tabana ni bula me sa tiko talega na kena maroroi na so ni wai na kena dau vakayagataki beka mai vei ratou na i taukei ni tikotiko se taukei ni qele na kena dau sega ni maroroi, ca kina na i teitei, musu e so na kau, kau yani e so na manumanu me ra lai biu tu me ra lai kana tu e na vanua o ya me rawa ni ra vakadukara na noda i soso ni wai. O ya me baleta tiko na vanua ni noda gunu. E so na i totogi e tiko qo e sa rui bibi sara. Ke o ni vinakata mo ni rogoca na kena matata kei na kena macala e na rairai yaga meu sa dolava na gauna oqo me da sa veitalanoa raraba kina.

MR. L. NAYACALEVU.- Taumada au cavuta saka tiko na vakavinavinakalevu e na vuku ni kena kau sobu mai na veivakararamataki e na loma ni matabose ni Yasana o Nadroga e cavuti saka tiko kina na vakavinavinaka e na vuku ni veiveisau me qaravi e na vuku ni kena cakacakataki. E vica na vakatutu e sa tiko saka e na mataka ni kua. Au vakabauta ni dua saka na bolebole levu e na loma ni matabose ni Yasana o Nadroga/Navosa e tiko kina na i tavi, veivakabauti e na loma ni matanitu me vaka e sa vakalawataki saka tiko e na i Taukei Affairs Act e na nodra raica na vakailesilesi ni yasana me tuvaki vinaka tiko na koro, na kena savasava me ra tiko bulabula na lewenikoro. Au vakabauta ni tiko saka e na loma ni veiqaravi ni matabose ni yasana e na nodra veiqaravi na Roko Veivuke.

E dua saka ga na kawai saka ka vakatataro talega Clause 40, na i sau ni leseni ni bisinisi duka se boi ca. E dua saka ga na vakatataro au vakabauta ni dau tarogi saka mai vakavuqa e na loma ni bose ni tikina vakabibi vei kedatou na vica na tikina e d a tou tiko e na loma ni colo kei Navosa e na vukudra saka na dau teitei ka ra dau teivaka voli na tavako ni viti se na suki. E tiko saka na kawai e na kena sa solia na matanitu me ra sauma sara ga na nodra leseni. Au vakabauta ni sa kila tiko beka se cava so na i tuvatuva e tiko e na nodra vukei na dau teitei.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, e da na tou veitalanoataka na tabana ni lawa oya, Clause 40. E kaya toka va qo na i sau ni leseni (fee)ni bisinisi e duka se boica (offensive trade) e $10. Me laveti na i sau ni laiseni me $500. Me salavata na i sau ni veiqaravi kei na revurevu ni bisinisi oqo e na tiko bulabula. Sa toso cake na i totogi o ya kina $500 baleta na bisinisi me vaka na qaravi ni sipi se dravidravi.

Na ka e kaya tiko mai na Turaga Roko e vakanamata tiko kina bisinisi me vakataka na dau tei tavako. E na loma ni Bill oqo koya tukuna tiko na kena veisau qo na Clause 40 au na kerei rau na tabana ni bula me rau na vakamacala mada kina.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Na Clause 40, e kovuta tiko kina o ira na bisinisi e vakatokai tiko na offensive trades. E kaya tiko e na dua na kena list ni bisinisi e tiko e na nodatou Principal Act. E wili tiko kina o ira na bisinisi me vaka na abattoir koya dau boi levu, boi ca, still mill koya dau biuta mai tuba na rorogo kei na kasi gaga, vale ni caka simede se na cement factory e dua na list balavu. O ira na mataqali bisinisi va qo kevaka e ra via cakava

e dua na vanua me baleta na kena rogo levu kei na boi levu ka vakasisila na mataqali bisinisi qo tabu saka yani keitou vinakata me vakadonuya rawa na tabacakacaka ni bula ni se bera ni lako yani. Na Clause 40 e tukuna ke dua e lai vakaduria e dua na bisinisi e na dua na vanua e sega ni tiko e na nona laiseni me na qai lavaki vua na i totogi qori au vakabauta ni sa matata.

Na kena i balebale ni dua sa via vakaduria e edua na nona bisinisi me vakatoka ne offensive trade taumada na gole mai na tabana ni bula keitou sa na qai lai raica na vanua me tauyavu kina ke sa rui voleka e da tiko kina na lewenivanua e voleka tiko yani e na koro e na rawa ni keitou tukuna me vaqara tale e dua na vanua me biu kina baleta na i boi, sosa vata kei na kasi gaga e biu mai kina e rawa ni vakaleqa na noda bula na lewenivanua. Au vakabauta ke na vakalawataka se vakalesenitaki na tei suki ka sa tiko ya e na nodratou na veitavako na Tobbaco Conrtrol Act kei na kena regulation. Sa sagai tale tikoga me na qai vakavoui ka sa nanumi tiko e na dua na gauna lekaleka talega qo me sa na gole mai. E sega ni tukuni me ra vakatotogani kina o ira na dau tei tavako me rawa walega ni kila vakafika e vica tiko na farmer ni tei tavako, na levu ni tavako e ra tei me vaka tu na database e tiko ma na tei dovu.

Na tei dovu FSC e kila vakamatailalai sara tu ga na sector cava, farmer cava, e vica na tani na dovu e teya tiko. E dau veivuke toka ga e na neitou monitor taka na tobacco industry.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nuitaka Turaga Roko e sa na via sauma tiko na nomuni vakatutu o ya baleta tikoga na tei tavako. Sa matata tiko. E tiko ga na lawa e vauca na Tobacco Control Act koya ratou kaya tiko na kena dau qo ni sa wale tikoga qo e sa na cawiri mai kina ia e sega ni kauta laivi na nomu dodonu. Ko vinakata me keitou lai raica me wili vata kei na ka keitou vakamacalataka tiko qo kemuni sa na vakatututaka tiko mai e na qai kerea dua na i tokani me na tokona na nomuni mosoni.

MR. M. NAYACALEVU.- Mr. Chair, au sa vakatura saka tiko.

MS. M. ROGOTAVA.- Tokona saka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa rogoci saka tiki vei keitou na vosa qo ni kua na nomudou madigi e na tikotiko vakaturaga e Nadroga/Navosa. Kevaka dou vinakata me rogo na

domomudou e na kena veisau na lawa levu se lawa tu qo me baleta na noda tiko bulabula na kena siga ni kua kau nuitaka ni keitou na qai cava i ke e daidai e sa rawa ni tiko na vakanananu e na gauna sa na qai tuki kina i Palimedi au a vosa e na tabana qori, ka rogo na domoqu e na kena lai veisau na lawa tu qori.

MR. ALIVERETI.- Mr. Chair, au kauwai saka tikoga e na Clause 13, e yalani ga na kaukauwa ni matabose e na vuku ni tuvatuva ni koro. Au vakabauta na kauwai saka e tiko ni levu na i tuvatuva ni koro ka gagadre saka tiko kina na tabacakacaka ni Taukei e na kena vaqaqacotaki na vei lawa va koro. E na veivanua e dabe saka tiko kina na veikaukauwa ni veimata bose vakoro au vakabauta ni rairai tiko talega na veimatabose ni veitikotiko vagalala ka veiqaravi saka kina na Turaga na PA. E na loma ni matabose vakoro au vakabauta e rairai e na vuku saka ni lawa vakaturi e rau sala vata vinaka e na kena curu yani vakamalua na vei tiki ni lawa ka veiqaravi kina.

Oqo me yalani kina na kaukauwa me na rawa ni vaqaqacotaki kina na lawa vakoro. E dua na kena vakaraitaki qo. E na noda vei koro kei na baravi kevaka o ni na biubiu mai Namatakula mo na gole sobu va qo me yaco i Yako e levu na vei mata ni koro e ra tiko voleka ga e na vei bai ni vuaka. E kovuta saka tiko na veilewa vaka koro. na gauna e vakadrodrovi saka yani kina ni sa vakatabui na tara bai ni vuaka voleka e na veiyasa ni koro e a saka na vanua e coqai saka tiko kina na vei lewa vakoro. Kevaka e ma ni donu na vanua me veisau kina na lewa e dabe saka kina na tabana ni bula me curuma saka yani na vei tiki ni lawa qo e na vakavinakataka saka vakalevu na kena vukei na vei lawa va koro ka ra sa na tuvatuva tiko kina na noda vei koro e na loma ni noda vei tikina.

Clause 13, au nanuma meu vakaraitaka ga e dua na tikinao ya e bolea saka tiko na baravi e na nodatou vanua ka koto vata talega na vakasama ni tuvatuva ni koro. Au vakabauta ni tuvatuva levu sa i koya e na kena rawa ni wasei sara vakadodonu na benu mamaca kei na benu suasua. Au nanuma e rairai tiko beka se sega e na vuku saka ni wai duka. Au tara mada vakalekaleka me baleta na nodatou baravi qo me da tou rai e na vakasama ni Food Security e na noda vei waitui era sa tekivu vakila mai na sasalu, na lase na vanua e sema yani kina na wai duka mai na bai ni vuaka ka vakatalega kina na vei tikotiko ni saravanua. O ya e dua talega na vanua ka dau yavutaki tiko kina na noda veitikotiko vakoro e na lawa raraba levu ni tiko bulabula. E dua ga na vakanananu ke rawa ni bau tiko talega ni lawaturi e na kena vakamatatataki beka na tikina o ya.

E dua na kena vakaraitaki mai na nodaru loma ni koro mai Votua keitou vakadabera kina e dua na treatment plant. Na i matai ni koro beka au nanuma me dabe kina e dua na waste treatment e a qaravi kina e dua ga na koro i Viti e tiko kina na kena treat taki na wai duka. O ya na kena vakananamnu ni se bera ni keimami se dusi na vei otela keimami sa cakacakataka rawa mada na kena vakavinakataki na wai duka. Keimami mai vakila saka tiko na revurevu qo e tara na neimami wai ni qoliqoli e sa ra tubu kina vakasivia na lecau baleta na veisemati saka o ya ke rawa ni bau tara talega yani kina na bibi ni kena qaravi na kena vaqaqacotaki beka na lawa e na noda vei koro vakatalega kina na vei tikotiko vagalala.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka vakalevu na wekaqu. Na i vakamacala o ya e sa titobu sara na kena vakasama. E ratou sa raica sara tilkoga ni se bera ni yaco mai e dua na ka e ratou sa raica rawa. Me vaka e kaya tiko na wekaqu qo na veika e yaco tiko mai e na nodratou koro. Ia, ni da raica lesu totolo ga kina Clause 13, e yalani ga na kaukauwa ni matabose e na vuku ni tuvatuva ni koro. E soli tiko na kaukauwa vei ira na matabose ni tiko bulabula me ra dikeva ka vakadeitaki ni sala vata tiko e dua na tikina e tiko qo o koya na tikina 13 e lesu tale tiko e na noda tara vale ena vei koro lelevu koya oka tiko e na lawa ni koya e gadrevi tiko me veisau qo. E sa tiko beka e levu e da dau vakila tu na veiqaravi mni Rural Local Authority. O ya e dua na tabana a mai vakamalumalumutaki beka e 2018 e na veiqaravi levu e ratou dau vakayacora tiko na kena qaravi tiko o ira e ra tiko e na taudaku ni vei koro lelevu.

E dua tiko na tiki tu ni lawa tu qo e ra tiko qo na kena veivakararamataki e ratou sa gadreva tiko na tabana ni bula me sa vakalesui tale mai na veiqaravi levu ya baleta e tiko kina e dua na i tavi levu e na kena semati mai na liga na matanitu e na kena tete yani na veiqaravi e na vuku ni nodatou veikorokoro. E wili tiko kina na tiko savasava, tiko bulabula. E wili tiko kina na kena tarai na vale vovou, na kena yawa mai na yasana ka dua. E wili tale tikoga kina na kena maroroi na benu me vaka beka na wai ca ni noda vei valelailai ka tu. Koya ira kece qo e ra dau tiki tu ni vaka ke yaco e dua na mate taka levu se outbreak vaka na COVID e da sa qai lako curuma oti toka qo na vanua o ya e ratou na curu mai kina na tabana ni bula koya gradrevi tiko qo baleta ni sa tiko vei ratou na kaukauwa ya. E dina ni tiko na by-laws e na loma ni nodatou vei koro koya dau cicivaka tiko na kena dau na i taukei affairs o koya o ya e dua na vanua oqo e rau na mai veiqaliqali kina ka rau na mai

cakacaka vata kina. Au kaya mada ke yaco e edua na nodatou koro i baravi qo na mate e vakadewa na namu e rawa ni malaria, dengue fever kei na so tale na mate e oka tu e na vakasama ni veika e da maroroya e na noda i tikotiko. E so na vanua e ra taya beka ka ra tu vaka ca. E ra lako yani na namu e ra lai vakasucu kina. E na dua na yasa ni koro e ra samaka vinaka ra maroroya ia ni lako mai na manumanu qo me vakasucu e na vanua e tiko kina na vale qo e qa vakadewataka tale e yasana ka dua. E yaco mai na kudru oya e ra kovuti kece tiko kina vakasama levu ni Clause 13.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.-E dina saka na i vakamacala e sa cakava tuamada na turaga Chair nanumi tiko me na lesu tale mai na Local Authority e na lawa vakaturi qo. Ni sa na lesu mai na Local Authority o ya e na levu sara na veiqaravi vinaka e dau caka tu i liu e sa na qai rawa ni vakadrodroi lesu tale mai.

E tiko talega na navunavuni ni sega walega ni na lesu mai koya o ya e na vaikuritaki e na kena sa na dewa talega yani na nodatou koro vakaviti e na vanua e yalani tiko kina na veiqaravi ni Local Authority. Taura mada na kena tara e dua na vale e liu na koro vakaviti se ra dau muria a kena i walewale e tu e na Tabacakacaka i Taukei e ra dau cakava tu mai liu me dua e sa via tara vale, caka na kena bose va koro, lako vei turaga ni koro ke raica me dabe kina na vale, me na veivakasalataki ni tabana ni bula me sa na qai tara na vale.

E na gauna ni kua e edua na ka e laurai ni tara vale esa sega ni qai vakaituvatuva me vaka i liu. Na kena i vakadinadina ga qo. Ni o raica e dua na i taba ni dua na koro vakaviti makawa qai raica e dua na i taba ni koro vakaviti qo e liu e laini vakavinaka sara tu ga na vei vale. Koya e caka ni kua e sa karua ga koya tu e na informal settlements e lako ga mai na matanivale ga mai ni dua sa daku ni vale ni dua mata ni vale tale ni dua. Na wai ga mai keri e tasova mai yasana qo sa talabusese kina na kena rawa ni veidewavi na mate.

Ni sa na lesu mai na Local Authority qo e na kena sa na curu yani e na loma ni koro e sa na rawa ni lai vakaraitaki kina na kena tara veiyawaki na vale me rawa ni mudremudre na cagi ka ra bulabula vinaka na lewena, laurai na kena vagolei vinaka na wai ca. Na vale mada ga na kena tuvaki me tuvaki e na dua na kena i vakatagedegede e na sega ni rawa ni vakadewa na mate.

Clause 13, e tukuna tale tikoga kevaka e dua e kauta mai e dua na kena vakamalumalutaki ni wai ca me vaka o ni vakamacalata tiko kina mai na koro e sa tiko e

dua na nomudou treatment. Taroga mada qai dua tale na koro me veivakasalataki. E dua beka e lako tiko mai valagi qai tukuna o koya au raica mai Niusiladi e dua na kena i walewale qo. Me qai nanuma o koya me cakava. Taura mada na koro tarava ga Votua Lailai. Me da tou nanuma me da tou sa cakava e ke koya dua na ka koya raica mai dua e Niusiladi na lai cakacaka i vavalagi koya ra gole tiko kina qo. E cakava qai sega ni caka vakavinaka qai lai vakavuna na kena talabusese na wai ca qai veitauvi kina na mate typhoid se cava.

Oqo e dua na ka e qarauna tiko na tabana ni bula na Clause 13 e tukuni ke dua na i walewale ni kena septic design se water treatment design me kau mai Viti ka se bera vakadua ni vkayagataki i Viti me dua me kauta mai me vakadonuya rawa na mata bose ni tabacakacaka ni bula qai rawa me na vakayagataki baleta ni da kila taucoko na leqa mai vakavuna na dramu koya na septic tank dramu a gole mai e na dua na gauna o ya e veitauvu yauyau na mate. Koya sa bokoca tale na tabacakacaka ni bula me sa kua ni vakayagataki tale i Viti na Septic Tank dramu. E sa tiko ga e vica na design koya tiko e vakayagataki kina na Rota Tank. E tiko koya vakaytagataki kina koya na material vakatoka na kalevati e so na design e sa raica na tabacakacaka ni bula ni vakayagataki qo e na sega ni vakavuna na kena veidewavi na mate. O koya saka beka ga o ya o koya tiko qori e na Clause 13.

Au vakavinavinaka ni kemudou sa samaka rawa na koro ia qo e dua go na nai tuvatuva me dua tale me cakava e dua na ka va qori e nakoro me na vakadonuya rawa tiko na tabana ni bula me kakua ni vaka vu leqa mai muri. E sega walega vei ira na lewenivanua me vakatalega ni tukuna tiko me lai vakaleqa sara na nodratou food security e na i yau bula e tasova kina na wai ca.

HON. A. BIA.- Au lesu tale e na vuku ni nomuni vakatataro e na i matai ni vakamacala o ni vakayacora. Ni tukuna na cava mada e rau na mai veisotari kina na lawa ni koro kei na lawa vakaturi oqo. Au kila o ni na loma tarotaro tiko. Meu vakamacala ga vakalailai. Dou taura mada o kemudou na i vakailesilesi e na vale ni volavola ni yasana ni Itaukei Affairs mai na Tabacakacaka ni Taukei.

Na gauna e lako mai kina na i Taukei Affairs Act, 1945 mai amend taki na 2023. Ni vakamacalataka tiko na lawa ni koro.

Na lawa ni koro o koya e yacova mai na gauna e da veitalanoa tiko kina qo o koya e sa qai vakamatanitutaki ga. E se bera ni oka o koya me dua na lawa tudei i Viti baleta kevka e dua e voroka na lawa ni koro e na koro mo kauti koya e na mataveilewai o koya e sega ni dua na nona cala ke voraka yani na lawa ni koro. Ia, na oka o koya e na lawa levu ni matanitu ni noda vanua. E duidui tiko ni vakamatanitutaki na lawa ni koro kei na kena biu me vakalawataki me oka e na dua na lawa ni dua na matanitu. O koya e ciqomi ga va na matanitu me oka o koya e dua na i tuvatuva ni koro. Ia, na kena lai vakalawataki kevaka e dua na i vakatutu mo ni vakayacora o koya na lai oka vana i tiki me standard ni Itaukei Affairs Act oqo sa lawa ni koro. I, na kena curumaki yani qo o koya e lai vakadavora me vakadeitaka vakadua e dina ni dua na i usutu levu ni veiqaravi ni Ministry ni Itaukei Affairs se na vale ni volavola ni yasana sa i koya na tiko bulabula e na noda yasana. E dua na tiki ni noda veiqaravi levu ena vale ni volavola ni yasana e na kena vakadeitaki tiko na tiko bulabula se na kena qarauni.

Ia, oqo e biu walega o koya me vakadeitaka se me qarauna na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava i na noda koro. Qai raica o koya me vakalawataki baleta me rawa ni qarauni sara ga vakavinaka. E sega ni tukuni qo ni na lako yani qo me lai coqa o koya na lawa ni koro e sa tiko rawa e tabu. E rokova tiko na tabana ni bula kei na matanitu na noda koro kei na kena vei lawa e sa tiko. Na vuli levu e tukuna o honourable Tuicolo e na noda rai lesu talega i na COVID-19. Ni mai yaco na leqa o ya e dua na tama ni dredre levu e ratou sotava na tabana ni bula e na kena sa yaco na mate kei na kena dewa vakatotolo sa dredre tu me ratou curu yani na veikoro e na vuku ni lawa e tiko. E sega ni tu e na loma ni lawa. E sega ni vakatarai o ratou me ratou curu yani. E ratou muria lesu tale na i walewale koya e dau qaravi tiko mai liu e dua na i vola me vaka na nodatou HQ mai Suva e so na gauna sa dewa tiko na mate e bera tiko na i vola na kena vakadonui mai. Ia, oqo me tu walega kevaka e ma ni yaco tale e dua na mate dewa vakatotolo va oya e sa da vakarau tu ni sa na ratou lako yani na Minisitiri ni Bula me ratou lai tarova na kena dewa na mate vei ira tale na lewe ni koro.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nuitaka na wekaqu ni sa na via matata toka o ya na Clause 13. O ya na veika e vakamacalataki kina. E 69 na kena levu ka da tou sa qai sauma tiko beka ga qo e rua se tolu beka ga. E yaga me da na kila kece tiko na 69 qo na kena veiveisau, na veika e kovuta kei na veika e da na oka kina ka vakauasivi tiko e na nodatou i tikotiko

vakaturaga e na vale ni volavola ni yasana o Nadroga/Navosa baleta ni o kemudou na liga ni veiqaravi vei keda na tiko e na i taudaku ni koro lelevu. Na takete naba dua ni lawa tu oqo me vukea vakatabaki dua na noda tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava. Kevaka e bera na taketew o ya na kena i balebale na veika kece e oka tiko e loma qo na tauvimate, benu kei na veika kece e ra oka tiko kina ni da sa rawata o ya na kena i balebale e da sa cakava tiko koya na 69 na veiveisau lelevu sa tiko i loma qo.

MR. ALIVERETI.- Clause 19, au vakabauta ni rau veiwekani tikoga e na vuku saka ni benu. Na kena i vakarau raraba ni kena biu na benu e na vei vale ni bula. Na tabana tarava e laveti na i tuvatuva ni kena maroroi na benu.

Au vakabauta ni tikina bibi qo e na noda veikorokoro vei keitou mada na veiqaravi tiko e na vale ni volavola ni yasana keimami se raica tiko ni se luluqa tiko na tikina o ya. Kevaka e rawa talega ni lawa vakaturi me vakaukauwataka na tiko bulabula me rawa ni vakayagataki na tiki ni lawa qo me rawa ni yavalata kina na kena vakabulabulataki se vakamatanataki na tiko bulabula i loma ni koro vakauasivi na benu mamaca, benu suasua me yacova saka tiko mai qo e so e ra tauri tu ga vaka tu ga me dua tu ga na ka ni veitalanoa. E sega ni ra bula taka e na veisiga. Au vakabauta kevaka me na curu beka mai na tikina oqo na lawa vakaturi qo me na vakaqaqacotaki e na vukea vakalevu na nodra veiqaravi na turaga ni koro vakatalega kina na lewenikoro. O koya beka o ya na tikina au nanuma me i kuri saka tiko ga ni veitalanoa se i koya na kena laurai saka tikoga na benu kei na bula raraba ni dua na koro.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au vakabauta me da tou tiko vata ga e na vakasama o ya mai na tikina 13. Me da tou sa lade qo na tikina 19 e rau sema tikoga e na vakasama ruarua qo ko na i vakarau raraba ni kena biu na benu ena valenibula.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- E totoka vakaoti na tikina o ni laveta tiko mai. Na Tikina 19 qo e vakarota tiko na kena yadravaki ga na benu mai na vale ni bula. E sa tiko rawa na Health Care Issues mai na Management Plan e lavaki tiko na vei vale ni bula vakamatanitu. Keitou qai raica tiko na tabacakacaka ni bula ni dua na i wase levu koya ra sega ni wili tiko me ra kovuti e na gauna qo o ira na nodatou private clinic. Ni da dau gole i taoni o na qai raica na private doctor na benu mai na veivanua qo koya na vanua ni veicavu private

dental clinic. Na vauvau koya tauvi dra tu. Na i cula e vakayagataki oti e sega tu ni dua na lawa se tiko na gauna oqo me kovuta na kena maroroi na benu o ya.

Na lawa vakaturi koya tiko qori esa na qai tukuni e sega walega ni vei vale ni bula ni matanitu o ira talega na private practice va oya me ra sa na biuta talega mai e dua na nodra i tuvatuva se na Health Care Waste Management Plan. Na i tukutuku cava e ra na cakava me maroroi tiko kina na nodra benu. Na benu ni tauri eke me lai maroroi i kea e sa na qai vakavodoki na lori me kau i Naboro se kau i vale ni bula i Lautoka me lai vakamai kina. Na i tuvatuva cava e ra biuta tiko baleta na ka qo keitou sega sara tu ga ni kila e ra kauta tiko i vei na nodra benu. Baleta na benu o ya na benu ni tauvimate. E rawa ni lai vakadewa na mate kevaka e sega ni lai maroroi vakavinaka. E lai kolotaki tu beka ga e na i benunbenu baleta o ira na benu o koya dodonu me sega soti sara ni kauwaitaki vakalevu me vaka na benu ga ni pakete ni noodle, bisikete kevaka sara lai waki vata tiko kei na benu koya gole mai na vanua ni veiqaravi ni vale ni bula ia e na viavia leqa. O koya saka o ya e vakaturi tiko mai kina na veisau Clause 19, koya toka qori me rawa ni kovuta na health facility e ra vakatokai tiko na private.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au vakabauta ni sa matata vei keitou na kena vakadewa e na tikina o ya. Me vaka sa tukuni oti se tiko ga na lawa sa oti se na nodatou lawa tu e se bera ni veisau e qaravi ratou tikoga na veiqaravi e na tabana ni bula.

E dua na tikina bibi o ya o ira na private clinic. O ira na vuniwai e da saumi ira ke so beka na tabana ni bula e cici vakataki ira e dua na ka au siqema rawa e na veitalanoa qo na bibi ni benu e na vanua e ra lai maroroi kina. Na benu e lako mai o ya e oka mai vei ira na tauvimate koya e ra a tauvimate kina. Na kena i balebale kaya mada ga ke lutu vakaveitalia ra lako yani na luveda e na vanua e tiko kina na noda benu me lai biu tiko i kea e sa na dua tale ga na sala ni ra lai oka e na nodra lai tara se cava e ra lai cakava se na nodra lai vukica beka se dua na kena i cakacaka me ra biuta vakavinaka e sa na rawa ni dewadewa ni tauvimate vei ira e ra bula vinaka tu.

E vakabibi e na nodatou veikoro lelevu e da sega ni kila tu na vakatagede ni cava qo, na vanua cava e kau mai kina na lawa tu oqo e via okati ira me ra sa wili talega mai loma me sa tiko na nodra Waste Management Plan e na vanua e ra biuta kina na nodra benu koya yavutaki na kena qaravi e dua na tamata e sa tauvimate tu. Oqo talega vei keda

na tiko e na nodatou loma ni vei koro e kabibi talega me da na kila tiko ya ia e sega soti sara ni bibi kaya mada kevaka e tiko na nodatou nasi ni koro. o keda sa kila tu ga na benu rawarawa ga me vaka na pepa se ka ga e ra olo mai kina na wai ni mate e vakayagataki. Na ka vaka o hya e rawarawa tu ga e datou rawa ni vakama ga e sega ni vakavuna na tauvimate. O koya na tabana koya gadrevi tiko me biu mai loma qo e okati ira sara ga na dau ni veisele (private clinic). Sa vuqa na gauna oqo e sa tiko mai Suva, Yasayasa vaka Ra kei na kena veimataqali. E dua na ka levu e sa qai davo ga qori i Nadi e rara ni waqavuka i tai. Oqo e ra okati tiko e na kena veisau na lawa tu qo e na kena maroroi tiko ga na ka e ya tukuni tiko mai cake qo na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava e na vanua e da dui bula tiko kina. Kevaka e rawati o ya o ira kece qo e ra sa cakacakataki me vaka au sa tukuna oti. Ia, na kena vakasama ni veivakararamataki koya sa gole tiko mai qo e dai. Keda se tiko ga oqo e na vakasama ni kena kau wavoki ka vunautaki tiko na lawa tu veiveisau levu e tiko qo. Na oti e vula tolu keiotu na lesu tale i Palimedi keitou na qai lai vasokomuna kece na i tukutuku e vakatukutukutaki mai na vanua keitou yaco yani kina na kena vakatututaki tiko na veivakararamataki e na tabana oqo.

E tiko vei kemudou na kaukauwa e na nodatou vale ni volavola ni yasana. Kevaka dou nanuma me keitou sa cava i ke e dai e dua na tikina e na basika beka mai e na talanoa vkavuvale se vei korokoro se na na bati ni tanoa na tikina oqo keitou gadreva me lai wili talega na kena vakasokumuni ni kena veisau na lawa levu koya tiko qo e matada. Na vanua o ya vei kemudou na tiko e na vale ni volavola ni yasana dou rawa ni tara me vaka e dua na written submission. E rawa ni volai mai vaka i vola. Na cava dou vinakata me veisau na tiki ni lawa qo koya sega ni tiko i loma qo. E rawa ni submission. E rawa ni tokoni mai. E rawa ni volai vaka i vola. Na gauna keitou na lesu tale kina i Palimedi ni keitou sa lesu yani e sa na lai tiki tu talega ni neitou na lai ciqoma,raica vakamatata sara ke yaga me na curu ka veitokonitaka na lawa tu e gadrevi tiko me veisau e sa na wili talega e na loma ni tuvatuva levu ya. E da sa tautauvata kece e na vuku ni veiqaravi. Ke sa koya o ya na vanua e da sa gole tiko kina e sa yaga talega me rogoci kece talega na domoda e na so na ulutaga bibi va qo e dau kau cake mai e na vuku ni noda matanitu kei na kena veiqaravi.

MS. E. PRAKASH.- I am just here to listen to whatever is been said because we are ones who are enforcing this current Act.

MR. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chair, as I have been saying once this law comes into effect once it is passed my only concerned is in regards to the penalties that is with the law. Before you can see it was $10, $20 and which law the Ministry of Health can explain but it has gone up to $1,000, $2,000. For the Roko Tui and the Turaga ni Koro's this law will also applies to the villagers now.

HON. P.K. BALA.- We all know about the infrastructure, status of the homes, drainage, waste water system and all that. So, this is the time for you to also tell the Committee what are your views because the way I see that this will apply in informal settlements, villages, settlements and not everyone status their capabilities are not sahying to upkeep the drainage, get a proper home and they also have the powers to vacate families and also they have the powers to demolish houses so all these are in the law. So, from day one I have been raising only regarding the penalties if the penalties can be bit low so that the same penalties are charged to the people in the urban and peri-urban areas and the same penalties for rural areas, same penalty under nuisance is charged to business community. Same penalty is charge to a villager in a village so that is where my concern is.

MR. J. DALIGA.- Mata ni Tikina e Sigatoka. Au raica toka na Tikina 40, na i sau ni laiseni (fee) ni bisinisi e duka se boica (offensivce trades) e $10.

Na ka au nanuma tiko ni neitou Bose ni Yasana e kau cake tiko mai kina e vica na vakasama. E tolu tiko na night club lelevu e tiko qo e na neitou taoni. E sa mai sogo e dua ka rua e rau sa tiko. E a laveti cake tiko mai me vaka e boica (offensive trades) e caka tiko e na neitou loma ni taoni lailai qo. Au via taroga tale tikoga e vakacava na kena soli tiko na bisinisi ni laiseni ni vei night club qo. Na bose ni yasana o Nadroga/Navosa e sa vakatututaki me sogo na night club e na vuku ni benu ca e sa yaco tiko e na neitou taoni qo. Na gunu vaka veitalia, benu ni gunu e ra kabuyacara ga e na neimami saqata ni tikotiko qo ka vakauasivi ni tiko e vitu na koro voleka kau mata ni tikina tiko ni vitu na koro qo ka voleka tikoga e na taoni qo. Se dua mada ga na kena vakamacala mai vei kemuni e na vuku ni kena soli tiko na laiseni kei na revurevu talega e vakayacora na tolu na night clubs e davo tiko e na loma ni taoni qo e na vei siga.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na Tikina 40, o ni vosa tiko kina. Na isau ni laiseni (fee) ni bisinisi e duka se boica (offensive trades) $10, na tikina oqo e okata tikoga e na kena soli na laiseni vei ira koya sa ratou vakamacala oti kina na tabana ni bula. Au kaya mada o ira na dau qaqi simede dua na kena sabolo oya, na kuvu, duka e vaka vuna na tauvimate kei na veika e so e rawa ni kauta mai. Au kaya mada e dua na misini e tiko volekata na nodatou i tikotiko 9980554 – Taniela Mafi.

Au vakabauta ni sa sega tale n dua e vcia tomana na nodatou veitalanoa. E tiko na vakanuinui kei na vakabauta ni veika e kau tiko mai e na mataka ni kua e sa na matata vakauasivi tiko vei kemudou na tabana ni cakacaka vakamatanitu dou tiko e daidai kei na kerekere levu tikoi mai dakuna e na kena lai vakatetei e na kena vunautaki tiko yani e na vei vanua ni noda veiqaravi na i tukutuku bula qo e se cici tikoga qo. E se bera ni veisau.

Nuitaka saka tiko ni na sega ni na yaco ga eke na veitalanoa e na vakaleleci so[bu sara vakauasivi tiko vei ira na tiko e na taudaku ni koro lelevu na veika e baleta, veisautaki kei na vakatutu sa tiko me ganiti tiko e na gauna ni veiqaravi vou e da sa tiko kina e na siga ni kua.

Ena vukudra saka na Turaga Speaker e na vale ni bose lawa au sa na taura na gauna qo meu cavuta saka kina na vakavinavinaka levu.

The Committee adjourned at 12.20 p.m.

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE TAVUALEVU VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 23RD JUNE, 2026 AT 4.45 P.M

In Attendance

1. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	-	Chairperson
2. Hon. A. Bia	-	Member
3. Hon. V. Pillay	-	Member
4. Hon. P.K. Bala	-	Member
5. Hon. A.N. Tuicolo	-	Member

Ministry of Health

1.	Mr. Luke Vonotabua	-	Chief Health Inspector
2.	Mr. Toga Vosataki	-	WASH Coordinator

Interviewee/Submittee : Tavualevu Villagers

In Attendance

1.	Mr. Etuate B. Ratu	2.	Mr. Maikeli Vueti
3.	Mr. Pita Rasi	4.	Mr. Varinava Lotu
5.	Mr. Samuela Saki	6.	Mr. Laisenia Qauqau
7.	Mr. Mosese Boladrau	8.	Mr. Orisi Dalituicama
9.	Mr. Viliame U Ratu	10.	Mr. Emosi Vueti
11.	Mr. Sereima Ravula	12.	Mr. Maleli Bari
13.	Ms. Lagamu Telawa	14.	Mr. Ovini Bokini
15.	Ms. Veniana Vakaruru	16.	Mr. Apisalome Talei
17.	Ms. Laite Momoivalu	18.	Mr. Wiliame Ralulu
19.	Ms. Veniana Banuve	20.	Ms. Unaisi Bakewa
21.	Mr. Taniela Rai	22.	Ms. Vere Raikadroka
23.	Mr. Manasa Drua	24.	Ms. Liliviwa Mokia
25.	Ms. Unaisi Bari	26.	Ms. Asena Caqusau
27.	Mr. Asaeli Rokorua	28.	Ms. Tokasa Nodagalu
29.	Ms. Fiona Salaiwalu	30.	Ms. Sereana Cakau

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa tiko na i tikotiko vakaturaga na nodra i tikotiko na Turaga na Tui Tavua. Ni tiko na turaga kei na marama e na yakavi vinaka ni siga ni kua. Taumada au gusudratou tiko na noqu i tokani e ratou dabe tiko e na yakavi ni kua vakavinavinaka tiko ni dola tu na yalo ni veiciqomi e na yakavi vinaka ni kua na kena mai ciqomi tu na i lakolako e na yakavi vinaka ni kua.

Au nanuma me da na veikilai rawa. Ena kilikili ga meu na vakamacalataki keitou. Meu na qai vakamacalataka beka na i naki ni neitou tiko me rawa ni da matata tiko noda veikilai se cava e da mai veivosakitaka vata na yakavi vinaka ni kua.

(Introduction of Committee Members)

Kemudou na turaga kei na marama dou rai tiko mai e dabe toka qo o ira na lewe to ni veisaqa vata kei na lewe ni matanitu ka lewe talega ni Standing Committee ni Justice, Law and Human Rights e ra veitalai voli mai kina na turaga na Speaker se na nodra i liuliu ni vale ni bose lawa.

Na i naki ni neitou lako tiko mai e na Tiseba 2025 e na i otioti ni dabe ni Vale ni Bose Lawa na matanitu cokovata a kauta yani e na loma ni vale ni bose lawa e vica na lawa vakaturi. E navunavuci na matanitu cokovata me kauta yani me lai lave ligataki me sa lawa me vauci keda. Sa qai ma ni lewa na vale ni bose lawa me wawa se rube mada na veitalanoa qori me sa soli mada vei ratou na komiti qo mo dou wavoki mada i Viti mo dou lai tarogi ira mada na lewenivanua se cava na nodra nanuma me baleta na lawa vakaturi tiko qo. Kemudou na turaga kei na marama na i lakolako qo na yakavi ni kua e kauta tiko mai e na nomudou dela ni vanua e tolu na lawa vakaturi. E bibi me da mai veitalanoataka vata me rogo na domomuni baleta ni na gauna e na pasi kina na lawa e na vauci keda vakatautauvata. E sega ni wilika e dua na mata tamata cava se tuvaki ni yagomu cava na gauna ga e sa na pasi kina na lawa e sa na vauci keda vakatautauvata.

Na tolu na lawa vakaturi

1. National Referendum Bill

E levu sara tiko na kena veitalanoataki na National Referendum Bill qo. E katuba me veisautaki kina na yavu ni va vu lewa 2013. Keda vinakata me veisautaki na yavu ni va vulewa 201`3 qo e dua na ka e vinakati me caka me dua na noda referendum. Na qai vakamacala vakalailai kina o honourable Jone Usamate se cava sara mada e tiko e na loma ni National Referendum Bill se na lawa vakatututaki me referendum.

Na history ni noda vanua o Viti e se bera vakadua ni cakava e dua na referendum. Ia na i tuvatuva ni matanitu cokovata tiko qo e da rawa ni siqema rawa e vinaka tiko me cakava e dua na referendum.

2. Na Lawa ni Vuli (Education Bill)

E na qai vakamacala tiko kina o Honourable Tuiwailevu se cava sara mada e kovuta tu na lawa vakaturi me baleta na vuli. Na gauna sara ga qo keda vakayagataka tiko o keda na lawa ni vuli (Education Act 1966) se bera ni matanitu tu vaka i koya kina o Viti ia e da vakamuria tu mai na kena lawa ni vuli me yacova tu mai qo. E sa navunavuci na matanitu cokovata sa yaga me vakavoui na lawa ni vuli. E ratou sa kauta tiko mai dua na lawa vakaturi e na qai vakamalacala kina vakalailai o honourable Tuiwailevu se cava sara mada e kovuti tu e na loma ni lawa ni vuli qo. Na lawa ni vuli qo e kovuta mai na pre-school, primary, secondary, vuli toro cake and home school talega. Na registration ni qasenivuli e tu kece tu i loma.

3. Criminal Records Bill

Na Criminal Records Bill na lawa qo e lako mai e na dua na kerekere levu e dua na wase levu kei Viti. Na lawa qo e saga me solia vei keda e dua na second chance vei keda e bau coko e na liga ni lawa e na dua na gauna. E ma i tatao e levu noda sasaga me da lako i valagi me da lai saga mai na noda record. E na tukuni mai Police Clearance. Kevaka iko vaka record tu e na dau tatao na nomu sasaga. Apply na visa, sasaga lako vakacakacaka i na NEC, Viti baleta ni tiko na nomu record qo. Ia na lawa vakatututaki ka vakatokai tiko qo na Criminal Record e solia tiko e dua na veivakacegui lailai kevaka e so na cala lalai sa rawa ni boko tani me rawa ni toso na noda sasaga. Oqo na uto ni neitou yaco mai e na yakavi vinaka ni kua. Ni sa ratou vakamacala oti o ratou na turaga sa na qai dola na gauna ni noda veitalanoa keitou sa na qai kerea me da rogoca na domomudou.

HON. J. USAMATE.- Ni bula vinaka na turaga kei na marama e na yakavi ni siga ni kua. Me vaka sa vakaraitaka tiko na neitou i liuliu ni komiti turaga Chairman e na nona vakamacala tiko vakalekaleka na National Referendum Bill.

E dua na ka e tiko e na loma ni yavu ni va vulewa e vakaraitaki tiko kena vinakati me veisautaki nona yavu ni va vu lewa me caka na referendum. Me vakadonui rawa e na referendum.

Ia na referendum na kena i balebale ga e dua na ka e vaka ga na veidigidigi. Na gauna cava e dau caka kina na veidigidigi e da dau lako vata mai e dua na vanua. Au vakabauta kedatou beka i Tavua e vakayagataki beka na loma ni hall qo ka se na koronivuli me da yaco mai e laurai mai se keda registered voter e volai tiko e na noda card ni veidigidigi. O ira ga e ra veidigidigi e ra sa regitered voter. Oti o ya qai soli vei keda e dua na taro me da qai saumi taro kina. Na veidigidigi e da dau mai digitaka noda mata. O cei e da vinakata me noda mata e loma ni palimedi. Ia na referendum e dua ga na taro e biu vei keda me da qai lewa na noda sau ni taro. Na veika kece e caka e na referendum e vaka ga na veidigidigi. E ratou cicivaka ga na matabose ni matanitu e ratou dau qarava na veidigidigi se na Fiji Elections Office. E tiko e na loma ni yavu ni vavulewa ke vinakati me veisautaki e dua na ka e na noda yavu ni vavulewa se na Constitution me na caka na referendum me vakadonuya e sivia na veimama vei ira na valewena na sau ni taro ni referendum. O ya na i balebale levu ni referendum. Me vaka ni vakaraitaka tiko o turaga Chairman ni se bera vakadua ni caka. A cava e volia kina na ka qo e na loma ni yavu ni va vu lewa baleta e tiko e so na taro e na vinakati me tarogi vei keda e sa rui taro bibi ka nanuma kina na matanitu kei na palimedi me da sa kua ni vakanuinui ga vei keimami na lewe ni mata ni palemedi. Keimami sa digitaki qo me sa da tarogi sara ga na lewenivanua. E dua sara ga qo na yavu ni va vu lewa baleta ni lawa cecere taudua e na noda vanua. Na lawa kece i Viti e tiko ga e na ruku ni yavu ni va vu lewa. Na kena i balebale o ya kevaka e dua na ka e vinakati me veisautaki e na lawa cecere taudua me da tarogi kina na lewenivanua. E va tiko o ya na referendum.

Na caka na referendum. Ena duri na kena polling station. E na duri o ira na kena presiding officers e na vei yasai Viti e na qai vakarautaki mai e dua na taro. E na rawa ni va qo e dua na taro baleta na gauna sa tarai keda tu na revurevu. Au vakaraica tiko e na loma ni pepa kei na radio na macawa qo e so sa vakatura tiko me sa ra vakamatei sara ga o ira na kauta tiko mai drugs e na noda vanua. Sa dua na taro bibi ya, baleta na cava? Baleta o keda i Viti sa vakatabui vei keda na veivakamatei o koya na totogi kuna koya dau caka tu i liu. Ia, ke sa ma ni nanuma na bose lawa e sa rui taro bibi sara ga na taro qori. Me sa kua na vakatulewa ga kina o Palimedi sa da tarogi sara ga na lewenivanua baleta ni sa rui taro bibi ena qai caka e dua na kena taro e na referendum. Na vakatalega kina na matanitu e veiliutaki tiko qo e nona nanuma

tiko me dikevi lesu tale mada yani na yavu ni vavulewa me veisautaki so na tikina. E tukuni tiko e na yavu ni va vulewa ke o vinakata me veisautaki na yavu ni va vulewa me caka na referendum. Na kena i balebale o ya na matanituy e rawa ni biuta mai dua na taro, iko tokona me sa veisau na yavu ni va vulewa, io se sega? Na taro ga e na qai mai caka e na referendum. Ni sa taura rawa na kena i balebale.

E na loma ni lawa vakaturi qo e volai tiko kina me qaravi ga na Fiji Elections Office. Na taro e na volai mai e na tiki ni pepa mo sauma me volai ga e na vosa vavalagi (english) na kena i balebale ya o keda kece kai Javani, kai Viti se kai Rotuma iko mo rawa ni wilika rawa na ka e volai e na vosa vakavavalagi ka matata vei iko na kena i balebale. E dua beka na ka e na so beka vei kemuni ni na duavata kina se o ni nanuma me veisau.

2. E tukuni tale tikoga e na yavu ni va vulewa qo na gauna sa dodonu me caka kina na referendum se noda tarogi o keda na lewenivanua na pepa kece e tabaki, na i vakatakilakila, na banner kei na kece me baleta na referendum e tabu tale ni dua e vakarautaka nona pepa ga vakataki koya se nona badge ga vakataki koya se nona i vola i tukutuku baleta na ka e na tarogi e na referendum ya o ratou duadua ga na Fiji Elections Office. O ratou ga qo e vakatarai vei ratou me ratou tabaka na badge, biuta na banner, cakava na phamplets and brochures. E tabu tale ni dua. Oqo e dua na ka e tiko e na loma ni Bill qo. E levu e ra nanuma me kua ni va o ya me soli vei keda na galala me da tabaka ga na i tukutuku me baleta na taro e tarogi e na referendum me vaka na noda gagadre.

3. E tukuni tale tikoga e na loma ni Bill qo dua na ka e rau duidui kina vakalevu na referendum kei na veidigidigi ni sa vakarau caka na veidigidigi e tu vei keda na galala me da curu e na vei valevale. Me da curu e vei vale va koro va qo e na bati ni tanoa na vanua e da gunu yaqona kina me da lai vakaraitaka na noda nanuma vei ira na tu e yasada me ra saga me da siwavi ira mai kina vanua e da tiko kina. Me vaka ga na veidigidigi. Au keu sa lako i Tavualevu au rawa ni mai gunu yaqona eke au na qai kaya kemudou mo dou digitaki au baleta qo.

Na gauna e caka kina na referendum o ya e vakatabui me dua lai vosa wavoki curu vale me saga me malele mai na yalodra kei na nodra vakasama o ira na vakarorogo vua kina nona tovo ni rai.

Na i otioti ni ka au via vakaraitraka me baleta na referendum koya va tubu veitalanoa tiko vakalevu e na loma ni lawa vakaturi qo e volai talega kina e na gauna kece e veitalanoataki se caka e dua na ka me veiwasei kina na veika me baleta na referendum e tabu me tiko kina e dua e lailai na yabaki ni bula mai na yabaki 18 lako sobu. E yabaki 18 lako cake. Na cava me biu kina me yabaki 18 lako cake? Na noda lawa i Viti koya ga sa yabaki 18 lako cake sa sega ni gone sa qase koya sa rawa ni veidigitaki mata talega (voter) o ya na ka e tiko i loma ya.

Ni caka na referendum o ira ga na mai sauni taro vei ira era sa register tu me ra dau veidigitaki mata se me ra registered voters.

Au vakaraitaka tikoga e vica na ka o koya vakavuna tiko na veitalanoa e na noda Viti raraba qo e na vuku ni lawa oqo na referendum. Au kila e sa na rauti keda toka i kea. Kevaka e dua via taro keitou na qai saga na komiti me keitou sauma.

HON. I. TUIWAILEVU.- Ni sa tiko saka na Turaga Tui Tavua, marama kei na turaga ni tiko rawa tiko e na vale va koro e na yakavi vinaka e daidai sa noqu i tavi tikoga me mai vakararamataki keda na vica na lawa vakaturi ni vuli.

Na lawa ni tu ni vuli e vakayagataki tiko qo se vakayagataki mai na 1966 me vaka sa vakaraitaka oti o turaga Chairman se bera na gaujna ni noda tu galala. Se gauna ni koloni sa tu

mai kina na lawa qo e da se vakayagataka tikoga me yacova mai na gauna ni kua. Mai na 1966 ki na 2008 me vakavinakataki vaka 7 na lawa qo ka sagai me davo vakamatau ke me vakarauta na veiqaravi ena vei tiki ni gauna e da lako curuma mai me yacova mai na 2025, Education Bill No. 34 of 2025 me da veitalanoa kina.

E vica na ka au na via laveta cake e tiko e na lawa qo e rairai ganiti keda e na vuku ni noda veiqaravi na turaga kei na marama dauniveisusu nai tubutubu ni tiko rawa tiko e na loma ni vale va koro e na yakavi vinaka e daidai.

1. Access to Education is the Right to Education

Na nona dodonu e dua na gone me lako i vuli. E tu vei koya na dodonu me na lako i vuli. Mai na sova ni vuli, primary kei na secodary school me yacova sara na tertiary ke dua na gone e via vuli e tabu ni dua e vakawai koya mai na vuli. E dodonu me ra lako i vuli me da na qaravi ira vakavinaka ni tu tale tu ga na yavu ni vavulewa ni noda vanua na dodonu ni nodra na gone me baleta na vuli. E dodonu me ra vuli me ra rawata nodra vuli, me ra cakacaka me ra qaravi ira ka rawa talega ni ra na veisosomitaki vinaka e na veisiga ni mataka.

2. Compulsory Education

Oqo e dua na lawa keitou veitalanoataka sara tiko mai vakalevu e na colo ni vanua keitou sa lakova oti mai me yaco na kena vei baravi. Ia na yakavi vinaka e daidai keitou sa tiko na vanua vakaturaga e Bila me da tou mai veitalanoataka kina na compulsory education.

Oqo e dua na ka e sauma tiko na matanitu me baleta na nodra i curucuru na gone. E tukuni tiko na free eduation o ya na nodra i curucuru na gone. E sauma tiko na matanitu na nodra i curucuru me ra lako i vuli na gone. Na noda i tavi na i tubutubu me da yadrava na nodra lako i vuli.

Back to School

E sa sauma tiko mai na matanitu ka sa veivuke tiko mai vei keda na i tubutubu na i tavi e dodonu ga me da qarava. Na nodra vakaisulutaki na luveda, na voli ni nodra kote, na i viu, pepa ni vuli, uniform na ka talega qo sa veivuke tiko mai kina dua na gone e $200. Ia e ka ni rarawa e vuqa na vanua keitou lakova tiko mai qo ni vakayagataki tiko vaka tani na i lavo oqo e sa vakavuna tiko na nodra sega ni lako i vuli na gone. Mai na dua na colo ni vanua keitou lako kina sa vosa sara ga mai o tukani gone ni rua na makubuqu e rau tikoga qo i vale. E sa karua ni macawa ni vuli qo erau sega tu ni lai vuli na i lavo e dodonu me voli kina na nodrau i yaya ni vuli sa vakayagataka o tamadrau e na vanua e sa lako kina.

E lako tale tikoga na veitalanoa na kena tawa tu na veidovu e lala na vei supermarket na voli gunu na kena vakayagataki tiko vaka i loa na veika e dodonu me vagolei vei ira na luveda sa tu kina na noda i tavi na i tubutubu dauniveisusu ke da sa lai kauta mai na Back to School se na i lavo mai na matanitu me voli kina na nodra yaya ni vuli, me da yadrava na nodra lako i vuli na gone. Ia, e kani rarawa ni vuqa vei ira na luveda se da raici ira na veisaqata. Na mataka ni kua keitou lako mai e dua na koro voleka i na border qo se lako tiko ga kina na veisui ni sa vo e lima na miniti me ciwa se ra veisui ga na gone e gaunisala.

O ya na veika e so e kauta tiko mai na lawa vakatutu qo me da yadrava na nodra vuli na gone ke sa sega e tiko vei qasenivuli liu na dodonu me report taka cake vei Vunivola Tudei ni gone qo sa sega ni lako tiko mai vuli. E tu na kaukauwa vei Vunivola Tudei me lako mai me na mai taroga na i tubutubu. Kevaka sa sega ni vakayacora na nona i tubutubu na nona i tavi e tu vei koya na dodonu me lako e vale ni veilewai me lai kauta mai e dua na court order me mai

tukuna vei iko na ka mo vakayacora, ke o sa sega ni vakayacora sa tiko talega e na loma ni lawa qo na kemu i totogi $2000 ke sega 12 na vula i vale ni veivesu.

E vuqa na vanua keitou lako mai kina qo e tukuna e so na qase me sa toso cake na totogi me lima na yabaki baleta na nodra vakawelewele na i tubutubu dau ni veisusu e na nodra sega ni kau tiko na gone e koronivuli ni sa saumi tiko mai na i curucuru ka tu talega kina na noda i tavi. Kevaka e sega ni sauma na matanitu na noda i tavi me da kauti ira na gone i vuli. Au kila ni matata vinaka tu vei keda na lotu vakarisito na noda yalayala, na nodra papitaiso na gone, na noda keveti ira ni ra se gone e na matai talatala ka da yalataka tiko ni da na qaravi ira me yacova ni ra rawata na nodra bula. Au via vakadeitaki keda tiko kina na veiwekani i Tavualevu na yakavi vinaka e daidai na noda i tavi na i tubutubu sa vakaukauwataka ka sa vakatututaka tiko mai na matanitu me da yadrava na nodra vuli na luveda.

Sa kauta lesu tale ga na tabana ni vuli e vuqa na vei lesoni e so me rawa ni ra vakauqeti ira tiko na luveda me ra lako i vuli. Ni da kila tiko ni vuqa vei ira na luveda ra lako ga yani i vuli sa sega ni vinaka vei koya na draki ni lesoni e tara tiko i koronivuli. E duidui tu na nodra taledi. E duidui tu na nodra vakatagedegede ni vuli e so e sa bese na vuli.

Sa kauta lesu tale ga mai na tabana ni vuli e vuqa na veilesoni e so me rawa ni na vakauqeti ira tiko na luveda me ra lako i vuli. Me da kila tiko o ira na luveda e ra lako ga yani i vuli sa sega ni vinaka vei koya na draki ni lesoni e tara tiko i koronivuli. E duidui tu na nodra taledi. E duidui tu na nodra vakatagedegede ni vuli e so sara via lako lesu tale mai ni sa ra bese ni vuli. Ia, se kauta tiko mai na qo na tabacakacaka ni vuli na lawa vakatutu me kau lesu tale mai e vuqa na veilesoni me vaka na droini, sivisivi e ra dau cakava na qase, vuli qiriqiri, art and craft, na qito kei na veilesoni e so me na rawa ni taleitaka tiko kina na luveda baleta ni tu kina na nodra taledi. E vuqa vei ira na luveda sa ra tu mai qo i valagi e ra konotaraki tu e na qito. E vuqa e ra rawata na nodra bula e na droini. E vuqa era tawana tu na vei otela qo na lagasere kei na qiriqiri. O ya e so na lesoni e sa vakatututaka tiko na tabana ni vuli me kau lesu mai me rawa ni veiganiti kei ira na luveda e ena nodra lako tiko yani i vuli me ra taleitaka tiko na vuli. O ya e so na curiculum na lesoni e vakayagataki tiko e sa vinakati me na vakayagataki i koronivuli.

Na dola ni zoning. Keitou tiko mai Waikubukubu e ra lai vuli sara tiko i Nadalei ka so na wavu i kea se ra ca sara tu ga. Ia sa vakatututaka tiko na tabana ni vuli me sa dola. Me sa lewa na i tubutubu na vanua e kauta kina na luvena ke ra via lako na bording school, RKS QVS sa tu na dodonu vei ira.

Fundraising kei na levy

Na lawa ni 26 kei na 28 e rau via tautauvata tikoga na lawa vakatutu e kau tiko mai qo vei ira na school manager kei na liuliu ni koronivuli ke ra via cakava eso na fundraising kevaka eso na i curucuru e sa lavaki e sa vakadonuya tiko na tabana ni vuli io me vakaiyalayala ga me veiraurau me baleta ga na kena voli na i yaya ni koronivuli ka so na ka e gadreva na koronivuli me vakatorocaketaki e na tiko na i kabakaba e da na lakova yani me da na kerekere yani kina me vakayacori na fundraising se na vei levies e so e lavaki tiko e na vei koronivuli. O koya ya e sa vakatututaka tiko mai na lawa vakatutu ni vuli ni 2025.

Au na via wasea tiko vei keda e na yakavi vinaka ni kua e na qai tarogi tale tikoga yani vei kemuni ni tu na lawa vakatutu qo Education Bill No. 34 of 2025 e tabu na veivakanakuitataki i koronivuli.

E tu tale tu ga e na yavu ni noda vavulewa na nodra maroroi na luveda ni tabu na veivakanakiuitataki. Ia e da sa lako curuma tu na gauna ni kua e da kila tu na vei dredre e lako

curuma tu na veikoronivuli, veivuvale e na kena sa tekivu veisau na draki ni nodra bula na luveda, io na cava na nomudou nanuma na wekai keitou e Tavualevu. E vuqa e ra sa gadreva me lesu tale mai na veivakanakuitataki e na qai tukuna ko gauna na cava mo ni na vakatututaka e na sigalevu vinaka e daidai.

Keitou cakava tale tikoga na neitou vakadidike ia e vakatabuya tiko na lawa vakatutu qo na veivakanakuitataki.

O koya beka ga o ya e vica na veilawa e so au nanuma meu laveta cake mai e ganiti keda me da veitalanoa kina e na yakavi vinaka e daidai.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- Ni tiko saka na turaga kei na marama. Na i golegole e gole saka tiko mai e na vuku saka ni kena mai via rogoci na domomuni na lewe ni vanua wili kina qo i Tavua. Au na vakamacala tiko vakalailai me baleta na Criminal Records Bill.

Na Criminal Records Bill e yaco mai e na gagadre mai vei ira na noda lewenivanua e na nodra kerekere tiko e na matanitu kevaka ke rawa ni veisau vakalailai na lawa koya lako tiko mai ena 1997 baleta na lawa o ya e sega ni solia e dua na second chance vei ira na dau va criminal record vakabibi vei ira na luveda cauravou kei ira sa qase tiko e na gauna oqo e ra se cakava e dua na basu lawa e na dua na dela ni gauna ka sa lako tu kei ira na basu lawa o ya. Na lawa koya e da sa vakamuria saka tiko na gauna oqo kevaka o vakayaco ka e 1988 drau na tu vata kei na cala o ya me yacova ni na buluta na matamu na qele. Na kilai tu o iko ni o iko a vakayaco ka se o iko a criminal e na dua na gauna. Na leqa sa qai mai yaco e sa na qai vakatataotaka na noda gole o ira na luveda cauravou. E so e ra gole ga vakadua e ra lai beti vuanikau i valagi ra lesu mai e ra sa sega ni rawa ni lesu tale baleta sa update taki na nodra criminal record. Sa ra qai mai tu yani. E ra sa qai mai kerekere tiko yani e na vuku ni dredre e ra sotavi ira tiko ia e ra sega ni rawa ni ra gole baleta ni ra vaka criminal record. Sa qai ma ni navunavuci kina na matanitu me caka e dua na lawa vakatutu qo me rawa ni sotavi ira na veileqa lalai se na vei basu lalai eso.

Kevaka o ni nanuma e na 2019/2020 e caka tiko kina na vakatatabu COVID-19 restrictions. E levu sara vei keda o ira na noda cauravou e ra charge taki na gauna o ya baleta ni ra basuka na vatatabu. E so e ra saumi fine. E so e ra vula ono se vula tolu. Io baleta ni sa ra criminal record tu sa na dredre vei ira me ra gole i vavalagi e sa ra mai na tu voli i Viti e sa dredre na vaqara cakacaka i Viti ka sara mai tu voli e nakoro. E dau tukuni tu e na kena vosa vakavavalagi e sega ni solia e dua na second chance. Na lawa vakatutu koya kau saka tiko mai qo mo dou na mai rogoca ka mo dou soli vakasama kina e na yakavi vinaka ni kua na Bill qo ka e solia na second chance vei ira na noda koya e ra basu lawa e na veicala lalai eso kau sa vakamacala oti kina.

E sega ni kena i balelabe ni na boko kece na veicala e da cakava. E tiko e so na cala lelevu me vaka na laba, kucu kei na veika tale eso vakarerevaki koya sa yaco tiko qo na drugs koya na via dredre toka na kena bokoci. Na lawa saka oqo me baleta toka ga ko ira na cala lalai eso e rawa ni solia tale na second chance vei ira na noda me rawa ni ra bula taka e dua na bula vinaka e na nodra vuvale vakatalega kina veisiga ni mataka.

Ni ma ni tiko sobu na Turaga na Tui Tavua, turaga kei na marama mai vakamacala saka tiko vakalailai me baleta saka tiko na Criminal Record Bill e sa va toka o ya na kena levu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa vinaka sa dola tiko qo na gauna ni noda veivosaki kemuni na turaga kei na marama. E tolu na lawa vakaturi.Kevaka o ni via vakaraitaka e dua na ka kerekere ni qai lave ga na ligamuni.

MR. M. BARI.- Au cavuta saka tiko na vakavinavinaka ki vei Honourable Usamate e ka vou dina i Viti na National Referendum Bill. Keimami marau e rawa ni mai qaravi na veivakararamataki. Na taro e tiko saka e duidui ruarua na kena qaravi qo? E na qaravi i liu na National Referendum Bill qai veidigidigi se duavata ga na gauna?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na gauna e na qaravi kina na National Referendum Bill e na vakatau sara tikoga e na matanitu. E rawa ni lewa na matanitu me rau qaravi vata se me rau duidui qaravi. Au sa via sauma beka na nomuni taro tau?

MR. M. BARI.- Vinaka Vakalevu. Au vakarogoca tiko na nomuni vosa ni veivakararamataki na veika baleta na referendum e malumamulu. Na referendum me sa lako vata ga na veidigidigi. E levu e sega ni veidigidigi. Sega ni o keitou ga. E dua tale na ka vou e lako tale mai qo mo veidigidigi sa qai vakabau na ka dou vinakata tiko.

MR. I. NADAKUITAVUKI.- Au rogoca saka tiko na vakacamalataki ni National Referendum Bill e tukuni saka tiko ni na volai tiko vakavavalagi. Donu saka tiko beka o ya?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Io.

MR. I. NADAKUITAVUKI.- Au kerea saka me volai vakaviti baleta qo e na rawa ni vakatatao vei keda na i taukei se o ira na qase. Baleta ni sa na lako i loma ya e na sega ni dua lai vakamacalataka vei koya. Qai vakatabui tiko me da campaign. Ia, vei au mada ga me caka na vosa vakavavalagi.

Me kakua sara ni sogoti vakalevu tiko vakabibi vei keimami na tiko i vale ni keimami na veitalanoataka tiko e na vanua ni gunu yaqona. Au kerekere ke rawa ni sagai me matata tiko vei keimami na ka me baleta na referendum qo baleta kevaka me na tara vakalevu na 2013 o au mada ga na noqu vakabauta e tatao sara tikoga na i lakolako vei kemudou.

MR. O. BOKINI.-Ni sa bula saka na vakailesilesi e na yakavi ni siga vinaka e daidai. Taumada au vakavinavinakataka na i tavi e mai qaravi rawa na yakavi e daidai me baleta tiko na National Referendum Bill me vaka e ra vakaitavi rawa kina o honourable Usamate. E dua na ka au vakavinavinaka vakalevu e na siga e daidai na kena mai qaravi rawa na veivakararamataki qo se na consultation se awareness vei ira na lewenivanua.

Oqo e dua na ka keimami dau dredre tu me keimami kila vaka e taroga tiko na tavalequ turaga manidia ni koronivuli na vosa qo referendum e dau dredre me ra kila na lewenivanua na kena i vakavakadewa ia au vakavinavinaka ni kena mai vakadewataki na siga vinaka e daidai e ka ni vuli levu vei keimami. E vica na ka keimami mai vakarogoca kina e na veika e dau yaco e na gauna ni veidigidigi se na veika e yaco dina me vakayacori ga e na gaun ni veidigidigi.

Na kena i karua na veika e vakadonuya ga na lewe ni bose. Ia, e dua na ka keitou vakavinavinakataka e na siga vinaka e daidai na nodratou rai na turaga vakailesilesi e na loma ni Palimedi na kena vakatulewataki e na loma ni Palimedi na i tukutuku qo se na lawa qo. Oqo e dua na lawa bibi. Au rawa ni tukuna e lawa dredre ka bibi e lawa e na dau dredre me na dau veisautaki baleta e dua na ka e veicoqacoqai talega kina na noda bula vakayalo na kawa i taukei e na gauna ni kua. E dua na ka au vakavinavinaka kina e na yakavi ni siga vinaka e daidai.

Au mai rogoca e vica na veika e rogo e na siga vinaka e daidai au sa vakavinavinaka kina.

Na kena i otioti au na qai vosa kina au na rai mada e na Education Bill e vakaraitaka na Turaga Vukevuke ni Minisita. E dua na noqu vakavinavinaka vakalevu e na siga vinaka ni kua na kena vakamatatataki na Access to Education vei ira na lewenivanua. E dua na tikina qo meu vakavinavinakataka e na rawa ni cakacaka vata kina na Taba ni Vuli kevaka e rawa ni dua na

tukutuku me implement taki e na loma ni vuli me rau veiraici vata kei ira na qasenivuli vakailesilesi mai veiratou na manidia vakailesilesi ni koronivuli dave vata me dua na lawa me vauci yanu e na lomanivanua me qai laveti cake talega yani me ra dau rogoci tale ga me kau cake yani vei ira na i vakailesilesi i na Education office. Eso na veika e da raica tu qo me baleti ira na gone e ra tu qo e dua na kena vakaraitaki au na tukuna vei kemudou na veiwekani niu se bera ni tara na sova ni vuli na malumalumu levu au raica e na dua na i lakolako na noqu raica au sega ni beitaka e dua tale na matanity se o cei.

Na gauna ni kua e dua na leqa levu e da sa raica ni kua na noda veiveisausautaka na i tutu. Na gauna ni kua au dau vakaraica vakamalua na nodra kau cake na Ministry of Youth se na nodra yau bula na i tabagone me ra sa tu e na dua na veta ni vanua i cake. Na tabacakacaka ni taukei vaka me dau tu tale i ra. E dua na rai au qai raica na i tukutuku au qai vakaraitaka veiratou e na dua na workshop a caka mai Nadi vei ratou na Education Committee ratou Mr. Pita Waqaiqai. Au qai tukuna kevaka e rawa ni dua na curriculum ni vuli me laurai tale e na loma ni sova ni vuli me tekivu sara ga mai na sova ni vuli vei ira na kindergarten. O keda na gauna ni kua na teivutaki ira na gonevuli sa tekivu sara ga na nodra vakavulici take na mathematics, english kei na so na ka ni science. Vakacava me da lesuva tale mada e so na ka e da kilai kina na kauwai taukei e na so na ka e da rawa ni vulica me vaka teitei ni se bera ni da kauti ira cake yani me ra qai vulica na ka ni agriculture.

Me da tekivu mada ga mai ra. Au qai tukuna vei ratou dua na vosa o ira na dau tara vale e ra siga ni tekivu e na doka ni vale. E ra na tekivu e na foundation. Na i lakolako e da lakova tu i Viti na gauna ni kua ke da sa tekivu tu e na doka ni vale. Na foundation o tama kei tina i vale. Kedatou sa lai yacovi ira sara na i tabagone baleta na drugs e lako tiko qo. Au kerea tiko kina kevaka e rawa ni cakacaka vata na taba ni vuli kei ratou na lewenivanua me ra rogoci talega yani o ira na lewenivanua. Au vakavinavinaka ni rau tiko na turaga chairman, manidia kei na komiti ni koronivuli e na yakavi ni siga ni kua.

Na kena i otioti ga na Criminal Records Bill koya davo mai na 1997 second chance vei ira na gone. Au kerea na vakatutu qo na gauna ni kua au na vakairataka ga vakalekaleka. Me ra qai lako yani me ra lai cakacaka na gone i Vatukoula na gauna ni kua sa tarogi ga mai na police record. Mai na i sau $20 dua na gauna na gauna ni kua sa $51. O ira na gone e ra sagai me ra lai cakacaka me vakalailaitaki se minimise na nodra bula ni poverty au raica tiko e na lewenivanua. Kevaka e dua na ka au rawa ni raica me vakawabokotaki na police record. Na ka o ya me sa kau laivi talega baleta me me kua ni vakatatao vei ira na luveda.

Au sa vakamamasu e na siga vinaka e daidai ke dua tale na ka e rawa ni vakaduri se vakatarai cake meu tinia ga e na siga e daidai e dua na ka sa tekivu rawa e na yasana o Ba na Ba Care Network. Au a liutaka voli na komiti ya e na dua na gauna kevaka ke rawa ni cakacaka vata na vakailesilesi mai na taba ni lawa vata kei ratou na veivuvale ve ira kece na second chance. E dua na kena i vakaraitaki qo meu sa tinia ga e na siga vinaka ni kua. E ra qai biubui na gone me ra biubiu i vale o ratou na taba ni lawa e ratou qai raica ga ni a yellow ribbon me ratou qai vei kau ga mai. Vakacava tama kei tina i vale. Vakacavi ratou na gone i vale ke dua na i tuvatuva me cakacaka vata kina na vanua kei na liga ni lawa na nodra sikovi tiko baleta na nodra yaco i loma e bula kauwai tiko. Nodra lesu mai me dodonu me caka na tuvatuva ni vanua na nodra lesu mai e na bula ni kawai. Au sa vakatututaka e na sigalevu vinaka e dai e e dua na vakavinavinaka levu sara e na vuku ni tukutuku e sa mai kaburaki rawa na siga vinaka e daidai. Keimami sa vakanuinui ni da na raica vata na lawa sa mai vakatarogi e na siga e dai meu tukuna meu tinia e se ga ni ka rawarawa e lawa bibi tiko keda masulaka vua na kalou na dau ni veibuli me na vukei keda e na vuku ni lawa oqo.

Ni ma ni tiko saka kina na i liuliu ni matabose, kemudou na vakailesilesi au mai vakaraitaka ga e vica na tikina e na vuku ni veika au vakanananu kina e na yakavi e daidai sa va saka toka ya na kena levu.

MS. U. BAKEWA.- Ni sa tiko saka na turaga chairman, matabose cecere dou gole saka tiko mai ni kua. Na noqu vakatutu saka ga e na vuku ni Referendum Bill e vakamacala tiko o honourable Usamate me vaka ni tukuna tiko o koya ni volai ga vakavavalagi. Keitou kerea sara tiko na turaga ke rawa ni vakadetaki vakaviti. Dua saka talega na vakatutu ke rawa ni bau nanumi o ira na vakaleqai tu ena veitiki ni yagodra vakabibi vei ira na mataboko. Au kerea me vakadewataki talega ena vosa vakamatana se na brail na National Referendum Bill me rawa ni matata ki vei ira ka vaka kina vei ira e ra vakaleqai na nodra i tovo ni rorogo me rawa ni vakadewataki e na vuku ni sign language.

Education Bill

E dua saka na vakasama me baleta na Back to School Assistance e solia tiko na matanitu. Au kila ni yabaki oqo e dua na leqa levu e mai tara na noda vei koronivuli sega ni gone ga i Tavua e levu na koronivuli ni vuqa sara vei ira na gone e so vei ira e sega ni yaco mai na nodra assistance. Na kena vakaraitaki e lewe 20 na gone e Tavua District e rairai 27 na gone a sega ni yaco mai. Sa tekivu rawa tu na vuli e sa qai sasagataki tiko me rawa ni yaco mai. E sega walega ni o Tavua e na levu talega na vei koronivuli. Ke rawa saka na matanitu me dau lutu vakatautauvata vei ira kece na gone na Back to School Assistance.

Na lawa ni veimoku

Noqu vakatutu saka ga keitou a veitalanoataka tiko e vica na marama ke rawa ni vakalesui koronivuli na lawa ni veimoku baleta me kakua sara ni bibi na nodra veimoku na qasenivuli me kua ni yaco kina na mavoa. Baleta e so na gone e ra sa kila tiko na lawa ni veimoku. Ni ra qai dau lausaba ga va qo vua dua na qasenivuli sa dau totolo sara ga na nodra cici vei ratou na siteseni ni ovisa. Kevaka me da rawa ni dau raica ruarau na tikina vei ira na qasenivuli kei na gonevuli na lawa saka o ya.

MR. JOSAIA.- Education Bill. Ni vakaraitaka tiko na Access to Education kei na Compulsory Education. Au mada ga e dua na ka vinaka qo me ra vakauqeti na gone me ra lai vuli. Ia, e dua na ka votivoti toka qo vei keitou kei ira na qase ni vanua oqo na Turaga na Tui Tavua ni ra raica tiko e so na gone se wavoki tikoga e na loma ni koro qo. Qo ira sara ga na drop out. Ia, dua na taro levu e cava e rawa ni caka se na kaukauwa cava e tiko vua na matanitu me rawa ni vakasukai tale o ira qo me ra lai vuli. E sa na tukuni tiko ga ka kacivaki tiko e na loma ni koro qo o ira na gone me ra lai vuli. Na gauna ni bose va koro me ra vakauq eti tiko. Ni tekivu na vuli e so na gone sa vuli. Na taro levu ya na cava e da rawa ni cakava se cava e rawa ni cakava na matanitu me rawa ni ra vakasukai i koronivuli na gone baleta me rawa ni zero sara ga na dropout. E da rawa ni tukuna ni sega ni rawa e sega e dodonu me rawa. Na mechanism e tiko e na matanitu au vakabauta ni na rawa ni cakava.

Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu e na kena sa dola na zone. Sa soli vei ira na i tubutubu me ra lewa na nodra koronivuli sa vakavinavinaka sara kina vakalevu. O koya na ka ni fundraising qo ka na levy. Au saka na manidia tiko ni koronivuli. Au vakavinavinaka ni sa dola. Au tokona vakalevu kina me rawa tu vua na management me biuta e so na levy vakabibi na kedra i sau na neitou i Talatala kei Dikonesi. E dua na dredre levu keitou saga tiko me dau saumi. E sega ni rawa ni keitou solia na levy vei ira na i tubutubu baleta ni se bera ia kevaka sa ma ni vakadonou saka qo sa dua na ka vinaka kau sa tokona saka tiko.

Veivakanakuitataki

Au talega qo au a qasenvuli. E na vica na siga qo keitou veitalanoa tiko kei na so na turaga me baleta saka tiko na nodratou sa lave liga mai Namosi me cka na veivakanakuitataki. Ia qo saka ga na noqu nanuma. Au sega ni duavata ki na veivakanakuitataki. Me vaka e taroga saka tiko o Unaisi me vakarauta na kuita ia me vakarauta vakacava. Au sa raica oti e so na gone lako mai RKS na mawe ni voto ni moli i loma qo. Au a vuli talega i ke au sotava na veisaba lelevu ra dau cakava e so na qasenivuli. Au sega ni okata na noqu toso cake na vuli me vakavuna na kuita o ya, sega. E vakavuna mai na veitokoni mai vale kei na noqu rogoca na i vakasala sega ni kana kuita. Au vakabauta talehga o ira na qasenivuli me ra vakavulici vakavinaka, train taki vakavinaka ka me ra digitaki talega vakavinaka o ira na qasenivuli. Me kua ni lako i kea na qasenivuli me baleta walega nona i lavo e tiko e rawa ni kauti koya i loma ya. E liu e dau caka tu me ra dau interview taki na qasenivuli. Kevaka e ra digitaki vinaka na qasenivuli ka train taki vakavinaka me rawa ni ra cakava e dua na ka kevaka e ra sotava e so na gone na dredre cava e rawa ni da cakava me ra kua ni guce ia me kakua ga na veivakanakuitataki baleta e so na kuita e sivia sara me vaka vuna me dro talega o gonevuli. Eda taroga cava o sa sega ni via lai vuli kina? Sa dua na ka na veivakanakutataki.

Criminal Records Bill

Au vakavinavinaka saka ni na boko. Ia, dua na dredre au sotava tiko e ratou lewe vica na gonevuli cauravou toka qo au tarogi ratou tiko iko sega ni via lai cakacaka. Na taro sotia vakarau lako mai qo. E tiko e so na nomu criminal record? Sa tukuna saka o koya, io, na ka ni mateni, noqu dro taka dua na motoka ia au vakavinavinaka ni na rawa ni boko kece na record o ya. Ia, e dua na bolebole e tiko koya na ka e tukuna tiko o Ratu Ovini na ka da sauma. E dua talega na ka e vakayalo lailai taki ira tiko ne nodra sasaga me ra curu i na vaqara cakacaka.

Na system nodratou na ovisa na gauna e sa dau lai apply taki kina. Keitou i Tavua dau lako sara tiko beka i Ba.

Na nodratou dau vakadewataka na i tukutuku me totolo na access taki na record. O koya saka ga o ya.

MR. V. KOROI.- Au vinakata ga meu taroga e dua na ka me baleta na National Referendum Bill. Au vakasamataka lesu tale ni sa qai vakayacori mai qo e dua na komiti na National Referendum Bill qo baleta me rawa ni rogo kina na domoda e na yavu ni vavulewa. Ia, na taro e tiko o cei mada e vola na yavu ni vavulewa qo? E sega ni rogo tiko kina na domodra. Me da tou sa qai cakava qo na National Referendum Bill me rawa ni rogo kina na domodra. Ke sa rawa ni boko na yavu ni vavulewa ni 1997 e rawa talega ni da tou bokoca qo na 2013 Constitution. Me na qai rogoci vinaka na domodra na lewenivanua ni sa qai buli na noda yavu ni vavulewa.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- E da sa na dabe toka mada ga e na vakatulewa e sa biuta oti na Supreme Court.

MR. T. RAI.- E na vuku walega ni kena gadrevi tiko o ira na gonevuli e na kena vakanakuitataki au rawa ni kaya kevaka ni o keda lotu vakarisito. Kevaka e da se cakava tiko na veivakanakuitataki na kena i balebale e da bokoca tiko na i vola tabu. Mo vakanakuitataka na luvemu ni na qase mai e na sega ni gole tani mai kina. Na children rights sa lako tiko qo sa lako tiko qo i vale, sa biu o tamana kei tinana sa lai yaco tale tikoga i koronivuli. E so e vacuki qasenivuli. O koya go na au kaya tiko kina ni da kaya tiko ni da lotu vakarisito. E ka bibi o keda me da davo ga mai e na ka kaya na i volatabu. E da qai cuva taucoko tiko da masu tiko vua na kalou ia da sega ni cakava no loma ni Kalou.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Keitou dau cakava tale tikoga e dua na vakadidike keitou na komiti qo. Na veivanua kece keitou lako wavoki tiko kina qo au kina e raica beka o qasenivuli vakacegu na lave liga e caka mai Namosi.

Na i naki me keitou via raica sara mada o cei e ra tokona kei ira e ra sega ni tokona na vakasama qo. E dau rua na taro keitou taroga wavoki tiko. E na veivanua kece lako kece tiko mai kina qo sa i karua ni macawa qo i Viti Levu keitou sa na biuta mada yani vei kemuni na turaga kei na marama e rua na taro.

Na i naki ni taro meu vakamacalataka rawa niu se bera ni u biuta na taro. Na lawa na yavu nivavulewa, nalawa kece e volai tiko qo i Viti e buli me baleta na tamata. Na yavu ni vavulewa, na lawa kece iko kila tu i Viti qo e buli me baleti me balati keda.

Kevaka e dua na ka e sa vinakata o ira na lewenivanua me veisau sa nona i tavi na matanitu me cakacakataka me veisautaki. O keda e levu na gauna e da reverse tiko na noda rai. E sega na lawa qori e buli me baleti keda na kena i balebale it is up to me if we want it to change, e da vinakata me veisau da tukuna.

Keitou na veitokani qo keitou lako wavoki tiko qo keitou collect taki data tale tikoga. Ia na gauna keitou na lesu kina vale ni bose lawa me keitou sa na vakasuka kina na tolu lawa vakaturi qo. E vakabibi ni keitou cakava tiko na data qo e na lawa vakaturi ni vuli. Keitou e sa na kauta kina me dabe kece o ratou na lewe ni vale ni boselawa, Prime Minister, Speaker, Liuliu ni Tao Veisaqa me na qai ytukuni ve ira oqo na vanua keitou lakova mai. Qo i ra vinakata me veisau na lawa (on record) me soli sara tu ga na figures and data. Me da kua na guess. E levu na ka e da tukuna tiko va qo e da guess. Keitou qo lako wavoki tiko qo na veivanua kece keitou lakova mai keitou kerea tiko me ra lave liga me tarai tiko na i wiliwili. Me vaka au sa tukuna oti na lawa e buli me baleti keda ia o keda talega ni da vinakata me veisau matanitu e nona i tavi me veisautaka. Baleta na cava? O keda digia na matanitu. O ira na dabe tiko i loma qori o ira na noda mata. If we want it to change me veisau taki.

1. O ira e ra vinakata me vakasukai lesu mai na veivakanakuitataki e na loma ni koronivuli.

<u>Vote Cast</u>

Tokona - 34

Sega - 0

Me kua ni vakayacori na veimoku i koronivuli.

Tokona - 0

Sega - 34

Na i karua ni taro qo e ka bibi duadua. Kemuni na rogoca ni a vakamacalataki tiko na i vukevuke ni Minisita ni Veika Vaka I Taukei na Compulsory Education.

Na lawa ni vuli ni 1966 koya e da vakamuria tiko qo e rua ga na clause e vosa tiko kina me baleta na Compulsory Education. Ia, na lawa koya sa vakaturi tiko mai qo na matanitu cokovata na lawa me baleta na vuli e dua sara ga na part qai vica vata na kena clause.

Na taro qo keitou na taroga vei kemuni baleta ni o kemuni i tubutubu. e vakamacalataka toka na i vukevuke ni Minisita ni Taukei kevaka sa sega ni lai vuli na gone na Vunivola Tudei sa tiko vei koya na kaukauwa me ilova mai cava na vuna e sega ni lai vuli kina na gone. Ke sega ni dua na vakamacala matata Vunivola Tudei sa tiko vei koya na kaukauwa me kauta mai dua na Court Order mai na mataveilewai me issue taki vei tubutubu dauniveisusu na gone me kau i koronivuli. Kevaka sa sega ni vakamuria o tubutubu na liga ni lawa sa curu mai ke ya 12 na vula i loma se totogi $2000.

Na taro keitou na taroga qo e vakabibitaka tiko vei kemuni na i tubutubu baleta na lawa qo e na kati kemuni.

2. Kevaka ni tokona na kena kati ira na i tubutubu na lawa me baleta na nodra sega ni lai vuli na gone.

Vote Cast

Tokona - 34

Sega - 0

Kemuni na turaga kei na marama na neitou data sara ga dou sa solia mai ni kua.

Ia, sa balavu tiko noda dabe au nanuma meu summarise taka mada ga vakalekaleka na veika e da sa veitalanoa kina.

Na lawa ni vuli e vakatututaki tiko mai qo ka mo dou nanuma tiko qo se bera ni lawa. Na komiti qo na veika kece keitou sa tomika sa tu qo vei keitou e loma i keitou e so na ka keitou na via veisautaka. O ya na ka keitou rogoca mai vei ira na vosa mai vei keitou.

National Referendum Bill

E vou ia na kena i walewale e sega ni vou vei keda. Na yacana, kena cakacakataki e sega ni vou vei keda. E tautauvata sara ga kei na veidigidigi e vakamacalataka tiko qo o Honourable Usamate.

Na gauna e sa na caka kina na referendum na speaker e na notify taka na Turaga Peresitedi me na qai issue taka vua na Supervisor of Election me caka na referendum. Na polling statons kece i Viti e activate. Na machinery kece ni veidigidigi e yadra kece e yavala.

Na process ni referendum e tautauvata ga, curu mai check taki na nomu ID, curu i ke cross na yacamu, soli nomu pepa, lako na voting booth oti ya o lai drop taka nomu pepa, iqi na ligamu tuba. Same thing. Na ka walega e tukuni tiko i kea o lai sauma ga na taro, yes or no.

E na lawa vakaturi ni referendum e tiko qo e tukuni tiko kina e rawa ni caka sara tu ga o koya vata kei na veidigidigi. Kevaka e sa ma ni caka vata kei na siga ni veidigidigi o ni na digidigi vaka rua. E dua ni na digi mata e dua ni na saumi taro.

Keitou sa vakaukauwa tiko qo o keitou vei ratou na bulia tiko mai na ka qo raica na ka ni bulia tiko mai qo e vou i Viti. Me lui rawa na veivakararamataki. Oqo keitou sa liu tale tiko qo o keitou na cakava na i otioti taudua ni ka. Sa na qai nodra i tavi o ira na mai veivakararamataki me ra mai veivakararamataki keda. Ia, na uto ni ka qo exactly the same as the election. You have to be registered mo rawa ni vaka i tavi e na referendum 18 years and above. O ya na ka e sa volai tu e na lawa vakaturi qo. Na cala kei na offenses e tiko e ke e

tautauvata ga kei na offenses e tiko e na lawa ni veidigidigi. Na totogi ga koya qo e mamada. Na totogi e na lawa ni veidigidigi e bibi but completely the same. O ya na referendum. Kevaka mo ni vakamuria tiko na veika e na matanitu cokovata qo e gu tiko o koya me cakava e dua na veisau ni yavu ni vavulewa ia qo na kena katuba. Dou sa vosa kina ni kua na turaga kei na marama sa ka levu na vakavinavinaka na veika dou sa vinakata e sa neitou i tavi me keitou na cakacakataka.

Criminal Records Bill

In a nutshell, e sega ni cala kece e na boko. Na lawa ni vakaturi ni Criminal Records Bill qo e sega ni tarovi iko mo apply taka. Kevaka e cala levu se lailai e na sega ni tarovi iko. Au sa tukuna ga yani qo kevaka e bibi na nomu cala e sa na sega tu ga ni boko. Me da kakua ni vakalusia na noda gauna baleta ya sa commonsense ga. Kevaka o laba sa sega tu ga ni boko nomu record. Na lawa vakaturi e na sega ni tarovi iko mo apply. O rawa ni o laba, rape iko sa mai tu i tuba rawa ni apply. Ia, au sa tukuna tiko yani qo na bibi ni nomu cala sa rui cala bibi e na sega tu ga ni boko. O ira sara ga na cala lalai. Na kena katuba kei na walewale sa tiko o ya. E da na lai apply vei ratou na Ministry of Justice. E tiko koya sara boko ga vakasauri e na mataveilewai. Kevaka o sa vinakata me lai boko nomu criminal record rawa ni butako, burglary whatever na matai ga ni ka e ra na raica mai na veracity ni offence. What is the offence? Ke sa bibi sara ga va qo so sorry baleta me yaga me da fair.

Au nanuma meu vayagoyago vinakataka na veika e tu e na loma ni Criminal Records Bill. Me da nanuma tiko ya qo na i tuvatuva sa tiko va na komiti qo na dabe ni Palimedi e na vula o Evereli. Ni oti qo keitou gole sara i Vanua Levu me keitou la i macawa rua se tolu me keitou cakava talega na ka e caka tiko qo me tarogi na nodra nanuma ni se bera ni keitou vaka suka na lawa vakaturi qo i loma ni vale ni bose lawa. Ke ni ma ni taroga tiko na gauna cava e sa na caka kina? Na neitou i tuvatuva na dabe ni bose lawa ni vula o Evereli me sa suka yani na lawa, lave ligataki sa oti sa rawa.

Au sa nanuma meu sa tinia eke na noda veitalanoa na yakavi vinaka ni kua. Sa ka levu tiko na vakavinavinaka vei kemuni na turaga kei na marama e na loma ni nodatou koro i Tavualevu na i tikotiko vakaturaga vua na gone turaga na Tui Tavua. O ira na mataveiwekani e ra dabe tiko e na yakavi vinaka ni kua mai gusui keitou tiko na veitokani keitou gole tiko mai na yakavi vinaka ni kua e ra veitalai tiko mai na gone turaga na Speaker e na vuku ga ni veivakararamataki kei na buli lawa e da mai cakava tiko e na yakavi vinaka ni kua.

Sa ka levu na vakavinavinaka ni dola tu na katuba ni vanua na veiciqomi, veitalanoa. Au mai domo i keitou tiko mai tauca tiko e dua na vosa ni vakavinavinaka sa sega ni balavu sa va toka o ya na kena levu.

The Committee adjourned at 5.50 p.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

DAY ONE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION TO ROTUMA ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL (BILL NO. 4 0F 2026)

VENUE: (1) Council of Chiefs Chambers, Ahau
(2) Itumuta District Hall, Itumuta Hall

DATE: Wednesday, 26th August, 2026

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL HELD AT AHAU GOVERNMENT STATION ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH AUGUST, 2026 AT 2.06 P.M.

Present

(1)	Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	Chairman
(2)	Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure	Deputy Chairman
(3)	Hon. A. Bia	Member
(4)	Hon. J.N. Nand	Alternate Member
(5)	Hon. Ratu J.B. Niudamu	Alternate Member

Ministry of Health & Medical Services

(1)	Mr. Toga Vosataki	National WASH Coordinator
(2)	Mr. Luke Vonotabua	Acting Chief Health Inspector

Ministry of Health & Medical Services Officials in Rotuma

(1)	Mr. Luke Savu	District Officer
(2)	Mr. Kelekele Inikasio	Senior Subdivisional Medical Officer

Submittees/Interviewee: Rotuma Council of Chiefs

(1)	Gagaj Maraf	Noatau Chief
(2)	Gagaj Vuan	Juju Sub-chief
(3)	Gagaj Kausiraf	Oinafa Chief
(4)	Gagaj Fikitua	Malhaá Chief
(5)	Gagaj Manav	Itumuta Chief
(6)	Gagaj Vakatua	Itititiu Chief
(7)	Mr. Rave Tiuhea	Malhaá Mata
(8)	Mr. Saau Injimo	Juju Mata
(9)	Mr. Ravai	Oinafa Mata

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for our *sevusevu* ceremony. Before we start today, on behalf of the Speaker of the Fiji Parliament, it is an honour and privilege to be here this afternoon, especially in Rotuma.

(*Introduction of the Committee Members and the representatives from the Ministry of Health)*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will repeat the words, we are fortunate to be here in Rotuma. I believe most of us have been here already. But if I need to be corrected, I believe two of us from your Parliament, this is the first time for them to land on our beautiful island of Rotuma. Our presence here is from your Fiji Parliament through the Speaker of the House. We have been going around Fiji for the last three months and today is Rotuma. There is a Public Health (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 4 of 2026). It was tabled in Parliament earlier of the year. The responsibility of the Social Committee is to take this Bill around Fiji and Rotuma for the public consultation process. Altogether there are 69 amendments to the Bill. The Bill was enacted in

our Parliament in 1935. Ninety one years after, it will be taken to Parliament to amend that sixty-nine clauses in front of us, and it is being detailed in that handout that I will go through with you this afternoon. Our discussion areas will be based mainly on the 9 key objective areas. Honourable Members, we will work on that, and we will be in a better position to advice. The main reasons why we are here, to hear from the people of Rotuma concerning the 69 amendments in front of us. I want to hear your opinion, if you want to suggest any positive and constructive changes. When we talk about penalties, whether it is too high or too low, when we talk about the standard of our living. This is the first time for this amendment Bill to be involved all our villages around Fiji. When it was enacted in 1935, it was solely mainly for the people in the urban centres because they are looked after by the municipalities. For them, it was convenient because they paid their rates and the services that were provided for them like the collection of their rubbish, their streetlights, their networking system, their roads and everything else. These services were provided to them because they pay their rates. But in this amendment Bill, the Ministry of Health has given us the opportunity that all villages must be involved in the amendment of the Act. They will give us a holistic overview of the Bill, especially, the introduction of the Bill, before we will hear all your responses, whether it is a written submission, whether it is a face-to-face, or whatever you request to us to amend the Bill, today here at Rotuma. Hopefully, after our session this afternoon, we will be able to collect your ideas from how you look at the Bill, all your responses which will help us when we go back to Parliament to do our report writing and take it to take back to Parliament, ideally in the September sitting. In this case, I will ask the Ministry of Health officials to give us an overview of the Bill before we proceed to the 9 important objectives, which is covered in the last sixty-nine clauses in front of us.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, and honourable Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, the Chairman of the Council and the members of the Rotuma Council, the District Officer Rotuma (DO) and the Subdivisional Medical Officer (SDMO) for Rotuma Subdivision Hospital. As was mentioned by the Chair of the Standing Committee, the Public Health Act 1935 is 91 years old. There are about 17 parts, 142 sub-sections and 26 regulations in the Public Health Act. The overall intent of the Public Health Act is to maintain the cleanliness and the good hygiene in the surrounding environment and to protect the health of the public and to prevent future outbreaks of any disease. We have had a lot of the outbreak of diseases around Fiji, like dengue and typhoid. There was also an outbreak of leptospirosis starting two years ago with the COVID-19. Basically, the Public Health Act is there to protect the health of the public and to prevent the future outbreaks. For the review of the Public Health Act of 1935 is to modify or modernise an almost century old legislative framework to align our Public Health Act to the global best practices. What used to happen 91 years ago is different from what is happening now with the new diseases that are prevalent and that is why the government, and the Minister of Health are proposing for the review to be done. In front of you, there are about 69 changes that had been proposed in the table. In front of you, there is what Ministry of Health, and the Government feels that should be changed and they are to modernise the Public Health Act. You will agree with me that our surrounding environment affects our health because if we do not maintain the cleanliness of our villages, our communities, if we do not clean the trees, the mosquitoes will go and lay their eggs and breed. When the population of the mosquitoes increase, they will spread certain diseases in the communities. If we do not maintain and protect our water supply, what will happen? The bacteria will go in the water supply and the members of the community will contract diarrhoea and typhoid. If there is constant rainy weather, our children will become the vulnerable population because they will be playing in the flooded areas. If we do not keep the animal properly, they defecate and urinate around. When our children go and play and if they have cuts, bacteria can enter their bodies, and we can have an outbreak of leptospirosis. The point that I am making is that our surrounding environment is very important to us. Therefore,

cleaning and maintaining the cleanness of our surrounding environment is vital for a healthy community. This Act covers a lot of environment issues that can affect us.

Let us have a look at the Public Health Act which covers the maintenance and the safety of water supply, the nuisance, offensive trade, the importance of enforcing, empowering the officers to enter a community and do inspection. In the proposed amendments that is there, you see that there are powers that are given to our health inspectors and the staffs of the Ministry of Health to enter our communities and do inspection. When a sick person is presented to the hospital, the health officials have the power to go back to the community and to do a disease investigation and contact tracing. That is one of the important things that we do when somebody is sick of communicable diseases. We need to know where that person was, how did s/he contract the diseases. That is important because we need to cut, and we need to end or stop the spread of that communicable disease. Furthermore, the amendment is done to strengthen the work of the health officers when they visit the communities, strengthen the protection of our water sources, strengthening the work on the prevention of mosquito borne diseases amongst others. There is a special part in the Act on mosquito control because of dengue fever. In this amendment, we want to take our preventative measures to another level to stop the spread of dengue fever. The government is spending a lot of money every year to advocate for the prevention of dengue fever, which includes time and medication that the ministry buys for treating people that are sick with dengue. We feel that if we do the prevention part properly, we will not have a lot of people going to the hospital. Our surveillance data, on a monthly basis, on a quarterly basis, on yearly basis is indicating that there is a lot of people, especially the *iTaukei* population have contracted dengue fever, leptospirosis and typhoid compared to other races.

This data is indicating to us that our health-seeking behaviours are reactionary. Sometimes we feel that when we see that an outbreak happening, when people are getting sick, then we tend to, we need to clean the community up, we do the clean up now because people are sick. We want to see things happening before we take action. When we are told to clean our compound and to make sure that we protect our water supply and do the preventative part, we will not do these things until we see three or four people get sick in that community, then we will start to talk about it. Hey, this family, three families, four families are getting sick. We should start cleaning up. We should take precautions. So that is how we are. And what we also found out that a lot of the people come to the hospital only when they need the tertiary care. Meaning, when people are sick, they stay at home. They stay home and they take herbal medicine, massage and so on. When that same person is about to die, then the relatives take them to the hospital. When they bring the sick to the hospital, you will require a mercy flight, which will possibly involve SDMO. You require a mercy flight, or when you come to a health center, you will need an ambulance to take you to a bigger hospital for tertiary care. This is one of the pertinent reasons is why we are proposing for these changes. You will also see that there is an increase in the penalties. These penalties are in the proposals of the 69 clauses. These proposed higher penalties are not there to burden people, but it is there as a deterrent. With the current Public Health Act, if an inspector comes to one of the communities, and one of the houses have receptacles where mosquito larvae are breeding in them, you will be charged $10. You go to the court, you pay $10, and you do not address the issue. And tomorrow again, the mosquitoes will come, will continue to breed and spread more infections. However, in the amendment Bill, we want to put the fines up so that we can deter people from continuing to keep their surroundings unclean and unhygienic that can cause communicable diseases. That is basically what the review of the 69 clauses that is in the Public Health Act are about. We want to strengthen the work that we need to do in the communities in trying to break the chain

for infection in our communities. We feel that if we break the chain and we can empower the people to take ownership of their health and the surrounding environment, we will reduce the number of our community members that will be going to the hospital.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much to the Ministry of Health officials. I believe that was the overall overview of the amendments of the 69 clauses that is in front of us. And hopefully during our discussion time, we will go through the 9 clauses from the 69 clauses which are pertinent to the public health. Those are the subject areas that we discussed today. Those 9 major key areas of discussion are all based on the 69 clauses that are in front of us. Feel free to interject with us or just raise your hand for the purpose of recording our public consultation this afternoon. You have to give your name and which district you come from. If you are a civil servant, then say I am the district officer of Rotuma or whoever. From our end, we hope to hear a lot from you. I am not sure what time you have received the amendment Bill, but we leave here on Friday, we will give you another opportunity during the discussion with your respective districts or even at the village levels. If you see fit that there are other needs where you did not discuss today apart from the other areas. The venue that we will go through today and tomorrow, and if you need to address it at your district level, you go, feel free to discuss those issues at your district level. Our secretariate staff are around and hopefully most of the discussions that we need to know more about what is happening in the Bill, it will always come after. And it is part of how we do things, especially from our level.

You have proven that some of the good ideas do not appear here, maybe because of the limitation of the time or how we look at the people inside the room. It is a Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026. The team from the Ministry of Health have really given us a very holistic overview on the importance of the amendments. I will take us through from clause 1 to clause 14. If you look at the clauses 1 to 14, it is mostly about the importance and the key areas of responsibilities. I will give you the reference right now. If any of the members of the committee and the hierarchy of Rotuma are here this afternoon, if you want to choose any clauses from 1 to 14, feel free, just raise your hand and we will bring over the mic to you. Whether you need to talk on the subject area, if you need to say that there should be an amendment or whatever thereafter, you need to discuss it with us. On time limitation, because we have another public consultation this afternoon, hopefully that we will go through this one with you at least one hour or so. The key objectives of the Bill, when you look at it from your perspective, and how the laws have dealt with these amendments to the Principal Act from 1935. If anybody want to give it a try or give it a go, from any clauses from 1 to 14? Mostly about the bylaws, the purpose of the amendment Bill, when we talk about how best we can protect and look after the cleanliness and the good hygiene of each village or within our communities, they are all within the perimeter of those 14 clauses in front of us. Vinaka, is there somebody out there who will give a try. We need your name and the village that you come from. If it be to say your title or whatever, feel free to do so. Thank you.

MR. S. INJIMO.- Mr. Chairman and Members of the Social Affairs Committee, I am the district representative for the District Juju. The Public Health Act 1935 is outdated and urban-centric. While we support modernising the Act to address new diseases and emergencies, any new law must reflect the unique geography, governance and culture of Rotuma under the Rotuma Act and all rural areas and maritime islands in Fiji. Number one, how should the law deal with non-biodegradable waste? The current system that is been practiced here in the island is that we bury them. To modernise this, may they be removed from all maritime islands using a government franchise boat to take them to recycling factories. A workable system must be in place before any penalties are imposed. Number 2, sewage and sanitation. The proposed requirements are not realistic for rural and maritime communities. A fine of $1000 if my existing facility is not up to standard. We do not have drainage and sewage systems like the

urban centers, but we do have our own system of drainage and sewage, and it should be allowed to be used as it is allowed in our old Rotuma Act Health Regulation. Our quarantine centers, if there is an outbreak and the hospital is full, then all isolation centres must be outside of the village perimeter. Number 4, all medical waste must be removed from all maritime islands quarterly to dispose of. Number 5, our ship health. Every boat coming to Rotuma or any maritime island must report sickness on board 24 hours before arrival. Number 6, this Bill has fines up to $10,000. We know that laws are made to serve us. And this Bill will be passed into law and will be enforced. But let us involve our chiefs and respect our cultural way of solving things, especially in rural and maritime islands, where the cost of living is very, very high.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for your very impressive presentation to us. When we listened to your presentation, you have covered the whole sixty-nine clauses and thank you very much for that effort put it your presentation for us. We kindly request a copy of your presentation for our reference in our amendment process of this Bill. If a copy can be handed over to our secretary who are here with us. Whatever you raised, they are all taken on board. It is a positive response from the rep of Juju district.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- Mr. Chairman, I am from the district of Itititiu. This is all the vicinity of the district of Itititiu. I would like to share something about waste management. Well, our brother here had already covered, so I will just briefly add on to what is needed. Recently, I gave a proposal to the council regarding waste management. Since we are stuck to a mindset of the old ways, how to dispose of our waste. My recent trip to the Cook Islands, I have learned a lot on how they manage their waste. For Rotuma, we will start. Before I gave the proposal to the council, I had already started this practice within my household and my community, then my district. We already started phase one without funding. But yet, we need consultation as to how to manage our waste wisely, how to dispose our waste. I believe that there is a need for landfills and recycling mostly plastic. And it came to my attention that the importation of plastic is way more than we can handle. I have arranged with some of our communities as to collect all plastics, cans, ceramic, and our general waste for proper disposal. But this is the main focus, as to reduce the pollution to our environment, mostly our waterfronts, right now there is a lot of pollution in our waters, and it is already affecting our marine life. And I believe we recently had a survey by Prestin Seas, they have witnessed the damage we have done. And it is not only here in Rotuma, but it is all around Fiji. And this is where I think we should start, consult our people and educate them how to handle their waste. In addition, we need the assistance of the government for potential funding. But I know we are here to talk about the Bill, but there is a need for the people to know what to do and who should we consult. I believe the changes that have been made by me, it is a great change because there is a lot of negligence within the community where we lack to educate our young children. To be clear from our side, we very much appreciate the changes. This is where people will wake up for their health and the community. For us to work, we need to be healthy rather than be sick. I know there is a lot of changes. Some people might not understand, but it is up to the leaders to clarify every details as to the need for waste management.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for that. Let us give us a run-up on what you have discussed with us. Firstly, there used to be a body from the Ministry of Health that undertake all these responsibilities. Way back in 2018, we used to have this rural local authority. They play a critical role under the Ministry of Health. Their main task was to focus on our rural people, looking after their waste management, their collections, how best we can demarcate the 3Rs, how we repurpose our rubbish in a responsible manner. Part of this Bill, in these amendments is to get the rural local authority back in operation. They were the right

people to refer to when you talk about the rural people. Likewise, in the urban centres, the local authorities are the municipalities. I have already said that from the beginning of introduction today and to get that rural local authority back into this amendment Bill, they are the ones that they will be representing us through the Ministry of Health to the public. Fo awareness, if we talk about how we will get the people to be aware, our first task now is to get this Bill tabled in Parliament. The Ministry of Health has indicated that after it is tabled in Parliament and to be a part of legislative by law in Parliament, they are requesting to be given another year. Going down to the people around Fiji and Rotuma, they will talk about the importance, the awareness part of how all these amendments will take place, especially to the rural people, because it is totally new to us. We cannot deny this, so these are all under the process. First, we have to get this first amendment done. Once we have made it in part, it will be part of our bylaws, then we can work on our regulations like the policies. And I am happy to say that the rural local authority is part of this amendment, which they will be the body, through the Minister of Health, to look after what Sir has indicated to us this afternoon. Ministry of Health, can you just give us more interesting information on that, or the discussion points that we will discuss it now? Ministry of Health.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee, and members of the Rotuma Council, certainly I agree with what the honourable Chairman has already alluded to in terms of providing service in the rural areas. One of the big changes that the Bill intends to put in place is to bring back the rural local authorities. If passed in Parliament in the next sitting or the next two sittings, then we should see the reintroduction of the Rotuma Rural Local Authority (RRLA) and of course, the council members usually consist of a member from the RRLA, the District Officer, the SDMO, and they look at issues pertaining to sanitary services for the island. One viable option is regarding the removal of white goods from the island. This is something that can be explored through the ferry that serves us. There was a mention about sewage treatment in some areas where the septic system might not work as well as in other areas. This is something that the local authority can also investigated. Viable options that can vary in different settings as well. Septic systems might work in areas where there is nice loamy soil, but in other areas with high water tables, it might not work as well. There are other options that I think, and this is something that the local authority can investigated once they are being reinstated. In terms of waste management, I think Rotuma has taken a step forward in two fronts. One, looking into the medical waste, which was a big issue, of course, in the makeshift setup that we have on our island. We are looking at that, we have done trainings and development of healthcare waste management plan. And of course, a new system that is adopted in the district. And this is something that we can roll out to the rest of the districts within Rotuma and pumping in some funding through the local authority to assist communities in improving the way that they manage their waste, jumping or investing into 3R, reduce, reuse and recycle, investing into composting, to reduce the amount of waste that we discard in our premises. I support, again, the sentiment said by the Honourable Chairman. This is certainly something good to look forward to for the introduction of our local rural authority.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Ministry of Health, Sir, the floor is open for you now.

GAGAJ MANAV.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, just a question that I would like to raise this afternoon. We are under Labasa Municipality from before, so this is something that the DO and I are looking at. Since the Members of Parliament are here, we are asking if Rotuma can be placed under the Suva municipality because things will be much easier. Instead of being redirected to Labasa, things would be easier and faster, in terms of development if we are under Suva. We are currently under Labasa, and it is hard

for us to wait for all this assistance. I humbly plead since, Members of the Parliament are here, Sir, please can you confirm to us and tell us how we can work and connect Rotuma to Suva.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Sir, this is totally new information for me. We will take that on board as part of the discussions today. I hope to come back to you if there is any decision done by the respective municipalities from Labasa back to Suva, which we totally agree that you should be under Suva. I am not sure about how the other honourable Members look at it, for Rotuma to going all the way to Labasa, it seems to me that it was during those unforeseen days.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, I would just like to add on to that. What the Honourable Chairman was alluding to earlier and what I had explained further is that when this Act is passed in Parliament in the next sitting or two sittings, you will no longer have to report to Labasa town council. You will report to RRLA. All your approvals will be approved here in Rotuma. You do not have to go anywhere else, not to Labasa and not to Suva. That used to be the practice prior to 2018 and in 2018, when they abolished local authority, Rotuma was left under the care of Labasa municipality. Similarly, the people from Lau faced similar predicaments. We had to go from Lau to Suva and then Suva to Levuka to get services and it was quite an irksome arrangement. Now the Bill proposes that we scrap it, and we bring back the rural local authorities. For development, for waste management, for sanitary service, Rotuma will be responsible for Rotuma. Even the licensing and everything, it will make everything easier. No one will be travelling to come and inspect. They will say, okay, we will send an officer over. After one month or two months and they have not arrived. Now our officer here, will do the inspection and approve within the same day or within two days, just like prior to 2018.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that it is very clear to everybody because it is good news. Moving forward, we will go straight to clauses 17 to 25. It is mostly about the penalties. I believe this is a very sensitive area which we need to talk about with the team here. The penalties vary according to severity of the offences. If you look at it, some from ranges $20 to $200, even from $1,000 to $5,000, depending on the severity of the offences. I will ask the team from the Ministry of Health to give us some light on the importance of these penalties, from clauses 17 to 25.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Thank you, honourable Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee, and members of the Rotuma Council of Chiefs, and of course the government officers who are here. This is something that we felt is very important to maximise compliance from our community members. Now, I always mention this when we do public consultations around the crowd. The main reason why there is a Ministry of Health is to protect you, your health, you, your family, your communities, your district and your village. But the big problem that we face is you make yourself sick by what you do on a daily basis. You create risk that causes you and your family and your community to get sick. In order for us to deter people from creating such nuisances that can make others or even themselves sick, we have decided to increase the penalties. Before the penalties in the Public Health Act used to be $2, $4, $10. Back in 1935, that might have been a very big amount of money. I found a very old 1991 local newspaper edition. There was an advertisement of a cartoon of beer which was selling for $7.85. Imagine $10 back then was of very big value, but now $10 is just a packet of cigarettes or just two bags of kava. If someone creating a circumstance that can cause someone to be sick and spend like $10, it will not deter that person from discontinuing that from that circumstance. We felt it is very important to increase these penalties so that when you hear

about it, you will say, okay, I need to clean up, otherwise I will pay this huge amount of money. The proposed penalty have now increased for nuisances and there is a ceiling of $1,000. And that depends on the type of nuisance you have; you will be charged with the amount accordingly. The maximum is $1,000 and take for example, your septic tank is leaking in front of the next-door neighbour's house, and the children are playing in that area and then the flies go to the sewer waste and land on the food. They can get sick and when the health inspector comes and says, this is a very serious health offence, you need to fix this. If you do not comply after reasonable warnings, you can be charged the maximum of $1,000 because the leak poses a high risk to the health of the community. But if you have a wastewater pipe that may be going into the common drain, that can be around $200. There is a matrix that will be used to determine the fine. But the maximum is $1,000 and the minimum is $100. And there is a whole lot in between there so, if you have a pig shack just beside your house and your neighbour cannot sleep, they are getting the bad smell all the time, this is something that you can be charged with also. That is why we are trying now to deter people by increasing the fines.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Let us go straight to clauses 26 to 37. If you look at the copy with you, they are about nuisances. We have discussed part of it as well as the offensive trade. I will ask honourable Bia to give us a run through on the subheading.

HON. A. BIA.- *Vinaka*, if you look at the changes that has been shared by the honourable Chair, one important one is number 39. It talks about a penalty from $20 to $2,000. Now you might ask, why is that increased to $2,000? Just for background, from 1935 up until now, just like what the health officials have been discussing, most of the penalties are from $2, $5. To modernise the way we look after our health and the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, the Ministry of Health proposed that some of the penalties that are here need to be increased so that we have the responsibility of protecting all our community members, especially the vulnerable like our children and elderly from these diseases that can spread easily and can be very costly to us in terms of life. Now onto 39, $20 to $2,000, in English, there is a phrase used in the amendment, and it is 'venereal disease' which includes is HIV/AIDS. Now if you are one, that you have been proven medically that you have HIV/AIDS, and when you come to the island, then you purposefully or willingly spread it to other youths or other people that is on the island. You can be charged and fined for $2,000. That is why it has been increased because of the nature. In addition, if you notice in the news lately, there have been an increase of our youth getting HIV/AIDS. That is why it is important to protect the community members. Now a lot of places that we have gone to had raised a lot of concerns because by law, if anyone contracts the HIV/AIDS virus, we cannot release the names. Now that is under the HIV/AIDS Act and we are bounded by it constitutionally to protect the privacy and the rights of such individuals. All we can do is introduce this high fine in the Public Health (Amendment) Bill as a deterrent. That is why the amendment, one of the 69 amendments, number 39, is to increase that fine. You will be charged with $2,000 when this is passed in Parliament. You can also be taken to court if you continue to do so, and this is one of the important amendments in the 69 amendments. The health officials have discussed about the word "nuisance". Now, anything that can cause harm or can spread diseases in our communities, consider harm and nuisance, you can be charged for it. This Act gives the power to the Ministry of Health officials. Now, if they come to one of the villages in the Itititiu district and they say, "okay, there is garbage here, there is littering, there is empty containers and tyres, that are breeding mosquitoes, which is why there are a lot of dengue fever cases in the Itititiu district." Now when they come in and they go and check and verify, okay, this house, there are empty containers and there are empty tires that are breeding mosquitoes all over, that are causing dengue to spread across the Itutiu district. You can be charged and fined according to the 69 amendments that is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that is clear when we talk about our surroundings and the importance of looking after our healthy living and hygiene, the way of how we look at all the breeding places for mosquitoes and that has been clarified by honourable Bia. We will move along. We are up to 42, from 43 to 48. We have covered that when we talk about offensive trade. If you need further clarity on that, raise your hands so that we can re-explain. We will look at the obstruction from the public when we talk about the role and important tasks played by the Ministry of Health officials during their duty-bound areas. If you look at 40 to 48. Obstructing any official from the Ministry of Health in performing their task in front of us, you are liable to be penalised for that. We have cases in the Western side whereby the staff of MoH come to perform their tasks in the communities, they were chased away by the dogs. Even one of our staff was taken to the hospital, whereby he was assaulted with a four by two piece of timber on the head. Hopefully, it will not happen in Rotuma because they are here for us. They come especially to recommend improvements on how we look after our health and at times enforce cases that are of serious health concerns. They want to ensure also that we are all in good health and good hygiene. There are a lot of qualified people in our communities to serve us here in Rotuma and the obstruction of the staff of the Ministry of Health is a serious offence. We will go straight to 49, right up to 52. and to 54. I believe this factor was covered by the Ministry of Health, the diseases that mosquitoes can spread to us. We talk about dengue fever, so on and so forth. In the other areas, we talk about leptospirosis and other diseases. It is all part of our healthy living and hygiene and hopefully that we understand if somebody will need further clarification, from clause 1 right up to clause 50. Remember, I did mention that out of 69 clauses, the main key areas are only 9. That is why we are discussing it from clause 1 to clause 14. Other than that, some of those are indefinitely just the definition, the amendments from the Principal Act. There are two amendment bids that here in front of us. Any questions? or recommendations?

MS. R. TIUHEA.- I am the relieving *mata* for Malhaá District. There are a few things that I wanted to ask. One of this is regarding the reintroduction of the rural local authority. From the beginning of the discussion, we started talking about the changes that we want proposed up to the abolishment of the rural local authority in 2018. The issue is, if the rural local authority is reintroduced, as our council have heard, that means that there will be a body set up in Rotuma. That is my assumption of what it will be like a rural local authority in Rotuma. So the question is, when it comes to fines and things like that, does the local authority or the body that will be set up, if this is passed, will they have the power to come up with localised penalties, for example, for Rotuma, or everything has to be in accordance or it has to be stated clearly in the Bill. One of the issues that we had was the understanding of my chiefs that the inspector is allowed to give spot fines or fines for those who do not clean their compound. The reality of things is even though our chiefs have constantly been reminding the communities to do their part, there are some people who do not follow instructions. Is this where we clearly need the Health Inspector to reinforce these laws. As we have just been informed by the inspector that she does not have the authority to give spot fines because it is not under the laws that she is currently working from.

If the people are not following the request of the chiefs, will this rural local authority have the power to do that? And if it does not, can we propose in this submission that for the purpose of Rotuma and how well operations can be done here in terms of fines, if they can be spot fines, the inspector can be given authority to give spot fines to families or individuals who do not follow warnings. For example, the increase in the number of filariasis cases. I am from Malhaá district, and I do believe that our doctor can also attest to that, there is an increase in cases filariasis Malhaá district. It does not mean the ones that had contracted filariasis are the

ones who need to clean their compound. It can be my neighbour, but just because the law enforcers do not have the power to enforce fines, some people go scot-free. When it comes to the level of authority that this local authority can have, the question for the council is this. There are numerous times when some laws are introduced with noble intentions that it will work for the people of Rotuma. Critics have said that if these laws cannot be enforced by the police and processed through to the courts, then it will not receive the complete support of the people of Rotuma. This is one of the big challenges that my chiefs and our Council of Rotuma face these days. It is not only with the Ministry of Health but is prevalent with other ministries with similar laws that cannot be dealt with by the police. There are a lot of incoming Rotumans to the island, where majority of them, out of respect for my chiefs, do not respect that if it is not written in black and white. They believe that they can do their own things and not follow the traditional protocols. The question is, what powers do my chiefs have if this rural local authority is reinstated? For the last issue, can we take a look at Section 106, concerning boreholes. We have three boreholes in Rotuma. How well can our boreholes in Rotuma be protected? We do have fences that is to protect the borehole but say if somebody has bad intentions, the best place for that person to unleash his / her ill intention is to contaminate borehole. How is the Ministry of Health with this Committee planning on making sure that our sources of drinking water secured for the people of Rotuma?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will ask honourable Bia to answer the first part of it, and I will take care of our boreholes.

HON. A. BIA.- Just on the first issue that you have raised, in terms of the powers that is given to the health inspectors, and the second one is whether, if rural local authorities empowered, can they introduce spot fines? Now, for the two issues that you have raised, it is clearly covered under the 69 amendments. The first one, if amended and passed, in Parliament, it gives the power to the Health Inspector to do fines according to what the law has transcribed. Now regulations will come later that it may provide more clarity in terms of how the fines will be introduced. If you look at how the fines written in the amendments, it is not more than $1,000 and the discretionary powers is given to the health inspector or to the environmental health practitioner based on the severity of the offence. This will be introduced and passed in Parliament, and it gives the power to the health inspector or environmental health practitioner to do fines within our community. And your second question was if the local rural local authority is introduced, can it introduce new spot fines? This amendment has all the fines, so the rural local authority cannot introduce new fines under this act. Once this is passed, all of the officials under the rural local authority, the power vested within the health inspectors, they work only on the fines that is prescribed in the amendments. If it is passed by law, the health inspector will have the full power to enter your communities and carry out the responsibilities under its role description. And if there is a verification of the offence committed, you can be fined wherever you live, in the 7 districts of Rotuma and especially the district of Itutiu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope your first question has been taken care of, the second one which is actually the last part of this amendment Bill. It starts about how we look after our water source catchment. In the village, I believe this is very important to us. We can talk about our water source, whereby we have an open water source up in the hill or close to any place which we see fit that is good for the consumption of all the public. If we have a catchment in our village or wherever, as part of this Bill, it clearly states that even the landowners, whether it is leased or not leased, nobody should be planting or cutting trees where our water catchments are. And I hope that is very clear. Even the landowners, whether it is leased or not lease, the power of these amendments for the protection of our water source, no one can use that area for planting, cutting down trees, graze of animals and even to get some gravel out of that source for other use or other purposes. It restricted in this amendment so the water sources and

catchments will be out of bounds to everyone. Secondly, if you are being reported for damaging the pipes from the source to the village within or wherever, in this amendment Bill, you can be penalised with the stipulated the penalties. And if you cannot pay for your fine, you can be taken to prison for even three to six months. Maybe you have to go all the way here to Suva to relax in Korovou, or maybe at Naboro, for some time and when you learnt your lesson, then come back and see the importance of following the law. Since this will be the law of Fiji and Rotuma, all citizens will be bonded within this Public Health Act. When you talk about wells and boreholes, same principle applies. I hope that you got some boreholes here, even if you have some dug-up wells within our villages. Within 50 square metres, you are not allowed to build any toilet or whatever. Close by within those 50 square meters and this applies to the borehole. And you cannot build your own houses close to that area because we understand, once the house is built here, the water sources can be contaminated. Perhaps, I will ask the Chief Health Inspector to give us some more light on that. It is very important we talk about our water sources, Ministry of Health.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Thank you, honourable Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee and Social Affairs and Rotuma Council members, I think a lot has been covered by the two members. I would like to talk on the effect of mosquito borne diseases and all that you mentioned about the lymphatic fluorosis. One part in the Principal Act, part 9 talks about mosquitoes. In the Amendment Act, we are proposing a lot of new amendments to do with the control of dengue fever and other vectors borne diseases. In the Principal Act, you will see that it is mentioned that if an inspector comes to a village and comes to somebody's premises and sees that the container has larvae inside. The inspector will issue a notice and $10 is the fine. If the fine is paid, the person does not remove the nuisance, the owner of the house is not obligated under the current law to remove the nuisance. If the fine is paid in court, the owner of the house can return to his /her home and is not required under the current law to remove the nuisance, which defeats the whole purpose of such regulations because the problem has not been solved. However, in the new proposal there are a lot of other things that we have added to control dengue and other vector-borne diseases, including that when an inspector comes to a residential place and sees that there is an empty container, a tin or maybe a coconut shell, not holding water, but it is just there, it becomes a receptacle , a person can be fined. And again, if an inspector come to a household and see it has a receptacle or coconut shell or tins holding water without any mosquito larvae, that is another thing. And if an inspector comes in and see that particular receptacle has mosquito larvae, then I think the fine is more than that. This is what we are doing to prevent the vector for disease.

I know that lymphatic is common in the Rotuma. In other places, we have dengue fever and other vector-borne diseases. We are doing this to control vector-borne diseases. I am aware that every year we have an outbreak of dengue in the medical centers, and the government is spending a lot of money. As of now, we have a lot of people that are coming to the hospital, but we have an outbreak that burdens the system in the health system. That is where the thought of introducing this so that it becomes a deterrent. And I think there was also a mention about one of the council members on the ships and the quarantine that is covered under another Act just reviewed lately. The Quarantine Act that covers the vessels is coming in, including the aircraft that is coming from overseas. Rotuma is also a port of call and any vessels that is coming from other countries to Rotuma, what you have mentioned is already there, that the master or the agent of the vessel will inform the head of authorities about the last 10 days, the last port of call of that vessel before coming here, or if there is anybody sick on board the vessel and the aircraft. These are issues covered in this piece of legislation, but vessel arrival from overseas is covered under the Quarantine Act. In addition to what honourable Chairman had

mentioned about the protection of the water sources, that is mainly to prevent typhoid, and the other diarrheal cases that we have. In the proposed amendment, we have also proposed that if a person goes to a water source and starts to do farming other activities where the water sources, a person can be fined. Or if a person goes and touches or damages the water pipe or the water tanks that the community uses to drink, a person can be taken to task. There is a case, I think, in Ba, two or three years ago. It was suspected that somebody went and put a carcass in the well or in the borehole and it affected the population. This is where I think the changes are coming in. So again, it addresses the issues you mentioned. If somebody wants to interfere or want to damage or want to do anything to the water sources that is serving the community, they can be taken to task under the new amendment if it is passed. That is very important because we want to protect the health of the public and the human health, and that is why we are introducing these new things in the proposal.

I think if you also see part 9 of the Principal Act, it has something on ships, and if people that this is local vessel are sick with some infectious disease, we have also in proposed new amendments, because of the number of complaints that they were receiving because of unhygienic and the abhorrent living conditions in some of these local vessels that are serving our islands. There are a lot of issues raised with the Ministries to the Government with a lot of photos that has been circulated in the social media about the vessels, the vulnerable, the condition of the vessel and general cleanness. These are some of the reasons why we are introducing these regulations and consistent spraying of vessels that is serving the franchise. We have talked with the MSAF and it is not covered under the Act in terms of the cleanness and the hygienic condition of the vessel that is serving the maritime. Therefore, in the proposed amendments, cleanliness and the hygienic conditions of all the vessel. For example, the inspector can board Goundar Shipping, the inspector can board the vessel to check for unhygienic conditions and can issue them a notice to rectify the health issue(s). Communications will be done if a vessel goes to Suva and then to Vanua Levu, the inspector from Vanua Levu after seven days or 14 days will check the vessel to ascertain whether the nuisance had been removed and the condition of the vessel is hygienic, and this will not cause any ill health to the people that are travelling in these vessels.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Ministry of Health. The Gagaj of Rotuma and the 7 districts that actually covers the whole sixty-nine (69) amendments, which we filtered down to the nine major subject areas, and our discussion today has created a lot of opening of eyes and ears when we received your submission. But I will give you another opportunity, for the last time if anybody wants to give his/her opinion or ideas on the 69 amendments on that clause, I will give you another last opportunity.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- I will stick to one major issue regarding the sewage system on the island. If there is a need to change how the septic system, who will be responsible for funding this?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Very good question. I will ask the team from the Minister of Health to explain how they enacted the proposal clause that covered the sewer where we are all living. A good question, who will pay for it? Hopefully, the officials from the Ministry of Health have something positive for this question.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee, the Rotuma Council and government stakeholders that are here. In terms of solutions to our sewage systems, there is a lot of those that provide assistance and at the very front will be the rural local authority. If they are able to assist, they will. If it goes beyond their budget, you can access funding from the program that I look after with the Ministry of Health

which is the WASH program. And any major funding that is beyond my budget can be looked after by the Department of Water and Sewage. And of course, there is also, I think, high risk sanitation with the DO's and Commissioner's Office. There are a lot of avenues that we can access in terms of getting solutions to our sewage system and the most important thing is identifying the solution that works for that locality so that with that we can get a scoping done and funding can be finalised on budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that answer your question.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- Yes, thank you very much. I know there is a lot that we need to know, but yet I have another question. Concerning filariasis and the mosquitoes. I know lots of the communities is technically, literally in the bush now. When we talk about coconut shells lying around, how about the ones in the forest close by, the bushes close by? Will that be included as yours or is it the ones in the forest is ok, because that will actually lead to mosquito breeding grounds.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- A very sensitive question. Just give us a brief history of health on the importance of that, because we know wherever we go, there is a coconut tree. It would be impossible to have lots of coconut trees and no empty coconut shells or rotten coconut shells that can be breeding places for mosquitoes.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Thank you, honourable Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee and the members of the Council. I will ask the SDMO and his team to come around to the districts to talk more on the mosquitoes and the vector borne diseases. But very briefly, there are 26 species of mosquitoes in Fiji. One is named after Rotuma. There is a special mosquito named after Rotuma. Out of the 26 species of mosquitoes we are worried about only two or three species of mosquitoes that can transmit dengue fever and filariasis. We are not worried about the rest of the mosquitoes, because there is day-biting mosquitoes and other types of mosquitoes in the forest, in the mangrove, other places which do not spread diseases. We are worried about the mosquito that bites early in the morning and late in the afternoon. That is why our health team spray the communities early in the morning and late in the afternoon because we are targeting them. In the media, they talk about the white and black strip mosquito. Strip mosquitoes, white and black are one that causes the dengue. That is the one we are targeting. We are not worried about the rest of the mosquitoes. There are some mosquitoes that bite in the night. They say some in the midday or afterwards. That is a nuisance about the mosquitoes, but we are not worried about these ones. It might be a nuisance, but the one that is transmitting the diseases, are the ones that we are targeting late in the afternoon and early in the morning. We have learnt about entomology of mosquitoes too because if you want to know about the enemy, you must learn about the enemy. That is why we studied the mosquitoes and when they are active and when they are not.

We are focused on those two or three types of mosquitoes, including the mosquito that spread the zika virus at the moment. There are 26 species of mosquitoes in Fiji. But we are worried about the ones that spread dengue and filariasis. The mosquitoes that spread dengue are the one that bites in the morning and afternoon. An interesting fact about the mosquitoes that transmits dengue, is that they like to breed and live in the clean water. That is why when we do our surveillance for mosquitoes, we focus in and around the households because that is where people with intermittent water supply, store water in the drums that may not be covered. That is where the mosquitoes that spread diseases like to breed. And if you see the inspectors coming to the house, they will check the flower vases. These vases that the ladies put inside

the house are very good breeding places for mosquitoes. They do not like muddy water and the mangroves. They like the clean water and so that is why our focus is always on tires and tins near or around the households. These tires and tins become receptacles that can hold water when it rains. Hence, when we do inspection for some mosquitoes, we do not go to the bush, we do not go to the plantation and carry out spraying for mosquitoes. We spray the household because these mosquitoes, live close to the houses. I hope that I have answered your question.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- Sorry, but I have another question. This is regarding the waste, how the Ministry of Health is handling waste on maritime islands. I know it is a problem. I am not sure, is there a process on how the Ministry of Health handle their waste, like used needles, syringes? Is there any, because I do not see any in Rotuma. Would you like to clarify on, is there a process as for the Ministry of Health handling the used syringes, the needles in the maritime islands?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs and the members of the Council, I will answer the first part of the question. I will also give time to Dr. Inikasio to talk about the hospital waste management in Rotuma. As much as we want to ensure that there is no direct exposure to our staffs, we are also concerned about how we manage. And that is why the ministry also has guidelines on the infection prevention and control. There is a guideline where all ministry of health staff, follow in all the hospitals. And under the infection prevention guideline, it directs officers about waste management, water, sanitation and hygiene. I have mentioned that we would like to break the chain of the infection and all our subdivisions in Fiji have undergone the training and healthcare waste management plan. Healthcare waste management plan covers the responsibility of every staff that is working in a particular facility, including from the people that do the injection right up to the people who collect the rubbish. When we talk about clinical risk, we talk about the environment and how it exposed the environment and the degradation effects. But for us, we are more concerned about the exposures of our staff to these clinical risks because they become direct people that are handling these wastes. At the end of the day, at 4 o'clock, somebody will come and tie the plastic, somebody will come and pick the plastic, somebody will transport the plastic, somebody will store the plastic, the drivers will come and pick the plastics, and they take it to the dump, somebody will manage the risk.

In the healthcare waste management plan that we have introduced to all the subdivisions, we make sure that all the staff know their responsibility in managing waste. And part of the plan is that we want them to reduce the amount of waste that they generate from the point of generation. So that is part of the training that we continue to do with our staff. We know that there is a lot of negligence there. In the healthcare facilities, someone may put the wrong waste in the wrong bag. We have the black bag, the yellow bag, and other bags that we use as colour coding to separate the waste. But we continue with the training of our staff so that the right waste goes to the right bag, and it is managed well. Recently, in the Western Division and SPEC, just commissioned a new high-tech incinerator that all the Western Division will be using. And there are also plans for other places in Fiji. In the Northern Division and the Central Division. I think the SDMO will inform us how they are managing the waste there, but I know that they are taking care of the waste shaft containers very well and transporting it to the mainland. But that is the focus of the government and the ministry in terms of the clinical risk, how we handle, how we manage, and how we want to ensure that we are not exposing our staff to clinical risk, infectious agents, and trying to reduce the exposure to the environment.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- Thank you very much for answering. Will Rotuma be able to have our own incinerator for the hospital?

GAGAJ MANAV.- Thank you, honourable Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee. The question raised by Gagaj Vakatua was a topic with the council three years ago when the Minister of Health came to open the hospital. We did have a discussion with our Minister, and about the construction of an incinerator at that time. I am asking today whether the project will continue because we have agreed to give it to the Ministry of Health to build the incinerator. If the incinerator is still on, we will go ahead with the land prepare operation to have an incinerator done. The last three years we had the discussion that we will have an incinerator. I want to ask because lots of things happened on the island and that issue of incinerator as we discussed last three years, and we will still give the land if the project still continues with the Ministry of Health.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The response from the Minister of Health, I will come back to you. And hopefully that there should be a positive response from the Minister of Health. Remember, as you being tabled to the Members of Parliament who are here today, it always carries weight that we have feedbacks with relevant information from the Ministry. The discussion of the landfill is opened, they had already agreed to that. This was part of that project. When you look back at the opening of the new hospital and hopefully can give us some guaranteed time to come back to them. Ministry of Health, please.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, and honourable Members, we are thankful that the Members of the Standing Committee are here. They are now, they are noting the request that we will follow up with the Minister and our Asset Management Unit on the plans for the incinerator return to the hospital. And that we will get in touch through the SDMO

HON. RATU R.S.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Just before we finish, I understand the leaders of Rotuma are seated here before us. Just with a show of hands, if you support the proposed fines, if you support the proposed fines that the Bill has proposed, please raise your hands. If you do not support, do not raise your hands. The reason why I ask is, as leaders, you need your people. Your people are the ones that need to be getting the fines. If they do not follow the law. My question to you as leaders, if you support the proposed fine, like what the MoH has highlighted, there has been a huge jump in the fines. I am asking you this question because if your people commit an offence, they are the ones that will pay the fines. So, what are the thoughts of the council on the fines? If you support the fines, please raise your hands. If you do not, then do not raise your hands.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- I believe, you have our full support since we need change. This is the best time to change. I believe as a member of the council and all our council members; we all support the changes.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Sir, for the positive responses of the amendment Bill in front of us, and we can see positive changes that is coming up in regards to this amendment Bill. Hopefully, we will give you another opportunity one last time, if you have any further questions, especially when you go back to your respective districts, if there is a need, when you discuss it further, any amendments, any discussion of further clarity the amendment Bill, feel free to come back to us. Hopefully, we will be able to table the amendments to this Bill back to Parliament by the end of next month. You gave us a very clear deep discussion on how you looked at the changes on these amendments.

With those few words, on behalf of the Speaker of the House of the Government of Fiji, we thank the council of chiefs of the seven districts who are here for your time and availing

yourselves to be present and give us a very clear discussion about the areas that needs to be clarified in regard to the amendment Bill.

The Committee adjourned at 4.01 p.m.

The Committee resumed at 4.45 p.m.

Interviewees/Submittees:	**Itumuta Viti Kei Rotuma District Hall**
(1) Gagaj Manav	Itumuta Chief
(2) Gagaj Vakatua	Itutiu Chief
(3) Ms. Makerite	Itumuta health worker
(4) Ms. Lavenia Samuela	Secondary school teacher
(5) Mr. Aisea Olson	Farmer (Itumuta)
(6) Ms. Rosarina	Housewife

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I would like to thank you very much for starting with us this afternoon here at the chiefly village of Itumuta. On behalf of the Speaker of the House of Parliament in Suva, I take this opportunity to welcome all who are here this afternoon. Thank you very much, Sir, for the *vanua* for accepting us. Thank you very much to the community for your presence here this afternoon.

(*Introduction of Committee Members)*

There are the two Members who are still on their way. They will join us later, but we will start off with our normal discussion in regard to the Bill in front of you. I hope that we have a couple of those. There are 16 clauses which we need to discuss this afternoon. This is in relation to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 4 of 2026). I will give you a historical background of the Bill. The Bill was enacted by our government way back in 1935 and it is over 91 years

(*Introduction of representatives from the Ministry of Health)*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will just take you through the history of the Bill. I already mentioned it was way back in 1935 when this Bill was enacted. It is 91 years old. They call it Public Health (Amendment) Bill. And for the first time, after 91 years, this Bill was mostly for those people who were in the urbans area. It covers them for the purpose of looking after their health, welfare, sanitation and hygiene. This is the first time that all the villages around Fiji, including Rotuma, are bound by this amendment Bill. We are looking to table in Parliament at the end of the coming month. If that is the case, we are still in the process of doing one more public consultation. All of these are covered and as mentioned in our discussion earlier today. This is the final presentation to the people of Rotuma before we present the Bill back to Parliament. Before that, I will ask honourable Bia to take the lead role in leading us in our discussions this afternoon.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, and the officials from the Ministry of Health. Now the honourable Chairman have shared a brief background about what is in the document that is in front of you. The Public Health Act from 1935, 91 years now, it has not been changed. The Ministry of Health has proposed to Parliament that for the first time ever, there need to be amendments to the Public Health Act so that it goes with the lifestyle that we are in at the moment. In addition, for the first time ever, after 91 years, this Public Health Act only governs those who are in the urban centres. For the first time ever, this will include all of us. Wherever you stay, whether you stay in the villages or in the maritime islands, this covers all of us. Now we have had a session with the chiefs, the Gagaj, and that is why I called the Gagaj up here, to just briefly explain in your language on the importance it is to us and why the Ministry of Health has proposed for the 69 amendments and the key amendments that are in the amendment Bill.

GAGAJ MANAV.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Parliament and Committee. Welcome to Viti Kei Rotuma Itumuta District Hall, ladies and gentlemen, the intention of the Public Health (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 4 of 2026) is to make the law and fines relevant to our lives nowadays and to help us with keeping of the villages and districts clean. The Rotuma Council of

Chiefs and the Standing Committee of this amendment Bill just concluded our meeting where we were briefed on the purpose of the Bill and its importance and relevance to our health and well-being on the island. This Act is over 91 years old and need to be amended hence the presence of our Parliamentarians here today to help us understand the Bill, the changes and how the changes will help us in the island. The Principal Act has fines as low as two, five and ten dollars. The proposed changes will see a huge increase in fines to act as a deterrent to keep our villages, our districts and island clean and our people healthy. The Rotuma Council of Chiefs have accepted the amendments to the Bill, especially the proposed fines. Therefore, based on the amendments in front of you, the floor is now open to you to give your views on the amendments in this Bill. The work of the Health Inspector (HI) will be integral in this Bill because the cleanliness of our homes and villages will come directly under our HI. We also talked about our rubbish in general and that which belongs to the hospital and how the hospital will manage theirs, especially the used needles, syringes and other rubbish that may come from the hospital. There was also talk of an incinerator for the hospital. The proposed land had been given, and we are waiting for the Ministry of Health to finalise their commitment from their end. Now, you may freely express your views on the amendments to the Bill to ensure that it will capture your thoughts and feelings about the proposed changes.

HON. A. BIA.-Now, any questions that anyone wants to ask about what the governments had shared in regards to the amendment? Now, while we are here, as alluded to by the Chairman, our discussions today is very important. We are so fortunate of the fact that Rotuma is our last place for our consultation before we go back to Parliament and finalise before we pass it as a law. Like what the Gagaj have said, it is important that here, within the 69 amendments, there are fines. If you do not look after your surroundings or if you do not clean your surroundings up, there will be fines within the Public Health Act. There are also powers given to the Health Inspectors to come and do spot fines or penalise you in your residence. As alluded to by the Gagaj, one of the main important issues here is about mosquitoes breeding places. Now, for example, if one of the Gagaj says, okay, Wednesday is the day for us to clean the whole village. Now, if there are households or if there are people who refuse to clean their compounds and when inspection happens or if there is a dengue fever case in Rotuma and it is presented to the hospital, then it is verified that this case is from your district.

And upon further investigation, in one of the houses, has never been cleaned, and there are empty containers and tires inside the compound that are breeding places for mosquitoes. Now this is where the owner of the house will be fined. Anyone wants to ask a question regarding or anyone is confused about what Gagaj had said. Let us quickly go to the document that is there. Out of all the 69 amendments, we have narrowed it down only to nine which directly involves us as villagers and communities living in the maritime islands. Now from 1 to 25, you look at number 14 and number 18. You can stop me wherever you want to, simply raise your hands, you want to ask for clarification or question. The mic will be given to you since our session is recorded and you can say your name, which village are you from, then you can raise your issues or ask your questions or clarification if you need to do so. Number 14, I will give it to the health officials that are here. It is about Health Inspectors or Environmental Health Practitioners coming to your villages or your communities, the protection that they get. Now there are instances in which they are threatened, but I will stop there. I will give it to the officials of the Ministry of Health to thoroughly talk about the protection that is there and the obstruction.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Thank you, honourable Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee and members of the community here in Itumuta. Section 14 is about the obstruction, a clause that specifically is put up to protect our officers that work on the ground and they are; villages, and districts. Now, since the enactment of the Act in 1935, there is nothing there that guarantees the safety of our officers when they do go out. Some of our officers have been sworn at and some were threatened. In some cases, some of the residents, released their dogs to chase away our officers. And

there was one case where they were threatened with a key knife. And one extreme case was when one of our officers was hit on the back of the head with a 4x2 timber, leading him to be admitted for a few days in hospital. These are some of the things that our officers face on the ground while they are trying to protect the lives of the members of our communities. What we want to do now is, while we continue to work to protect you, we should have a clause in the Act that protects our officers as well. For example, you are at your house and one of our officers comes to conduct an inspection around your house. If you chase them away, if you swear at them, if you prevent them from coming into your premises to conduct an inspection, this will be deemed to be obstructing the duty of the officer and that comes under that clause 14 or section 14 of the Bill and if found guilty of that offence, the maximum fine that can be imposed on you is $500. Some communities have suggested that we increase the fine from $500 to $1000, but it is with the Committee. The Committee will have the final say on that. But if you obstruct them from them conducting their duties, and found guilty of that offence, you will be paying $500 as fine or imprisonment for 3 months if you cannot pay the fine.

MS. MAKERITE.- I am the village health worker and I am fifty-one years old. I think regarding all those threats that were given by their families, I suggest that the Health Inspector (HI) should formulate a better communication strategy with the district chiefs and the people. I think those threats here in Rotuma usually happen, when there is poor communication and follow up visits with the village Health Worker (HW), the sub-chiefs and chiefs of the district. When a HI gives prior notice of the visits and the nature of the visits, one week prior, and the line of communication captures the district HW, district sub-chiefs and chiefs, there will be no instances where the HI's arrival will be a shock to the district and the villagers will be ready to receive and corporate with the HI. The people of Itumuta are always ready to work and collaborate with all government personnel. I believe that threats of letting the dogs out to threaten the HI might sound funny, but I think here in Itumuta, whenever we were asked or told them to prepare for the HI's visit, we prepare and welcome the HI like an honoured guest. I am glad that those threads did not come from Itumuta. I suggest to the HI officer that she give her letters stating when she will be visiting so the people of the community know what is happening.

The villagers will be interested because once they hear that the HI will be visiting on a particular day, the villagers prepare their immediate surroundings and inside their homes for her checks. I think the villagers will be very responsible for the government workers, because in Rotuma, the home is open for everyone. But you have to present yourself to the people in a manner that they will want to receive you, and everyone will be happy. In some instances when HI talk harshly, the people will not want to communicate or cooperate. If the government want us to work with them, I think there is something too that our head of department can do. The HOD should train their staff, especially, when it comes to rudimentary diplomatic etiquettes. I know they are well trained on how to communicate and how to discharge with the appropriate course of action with polite words like please or thank you. For instance, when we go to see the doctor, he will be smiling even though, you have been sick for 3 weeks and now have decided to come and see him. Instead, we see his smiley face and with this very humble attitude, we know the doctor is understanding, we the patients know that even though we were wrong, but we feel like a child who is loved by a father, when the doctor treats us with understanding.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee, thank you so much, community health worker for that. I know that, you know, generally no one intends to do anything bad at any point in time, but there are some circumstances that might result in some, like rash behaviour. For example, if you have a brother and your brother's wife, the sister-in-law, who always want to be the boss of the family, and the house is behind your house, and there is a little bit of cat fighting with you and your sister-in-law goes to the health official and say, okay, my sister-in-law, the waste water is coming into our compound and we are getting sick. When the health inspector gives the notice then a fire is sparked. When we come with a sister-in-law, you will not be seeing us

with the same lens that you are seeing us today. You will be seeing us as someone who is taking the side of your sister-in-law. And that is why you will say. And you will want to throw the stone, and that is where that section 14 will come in. It is there, whether we are coming in, there is only a dispute, whether we are coming in, there is no dispute, we want to safeguard our officers. Under all circumstances, we have to let them work without any fear or any risk happening to them.

HON. A. BIA .- Any other question? If not, we will continue to move forward with the discussions on the document in front of you. If we look at number 18 and number 39. Just before he speaks, for those of us that are here, please look at number 18 and number 39. It talks about fines. After this, we will jump into the discussions about the fines.

MR. A. OLSON.- Mr. Chairman, this is with regards to the rubbish. When we look around the island, there is lot of beer consumption, and the bottles of beer just scattered mostly anywhere. Will there be any solution on how this rubbish can be managed. Can the Ministry of Health or the Government help in trying to transport all this back to the mainland? This is hard for us here because the freight for the boat to load these bottles is very high. Will there be any other plans or plan B to be able to return all these to be reused in the factories in Suva. And things like the tires and I am wondering what is the best solution for all these discarded plastic materials? Burning will also destroy the atmosphere. I am raising this because I went into a committee in a couple of months ago, and then they tried to put our rubbish into different bins. I was wondering what we are going to do with all this stuff, whether we bury or burn? Will there be any answers from our Members of Parliament that are here this afternoon?

HON. A. BIA.- I will give it to the Minister of Health to address this. Just after that response, please look at number 18 and number 3.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, thank you so much for the concerns raised. This is something that your representatives of the council had raised earlier in our meeting at Ahau. This is something that we will be looking to provide solutions to, once the Bill is passed. We will bring back the rural local authority because (Council of Chiefs Rotuma) they can look at some solutions that can address these problems. I think the best way to approach these things is the buyback. The local authority can arrange systems where we buy back the bottles, we stockpile somewhere, and then the company buys it from the people, stockpiles it. When the boats come, then they take it across and send it to the bottling factory. There is a lot of beer drinking here in Rotuma. Likewise for the PET bottles, if someone can do the buyback here, compact it so it does not take much space, and then transport it back to the mainland. They also can sell it at the Coca-Cola factory. In terms of tyre, these buyback companies are buying back tyres to be used for other purposes like designs and flowerpots and things like that. Therefore, this is something that can be addressed by the reintroduction of our Rural Local Authority, who will work closely in providing solutions that we currently face here in Rotuma.

HON. A. BIA.- I hope that it addresses the question that has been asked. Now, number 18 and number 39 talks about fines. Now, as we have alluded to earlier, the honourable Chairman and those that have spoken before me, one of the important amendments in the Public Review Amendment Bill is the increasing of fines. Now, from 1935 up until now, some of the fines still stand at $2, some at $5, some at $10. Now, with the new amendment, they have increased the fines to $200, some 500, and some fines $1000. Now, if you look at number 39, there is a certain fine penalty. For number 39, it jumped from $20 up to $2000. Now, there is a word that has been used in that allocated number which is venereal disease. Now, it talks about venereal disease for those that have contracted HIV/AIDS which is the serious case and other less serious like syphilis or gonorrhoea. Now, if you are one of those known cases of HIV/AIDS, if you come to the islands and you willingly or purposefully, or you are intending to continue to spread it to the youths or whoever you are sleeping

with, you can be penalised or fined or taken to court for a fine of $2,000. Now, that is how important that issue is. Lately, if you watch the news, there has been an increase in HIV cases in the mainland. There are also a lot of people raising concerns on the increasing number of our young people that have contracted HIV/AIDS. Now, with this review and with this amendment and with the proposal, the Ministry of Health, have proposed from $20 to $2,000. When you are a known case, you know that you have HIV/AIDS, you not allowed to continue to spread it around wherever you go. Now you might ask, how can we know by law the Ministry of Health cannot reveal those who have contracted HIV/AIDS? It comes under HIV Act and under our constitution, it protects the person in terms of the right to protect the information. When a person with HIV knowingly infects other, and the victims presents the symptoms to the hospital. There will be a verification process. Once the details of the sexual partners are revealed to the medical officials, they will cross check with the list of individuals with HIV. If a name on this list is captured as one of the sexual partners, this individual will be processed and dealt with according to the proposed amended fines and imprisonment as an alternative to the fines or both. Any questions?

MS. MAKERITE.-Yes, Sir, regarding the fines for the households and the HIV fight, I agree. I asking why increase the fines? From $50 or $2000, will it pay off for somebody's life, it will not bring back that person life and health. Should we detain them somewhere so they will have the freedom to go, but or just like a sick bay somewhere, like be quarantined somewhere. Why increase the fines when you cannot do much about the person, you cannot reveal who that person is, and increase the fines?

HON. A. BIA.- I will give it to the Ministry of Health to clarify the issue.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, I will try and be as plain as possible so that it is easy to understand. Say for instance, I am a member of the Rotuman community. I returned from Suva and the doctor has told me from Suva that I have contracted a particular vulnerable disease. It can be syphilis, gonorrhoea or any other type of sexually transmitted disease. Now the doctor tells me, go and drink your medication and no random unprotected sexual intercourse. And then I come to the village and then I decided to do the opposite of what the doctor had ordered and had unprotected sexual intercourse with your daughter. And then I give her that sickness. And then I did the same with other people's daughter here, another two or three. And I pass it to them too. This particular amendment is for me, I will be charged $2,000 if I do that. I know that I got the sickness, but I pass it on to other people. Since I knowingly passed the HIV/AIDS virus to someone, that person has got a death sentence. And if I pass it to two or three people, that means I have taken these naïve sexual partners to an early grave. The worst-case scenario if these two or three infected individuals, unknowingly and unintentionally spread the same virus to other people, then it will be a big problem for a Rotuma. We cannot give the information that is protected under the legislation, under the HIV/AIDS Act, as mentioned earlier by the honourable Member. But we can do this. We can tell you; you have got it, do not spread it, if you spread it to someone else, we will fine you $2,000. And we will know because when someone comes to hospital with symptoms, this person will be required to reveal the names of his / her sexual partners for the last few weeks. If your name is capture as part of the list, and this is how the health officials will know, and they will be empowered to charged you with the $2,000. That is just to protect you and the members of the community. I hope it is clear to you.

MR. L. SAMUELA.- I have got a question. So just on that $2,000 fine, you explained it well, and it is quite clear, but I think you should relook at this $2,000 fine because like you said, it is a death sentence. If this person is not able to pay the $2,000 fine and already passed on the death sentence, then what is the purpose of having this $2,000 fine? I agree with Makerite's idea. If you have information about people who are HIV positive, then maybe you should isolate them somewhere so that they do not pass the disease on to other people. I understand they are humans, they have their

rights, but maybe you should go to those extreme measures because if they are already dying and they are not going to pay the $2,000 fine, so what is the use of fining them $2,000 if they are going to pass on that disease? My second issue is on number 18 the fine from $2 increasing to $50. This is a general increment whether you are living in the urban or in the rural. Just a suggestion, if the rural fine can be a bit different from the urban, because in the rural villages and most of us we do not have a regular source of income. If the $50 can be reduced to $25 or $30, because I mean, that is the situation here. $50 might seem like a small amount for people who are earning a regular source of income, but for people who are not, $50 is quite a big amount. What happens if the person does not pay the fine, then that person goes to prison and while imprisonment, who is going to clean up his / her compound or house while that person is in prison?

GAGAJ MANAV.- Thank you, honourable Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, ladies and gentlemen, our Public Health Act is 91 years since its inception and there are some portions of the Principal Act that needs some amendments to reflect the reality that we are in today. If we keep to the same mindset, then we will not improve our standard of health and well-being. There is this instance where owners of land that have refused to clean their land which become breeding places for mosquitoes which then spread diseases to the communities. This Act deals with such ignorance, and it causes us to work together to clean our villages and island. Bottles, plastics and any form of rubbish that needs to be collected and disposed of in a proper manner, needs a collective effort from all of us. The current Act does not empower the HI to reprimand those that do not follow the instructions of the HI. The amendments empower the HI to reprimand wilful law breakers with regards to the Public Health Act. Let us give some positive ideas to support this Bill and let us support this great initiative to improve our well-being and the cleanliness of our island.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Thank you so much for the issue that you have raised. First of all, I would like to say that it is quite difficult to isolate all venereal diseases because it goes against human rights to take them to Makogai or somewhere and leave them in one island. We are living in modern times now, such a time that we cannot even kill stray dogs, even if it is nuisance to the community. We cannot kill animals now. That is against the law. So let alone taking members of the community and putting them in an isolated island, that will totally ruin the reputation and the status of Fiji, not only as a nation but as a Christian nation. We believe that if you would like to have that penalty increased, from the $2,000 to $10,000, $5,000, make it a bit heftier, that can be your submission. But remember that all penalties in the submission here is a Bill, also has an alternate penalty which is the imprisonment. Six months, three months imprisonment. If anybody who cannot pay the $2,000 fine will be in prison for 18 months imprisonment. That automatically kicks into play if they do not pay the fine. We are adamant that, if you know this is something that can help us in protecting people's life. Secondly, the $2 to $5, $20 to $50, it is about the closing order, closing order in terms of the building that we see is unfit for human habitation.

If you see that this building is causing sickness to the people that are staying inside, we will give the closer notice order. If the closer notice order is not followed, then that is where the fine applies. The fine used to be $2, now it increases to $50. But that aside, the mentality that you want for rural areas to pay smaller fines as opposed to urban areas, I implore you to change that mindset because a life, whether in rural or in urban, has the same value. And this value cannot have a dollar value to it. A human life is the most valuable asset that you can imagine. If you are saying, let us charge $25 in the rural, let them pay $100 in the urban because they have a steady income? That means you value the life of a community member in Itumuta to mere $25. You get it? That fine of $25, if I commit this particular offence, this person dies because of a disease, and I am only $25. You are therefore putting a $25 as a value of life for a community member. With that kind of thinking, I believe it can change our perspective in terms of the fight for a healthier living environment and healthier and productive members of the community. I suggest that you maybe if you ask for more increases in fines, that would be better.

HON. A. BIA.- If there are no more questions or clarifications, our last two issues for this afternoon are numbers 54 and 55. Number 55 is about the hygiene and cleanliness of vessels., that serve our maritime islands. And the last ones are numbers 57, 58, 59, which talks about the protection of our water source. For 54 and 55, I will give it to the Chief Health Inspector to talk about the cleanliness in vessels and how to maintain it. And the last three which are on water source 57, 58, 59. Our chairman will clarify that issue and will round up our discussions for this afternoon.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Thank you, Members of the Standing Committee and members of the committee here. We have been receiving a lot of complaints from members of the public on the conditions of the vessels that are serving the maritime franchise, serving in Vanua Levu, Kadavu and Rotuma. Alot of the people have also uploaded the videos of cockroaches and flies that cause an unhygienic condition to the vessels that they are travelling in. So based on that, there is one part in the Public Health Act that talks about the ships We are also proposing, as part of the sixty-nine clauses in this meeting, is to also include the cleanliness and hygienic condition of the vessels that are providing service to the maritime, ensuring that the vessel fumigate every second week or every third week. This will ensure that the companies engage a fumigation company to spray the vessel and to clean the vessel and ensure that it is clean and in a hygienic condition. At the moment, the Ministry of Health, gives one certificate to them in order for the license to be given to the vessel, but that is done once in six months. I think this is done so the owners of the vessel will come to us to the Ministry of Health and ask us to check, if the ship is clean so we can issue a seaworthy certificate after the health inspections have given the green light for the company to service the islands. However, what we find is every week, there are complaints about cockroaches and unhygienic conditions and the cleanliness of the vessel.

In addition, we want to include as part of this amendment that owners of the vessels take responsibility to ensure that the vessel is clean and in a hygienic condition. That means that we are also empowering the officers. For example, if the overseas shipping or other vessels that come into Rotuma, the health inspector here has the power to enter the vessel and see the hygienic condition, check the kitchen, check the accommodation. If you find the rat droppings or the cockroaches or see that it is in a hygienic or unclean manner, then the health inspector can issue a notice, depending on the severity of the situation or what s/he has identified, s/he can give immediate admissions to be removed or maybe give seven days or 14 days or 21 days for the owner of the vessel to ensure that nuisance and the vessel is kept clean at all the time. These are some of the new inclusions to the current Bill and I think part of the amendment to cover the public transport. For the public transport, there are a lot of other complaints that are coming up concerning buses and the taxi. Some of these public service vehicles still have small insects inside and we want to also include as part of the cleanliness and the hygiene of the public of land transport and the ships that provide services to the people of Fiji and Rotuma.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Ministry for Health officials. Just to add on to what the chief has alluded to, I am just trying to address our discussion on the amendment Bill on how we look after our rented houses or Airbnb, and those who have rented out houses in urban areas. For the amendment Bill, it is clearly stated that for any business as such, it has to be registered within the Ministry of Health. The main focus of this is for MoH officials to come in and look at the type of house that is being rented out. This includes our tourism industry, even the backpackers and all those who are in the proposals to rent out their premises to those people who are coming to the island. For safety and health purposes, hygiene and sanitation, there is an amendment to this Bill that need to be given the power to the Ministry of Health so that they will give you the registration and the approval for each individual where they are trying to their utmost best to run this type of business. And I hope that there are a lot of Airbnb, because they will be covered under this amendment Bill. Before we round up this afternoon, the final portion of this amendment goes from 57 up to 60, and it covers our

catchment water source. I believe we have our own catchment, our tank out there in the respective districts.

The amendment Bill clearly states that if an area or that specific water source area is leased or not leased, even the landowners are not allowed to cut down trees, to plant, or even to raise animals. It is clearly stated in this Act. Plus, even if you want to have some gravel and sand, the owner is not allowed to extract these from or near the source of water. Whether the land is leased or not, no one is permitted to extract sand and gravel or plant, raise animals near the water source. Likewise, if we have this borehole system, I was told there are four boreholes on the island, as well as the other means, the well. Within that 50 meters, 50 square metres, we are not allowed to build a house or any toilet around those areas. When I say that, you understand the purpose, because whatever goes out during that process, it will go deeper into where our boreholes, likewise the well that we always use. I have talked a lot about our catchment area, even if we have to cut down the main tank or the pipe that actually from flow the source to the village. It happens to most of the parts that we have covered during our consultation in Fiji. There was a worst-case scenario in Ba, three years ago, whereby they contaminated their water source by throwing a carcass of an animal into the water source, and most of those who used this water were admitted to the hospital. Hopefully, that Rotuma will not do what this person in Ba did three years ago. But on amendment Bill, it clearly states on those priority areas that we already discussed. On that note, I will ask all the community members who are here if there is any other question which is related to the 69 amendments, which we have covered the nine major key objective areas. I will give you the floor anyone before we move on. Any other concerns?

GAGAJ MANAV.- Hello Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. Just a late issue that is relevant. I wanted to share with the team in Ahau, but maybe we can share with the team here. The last three years we had this landowner where the water pump of Motusa is located. This guy came from Fiji and just argued about the land issue, and he went back home and took off the key for the water pump. He went to his home in Pepjei, and the people were without water. This case happened during the visit of a Rotuman prominent lawyer, Laurel. She flew in on Friday, so that weekend I managed to see her and tell her. She managed to have the police draw up a search warrant. The police went and searched his house and found the key. The police returned him to Fiji. We were so happy that this law is amended because when passed, it will protect all our drinking water sources.

MS. MAKERITE. - May I? This will take us back to 54 and sea route. This is concerning the fuel and the people. We here in Rotuma and we know we always prefer a boat to handle the passengers and our goods. Well, we have the natural resources here, but we usually rely on groceries from supermarkets. Is it safe or can the fuel travel together with the passengers?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Just to have a normal understanding, from us, from Viti Levu to Vanua Levu, we use the same route. A few plus the people going in the boat. I am not sure how far the Marine Act has evolved over time, but for the people here back in the mainland, Is it safe? Is that a question? Or they should travel together within one.

MS. MAKERITE. - Yes, bringing future fuel. Usually, the government has sometimes the fuel requests for the fuel because of the water and the electricity. They send the drums of fuel but then, actually, when passengers travel together, the drums of fuel and some 20-litre bottles with a lid, just tied but not securely and consequently, these fuels spill during the journey especially if the weather is unfavourable. Is it safe?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will take that on board because it is out of the topic of what we are discussing today on the amendment Bill. Hopefully the Ministry of Health can give us something on that.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.-Yes, honourable Chairman and honourable Members, maybe Madam, if you want to propose something to the Members of the Committee, do you want the fuel to be brought in different vessel, government vessel?

MS. MAKERITA.- Well, I will ask again, but if I propose, is that possible, or it will take three months, then the government will send us, because we know that franchise costs money. That is a very good one, but I have so many questions.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, and Members, thank you so much for coming here. I think it is a very good point. You just maybe put it as a submission now, a submission, because, as you know, in the past they sent the fuel. We used to buy and go in the past, but now I cannot. The buses have paid fuel to be transported in the bus. You cannot take it with you. If the passengers lounge in the ships, if you want that passengers lounge in ships not to include fuel, then that can be included as an amendment in the ship section for you to make a submission.

` MS. MAKERITE. - Yes, I would very much like to submit, but not me will suffer, because a whole of Rotuma will suffer if the fuel cannot come. So that is the thing, that is why I recommend, and so you can just look into it, that the government can give us another boat to transport the fuel. I want to say yes, I want to submit it. We can smell it where we were sitting. You can put it there in the card deck and everywhere else, but it does not help. I believe that the boat that came last year, had food and fuel in the same room and it was not safe.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Madam, if you want to make a submission to ban fuel from passengers' lounge as part of this amendment in ships, you can do that. If you want to totally ban fuel from a ship bringing passengers to the Rotuma, the ship will finish the fuel in the middle of the sea. They have to bring some fuel with them to refill the ship. Otherwise, the ship will run short of fuel.

MS. MAKERITE. - I can I submit that? Thank you and the last point that I want to make. We will go back to our section as I raised earlier. But this is a suggestion. I suggest that our team for the medical, if there is someone with HIV or AIDS, is there a CID team or something like that so we are made aware of who has the virus and who does not. You know what, the medical team can send one to the community and investigate quietly and inform us, so we are made aware.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- I think I would like to add on to what her concern is, how the fuel is contained within the ship, within the vessel. I think it is for what I am suggesting is that the fuel should be in a certified, proper certified container to be transported with the passengers. Or otherwise, I think that it must be banned from transporting fuel without a proper certified containers with a proper seal. I think that is what her concern is all about.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I thank you very much, Madam, for raising that issue. We take note of that. Certainly, we have to go and see what laws cover that, whether it is covered under the Marine Safety Act or whatever. But the concern that you raised, we take note of that. As Members of Parliament, that is our duty. We will have to go and raise it to the relevant authorised authorities, which is MSAFF, who looks after that, and the Minister responsible. These are the concerns that have been raised in Itumuta, and we will definitely refer you to the Minister responsible to take a look at what you have raised.

MS. MAKERITE.- It is like how many folds here. When I said, I was looking through and I had no idea what is going on. Only when the discussions opened, then I said, oh, yes. But the other sections I did not read through, but I know it will be helpful. But I suggest that if anything comes into the island like this again, please can you people give us a copy? To me, I take me two weeks to

read and understand. Someone have to accompany me with all this and help me. I am happy, and I am glad we are here for our understanding for a better change.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Thank you for listening. And we do apologise. We do apologise for not coming up with a clear handout. But That is the best we could have done. But thank you for this making an effort to come and have your voice said today. I will be here for tomorrow and we will leave on Friday. If you have a chance, I am not sure where we will be tomorrow, but you can come down, come and listen and do your submission again. Okay. But anyway, thank you ladies.

MS. ROSARINA.- Number 57, it is written general and limited water sanitation rules. There is a problem that we are facing in Itumuta now. Our water supply is cut down. It is no longer from 5 am to 8pm but it is now from 8am to 5pm. The reason it was given is that the government cannot pay for the overtime rates on the island. For your information, this is something that was written in the Act. I think we should have it. I believe that yes, we should have water 24/7.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Yes, I agree with you. . You have the right to have water. And what you have raised it and we will take note of that. And we will certainly go and raise it with the relevant authorities. We have access to the Minister responsible, and this is what was raised from Rotuma, and we will definitely try and get what you have raised for us to raise it with the relevant authorities. Okay? Any other questions? Comments? Questions? Nothing? Yes.

MS. L. SAMUELA.- Thank you. This is in relation to what has said about the timeliness of this piece of paper that you have given us. We really do think that if this is a Public Health (Amendment) Bill and we are seated here as people of the community, what is our role here? Are we here to give you submission or are we here to agree to whatever you have given us here in this piece of paper? I think that is our question. That is my first question, please.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- That is a very good question. We are here to listen to you. The government of the day has brought in a piece of legislation called the bill. When it's called a bill, that means it is in draft mode. It's not yet finalised. When it enters Parliament, the resolution of Parliament refers it to this committee. The committee must go around the country and listen to what the people think or feel about the bill. We have the powers to change or amend what is written in the bill. So basically, in a nutshell, you don't have to supposedly agree with what's in the bill. You have to give us your thoughts. What are your thoughts? Do you agree with this? Yes or no? Or, like the questions that are coming from the floor, do you want it increased? We can change that. We can increase the fines, we can decrease the fines, we can remove some of the things that is already written there. So basically, in a common consultation like this, it's for us to be applauding. You are not supposed to agree with what is basically written in black and white. We are here to see what your thoughts are? What do you feel about it? Once it finishes this round, it goes back to Parliament, then it is debated and voted upon. After that, it becomes law, it is binding on everyone. The main component of this public consultation is to hear from you. give us your submission, you give us your thoughts, whether this is good for people, for Fiji, this is good for Itumuta, yes or no. We will go back, see, balance it out.

Okay, what the suggestion came from 2 was good. We have to put that in the law. Basically, this kind of simple consultation is we have to hear from you what do you think about the proposed legislation. Most of the times, all of a sudden, we hear that there is a new law. We do not know what it is about. This is what we are doing now. We are asking you what you think about the proposed law? You are not supposed to agree with what is written there, black and white. You can make suggestions. Based on your suggestions, we can increase or decrease the fines. If you say, “we think that this should be included.” We think this should be taken away. What we have there is what the

government has brought throughout the day. But keep in mind, when the government brought this legislation through the Ministry of Health, they did not do it by their own selves. They did it with other relevant ministries, other stakeholders, other people, then they compiled that. But in a nutshell, we are here to hear from you, basically. The answer to your question, we are to hear from you.

MS. L. SAMUELA.- That has answered my first question. My other question is, you said that this is the last area that you are holding consultations. Is this the same procedure that you did for the last areas? You just gave us the papers and we sat together with the papers or did these papers go in advance and then you came for discussion a bit later?

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- This Bill is scheduled to go back to Parliament on the 20th of September or 28th of September. We will be here in Rotuma tomorrow, having consultations again in Rotuma. We will be having consultations again on Friday before we depart. But that is not the end of it. There is also written submissions that you can make. You can write, we submit this, you can send it over. But for your information, we will be here tomorrow for the whole day somewhere else, then Friday again, we will be here again.

MS. L. SAMUELA - Thank you for answering my questions. I just agree with what was said. We are happy that you are here to consult with us, but we feel that if this is such an important consultation, then we could be given more time. But I know that you said you will be here until Friday, so we have a bit of time if we have some issues.

HON. RATU J.B NIUDAMU.-Thank you for your submission this afternoon, Madam, and the people of Rotuma as well. I want to emphasise an important issue. This is what democracy is all about. This is what in this government is all about. If you could recall the past 16 years, there was no consultation done. This is the beginning of what this government is trying to bring back. Bring back the law to our people so that you can understand the laws that will be affecting you before we will pass these Bills. You have to accept the apologies because this is a full term of Parliament. We are trying to come up with this and we are not the only Committee. There are other Committees as well are going all around Fiji doing the same thing because of the isolation of our islands, especially the Maritimes. The members of Parliament goes and then the PA and our Secretariat, have to work together in trying to distribute in a timely manner. But in years to come, if God is willing for this government or any other government to come back, we will have to improve on this. The issue of democracy, the issue of trying to listen to what the people want and what the people need. And that's why we are here. We apologise for that, but we hope that you have received what we are trying to bring. This is all about deterrence. It is all about our community life. Rotuma people, the Fijian people, we are living in a community, and we have to be very careful with the way we live because we are the indigenous people of this land. We have to be very careful with our health. We have millions of indigenous people in Australia.

We have millions of people in other indigenous countries around the world. But for people of Rotuma and Fiji, we have only how many? We have not reached a million yet. We have to protect our life, especially us, the Rotumans and the iTaukei. And I am sorry, honourable Nand because the Indians, some are here, some are in Africa, some are in India. For us, the only Rotumans are here, the Fijians, we are here. The rest, they are citizens. If we are not careful with this law, and if we continue with this, you know, pay these small fines, it will not help with the cleanliness of our surroundings, the chiefs will be tired of speaking and people will not change. And when I am speaking now, it is happening in my community in Ra. People just go and plant whatever they want to and there is little care. When the chief talks, the people do not want to listen. That is why we need higher fines to deter them because the higher fines will protect you and me. With those few words, I will close our submission this evening. And I hope you will take this submission very seriously. And we apologise for the lateness of the distribution of these papers. But we are improving. This is a

consultation, and it is about hearing your people's voice out. And in years to come, I hope there will be more consultations for the people of the Rotuma in the other maritime Islands of Fiji.

HON. J.N. NAND.- Sorry, just to mention, you are not the first person to complain like this. I think we took the Sugar Bill and the same thing happened to the farmers. They said when we asked them, they said, why we are here? And then it is a sugar community, you know. For 100 years, we have seen nothing happened, so we take on board what you say, and as you said, we apologise, where there should be a better linkage, there should be a better connectivity between the Parliament and the administration here. That is a good concern you have raised, and you will be looking to improve on it.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- And for the Chairman, Members of the Committee, our current SDMO and the offices, I would like to take this time to thank you very much for availing yourself in this consultation to the community in terms of clarifying some of our very important issues that we are currently facing and mostly in regards to our health and I thank the Government of the day for this opportunity. I know and I have witnessed that there are hardly any consultations from the previous government, but we are fortunate to have this opportunity to share our views and our voices. I know in the eyes of the Lord, there is no wrong opinion. But yet, you still reach out for our people into contributing into something that will affect our livelihoods, especially the geo-location of our island. And I know it has been hard on the Committee to reach out to Rotuma, sharing of the knowledge of all the legislations that is about to change, and that is about to come to it. And we thank you for your time on behalf of the Gagaj Manav, Gagaj Katuntol, Gagaj Tigarea, and our elders of the community, and our youth, and our children, we would like to give you our sincere gratitude for availing yourselves this afternoon. May the good Lord bless you on your deeds around the island and every good intention that you have towards humanity.

The Committee adjourned at 6.05 p.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

DAY 2

PUBLIC CONSULTATION TO ROTUMAON THE PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL (BILL NO. 4 0F 2026)

VENUES: (1) Noatau / Oinafa, Noatau District Hall
(2) Pepjei / Juju, Juju District Hall
(3) Itutiu, Motusa Hall

DATE: Thursday, 27th August, 2026

C. Friday, 28th August
Malha'a, Malha'a District Hall

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL HELD AT NOATAU STATION (NOATAU & OINAFA) ON THURSDAY, 27TH AUGUST, 2026 AT 9.14 A.M.

Present

(6)	Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	Chairman
(7)	Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure	Deputy Chairman
(8)	Hon. A. Bia	Member
(9)	Hon. J.N. Nand	Alternate Member
(10)	Hon. Ratu J.B. Niudamu	Alternate Member

Ministry of Health & Medical Services

(3)	Mr. Toga Vosataki	National WASH Coordinator
(4)	Mr. Luke Vonotabua	Acting Chief Health Inspector
(5)	Mr. Luke Savu	District Officer (Rotuma)
(6)	Mr. Kelekele Inikasio	Sub Divisional Medical Officer (Rotuma)
(7)	Ms Anaisi Tuwai	Health Inspector (Rotuma)

Interviewee/Submittee: Noatau District Hall

(1.)	Gagaj Maraf	Noatau
(2.)	Makareta Susau	Oinafa
(3.)	Ms. Thelma Mario	Noatau
(4.)	Mr. Eeli	Noatau
(5.)	Mr. Tiu Sagaitu	Oinafa
(6.)	Mr. Terotuam	Noatau
(7.)	Mr. Fomonu	Noatau
(8.)	Mr. Jioje Susau	Oinafa

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- I hope that we are all ready to start this morning.

(*Introduction of Committee Members and representatives from the Ministry of Health)*

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- The two districts of Noatau and Oinafa, a very good morning and I welcome all of you to our public submission. I believe we have met some of you yesterday and hopefully today is just a continuation of where we have left off. The team that is here, is from our Parliament in Suva. When we talk about the Government of the day, we have three arms of our government. The Executive Committee, which is of government, when we talk about legislation, this is where we come from, which is the Parliament of Fiji and our Judiciary. The Bill in front of us and I hope that we all have a copy with you. It represents the Public Health (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 4 of 2026). I believe altogether there 69 clauses whereby the Ministry of Health dictates the terms and condition that needs to be amended or changed from the Principal Act of 1935. There are 69 clauses taken out from the Principal Act of 1935 and it needs to be modernised or changed. There are lot of discussions about this and in some areas when we went throughout Fiji, they were asking why after 91 years, then you bring this Bill for changes. And the simple answer to that is, I believe the time was not right for the last 91 years and we were happy to do it now. During our term in Parliament, we were asked by the Ministry of Health to amend this Bill. To suit the current hygiene sanitation and the importance of how we look after our surroundings in terms of health, our rubbish, how we look after our waste. I will take care of the area when we talk about some standards that need to be met. We will discuss further on how best we can look after our water sources. It regulates if any of you like to engage your homes to be Airbnb properties. Let us talk about the hotels and the

importance of how they can come on board in terms of the conditions from the Ministry of Health to give them that registration. Likewise, a very important part of this Bill are the penalties. Remember, if you look at the penalties in the Principal Act, are from $2.00 to $10 from $10 to $20. The new amendments within the 69 amendments raises from $100, 200, $1,000 to $2000. It is not only that but depending on the severity of the offence. When this will be tabled as part of our legislature, you can be taken to court from three to six months or even to 18 months. What am I trying to say that is the general overview of these amendments that is in front of you. Feel free to go through it.

Out of those 69 clauses, there are only about 9 major key areas that we will go into detail discussion with our two districts. We are done with those two districts yesterday and hopefully we can listen to your constructive inputs concerning the Bill. All your inputs our discussion, new amendments or your thoughts will be our takeaways. When we go back to Suva tomorrow and on that note, I urge everybody here to come up with ideas. That is the fundamental reason why we are here on a public consultation, you may ask why now? Why public consultation? A lot of areas where we go to in Fiji, like Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, most people normally suggest that we pass the Bill and then bring it to them. When you talk about democracy, this is what it is all about. Any amendments or any bylaws or legislator from government to the Parliament, this is the democratic process of taking it to the public for their feedback. For our discussion today, we need your input, we need your thoughts and even your recommendations. After our meeting today, in case there are any other thoughts, that will come after our discussion today, feel free to come back to us, we call it the written. We are thinking about by the end of next month to table this Bill to Parliament, so we give you another two to three weeks to think about it, go back and discuss the Bill in your village or with your society whatever church you belong to. If there are lot of good ideas that comes up after this meeting, feel free to contact our secretariate who will leave their contact details with you. After our meeting yesterday, around a tanoa session, a lot of discussions came up which we saw fit that these ideas should be part of this amendments. I will leave it there for us now. To start off our discussion, and hopefully that is, in the nutshell, the key objectives of the nine amendment Bill areas. We will jump straight from clause 1 to clause 40.

And I hope that we will be talking on the same page, that is from page 1 to page 14. If you really look at those points, pardon me if you need to talk in Rotuman the SDMO is always here. He can translate it to us in English. Apart from other staff that are here, we were told yesterday that SDMO can translate for us. It is a credit to him, and I thank him very much for taking advantage of his workstation. When we come here, we are not isolated. To the ladies or the gentleman sitting down here, if they need me to talk in Rotuman, feel free to do that in Rotuman because we have some translators here, who can translate the message over to us, so we will be able to talk on the same clauses in front of us. From 1 to 14, if you look at these amendments, it is mostly about the obstruction of staff while carrying out their task. The Ministry of Health, is the HI for Rotuma here? She is here, looking after Rotuma. Thank you very much, you are not isolated, you are part of the area that you go through Fiji, the HI is sharing a lot of workloads like the other staff. Let us talk about certain district level and we are happy that we have a representative.

This Bill is about healthy living, sanitation and hygiene of every individual. This is the first time since 1935 that the Principal Act was enacted, this Bill was really for those people who were living in urban areas. You may ask why? It was because they are looked after by the municipality that live in. They pay rates which provides all the required services. These includes their rubbish collection, their roads, the electricity and other necessities, the municipalities were doing all this work for us, but the Ministry for Health has embarked to include all the rural communities, including maritime areas to be included in the Bill. That is why we are here today to discuss this important issue with you. You are not alone, you are covered in this Bill whether you stay in Suva or stay in the rural area of Fiji or down in the maritime even Rotuma, you are covered under this amendment Bill. We were told yesterday by our 7 districts, through the chairman, that there is a Bill of such that governs only Rotuma. The ways of living, how you look after your welfare how You look after your

rubbish, and how you look after your water source and all these things. But I am grateful that once this Bill is enacted in Parliament, it becomes the law of Fiji. And since you are bound by that, and if you do not abide by what the laws of Fiji had stated, there will be repercussions or penalties that comes with it.

I will start and lead today's discussion based on the Obstruction of Staff from 1 clause to clause 14. You cannot obstruct a staff of the Ministry of Health from performing his /her task as appointed to do so. Obstruction can mean where there is a disturbance or there is an issue / problem and when HI comes to inspect the nuisance. This amendment being stated, you cannot obstruct the HI in these cases. When we are living in a community as such. Remember, we are all related so if there is an inspection done, we will talk about it if there is an outbreak in mosquitoes and then other related circumstances. The staff of the Ministry of Health, through the HI has the right to do their work freely. If you obstruct them, stop them even if you chase them out or you swear at them. There was a case back in the Western division whereby one of their staff was hit by a four by two, so we end up the hospital. All the amendments in this Bill are there in front of us, this is our work. For the obstruction, you can be charged or penalised from $500 to $1000. The freedom is with you. If you say it is too much. If you say it is too small, feel free to air your views. Let us discuss about the clause on the obstruction MoH staff. Just raise your hand. There is a microphone around here. Please say your name and what district you come from. And refer to the clause that we are talking about, and they are from clause 1 to 14, which I already had mentioned.

INTERPRETER.- Good morning all, the whole intention of this Bill is to improve the standard of cleanliness of our homes, villages, districts and overall health of everyone around the island. There will be some of us that will not heed the good intentions of this Bill and there will be consequences. This Bill will strengthen the powers of the village chiefs and he will remind the people of what he wants done, especially the cleanliness and up keep of the whole district. In terms of the fines, under the proposed amendments, they are high to reflect the severity of the offences and to act as a deterrent. The fines will be the last resort after reasonable discussions and leeway have been exhausted but if you willingly failed to fix the nuisance in your property, then the fines will issued. The onus is on all of us to collaborate and cooperate with the village chiefs and the HI to ensure that the villages, the district are clean, hygienic and free of any forms of diseases.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- I hope that it is very clear to everybody. Feel free if you need further clarity on those points from 1 to 14. Thank you very much for the interpretation and I believe the messages, if need be, further clarification from the honourable Members, we are here to answer to make them clear. And hope that it is very clear to all of us we will move forward. From clause 15 to clause 23. You can look at the page. This is where I raised the issue on penalties. I will ask the Ministry of Health to give us a brief overview on the penalties from clause 15 to clause 22. After that, we will give the mic to our interpreter to give us an overview to the people of Rotuma. Ministry of Health on the penalty part from clause 15 to clause 22.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman the Bill has one major change that includes fines. Previously in the 1935 Principal Act, we had fines around $2, $4, $10 and $20. With the current status of the country, to fine somebody for $2 is irrelevant nowadays. Even $10 is something that we will not take seriously. We had a few cases few months back when a person was found guilty in court, but then the penalty was $10. If we continue with this, people will still be reluctant to make changes. Therefore, we have introduced more hefty fines not to punish people, but to be a deterrent. In the category of a nuisance, we have a ceiling of $1,000, we cannot exceed that $1,000. We have $100 which is a bare minimum and we have $1,000 which is a ceiling. It depends on the type of nuisance that you have in your compound, in your household and you will be fined accordingly.

A very simple example is if the wastewater from your house or your kitchen water is being discharged into the open drain. You can be fined $200 for that, but if your septic tank is leaking or is

openly charging into the environment, then you can be charged the full $1,000 because in in terms of severity. The latter is more dangerous in terms of the risk to human life. I hope you understand what we mean by that, and I just want to make it clear that these fines is what you perceive to be the value of life. This is because what can happen is somebody can lose their life because of the severity of the nuisance. If you are putting up your pig pan beside your house. If you are going to fined $5, which means the life of your community members is $5 because anybody can get leptospirosis and die within one or two days. Do you know the value of one life of any citizen of Fiji, if you want to know the value of that life, if you are ever on the mainland when an ambulance runs on the road, you will see blocking vehicles must make way for the ambulance. That is how valuable a like one life is. That is the value we want to instil in the fight, $1,000, so it deters people from creating things that can make people sick. A particular fine is in clause 39 because there is an increase from $20 to $2,000. And this is the biggest increase in the fines in the proposed Bill from $20 to $2,000.

This is in the category of venereal disease, if you do not know what venereal disease is, these are basically sexually transmitted illnesses and diseases. We have gonorrhoea, we have syphilis, we have HIV and AIDS. We have a whole lot of STI's and STD's now. But the Principal Act penalises somebody that wilfully transmit the disease with $20.That means, If I get diagnosed, I go to the hospital and doctor Kele tells me. you have syphilis. You must take this medication. Go home and you must abstain, do not involve yourself in any unprotected sexual activities. That was the advice given to me by the doctor. And then, several days later, a young woman from the community comes to doctor Kele with the same symptoms as the same disease I have, and upon investigation, the woman told Doctor Kele that she had been involved with me. That means I knowingly decided to spread the virus despite the advice to refrain from any unprotected sexual activities. That is why the fine in this particular case has gone from $20.00 to $2000. Those are some of the changes in terms of the financial penalties in the Bill.

MS. M. SUSAU.- Good morning. I am from Oinafa village. I would like to thank all of you for coming all the way to Rotuma help to clean up our island. I am for the increase in the fines because I believe in the past, the fines were very low and every time the HI gives a notice as to when she will come to inspect the village, I believe people do not take it seriously because of the small amount that is supposed to be paid. They will have that money mindset, or we do not care because it is just $30.00. But when we increase the fines then people will have a change of mindset every time, they will be looking out for the compounds to be cleaned because the fines are very high. I therefore, believe it is not only the fine, but I believe it will be helping the people of Rotuma to stay in a clean and safer environment. It will only help the families, the villages and the whole of all of us.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Thank you very much for those positive comments. We agree to that. If you talk about fines and the penalties, another would have interpreted it as a deterrent. But, currently the work of the HI are not covered under this amendment Bill. Once this is passed in Parliament, it will be the law of a country, that is when the penalty will come into effect. This is about the amendment Bill that we are talking about. At the moment, the HI can come to the villages, make recommendations and give advice and then move on. They have not yet been empowered to issue fines amongst other penalties. That is the reason we are here to amend this Bill by listening to your views on the amendments, make our reports and take it back to parliament to be passed as the bylaws of our country. If this Bill is passed, then these are where the fines and other penalties that we are currently talking about will come into immediate effect. Any other comments? Another question?

MS. T. MARIO.- I like to comment on what he mentioned about the diseases and the fine from up to $2000 now. I get it that the person spreading the venereal disease is getting fined, but what is there to protect those of us who do not know that that individual has have HIV, syphilis or the other sexually transmitted diseases. I mean, to me, that is a reactive response. Is there anything in place or will be put in place to protect us, that do not know them. From social media, there are about 7000 reported cases of HIV among us. I believe under the human rights especially infected by

HIV are being protected. Now I am after those of us who are not infected. Should we not know who they are? A lot of us do our own businesses like catering in a form or another. And it is so dangerous nowadays with the fast spread of these kind of diseases like HIV. These are my comments and, I do not expect an answer now, but I am concerned that some individuals who has AIDS may be involved in catering too, which can be a concern. Thank you.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, the way it is coming across from all the communities we have heard from that we could feel like people are wanting a situation similar to what happened in the concentration camps during the German persecuting of the Jews where Jews to wear specific outfits to show that they were Jews. I think the only main tool that we can advise our young people who are still sexually active, is to go back to the bible and refrain from fraternising and having multiple sexual partners. They can also wait till you get married to enjoy this intimacy with their spouse. Unless you do these, you will expose yourself to getting these venereal diseases. It is very hard for Ministry of Health even though the HIV ACT is in the process of being reviewed, we have to be very mindful about sharing sensitive information about the medical condition of a particular person. I would like end with this note that a person living with HIV AIDS can be part of our normal day life.

They can cook our food, they can mix our grog, we can eat together, hug each, sleep side by side, play cards and even play sports together now, non-contact sports that is, we can integrate with them on our daily basis without having to spread the virus. However, the biggest fight right now for our youths right now is the drug use. Some of the people that are going into white drugs are the ones without enough funding to buy their own white drugs because is quite expensive. Consequently, these individuals are sharing needles. They are sharing the white drugs, they are not sharing the needle, but they are sharing the white drugs through their blood. That means if we put in say, $5.00 or of $10.00 each and we decide to buy $50.00 worth of white drugs. I will inject that into my blood and once it goes into my blood and now, I feel high. After that, I will extract my blood using a syringe from my body and will inject it into someone else. It will be my blood that is being injected straight into another human being and that is how the numbers of the transmitting of HIV is increasing. . If you refrain from drugs, if you refrain from unprotected sexual encounters until marriage and maintain one partner, Fiji should be able to get rid of this HIV and AIDS within the next 2-3 years. Honourable Chairman.

GAGAJ MARAF.- Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, yesterday, we heard so many things concerning the amendments to the Public Health Act in the council chamber. When I returned yesterday afternoon, something came up to my mind. How are we going to clean our villages? That is the main point because it is not a habit and before when we get a fine, we might learn from our mistakes. Today I would like to tell our communities of Oinafa and Noatau that once this Bill will be passed in Parliament, it will be law. If you do not follow the law, you will get a penalty or a fine. It is good for the people to know the details of this Bill before it is passed. I was thinking of how we can clean Noatau and Oinafa and this is an important question. Allow me to take us back to the 1970s and 1980s. The chiefs of the seven districts worked well with the Do and the health officials then. The council of chiefs made a resolution to invite the DO, the doctor and HI to all districts to carry out the routine cleanliness checks throughout the district. For every district, the DO, the doctor and HI can be accompanied by the chief and all the sub-chiefs of the village. They would start from one end of the village and comb the entire village right to the other end. Along the way, they would pick on issues like compounds that needs cleaning, potential sites for breeding mosquitoes which were to be destroyed, the community pig fences, cleanliness of the beaches and other nuisances that should be cleared before the next visit. If there were no improvements upon the next visit, potential fines or penalties were imposed on the individual depending on the gravity of the case. Consequently, all the 7 districts were clean with minor nuisances that were dealt with accordingly.

We will discuss this further with our DO, the doctor and HI in our next Council meeting. If we can have the same thing done during the inspections where the Do, the doctor and HI accompany the chief and sub-chiefs of the district and carry out similar inspections that used to be done in the 1970s and 1980s, where plastics, tin cans and idle roofing tins, bottles were disposed of accordingly. When the DO, the doctor, the HI the chief and sub-chiefs of the district can walk from one end of the district to the other and identify any form of nuisances and warn potential offenders before the next visit. If reasonable time is given, yet the nuisance is not fixed before the next visit, fines and potential penalties could apply. Rubbish that can be buried should be buried and the rest can be discarded in an environmentally friendly way. Concerning the HIV issues that were raised earlier, I would like to ask the doctor as to the number of confirmed cases that are on the island. I understand that it is a private matter, and I am not asking for the disclosure of any names but if I could get a number from our doctor. My concern is whether the number of individuals living with HIV on Rotuma is increasing, decreasing or has it flat lined because it is a matter of concern for all of us on the island.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Vinaka in terms of the number, I believe we can hear straight from SDMO only on the number, not the name, because it is confidential and it is covered under the UN Convention for the human rights.

MS. K. INIKASIO.- Mr. Chairman, I believe for the last two years we have rolled out our testing and screening. We have just recorded 3 positive cases, but we need more testing to confirm the actual number on the ground. We always advise the villages to come for screening since we have a mobile population. There are countless individuals arriving from Suva or Nadi, either by boat or the Fiji Link flights to the island. There is no definitive proof but the possibility of the HIV virus being brought into the island by the incoming individuals seems plausible. On top of this, we are encouraging all districts to requests for HIV screening because it will give us a clear picture of the reality of the ground with regards to the HIV situation in Rotuma. We have targeted our reproductive age groups on the island to come forward for screening and we encourage the district chiefs and elders to support the Ministry of Health officials in this endeavour. We offer the testing and screening in hospitals and if you want to, we can visit your village to do the testing. We can only tell that the person has HIV is by doing the tests and the information is strictly confidential.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- I hope that that is clear, only if we have more testing for the HIV virus. The prerogative is with the chiefs of the district, if the chief want the people within his district to be screened and tested for the HIV, it can be arranged with the SDMO. Currently, according to SDMO, there are 3 confirmed cases, and this number was possible through the testing The latest figure from yesterday's news puts the confirmed cases of HIV to seven thousand (7000). This was only possible through those that went for the testing. This is a very critical area of concern when we talk about HIV, especially back in Fiji. The rate of infection is high through the use of white drugs. Let us go straight to clause 26 to 37, when you are talking about nuisance and offensive trade. I will invite honourable Bia to lead us in this discussion

HON. A. BIA.- Nuisance have already been explained by the Ministry of Health officials that are here. On the offensive trade number 40 on the document that is in front of you. Number 40 is about offensive trade; the fine is from $10 to $500. Now, these offensive trades are about businesses and companies that are located within the vicinity of where you stay. If there are businesses or companies that do things unhygienically and may create a spread of disease to the nearby communities, you can lodge a complaint. After a thorough investigation by the relevant authorities and your complaint is valid, the company can be fined under the offensive trade. More on this offensive trade, it covers any businesses that do operate within or beside your village or within the vicinity of where you stay. You can raise the complaint if they are doing something that is not good for the community or not good for the health or not good for the environment and the people that live beside or in the area that you do live in, you can raise the complaint, and they can be fined.

They can be fined through this clause, which is called offensive trade. For nuisance that was briefly explained by Toga, covers a lot of offences under nuisances. Therefore, nuisance very briefly, is primarily about how you maintain good hygiene and cleanliness in your villages and in your communities, like what the Gagaj had been saying earlier. When this is passed into law, it gives you the responsibility whether you like it or not, to maintain cleanliness wherever you are living. When the chiefs of the village or the elders of the village decide to introduce a village by laws that outlines the routine village checks for cleanliness and hygiene within the district and perhaps one or two individuals decides not to comply, they might be issued with 3 warnings. The last resort is this one because when anyone raise relevant complaints to the Environmental Health Practitioners or the Health Officials that are here, they will come and will do sport fines. We are living in a communal setup, and we are all related to each other. We do not want any differences to happen wherever we live in. When there is a village bylaw, and the bylaws state that you will be given 3 chances. If you continue to disobey, this will be the last resort. The district chief will lodge a formal complaint to the local authority or Central Board of Health, then the health inspectors will have the power to come and check and with the severity of the offence committed, will give the fines, accordingly, taking into considerations the 3 warnings given prior to the lodgement of the formal complaint. There can be no excuses for not following the village bylaws, but these amendments give you the full responsibility of maintaining good hygiene and cleanliness wherever you are living in a community or nearby settlement or any village. This will give you the responsibility of maintaining good hygiene.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Any further clarification on that subject area? or any constructive comments? Or any recommendations? Or any general discussion based on that data that we have discovered lately on the offensive trade and its the implications. Do you do you need to have our interpreter to explain it in Rotuman? All is good. Then we will move forward.

MR. T. SAGAITU.- Good morning, I am a health worker from Oinafa. I would like to raise an issue about houses that have been vacant for some time and poses a health risk to the community. Most of the owners of the vacant houses are either in Fiji or overseas. Given the requirements of the Public Health Act, they have not asked their relatives in the village to maintain and clean the compounds. The leaders of the village and the chief of the district need to look at this issue especially when these owners who are away, who do not like anyone doing any clean up on their land or houses, especially when they are away.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Thank you very much for that very critical question. I believe this is not covered in the amendments of this Bill that we are currently working on. What we will do after this discussion is have a word with our officials from the Ministry of Health to give you some advice and further clarity on how best we can accommodate these rare predicaments. When we talk about cleanliness within our community, according to the amendment Bill, it is the responsibility of the village. For instance, if we do not clean up that vacant area, it becomes a breeding space for mosquitoes especially, when the house left empty or the house maybe be in a condition that it poses a health risk to members of the community. I will ask the Ministry for Health to clarify that because it is part of the Public Health Act, clauses 45 to 52 especially, the diseases that are spread by mosquitoes.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- Through you honourable Chairman, just before the Ministry for Health will explain, I just need to clarify the issue. Whether the owner is in Rotuma or is in Suva, Australia or in New Zealand when the law is passed, there will be no excuse. There is a saying in the legal fraternity which states ignorance of the law is not an excuse. If you breach this legislation after this legislation will be passed, one, there will be a day that the owner of that house will return to Rotuma. It gives a chance to the Ministry of Health through the Health Inspector, document the number of infringements and issue the fines under the file of the owner of the compound. The fines will accumulate if they are not paid. If the owner returns, s/he can pay the necessary fines. If the owner does not return after certain years, the government can afford to go and serve these owners of

vacant compounds in Australia, in England, in United Kingdom, it will not be a problem for the government. Everyone will have to do their part so that the law is abided by everyone. The Ministry of Health through the HI can continue to issue that fines accordingly and we will recommend to the government a way to execute these Public Health Act infringement orders.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- *Vinaka*, for the diseases spread by mosquitoes, I will ask the Ministry of Health officials to emphasise more on it.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Thank you, Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee and of course, the community members of the two districts that are here. In this bill, there are 2 sections that can be used in this particular scenario. The first one is under clause 26 of the Bill which is the nuisance in 26A. It states any premises in the opinion of the environmental health practitioner, is in a state as to be injurious or prejudicial to public and environmental health. What we can do in this scenario is that the HI will come, we will ascertain the extent of the case and the owner of the said property, and the fined will be issued accordingly. If you are here or if you are in Suva or anywhere else, that fine will be issued to the owner. Now in the instance that the maybe the owner, the sole owner of that house has passed on, leaving no one responsible for the vacant property, this can be covered under Section 14. This Section is about the demolition of building that is seen to be injurious to human health. As mentioned earlier here are two sections that can be used. In that particular example, looking into a vacant house that is here in the in the village, and no one cleans it, and it is causing a lot of problems for the Community. If this Bill is passed, we can act accordingly, like take the owner to task. If the compound is not cleaned, the owner can be fined or if there is no owner, we can give the order to demolish that particular building.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Vinaka, I hope that the explanation clarifies the issue that you have raised. I hope that we can spread the message over whether they are in Suva or somewhere abroad. When this Bill comes as an Act, it becomes the by-laws of the government. This is the responsibility of the government to facilitate it for the betterment of our living, especially our hygiene and sanitation wherever we live. Any other questions apart from that clause that we discussed?

GAGAJ MARAF.- In my district, there about 4 houses that are vacant. The clause discussed previously is a good one because some of these owners of that vacant houses stay overseas do not leave on the island. Three of the owners of these vacant hoses live overseas. After years of neglect, the walls of these houses start to crack, while other parts starts to came apart. This is a good meeting because we can start to warn these individuals who are either living in Fiji or overseas to take heed of these amendments to the Public Health Act and if they do not, the fines can be given. One particular family that resides in Australia, is my neighbour, informed us that they will renovate their existing vacant house so that they will have a place to come to when they visit friends and families on the island. This is why I am raising this issue that when this amendment Bill is passed into law but they do not follow this law, after several warnings, they could be fined.

MR. TEROTUAM.- The issue that I want to raise now is that our beaches are gradually and surely being eroded by the rising tides. For some of us, if we have to go down to the sea, we will have to go down another 2 meters before we reach the beach. To counter this, some of us use coconut leaves to protect the young coconut trees that act as barriers to these rising tides. We are left with two choices; we either maintain our beautiful beaches or we lose our sand and land to the sea. We cannot built sea wall because we lack the necessary funding and we only resort to using organic means like coconut leaves to counter the surging tides. The sand is being eroded, and we are losing the land. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for that inspirational talk about climate change and the impact on our beaches. We will take that on and will pass this on to the relevant Ministry that will look after that. Even though it is not part of our discussion here on the Amendment Bill for the Public Health Act, we will take that, and we will redirect that question to the respective Ministry involved and thank you very much for that concern. Another before we move on.

MR. EELI.- Good morning honourable Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee. The effects of climate change have had a huge adverse impact on the island. One such adverse impact is the eroding of our foreshore and beaches. Now we are experiencing unusually bigger waves eroding sand and soil from our foreshore and affecting our homes. To cushion the impacts of these large waves, we normally put coconut fronds where it is heavily eroded. These coconut fronds protect the beach from erosion and the young coconuts trees as part of the bigger plan to mitigate the erosions of the sand from the beaches. During one of the HI's inspections, she saw the fronds on the beach and told us to remove them from the beach. We complied immediately and after a few months, when she was not around, we experienced huge waves. Some of these huge waves almost reached my front door, Sir, I am raising this concern because we are using organic material to cushion the impacts of these large waves, but it is not allowed by the HI. I am raising this to support the comments of the what the chief had said earlier. We are choosing clean and nice beaches over the adverse effects of climate change. Thank you.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Thank you very much for that sentiment on the same subject, we do take note of that and there needs be to be some other conversation later with the Ministry for Health officials that are here.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- I think the issue from the Gagaj and yourself, Sir, with the HI is a situation where we can all practice some degree of common sense. The HI too will have to apply common sense in decision making and it depends on the HI and the policies that will govern your decisions. As long as the coconut fronts that have been placed on the beach to counter the rising waves, do not become breeding places for mosquitoes which can result in the spread of diseases. The HI Rotuma need to explain why coconut leaves cannot be used as barriers to rising waves perhaps, it becomes breeding places mosquitoes.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Vinaka, that was the supplementary question on the use of coconut fronts as cushion for rising tides, we will give you space to come back after our meeting today to discuss with our executive team from the Ministry of Health. We will move forward from clause 63 to clause 69. Here, generally we talk about our rural water catchments, and its importance. I hope that both districts got their own drinking water, or we have the main source from the main centre. I will talk on the importance of our rural water catchment in this area. That is inclusive of borehole as well as the wells we sometimes use. I was told yesterday that there are 4 boreholes on the island of Rotuma. Let me emphasise the importance of where our water source comes from. First, when we passed this Bill in Parliament, all our sources of water, whether it is a borehole or dam up there in the forest. These are restriction involving the Bill. You are not allowed whether it is lease or not. Even the landowners are not allowed to plant, cut down trees or graze great animals or even access the said water source area to extract that gravel or sand within the vicinity of the water source areas. This also covers boreholes; for borehole no development like building a home or toilet is allowed around 50 square feet of the borehole. It is very clear and straight forward because when we pass this Bill, the things I had mentioned, those are restriction which states that you are not allowed to do. You are covered by law and by penalty and even if you cut down the main pipe from the water source down to the village, there will be penalties for this. There are some incidents that we had encountered when we carried out our consultations around Fiji.

There was one incident, were there some collusions within the village whereby somebody went up to the water source, cut down the pipe leading to the village, and a worst case in the Western division whereby a carcass of animal was thrown into their main drinking source. Those who drink the water ended up in hospital. Unfortunately, in this incident, one individual passed away from drinking the contaminated water. That shows the importance of looking after our water sources. Our water sources are for everybody. We should drink clean safe and healthy water. Any activities out of that which I have already mentioned, those are the bylaws that will cover them. Planting, grazing, extraction or even trying to cut down the main pipe, which is the direct water source to the village,

and I hope that it is very clear to everybody. We talk about water, we talk about life, healthy living, sanitation and hygiene. I hope that it is very clear when you talk about our drinking water, it is holistically our responsibility to look after our drinking water because once these bylaws are passed in Parliament, any activity done on any wate source, you will be liable. The Hi will come, and the technical team will inspect and look at the severity of what had been done or damaged. That is where they will put you on the list. If you cannot pay, you will have to take a break at Korovou from six months, even 18 months after you have learnt your lesson and abide by the regulation of our village.

That is the nutshell, we talked about, the clauses 1 to 69, the overall overview of the 9 key areas that we have discussed. I will open the floor for a general discussion and the Members may give us some more advice on the importance of Bill and Its activities and how best we can work together as a team. Remember, our key focus is the importance of how we can look after our cleanliness, hygiene, our sanitation at all levels. I did mention from the beginning that we are all affected, not only those in the rural areas who we all are covered, but those in the urban centers and the maritime zone are covered in this amendment Bill. Interestingly enough, another area that was actually taken out in 2018, was a government body under the Ministry of Health. We called it the Rural Local Authority, and this where the hands and the support services of the government under the Ministry of Health. They will come down to each area, like for Rotuma, there will be a body that will make up a committee that will look after all the welfare and health of Rotuma, like the rubbish, your sanitary, when you talk about your rubbish dump, water safety and even when you talk about the penalties and all relevant issues. They are the ones that will actually be involved on the ground and they will be your contact areas concerning everything in this Bill. We are trying our outmost best to get the Rural Local Authority back, which was taken out in 2018 functioning back. They play a critical role when we talk about Public Health (Amendment) Bill. They will be there to oversee and operate under the Ministry of Health to look at the importance of the Public Health (Amendment) Bill in front of us. I will look to the floor, to the honourable Members, to add to what had been discussed today. I will accept another two questions from the community. Deputy Chair, can you give us some refreshing ideas?

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Just continuing on from where the Chairman of the Committee had highlighted. I just want to add one thing that The Bill also allows the powers of entry to the local authority. The new inclusion is the Environmental Health Practitioner but for our sake it refers to the Health Inspector (HI). But the current law allows for the local authority. The new addition is the changing of Medical Officer, Sanitary Inspector to Environmental Health Practitioner. Even if the Bill passes, the local rural authority or the HI can enter premises where there is a nuisance especially if there are some breeding places for mosquitoes. The local authority and the HI have the powers, according to how it is worded, for the sake of the cleanliness, hygiene and sanitary conditions here in Rotuma. The Local Rural Authority was abolished some time ago. Now they will be brought back, according to the Ministry of Health. For the Gagaj of the Rotuma Council, unless those powers have been brought back, you still do not have authority yet. Once that authority kicks in, the same powers with the Environmental Practitioner Officer (EPO), the same powers will be given to you. The Rotuma Council of Chiefs, you are the rural local authority here, you have the authority to enter any premises according to the law, because the word used, meaning either or discretionary. Either it can be them, or it can be you. But then pending when that authority is granted back to you. You can go in and look at these nuisance complaints. For us, you know, once that kicks in, the responsibility of the rural local authority here is the welfare and the well-being of the people. It does not only rest in the government or in the to the medical, or to the health practitioner, or the environmental practitioner.

The rural local authority, you also have a responsibility. You also have a responsibility according to what is in the law, it has always been there, since 1935 and looking at the current law, the word local authority has always been there too. You already have the power back then that it was somewhat removed by the previous administration. Now the Ministry for Health is trying to bring

this power back to you because of this public health issue. These are some of the key issues that I want to raise. Once the powers that will be given back to you to the Gagaj, and the Council, you also have the power to enter any premises where there is a nuisance. If you see an unhealthy activity going on, there are tyres that are breeding place for mosquitoes, according to the law you can enter. These amendments give you the powers to also look after your people. But we will await the regulations from the Ministry of Health to reactivate the powers back to you. Those are some of the key areas of the Bill that I want to share with you. Secondly, what are your thoughts? I will just ask this question generally. There is a lot of fines in the current Bill. There is a lot of fines. The reason why I ask what are your thoughts are on the fines is because I am asking you is if you commit an offence, you will pay that fine. If the health inspector comes to your house, and you are careless about the upkeep of your surroundings, like having receptacles for breeding mosquitoes, you will be fined. The reason why I am asking is because you are the ones who will pay. That is the reason why I am asking you, ladies and gentlemen here, what are your thoughts on the fine? If you look at the explanation being done about the fines, there is a big jump. From $2.00 way back in 1935, now it has elevated to the maximum of $1000. The lower end of the fines is $100. I am asking is it enough? The fine is OK. Can you pay 1000? Can you pay $1,000? Yes or no? This is the question because the Committee wants to listen to you. What I want to stress here is nothing is written yet in stone. We did not come here and just discuss this. This committee has the powers to remove something that is written here, we can change it, we can edit it or remove some things. Any thoughts on the fines, ladies and gentlemen? Good. OK. Can you have the mic here? Is it too expensive?

GAGAJ MARAF.- Sir, we will follow what the Bill outlines in terms of the fines. If you cannot pay the fine then face the alternative, which is imprisonment.

MRS. T. SAGAITU.- This morning, hearing about what you have mentioned concerning the fines being very high. I think we better move. The people of Rotuma or the people in these two districts better move. We better move to clean up our areas, our environment. If we maintain the cleanliness of our environment, there will be no fines given to you, yes. Personally, the $500 fine is low, but then when you start fining the people, they will move because they are frightened, and they do not have much money.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- So that is exactly why the Ministry for Health has come up with the fine setting, to put it up as a deterrent. So that you do not commit this. If you commit this, this is what will happen to you, but the solution you would definitely raise, Madam, we get ourselves organised, we clean up our homes and surrounds, there will be no fines.

GAGAJ MARAF.- Once you mentioned about the fines. I would like to tell the people of Noatau not to get frightened. If we follow the instructions, there will be no need to be afraid of the fines. The council of chiefs in Rotuma will try to work with the Do and the Ministry of Health officials to solve this problem based on the Amendments in this Bill and the rest of the clauses in the Principal Act that has not changed. Every district must study these amendments and get to know them because when these amendments are passed in Parliament, it will affect all villages. No one will be able to escape this, the DO is here and the soon we plan these things out, the better, because we can start to clean up our villages and district. Yesterday we were sharing at the Council Chamber and one chief asked about the open coconut shells that are left near the homes. These shells can store fresh water that can lead to breeding mosquitoes. I was thinking to myself about my big swamp that I use to plant my *via.* I have the biggest swamp in the district where I plant my *via* which is a staple food for us. However, these swamps also breed mosquitoes. And I think I must clean my swamps for the sake of not allowing the mosquitoes to breed any further even though we enjoy the *via*. I believe that it all depends on how we well we clean the swamp. We have had these swamps for a long time and I know it is not easy to clean up the swamps or to destroy the swamps and there will be no more *via* for us to enjoy. Thank you.

MR. FONMONU.- Good morning I want to thank the honourable Chairman and Members of the Committee because the question on whether we agree or not agree with the fines. I want to state that I totally support the work that you are all doing, thank you.

MR. EELI.- I want to comment on clause 28. Since the discussions are on the fines, I do not know if the fines relating here but if you do not pay then you get $100 for your fine per day, every day. I do not know where this relates to businesses or to our local people because $100 for fine, per day is quite expensive because normally the rate here, if you happen to work for three to five hours for a person, the normal pay you get is $ 50.00 dollars. If you try to pay the 1000 apart from this and sadly, the fine will not be paid unless you have plenty people to help to pay the fine. If the $100 fine applies individuals, not the business, I think this too much for an individual to bear.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee and the members of the two districts that are here, Sir, thank you for your concern that is been raised. We know that it is too much and that is basically the intention for it to be too much. What we want to do is maximise compliance. Let us say your septic tank is leaking and your neighbour is suffering from the smell and the flies fly onto their food when they eat. There is a great risk of sickness. The children that play around that area are also at high risk. Now when the health officer comes and gives you the notice for you to remove it, let us say you are given $200 fine, and you have to remove them or deal with it within seven days. And when the officer come back after seven days, you have not done anything? That is why you are now fined a $100 every day thereafter because you willingly do not want to do anything. The $ 100 each day for not fixing the leak in your septic is to force you to fix it as soon as possible. Otherwise, you will keep on paying that $100 per day. That is in the Bill for the high-risk nuisance to be removed as soon as possible for people to live freely, enjoy their leisure and not get sick. In order for that to happen, you have to put something that might overwhelm you but will push you. It will demand that you comply. If we put $5, you will relax and just pay $5 and the high-risk nuisance will not be fixed as soon.

HON. J.N. NAND.- Earlier on, we had discussed something about the waste management and I think it was the beginning of last year Members of Parliament attended the workshop organised by the Ministry of Environment at the Suva City Council Chambers. It was an initiative by our Prime Minister when he was out of Parliament for some time. He usually collected the empty plastic water bottles and sell them to recycling companies. Under his leadership now, through the Ministry of Environment, they have initiated a campaign, titled: A Road to Litter Programme. We will collaborate with the DO Rotuma, where the Ministry of Environment will establish wardens in each district and provide the necessary training and education to the general public. They will provide the litter bins and all the necessary equipment to enable the wardens and the villagers to support this initiative and help with the management of the waste on the island. The DO had been advised yesterday and will get in touch with the Ministry of Environment and will see to this programme materialising soon.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- Do you want to make a comment?

MR. J. SUSAU.- Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and honourable Members of the Committee. It is not a question, but it is a request because I know we are talking about cleaning the environment. We have lots of garbage here like plastic and bottles. My request is can you do anything about the recycle. We have heard recycle plant, planned a long time but it has not materialised. I think if there was a recycling plant, people will be happy to take their plastics bottles, bag and beer bottles and all the empty bottles for recycle and at the same time they can be paid. This is one of my request and I ask If you can look into it. Thank you very much.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- Your submission is noted and we will take that into consideration, honourable Nand had explained about some NGO's that are willing to help in this kind of assistance. On behalf of the honourable Speaker of Parliament and the Chairperson, Deputy chairperson, we, the Members of the Committee, including our officials form the Ministry of Health,

we would like to convey our sincere appreciation. Vinaka vakalevu to *Gagaj Maraf* and to the *vanua* to the people of Noatau and Oinafa. As you are all aware, there are a lot of diseases in Fiji. Yesterday at Itumuta hall, I was emphasising on the need for us indigenous people to take care of ourselves. This is the reason. We are very low in population. Fiji has not yet reached 1,000,000 and if we are not careful, in the next 10 years, our numbers will decline. The reason is because we iTaukei and Rotumans are the only ones in the whole world. Those who have gone overseas and are citizens there. I was telling them yesterday that for Indians, honourable Nand is here, you see some Indians here, some Indians in Africa, some Indians in India. That is why this law is very important. Compared Rotuma to other parts of Fiji, they are still yet to comply. When we go to villages, some villages still have horses and cows roaming around within some of these villages. Nowadays people have changed, they do not want to listen to their chiefs. We discussed it openly in the village halls, in the village meetings. The reply is, *yes, I'll go and do it*. They will go but hey will never do it. Following years come, the nuisance is still there and consequently, diseases will spread. Now these are different kinds of diseases apart from HIV, AIDS, leptospirosis and dengue fever, and who are dying? it is us, the indigenous people. Therefore, this law will assist the government, it will assist the chiefs and all the people in Fiji so that we can comply. I hope with this consultation happening, we will take into account all your submissions and we will make sure that it will reach in Parliament. Through your submissions, we are adamant we can make a good law and come early next year in January, this law will come into effective or December, we are ready. I hope with those few words, you will start doing the cleanup campaign for your district and when we will come next year after we will win the election, sorry, honourable Nand, and we will see the positive changes in Rotuma, *vinaka vakalevu*.

MR. EELI.- Just a few clarifications to help the Members of this Committee concerning this. We have a lot to remember and a lot of clauses that needs more scrutiny. A kind request for future reference, if the Bill can be sent over, a week in advance to give us more time to read and come up positive comments and recommendations. Thank you.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- Your submission to is noted. The same issue was discussed Itumuta yesterday. The lateness of the handouts given but that this not only happened in Rotuma but this happened in other maritime islands like Kadavu and the islands of Yasawa, it has to do with the isolation of our islands. And I was telling the people of Itumuta yesterday that the important thing that we should be thankful for this government is that it is bringing back this democratic process of consultation before any amendments are done to any Bill. Consultation means we want to hear your voice before we pass this law. In the past 16 years, without any of your views, the government will just go ahead and pass the law. It almost happened to the Rotuman Bill. However, with this government, we are trying to bring back the idea of consultation. We have started slowly and we are on the verge of coming to an end, but we hope that when the next government will come in, we will do a lot of consultation so that we can improve on the way we do consultations, send it to the district office. The district officer will then circulate it to the Gagaj of each District in Council of Chiefs and they discuss it in your villages. I am saying for the past 16 years, there were no consultations, we discussed these amendments is Suva and pass them in Suva and then come January you were unaware. But with the current government, with honourable Nand included, we will hear your voices and we will go back to Suva and we will take all your submissions into account. With those few words, *vinaka vakalevu*.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- If you need any further clarity on the discussion today, feel free to provide us with your written submissions. We will give you another three weeks. Is there any area that was left behind, it will discuss further within the community, our secretariate is here, you can have their e-mail address, the phone number, the Parliament Committee is open for your submissions. It happens everywhere and they call or send a written submission from respective areas that we visited, that will be included as part of his consultation.

GAGAJ MARAF.- As we come to the end of our discussion this morning. On behalf of Gagaj Kausiraf and all the subchiefs and the people of the two districts, I would like to thank you all very much. We are happy to hear from this Committee this morning regarding the amendments to the Public Health Act. We heard about the penalties, and they are high but if we follow and do what is right, we will not have to worry about the penalties. I am always encouraging my district to unite and work together for the common good of the district and the island. We are elated for the proposed amendments, especially the fines because these fines will act as a deterrent. The next time you all will return, you will witness a huge positive changes, especially in the district of Noatau. After this, people will not be able to give excuses that they were not aware. I am not going to talk about the other districts because if their chiefs do not to cooperate, then fine them. On behalf of the people from both districts, thank you very much.

The Committee adjourned at 10.41 a.m.

The Committee resumed at 12.00 p.m.

Interviewees/Submittees: Pepjei/Juju

(1.) Ms. Katty Kafoa Juju
(2.) Mr. Saau Injimo Juju
(3.) Mr. Kamea Juju
(4.) Mr. Petero Juju

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Thank you very much for your presence to the villagers of Pepjei and Juju. Before we start, I would like to state that it is an honour and privilege to be here. As you are all aware, this is the Committee from your Parliament in Suva. We are here on behalf of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fiji Government. We represent the Committee on Social Affairs regarding amendment Bill on Public Health (Amendment) Bill from the Ministry of Health No. 4 of 2026. This Bill was enacted in 1935 and after 91 years, these are the first proposed amendments to it. I hope that you all got the copy in front of you, which clearly states the amendment to the Bill of the Public Health. There are 69 clauses and the reasons why we are here to discuss this Bill with you, is to see how best you can give your opinions on the discussion part of those clauses, and hopefully we will summarise it at the end of our discussion. Furthermore, I will ask the honourable Members to introduce themselves.

(*Introduction of Committee Members and representatives from the Ministry of Health)*

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.-Together with the team, we hope that you are familiar with those two gentlemen, the SDMO, plus our DO Rotuma. I will ask honourable Bia to lead us in our discussion today and please note that we are here to hear from you regarding this amendment Bill. Our discussion will be based on those 69 clauses in front of you. We need your opinion; we need you to give us your views. It is still in amendment format and when we collect all the relevant information during this consultation, that will give us the edge. When you go back to Suva, we will collate all your views before we table these amendment Bill to Parliament.

HON. A. BIA.- Just before we continue with our discussions in our *talanoa* regarding the Public Health amendment Bill, just to confirm if everyone that is in the house today has a copy of the amendment Bill. If there is anyone that has not received a copy, please raise your hands. It is important that you have one so that we continue to discuss the Bill that is in front of us. From 1 to 69, before we start, as the Chairman had alluded to, out of all the Public Health Amendment Act, it has been there, the Public Health Act has been there from 1935, until now, is 91 years. This is the first change that the Ministry of Health is proposing to Parliament to amend the 69 clauses or the 69 sections that are in the document that is in front of you. Numbers 1 to 69 and the reason for change, as the Chairman had stated, to modernise the way we govern ourselves in terms of public health and maintaining good hygiene and cleanliness and wherever we live in. One of the major changes in the 91 years from 1935 till now, this Public Health Act, only governs those who are in the urban centres. For the first time ever, when this law is passed in Parliament, it becomes a law. It will now govern all of us, whether you live in the villages, in the rural areas, or you live in the maritime islands, Rotuma is included. We will all be governed under this Public Health Act.

You might ask why Public Health Act? Now, there are a lot of sicknesses easily spread throughout where we live in, especially in Rotuma. Of the fact that we can contain these sicknesses where we live in, we can stop it, but it is just because the way we live and the style of the way we live in our communities. We do not maintain good hygiene and we do not clean our compound. We put our rubbish carelessly and we do not maintain cleanliness. And that is where these kinds of sicknesses like leptospirosis and dengue fever will spread. If you are not careful, mosquitoes will breed in empty containers, tyres and empty coconut shells that lie around in your house or in your

villages, mosquitoes will breed, dengue fever can be easily spread in the village that you live in. In the Public Health Act, one of the main amendments in the Public Health Act is the fines. Some of the fines, for the last 91 years had been $2, $5, $10. One of the main amendments proposed by the Ministry of Health is that these fines will have to be increased. Now the Ministry of Health and the honourable Members will try and explain why they are recommending the need to increase the fines, which is to protect you. Also you have the responsibility to ensure that the cleanliness and the good hygiene of your environment. We will start with the document that is in front of you. Out of all the 69 amendments, we have narrowed it down only nine that directly involves us as we live in maritime islands and in the villages. Look at number 14. Number 14 is about the protection of health officers and officials that do visit our villages. I will ask the health officials that are here to explain the new amendments or the protection of the work that they do, the health officials, when they do come in for inspection. If there is a complaint that has been raised with them, they will come in for inspection and this new amendment will protect them while they carry out the work.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee and members of the two districts who are present here today. Section 14 is about obstruction of the duties that our officers perform on the ground. Basically, the main reason for the establishment of our Ministry of Health is to protect your health. And in doing so, our officers on the ground often face challenges on a daily basis while trying to perform their duties to protect you. We face a lot of obstruction from the members of the community. In some instances, people have sworn at our officers, some have released dogs to chase after our officers, some have physically harmed our officers. These sorts of harassments dampen the effort of our officers to protect you and your family. There has been nothing in the law that prevents or safeguards our health officers on the ground. We felt that it would be prudent to include that in the in the Bill. So now, if this is passed in Parliament, anyone obstructing the officers from performing the duties, will be guilty of an offence and be liable to pay $500 fine. If you cannot pay the fine within the time allocated, then you might face three months imprisonment. We need to see the importance of the work that our officers do on the ground. They are there to save you or ensure that you live a long and healthy life. Obstruction comes in few forms. Number one, if you obstruct physically, stopping them from doing the work that they need to do, that comes as obstruction. If you give false information, if they ask you, okay, so where did you go in the last seven days? And you were in the hall in Pepjei drinking kava there and you say, no, I was at home for the whole of the seven days. That false information is also seen as obstruction, and you can be liable for $500 fine or three months improvement.

HON. A. BIA.- If anyone wants to ask a question or clarification or wants to clarify any issues regarding the amendments of Public Health Act, you can raise your hands anywhere during our conversation. At any time, raise your hand, you can ask your questions. There is a point here. And just for your information, our session is recorded and before you ask your questions, please kindly say your name before you ask your questions.

MR. K. KAFOA.- I was born and raised here and brought my children here, then we moved to Fiji in 2021 for the education of our children. Before we left in 2021 the island was really clean. During those times, we hardly hear of sicknesses like Phalarises and NCD that are prevalent in our societies nowadays. But at that time, we had our HI and our chief, working together and inspected our village every three months from one end to another end of a district and placed fines where appropriate. But the fines at that time were small. But anyway, and the was very beautiful, well maintained, pigs were all in district pan. Now it is useless because the pigs have escaped from the pig pan and are roaming around our gardens destroying our roots and gardens. The second thing is the mosquitoes. When we returned from Fiji, all these things were coming up again because the HI had been driven out, which is not supposed to be. I do not blame the HI, I blame the Council of Chiefs who are supposed to be concerned about the welfare and work of the HI. But I am so glad that we have an Act that will be amended which will strengthen a clean and hygienic Rotuma through the fines. I do not want to pay $200 just to clean my compound. And in our customary law, any land that

is near the village or facing the seaside are to be cleaned, banana trees must be maintained at a certain height especially if they are at the back of the homes because if that are left to grow taller, they can be places where mosquitoes can breed. And these are some of the preventative measures that we used before. Our environment is getting worst and dirtier. And for me as a Rotuman, I have been brought up and bred here, I am ashamed to say that I am a Rotuman, because the condition of the island in terms of its cleanliness is pathetic. I am so happy and glad that now the Ministry of Health has proposed the amendments in the Public Health Act of 1935 to ensure that all over Fiji, the people will take responsibility in keeping their environment clean, especially here in Rotuma, where we can enjoy our beautiful island and to be free from any form of diseases.

HON. A. BIA.-Now, the two issues that has been brought forward in terms of mosquitoes and pig pans takes us to the next two topics of our conversation which is included in this Bill. Now I will give it to the Ministry of Health officials to explain about nuisance and one of the main aspect and inclusion in the amendment is about the breeding of mosquitoes. I will let them explain and the fines that are there. If you are caught not abiding by the laws that is amended, and if it is passed in Parliament, it becomes law.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee, members of the community for the two districts who are here today. We have a section in the Bill which is titled the Nuisance Section. Nuisance refers to any activity that is done in such a way that it can be injurious to human health. We have from A to S are about 20 categories of nuisance.

HON. A. BIA.- Just before Toga continues, you look at the document that is in front of you, 26, 27. Vinaka, back to you Toga.

MoH OFFICIAL.- There is a total of 19 categories of nuisances. It talks about any premises that is in such a way that it can be injurious to health, it talks about wastewater, it talks about waste, how you manage waste within your premises. There are 19 categories of nuisances. In this context, anyone that is found to be having a nuisance in your premises that can cause members of your family or your neighbours to be sick. The fines that are in the proposed Bill is a ceiling of $1,000, meaning it can range from $100 right up to $1,000, depending on how we see the risk of that particular reasons to be in terms of human health. Some minor reasons, you might be fined $100, $200, but for major nuisances, it is worth $1000, you can be fined because that we feel is a threat to the life of the community members. And then when you are given this fine and the notice to remove the nuisance, you are fined and you are given maybe a certain number of days, depending again on the magnitude of the work that you need to do, you will be given that number of days to remove that particular nuisance. If you fail to do so within that period, then you will be charged an additional $100 for every day that you leave the nuisance unresolved. Take for instance, if you have a small pig house beside your house, and there are 3 pigs inside. Your neighbours complains because they cannot take the smell and the pig droppings are more than the neighbours can bear. When the health inspector comes and upon advice, you need to remove the pig pan, they will give you a fine because you are non-compliant. And you are fined $300, you are given seven days to remove it. Now, you pay $300, but when they come back after seven days, it is still there.

Therefore, every day thereafter, you will be charged $100 and another $100 tomorrow, another $100 next day, and another $100 next day, until you remove it. Every day, since the nuisance is not taken care of, anybody stepping on the spillage from the pan can get leptospirosis and die. It is a high threat to the life of community members. Moving on, in another section in the Bill is about mosquitoes. Now, in the Principal Act, but we sort of modifying it in such a way to be able to be more effective. The difference is this, before, the Principal Act states that if container or vessel or anything that has mosquito larvae is found in your compound, you will are guilty and will be charged with $10 fine. Now we have done it in such a way to be more proactive. So now if you have this factor, if this is passed to be an Act, if an officer comes to your compound and finds tire lying there.

Just a tire lying there, no mosquito inside, you will be fined for the tire. This is the reason, if it rains later, the rainwater will go in the tire, the mosquito will be able to breed there. If they find a dry empty tin of fish, likewise, that will be seen as a non-compliance. And then the second level, is if they find something that already has water in it. Since, it already has water, all you need now is for mosquito to lay the eggs, then it will start to breed. So there are three levels. Before there used to be only one, have to be mosquito larvae. Now, as long as it is a container, if the container has water, and if the container has water and has mosquito, there are three levels to ensure that, you know, residents continuously clean the compound to get rid of these possible receptacles to be breeding sites.

HON. A. BIA.-So, I hope that is clear. Any questions regarding those discussions? Anyone want to seek clarification? Thank you. Just before the question is asked, may I ask the community members if we already look at thirty-nine, 40, and forty-one, because after this we will go into discussions on those numbers.

MR. S. INJIMO.- Just to add on to what was said, this is a village. What he was saying is about urban centres where they have fences. If in the villages like in Rotuma and in all over Fiji, we do not have fences, and our children play everywhere. And then they may leave the tires everywhere and when the HI sees the tire on my yard. Actually, it was the children who is playing earlier in my compound left the tire in my compound. I believe that the leeway should be given in such situations in all the rural areas.

HON. A. BIA.- Ministry for Health, would you like to clarify that?

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, and honourable Members of the Committee. Sir, thank you for that concern. We do understand where you are coming from, but the risk still remains, whether you intentionally put it or you do not intentionally put it there. What I am trying to say is for you to take ownership of your compound. If the tire is in your compound, then the owner of the compound needs to ensure maybe through daily inspection, remove it, because if you do not, then that tire that was not intentionally put there, will not intentionally breed mosquitoes, and the mosquitoes will intentionally bite you but not intentionally pass the dengue fever to you. The risk remains. We feel that it is your responsibility, whether the tire is your compound or not, the owner is to ensure that on a daily basis s/he make the rounds in your compound and ensure that there are no breeding sites for mosquito in the premises.

HON. A. BIA.- Any more questions? And not that the tire is being put in your compound today, mosquito starts breeding.

MR. K. KAFOA.- I would like to clarifications on the pig issue because it is not here and we have issues concerning pigs escaping from the pan. Can we apply a law to the pans, because it includes the community. And then how are we going to go about it? I think this is between the council of chiefs and the districts to sort this out. I am with you honourable Members if you can draw up a law, for a standard for everyone to follow. We should be given a choice whether to keep all our pigs in the district pig pan or the individual families to take control of their own pigs outside of the district pig pans. It will be very easy for us to maintain the pigs and control the hazard of the pigs for healthy living. Thank you.

HON. A. BIA.- Thank you. I will give it again to the Ministry of Health officials just to clarify about pig pans. It is considered also under this amendment of the new Public Health Act.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, thank you, Madam, for raising that issue. I think, since we have been here since yesterday, in comparison, Rotuma is a bit organised in terms of the raising of animals. In some of villages that we have visited in Fiji, at the back of their houses, the family pig pans housing 4 to 6 pigs. When the wind direction changes, you can actually smell. This is a serious nuisance. These are the ones that are being targeted in these proposed amendments. The Public Health Act outlines that you cannot have a pig pen or a chicken shed not less than 200 feet. That is about 80 meters. But if you go to some of the villages in

Fiji, it is around 10, 15, some even less than 10 metres from their houses. This is something that we want to combat these issues of breeding livestock near homes since the number of cases of leptospirosis is increasing and it is reoccurring every year. Now, when we went to Serea to discuss this issue, they had opened another new door. They said that they do not have animals kept in the village. They have it kept outside the village. But there are certain instances when the animals break out and they come into the village. With the clarity being sort here, I believe it is similar to our case here in Rotuma, if we have that district pan, similar to the one that we came past on the way from Pepjei to Juju, it is okay. It is quite far from where we are and it is big enough area that it does not smell because the waste is not concentrated in a small area and the pigs are free to run around within that boundary. But in the case, if it breaks away from there and comes into the community, that is where the new amendment that was proposed from Serea can be also work here. If the pig owners can give your pigs a distinct earring or something that you put on the cows and the pigs to identify the owners. That can be used to identify whose pig it is and then a notice can be given accordingly. We are not allowed to brand animals nowadays. Branding is now considered cruelty to animals.

HON. A. BIA.-I hope that is clear. Any more questions?

MR. PETERO.- Since we are talking about the diseases spread by mosquitoes, I want to share about the village swamp that we use to plant *via*. I think nearly everywhere on the island, there is swamp for each district. Most people in the village like to eat the *via* and the swamp is the best place to plant the *via*. Unfortunately, this swamp is a breeding place for mosquitoes. What can the villagers do to fix this, since we love our *via*, but the swamp will breed more mosquitoes?

HON. A. BIA.- I will give it to the Ministry of Health officials just to clarify all the types of mosquitoes that is there, total number of types of mosquitoes, and where do they breed?

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee, members of the two districts that are here today. Thank you, Sir for the concern raised. This was also raised in our previous sitting this morning. And you know, the swampy area is the best place for *via* planting. The only suggestion that the Ministry of Health can give in this case is maybe a freshwater species of fish that can be introduced to that swamp. They will feed on the mosquito larvae and we usually advise the use of the Tilapia fish. One of the drawbacks of introducing Tilapia is that can they disrupt this wonderful marine environment. Perhaps, the Ministry of Agriculture can suggest a freshwater species like the *Vo* that can be introduced in the swamps, the small ones that can feed on the mosquito larvae. However, the mosquito that breeds in those natural environment, including Aedes polynesiensis and the culex mosquitoes, one is a major vector for lymphatic filariasis, and I believe that not long ago lymphatic filariasis was a major problem here on the islands. Having that introduced in there will reduce the mosquito population and reduce the risk of that spreading amongst the population. For dengue vectors, they usually breed around the house with human-made or man-made receptacles that we have around like tires, containers, tins, bottles, things like that. Clear water not so much as compared to the swamp. The swamp is usually sort of grey kind of water, very blackish water. But the dengue mosquito prefers clear water to breed and that is the difference, honourable Chairman.

HON. A. BIA.- We will continue with our discussions. Let us go to number 39 is about a penalty which has been increased from $20 to $2,000. Now that fine is about venereal disease on the different types of disease that is caused by those sexually transmitted diseases, and this is HIV AIDS. Now the fine has increase from 20 to $2,000 is for those that have been confirmed as people who have been contracted HIV/AIDS and when they come to the island, then they willingly or purposefully spreading it out to those that have not contracted with the sickness. They can be fined for $2,000. Now interestingly, it has been confirmed in the last previous sitting by SDMO Rotuma that there have been confirmed 3 cases in the island. This fine of $2000 is to act as a deterrent to would be offenders and to protect you. If there is a person that is known and verified by the Ministry of Health that has contracted HIV/AIDS, s/he cannot be going around and purposefully or willingly

spreading the HIV/AIDS to the other members of the communities. Now, one might ask, why are the names not revealed? Now under the HIV Act and confidentiality we cannot disclose the names of those who are contracted the HIV AIDS virus. It goes with our constitution, and we have signed the United Nations Declaration for Human Rights about the right to privacy and to protect the information of these individuals. The HIV Act, according to the Ministry of Health, is also being under-reviewed, and when the consultations come around, maybe you can make suggestions as to maybe the disclosure of the names when they do come out or where do they live if they come to the islands so that you can know. Any questions regarding that?

MR. KAMEA.- Sir, can we go back to mosquitoes? I would love to ask this question to the HI who is responsible for this. Since this year, the whole year, I have not seen the HI come to the village to check whether I have a dump to put my rubbish and other things because there is a lot of rubbish all over the place. And secondly, five years ago, we had spray going around the island for mosquitoes. Since then, I have not seen any spraying of mosquitoes and I feel there are policies and things to enforce but this has not been happening. But I feel if the spraying continues, we will see the health and wellness of the people living on the island improve. My second question is on fines. I feel the fines are very high especially when we in island in Rotuma and being fined $2000, $1000, and then yes, we understand. I ask before these rules are enforced, can the government organise workshops around the island so that the people are educated and have a fair idea about how the fines will be applied for different offences. I understand that in Suva most people have steady income but for most of the people in the maritime so not. We are poor, and being fined $1000, I feel it is extremely high, Sir. That is my concern. Thank you.

HON. A. BIA.- I will just give it to the Ministry for Health to answer that question. Quite interesting, we from the islands are very poor, but some of the villages that we visited, complained about a lot of drinking beers everywhere in some of the villages in Rotuma.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Standing Committee and our community here. I think one of the major changes or amendment that we also proposing in the Bill is giving the extra power to the health inspectors and the health officers so that they can enter the communities and inspect. This is one of the major changes that we have included in the proposing of this Bill so that the officer can come into the communities, write an infringement notice like what the LTA does. That is also what we want to introduce in this new amendment and the powers, additional powers to be given to the officers so that they can enter the communities. Number 2, I think you had mentioned about the spraying of mosquitoes. And again, the Ministry and the Government encourages that we do destruction of the breeding grounds or destruction of the receptacles through cleanup campaigns. I think that is the most effective way of trying to reduce the population of the mosquitoes and we are going to ultimately decrease the number of cases of dengue fever. If we do not destroy the breeding grounds but instead, spray today. When we return tomorrow, the other places that we miss out on, the mosquitos will return because the receptacles have not been removed or destroyed. The mosquitoes will lay their eggs, and then the next 10 days, you will see the number of mosquitoes increase, creating a lot of havoc. And the other thing is we are not encouraging the spraying unless there is an outbreak of mosquito borne diseases. The reason is that spraying of chemical is not done in the farms or in the bush. We are doing it in the community where there is a vulnerable population, where there are children, where there are sick people and the elderly population. It is prudent that we do not expose the vulnerable in our communities to the chemicals through the sprayings. We are already exposed to a lot of the chemicals and the food that we eat and things that we drink, and then the spraying comes. If the Ministry for Health does the spraying every month or every two weeks to control the mosquito population in our communities, then we will be exposed to different types of chemicals. And I hope you understand why we do not want to spray out now because the vulnerable population in the community and we encourage one of the methods that Mr. Toga had mentioned. This is a biological method where we introduce the species to eat larvae. Number one measure is to destroy the breeding grounds and that is one of the effective means or

ways of decreasing the population of mosquitoes. If you are not seeing the spraying happening in your village or in your district, the whole reason is we do not want to spray a chemical in our communities, unless there is an outbreak that we cannot control the population of mosquitoes, than we need to do a one-off spray, and then we encourage people to continue with the clean-up and the destruction of the receptacles.

HON. A. BIA.- We will continue with our discussions from number 39, number to numbers 41. Number 40 is about a penalty on offensive trade. And 41, is about a business that is currently thriving on the island, which is Airbnb, accommodations to visitors who come in. And I will ask the Ministry for Health just to put further clarifications on why this is included in the public health amendment.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, and honourable Members of the Committee and members of the community here from the two districts. Clause 40 is about offensive trade. An example of an offensive trade is any form of businesses that produces foul odour or loud noise or even producers byproducts that can harm human beings like slaughterhouses. If you go past the corridor of a slaughter around 6 o'clock, or 7 o'clock in the evening, you can smell something smelly, filling the whole area. That is the foul smell that the slaughter produces. The large-scale chicken farms like Crest and Rooster, produces foul smells from their slaughterhouses. Similarly, you will see Ratan company, who is crushing stones for road repairs. The stone crushing machine is producing a lot of dust that can harm the health of the villages nearby. At the moment, there is nothing stopping these types of businesses from coming beside any village and operating there. That is why we have put it in the amendments because we have received a lot of complaints from members of the community about some of these offensive trade operating just beside some of these communities. We could not stop it, nor can we remove them because they have already established themselves there. The Bill proposes that anyone who wants to operate, must first get the approval of the Ministry for Health, register with the Ministry for Health so we will see that it will not affect you, then we will say, okay, you have met the health standards and other necessary requirements, you may go ahead. Any company that builds without these specific approvals from the Ministry for Health will be fined $500. And the second one, which is section 41, is again based on experiences through the years. We have received numerous complaints, concerning people who are renting in concern parts of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

One incident is that this individual who had complained about the house he and his family were renting from. It was in such a bad state that his family members could have got sick from the situation they were in. During the course of our inspection, we noted a double story house. The complainant was staying on the ground floor. Whenever, his neighbours on the top floor flushed their toilet, some of the wastewater would drip into the living room of the complainant. This was a major health risk. Preventative measures are considered and are included in the Bill. It states that anybody who wants to do any form of accommodation, whether it is a house to be rented, Airbnb, homestay, where people pay to go and live, the Ministry of Health must inspect and approve it first before you can run that business. Since people are paying money and being accommodated in substandard areas is a great concern. Another incident was a major outbreak of typhoid in the Northern Division from the cane farming area. Any of the men here have ever gone to cut sugar cane? But if you go and cut cane for cane farmers, they have labourers' quarters. The labourers' quarters is just like a place where you breed chicken. You know the 44-gallon drums? What the farmers do is they cut it open, and they flatten it and they used it to make the walls of the labourers quarters. There is no proper foundation, only soil. They put tarpaulin on the ground and that is where labourers sleep. And there are no proper toilets and all these basic necessities are all now captured in this Bill. So now if you own a sugarcane farm, you want labourers to come and cut your cane, you have to provide them with the standard quarters inspected and approved by the Ministry of Health. These are some of the things that we feel should be included in the Bill to better protect you, the communities and citizens of Fiji and Rotuma.

HON. A. BIA.- Our second last point of discussion for the day are numbers 54 and 55. Generally, they are about the hygiene and cleanliness of vessels that do serve maritime islands. I know for us here in Rotuma, they are vessels that do serve Rotuma, coming from Suva to Rotuma. These are derived from complaints received from the Ministry of Health about some of the vessels that are infested with insects and cockroaches and they do not clean their vessels well before passengers board. Now in clauses 54 and 55, owners of the vessels or the captains of the ships, can be fined if the commuters, raise their complaints to the Ministry of Health if they think that the vessels that had travelled in is not up to the service that is required before passengers to come in. And our last topic of discussion is an important one which covers the majority of this amendment is about the protection of our water source. I will give it to the Chairman to close it with the explanation in terms of the protection of our water sources which includes boreholes and open the floor for discussions if there are other questions that needs to be raised.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Thank you very much for the live discussions we have today. We are in the final phase of our discussion today. We will continue from 59 right up to 67 and 68 because these clauses mostly concern the sources of our drinking water. When we talk talking about the sources, these includes a dam, borehole, and a well too. Wherever necessary, where we get the uniformity of where we got our drinking water, especially for our rural dwellers here at the maritime zone. We were told that there are about four boreholes here on the island. In these amendments in the Bill, the Ministry of Health has already defined the different sources of water and rural water catchment areas. I have already alluded to that, whether it is a well, whether it is borehole, whatever, a form of where we got our drinking water. By the amendments in the Bill, it clearly dictates that there should not be any cutting down of trees. Secondly, there should not be any planting done where our catchment of water is situated. Thirdly, there should not be any extraction of sand or gravel from where the locality is. It clearly goes down and says whether it is leased or not, even the landowners themselves, are not allowed to do those four points that I have mentioned earlier. Remember I talked about drinking water? It is part of our healthy living, healthy hygiene, healthy sanitary for living in our villages. If in any unfortunate instance, one of our villagers decides go up to the village water source and cut down even the pipes, that villager is liable to be taken to court and charged with the relevant penalties that is within amendments in the Bill. Remember, it depends on the severity of what you have done to a water source. There are penalties involved. It is clearly stated in those handouts. If you cannot pay for the penalties, the bylaws which we are trying to make it into law is very clear. You can be charged or imprisonment from three to six months, depending on the severity, it can go up to 18 months. And I am hoping that penalty is very clear to everybody.

Just to round up our discussion this afternoon, another critical area that we are trying to get back is the services of the Rural Local Authority. Way back in 2018, this used to be the arm of the Ministry of Health. They played a very critical role in looking after the welfare of the local communities especially in the maritime areas. They look at how best to manage our rubbish, the cleanliness of the villages, looking after the safety of our children if there is an outbreak, our water sources, likewise the penalties involved. The rural local authority will be a body with the Ministry of Health and an arm of the government to facilitate all these things. I am afraid to say that in 2018 it was taken out. They play a very critical responsibility when you talk about maritime areas. In this Bill, we are requesting to get back that service and that will be on par with those who are in the urban centers. Remember urban centers, pay their bills, through rates. That is why they provide all those services, how they look after their rubbish, how they look after the welfare of their roads, even the electricity, and the importance of how they look after their health. In this case, once we get back these operations for the rural local authority, they are the ones that will liaise with the DO, they will liaise with the medical team to look into all these amendment in this Bill which we are discussing today, which are 69 clauses altogether. You are left behind because there are avenues which the government is looking at to help and provide you, give you the lead role in looking at means and how best you can look after yourselves, whether it is a pig pan, whether it is your poultry farm, whether it is your rubbish, any other avenue that is in regards, that will affect our public health in our daily lives. To

sum it up today, unless if there are no other questions before we wrap it up. Any last questions concerning what we have discussed this afternoon?

MR. K. KAFOA.- Thank you for your contribution and allowing me to speak again. Can I take us back to waste management. There was a rubbish recycle planned earlier with Pacific Recycle, and a team came, and we did the various consultations. After the consultations, we waited for the implementations, but there was a pause. We do not know what happened because we had already formed a team. We already had our protocol sorted out like the kind of visiting and arranging everything on the island. But then we need waste management because of the increase of different kinds of wastes poses a health hazard. I got a land near that steep slope, and I asked the previous DO to put a sign at that place warning individuals against dumping on our land. Some people on the bikes throw the rubbish from the slope. And every time there is a high tide or king tide; all those things are washed up in front to our village. The tins and the plastics are scattered all over the front of our village. My second point is the maritime thing. I have been travelling on the boat because it is less expensive. The saddest thing is when we reach the wharf at 6 o'clock in the morning and there are no toilets at the wharf.

We are not served breakfast, and we have to hire a vehicle to buy food from the other side of the island. And then the thing is, we have to wait for our cargo which almost takes half a day. How can we address these issues? If the weather is bad and the ship has to dock at Motusa, then we have to climb down a rope ladder that is square. People like me with walking impairments will not be able to climb these types of ropes. My third point is on the increase in the numbers of those that contracted HIV in Rotuma. We have lots of workshops from the Ministry of Health that we have HIV to be tested. But if we are going to have that implementation of the HIV to be tested here, it is compulsory for a certain age, so we can prevent the spread of it. The fourth thing is, before we used to have birth controls. Now we do not know what is happening now with our young adults. We have early pregnancies that you can tell, you know. Why not our SDMO and HI have workshops with the younger generations on the prevention of this infectious spreading diseases. And the firth issue is I would liked to be cleared is how we manage all our waste. First thing we must revive our waste management plan. Second thing is our inspections by our health officials. From here, we are going to have a clean environment and healthy people in Rotuma.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Thank you, Madam for that. Can the Ministry for Health just give us those details on those three key points areas. I believe we have discussed those already. But just to wrap it up for us, the importance of those things you talk about the rubbish and the NGOs. I have already clearly stated the role of the rural local authority. That is the body that when it returns to the frame the operations, it will cover all these basic necessities, the clause that we are discussing here this afternoon. Can the Ministry of Health give us an outline on those three important areas so that we can wrap it up today. Thank you.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Honourable Members of the Committee, the members of the community of the two districts who are here today. Thank you, Madam, for the concern. You know, this is something that the rural local authority can provide solution to once they are reinstated. The provision of sanitary facilities and our wharf here in Rotuma to cater for travelling passengers while waiting for the ferry or when they do disembark from arriving ferries. In terms of the HIV and AIDS, SDMO has confirmed that the hospital is always open for anybody who wants to have the testing done. We will keep it confidential. Feel free to go do not be afraid. Power is when you know your status. That is when you will feel empowered with that knowledge. And the SDMO will not give out personal information about patients, so you can be rest assured that whatever information of you, will be safeguarded. In response to the condom comment, yes, it is available also there in the hospital. It is right at the counter, you can just go and maybe when no one is looking around, then just grab it from there. But, as I mentioned to the last sitting, we had this morning, the real keyword to, or the real solution towards the spiking in HIV AIDS is, going back to Christianity and the rules that used to be

there before. Morality, advising our children to wait for marriage, have only one partner, not to have multiple sexual partners because you never know who has the virus now. If you put a mark on them, some might say, hey lets us run away, the one has the HIV virus and will not be a not good social stigma. Honourable Chairman, I hope that this question has been answered.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Vinaka, honourable Nand, can you please give us an area of concern regarding our discussion on waste management this afternoon.

RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Is there another question?

MR. KAMEA.- I would like to bring the issue of the drinking water in Rotuma. You mentioned here about the boreholes and how safe is the water here especial at times water is closed because breakdown to the pipes and then when you open your tap, the wate is little muddy. That is why I am asking how safe the water is and if there is a person to see that the water is clean and safe to all the consumers here. Thank you.

MS. L. SAVU.- Yes, thank you to the honourable Chairman and the Members of the Committee. Thank you for the question. That is something that most of the members of the community have been asking about. For me, I take my cue from the Ministry of Health and the health inspector who is here in Rotuma. According to health inspector so far, it is all good and there has not been any disease spread through waterborne disease. And according to Water Authority, the water that is coming from the three boreholes are the safest sources compared to the other maritime islands. For Rotuma, we are all well and in good hands. Just like I mentioned, we get a cue from Ministry of Health through the health inspector for Rotuma.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE .- Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Do you wish to say something? HI, thank you can someone give the mic right to out HI.

MS. A. TUWAI.- I have been in the island for four years and five months. For our water, previous years, WAF did not add chlorine. WAF initiated the chlorination this year. When we use tested the water, the Coliform and E. coli percentage used to be high. After the chlorination, we tested the water, and it has gone to the normal water standard. Currently, our water is safe to drink. If you have murky water or muddy water, you can always call me to come and conduct water testing. And for water testing, we will have to take it through the Friday or Wednesday flights. Friday for it to be tested in the water lab in Suva. And for Madam's comment, usually my department, I am the only health inspector here in Rotuma, and for each district I go twice per district from August to August from our business year to the next. For the Juju district, this is my most challenging district, because we usually go through the district chief. I sent a letter beforehand, one week beforehand. We send a letter to the district chief as well as the community health workers for all clean up. We have two visits, that is the surprise visit as well as informing the chief and the community health worker. Both of the cases, people are hardly in their homes, so if they have to find or talk to someone about their compound, we will have to wait for the owner to come back from the farm or from the sea or from Suva, so it is a big challenge. We do two rounds of inspection per district or per village. For AMS, I think our last spraying was done five years ago. That was when our dengue cases increased, we only do the spraying if our dengue cases increase. We do not do a dengue mosquito spray because the mosquito becomes resistant to the spraying and to the chemicals.

RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Thank you very much HI, ladies and gentlemen, that concludes our consultation this afternoon. Just before we close, finally, the Bill, will go to Parliament, it will be passed, it will become law. One of the things that was lacking before was the enforcement part.

MR. PETERO.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Ministers, I would just like to talk about the fines. I find it too harsh because jumping from just $20 to $100 or $1,000 is just too much. I think maybe we should reconsider that. Since it is not yet gazetted, so I think you should go back and reconsider it according to how people earn money especially to the maritime source. Thank you.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Thank you. Would you propose a number?

MR. PETERO.- Just minus the third zero.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- OK, thank you. We welcome your submission, and the Committee takes note of that. Anyway, are there any other questions, comments?

MR. PETERO.- Concerning the wells, especially on the island, we have ancient wells here and I think the fines can be too much if it is to deal with the wells because the wells are not covered up. And I think over here we have to cover the wells up. And I think like what you said earlier about the wells and the swamp. Those, I consider wells should be part of the natural environment instead of man-made boreholes, even though it is dug by men. But if it is left for so long, it should be considered natural because our wells here is beyond, let us say it was being dug for over 100 years old ago. Some are probably over 50 years old. I would say this because I am 50 years, and those wells are here before myself. I think those things should be also reconsidered when it comes to fining people who own wells but do not cover them.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Anyone else wants to say anything? Okay, thank you. Thank you very much. If you look at the Bill itself in a nutshell, it is all about common sense. In a nutshell, it is all about common sense. If there is rubbish, clean it up, if there is spillage, clean it up. You have piggery next to the houses, move it further away from the houses. It is all about common sense. The reason why the Ministry of Health is bringing this in, because we tend to be negligent. We are negligent and casual. I was talking about before I finished my closing, I was talking about the word of enforcement. Look at this Bill, it was there 1935, the fines were $2 and such. Hence you see the MoH are pushing for this Bill to go because of the negligence of people. Everywhere in Fiji, here, wherever, negligence. We are negligent of our own personal health. When the government has to step in to look after us that is why I am saying all this is common sense. Hence, if you see the fines, they have been increased. Their proposals to reduce it, the committee will go and look at it holistically. If you resist it to say what my friend here has asked, $10, will we be negligent? Will we maintain it?

The reason why the fines are there, to deter you from committing that because of the negligence. The sickness that is being caused by all these leptospirosis, dengue fever, they are caused by the negligence of men. We leave our tyres in the village boundary, water gets it, mosquitoes breed. How we breed our pigs, manage our waste according to this Bill is all about common sense. To sum up our consultation here, thank you, ladies and gentlemen for your presence here this afternoon. The Bill is scheduled to be tabled in the September sitting, which is 4 weeks away. We intend to table the Bill back to Parliament, debated, and it shall be passed. Keep in mind, one thing that was lacking before was the enforcement. We will push as a Committee in our recommendations that the Ministry of Health will go forward in enforcement because if we do not enforce what we are trying to put here, there is no point in changing this law. If we do not enforce or penalise people to do this, there is no point in changing this law. It is all about now enforcing the law. But first of all, you do not need to pay the fine if you just follow rules. Clean up your mess, and things should be better. With that, on behalf of the honourable Chairman and the Members of the Committee, the Ministry of Health delegation, the D.O., parliamentary staff, thank you very much for hosting us to your beautiful village. That concludes our consultation this afternoon,

The Committee adjourned at 1.13 p.m.

The Committee resumed at 3.51 p.m.

Submmittees/Interviewees: Itutiu Motusa

(1.)	Gagaj Vakatua	Losa
(2.)	Tevita Sosefo	Motusa
(3.)	Mosese	Losa
(4.)	Lisi Tolo	Motusa

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- It is an honour and privilege to be here with you this afternoon. It has been alluded by the *sevusevu* ceremony that the team in front of you is the Social Affairs Committee team from Parliament, representing the Speaker of the House of Parliament. Our presence here this afternoon, before we actually start with our deliberation on the consultation in front of us, I will ask our honourable Members to introduce themselves. Thank you honourable Members.

(*Introduction of Committee Members and representatives from the Ministry of Health)*

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- I would like to thank you very much honourable members and the technical team from the Ministry of Health. We will start our deliberation this afternoon. Respectively, we are here to hear from the public of this district. In front of us there is an amendment Bill, the Public Health Amendment Bill No. 4 of 2026. It was tabled in Parliament at the beginning of this year. The sole purpose of our outreach here this afternoon is to come to the public and discuss issues of concern. And hopefully you have a copy of that amendment Bill in front of you. I will take you through the history of this Bill. The Public Health Amendment Bill was enacted in 1935, it is 91 years old and the Ministry of Health had already proposed some amendments which is in front of you and hopefully for that amendment is the key area to be looking at on how best we can look at our how we look at our environment, our hygiene, our sanitation and how best you can look at where are the areas that we cover holistically in this clause. Before we continue further, I will ask the Minister Health to give us an overview of the Bill before we discuss the content of the clauses in front of us.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee and members of the community that are present this afternoon. The Public Health Act of 1935, as mentioned by the honourable Chairman, it is already 90 years old. It has about 17 parts, 142 sections and 26 regulations. The main aim of the Public Health Act is to maintain the cleanliness and the good hygiene in the surrounding environment in our communities. It is there to protect and safeguard the health of the public and to prevent future outbreak of diseases. That is basically the main aim of the Public Health Act. You have already heard about a lot of the outbreaks of diseases and that is we have proposed the amendments in this Act to have a proactive approach to prevent potential future outbreaks of these diseases. The primary intent of reviewing of this Fiji Public Health Act of 1935 is to modernise the Act and to align it to global best practices. You will agree with me this afternoon that our surrounding environment is something that affects our health. You will also agree with me that people do not get sick from the hospital, they get sick from the places where they stay like your homes and villages. If we do not maintain cleanliness in our surrounding and the hygiene in our communities, more people will get sick.

If you do not clean the drains and the surrounding environment, do not destroy the breeding grounds in your communities, the mosquitoes will come, they will lay their eggs, they will hatch, they will fly, and they will bite you again, and we will have an outbreak of dengue fever, and other vector-borne disease. If we do not control animals in our environment, they will urinate and defecate around our compound. When the children will come and play around when there is rain, if you have a cut in your leg or in your hand, when you get exposed to the urine of the infected animal, you will get leptospirosis. And if we do not manage our waste well, whether it is a waste around our

surrounding environment or human waste, you will see that there can be an outbreak of diarrhoea diseases and typhoid. This Act brings to the fore the environmental factors that affect our health. This Act also highlights the importance of waste management of the wastewater from the toilet or sanitary facilities to controlling the population of mosquitoes, protecting the water sources to renting of houses back then which did have Airbnb and other types of housing or accommodations that we have nowadays. In addition, this Act covers and regulates diseases that were not in existence 91 years ago like COVID 19 and Monkeypox to name a few. We need to review and amend the law so that we can include the new diseases that are not regulated in the Principal Act. We also changed the list of the notifiable diseases in the public health type so that we will assist the team in the hospitals to report diseases, those that needs to be reported immediately, those that needs to be reported daily, those who needs to be reported weekly and monthly. Furthermore, there are a lot of the fines that has been included in the new proposal or the amendments that are before you. There are about 69 changes that we have proposed that is there in front of you. The government and the Ministry of Health feels that sixty-nine changes will modernise and assist us in trying to prevent disease burden and the outbreaks in the future. There are a lot of the amendments in the fines to act as a deterrent. In the Principal Act of 1935, fines ranged from $2, $10, $20, accordingly. The new proposed amendment to the fines ranges $50, $100, and right up to $2,000 so that it can deter people in our communities from contemplating to break the Public Health Act. Part of the amendment is the bringing back of the rural local authority, which was removed in 2018, thus weakening the oversight that the Council of Chiefs of Rotuma had over the Public Health Act.

In the Principal Act, under Section 140, outlines that the public health tax should not be applied to the villages. However, when we do our surveillance, we find that every month, every quarter, every year, we captured the increase in the number of typhoid in the rural areas, increase in the number of leptospirosis amongst the Fijian population when compared to others, increase the number of typhoid in the Fijian population, and what we found out that a lot of the iTaukei population, when they come to the hospital, they require the tertiary care. When they come to the hospital, the SDMO has to call for a mercy flight to come from Suva to CWM, or when you come to a health center in Valelevu or in Samabula, the medical officer has to call the ambulance to take people tertiary care. This trend indicates to us when people are sick, they stay at home, they have the traditional medicine and everything, and hope to get better. Once their sickness is really serious and then they come to the hospital expecting the doctors to look after them and to see them, but when they come to the hospital, they require tertiary care. That is why we feel that we should change the Act so that we can be proactive in the way we deal with our health. We are more responsible of our health. We seem to be cleaning our environment and ensuring the cleanness of our environment so that we can reduce the burden of disease in our country and we can have a healthy and productive population. The aim of the call of the Ministry of Health is to have a healthy population. When we do our job, we will have healthy people in our community. When we have healthy people in the community, we will have a healthy community, a healthy population, a healthy Fiji, and if we have a healthy Fiji, we will have productive people in Fiji that will assist the government improving the economy.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Thank you very much, team from the Ministry of Health. Members of the community that is holistically what we are going to discuss here this afternoon. We already discussed the importance of the overview of the Bill, elaborated by the team from the Ministry of Health. Hopefully, there will be a lot of discussion during this presentation time from the Committee. If you see fit for any amendments, to be included in today's siting, whether you recommend or whether you try to discuss this further with the Committee, feel free to raise your hands up, we will get you the mic. It will be based upon each clause that we will go through with you and will give the option time to come back with any answer that you may see especially when you talk about whether the penalties are too high or too low or any queries or clarity regarding those clauses in front of us. To the public community that are present here this afternoon, we have started from clause one and now we are at clause 14. I hope that we are in the same page. If you look at

clause 14, it is the subheading on the obstruction to the staff of the Ministry of Health. I may start on the importance of the work of the Health Inspectors (HI), especially on the importance of how they perform their tasks when they come up to the community level. They are not covered in the Principal Act of 1935. But we have proposed amendments that covers the roles when they perform their duty, when they have come down to village level. Firstly, you cannot obstruct them from doing their work, by chasing them out your compound or the owners of the property release their dogs to chase the HI out of own of the property. To a serious extent, one of their staff was badly assaulted by a four-by-two timbers in the Western side, which resulted in the hospitalisation of the HI. Clause on 14 really indicates how best we look after these staff from the Ministry of Health when coming to do their work. Any form of obstructions, whether it is physical verbal or whatever contact may arise during their time to perform their task, you are liable to be reprimanded under this clause.

Another area that is very important to look at is how are false information is being spread out to the public. During the COVID, after one, two, three shots that were given to us, another group of people came up with another concept. They said that they can take it out. Most of the people in Fiji, used that method. But from the World Health Organization's perspective, that was meant to cure COVID all around Fiji as well as the country that we are in. For fake information, if you relay false information, to the public, you are liable to be prosecuted. And the fine is from $500 to $1,000. I may ask you, what do you think about that fine on obstruction alone? Is it too much or too low? Or what is your decision here? A lot of the areas that we have covered, they give their opinions on this. They say, since you are staying in the village, it is too high for us. Some places around Fiji, when we went for a consultation, they say it is too low, that it should be more. We need your input on this. Anybody want to give it a go? Just raise your hand. While we are still at close 14, feel free. This is a general discussion area about the Public Health Amendment Bill in front of us.

MR. T. SOSEFO.- Going back to the question, Sir, the fines, I believe in the villages, the fines, if you go around, most of us are unemployed, mostly farmers staying in the villages, so the fines should reflect what we can pay. It is not that we are trying to reduce the penalties, but we should ensure that people will be able to pay the fines. If we put a $500 fine for a person sitting in the village, I believe, it will take a person at least three to four months to go and cut the copra to pay all that fine. It will take time. But if intend to increase the fines, we should look at the category for the outer islands in comparison to the urban areas. The rural areas should be different in the sense that it should be slightly lower. The urban areas should have a different rate and the rural areas should have a different rate, depending on the income of the people.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Can you give us an idea which figure you are looking at to break it down for rural areas, especially here in Rotuma?

MR. T. SOSEFO.- See, that will depend on the severity of the case. If dealing with the dogs and pigs or the cattle. I think the pigs, will cause a lot more damage to the farms when compared to dogs, who are capable of spreading diseases. We will look at around about $100 to $200.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- $100 to $200.

MR. T. SOSEFO.- Yes, Sir.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Since we are talking about the obstruction of the staff, if you are recommending the fines to be dropped to $100 to $ 200, the Committee is happy to take that on board. It will be based on our matrix when we go back to Suva, finalising all the reports from Rotuma and all the recommendations from other places in Fiji. If this is the case, we will move forward. We will go straight to clause number 15 to 22. It is about the penalties and this is very important for all of you to understand when we talk about the medical officer, about their health, when we talk about any nuisance, when we talk about any breeding places for mosquitoes, that you will not attempt to, even though you were given a fine, to clear all those rubbish, like a tyre or a place that has stagnant

water in our village. For the penalty part, I will ask honourable Bia to brief us on the importance of how the fine and the penalties are being worked out according to this amendment Bill.

HON. A. BIA.-Vinaka Chairman, through you. Now, just on the fines, if you look at the document that is in front of you, number 18 and number 39, it talks about fines. As I have alluded to by the question that was posed by the honourable Chairman, in terms of fines from 1935 when this law was enacted up until now 91 years later, a lot of fines still falls on $2, $5 and $10. Now what the Ministry of Health proposes is that the fines that need to be lifted so that it matches the way and the lifestyle we are living in at the moment. There are a lot of new diseases coming in. COVID-19 is a good example and apart from COVID-19, there are a lot of other new diseases coming from around the world. Now we cannot determine whether it will come to our shores or not. Now what we can do is to try and protect ourselves from these kinds of diseases. Now some of the diseases that are easily spread, like what's in the current Bill, like leptospirosis, typhoid, dengue fever, a lot of these diseases that are killing lives at the moment. We can easily prevent it while we are at home. Now if you maintain good hygiene and cleanliness at your house and at your community or at your village, these diseases will not easily spread in the village. Now the fines are being proposed and in many of the places we have visited, some say the fines are too much. Even we have had submissions that fines should be less than the proposed amount.

Those in the urban centres pay more and we in the village, in the maritime islands, in the remote communities, pay less. Now these are some of the suggestions that we had received. Now, for the fines that have been proposed by the Ministry of Health, one might ask, is the government running out of money that it has increases fine? No. Your life is important. Life cannot be bought. When sickness or disease comes, it does not care whether you are poor or rich. These fines act as a deterrent. It gives you the responsibility to look after your children, look after the future of Rotuma, look after the future of your district. Now you are responsible so that when you see someone putting rubbish carelessly or there is a tyre lying carelessly and an empty container that can breed mosquitoes, you will have the responsibility, okay, you will need to take that away. If not, you will be fine, $500,000, $200, depending on the severity of the offensive committed. Now it gives you the responsibility so that you can protect the future of your district and the future of Rotuma in the coming years. You can make suggestions if the fines are too high like the gentleman raised a good point earlier. Penalty should vary and the Chairman said we have accepted that suggestion. Now those are some of the discussions that we have in terms of the fines. From 1935, $2, or $5 were fines and when Ministry of Health takes someone to court, the offender will pay the fine, will return home and will leave the tire there in the compound, even though the tire can be a breeding place for more mosquitoes the community. Moreso, the low fines are no longer a deterrent because anyone can easily pay 2 or $5 fine. But when you put $500, $200 or even $1,000, you will show that communal responsibility. You will remind yourself that you will need to look after your family, you need to look after your people in the village, because if you are not careful, the high fines will apply accordingly.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Any question, any clarity from yes, can I have a mic down there? We still on the fine.

MR. T. SOSEFO.- Still on fines, some of the places that we have cleaning up, are vacant and the owners are in overseas or Fiji. We are working and cleaning it, but we are not coping. If the fines come, will HI fine the people who owns the vacant lot or will the HI fine the community?

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Very good question. It was raised in earlier in the first consultation. Once this Bill is passed into law, whoever the owner is, he or she will be responsible for the fine, whether it is vacant house, or a vacant lot. As long as it breeds mosquitoes that will lead to dengue fever and all these sorts of diseases that surround us, the government will play a role to foresee and come down and try to track down who is the owner of that property. And I hope that this one is very clear. Nobody is left behind. You play your part in your community? Let the government

play their role in identifying the owner of the property because in this Bill they are covered by the ownership of the said lot or the said house. Does that answer your question?

MR. T. SOSEFO.- Addition, Sir, looking at the communities within Rotuma, there is a lot of buildings sitting there, either partly damaged or 90% or 80% damages. Those buildings too cause a lot of a health hazard within the community. What do you think of those kinds of issues?

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- We have already talked about that. They are all covered. Whether it is vehicle, whether it is half damaged or whatever, the law is very clear. We will track down who is the owner of that property. If it is a breeding place for mosquitoes, which can cause dengue fever or even if you keep animals beside the house, it will be easy to track it down because we have got the people that will be running you down, especially the Ministry of Health, and there will be a special committee. We already mentioned it in our briefing; we will have to have those rural local authorities back into the picture. These are the arms, the mechanism of the Ministry of Health, that will come down. It was taken out in 2018 by the last administration. There is a proposal in this Amendment Act to get back that body that will be looking after Rotuma with the Ministry for Health and the Health Inspectors will walk hand in hand. The mechanism in place is very straightforward. That will be the task of the government to oversee all those things. Any other questions? We will go straight to clause 26 to 35, beginning at clause 26. It states about the existing list of nuisance and offensive trades. This is very important for us to understand and how they are in our society. There had been lots of discussion on this topic on our trip all around Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. And hopefully, you are not left out here on the island of Rotuma. I will ask the Ministry of Health to brief us shortly on the importance of nuisance as well as the offensive trade. Ministry of Health.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, Gagaj and members of the district. There is a section in the Act which has been cleaned up in this proposed Bill, which is called the nuisance. Nuisance is any work that is done in such a way that it can cause sickness. The way you dispose of your wastewater, the way you keep your animals, the way you dispose of your rubbish, if it is in a way that it is injurious to health, then that becomes a nuisance. Under the proposed Bill, there are 19 categories of nuisance. And for each category, if you are found to have non-compliance, then you will be fined with a fine that is fitting to that particular category, depending on the severity or the risk that it poses to human health. A basic example that you might relate to, is if you have a septic tank that is leaking and it is going onto the surface of the soil, your neighbour can smell, the children are playing and they are exposed to that and if the officer comes out and they tell you to improve and you do not improve and they fine you for that, maybe $200 or $300, and then you are given a time period for you to work on improving the urgent nuisance. Failure to improve on that, you will receive a further fine of $100 for every day that you do not do any improvement. The basic aim is to safeguard the community. Everyone has the right to feel safe where they dwell and that is in relation to nuisance. We have a range of fines from $100 to $1,000, depending on the risk, the fine will be given accordingly. A very small nuisance may be $100. A life-threatening nuisance is $1,000 fine. If you cannot pay them, maybe three months imprisonment will be the alternative. This is something, again, not to punish you, but something to be at the back of your mind to deter non-compliance. When the men finish the work and they open their tin of corned beef, the women will be say, Hey, hey, you put the corned beef in the bin. If you throw it outside, you will be going to get the fine of $200, or $300. These are things that we call a deterrent. Before it happens, you are starting to give warning and things like that. The second part of the amendment Bill is about the offensive trades. Offensive trades, just like the name suggests, is offensive in nature. These are businesses that, in the way that they run their business, they are either very loud or very smelly or they produce by-products that can be injurious to human health. Cement factories and abattoirs, big piggeries, or huge chicken sheds can be classified as offensive traders. Before, there were no controls. Anybody can just come and build their offensive trade beside your village. There is this particular one that has been bothering some parliamentarians because had been receiving calls regarding the Vunivaivai chicken farm. This chicken farm produces foul smell and a lot of flies. The

villagers in Vunivaivai cannot enjoy their life. When they eat in one piece of cassava, maybe 5,000 flies will be there. That is the nuisance that the chicken shed is bringing to the community. And now when they complain to health, they cannot do anything upon it because the chicken is already there. The chicken farm is already there and it supplies to the supermarket and the supermarket is supplies it to the people to eat. If they take it away, maybe there will be no food for the people. But the idea now is put it in the Bill, put a control mechanism in there saying anybody who wants to operate any business that is classified under offensive trade must be approved by Ministry for Health before they start. If you receive an application saying one chicken shed want to build next to Motusa village, we will come and we will see if it is too close to us, we will say, no, because of the potential nuisance it will create.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- We are still on that subject. I will ask the Ministry for Health to get it further when we talk about venereal diseases. It is part of that subject we are already in. They are not expecting this, they will explain it to us. Listen carefully because when we talk about AIDS, the number of cases on Rotuma has just been confirmed by SDMO.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, and honourable Members of the Committee, ladies and gentlemen. There is a section called venereal disease in the Public Health Act that we also want to stress a little bit to include what we are currently undergoing now in Fiji. As you know, there is a spike in HIV and AIDS. Venereal diseases are all sexually transmitted illnesses and diseases. They are inclusive of syphilis, gonorrhoea, and all different types. It is also inclusive of HIV/AIDS. Previously there used to be one penalty there. If someone is seen by a good doctor here, that has positive with one of the STIs or STDs, usually they will be give the medication and the doctor tells that person to go back home and for 30 days, s/he will have to abstain from having sexual relationships with anyone. With the review at the end of the month, if the person is healthy, then the doctor will advise the person that it is safe to resume sexual commitments but to be cautious of having multiple unprotected sexual partners. If that person returns to the village and within the 30 days starts to go around, disregarding the doctor's advice about abstaining from sexual intercourse then villagers go to the doctor having symptoms similar to yours, the doctor will do the investigation and ask, okay, have you had sexual intercourse with anyone in the last few weeks? And if they give the same name of that person that the doctor had advised earlier to abstain, then that person will be charged. It is in the Act; the current charge is $20. If we keep it at $20, everybody will just continue having casual unprotected sex everywhere. That is why we have increased it to $2,000. If you cannot pay, then you will be imprisoned for the length of months stipulated in the amended Act. So again, this is fair to safeguard the people in our communities.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Vinaka, any question from anyone?

MR. T. SOSEFO.- Vinaka Sir, talking about the nuisance part of the fines, within the community we have a lot of children. When they dispose of their children's diapers, if they do not dispose the diapers well, the dogs will carry them around the village. That is a nuisance. What kind of find do will the offender face, Sir?

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- The fine is very clear when you look about the clause that is there. It is all covered in the clause. If you have time, go through those 69 clauses on nuisance. It covers rubbish, any leakage from the sewer line, nuisance when we have these business coming up lately and covers as rubbish. It's very clear. But we do not go item by item. That will be covered under our regulations. For the law, when we talk about rubbish, it covers whatever sorts of rubbish is there in the amendment. We will go through to clause 41. If you look at clause 41, there is no specific mention of short-term rental. Most of our visitors who come here, including us, stay in these Airbnb. It is not only Airbnb, covers the hotel, the homestays, and those rented buildings back in our urban centers. If you want to run these types of business, you have to seek registration from the Ministry of Health (MoH). The reason is that MoH will come and inspect whether that house is fit for human beings to

stay in because they will be paying, and the owners will have to provide the acceptable standards nowadays. We are looking at it from the perspective of how best we can work with our healthy, hygiene, living, as well as sanitation. Currently, anybody can make up his own business like an Airbnb. Everybody can come and stay with the family or even little towns where entrepreneurs can provide rental quarters for visitors.

Likewise, when this Bill will be passed, we are looking at the 28th of September to pass this in Parliament, which will be include all those who are running these types of businesses, throughout Fiji and Rotuma, who will be bound by these bylaws. The Ministry of Health will give you the clearance of go-ahead based on their inspection. When they see if it is good for human health and occupation, then they will give you the go-ahead to have this type of businesses. These are referred to past experiences which they faced where some of the rental quarters, where the owners are staying on the double-storey building. The leakage from the sewer line drops down to where they were having their dinner as well as in their sitting room. Currently, there is no laws covering and safeguarding those who were renting from these types of unsanitary conditions. The implementation of this Amendment Act will cover all those areas. Any questions so far? And I hope that we are going on the same page. Remember, I did mention that the more we discuss, the more we seek audience from the society and how best we can talk about issues of consent related to what is happening here in Rotuma, that will help us when we go and finalise our reports before tabling. Let us go straight to 48 to 52. It is about the diseases that is spread by mosquitoes. The Ministry for Health are the expert on this. I will ask them to give us an overview of these diseases that are being spread by the mosquitoes, especially in our area here in Rotuma. Ministry of Health.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, and honourable Members of the Committee, ladies and gentlemen, so there is a section in the Public Health Act that is titled Mosquitoes. This section focuses on ways in which we can prevent the breeding of mosquitoes which is one of the major causes of diseases in Fiji. Diseases like dengue fever, lymphatic filariasis and the Zika virus. If you have forgotten about the Zika virus, this was a very big thing sickness five to six years ago. This virus causes your head to be very small, maybe like a coconut and you can be very big, muscular but a very small head. It is a virus that is spread by mosquitoes. This is an ongoing battle by the Ministry of Health to try get rid of mosquitoes in the communities. However, still people are breeding mosquitoes, by carelessly leaving empty tires in their compound and throwing tins around. When it rains, mosquitoes breed in these tyres and empty tins and more mosquitoes bite and spread illnesses around. In reaction to that, we have put some amendments to that section of the Bill. Now, there are a three-tiered penalty. Before, there used to be only one type of penalty in terms of mosquito. If we find a mosquito, the baby mosquito in one of the vessels at home, we will charge you for that. And the penalty is $10. But now we have put 3 categories of penalties. One, if you have a container. There is no water in it yet. There is a tire, there is a container, there is a tin, anything that can store water. If we find one of these in your compound, that is the first level of fine. The reason is because when it rains overnight the mosquitos can use it as a breeding site anytime. This is prevention. We do not want to be reactive, but proactive. The second one, if we find a receptacle and there is water in it. That is the second category of fine. And the third fine, if you see container with water with mosquito. That will be level 3, dry container, wet container or any container. This will deter people and encourage individuals every morning instead of morning runs or walk, you can clean premises to ensure that there are no breeding sites for mosquitoes.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Any questions on concerning what was discussed? Okay, we will move forward. We will go straight to clauses 54-55. It is about the standard of maritime vessels, as well as the ship masters, who are failing to maintain the sanitary level in their vessels. I believe we have been discussing about vessels for quite some time, especially for a second day. The importance of those who travel by these vessels is for the MoH to ensure through constant checks on the breeding places of cockroaches, insects, bed bugs and all these other insects that are a pest these ships and the vessels. From the Ministry of Health, they have their check on all these vessels for every six months.

And remember the contingency for the movements of these vessels, is when they finish from here, they go to another port, whether it is Natovi or other maritime zones like Nabouwalu. The ship captains have discussed this issue for the Ministry of Health to come on board and have a look at the safety standards of each vessel when we talk about high hygiene standards. When this Bill is amended, they will definitely be looking at maybe once in a month to go around and they have their staff to oversee the importance of safety, health, hygiene, as well as sanitation. Anybody want to ask any question with regard to the boats that go in and out of Rotuma? We had some complaints from our last presentation about the in wharf in Oinafa that does not have a place for washroom purposes. We have taken that on board. It is not in the Bill, but since it has been brought up to our attention, we will ensure that we will go back and report to the respective department to oversee all those hygienic areas of living whereby we do realise when you go out to wait for the ship, it takes time. It can be delayed for one or two hours, and these basic amenities should be provided. We are talking about the amount of time remains, and hopefully, this Bill that is being amended and presented to Parliament will become the bylaws of our country, we will look at those areas that I have lighted recently. Any other concern? Someone want to add some other information regarding what they are facing daily within the community. If not, we will move straight to the final section and end of this public consultation. It is from 59-60 right up to 67. which mostly is about our rural water catchment. I will ask the honourable Niudamu to brief us on this.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- For the water catchment, it is very simple health and hygiene issue. When there is a well here, or when you have any form of water source, it is against our health standards to go and do something near or around it. The problem in Viti Levu, is that there are plenty of villagers and landowners. They go to their land, and they start planting cassava, where the source of the water is. These problems arise all over some areas in Viti Levu and then they come up to the health department and even the village council cannot solve it. This law was made specifically for that where there is a water source somewhere, nobody, even the landowners are not allowed to go and contaminate the source. Furthermore, you are not allowed to go nearby or build the houses close to the water source because we know various wastes will infiltrate and contaminate the water source. The fines are high not to punish individuals but to deter individuals from being careless and irresponsible. We are talking about people who refuse to see logic and refuse to listen and a high fine will let them comply almost instantly. Otherwise, they will continue repeating the same offence. We call it in criminal law, reoffending, because after serving time in prison, this person commits another crime or a health infringement from the Public Health Act because fines are so small that it hardly breaks the back of the offender especially when the fines range from $2 to $20. For instance, a court order might require an offender to pay $5, and this amount does not act as a deterrent to the offender and that is one of the reasons some people reoffend. I understand what the gentleman is saying. There are plenty requests from where we were yesterday about the fines, but as the honourable Chairman had said, you know, the purpose of the punishment is to deter.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- That is the actually the summary of the 69 clause in front of us. If there's any further question, yeah, gentleman at the back. When we make it this, it will be the final one before we wrap it up this afternoon.

MR. T. JOSEFA.- This is a general question concerning water. We in Rotuma face a lot of problems with the water authority. They close the water for 12 hours and at times we do not have water for a day or two. This is a daily occurrence we are tired of complaining. The water is turned off at the times when we need, early in the morning and is opened in the afternoon. There are some families that do not have water tanks, and these families suffer the most. I know, we are told to store water but some families do not have enough storage. If the family is big, they do not have enough water for their basic needs. I am asking if WAF can work to ensure that all families receive ample water especially at peak hours and to cut down on the prolonged water cuts

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- I can see the inspector is here. You might have some information on that. Can I have the mic to the Inspector just to give us some light on the importance of the shortage of water here in Rotuma. She is the right person to advise us before we will take the further step to go back to the Water Authority of Viti Levu Head Office in Suva. Thank you, Health Inspector.

HON. A. BIA.- Have the water authority given reasons as to why they closed the water?

MR. T. SOSEFO.- They said they do not have money to pay for the overtime of the men operating after hours.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- We will take that on board. That is what they are saying here to Rotuma. But we will check with the executive team to give us an answer.

MR. MOSESE.- My question is, I am not sure whether this can work, but I have just got an idea. I worked at Intercontinental for 15 years in Natadola. Now we talk about waste management, and this is what I have learned in the tourism industry. When we recycle, we ask the villagers to help clean up the beaches and collecting all the bottles and plastic bottles and collectively we send it back to the company for recycling. In return, the money was paid by the hotel is shared amongst the villagers. Now, I am just thinking about waste management here. What if the government can help us with the environment? For example, when we talk about rubbish, we can get the communities to clean up our villages by recycling all the beer bottles, plastic water bottles, plastics and tins. It is just a proposal if we can assist by keeping our environment clean, by recycling in every district of the villages, can that happen here in Rotuma? All we need is for the government to impose more workshops in the villages on the importance of environment because there is a saying that clean environment, clean, healthy people. I am asking if the government can help us in doing that? I am just trying to say that what I saw in Fiji, if we can do that in the villages, we can do it also on the islands? A recycling process can help us and if we do this, our children will learn it. They will see it, and they will learn it. It is just the effect of health and safety. Can we recycle here at Rotuma? If this works, I tell you, we will have our communities clean safe and beautiful, not only for our own health, but to protect the sea and the maritime by keeping this island clean. That is what I am asking.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Sir, we will take note of that. I believe it was already happening by the last village that we left. It was not working because there was no monetary part of it. Since we are trying to get back the rural local authority, this is a mechanism in place that they will oversee all these projects. They will liaise with other NGOs who are actually running all these types of recycling purposes. And so it will be easy because they pay rates. We talk about urban centers, there are urban centers that are assisted the NGOs. And here when we talk about the frame of moving around here and there, hopefully when the body is coming back here to Rotuma, that will facilitate all those requests. For your information, we have noted that it will be part of our discussion when we go back to Parliament.

MS. L. TOLO.- Thank you very much for all the fines and all the regulations that we have put in for us the people. Thank you very much for all the regulations and fines that is imposed for us people. My concern is he talked about AIDS, he talked about viruses, and we have an international port of call and the airport. And we have airborne diseases that can be brought into us. Is there anything government can do on their side to protect us from visitors and people who come on the boats? Health-wise, I know there is nothing at the moment, and it is free for you to travel and are welcome here any time. But that is my concern, with all these fines for us, can something be done regarding this. For people coming in, bringing in the AIDS, HIV, all these STIs and STDs, can the government monitor this? Thank you.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Thank you. Thank you very much for the question. A very good question. Probably the best example I would give is say COVID. COVID 19 broke barriers, broke boundaries, broke borders. The best example would be that. Currently for HIV, what I understand from the Ministry of Health, the law says that you cannot disclose the information

about the infected person(s). That is what the law says. It complies with what the constitution says, the right to privacy and the human rights. But they are well aware of who has the disease. We definitely take that into consideration. Firstly, we have to look at what if there are other laws that cover that, because I am sure after COVID hit, there was some kind of mechanisms in place by the minister to stop it from ever happening again. But I am not sure as to the extent of fines, whether we fine someone or no. The current law, it is signed. There is nothing there that covers your question. But do you challenge the Committee to go and look at other laws, whether they cover that? Because I am certain some laws might cover that. But I am not too sure about the fines. If someone comes in with HIV, you cannot fine them. That is what I understand at the moment. But thank you for raising that. Any other questions? Yes.

MR. R. SOSEFO.- Just a question on findings for Rotuma Island. I am pretty sure you guys have been everywhere around the island. Just to your left or the right you might see there is a swamp everywhere. Things that we cannot control. It is a main breeding source for all these mosquitoes. Is there any way you guys can supply us with mosquito traps or anything like that that can help us bring the number of mosquitoes down.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- I am sure we can probably make a request directly to the Ministry of Health. They are here, after this you can see them face to face, probably ask if there is anything in the Ministry of Health, or cabinet that can source some funding. If not, probably the DO. But for my information, I am not too sure if there is any funding for the swamp and all those things. Probably the best people to answer that would be the Ministry of Health who are here. You can meet them straight after this before they leave you can come and ask them.

MR. MOSESE.- My question is something that is based on the welfare of children I am talking about drugs. We got people coming on boats and airplanes and last year the Division Commander said that the drug has not reached Rotuma yet. I am pleading for the safety of our children; can the security be more tightened on things coming from the wharf by boat or by plane. We do not want our children here to be influenced by what has happened. We do not want the drugs to this in our island and our children to be affected. That is the only thing I am asking, can security be more tightened on things coming from the our ports of entry before it reaches the island.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- And I take note of your concern that you raised. You make a very important point, that is the biggest issue that the country is facing right now, the battle, the war against drugs. I am on another Committee, and we are looking at the Police Bill. We are also looking into that issue. What we are trying to impose is that before any ship moves to outer islands, because of the concern that you raise, to have K9 units search the ships first before the boats leave. The current practice is only when the boats come in then they use the K9 units at the Suva wharf. We want to reverse it, we want to put it in the law before any vessels go to the islands, they search these vessels using the K9 units. Probably we can address that to the Airports Fiji Limited and other ports of entry where thorough searches are done with the assistance of the K9 unit. But you make a very good valid point, Sir. Thank you very much.

MR. T. JOSEFA.- I am going to take you back to clause 16, General Building requirements. My question is, Sir, will this law take the same standard with Fiji and Rotuma or will this be applied differently?

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- The very simplest form of answer is all the same because when the law is passed, it cannot be applied 50 percent to some, 50 percent. The law applies fairly and there might be some variables but applied 100 percent on everyone fairly, whether in the Rotuma or in the furthest island in Lau. The law has to be fairly applied throughout the country. Anyone else? No one else? Comments, questions? OK, very well. Thank you. Since there are no other questions and comments, ladies and gentlemen, we have been sitting for some time. The sun is setting on this beautiful island. Firstly, let me take this time on behalf of the honourable Chairperson

and Gagaj and to you ladies and gentlemen who are here this afternoon, thank you very much for availing yourselves to take time out of your busy day to come and hear what the Committee has for us, basically what the government is proposing to do. In a very, very simplest form, ladies and gentlemen, I want to tell you whatever we will agree today is common sense. The government just trying to put it in black and white, pen and paper, to make it fancy or to make it work because all the things that we are discussing today is common sense. If there is rubbish, do something about it. If your septic tank is leaking, do something about it. If you have tyres and they are filling up with waters, do something about it. That is all common sense. That is all common sense. I told the last place before we came here, it is our negligence that has brought government to bring this kind of law. Our negligence, negligence brings leptospirosis. Our negligence brings dengue fever. Our negligence is when people die. On behalf of this Committee, we urge you, do not be negligent when it comes to waste matters, on rubbish matters. The Ministry of Health are focusing so hard on the higher property people. The honourable Ratu Niudamu, yesterday he was telling us, we are the only two last indigenous left people here on this island. The point that he was trying to say that keep our population healthy. We are the last remaining ones. Our children will come later, they will replace us. The Ministry of Health has come up with this proposed Bill, proposed composition of these laws to strengthen our health because we are negligent. That is the nature of us. People are negligent. The nature of the human nature is negligent.

We are negligent. We do things just to do, but you do not know what you do can lead up to something. Septic tank is leaking, do something about it. If you do not do something about it, the law will apply. And once the law applies, do not complain because you were told to do something about it. This is all common sense. This law has been here from 1935. We are in 2026 now and so the message from the Committee and probably from the Ministry of Health, use your common sense, keep our environment clean, keep our families healthy. If there is rubbish, clean it, if there is waste, do something about it. No need to complain, just do something about it. Keeping in mind this law will also enforce the Rotuma Council. The Rotuma Council and the health inspectors will have the powers to enter premises. If there are things nuisance, that may cause harm, cause seekers, they can be empowered by this law to enter these premises because of our negligence. The negligence is human nature. We just have to do something about it. You cannot take negligence away. It is part of human nature. Just try and make yourself better. That is probably the whole message that we were trying to bring today. On behalf of the honourable Chairman, the Committee Members, the representatives from the Ministry of Health and the staff from the Parliament, we thank you very much for coming in this afternoon and having your say. And that concludes our consultation for this afternoon.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- Mr. Chairman, Members of the Standing Committee, and the technical officers, the police officers, and on behalf of the chiefs, the sub-chiefs, and the immediate members, I would like to take this time to thank you for the audience, the presentation that you have convened this afternoon in sharing mostly in addressing some of our issues in which this Bill should give us conviction, responsibility as to what we should do and to think twice before obstructing of any health worker that would benefit the community. And I know that, as I have said, before, we already started a waste management project. I already advised all communities on what to do. And I am sure that they will all follow because it is not an order, it is a guideline to safety, to safeguarding our health and in guarding our resources, our environment and our heritage. And I believe that today I know some of the comments are about the penalties. But the penalty is something to think about before committing an offense. No matter how much the penalty is, it is only we to learn from the mistakes. Today we thank you because I know you have other plans this afternoon, but a message to the community, this is something that we should take heed of and notice the penalties. It comes in categories. It comes in forms which we do not expect. But expect this, it is our sole responsibilities for our community, the health, and the people of the island. With these few words and message, we thank you very much sincerely.

The Committee adjourned at 4.51 p.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

DAY 3

PUBLIC CONSULTATION TO ROTUMAON THE PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL (BILL NO. 4 0F 2026)

VENUE: Malha'a Village, Malha'a District Hall

DATE: Friday, 28th August, 2026

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL HELD AT MALHA'A DISTRICT HALL ON FRIDAY, 28TH AUGUST, 2026 AT 9.20 A.M.

Present

(11)	Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	Chairman
(12)	Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure	Deputy Chairman
(13)	Hon. A. Bia	Member
(14)	Hon. J.N. Nand	Alternate Member
(15)	Hon. Ratu J.B. Niudamu	Alternate Member

Ministry of Health & Medical Services

(8)	Mr. Toga Vosataki	National WASH Coordinator
(9)	Mr. Luke Vonotabua	Acting Chief Health Inspector
(10)	Mr. Kelekele Inikasio	Sub Divisional Medical Officer (Rotuma)
(11)	Ms Anaisi Tuwai	Health Inspector (Rotuma)

Interviewee/Submittee:	**Malha'a Village**
(1.) Mr. Taio R. Vaurosi	Pephaua
(2.) Mr. Fuata Kamoe	Elseé
(3.) Mr. Rave Tiuhea	Elseé
(4.) Mr. Eliesa Aisake	Pephaua
(5.) Mr. Jonathan Lobendahn	Pephaua

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much to the district of Malha'a for giving us the opportunity to be here this morning. Our apology for interrupting your normal programme. We are aware of what is happening on the other side of the island because of the youth 7s tournament. I believe some of our Committee Members are making their way since we find it difficult to communicate through the phones because the network is done at the moment. We will start it off and we will see how best we can try to present to you and hear your views. In front of us is the Public Health Amendment Bills Number Four of 2026, which was tabled in Parliament this year. Before we start, we will introduce ourselves.

(*Introduction of Committee Members and representatives from the Ministry of Health)*

Once the other honourable Members join us, they will introduce themselves. Apart from the team over here, we got also the team from Parliament, the secretariate team, who are here with us plus, the SDMO and the Health Inspector (HI) who are part of this engagement here in our village. When you talk about Public Health Amendment Bill, and I hope you got a copy, there are 69 clauses in front of us. We will go through the major 9 key areas that need to be discussed this morning. On the outset of our discussion this morning, when you talk about the history of the Bill, the purpose and the objective part of it, I will give the floor to the Ministry of Health to give us a brief scope of the intent, the objectives and the key aim of this amendment, Ministry of Health.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee and our members of the community in Malaha. This piece of legislation that the Standing Committee on Social Health is bringing to our community today is called the Public Health Act, enacted in 1935, and it is around 91 years old now. The reason why we feel that the government and

the Ministry for Health feel needs to review and change the Public Health Act so that we can suit the global best practices. The main aim of The Public Health Act is to maintain the cleanliness and the good hygiene of our surrounding environment and the surrounding of our communities. Its main aim is to safeguard and to protect the health of the public and to prevent future outbreaks of diseases. In the past, we have gone through a lot of outbreaks, one of which just happened 4 years ago which was the COVID-19 outbreak.

We also had an outbreak of dengue fever, typhoid and leptospirosis and all that. This Act is there to protect and safeguard our health and to prevent a future outbreak of diseases. You will agree with me that people do not get sick when they are in the hospital. We get sick from the communities that we represent, or we live in. You agree? We get sick from the communities we live in. And a lot of the things surrounding us, surrounding our communities, our environment that is surrounding us, affects our health if we do not take care of it. You agree? If you do not keep our compound clean, if we do not address our waste management in the communities, then we all know that the waste will attract the flies, the cockroaches and the rats.

After the children play around with the waste in our surrounding environment, in the communities, around with the waste, the flies will fly to our food. If the food is not covered, they will infect our food. The cockroaches and the rats, they will play around with the waste and then they come inside the house and then they will play around with our food too. This tells us that our environment is very important because it can affect our health. If you do not destroy the breeding grounds of our receptacles, like, the tins, the coconut shell, the bottles, empty one that are around our communities, when it rains, it will contain water, the mosquitoes will come, they will lay their eggs and will hatch between10 days, 12 days. The mosquitoes will fly, and we will have a good number or maybe a higher density of the mosquitoes, other mosquitoes will be high in our communities and then they will bite us and infect us. And then they bite us, they suck our blood and can release more eggs and then we can get dengue. And the next thing you see will be an outbreak of dengue in our communities.

If we do not keep the animals properly, the dogs, our pets around properly in our communities, they will go around, they will defecate around, they will urinate around, and then the children will come and play again on the ground, and then they get contaminated with the urine and the faeces. And if that particular domestic pet or animal around the community is sick or has leptospirosis, then that bacteria will enter through the wounds of our children, and our members of the community, and then they will get sick with leptospirosis. If we do not keep our surrounding clean, ensuring the waste from our toilets, from our sink, from our bathroom is not drained out properly, then you will see the wastes all over the place. The children will also come and play on the ground, and they can get the scabies and other skin diseases, other children can get sick. There are a lot of the things that are there in the 69 clauses. These are the changes that the Government and the Ministry for Health is proposing in the amendments to this Bill to assist, to protect our health and to prevent future outbreaks. These are the 69 changes that are there. One of the notable changes that you will see in the 69 clauses that is in front of you are the increase in the fines, for non-compliance.

Previously, if the inspector comes to this community and goes to your house and sees the receptacle has water and has mosquito larva, s/he will charge you $10. This is hardly a deterrent because $10 is quite easy to pay, but when people do not pay, we take s/he to court, the magistrate will them, you have $10? And if s/he will reply yes, I have $10, and s/he will pay the $10, but still this individual has the receptacles that is still breeding the mosquitoes in his or her compound. However, this time around, in the proposed amendment Bill, we had increased the fines to deter people from breeding mosquitoes and to ensure that they are doing the cleanliness of the surrounding environment to prevent outbreak of diseases in our community. Our hospitals, our health system are inundated with those suffering from hypertension and diabetes. When we do not clean our

surrounding environment, and then there is an outbreak of disease, that will affect our services in the hospital, because we will have a good number of people coming there, because there is an outbreak.

When you are not seen on time, then you will complain to the Minister for Health or to the divisional medical officer, you will claim that you were waiting for 2 hours in the hospital, but no medical staff attended to you, and this creates more stress, and your sickness does not get better. You might say, I sat there in the hospital, nobody saw me. I came there was no doctor. But the work is very easy and very simple for us, just to clean our surrounding environment so that we can prevent diseases in our communities. That is very simple. It is very simple. You just have to clean your surroundings so that you will ensure that you cut the chain of the infections that are going to happen, and that people will be healthy. The aim of the Ministry for Health is to have a healthy population. Healthy population will start from us. You need to be a healthy individual and a healthy community. When we have a healthy community, we will have a healthy district. When we have a healthy district, we will have a healthy Fiji. And when we have healthy people living in Fiji, we will be having productive people. And when people are productive, we will be able to contribute to the economy of this nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much Ministry for Health. That is the scope, the initial stage of the Bill, when you talk about the objectives and how the Bill is being modelled down in terms of having 69 amendments in. The Ministry for Health has given us a very clear picture of the amendments itself. And I hope that all of us are here will understand English. If there is none, we got an interpreter who is here with us too. He is from Rotuma and he can digest more on the subject area that we will discuss this morning. We are all good to move forward. Let us go straight to it, if you remember that documents in front of you, to the clauses from 1 to 14, that were mostly covered by the Ministry for Health. One important area that needs to be clarified and further discussed is one here at Malha'a. When we talk about the welfare of the Ministry for Health, when they come down to your district to do their work, clauses 1 to 14, especially for 1, 14 to 16, it clearly dictates if there is any obstruction from the villagers or around the district when we talk about how best our staff from the Ministry for Health or the Health Inspector to come and do their work. I will ask the Ministry for Health to brief us on the importance of obstruction of the staff during their work in the village or in the district.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Thank you, honourable Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee, ladies and gentlemen. This particular clause in the amendment Bill aims not only safeguard officers on the ground but also make the work that they do a little bit easier. We have past experiences where our officers, while trying to conduct their work, have been chased from the village, chased from the premises, Sometimes the owner of the premises released their dogs to chase after our officers. Sometimes they use the cane knives to threaten them. And even they go as far as physically abuse of our officers. And if this happens, if this continues to happen, our officers will not feel confident to come into the community to carry their work. And therefore, they will not sufficiently protect your health as they should do on a daily basis. The basics of the Ministry for Health is to protect your health, the citizens of Fiji. That is why we have included a clause in that proposed Bill that is in front of you, saying that anybody who interferes with the work that officers do, whether you chase them, whether you threaten them, or even if you give them false information, you can be charged under that particular clause, which is the obstruction clause. You can be charged with a total of $500. If you cannot pay the $500 within the time allocated, three months imprisonment is the sentence that will be given by the magistrate. That is in regard to the obstruction of the officers of the Ministry for Health, honourable Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.-Any question on that clause, clause 14, from 1 to 14? Can I have the mic over to the side? Please just say your name and your district and focus on the subject that we are currently on.

MR. T. VAUROSI.- I am 74 years old. I will be talk about cleanliness. Before, when I was young, Rotuma was beautiful because at the time, the chiefs worked together with the DO and the HI. They inspected the district from one end to the other. Concerning HI, If she comes to the village, she should let the chief here know. Then the chief will wait for her with village health worker. That is why this place is easy to work with. You see, Malha'a and Rotuma are very dirty. Unlike when I was young, the island was very clean because the DO and the chiefs worked together to ensure that the all the villages were clean. When it was appropriate to impose the fines, the people never re-offended because the fines were high, and the people listened. I grew up at a time when the elders kept Rotuma clean, and now it is very dirty. I have been to Suva, and I toured around the world, but nothing compared Rotuma. However, nowadays the island is still beautiful, but it is very dirty. Now, when I was young, Rotuma was beautiful I have been around world but I know that Rotuma and Fiji are number one places in the world. I have been everywhere in Pacific, but Fiji is the number one in the world.

Fiji is the number one in the world because I have been everywhere in the Pacific and around the world, but I know that Fiji is the number one. I want Fiji to be very clean. I want Suva to be very clean. I want Rotuma to be very clean too. Please help. The HI, I need to do her job properly because you have to let our chief know when you will be visiting. Rotuma has some nice people because when the HI says anything regarding the cleanliness, the people will listen. The only thing that you need to do is let our chief know. We need the people to prepare to clean our island, our district and villages. I want you to stress this because when people come from Suva, they generate lots of waste. Since there is no proper waste management in place, each district is franticly struggling to manage their waste. There is evidence of empty beer bottles, plastic bottles, plastics and the other forms of rubbish that have made the districts look really dirty and unhealthy. And I tell you, if we are all committed, all districts will be able to manage all their waste and return Rotuma to its former glory.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We share the same sentiment. The purpose of this proposed amendment is to really look at what we are discussing here today. We talk about our hygiene, our sanitary, healthy living all have key objective that are outlined in the proposed amendment Bill, so that it will be covered under the bylaws, whereby you are bond by the law. Currently, the Ministry for Health, are just here to advise. They have no power. When you talk about the 1935, Principal Act until today, it has been 91 years. Therefore, the Government of the day, through the Ministry for Health, is looking at holistically, when we talk about Fiji and Rotuma, these are avenues whereby we can get the people together, get this Bill amended and be part of our legislator, so that everybody, whether in town or in the rural areas, we have that responsibility to look after the cleanliness, the health and the sanitary aspects of our villages. The ministry will be active once this Bill is passed. You have already clearly stated, Sir, that the community has to be connected to the ministry before they come into the village. That is part of this amendment Bill too. After this Bill is passed in Parliament, looking at the next month, by September, the Ministry of Health will give you another one to two years time. They will come down and conduct awareness programme on this Bill. They will talk to the people; let you know the importance of what the Bill will entail. Additionally, there will be a part of the regulation and policy that will be run by the Ministry of Health to demarcate and detail that information down to the people. It will clearly state the task that is there. If you do not abide by those, our next clause from 16 to 22, is mostly with penalties or fines. It is part of the Bill. We already discussed the importance of the work done by the Ministry of Health. Now, if you go through all those clauses here, the key objective is the penalties and fines. There are different penalties and fines in the Principal Act that carried fines as low as $2.

Now it has increased to $50. Maybe in 1935, $2 was worthy a lot but after 91 years now, we are trying to look at various areas, and if you never comply, there are certain amounts from $2 right up to $200. From $1,000, the ceiling is $2,000. That depends on the severity of the issue that will be brought up by the Ministry of Health. When we talk about why there is so much amount that has

been given to us, this is how we look at it. The high fines only act as a deterrent and last resort. It does not really say when there is a nuisance or if there is an outbreak somewhere in our village, immediately, the HI will come and give you the fines without at least 3 warnings. They will come and they will discuss it with you and see what other avenues that need to be addressed on the spot and they might give you some advance notice. Say for instance if one of the sewer pipe is leaking and it is next to your neighbour and it was brought up because of the foul smell and can lead to other diseases within our vicinity.

The Ministry of Health comes into the picture, and they will ask, okay, we will give you 14 days to fix that septic tank leak from that area. They will give you the first notice, second notice, but it turned out that never intended to abide by those notice. They will penalise you for not addressing that issue of concern, maybe after 27 days or even a month. The severity of penalties from $50 and up to $500 will come into play. Depends on the severity of the issue that is concerning us and I hope that we will discuss this as we move along to give you some hints on the importance of the penalties that is being given by us. I will ask the Ministry of Health to gives us more details on the respective penalties from the lowest to the highest that you are working on, and the explanation. Can the Ministry of Health discuss this as we move along to give you some hints on the importance of the penalties that are being proposed.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Thank you, honourable Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee, ladies and gentlemen. There is a section within the Act and in the Bill that is called nuisance. A nuisance is anything that you do that can result in sickness or even death. If you do not dispose of your waste in a safe manner, if you do not dispose of your wastewater in a safe manner, if you are keeping animals in a way that they can cause sickness, either to you, your family or to your neighbours, this is considered nuisance. The ceiling or the highest fine for nuisance is $1,000 and the lowest is $100. Depending on the risk that it poses to the health of your neighbours, that will be, you will be fined accordingly. A very small nuisance, you may be given a $200 or $100. But a severe one, which is life threatening, that will result in a $1,000 fine, maximum penalty of $1,000. In addition to that, there is also a section in the Bill that talks about mosquitoes. The heading of the section is Mosquitoes, and this deals with eliminating the breeding sites of mosquitoes. If you are found with breeding mosquitoes within your premises, you can be fined under that particular section of the Bill or the Act. There are three stages. If you have receptacles, dry receptacles, wet receptacles, and receptacles that have mosquito larvae, those are the three categories that you can be fined. This is to motivate people to ensure that their compound is clean and free of receptacles that can breed mosquitoes.

Majority of the time, when there is a dengue outbreaks, the mosquitoes are not coming from another island to bite people in this island to cause a dengue outbreak. The people that get dengue are breeding their own mosquitoes in their own backyard that is biting them and causing them dengue. In order for us to protect them, we have to institute this fight so that they themselves can prevent mosquitoes from breeding in their backyard and biting them and giving them dengue. I hope that is clear. There is another section in the Bill and in the Act that is called venereal disease, and this is in relation to sexually transmitted illnesses and sexually transmitted diseases. When you talk about syphilis, gonorrhoea, the local name is *tona* and other diseases that can be transmitted sexually. I am sorry if this an offensive topic, but this can be an offense which carry a fine from $20 to now $2,000. To a person that has any of these diseases, has been informed by the doctor that they have the disease, have been advised to refrain from unprotected sexual activities, but continues to do so, and in doing so, has spread the illness to other people. The fine has increased from $20 to $2,000 to act as a deterrent. If the person is unable to pay the $2000 within the time allocated, then six months imprisonment is the alternative. I believe we have covered very important topics on penalties and fines. Any question on that?

MR. F. KAMOE.- We would like to say this; we appreciate the health inspector's work. Thank you very much, Ms. Tuwai, I know she has done her best. What my friend here, Taio, is trying to point out is the waste management is a reality. We humans produce it and we need to put waste management in the fore of our planning. We need to manage it because by ignoring it will not solve this perpetual problem, in fact, it will worsen our predicament. I would like to thank our health inspector for being with us all these years. She tried her best and I know there are some hiccups here and there, but that is to be expected. The point is that I would like to inform our honourable Members form Parliament and the officials from the Ministry of Health that your representative (HI) is doing a good job. We need her and we need to work with her to manage our health and maintain the cleanliness of all the districts on the island. Recently, we heard stories about Rarotonga from a friend who returned from there. He was amazed of the waste management plan there because it seems practical and the concept can be adopted here in Rotuma. For this to happen, we will need the correct infrastructure, the proper training of personnel and education of the villages and vehicles. The whole process can be a tourist attraction and generate income for the island. Once again, I would like to thank the HI for her work and urge her to continue to give it her best.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much. We appreciate the work that has been done by our reps from the Ministry of Health who are here. As we are all aware, they are here to perform their tasks. If that is the reflection of their services, it is a credit to the Ministry of Health and Wellness for Government of the Day on how best to look after all the staff, including the SDMOs who might stay here and retire. But that is part and parcel of our way to our service. We will go straight to covered nuisance. When we talk about the fines that are alluded to us by the Ministry of Health. There are other areas of avenue when looking at clauses 23 to 29, and they cover offensive trade. Offensive trade mostly covers most parts of Fiji. When you talk about huge poultry farms, the smelly part of it, the flies as well, where most of them are built near villages. There was a classic example when we talk about the Vunivaivai case. Everything was approved and the land lease was approved. Crest Chicken and other bigger companies established themselves and operated. Later, the villagers realised that these companies were causing their sickness especially the foul smell and it related to unhygienic discharged of wastes. They are now complaining, but the ministry is trying their best to look for a solution. The irony here is that it was the ministry that did their checking and gave the green light to operate their businesses. This is what we do not want to happen here in Rotuma. This is where this amendment Bill comes into the picture. It is not only that, when you talk about pig pans, we are happy to see that you have a district pig pan which is quite far from the village. We were talking about diseases, the foul smell part of it, and the impact when they are very close to our village.

And for that case, it is part of these amendment Bill to look at those types of offensive trade. Another area that we are looking at is this stone crushing companies. There are always dusts when you go to Suva, especially in Lami, the cement factory surroundings, is an example. How the dust has been affecting the environment especially when you inhale dust over a period of time, can cause sickness. That was why these proposals are in the Act. If the district is planning to have these types of businesses, the Ministry of Health will advise you first. They will give the registration before they come and do their own inspection. They will advise the district about the repercussions, if they are very close to the village. Once the villages give their consent based on the stated repercussions, the Ministry of Health will issue the business license to operate

MR. T.R. VAUROSI.- I heard the talk about Rarotonga and he has never been there. He should talk about the places that he had been to. He should not say anything. You have never been there. I have been everywhere and that is why I talk.

MR. R. TIUHEA.- I have just one question, please. We had just finished discussing about the penalties, and I am sure our HI is present and the rest of the community. One of the things, as I mentioned earlier, was the penalties and the powers that are given to the HI. One of the issues that

our leaders or the chiefs in the communities are having is working together with the His. When the inspection is done, multiple warnings can be given to families. And I am assuming that with this Bill, the HI will have the power within the guidelines to fine someone, or do we have to wait for the court to come to Rotuma, which happens like once a year, or do we have to wait for the court to determine that, or the health inspector has the authority or has the power to give fines to the community because it would take long for the legal team to come over. Sometimes we must put in requests for them to come to the island because of their busy schedule. And I feel that it is because the fines have not been given to the people, I am not sure whether it is because she does not have the authorisation to do that. But these kinds of uncertainty encourages people who are not cleaning the compounds to continue like that. It has been years now and our initiatives has actually enforced it. There are a few people who think that if it is not in the law, then the chiefs of the communities cannot really do much about that. Most of the districts in Rotuma share the same sentiments. Can you please clarify how under the current Act covers fines and penalties, the power that we can give the HI to give fines in the Rotuma for example?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- You clearly stated that correctly. Currently, the Principal Act does not empower the MoH through the HI to give out fines. The amendment Bill, has given power to the HI plus the Ministry of Health to come over and give the warnings, even penalise you on the ground, that is why we are amending this Bill. Before, they can always come and advise. Even coming to the village, they do not have the power based on requests. This is what they face daily on the ground. Once it is enacted in Parliament, these will be bylaws of the government. And you did state that it will come under the Ministry of Health here, and they represent the HI. They will be the authorised body by the council plus the ministry that will oversee the operations of how this Bill will be encapsulated within Fiji and Rotuma. I hope that answers your question. We will move forward. We have to report to the airport because of our flight, which we have no control of, will not wait for us We will go straight to from 37 to 44. Before I do that, our honourable Members who are here, can they introduce themselves so that you are aware.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Good morning, everyone. Our sincere apologies for coming in late. I am a member of this Standing Committee. To my right is the Honourable Ratu Josaia Niudamu. He is the Assistant Minister of Justice. He is alternate Member of this Committee. Right at the door, the Assistant Minister for Youth and Sports, honourable Aliki Bia, who is also a Member of this Committee. He was busy opening the 7s rugby tournament that is happening at the Sumi grounds. Our sincere apologies for coming in late. We do not want to bother anyone else. That is just a simple introduction.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We will go onto 37 to 44 to 54, that will be covered by the Ministry of Health, but the disease that has been spread by mosquitoes. We were asked on our last consultation yesterday, about those houses that are idle, have occupied, and the others are not here? It was a very good question, but to let you know, when this Bill will be enacted to be a legislator of our country, that will be the work of the government to take down. Especially when we look at our district, a lot of properties are empty, some are in its very worst state. When you talk about cleanliness, hygiene and sanitary, we are all governed by these bylaws. Let us look at clause 41, it is about short-term rental property like Airbnb. In this amendment Bill, the Ministry of Health will have the power before you actually have your property to be rented out as a Airbnb or whatever form, even rental or hotels.

They will have the power to come and inspect the building to ensure that the necessary materials used in the house is up to hygiene standard, healthy living standard, and sanitary standards. There was one classical example way back in Suva, involving a rental double-storey house. The owner was staying on top and rented out the bottom flat. After some time, there was a leakage from the sewer line, straight to the kitchen of the bottom flat which included the dining area. I hope it does not happen here in Rotuma. This one of the reasons why the Ministry of Health is involved to check

on these sanitary and hygiene issues. Moving forward, the power is given to the Ministry of Health through their heads and there are some selective criteria which need to be addressed first. You have to be registered under MoH and this will cover you well. For the safety of the occupants of the people that are coming over to the island, and their welfare, when we talk about healthy living, this is where it covers. Any questions on that?

MR. R. TIUHEA.- Thank you, since you have mentioned that, I think this is one of the rising issues here with Rotuma. My question, before any home is declared under this, is there are part in the process where the chiefs or the local leaders of the community has to write in or has to give approval or the community in order for a home to be rented out under Airbnb?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Will the Ministry of Health please share some light on that.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Thank you everybody, honourable Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee and ladies and gentlemen. Thank you, Madam, for the questions raised. Certainly, this is a prerequisite to the registration. If it is located within the village, then a supporting letter from the village head or the village council for that particular premises to be used for accommodation. If it is located on a leased land, then either iTLTB or lands or whoever gives the lease as to consent to that land to be used for accommodation as well. So yes, this is something that is required, honourable Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope to clarify your question. We will go straight to the final part of these amendments in the Bill. If we talk about from 56 to 68, the main subject area here is our water sources. When we talk about water sources, this mostly covers the rural and maritime areas. I believe, more or less like boreholes and wells, which can be a water sources. The proposal Bill is about our water catchment or water sources. Where our water sources are, whether it is a borehole or well or even a dam out in the thick forest, whether it is leased or not leased, whether it is owned by the district or the village or whatever, these are restrictions in this amendment Bill. First, you cannot cut down trees where our water sources are. And I hope everyone is very clear. I am talking about those who talk about the dam out in the forest. Remember I did mention whether it is leased or not leased, even the owner of that piece of land, you are not allowed to cut down trees, to do your planting, grazing animals, or even remove sand or gravel from or within close proximity to the water sources.

Once this Bill is enacted, it will be part of the law of Fiji. Water sources are restricted areas, even landowners are not allowed to do any form of development or extraction directly from the water sources. When you talk about boreholes, they are 50 metres square, whereby you are not supposed to build your house, because we understand once you build your house, there will be a toilet. And the wastewater that goes out of the house will actually go back to where the water source is. But according to the amendment Bill, when you talk about our drinking water, the safety aspect part of it, the hygiene of the people, this is where it comes into the picture. And I hope that it is very clear and loud to everybody to give us some hints moving forward. If you intend to do that, remember you are bond by the law of Fiji and Rotuma. It goes to the extent if you are caught you will be penalised, like the industry that has been alluded to, possibly up from 6 months to 18 months imprisonment.

Once you learnt your lesson, then you can come back to the island. This is a proactive message to look at the importance of our water sources and catchment area. You are not allowed to cut any pipes of water that leads to the village or within those boundaries. It happens a lot of time in Fiji, whereby there are some pollutions within the village. Somebody goes up, cuts the pipes to the dam. Even in Ba in the last three years, there were a couple of animal carcasses thrown into the dams for drinking water. All of a sudden, all those people that were using those dams, all got sick. After the MoH investigation, they concluded that it was an act of ill intent. And I hope that will not happen in

Rotuma, because you have a very good relationship and the right atmosphere to work with. Any question on that, when you talk about our water source?

If there is no question on that, that is basically the 69 clauses in front of us. We have covered all the main areas. And feel free, after we depart from here today, we will give another three weeks. We call it written submission from the respective districts. When you go through those 69 amendments and if it happens, that you have some issues that you missed to mention in today's meeting, you may contact the secretariate of Parliament before we table this in Parliament. Our secretariate is here. You can communicate with them and get their contact address. And through that written submission, it can be addressed to us so it will be part of our public consultation here at Malha'a. To end our consultation this morning, I will ask the Deputy Chair to wrap it up for us before we call it a day.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Are there any more questions, comments, queries, something thar you are clear with? Please do ask before we finish off. Nothing? Yes, please.

MR. R. TIUHEA.- This is one very important question from me. This is in regard to COVID that happened early 2019 and onwards. I am not sure whether this is applicable to the order. You know, in the last COVID, the needed to get vaccinated. The question is this. The last government enforced penalties for enforced penalties to those who did not take the vaccine during the COVID. The question is this, does this Bill also enforces, does the Bill give the right for the government of the day to enforce this on the people to be vaccinated? I am sure there are a lot of things and we still yet to face, more challenging viruses ahead. As a concerning member of the community with so many information that was received after COVID, my question is, does this Bill also force the government of the day to take the same stand as what happened the last time?

MoH OFFICIAL.- Thank you, honourable Chairman, Members of the Committee, ladies and gentlemen, Madam, thank you for the question. First of all, for clarification, the last government did not penalise anyone who did not take the vaccine. However, they were given the free choice to take the vaccine or not, but they were taken out of the front line if they were not vaccinated, meaning they were not allowed to go to work as health workers or teachers because these workers were in the front line, they were highly exposed. The government decided that only those who are fully vaccinated get to work in the front line because they are fully protected as compared to those who are not vaccinated. But it was not a penalty. And likewise for this government, there is nothing in the Bill that will penalise you if you do not get vaccinated, but you may lose the work if you are on the front lines because of the fact that you are exposed if you do continue to work in those areas. But other fines are still there. If you breach your isolation, if you do other things, the amendment during the COVID-19 is still in the Principal Act, and I think it has the highest penalty in the Public Health Act is $10,000. You can be fined if you breach isolation. If the doctor puts you under isolation in the hospital, please do not run away because you will have to pay $10,000 as a fine.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Are there any other questions?

MR. J. LOBENDAHN.- Sorry, my query is if the Public Health Act, will Rotuma be bonded by it?

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Yes.

MR. J. LOBENDAHN.- But we also have the Rotuma Act which has provisions for Public Health in it. Will they be aligned?

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Yes.

MR. ILIESA.- Just a comment. I think at the end of the day, whatever are discussed here from 1 to 69 should have been changed a long time ago, right? We are old and our health workers does not have the powers to carry out their work effectively. I know sometimes they face a lot of hassle but I think at the end of the day, it is down to the individual. If we are worried about our health and our well-being, it is up to us the person. Sometimes we get angry because people come and tell us what to do. But if we are doing what is right, then we should not have any problems with that. So, in saying that, I think it is justified and thank you so much for coming to the island. I know it is not easy leaving families and work behind.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Thank you very much, Sir. I will take that as the last comment. I will just run a quickly run up. On behalf of the Members of the Committee, staff of the Ministry of Health, the parliamentary support team, and all those who are here, we wish to thank you very much for coming this morning. Having this public consultation just before we adjourn, and we would like to leave some reminders about we were discussed here today. It is all common sense in a nutshell, it is all common sense as my friend here said earlier. If you see your is sceptic is linking do something about it, if you see rubbish do something about if you see tires and tins in your village, do something about it. The last resort must be the fine because once the fine comes in, there is no more talking. There is no more leniency. It is all about common sense.

And Sir has asked for the empowerment of the Chief, the Rotuma Council of Chief. That is in the Ministry of Health Plan. When this amendment passes, the amendment will allow the health inspector and the Rotuma Council, which is the rural local authority to enter premises and check, look at all these cleared up. That is to look after our health, our well-being. Currently, there is no council but the Rotuma Council of Chiefs, and the head is in Labasa. When this Bill is passed, no one from Labasa can come here to check on what is happening here. The Ministry of Health will empower the Rotuma Council of Chiefs, where the chiefs working with the HI, to look at all these. What we were discussing here today was common sense. You must learn to exercise some common sense. If you see something that is wrong that may deprive someone of their health, do something about it. You can do it individually, do it as a community, do it as a village, but what we were discussing every day is common sense. Only if you do not do it, do not do anything, then the law will bite you.

But if you do something about it, you will not be fined. The reason why government has pushed for these amendments to come through because of our negligence. We are negligent. It is in human nature. Negligence breeds leptospirosis. Negligence breeds all this dengue fever. Negligence causes death to our people because we have seen something that could have already been prevented. We knew it, but we did not do anything about it. We saw it, we did not do anything about it. That is our negligence. This is why the government is pushing for this because we are negligent. The onus, as my good friend here said, is on us. You personally, the community, the village, whole of Rotuma can do it. No one else will come and clean up Rotuma. It is Rotuma and her people who will have to clean up Rotuma.

The onus is on you, the same thing is for us. When we go back to our places, nobody else will go and clean up places, it is us. But we are setting up the law so that you do it because if you do not do it, something will make you do it. The law and the fines are there. The health inspectors will be empowered to give infringement notices. But they will not do it on the spot. They must give some warnings once, probably twice. If the person is not listening, that means what? He or she is intentionally doing it so give them the fine. If they do not like it, you may appeal to the magistrate court when the court sits, but if you do not like it, the court can take you to prison. The mechanisms are already in place. This law has been there since 1935. There are only some changes, but all the things in this law are common sense. Exercise some common sense and have some pride in our

villages, in our communities and in our homes. With those few words, I thank you all and that concludes our public submission for today.

The Committee adjourned at 10.40 a.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL (BILL NO. 4 0F 2026)

VENUE: (1) Council of Chiefs Chambers, Ahau
(2) Itumuta District Hall, Itumuta Hall

DATE: Wednesday, 26th August, 2026

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL HELD AT AHAU GOVERNMENT STATION ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH AUGUST, 2026 AT 2.06 P.M.

Present

(1)	Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	Chairman
(2)	Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure	Deputy Chairman
(3)	Hon. A. Bia	Member
(4)	Hon. J.N. Nand	Alternate Member
(5)	Hon. Ratu J.B. Niudamu	Alternate Member

Ministry of Health & Medical Services

(1)Mr. Toga Vosataki	National WASH Coordinator
(2)Mr. Luke Vonotabua	Acting Chief Health Inspector

Ministry of Health & Medical Services Officials in Rotuma

(1)	Mr. Luke Savu	District Officer
(2)	Mr. Kelekele Inikasio	Senior Subdivisional Medical Officer

Submittees/Interviewee: Rotuma Council of Chiefs

(1)	Gagaj Maraf	Noatau Chief
(2)	Gagaj Vuan	Juju Sub-chief
(3)	Gagaj Kausiraf	Oinafa Chief
(4)	Gagaj Fikitua	Malhaá Chief
(5)	Gagaj Manav	Itumuta Chief
(6)	Gagaj Vakatua	Itítiu Chief
(7)	Mr. Rave Tiuhea	Malhaá Mata
(8)	Mr. Saau Injimo	Juju Mata
(9)	Mr. Ravai	Oinafa Mata

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for our *sevusevu* ceremony. Before we start today, on behalf of the Speaker of the Fiji Parliament, it is an honour and privilege to be here this afternoon, especially in Rotuma.

(*Introduction of the Committee Members and the representatives from the Ministry of Health)*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will repeat the words, we are fortunate to be here in Rotuma. I believe most of us have been here already. But if I need to be corrected, I believe two of us from your Parliament, this is the first time for them to land on our beautiful island of Rotuma. Our presence here is from your Fiji Parliament through the Speaker of the House. We have been going around Fiji for the last three months and today is Rotuma. There is a Public Health (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 4 of 2026). It was tabled in Parliament earlier of the year. The responsibility of the Social Committee is to take this Bill around Fiji and Rotuma for the public consultation process. Altogether there are 69 amendments to the Bill. The Bill was enacted in

our Parliament in 1935. Ninety-one years after, it will be taken to Parliament to amend that sixty-nine clauses in front of us, and it is being detailed in that handout that I will go through with you this afternoon. Our discussion areas will be based mainly on the 9 key objective areas.

Honourable Members, we will work on that, and we will be in a better position to advice. The main reasons why we are here, to hear from the people of Rotuma concerning the 69 amendments in front of us. I want to hear your opinion, if you want to suggest any positive and constructive changes. When we talk about penalties, whether it is too high or too low, when we talk about the standard of our living. This is the first time for this amendment Bill to be involved all our villages around Fiji. When it was enacted in 1935, it was solely mainly for the people in the urban centres because they are looked after by the municipalities. For them, it was convenient because they paid their rates and the services that were provided for them like the collection of their rubbish, their streetlights, their networking system, their roads and everything else. These services were provided to them because they pay their rates. But in this amendment Bill, the Ministry of Health has given us the opportunity that all villages must be involved in the amendment of the Act. They will give us a holistic overview of the Bill, especially, the introduction of the Bill, before we will hear all your responses, whether it is a written submission, whether it is a face-to-face, or whatever you request to us to amend the Bill, today here at Rotuma. Hopefully, after our session this afternoon, we will be able to collect your ideas from how you look at the Bill, all your responses which will help us when we go back to Parliament to do our report writing and take it to take back to Parliament, ideally in the September sitting.

In this case, I will ask the Ministry of Health officials to give us an overview of the Bill before we proceed to the 9 important objectives, which is covered in the last sixty-nine clauses in front of us.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, and honourable Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, the Chairman of the Council and the members of the Rotuma Council, the District Officer Rotuma (DO) and the Subdivisional Medical Officer (SDMO) for Rotuma Subdivision Hospital. As was mentioned by the Chair of the Standing Committee, the Public Health Act 1935 is 91 years old. There are about 17 parts, 142 sub-sections and 26 regulations in the Public Health Act. The overall intent of the Public Health Act is to maintain the cleanliness and the good hygiene in the surrounding environment and to protect the health of the public and to prevent future outbreaks of any disease. We have had a lot of the outbreak of diseases around Fiji, like dengue and typhoid. There was also an outbreak of leptospirosis starting two years ago with the COVID-19.

Basically, the Public Health Act is there to protect the health of the public and to prevent the future outbreaks. For the review of the Public Health Act of 1935 is to modify or modernise an almost century old legislative framework to align our Public Health Act to the global best practices. What used to happen 91 years ago is different from what is happening now with the new diseases that are prevalent and that is why the government, and the Minister of Health are proposing for the review to be done. In front of you, there are about 69 changes that had been proposed in the table. In front of you, there is what Ministry of Health, and the Government feels that should be changed and they are to modernise the Public Health Act. You will agree with me that our surrounding environment affects our health because if we do not maintain the cleanliness of our villages, our communities, if we do not clean the trees, the mosquitoes will go and lay their eggs and breed. When the population of the mosquitoes increase, they will spread certain diseases in the communities. If we do not maintain and protect our water supply, what will happen? The bacteria will go in the water supply and the members of the community will contract diarrhoea and typhoid. If there is constant rainy weather, our children will become

the vulnerable population because they will be playing in the flooded areas. If we do not keep the animal properly, they defecate and urinate around. When our children go and play and if they have cuts, bacteria can enter their bodies, and we can have an outbreak of leptospirosis. The point that I am making is that our surrounding environment is very important to us. Therefore, cleaning and maintaining the cleanness of our surrounding environment is vital for a healthy community. This Act covers a lot of environment issues that can affect us.

Let us have a look at the Public Health Act which covers the maintenance and the safety of water supply, the nuisance, offensive trade, the importance of enforcing, empowering the officers to enter a community and do inspection. In the proposed amendments that is there, you see that there are powers that are given to our health inspectors and the staffs of the Ministry of Health to enter our communities and do inspection. When a sick person is presented to the hospital, the health officials have the power to go back to the community and to do a disease investigation and contact tracing. That is one of the important things that we do when somebody is sick of communicable diseases. We need to know where that person was, how did she contract the diseases. That is important because we need to cut, and we need to end or stop the spread of that communicable disease.

Furthermore, the amendment is done to strengthen the work of the health officers when they visit the communities, strengthen the protection of our water sources, strengthening the work on the prevention of mosquito borne diseases amongst others. There is a special part in the Act on mosquito control because of dengue fever. In this amendment, we want to take our preventative measures to another level to stop the spread of dengue fever. The government is spending a lot of money every year to advocate for the prevention of dengue fever, which includes time and medication that the ministry buys for treating people that are sick with dengue. We feel that if we do the prevention part properly, we will not have a lot of people going to the hospital.

Our surveillance data, on a monthly basis, on a quarterly basis, on yearly basis is indicating that there is a lot of people, especially the *iTaukei* population have contracted dengue fever, leptospirosis and typhoid compared to other races. This data is indicating to us that our health-seeking behaviours are reactionary. Sometimes we feel that when we see that an outbreak happening, when people are getting sick, then we tend to, we need to clean the community up, we do the clean up now because people are sick. We want to see things happening before we take action. When we are told to clean our compound and to make sure that we protect our water supply and do the preventative part, we will not do these things until we see three or four people get sick in that community, then we will start to talk about it. Hey, this family, three families, four families are getting sick.

We should start cleaning up. We should take precautions. So that is how we are. And what we also found out that a lot of the people come to the hospital only when they need the tertiary care. Meaning, when people are sick, they stay at home. They stay home and they take herbal medicine, massage and so on. When that same person is about to die, then the relatives take them to the hospital. When they bring the sick to the hospital, you will require a mercy flight, which will possibly involve SDMO. You require a mercy flight, or when you come to a health center, you will need an ambulance to take you to a bigger hospital for tertiary care. This is one of the pertinent reasons is why we are proposing for these changes.

You will also see that there is an increase in the penalties. These penalties are in the proposals of the 69 clauses. These proposed higher penalties are not there to burden people,

but it is there as a deterrent. With the current Public Health Act, if an inspector comes to one of the communities, and one of the houses have receptacles where mosquito larvae are breeding in them, you will be charged $10. You go to the court, you pay $10, and you do not address the issue. And tomorrow again, the mosquitoes will come, will continue to breed and spread more infections.

However, in the amendment Bill, we want to put the fines up so that we can deter people from continuing to keep their surroundings unclean and unhygienic that can cause communicable diseases. That is basically what the review of the 69 clauses that is in the Public Health Act are about. We want to strengthen the work that we need to do in the communities in trying to break the chain for infection in our communities. We feel that if we break the chain and we can empower the people to take ownership of their health and the surrounding environment, we will reduce the number of our community members that will be going to the hospital.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much to the Ministry of Health officials. I believe that was the overall overview of the amendments of the 69 clauses that is in front of us. And hopefully during our discussion time, we will go through the 9 clauses from the 69 clauses which are pertinent to the public health. Those are the subject areas that we discussed today. Those 9 major key areas of discussion are all based on the 69 clauses that are in front of us. Feel free to interject with us or just raise your hand for the purpose of recording our public consultation this afternoon. You have to give your name and which district you come from. If you are a civil servant, then say I am the district officer of Rotuma or whoever.

From our end, we hope to hear a lot from you. I am not sure what time you have received the amendment Bill, but we leave here on Friday, we will give you another opportunity during the discussion with your respective districts or even at the village levels. If you see fit that there are other needs where you did not discuss today apart from the other areas. The venue that we will go through today and tomorrow, and if you need to address it at your district level, you go, feel free to discuss those issues at your district level. Our secretariate staff are around and hopefully most of the discussions that we need to know more about what is happening in the Bill, it will always come after. And it is part of how we do things, especially from our level.

You have proven that some of the good ideas do not appear here, maybe because of the limitation of the time or how we look at the people inside the room. It is a Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026. The team from the Ministry of Health have really given us a very holistic overview on the importance of the amendments. I will take us through from clause 1 to clause 14. If you look at the clauses 1 to 14, it is mostly about the importance and the key areas of responsibilities. I will give you the reference right now. If any of the members of the committee and the hierarchy of Rotuma are here this afternoon, if you want to choose any clauses from 1 to 14, feel free, just raise your hand and we will bring over the mic to you. Whether you need to talk on the subject area, if you need to say that there should be an amendment or whatever thereafter, you need to discuss it with us.

On time limitation, because we have another public consultation this afternoon, hopefully that we will go through this one with you at least one hour or so. The key objectives of the Bill, when you look at it from your perspective, and how the laws have dealt with these amendments to the Principal Act from 1935. If anybody want to give it a try or give it a go, from any clauses from 1 to 14? Mostly about the bylaws, the purpose of the amendment Bill, when we talk about how best we can protect and look after the cleanliness and the good hygiene of each village or within our communities, they are all within the perimeter of those 14 clauses in front of us.

Vinaka, is there somebody out there who will give a try. We need your name and the village that you come from. If it be to say your title or whatever, feel free to do so. Thank you.

MR. S. INJIMO.- Mr. Chairman and Members of the Social Affairs Committee, I am the district representative for the District Juju. The Public Health Act 1935 is outdated and urban-centric. While we support modernising the Act to address new diseases and emergencies, any new law must reflect the unique geography, governance and culture of Rotuma under the Rotuma Act and all rural areas and maritime islands in Fiji. Number one, how should the law deal with non-biodegradable waste? The current system that is been practiced here in the island is that we bury them. To modernise this, may they be removed from all maritime islands using a government franchise boat to take them to recycling factories. A workable system must be in place before any penalties are imposed. Number 2, sewage and sanitation. The proposed requirements are not realistic for rural and maritime communities. A fine of $1000 if my existing facility is not up to standard. We do not have drainage and sewage systems like the urban centers, but we do have our own system of drainage and sewage, and it should be allowed to be used as it is allowed in our old Rotuma Act Health Regulation.

Our quarantine centers, if there is an outbreak and the hospital is full, then all isolation centres must be outside of the village perimeter. Number 4, all medical waste must be removed from all maritime islands quarterly to dispose of. Number 5, our ship health. Every boat coming to Rotuma or any maritime island must report sickness on board 24 hours before arrival. Number 6, this Bill has fines up to $10,000. We know that laws are made to serve us. And this Bill will be passed into law and will be enforced. But let us involve our chiefs and respect our cultural way of solving things, especially in rural and maritime islands, where the cost of living is very, very high.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for your very impressive presentation to us. When we listened to your presentation, you have covered the whole sixty-nine clauses and thank you very much for that effort put it your presentation for us. We kindly request a copy of your presentation for our reference in our amendment process of this Bill. If a copy can be handed over to our secretary who are here with us. Whatever you raised, they are all taken on board. It is a positive response from the rep of Juju district.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- Mr. Chairman, I am from the district of Itititiu. This is all the vicinity of the district of Itititiu. I would like to share something about waste management. Well, our brother here had already covered, so I will just briefly add on to what is needed. Recently, I gave a proposal to the council regarding waste management. Since we are stuck to a mindset of the old ways, how to dispose of our waste. My recent trip to the Cook Islands, I have learned a lot on how they manage their waste. For Rotuma, we will start. Before I gave the proposal to the council, I had already started this practice within my household and my community, then my district. We already started phase one without funding. But yet, we need consultation as to how to manage our waste wisely, how to dispose our waste. I believe that there is a need for landfills and recycling mostly plastic. And it came to my attention that the importation of plastic is way more than we can handle.

I have arranged with some of our communities as to collect all plastics, cans, ceramic, and our general waste for proper disposal. But this is the main focus, as to reduce the pollution to our environment, mostly our waterfronts, right now there is a lot of pollution in our waters, and it is already affecting our marine life. And I believe we recently had a survey by Prestin Seas, they have witnessed the damage we have done. And it is not only here in Rotuma, but it

is all around Fiji. And this is where I think we should start, consult our people and educate them how to handle their waste. In addition, we need the assistance of the government for potential funding. But I know we are here to talk about the Bill, but there is a need for the people to know what to do and who should we consult. I believe the changes that have been made by me, it is a great change because there is a lot of negligence within the community where we lack to educate our young children. To be clear from our side, we very much appreciate the changes. This is where people will wake up for their health and the community. For us to work, we need to be healthy rather than be sick. I know there is a lot of changes. Some people might not understand, but it is up to the leaders to clarify every details as to the need for waste management.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for that. Let us give us a run-up on what you have discussed with us. Firstly, there used to be a body from the Ministry of Health that undertake all these responsibilities. Way back in 2018, we used to have this rural local authority. They play a critical role under the Ministry of Health. Their main task was to focus on our rural people, looking after their waste management, their collections, how best we can demarcate the 3Rs, how we repurpose our rubbish in a responsible manner. Part of this Bill, in these amendments is to get the rural local authority back in operation. They were the right people to refer to when you talk about the rural people.

Likewise, in the urban centres, the local authorities are the municipalities. I have already said that from the beginning of introduction today and to get that rural local authority back into this amendment Bill, they are the ones that they will be representing us through the Ministry of Health to the public. For awareness, if we talk about how we will get the people to be aware, our first task now is to get this Bill tabled in Parliament. The Ministry of Health has indicated that after it is tabled in Parliament and to be a part of legislative by law in Parliament, they are requesting to be given another year. Going down to the people around Fiji and Rotuma, they will talk about the importance, the awareness part of how all these amendments will take place, especially to the rural people, because it is totally new to us. We cannot deny this, so these are all under the process.

First, we have to get this first amendment done. Once we have made it in part, it will be part of our bylaws, then we can work on our regulations like the policies. And I am happy to say that the rural local authority is part of this amendment, which they will be the body, through the Minister of Health, to look after what Sir has indicated to us this afternoon. Ministry of Health, can you just give us more interesting information on that, or the discussion points that we will discuss it now? Ministry of Health.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee, and members of the Rotuma Council, certainly I agree with what the honourable Chairman has already alluded to in terms of providing service in the rural areas. One of the big changes that the Bill intends to put in place is to bring back the rural local authorities. If passed in Parliament in the next sitting or the next two sittings, then we should see the reintroduction of the Rotuma Rural Local Authority (RRLA) and of course, the council members usually consist of a member from the RRLA, the District Officer, the SDMO, and they look at issues pertaining to sanitary services for the island.

One viable option is regarding the removal of white goods from the island. This is something that can be explored through the ferry that serves us. There was a mention about sewage treatment in some areas where the septic system might not work as well as in other areas. This is something that the local authority can also investigated. Viable options that can vary in different settings as well. Septic systems might work in areas where there is nice loamy

soil, but in other areas with high water tables, it might not work as well. There are other options that I think, and this is something that the local authority can investigated once they are being reinstated. In terms of waste management, I think Rotuma has taken a step forward in two fronts.

One, looking into the medical waste, which was a big issue, of course, in the makeshift setup that we have on our island. We are looking at that, we have done trainings and development of healthcare waste management plan. And of course, a new system that is adopted in the district. And this is something that we can roll out to the rest of the districts within Rotuma and pumping in some funding through the local authority to assist communities in improving the way that they manage their waste, jumping or investing into 3R, reduce, reuse and recycle, investing into composting, to reduce the amount of waste that we discard in our premises. I support, again, the sentiment said by the Honourable Chairman. This is certainly something good to look forward to for the introduction of our local rural authority.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Ministry of Health, Sir, the floor is open for you now.

GAGAJ MANAV.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, just a question that I would like to raise this afternoon. We are under Labasa Municipality from before, so this is something that the DO and I are looking at. Since the Members of Parliament are here, we are asking if Rotuma can be placed under the Suva municipality because things will be much easier. Instead of being redirected to Labasa, things would be easier and faster, in terms of development if we are under Suva. We are currently under Labasa, and it is hard for us to wait for all this assistance. I humbly plead since, Members of the Parliament are here, Sir, please can you confirm to us and tell us how we can work and connect Rotuma to Suva.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Sir, this is totally new information for me. We will take that on board as part of the discussions today. I hope to come back to you if there is any decision done by the respective municipalities from Labasa back to Suva, which we totally agree that you should be under Suva. I am not sure about how the other honourable Members look at it, for Rotuma to going all the way to Labasa, it seems to me that it was during those unforeseen days.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, I would just like to add on to that. What the Honourable Chairman was alluding to earlier and what I had explained further is that when this Act is passed in Parliament in the next sitting or two sittings, you will no longer have to report to Labasa town council. You will report to RRLA. All your approvals will be approved here in Rotuma. You do not have to go anywhere else, not to Labasa and not to Suva. That used to be the practice prior to 2018 and in 2018, when they abolished local authority, Rotuma was left under the care of Labasa municipality.

Similarly, the people from Lau faced similar predicaments. We had to go from Lau to Suva and then Suva to Levuka to get services and it was quite an irksome arrangement. Now the Bill proposes that we scrap it, and we bring back the rural local authorities. For development, for waste management, for sanitary service, Rotuma will be responsible for Rotuma. Even the licensing and everything, it will make everything easier. No one will be travelling to come and inspect. They will say, okay, we will send an officer over. After one month or two months and they have not arrived. Now our officer here, will do the inspection and approve within the same day or within two days, just like prior to 2018.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that it is very clear to everybody because it is good news. Moving forward, we will go straight to clauses 17 to 25. It is mostly about the penalties. I believe this is a very sensitive area which we need to talk about with the team here. The penalties vary according to severity of the offences. If you look at it, some from ranges $20 to $200, even from $1,000 to $5,000, depending on the severity of the offences. I will ask the team from the Ministry of Health to give us some light on the importance of these penalties, from clauses 17 to 25.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Thank you, honourable Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee, and members of the Rotuma Council of Chiefs, and of course the government officers who are here. This is something that we felt is very important to maximise compliance from our community members. Now, I always mention this when we do public consultations around the crowd. The main reason why there is a Ministry of Health is to protect you, your health, you, your family, your communities, your district and your village. But the big problem that we face is you make yourself sick by what you do on a daily basis. You create risk that causes you and your family and your community to get sick. In order for us to deter people from creating such nuisances that can make others or even themselves sick, we have decided to increase the penalties.

Before the penalties in the Public Health Act used to be $2, $4, $10. Back in 1935, that might have been a very big amount of money. I found a very old 1991 local newspaper edition. There was an advertisement of a cartoon of beer which was selling for $7.85. Imagine $10 back then was of very big value, but now $10 is just a packet of cigarettes or just two bags of kava. If someone creating a circumstance that can cause someone to be sick and spend like $10, it will not deter that person from discontinuing that from that circumstance. We felt it is very important to increase these penalties so that when you hear about it, you will say, okay, I need to clean up, otherwise I will pay this huge amount of money. The proposed penalty has now increased for nuisances and there is a ceiling of $1,000. And that depends on the type of nuisance you have; you will be charged with the amount accordingly. The maximum is $1,000 and take for example, your septic tank is leaking in front of the next-door neighbour's house, and the children are playing in that area and then the flies go to the sewer waste and land on the food. They can get sick and when the health inspector comes and says, this is a very serious health offence, you need to fix this.

If you do not comply after reasonable warnings, you can be charged the maximum of $1,000 because the leak poses a high risk to the health of the community. But if you have a wastewater pipe that may be going into the common drain, that can be around $200. There is a matrix that will be used to determine the fine. But the maximum is $1,000 and the minimum is $100. And there is a whole lot in between there so, if you have a pig shack just beside your house and your neighbour cannot sleep, they are getting the bad smell all the time, this is something that you can be charged with also. That is why we are trying now to deter people by increasing the fines.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Let us go straight to clauses 26 to 37. If you look at the copy with you, they are about nuisances. We have discussed part of it as well as the offensive trade. I will ask honourable Bia to give us a run through on the subheading.

HON. A. BIA.- *Vinaka*, if you look at the changes that has been shared by the honourable Chair, one important one is number 39. It talks about a penalty from $20 to $2,000. Now you might ask, why is that increased to $2,000? Just for background, from 1935 up until now, just like what the health officials have been discussing, most of the penalties are from $2, $5. To

modernise the way we look after our health and the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, the Ministry of Health proposed that some of the penalties that are here need to be increased so that we have the responsibility of protecting all our community members, especially the vulnerable like our children and elderly from these diseases that can spread easily and can be very costly to us in terms of life. Now onto 39, $20 to $2,000, in English, there is a phrase used in the amendment, and it is 'venereal disease' which includes is HIV/AIDS. Now if you are one, that you have been proven medically that you have HIV/AIDS, and when you come to the island, then you purposefully or willingly spread it to other youths or other people that is on the island. You can be charged and fined for $2,000. That is why it has been increased because of the nature.

In addition, if you notice in the news lately, there have been an increase of our youth getting HIV/AIDS. That is why it is important to protect the community members. Now a lot of places that we have gone to had raised a lot of concerns because by law, if anyone contracts the HIV/AIDS virus, we cannot release the names. Now that is under the HIV/AIDS Act and we are bounded by it constitutionally to protect the privacy and the rights of such individuals. All we can do is introduce this high fine in the Public Health (Amendment) Bill as a deterrent. That is why the amendment, one of the 69 amendments, number 39, is to increase that fine. You will be charged with $2,000 when this is passed in Parliament. You can also be taken to court if you continue to do so, and this is one of the important amendments in the 69 amendments. The health officials have discussed about the word "nuisance".

Now, anything that can cause harm or can spread diseases in our communities, consider harm and nuisance, you can be charged for it. This Act gives the power to the Ministry of Health officials. Now, if they come to one of the villages in the Ititiu district and they say, "okay, there is garbage here, there is littering, there is empty containers and tyres, that are breeding mosquitoes, which is why there are a lot of dengue fever cases in the Ititiu district." Now when they come in and they go and check and verify, okay, this house, there are empty containers and there are empty tires that are breeding mosquitoes all over, that are causing dengue to spread across the Itutiu district. You can be charged and fined according to the 69 amendments that is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that is clear when we talk about our surroundings and the importance of looking after our healthy living and hygiene, the way of how we look at all the breeding places for mosquitoes and that has been clarified by honourable Bia. We will move along. We are up to 42, from 43 to 48. We have covered that when we talk about offensive trade. If you need further clarity on that, raise your hands so that we can re-explain. We will look at the obstruction from the public when we talk about the role and important tasks played by the Ministry of Health officials during their duty-bound areas. If you look at 40 to 48. Obstructing any official from the Ministry of Health in performing their task in front of us, you are liable to be penalised for that. We have cases in the Western side whereby the staff of MoH come to perform their tasks in the communities, they were chased away by the dogs. Even one of our staff was taken to the hospital, whereby he was assaulted with a four by two piece of timber on the head.

Hopefully, it will not happen in Rotuma because they are here for us. They come especially to recommend improvements on how we look after our health and at times enforce cases that are of serious health concerns. They want to ensure also that we are all in good health and good hygiene. There are a lot of qualified people in our communities to serve us here in Rotuma and the obstruction of the staff of the Ministry of Health is a serious offence. We will

go straight to 49, right up to 52. and to 54. I believe this factor was covered by the Ministry of Health, the diseases that mosquitoes can spread to us. We talk about dengue fever, so on and so forth. In the other areas, we talk about leptospirosis and other diseases. It is all part of our healthy living and hygiene and hopefully that we understand if somebody will need further clarification, from clause 1 right up to clause 50. Remember, I did mention that out of 69 clauses, the main key areas are only 9. That is why we are discussing it from clause 1 to clause 14. Other than that, some of those are indefinitely just the definition, the amendments from the Principal Act. There are two amendment bids that here in front of us. Any questions? or recommendations?

MS. R. TIUHEA.- I am the relieving *mata* for Malhaá District. There are a few things that I wanted to ask. One of this is regarding the reintroduction of the rural local authority. From the beginning of the discussion, we started talking about the changes that we want proposed up to the abolishment of the rural local authority in 2018. The issue is, if the rural local authority is reintroduced, as our council have heard, that means that there will be a body set up in Rotuma. That is my assumption of what it will be like a rural local authority in Rotuma. So the question is, when it comes to fines and things like that, does the local authority or the body that will be set up, if this is passed, will they have the power to come up with localised penalties, for example, for Rotuma, or everything has to be in accordance or it has to be stated clearly in the Bill.

One of the issues that we had was the understanding of my chiefs that the inspector is allowed to give spot fines or fines for those who do not clean their compound. The reality of things is even though our chiefs have constantly been reminding the communities to do their part, there are some people who do not follow instructions. Is this where we clearly need the Health Inspector to reinforce these laws. As we have just been informed by the inspector that she does not have the authority to give spot fines because it is not under the laws that she is currently working from.

If the people are not following the request of the chiefs, will this rural local authority have the power to do that? And if it does not, can we propose in this submission that for the purpose of Rotuma and how well operations can be done here in terms of fines, if they can be spot fines, the inspector can be given authority to give spot fines to families or individuals who do not follow warnings. For example, the increase in the number of filariasis cases. I am from Malhaá district, and I do believe that our doctor can also attest to that, there is an increase in cases filariasis Malhaá district. It does not mean the ones that had contracted filariasis are the ones who need to clean their compound. It can be my neighbour, but just because the law enforcers do not have the power to enforce fines, some people go scot-free. When it comes to the level of authority that this local authority can have, the question for the council is this. There are numerous times when some laws are introduced with noble intentions that it will work for the people of Rotuma. Critics have said that if these laws cannot be enforced by the police and processed through to the courts, then it will not receive the complete support of the people of Rotuma. This is one of the big challenges that my chiefs and our Council of Rotuma face these days. It is not only with the Ministry of Health but is prevalent with other ministries with similar laws that cannot be dealt with by the police.

There are a lot of incoming Rotumans to the island, where majority of them, out of respect for my chiefs, do not respect that if it is not written in black and white. They believe that they can do their own things and not follow the traditional protocols. The question is, what powers do my chiefs have if this rural local authority is reinstated? For the last issue, can we take a look at Section 106, concerning boreholes. We have three boreholes in Rotuma. How well can our boreholes in Rotuma be protected? We do have fences that is to protect the borehole but

say if somebody has bad intentions, the best place for that person to unleash his / her ill intention is to contaminate borehole. How is the Ministry of Health with this Committee planning on making sure that our sources of drinking water secured for the people of Rotuma?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will ask honourable Bia to answer the first part of it, and I will take care of our boreholes.

HON. A. BIA.- Just on the first issue that you have raised, in terms of the powers that is given to the health inspectors, and the second one is whether, if rural local authorities empowered, can they introduce spot fines? Now, for the two issues that you have raised, it is clearly covered under the 69 amendments. The first one, if amended and passed, in Parliament, it gives the power to the Health Inspector to do fines according to what the law has transcribed. Now regulations will come later that it may provide more clarity in terms of how the fines will be introduced. If you look at how the fines written in the amendments, it is not more than $1,000 and the discretionary powers is given to the health inspector or to the environmental health practitioner based on the severity of the offence. This will be introduced and passed in Parliament, and it gives the power to the health inspector or environmental health practitioner to do fines within our community. And your second question was if the local rural local authority is introduced, can it introduce new spot fines? This amendment has all the fines, so the rural local authority cannot introduce new fines under this act. Once this is passed, all of the officials under the rural local authority, the power vested within the health inspectors, they work only on the fines that is prescribed in the amendments. If it is passed by law, the health inspector will have the full power to enter your communities and carry out the responsibilities under its role description. And if there is a verification of the offence committed, you can be fined wherever you live, in the 7 districts of Rotuma and especially the district of Itutiu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope your first question has been taken care of, the second one which is actually the last part of this amendment Bill. It starts about how we look after our water source catchment. In the village, I believe this is very important to us. We can talk about our water source, whereby we have an open water source up in the hill or close to any place which we see fit that is good for the consumption of all the public. If we have a catchment in our village or wherever, as part of this Bill, it clearly states that even the landowners, whether it is leased or not leased, nobody should be planting or cutting trees where our water catchments are. And I hope that is very clear. Even the landowners, whether it is leased or not lease, the power of these amendments for the protection of our water source, no one can use that area for planting, cutting down trees, graze of animals and even to get some gravel out of that source for other use or other purposes. It restricted in this amendment so the water sources and catchments will be out of bounds to everyone.

Secondly, if you are being reported for damaging the pipes from the source to the village within or wherever, in this amendment Bill, you can be penalised with the stipulated the penalties. And if you cannot pay for your fine, you can be taken to prison for even three to six months. Maybe you have to go all the way to Suva to relax in Korovou, or maybe at Naboro, for some time and when you learnt your lesson, then come back and see the importance of following the law. Since this will be the law of Fiji and Rotuma, all citizens will be bonded within this Public Health Act. When you talk about wells and boreholes, same principle applies. I hope that you got some boreholes here, even if you have some dug-up wells within our villages. Within 50 square metres, you are not allowed to build any toilet or whatever. Close by within those 50 square meters and this applies to the borehole. And you cannot build your own houses close to that area because we understand, once the house is built here, the water

sources can be contaminated. Perhaps, I will ask the Chief Health Inspector to give us some more light on that. It is very important we talk about our water sources, Ministry of Health.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Thank you, honourable Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee and Social Affairs and Rotuma Council members, I think a lot has been covered by the two members. I would like to talk on the effect of mosquito borne diseases and all that you mentioned about the lymphatic fluorosis. One part in the Principal Act, part 9 talks about mosquitoes. In the Amendment Act, we are proposing a lot of new amendments to do with the control of dengue fever and other vectors borne diseases. In the Principal Act, you will see that it is mentioned that if an inspector comes to a village and comes to somebody's premises and sees that the container has larvae inside. The inspector will issue a notice and $10 is the fine. If the fine is paid, the person does not remove the nuisance, the owner of the house is not obligated under the current law to remove the nuisance. If the fine is paid in court, the owner of the house can return to his/her home and is not required under the current law to remove the nuisance, which defeats the whole purpose of such regulations because the problem has not been solved.

However, in the new proposal there are a lot of other things that we have added to control dengue and other vector-borne diseases, including that when an inspector comes to a residential place and sees that there is an empty container, a tin or maybe a coconut shell, not holding water, but it is just there, it becomes a receptacle , a person can be fined. And again, if an inspector come to a household and see it has a receptacle or coconut shell or tins holding water without any mosquito larvae, that is another thing. And if an inspector comes in and see that particular receptacle has mosquito larvae, then I think the fine is more than that. This is what we are doing to prevent the vector for disease.

I know that lymphatic is common in the Rotuma. In other places, we have dengue fever and other vector-borne diseases. We are doing this to control vector-borne diseases. I am aware that every year we have an outbreak of dengue in the medical centers, and the government is spending a lot of money. As of now, we have a lot of people that are coming to the hospital, but we have an outbreak that burdens the system in the health system. That is where the thought of introducing this so that it becomes a deterrent. And I think there was also a mention about one of the council members on the ships and the quarantine that is covered under another Act just reviewed lately. The Quarantine Act that covers the vessels is coming in, including the aircraft that is coming from overseas. Rotuma is also a port of call and any vessels that is coming from other countries to Rotuma, what you have mentioned is already there, that the master or the agent of the vessel will inform the head of authorities about the last 10 days, the last port of call of that vessel before coming here, or if there is anybody sick on board the vessel and the aircraft. These are issues covered in this piece of legislation, but vessel arrival from overseas is covered under the Quarantine Act.

In addition to what honourable Chairman had mentioned about the protection of the water sources, that is mainly to prevent typhoid, and the other diarrheal cases that we have. In the proposed amendment, we have also proposed that if a person goes to a water source and starts to do farming other activities where the water sources, a person can be fined. Or if a person goes and touches or damages the water pipe or the water tanks that the community uses to drink, a person can be taken to task. There is a case, I think, in Ba, two or three years ago. It was suspected that somebody went and put a carcass in the well or in the borehole and it affected the population. This is where I think the changes are coming in. So again, it addresses the issues you mentioned. If somebody wants to interfere or want to damage or want to do anything to the water sources that is serving the community, they can be taken to task under the new amendment if it is passed. That is very important because we want to protect the health

of the public and the human health, and that is why we are introducing these new things in the proposal.

I think if you also see part 9 of the Principal Act, it has something on ships, and if people that this is local vessel are sick with some infectious disease, we have also in proposed new amendments, because of the number of complaints that they were receiving because of unhygienic and the abhorrent living conditions in some of these local vessels that are serving our islands. There are a lot of issues raised with the Ministries to the Government with a lot of photos that has been circulated in the social media about the vessels, the vulnerable, the condition of the vessel and general cleanness. These are some of the reasons why we are introducing these regulations and consistent spraying of vessels that is serving the franchise. We have talked with the MSAF and it is not covered under the Act in terms of the cleanness and the hygienic condition of the vessel that is serving the maritime.

Therefore, in the proposed amendments, cleanliness and the hygienic conditions of all the vessel. For example, the inspector can board Goundar Shipping, the inspector can board the vessel to check for unhygienic conditions and can issue them a notice to rectify the health issue(s). Communications will be done if a vessel goes to Suva and then to Vanua Levu, the inspector from Vanua Levu after seven days or 14 days will check the vessel to ascertain whether the nuisance had been removed and the condition of the vessel is hygienic, and this will not cause any ill health to the people that are travelling in these vessels.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Ministry of Health. The Gagaj of Rotuma and the 7 districts that actually covers the whole sixty-nine (69) amendments, which we filtered down to the nine major subject areas, and our discussion today has created a lot of opening of eyes and ears when we received your submission. But I will give you another opportunity, for the last time if anybody wants to give his/her opinion or ideas on the 69 amendments on that clause, I will give you another last opportunity.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- I will stick to one major issue regarding the sewage system on the island. If there is a need to change how the septic system, who will be responsible for funding this?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Very good question. I will ask the team from the Minister of Health to explain how they enacted the proposal clause that covered the sewer where we are all living. A good question, who will pay for it? Hopefully, the officials from the Ministry of Health have something positive for this question.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee, the Rotuma Council and government stakeholders that are here. In terms of solutions to our sewage systems, there is a lot of those that provide assistance and at the very front will be the rural local authority. If they are able to assist, they will. If it goes beyond their budget, you can access funding from the program that I look after with the Ministry of Health which is the WASH program. And any major funding that is beyond my budget can be looked after by the Department of Water and Sewage. And of course, there is also, I think, high risk sanitation with the DO's and Commissioner's Office. There are a lot of avenues that we can access in terms of getting solutions to our sewage system and the most important thing is identifying the solution that works for that locality so that with that we can get a scoping done and funding can be finalised on budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that answer your question.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- Yes, thank you very much. I know there is a lot that we need to know, but yet I have another question. Concerning filariasis and the mosquitoes. I know lots of the communities is technically, literally in the bush now. When we talk about coconut shells lying around, how about the ones in the forest close by, the bushes close by? Will that be included as yours or is it the ones in the forest is ok, because that will actually lead to mosquito breeding grounds.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- A very sensitive question. Just give us a brief history of health on the importance of that, because we know wherever we go, there is a coconut tree. It would be impossible to have lots of coconut trees and no empty coconut shells or rotten coconut shells that can be breeding places for mosquitoes.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Thank you, honourable Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee and the members of the Council. I will ask the SDMO and his team to come around to the districts to talk more on the mosquitoes and the vector borne diseases. But very briefly, there are 26 species of mosquitoes in Fiji. One is named after Rotuma. There is a special mosquito named after Rotuma. Out of the 26 species of mosquitoes we are worried about only two or three species of mosquitoes that can transmit dengue fever and filariasis. We are not worried about the rest of the mosquitoes, because there is day-biting mosquitoes and other types of mosquitoes in the forest, in the mangrove, other places which do not spread diseases. We are worried about the mosquito that bites early in the morning and late in the afternoon. That is why our health team spray the communities early in the morning and late in the afternoon because we are targeting them. In the media, they talk about the white and black strip mosquito. Strip mosquitoes, white and black are one that causes the dengue. That is the one we are targeting. We are not worried about the rest of the mosquitoes. There are some mosquitoes that bite in the night. They say some in the midday or afterwards. That is a nuisance about the mosquitoes, but we are not worried about these ones. It might be a nuisance, but the one that is transmitting the diseases, are the ones that we are targeting late in the afternoon and early in the morning. We have learnt about entomology of mosquitoes too because if you want to know about the enemy, you must learn about the enemy. That is why we studied the mosquitoes and when they are active and when they are not.

We are focused on those two or three types of mosquitoes, including the mosquito that spread the zika virus at the moment. There are 26 species of mosquitoes in Fiji. But we are worried about the ones that spread dengue and filariasis. The mosquitoes that spread dengue are the one that bites in the morning and afternoon. An interesting fact about the mosquitoes that transmits dengue, is that they like to breed and live in the clean water. That is why when we do our surveillance for mosquitoes, we focus in and around the households because that is where people with intermittent water supply, store water in the drums that may not be covered. That is where the mosquitoes that spread diseases like to breed. And if you see the inspectors coming to the house, they will check the flower vases. These vases that the ladies put inside the house are very good breeding places for mosquitoes. They do not like muddy water and the mangroves. They like the clean water and so that is why our focus is always on tires and tins near or around the households. These tires and tins become receptacles that can hold water when it rains. Hence, when we do inspection for some mosquitoes, we do not go to the bush, we do not go to the plantation and carry out spraying for mosquitoes. We spray the household because these mosquitoes, live close to the houses. I hope that I have answered your question.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- Sorry, but I have another question. This is regarding the waste, how the Ministry of Health is handling waste on maritime islands. I know it is a problem. I am

not sure, is there a process on how the Ministry of Health handle their waste, like used needles, syringes? Is there any, because I do not see any in Rotuma. Would you like to clarify on, is there a process as for the Ministry of Health handling the used syringes, the needles in the maritime islands?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs and the members of the Council, I will answer the first part of the question. I will also give time to Dr. Inikasio to talk about the hospital waste management in Rotuma. As much as we want to ensure that there is no direct exposure to our staffs, we are also concerned about how we manage. And that is why the ministry also has guidelines on the infection prevention and control. There is a guideline where all ministry of health staff, follow in all the hospitals. And under the infection prevention guideline, it directs officers about waste management, water, sanitation and hygiene. I have mentioned that we would like to break the chain of the infection and all our subdivisions in Fiji have undergone the training and healthcare waste management plan. Healthcare waste management plan covers the responsibility of every staff that is working in a particular facility, including from the people that do the injection right up to the people who collect the rubbish. When we talk about clinical risk, we talk about the environment and how it exposed the environment and the degradation effects. But for us, we are more concerned about the exposures of our staff to these clinical risks because they become direct people that are handling these wastes. At the end of the day, at 4 o'clock, somebody will come and tie the plastic, somebody will come and pick the plastic, somebody will transport the plastic, somebody will store the plastic, the drivers will come and pick the plastics, and they take it to the dump, somebody will manage the risk.

In the healthcare waste management plan that we have introduced to all the subdivisions, we make sure that all the staff know their responsibility in managing waste. And part of the plan is that we want them to reduce the amount of waste that they generate from the point of generation. So that is part of the training that we continue to do with our staff. We know that there is a lot of negligence there. In the healthcare facilities, someone may put the wrong waste in the wrong bag. We have the black bag, the yellow bag, and other bags that we use as colour coding to separate the waste. But we continue with the training of our staff so that the right waste goes to the right bag, and it is managed well. Recently, in the Western Division and SPEC, just commissioned a new high-tech incinerator that all the Western Division will be using. And there are also plans for other places in Fiji. In the Northern Division and the Central Division. I think the SDMO will inform us how they are managing the waste there, but I know that they are taking care of the waste shaft containers very well and transporting it to the mainland. But that is the focus of the government and the ministry in terms of the clinical risk, how we handle, how we manage, and how we want to ensure that we are not exposing our staff to clinical risk, infectious agents, and trying to reduce the exposure to the environment.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- Thank you very much for answering. Will Rotuma be able to have our own incinerator for the hospital?

GAGAJ MANAV.- Thank you, honourable Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee. The question raised by Gagaj Vakatua was a topic with the council three years ago when the Minister of Health came to open the hospital. We did have a discussion with our Minister, and about the construction of an incinerator at that time. I am asking today whether the project will continue because we have agreed to give it to the Ministry of Health to build the incinerator. If the incinerator is still on, we will go ahead with the land prepare operation to have an incinerator done. The last three years we had the discussion that we will have an

incinerator. I want to ask because lots of things happened on the island and that issue of incinerator as we discussed last three years, and we will still give the land if the project still continues with the Ministry of Health.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The response from the Minister of Health, I will come back to you. And hopefully that there should be a positive response from the Minister of Health. Remember, as you being tabled to the Members of Parliament who are here today, it always carries weight that we have feedbacks with relevant information from the Ministry. The discussion of the landfill is opened, they had already agreed to that. This was part of that project. When you look back at the opening of the new hospital and hopefully can give us some guaranteed time to come back to them. Ministry of Health, please.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, and honourable Members, we are thankful that the Members of the Standing Committee are here. They are now, they are noting the request that we will follow up with the Minister and our Asset Management Unit on the plans for the incinerator return to the hospital. And that we will get in touch through the SDMO

HON. RATU R.S.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Just before we finish, I understand the leaders of Rotuma are seated here before us. Just with a show of hands, if you support the proposed fines, if you support the proposed fines that the Bill has proposed, please raise your hands. If you do not support, do not raise your hands. The reason why I ask is, as leaders, you need your people. Your people are the ones that need to be getting the fines. If they do not follow the law. My question to you as leaders, if you support the proposed fine, like what the MoH has highlighted, there has been a huge jump in the fines. I am asking you this question because if your people commit an offence, they are the ones that will pay the fines. So, what are the thoughts of the council on the fines? If you support the fines, please raise your hands. If you do not, then do not raise your hands.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- I believe, you have our full support since we need change. This is the best time to change. I believe as a member of the council and all our council members; we all support the changes.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Sir, for the positive responses of the amendment Bill in front of us, and we can see positive changes that is coming up in regards to this amendment Bill. Hopefully, we will give you another opportunity one last time, if you have any further questions, especially when you go back to your respective districts, if there is a need, when you discuss it further, any amendments, any discussion of further clarity the amendment Bill, feel free to come back to us. Hopefully, we will be able to table the amendments to this Bill back to Parliament by the end of next month. You gave us a very clear deep discussion on how you looked at the changes on these amendments.

With those few words, on behalf of the Speaker of the House of the Government of Fiji, we thank the council of chiefs of the seven districts who are here for your time and availing yourselves to be present and give us a very clear discussion about the areas that needs to be clarified in regard to the amendment Bill.

The Committee adjourned at 4.01 p.m.

The Committee resumed at 4.45 p.m.

Interviewees/Submittees: Itumuta District Hall

(1)	Gagaj Manav	Itumuta Chief
(2)	Gagaj Vakatua	Itutiu Chief
(3)	Ms. Makerite	Itumuta health worker
(4)	Ms. Lavenia Samuela	Secondary school teacher
(5)	Mr. Aisea Olson	Farmer (Itumuta)
(6)	Ms. Rosarina	Housewife

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I would like to thank you very much for starting with us this afternoon here at the chiefly village of Itumuta. On behalf of the Speaker of the House of Parliament in Suva, I take this opportunity to welcome all who are here this afternoon. Thank you very much, Sir, for the *vanua* for accepting us. Thank you very much to the community for your presence here this afternoon.

(*Introduction of Committee Members)*

There are the two Members who are still on their way. They will join us later, but we will start off with our normal discussion in regard to the Bill in front of you. I hope that we have a couple of those. There are 16 clauses which we need to discuss this afternoon. This is in relation to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 4 of 2026). I will give you a historical background of the Bill. The Bill was enacted by our government way back in 1935 and it is over 91 years

(*Introduction of representatives from the Ministry of Health)*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will just take you through the history of the Bill. I already mentioned it was way back in 1935 when this Bill was enacted. It is 91 years old. They call it Public Health (Amendment) Bill. And for the first time, after 91 years, this Bill was mostly for those people who were in the urbans area. It covers them for the purpose of looking after their health, welfare, sanitation and hygiene. This is the first time that all the villages around Fiji, including Rotuma, are bound by this amendment Bill. We are looking to table in Parliament at the end of the coming month. If that is the case, we are still in the process of doing one more public consultation. All of these are covered and as mentioned in our discussion earlier today. This is the final presentation to the people of Rotuma before we present the Bill back to Parliament. Before that, I will ask honourable Bia to take the lead role in leading us in our discussions this afternoon.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, and the officials from the Ministry of Health. Now the honourable Chairman have shared a brief background about what is in the document that is in front of you. The Public Health Act from 1935, 91 years now, it has not been changed. The Ministry of Health has proposed to Parliament that for the first time ever, there need to be amendments to the Public Health Act so that it goes with the lifestyle that we are in at the moment. In addition, for the first time ever, after 91 years, this Public Health Act only governs those who are in the urban centres. For the first time ever, this will include all of us. Wherever you stay, whether you stay in the villages or in the maritime islands, this covers all of us. Now we have had a session with the chiefs, the Gagaj, and that is why I called the Gagaj up here, to just briefly explain in your language on the importance it is to us and why the Ministry of Health has proposed for the 69 amendments and the key amendments that are in the amendment Bill.

GAGAJ MANAV.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Parliament and Committee. Welcome to Viti Kei Rotuma Itumuta District Hall, ladies and gentlemen, the intention of the Public Health (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 4 of 2026) is to make the law and fines relevant to our lives nowadays and to help us with keeping of the villages and districts clean. The Rotuma Council of Chiefs and the Standing Committee of this amendment Bill just concluded our meeting where we were briefed on the purpose of the Bill and its importance and relevance to our health and well-being on the island. This Act is over 91 years old and need to be amended hence the presence of our Parliamentarians here today to help us understand the Bill, the changes and how the changes will help us in the island. The Principal Act has fines as low as two, five and ten dollars. The proposed changes will see a huge increase in fines to act as a deterrent to keep our villages, our districts and island clean and our people healthy. The Rotuma Council of Chiefs have accepted the amendments to the Bill, especially the proposed fines.

Therefore, based on the amendments in front of you, the floor is now open to you to give your views on the amendments in this Bill. The work of the Health Inspector (HI) will be integral in this Bill because the cleanliness of our homes and villages will come directly under our HI. We also talked about our rubbish in general and that which belongs to the hospital and how the hospital will manage theirs, especially the used needles, syringes and other rubbish that may come from the hospital. There was also talk of an incinerator for the hospital. The proposed land had been given, and we are waiting for the Ministry of Health to finalise their commitment from their end. Now, you may freely express your views on the amendments to the Bill to ensure that it will capture your thoughts and feelings about the proposed changes.

HON. A. BIA.-Now, any questions that anyone wants to ask about what the governments had shared in regards to the amendment? Now, while we are here, as alluded to by the Chairman, our discussions today is very important. We are so fortunate of the fact that Rotuma is our last place for our consultation before we go back to Parliament and finalise before we pass it as a law. Like what the Gagaj have said, it is important that here, within the 69 amendments, there are fines. If you do not look after your surroundings or if you do not clean your surroundings up, there will be fines within the Public Health Act. There are also powers given to the Health Inspectors to come and do spot fines or penalise you in your residence. As alluded to by the Gagaj, one of the main important issues here is about mosquitoes breeding places. Now, for example, if one of the Gagaj says, okay, Wednesday is the day for us to clean the whole village. Now, if there are households or if there are people who refuse to clean their compounds and when inspection happens or if there is a dengue fever case in Rotuma and it is presented to the hospital, then it is verified that this case is from your district.

And upon further investigation, in one of the houses, has never been cleaned, and there are empty containers and tires inside the compound that are breeding places for mosquitoes. Now this is where the owner of the house will be fined. Anyone wants to ask a question regarding or anyone is confused about what Gagaj had said. Let us quickly go to the document that is there. Out of all the 69 amendments, we have narrowed it down only to nine which directly involves us as villagers and communities living in the maritime islands. Now from 1 to 25, you look at number 14 and number 18. You can stop me wherever you want to, simply raise your hands, you want to ask for clarification or question. The mic will be given to you since our session is recorded and you can say your name, which village are you from, then you can raise your issues or ask your questions or clarification if you need to do so. Number 14, I will give it to the health officials that are here. It is about Health Inspectors or Environmental Health Practitioners coming to your villages or your communities, the protection that they get. Now there are instances in which they are threatened, but I will stop there. I will give it to the officials of the Ministry of Health to thoroughly talk about the protection that is there and the obstruction.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Thank you, honourable Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee and members of the community here in Itumuta. Section 14 is about the obstruction, a clause that specifically is put up to protect our officers that work on the ground and they are; villages, and districts. Now, since the enactment of the Act in 1935, there is nothing there that guarantees the safety of our officers when they do go out. Some of our officers have been sworn at and some were threatened. In some cases, some of the residents, released their dogs to chase away our officers. And there was one case where they were threatened with a key knife. And one extreme case was when one of our officers was hit on the back of the head with a 4x2 timber, leading him to be admitted for a few days in hospital. These are some of the things that our officers face on the ground while they are trying to protect the lives of the members of our communities. What we want to do now is, while we continue to work to protect you, we should have a clause in the Act that protects our officers as well. For example, you are at your house and one of our officers comes to conduct an inspection around your house. If you chase them away, if you swear at them, if you prevent them from coming into your premises to conduct an inspection, this will be deemed to be obstructing the duty of the officer and that comes under that clause 14 or section 14 of the Bill and if found guilty of that offence, the maximum fine that can be imposed on you is $500. Some communities have suggested that we increase the fine from $500 to $1000, but it is with the Committee. The Committee will have the final say on that. But if you obstruct them from them conducting their duties, and found guilty of that offence, you will be paying $500 as fine or imprisonment for 3 months if you cannot pay the fine.

MS. MAKERITE.- I am the village health worker and I am fifty-one years old. I think regarding all those threats that were given by their families, I suggest that the Health Inspector (HI) should formulate a better communication strategy with the district chiefs and the people. I think those threats here in Rotuma usually happen, when there is poor communication and follow up visits with the village Health Worker (HW), the sub-chiefs and chiefs of the district. When a HI gives prior notice of the visits and the nature of the visits, one week prior, and the line of communication captures the district HW, district sub-chiefs and chiefs, there will be no instances where the HI's arrival will be a shock to the district and the villagers will be ready to receive and corporate with the HI. The people of Itumuta are always ready to work and collaborate with all government personnel. I believe that threats of letting the dogs out to threaten the HI might sound funny, but I think here in Itumuta, whenever we were asked or told them to prepare for the HI's visit, we prepare and welcome the HI like an honoured guest. I am glad that those threads did not come from Itumuta. I suggest to the HI officer that she give her letters stating when she will be visiting so the people of the community know what is happening.

The villagers will be interested because once they hear that the HI will be visiting on a particular day, the villagers prepare their immediate surroundings and inside their homes for her checks. I think the villagers will be very responsible for the government workers, because in Rotuma, the home is open for everyone. But you have to present yourself to the people in a manner that they will want to receive you, and everyone will be happy. In some instances when HI talk harshly, the people will not want to communicate or cooperate. If the government want us to work with them, I think there is something too that our head of department can do. The HOD should train their staff, especially, when it comes to rudimentary diplomatic etiquettes. I know they are well trained on how to communicate and how to discharge with the appropriate course of action with polite words like please or thank you. For instance, when we go to see the doctor, he will be smiling even though, you have been sick for 3 weeks and now have decided to come and see him. Instead, we see his smiley face and with this very humble attitude, we know the doctor is understanding, we the patients know that even though we were wrong, but we feel like a child who is loved by a father, when the doctor treats us with understanding.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee, thank you so much, community health worker for that. I know that, you know, generally no one intends to do anything bad at any point in time, but there are some circumstances that might result in some, like rash behaviour. For example, if you have a brother and your brother's wife, the sister-in-law, who always want to be the boss of the family, and the house is behind your house, and there is a little bit of cat fighting with you and your sister-in-law goes to the health official and say, okay, my sister-in-law, the waste water is coming into our compound and we are getting sick. When the health inspector gives the notice then a fire is sparked. When we come with a sister-in-law, you will not be seeing us with the same lens that you are seeing us today. You will be seeing us as someone who is taking the side of your sister-in-law. And that is why you will say. And you will want to throw the stone, and that is where that section 14 will come in. It is there, whether we are coming in, there is only a dispute, whether we are coming in, there is no dispute, we want to safeguard our officers. Under all circumstances, we have to let them work without any fear or any risk happening to them.

HON. A. BIA .- Any other question? If not, we will continue to move forward with the discussions on the document in front of you. If we look at number 18 and number 39. Just before he speaks, for those of us that are here, please look at number 18 and number 39. It talks about fines. After this, we will jump into the discussions about the fines.

MR. A. OLSON.- Mr. Chairman, this is with regards to the rubbish. When we look around the island, there is lot of beer consumption, and the bottles of beer just scattered mostly anywhere. Will there be any solution on how this rubbish can be managed. Can the Ministry of Health or the Government help in trying to transport all this back to the mainland? This is hard for us here because the freight for the boat to load these bottles is very high. Will there be any other plans or plan B to be able to return all these to be reused in the factories in Suva. And things like the tires and I am wondering what is the best solution for all these discarded plastic materials? Burning will also destroy the atmosphere. I am raising this because I went into a committee in a couple of months ago, and then they tried to put our rubbish into different bins. I was wondering what we are going to do with all this stuff, whether we bury or burn? Will there be any answers from our Members of Parliament that are here this afternoon?

HON. A. BIA.- I will give it to the Minister of Health to address this. Just after that response, please look at number 18 and number 3.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, thank you so much for the concerns raised. This is something that your representatives of the council had raised earlier in our meeting at Ahau. This is something that we will be looking to provide solutions to, once the Bill is passed. We will bring back the rural local authority because (Council of Chiefs Rotuma) they can look at some solutions that can address these problems. I think the best way to approach these things is the buyback. The local authority can arrange systems where we buy back the bottles, we stockpile somewhere, and then the company buys it from the people, stockpiles it. When the boats come, then they take it across and send it to the bottling factory. There is a lot of beer drinking here in Rotuma. Likewise for the PET bottles, if someone can do the buyback here, compact it so it does not take much space, and then transport it back to the mainland. They also can sell it at the Coca-Cola factory. In terms of tyre, these buyback companies are buying back tyres to be used for other purposes like designs and flowerpots and things like that. Therefore, this is something that can be addressed by the reintroduction of our Rural Local Authority, who will work closely in providing solutions that we currently face here in Rotuma.

HON. A. BIA.- I hope that it addresses the question that has been asked. Now, number 18 and number 39 talks about fines. Now, as we have alluded to earlier, the honourable Chairman and those that have spoken before me, one of the important amendments in the Public Review Amendment Bill

is the increasing of fines. Now, from 1935 up until now, some of the fines still stand at $2, some at $5, some at $10. Now, with the new amendment, they have increased the fines to $200, some 500, and some fines $1000. Now, if you look at number 39, there is a certain fine penalty. For number 39, it jumped from $20 up to $2000. Now, there is a word that has been used in that allocated number which is venereal disease. Now, it talks about venereal disease for those that have contracted HIV/AIDS which is the serious case and other less serious like syphilis or gonorrhoea. Now, if you are one of those known cases of HIV/AIDS, if you come to the islands and you willingly or purposefully, or you are intending to continue to spread it to the youths or whoever you are sleeping with, you can be penalised or fined or taken to court for a fine of $2,000. Now, that is how important that issue is. Lately, if you watch the news, there has been an increase in HIV cases in the mainland. There are also a lot of people raising concerns on the increasing number of our young people that have contracted HIV/AIDS. Now, with this review and with this amendment and with the proposal, the Ministry of Health, have proposed from $20 to $2,000. When you are a known case, you know that you have HIV/AIDS, you not allowed to continue to spread it around wherever you go. Now you might ask, how can we know by law the Ministry of Health cannot reveal those who have contracted HIV/AIDS? It comes under HIV Act and under our constitution, it protects the person in terms of the right to protect the information. When a person with HIV knowingly infects other, and the victims presents the symptoms to the hospital. There will be a verification process. Once the details of the sexual partners are revealed to the medical officials, they will cross check with the list of individuals with HIV. If a name on this list is captured as one of the sexual partners, this individual will be processed and will be dealt with according to the proposed amended fines and imprisonment as an alternative to the fines or both. Any questions?

MS. MAKERITE.-Yes, Sir, regarding the fines for the households and the HIV fight, I agree. I asking why increase the fines? From $50 or $2000, will it pay off for somebody's life, it will not bring back that person life and health. Should we detain them somewhere so they will have the freedom to go, but or just like a sick bay somewhere, like be quarantined somewhere. Why increase the fines when you cannot do much about the person, you cannot reveal who that person is, and increase the fines?

HON. A. BIA.- I will give it to the Ministry of Health to clarify the issue.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, I will try and be as plain as possible so that it is easy to understand. Say for instance, I am a member of the Rotuman community. I returned from Suva and the doctor has told me from Suva that I have contracted a particular vulnerable disease. It can be syphilis, gonorrhoea or any other type of sexually transmitted disease. Now the doctor tells me, go and drink your medication and no random unprotected sexual intercourse. And then I come to the village and then I decided to do the opposite of what the doctor had ordered and had unprotected sexual intercourse with your daughter. And then I give her that sickness. And then I did the same with other people's daughter here, another two or three. And I pass it to them too. This particular amendment is for me, I will be charged $2,000 if I do that. I know that I got the sickness, but I pass it on to other people. Since I knowingly passed the HIV/AIDS virus to someone, that person has got a death sentence. And if I pass it to two or three people, that means I have taken these naïve sexual partners to an early grave. The worst-case scenario if these two or three infected individuals, unknowingly and unintentionally spread the same virus to other people, then it will be a big problem for a Rotuma. We cannot give the information that is protected under the legislation, under the HIV/AIDS Act, as mentioned earlier by the honourable Member. But we can do this. We can tell you; you have got it, do not spread it, if you spread it to someone else, we will fine you $2,000. And we will know because when someone comes to hospital with symptoms, this person will be required to reveal the names of his/her sexual partners for the last few weeks. If your name is capture as part of the list, and this is how the health officials will know, and they will be empowered to charged you

with the $2,000. That is just to protect you and the members of the community. I hope it is clear to you.

MR. L. SAMUELA.- I have got a question. So just on that $2,000 fine, you explained it well, and it is quite clear, but I think you should relook at this $2,000 fine because like you said, it is a death sentence. If this person is not able to pay the $2,000 fine and already passed on the death sentence, then what is the purpose of having this $2,000 fine? I agree with Makerite's idea. If you have information about people who are HIV positive, then maybe you should isolate them somewhere so that they do not pass the disease on to other people. I understand they are humans, they have their rights, but maybe you should go to those extreme measures because if they are already dying and they are not going to pay the $2,000 fine, so what is the use of fining them $2,000 if they are going to pass on that disease? My second issue is on number 18 the fine from $2 increasing to $50. This is a general increment whether you are living in the urban or in the rural. Just a suggestion, if the rural fine can be a bit different from the urban, because in the rural villages and most of us we do not have a regular source of income. If the $50 can be reduced to $25 or $30, because I mean, that is the situation here. $50 might seem like a small amount for people who are earning a regular source of income, but for people who are not, $50 is quite a big amount. What happens if the person does not pay the fine, then that person goes to prison and while imprisonment, who is going to clean up his / her compound or house while that person is in prison?

GAGAJ MANAV.- Thank you, honourable Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, ladies and gentlemen, our Public Health Act is 91 years since its inception and there are some portions of the Principal Act that needs some amendments to reflect the reality that we are in today. If we keep to the same mindset, then we will not improve our standard of health and well-being. There is this instance where owners of land that have refused to clean their land which become breeding places for mosquitoes which then spread diseases to the communities. This Act deals with such ignorance, and it causes us to work together to clean our villages and island. Bottles, plastics and any form of rubbish that needs to be collected and disposed of in a proper manner, needs a collective effort from all of us. The current Act does not empower the HI to reprimand those that do not follow the instructions of the HI. The amendments empower the HI to reprimand wilful law breakers with regards to the Public Health Act. Let us give some positive ideas to support this Bill and let us support this great initiative to improve our well-being and the cleanliness of our island.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Thank you so much for the issue that you have raised. First of all, I would like to say that it is quite difficult to isolate all venereal diseases because it goes against human rights to take them to Makogai or somewhere and leave them in one island. We are living in modern times now, such a time that we cannot even kill stray dogs, even if it is nuisance to the community. We cannot kill animals now. That is against the law. So let alone taking members of the community and putting them in an isolated island, that will totally ruin the reputation and the status of Fiji, not only as a nation but as a Christian nation. We believe that if you would like to have that penalty increased, from the $2,000 to $10,000, $5,000, make it a bit heftier, that can be your submission. But remember that all penalties in the submission here is a Bill, also has an alternate penalty which is the imprisonment. Six months, three months imprisonment. If anybody who cannot pay the $2,000 fine will be in prison for 18 months imprisonment. That automatically kicks into play if they do not pay the fine. We are adamant that, if you know this is something that can help us in protecting people's life. Secondly, the $2 to $5, $20 to $50, it is about the closing order, closing order in terms of the building that we see is unfit for human habitation.

If you see that this building is causing sickness to the people that are staying inside, we will give the closer notice order. If the closer notice order is not followed, then that is where the fine applies. The fine used to be $2, now it increases to $50. But that aside, the mentality that you want for rural areas to pay smaller fines as opposed to urban areas, I implore you to change that mindset

because a life, whether in rural or in urban, has the same value. And this value cannot have a dollar value to it. A human life is the most valuable asset that you can imagine. If you are saying, let us charge $25 in the rural, let them pay $100 in the urban because they have a steady income? That means you value the life of a community member in Itumuta to mere $25. You get it? That fine of $25, if I commit this particular offence, this person dies because of a disease, and I am only $25. You are therefore putting a $25 as a value of life for a community member. With that kind of thinking, I believe it can change our perspective in terms of the fight for a healthier living environment and healthier and productive members of the community. I suggest that you maybe if you ask for more increases in fines, that would be better.

HON. A. BIA.- If there are no more questions or clarifications, our last two issues for this afternoon are numbers 54 and 55. Number 55 is about the hygiene and cleanliness of vessels., that serve our maritime islands. And the last ones are numbers 57, 58, 59, which talks about the protection of our water source. For 54 and 55, I will give it to the Chief Health Inspector to talk about the cleanliness in vessels and how to maintain it. And the last three which are on water source 57, 58, 59. Our chairman will clarify that issue and will round up our discussions for this afternoon.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Thank you, Members of the Standing Committee and members of the committee here. We have been receiving a lot of complaints from members of the public on the conditions of the vessels that are serving the maritime franchise, serving in Vanua Levu, Kadavu and Rotuma. Alot of the people have also uploaded the videos of cockroaches and flies that cause an unhygienic condition to the vessels that they are travelling in. So based on that, there is one part in the Public Health Act that talks about the ships We are also proposing, as part of the sixty-nine clauses in this meeting, is to also include the cleanliness and hygienic condition of the vessels that are providing service to the maritime, ensuring that the vessel fumigate every second week or every third week. This will ensure that the companies engage a fumigation company to spray the vessel and to clean the vessel and ensure that it is clean and in a hygienic condition.

At the moment, the Ministry of Health, gives one certificate to them in order for the license to be given to the vessel, but that is done once in six months. I think this is done so the owners of the vessel will come to us to the Ministry of Health and ask us to check, if the ship is clean so we can issue a seaworthy certificate after the health inspections have given the green light for the company to service the islands. However, what we find is every week, there are complaints about cockroaches and unhygienic conditions and the cleanliness of the vessel.

In addition, we want to include as part of this amendment that owners of the vessels take responsibility to ensure that the vessel is clean and in a hygienic condition. That means that we are also empowering the officers. For example, if the overseas shipping or other vessels that come into Rotuma, the health inspector here has the power to enter the vessel and see the hygienic condition, check the kitchen, check the accommodation. If you find the rat droppings or the cockroaches or see that it is in a hygienic or unclean manner, then the health inspector can issue a notice, depending on the severity of the situation or what s/he has identified, s/he can give immediate admissions to be removed or maybe give seven days or 14 days or 21 days for the owner of the vessel to ensure that nuisance and the vessel is kept clean at all the time. These are some of the new inclusions to the current Bill and I think part of the amendment to cover the public transport. For the public transport, there are a lot of other complaints that are coming up concerning buses and the taxi. Some of these public service vehicles still have small insects inside and we want to also include as part of the cleanliness and the hygiene of the public of land transport and the ships that provide services to the people of Fiji and Rotuma.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Ministry for Health officials. Just to add on to what the chief has alluded to, I am just trying to address our discussion on the amendment Bill on how we look after our rented houses or AirBnB and those who have rented out houses in urban areas. For the amendment Bill, it is clearly stated that for any business as such, it has to be registered within the Ministry of Health. The main focus of this is for MoH officials to come in and look at the type of house that is being rented out. This includes our tourism industry, even the backpackers and all those who are in the proposals to rent out their premises to those people who are coming to the island. For safety and health purposes, hygiene and sanitation, there is an amendment to this Bill that need to be given the power to the Ministry of Health so that they will give you the registration and the approval for each individual where they are trying to their utmost best to run this type of business. And I hope that there are a lot of Airbnb, because they will be covered under this amendment Bill. Before we round up this afternoon, the final portion of this amendment goes from 57 up to 60, and it covers our catchment water source. I believe we have our own catchment, our tank out there in the respective districts.

The amendment Bill clearly states that if an area or that specific water source area is leased or not leased, even the landowners are not allowed to cut down trees, to plant, or even to raise animals. It is clearly stated in this Act. Plus, even if you want to have some gravel and sand, the owner is not allowed to extract these from or near the source of water. Whether the land is leased or not, no one is permitted to extract sand and gravel or plant, raise animals near the water source. Likewise, if we have this borehole system, I was told there are four boreholes on the island, as well as the other means, the well. Within that 50 meters, 50 square metres, we are not allowed to build a house or any toilet around those areas. When I say that, you understand the purpose, because whatever goes out during that process, it will go deeper into where our boreholes, likewise the well that we always use. I have talked a lot about our catchment area, even if we have to cut down the main tank or the pipe that actually from flow the source to the village. It happens to most of the parts that we have covered during our consultation in Fiji. There was a worst-case scenario in Ba, three years ago, whereby they contaminated their water source by throwing a carcass of an animal into the water source, and most of those who used this water were admitted to the hospital.

Hopefully, that Rotuma will not do what this person in Ba did three years ago. But on amendment Bill, it clearly states on those priority areas that we already discussed. On that note, I will ask all the community members who are here if there is any other question which is related to the 69 amendments, which we have covered the nine major key objective areas. I will give you the floor anyone before we move on. Any other concerns?

GAGAJ MANAV.- Hello Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. Just a late issue that is relevant. I wanted to share with the team in Ahau, but maybe we can share with the team here. The last three years we had this landowner where the water pump of Motusa is located. This guy came from Fiji and just argued about the land issue, and he went back home and took off the key for the water pump. He went to his home in Pepjei, and the people were without water. This case happened during the visit of a Rotuman prominent lawyer, Laurel. She flew in on Friday, so that weekend I managed to see her and tell her. She managed to have the police draw up a search warrant. The police went and searched his house and found the key. The police returned him to Fiji. We were so happy that this law is amended because when passed, it will protect all our drinking water sources.

MS. MAKERITE. - May I? This will take us back to 54 and sea route. This is concerning the fuel and the people. We here in Rotuma and we know we always prefer a boat to handle the passengers and our goods. Well, we have the natural resources here, but we usually rely on groceries from supermarkets. Is it safe or can the fuel travel together with the passengers?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Just to have a normal understanding, from us, from Viti Levu to Vanua Levu, we use the same route. A few plus the people going in the boat. I am not sure how far the Marine Act has evolved over time, but for the people here back in the mainland, Is it safe? Is that a question? Or they should travel together within one.

MS. MAKERITE. - Yes, bringing future fuel. Usually, the government has sometimes the fuel requests for the fuel because of the water and the electricity. They send the drums of fuel but then, actually, when passengers travel together, the drums of fuel and some 20-litre bottles with a lid, just tied but not securely and consequently, these fuels spill during the journey especially if the weather is unfavourable. Is it safe?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will take that on board because it is out of the topic of what we are discussing today on the amendment Bill. Hopefully the Ministry of Health can give us something on that.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.-Yes, honourable Chairman and honourable Members, maybe Madam, if you want to propose something to the Members of the Committee, do you want the fuel to be brought in different vessel, government vessel?

MS. MAKERITA.- Well, I will ask again, but if I propose, is that possible, or it will take three months, then the government will send us, because we know that franchise costs money. That is a very good one, but I have so many questions.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, and Members, thank you so much for coming here. I think it is a very good point. You just maybe put it as a submission now, a submission, because, as you know, in the past they sent the fuel. We used to buy and go in the past, but now I cannot. The buses have paid fuel to be transported in the bus. You cannot take it with you. If the passengers lounge in the ships, if you want that passengers lounge in ships not to include fuel, then that can be included as an amendment in the ship section for you to make a submission.

` MS. MAKERITE. - Yes, I would very much like to submit, but not me will suffer, because a whole of Rotuma will suffer if the fuel cannot come. So that is the thing, that is why I recommend, and so you can just look into it, that the government can give us another boat to transport the fuel. I want to say yes, I want to submit it. We can smell it where we were sitting. You can put it there in the card deck and everywhere else, but it does not help. I believe that the boat that came last year, had food and fuel in the same room and it was not safe.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Madam, if you want to make a submission to ban fuel from passengers' lounge as part of this amendment in ships, you can do that. If you want to totally ban fuel from a ship bringing passengers to the Rotuma, the ship will finish the fuel in the middle of the sea. They have to bring some fuel with them to refill the ship. Otherwise, the ship will run short of fuel.

MS. MAKERITE. - I can I submit that? Thank you and the last point that I want to make. We will go back to our section as I raised earlier. But this is a suggestion. I suggest that our team for the medical, if there is someone with HIV or AIDS, is there a CID team or something like that so we are made aware of who has the virus and who does not. You know what, the medical team can send one to the community and investigate quietly and inform us, so we are made aware.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- I think I would like to add on to what her concern is, how the fuel is contained within the ship, within the vessel. I think it is for what I am suggesting is that the fuel should be in a certified, proper certified container to be transported with the passengers. Or otherwise, I think

that it must be banned from transporting fuel without a proper certified containers with a proper seal. I think that is what her concern is all about.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I thank you very much, Madam, for raising that issue. We take note of that. Certainly, we have to go and see what laws cover that, whether it is covered under the Marine Safety Act or whatever. But the concern that you raised, we take note of that. As Members of Parliament, that is our duty. We will have to go and raise it to the relevant authorised authorities, which is MSAFF, who looks after that, and the Minister responsible. These are the concerns that have been raised in Itumuta, and we will definitely refer you to the Minister responsible to take a look at what you have raised.

MS. MAKERITE.- It is like how many folds here. When I said, I was looking through and I had no idea what is going on. Only when the discussions opened, then I said, oh, yes. But the other sections I did not read through, but I know it will be helpful. But I suggest that if anything comes into the island like this again, please can you people give us a copy? To me, I take me two weeks to read and understand. Someone have to accompany me with all this and help me. I am happy, and I am glad we are here for our understanding for a better change.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Thank you for listening. And we do apologise. We do apologise for not coming up with a clear handout. But That is the best we could have done. But thank you for this making an effort to come and have your voice said today. I will be here for tomorrow and we will leave on Friday. If you have a chance, I am not sure where we will be tomorrow, but you can come down, come and listen and do your submission again. Okay. But anyway, thank you ladies.

MS. ROSARINA.- Number 57, it is written general and limited water sanitation rules. There is a problem that we are facing in Itumuta now. Our water supply is cut down. It is no longer from 5 am to 8pm but it is now from 8am to 5pm. The reason it was given is that the government cannot pay for the overtime rates on the island. For your information, this is something that was written in the Act. I think we should have it. I believe that yes, we should have water 24/7.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Yes, I agree with you. . You have the right to have water. And what you have raised it and we will take note of that. And we will certainly go and raise it with the relevant authorities. We have access to the Minister responsible, and this is what was raised from Rotuma, and we will definitely try and get what you have raised for us to raise it with the relevant authorities. Okay? Any other questions? Comments? Questions? Nothing? Yes.

MS. L. SAMUELA.- Thank you. This is in relation to what has said about the timeliness of this piece of paper that you have given us. We really do think that if this is a Public Health (Amendment) Bill and we are seated here as people of the community, what is our role here? Are we here to give you submission or are we here to agree to whatever you have given us here in this piece of paper? I think that is our question. That is my first question, please.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- That is a very good question. We are here to listen to you. The government of the day has brought in a piece of legislation called the bill. When it's called a bill, that means it is in draft mode. It's not yet finalised. When it enters Parliament, the resolution of Parliament refers it to this committee. The committee must go around the country and listen to what the people think or feel about the bill. We have the powers to change or amend what is written in the bill. So basically, in a nutshell, you don't have to supposedly agree with what's in the bill. You have to give us your thoughts. What are your thoughts? Do you agree with this? Yes or no? Or, like the questions that are coming from the floor, do you want it increased? We can change that. We can increase the fines, we can decrease the fines, we can remove some of the things that is already written there. So basically, in a common consultation like this, it's for us to be applauding. You are

not supposed to agree with what is basically written in black and white. We are here to see what your thoughts are? What do you feel about it? Once it finishes this round, it goes back to Parliament, then it is debated and voted upon. After that, it becomes law, it is binding on everyone. The main component of this public consultation is to hear from you. give us your submission, you give us your thoughts, whether this is good for people, for Fiji, this is good for Itumuta, yes or no. We will go back, see, balance it out.

Okay, what the suggestion came from 2 was good. We have to put that in the law. Basically, this kind of simple consultation is we have to hear from you what do you think about the proposed legislation. Most of the times, all of a sudden, we hear that there is a new law. We do not know what it is about. This is what we are doing now. We are asking you what you think about the proposed law? You are not supposed to agree with what is written there, black and white. You can make suggestions. Based on your suggestions, we can increase or decrease the fines. If you say, "we think that this should be included." We think this should be taken away. What we have there is what the government has brought throughout the day. But keep in mind, when the government brought this legislation through the Ministry of Health, they did not do it by their own selves. They did it with other relevant ministries, other stakeholders, other people, then they compiled that. But in a nutshell, we are here to hear from you, basically. The answer to your question, we are to hear from you.

MS. L. SAMUELA.- That has answered my first question. My other question is, you said that this is the last area that you are holding consultations. Is this the same procedure that you did for the last areas? You just gave us the papers and we sat together with the papers or did these papers go in advance and then you came for discussion a bit later?

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- This Bill is scheduled to go back to Parliament on the 20th of September or 28th of September. We will be here in Rotuma tomorrow, having consultations again in Rotuma. We will be having consultations again on Friday before we depart. But that is not the end of it. There is also written submissions that you can make. You can write, we submit this, you can send it over. But for your information, we will be here tomorrow for the whole day somewhere else, then Friday again, we will be here again.

MS. L. SAMUELA - Thank you for answering my questions. I just agree with what was said. We are happy that you are here to consult with us, but we feel that if this is such an important consultation, then we could be given more time. But I know that you said you will be here until Friday, so we have a bit of time if we have some issues.

HON. RATU J.B NIUDAMU.-Thank you for your submission this afternoon, Madam, and the people of Rotuma as well. I want to emphasise an important issue. This is what democracy is all about. This is what in this government is all about. If you could recall the past 16 years, there was no consultation done. This is the beginning of what this government is trying to bring back. Bring back the law to our people so that you can understand the laws that will be affecting you before we will pass these Bills. You have to accept the apologies because this is a full term of Parliament. We are trying to come up with this and we are not the only Committee. There are other Committees as well are going all around Fiji doing the same thing because of the isolation of our islands, especially the Maritimes. The members of Parliament goes and then the PA and our Secretariat, have to work together in trying to distribute in a timely manner. But in years to come, if God is willing for this government or any other government to come back, we will have to improve on this. The issue of democracy, the issue of trying to listen to what the people want and what the people need. And that's why we are here. We apologise for that, but we hope that you have received what we are trying to bring. This is all about deterrence. It is all about our community life. Rotuma people, the Fijian people, we are living in a community, and we have to be very careful with the way we live because

we are the indigenous people of this land. We have to be very careful with our health. We have millions of indigenous people in Australia.

We have millions of people in other indigenous countries around the world. But for people of Rotuma and Fiji, we have only how many? We have not reached a million yet. We have to protect our life, especially us, the Rotumans and the iTaukei. And I am sorry, honourable Nand because the Indians, some are here, some are in Africa, some are in India. For us, the only Rotumans are here, the Fijians, we are here. The rest, they are citizens. If we are not careful with this law, and if we continue with this, you know, pay these small fines, it will not help with the cleanliness of our surroundings, the chiefs will be tired of speaking and people will not change. And when I am speaking now, it is happening in my community in Ra. People just go and plant whatever they want to and there is little care. When the chief talks, the people do not want to listen. That is why we need higher fines to deter them because the higher fines will protect you and me. With those few words, I will close our submission this evening. And I hope you will take this submission very seriously. And we apologise for the lateness of the distribution of these papers. But we are improving. This is a consultation, and it is about hearing your people's voice out. And in years to come, I hope there will be more consultations for the people of the Rotuma in the other maritime Islands of Fiji.

HON. J.N. NAND.- Sorry, just to mention, you are not the first person to complain like this. I think we took the Sugar Bill and the same thing happened to the farmers. They said when we asked them, they said, why we are here? And then it is a sugar community, you know. For 100 years, we have seen nothing happened, so we take on board what you say, and as you said, we apologise, where there should be a better linkage, there should be a better connectivity between the Parliament and the administration here. That is a good concern you have raised, and you will be looking to improve on it.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- And for the Chairman, Members of the Committee, our current SDMO and the offices, I would like to take this time to thank you very much for availing yourself in this consultation to the community in terms of clarifying some of our very important issues that we are currently facing and mostly in regards to our health and I thank the Government of the day for this opportunity. I know and I have witnessed that there are hardly any consultations from the previous government, but we are fortunate to have this opportunity to share our views and our voices. I know in the eyes of the Lord, there is no wrong opinion. But yet, you still reach out for our people into contributing into something that will affect our livelihoods, especially the geo-location of our island. And I know it has been hard on the Committee to reach out to Rotuma, sharing of the knowledge of all the legislations that is about to change, and that is about to come to it. And we thank you for your time on behalf of the Gagaj Manav, Gagaj Katuntol, Gagaj Tigarea, and our elders of the community, and our youth, and our children, we would like to give you our sincere gratitude for availing yourselves this afternoon. May the good Lord bless you on your deeds around the island and every good intention that you have towards humanity.

The Committee adjourned at 6.05 p.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL (BILL NO. 4 OF 2026)

VENUES: (1) Noatau / Oinafa, Noatau District Hall
(2) Pepjei / Juju, Juju District Hall
(3) Itutiu, Motusa Hall

DATE: Thursday, 27th August, 2026.

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL HELD AT NOATAU STATION (NOATAU & OINAFA) ON THURSDAY, 27TH AUGUST, 2026 AT 9.14 A.M.

Present

(1)	Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	Chairman
(2)	Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure	Deputy Chairman
(3)	Hon. A. Bia	Member
(4)	Hon. J.N. Nand	Alternate Member
(5)	Hon. Ratu J.B. Niudamu	Alternate Member

Ministry of Health & Medical Services

(1)	Mr. Toga Vosataki	National WASH Coordinator
(2)	Mr. Luke Vonotabua	Acting Chief Health Inspector
(3)	Mr. Luke Savu	District Officer (Rotuma)
(4)	Mr. Kelekele Inikasio	Sub Divisional Medical Officer (Rotuma)
(5)	Ms Anaisi Tuwai	Health Inspector (Rotuma)

Interviewee/Submittee: Noatau District Hall

(1)	Gagaj Maraf	Noatau
(2)	Makareta Susau	Oinafa
(3)	Ms. Thelma Mario	Noatau
(4)	Mr. Eeli	Noatau
(5)	Mr. Tiu Sagaitu	Oinafa
(6)	Mr. Terotuam	Noatau
(7)	Mr. Fomonu	Noatau
(8)	Mr. Jioje Susau	Oinafa

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- I hope that we are all ready to start this morning.

(*Introduction of Committee Members and representatives from the Ministry of Health)*

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- The two districts of Noatau and Oinafa, a very good morning and I welcome all of you to our public submission. I believe we have met some of you yesterday and hopefully today is just a continuation of where we have left off. The team that is here, is from our Parliament in Suva. When we talk about the Government of the day, we have three arms of our government. The Executive Committee, which is of government, when we talk about legislation, this is where we come from, which is the Parliament of Fiji and our Judiciary.

The Bill in front of us and I hope that we all have a copy with you. It represents the Public Health (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 4 of 2026). I believe altogether there 69 clauses whereby the Ministry of Health dictates the terms and condition that needs to be amended or changed from the Principal Act of 1935. There are 69 clauses taken out from the Principal Act of 1935 and it needs to be modernised or changed. There are lot of discussions about this and in some areas when we went throughout Fiji, they were asking why after 91 years, then you

bring this Bill for changes. And the simple answer to that is, I believe the time was not right for the last 91 years and we were happy to do it now. During our term in Parliament, we were asked by the Ministry of Health to amend this Bill. To suit the current hygiene sanitation and the importance of how we look after our surroundings in terms of health, our rubbish, how we look after our waste. I will take care of the area when we talk about some standards that need to be met. We will discuss further on how best we can look after our water sources. It regulates if any of you like to engage your homes to be Airbnb properties. Let us talk about the hotels and the importance of how they can come on board in terms of the conditions from the Ministry of Health to give them that registration.

Likewise, a very important part of this Bill are the penalties. Remember, if you look at the penalties in the Principal Act, are from $2.00 to $10 from $10 to $20. The new amendments within the 69 amendments raises from $100, 200, $1,000 to $2000. It is not only that but depending on the severity of the offence. When this will be tabled as part of our legislature, you can be taken to court from three to six months or even to 18 months. What am I trying to say that is the general overview of these amendments that is in front of you. Feel free to go through it.

Out of those 69 clauses, there are only about 9 major key areas that we will go into detail discussion with our two districts. We are done with those two districts yesterday and hopefully we can listen to your constructive inputs concerning the Bill. All your inputs our discussion, new amendments or your thoughts will be our takeaways. When we go back to Suva tomorrow and on that note, I urge everybody here to come up with ideas. That is the fundamental reason why we are here on a public consultation, you may ask why now? Why public consultation? A lot of areas where we go to in Fiji, like Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, most people normally suggest that we pass the Bill and then bring it to them. When you talk about democracy, this is what it is all about. Any amendments or any bylaws or legislator from government to the Parliament, this is the democratic process of taking it to the public for their feedback.

For our discussion today, we need your input, we need your thoughts and even your recommendations. After our meeting today, in case there are any other thoughts, that will come after our discussion today, feel free to come back to us, we call it the written. We are thinking about by the end of next month to table this Bill to Parliament, so we give you another two to three weeks to think about it, go back and discuss the Bill in your village or with your society whatever church you belong to. If there are lot of good ideas that comes up after this meeting, feel free to contact our secretariate who will leave their contact details with you. After our meeting yesterday, around a tanoa session, a lot of discussions came up which we saw fit that these ideas should be part of this amendments. I will leave it there for us now. To start off our discussion, and hopefully that is, in the nutshell, the key objectives of the nine amendment Bill areas. We will jump straight from clause 1 to clause 40.

And I hope that we will be talking on the same page, that is from page 1 to page 14. If you really look at those points, pardon me if you need to talk in Rotuman the SDMO is always here. He can translate it to us in English. Apart from other staff that are here, we were told yesterday that SDMO can translate for us. It is a credit to him, and I thank him very much for taking advantage of his workstation. When we come here, we are not isolated. To the ladies or the gentleman sitting down here, if they need me to talk in Rotuman, feel free to do that in Rotuman because we have some translators here, who can translate the message over to us, so we will be able to talk on the same clauses in front of us. From 1 to 14, if you look at these amendments, it is mostly about the obstruction of staff while carrying out their task. The Ministry of Health, is the HI for Rotuma here? She is here, looking after Rotuma. Thank you

very much, you are not isolated, you are part of the area that you go through Fiji, the HI is sharing a lot of workloads like the other staff. Let us talk about certain district level and we are happy that we have a representative.

This Bill is about healthy living, sanitation and hygiene of every individual. This is the first time since 1935 that the Principal Act was enacted, this Bill was really for those people who were living in urban areas. You may ask why? It was because they are looked after by the municipality that live in. They pay rates which provides all the required services. These includes their rubbish collection, their roads, the electricity and other necessities, the municipalities were doing all this work for us, but the Ministry for Health has embarked to include all the rural communities, including maritime areas to be included in the Bill. That is why we are here today to discuss this important issue with you. You are not alone, you are covered in this Bill whether you stay in Suva or stay in the rural area of Fiji or down in the maritime even Rotuma, you are covered under this amendment Bill. We were told yesterday by our 7 districts, through the chairman, that there is a Bill of such that governs only Rotuma. The ways of living, how you look after your welfare how You look after your rubbish, and how you look after your water source and all these things. But I am grateful that once this Bill is enacted in Parliament, it becomes the law of Fiji. And since you are bound by that, and if you do not abide by what the laws of Fiji had stated, there will be repercussions or penalties that comes with it.

I will start and lead today's discussion based on the Obstruction of Staff from 1 clause to clause 14. You cannot obstruct a staff of the Ministry of Health from performing his /her task as appointed to do so. Obstruction can mean where there is a disturbance or there is an issue / problem and when HI comes to inspect the nuisance. This amendment being stated, you cannot obstruct the HI in these cases. When we are living in a community as such. Remember, we are all related so if there is an inspection done, we will talk about it if there is an outbreak in mosquitoes and then other related circumstances. The staff of the Ministry of Health, through the HI has the right to do their work freely. If you obstruct them, stop them even if you chase them out or you swear at them. There was a case back in the Western division whereby one of their staff was hit by a four by two, so we end up the hospital. All the amendments in this Bill are there in front of us, this is our work. For the obstruction, you can be charged or penalised from $500 to $1000. The freedom is with you. If you say it is too much. If you say it is too small, feel free to air your views. Let us discuss about the clause on the obstruction MoH staff. Just raise your hand. There is a microphone around here. Please say your name and what district you come from. And refer to the clause that we are talking about, and they are from clause 1 to 14, which I already had mentioned.

INTERPRETER.- Good morning all, the whole intention of this Bill is to improve the standard of cleanliness of our homes, villages, districts and overall health of everyone around the island. There will be some of us that will not heed the good intentions of this Bill and there will be consequences. This Bill will strengthen the powers of the village chiefs and he will remind the people of what he wants done, especially the cleanliness and up keep of the whole district. In terms of the fines, under the proposed amendments, they are high to reflect the severity of the offences and to act as a deterrent. The fines will be the last resort after reasonable discussions and leeway have been exhausted but if you willingly failed to fix the nuisance in your property, then the fines will issued. The onus is on all of us to collaborate and cooperate with the village chiefs and the HI to ensure that the villages, the district are clean, hygienic and free of any forms of diseases.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- I hope that it is very clear to everybody. Feel free if you need further clarity on those points from 1 to 14. Thank you very much for the interpretation

and I believe the messages, if need be, further clarification from the honourable Members, we are here to answer to make them clear. And hope that it is very clear to all of us we will move forward. From clause 15 to clause 23. You can look at the page. This is where I raised the issue on penalties. I will ask the Ministry of Health to give us a brief overview on the penalties from clause 15 to clause 22. After that, we will give the mic to our interpreter to give us an overview to the people of Rotuma. Ministry of Health on the penalty part from clause 15 to clause 22.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman the Bill has one major change that includes fines. Previously in the 1935 Principal Act, we had fines around $2, $4, $10 and $20. With the current status of the country, to fine somebody for $2 is irrelevant nowadays. Even $10 is something that we will not take seriously. We had a few cases few months back when a person was found guilty in court, but then the penalty was $10. If we continue with this, people will still be reluctant to make changes. Therefore, we have introduced more hefty fines not to punish people, but to be a deterrent. In the category of a nuisance, we have a ceiling of $1,000, we cannot exceed that $1,000. We have $100 which is a bare minimum and we have $1,000 which is a ceiling. It depends on the type of nuisance that you have in your compound, in your household and you will be fined accordingly.

A very simple example is if the wastewater from your house or your kitchen water is being discharged into the open drain. You can be fined $200 for that, but if your septic tank is leaking or is openly charging into the environment, then you can be charged the full $1,000 because in in terms of severity. The latter is more dangerous in terms of the risk to human life. I hope you understand what we mean by that, and I just want to make it clear that these fines is what you perceive to be the value of life. This is because what can happen is somebody can lose their life because of the severity of the nuisance. If you are putting up your pig pan beside your house. If you are going to fined $5, which means the life of your community members is $5 because anybody can get leptospirosis and die within one or two days. Do you know the value of one life of any citizen of Fiji, if you want to know the value of that life, if you are ever on the mainland when an ambulance runs on the road, you will see blocking vehicles must make way for the ambulance. That is how valuable a life is like. That is the value we want to instil in the fight, $1,000, so it deters people from creating things that can make people sick. A particular fine is in clause 39 because there is an increase from $20 to $2,000. And this is the biggest increase in the fines in the proposed Bill from $20 to $2,000.

This is in the category of venereal disease, if you do not know what venereal disease is, these are basically sexually transmitted illnesses and diseases. We have gonorrhoea, we have syphilis, we have HIV and AIDS. We have a whole lot of STI's and STD's now. But the Principal Act penalises somebody that wilfully transmit the disease with $20.That means, If I get diagnosed, I go to the hospital and doctor Kele tells me. you have syphilis. You must take this medication. Go home and you must abstain, do not involve yourself in any unprotected sexual activities. That was the advice given to me by the doctor. And then, several days later, a young woman from the community comes to doctor Kele with the same symptoms as the same disease I have, and upon investigation, the woman told Doctor Kele that she had been involved with me. That means I knowingly decided to spread the virus despite the advice to refrain from any unprotected sexual activities. That is why the fine in this particular case has gone from $20.00 to $2000. Those are some of the changes in terms of the financial penalties in the Bill.

MS. M. SUSAU.- Good morning. I am from Oinafa village. I would like to thank all of you for coming all the way to Rotuma help to clean up our island. I am for the increase in the fines because I believe in the past, the fines were very low and every time the HI gives a notice as to when she will come to inspect the village, I believe people do not take it seriously because

of the small amount that is supposed to be paid. They will have that money mindset, or we do not care because it is just $30.00. But when we increase the fines then people will have a change of mindset every time, they will be looking out for the compounds to be cleaned because the fines are very high. I therefore, believe it is not only the fine, but I believe it will be helping the people of Rotuma to stay in a clean and safer environment. It will only help the families, the villages and the whole of all of us.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Thank you very much for those positive comments. We agree to that. If you talk about fines and the penalties, another would have interpreted it as a deterrent. But, currently the work of the HI are not covered under this amendment Bill. Once this is passed in Parliament, it will be the law of a country, that is when the penalty will come into effect. This is about the amendment Bill that we are talking about. At the moment, the HI can come to the villages, make recommendations and give advice and then move on. They have not yet been empowered to issue fines amongst other penalties. That is the reason we are here to amend this Bill by listening to your views on the amendments, make our reports and take it back to parliament to be passed as the bylaws of our country. If this Bill is passed, then these are where the fines and other penalties that we are currently talking about will come into immediate effect. Any other comments? Another question?

MS. T. MARIO.- I like to comment on what he mentioned about the diseases and the fine from up to $2000 now. I get it that the person spreading the venereal disease is getting fined, but what is there to protect those of us who do not know that that individual has have HIV, syphilis or the other sexually transmitted diseases. I mean, to me, that is a reactive response. Is there anything in place or will be put in place to protect us, that do not know them. From social media, there are about 7000 reported cases of HIV among us. I believe under the human rights especially infected by HIV are being protected. Now I am after those of us who are not infected. Should we not know who they are? A lot of us do our own businesses like catering in a form or another. And it is so dangerous nowadays with the fast spread of these kind of diseases like HIV. These are my comments and, I do not expect an answer now, but I am concerned that some individuals who has AIDS may be involved in catering too, which can be a concern. Thank you.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, the way it is coming across from all the communities we have heard from that we could feel like people are wanting a situation similar to what happened in the concentration camps during the German persecuting of the Jews where Jews to wear specific outfits to show that they were Jews. I think the only main tool that we can advise our young people who are still sexually active, is to go back to the bible and refrain from fraternising and having multiple sexual partners. They can also wait till you get married to enjoy this intimacy with their spouse. Unless you do these, you will expose yourself to getting these venereal diseases. It is very hard for Ministry of Health even though the HIV ACT is in the process of being reviewed, we have to be very mindful about sharing sensitive information about the medical condition of a particular person. I would like end with this note that a person living with HIV AIDS can be part of our normal day life.

They can cook our food, they can mix our grog, we can eat together, hug each, sleep side by side, play cards and even play sports together now, non-contact sports that is, we can integrate with them on our daily basis without having to spread the virus. However, the biggest fight right now for our youths right now is the drug use. Some of the people that are going into white drugs are the ones without enough funding to buy their own white drugs because is quite expensive. Consequently, these individuals are sharing needles. They are sharing the white drugs, they are not sharing the needle, but they are sharing the white drugs through their blood. That means if we put in say, $5.00 or of $10.00 each and we decide to buy $50.00 worth of

white drugs. I will inject that into my blood and once it goes into my blood and now, I feel high. After that, I will extract my blood using a syringe from my body and will inject it into someone else. It will be my blood that is being injected straight into another human being and that is how the numbers of the transmitting of HIV is increasing. . If you refrain from drugs, if you refrain from unprotected sexual encounters until marriage and maintain one partner, Fiji should be able to get rid of this HIV and AIDS within the next 2-3 years. Honourable Chairman.

GAGAJ MARAF.- Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, yesterday, we heard so many things concerning the amendments to the Public Health Act in the council chamber. When I returned yesterday afternoon, something came up to my mind. How are we going to clean our villages? That is the main point because it is not a habit and before when we get a fine, we might learn from our mistakes. Today I would like to tell our communities of Oinafa and Noatau that once this Bill will be passed in Parliament, it will be law. If you do not follow the law, you will get a penalty or a fine. It is good for the people to know the details of this Bill before it is passed. I was thinking of how we can clean Noatau and Oinafa and this is an important question. Allow me to take us back to the 1970s and 1980s. The chiefs of the seven districts worked well with the Do and the health officials then. The council of chiefs made a resolution to invite the DO, the doctor and HI to all districts to carry out the routine cleanliness checks throughout the district. For every district, the DO, the doctor and HI can be accompanied by the chief and all the sub-chiefs of the village. They would start from one end of the village and comb the entire village right to the other end. Along the way, they would pick on issues like compounds that needs cleaning, potential sites for breeding mosquitoes which were to be destroyed, the community pig fences, cleanliness of the beaches and other nuisances that should be cleared before the next visit. If there were no improvements upon the next visit, potential fines or penalties were imposed on the individual depending on the gravity of the case. Consequently, all the 7 districts were clean with minor nuisances that were dealt with accordingly.

We will discuss this further with our DO, the doctor and HI in our next Council meeting. If we can have the same thing done during the inspections where the Do, the doctor and HI accompany the chief and sub-chiefs of the district and carry out similar inspections that used to be done in the 1970s and 1980s, where plastics, tin cans and idle roofing tins, bottles were disposed of accordingly. When the DO, the doctor, the HI the chief and sub-chiefs of the district can walk from one end of the district to the other and identify any form of nuisances and warn potential offenders before the next visit. If reasonable time is given, yet the nuisance is not fixed before the next visit, fines and potential penalties could apply. Rubbish that can be buried should be buried and the rest can be discarded in an environmentally friendly way. Concerning the HIV issues that were raised earlier, I would like to ask the doctor as to the number of confirmed cases that are on the island. I understand that it is a private matter, and I am not asking for the disclosure of any names but if I could get a number from our doctor. My concern is whether the number of individuals living with HIV on Rotuma is increasing, decreasing or has it flat lined because it is a matter of concern for all of us on the island.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Vinaka in terms of the number, I believe we can hear straight from SDMO only on the number, not the name, because it is confidential and it is covered under the UN Convention for the human rights.

MS. K. INIKASIO.- Mr. Chairman, I believe for the last two years we have rolled out our testing and screening. We have just recorded 3 positive cases, but we need more testing to confirm the actual number on the ground. We always advise the villages to come for screening since we have a mobile population. There are countless individuals arriving from Suva or Nadi, either by boat or the Fiji Link flights to the island. There is no definitive proof but the possibility

of the HIV virus being brought into the island by the incoming individuals seems plausible. On top of this, we are encouraging all districts to requests for HIV screening because it will give us a clear picture of the reality of the ground with regards to the HIV situation in Rotuma. We have targeted our reproductive age groups on the island to come forward for screening and we encourage the district chiefs and elders to support the Ministry of Health officials in this endeavour. We offer the testing and screening in hospitals and if you want to, we can visit your village to do the testing. We can only tell that the person has HIV is by doing the tests and the information is strictly confidential.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- I hope that that is clear, only if we have more testing for the HIV virus. The prerogative is with the chiefs of the district, if the chief want the people within his district to be screened and tested for the HIV, it can be arranged with the SDMO. Currently, according to SDMO, there are 3 confirmed cases, and this number was possible through the testing The latest figure from yesterday's news puts the confirmed cases of HIV to seven thousand (7000). This was only possible through those that went for the testing. This is a very critical area of concern when we talk about HIV, especially back in Fiji. The rate of infection is high through the use of white drugs. Let us go straight to clause 26 to 37, when you are talking about nuisance and offensive trade. I will invite honourable Bia to lead us in this discussion

HON. A. BIA.- Nuisance have already been explained by the Ministry of Health officials that are here. On the offensive trade number 40 on the document that is in front of you. Number 40 is about offensive trade; the fine is from $10 to $500. Now, these offensive trades are about businesses and companies that are located within the vicinity of where you stay. If there are businesses or companies that do things unhygienically and may create a spread of disease to the nearby communities, you can lodge a complaint. After a thorough investigation by the relevant authorities and your complaint is valid, the company can be fined under the offensive trade. More on this offensive trade, it covers any businesses that do operate within or beside your village or within the vicinity of where you stay. You can raise the complaint if they are doing something that is not good for the community or not good for the health or not good for the environment and the people that live beside or in the area that you do live in, you can raise the complaint, and they can be fined.

They can be fined through this clause, which is called offensive trade. For nuisance that was briefly explained by Toga, covers a lot of offences under nuisances. Therefore, nuisance very briefly, is primarily about how you maintain good hygiene and cleanliness in your villages and in your communities, like what the Gagaj had been saying earlier. When this is passed into law, it gives you the responsibility whether you like it or not, to maintain cleanliness wherever you are living. When the chiefs of the village or the elders of the village decide to introduce a village by laws that outlines the routine village checks for cleanliness and hygiene within the district and perhaps one or two individuals decides not to comply, they might be issued with 3 warnings. The last resort is this one because when anyone raise relevant complaints to the Environmental Health Practitioners or the Health Officials that are here, they will come and will do sport fines. We are living in a communal setup, and we are all related to each other. We do not want any differences to happen wherever we live in. When there is a village bylaw, and the bylaws state that you will be given 3 chances. If you continue to disobey, this will be the last resort. The district chief will lodge a formal complaint to the local authority or Central Board of Health, then the health inspectors will have the power to come and check and with the severity of the offence committed, will give the fines, accordingly, taking into considerations the 3 warnings given prior to the lodgement of the formal complaint. There can be no excuses for not following the village bylaws, but these amendments give you the full

responsibility of maintaining good hygiene and cleanliness wherever you are living in a community or nearby settlement or any village. This will give you the responsibility of maintaining good hygiene.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Any further clarification on that subject area? or any constructive comments? Or any recommendations? Or any general discussion based on that data that we have discovered lately on the offensive trade and its the implications. Do you do you need to have our interpreter to explain it in Rotuman? All is good. Then we will move forward.

MR. T. SAGAITU.- Good morning, I am a health worker from Oinafa. I would like to raise an issue about houses that have been vacant for some time and poses a health risk to the community. Most of the owners of the vacant houses are either in Fiji or overseas. Given the requirements of the Public Health Act, they have not asked their relatives in the village to maintain and clean the compounds. The leaders of the village and the chief of the district need to look at this issue especially when these owners who are away, who do not like anyone doing any clean up on their land or houses, especially when they are away.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Thank you very much for that very critical question. I believe this is not covered in the amendments of this Bill that we are currently working on. What we will do after this discussion is have a word with our officials from the Ministry of Health to give you some advice and further clarity on how best we can accommodate these rare predicaments. When we talk about cleanliness within our community, according to the amendment Bill, it is the responsibility of the village. For instance, if we do not clean up that vacant area, it becomes a breeding space for mosquitoes especially, when the house left empty or the house maybe be in a condition that it poses a health risk to members of the community. I will ask the Ministry for Health to clarify that because it is part of the Public Health Act, clauses 45 to 52 especially, the diseases that are spread by mosquitoes.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- Through you honourable Chairman, just before the Ministry for Health will explain, I just need to clarify the issue. Whether the owner is in Rotuma or is in Suva, Australia or in New Zealand when the law is passed, there will be no excuse. There is a saying in the legal fraternity which states ignorance of the law is not an excuse. If you breach this legislation after this legislation will be passed, one, there will be a day that the owner of that house will return to Rotuma. It gives a chance to the Ministry of Health through the Health Inspector, document the number of infringements and issue the fines under the file of the owner of the compound. The fines will accumulate if they are not paid. If the owner returns, s/he can pay the necessary fines. If the owner does not return after certain years, the government can afford to go and serve these owners of vacant compounds in Australia, in England, in United Kingdom, it will not be a problem for the government. Everyone will have to do their part so that the law is abided by everyone. The Ministry of Health through the HI can continue to issue that fines accordingly and we will recommend to the government a way to execute these Public Health Act infringement orders.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- *Vinaka*, for the diseases spread by mosquitoes, I will ask the Ministry of Health officials to emphasise more on it.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Thank you, Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee and of course, the community members of the two districts that are here. In this bill, there are 2 sections that can be used in this particular scenario. The first one is under clause 26 of the Bill which is the nuisance in 26A. It states any premises in the opinion of the environmental health practitioner, is in a state as to be injurious or prejudicial to public and environmental health. What we can do in this scenario is that the HI will come, we will ascertain the extent of the

case and the owner of the said property, and the fined will be issued accordingly. If you are here or if you are in Suva or anywhere else, that fine will be issued to the owner. Now in the instance that the maybe the owner, the sole owner of that house has passed on, leaving no one responsible for the vacant property, this can be covered under Section 14. This Section is about the demolition of building that is seen to be injurious to human health. As mentioned earlier here are two sections that can be used. In that particular example, looking into a vacant house that is here in the in the village, and no one cleans it, and it is causing a lot of problems for the Community. If this Bill is passed, we can act accordingly, like take the owner to task. If the compound is not cleaned, the owner can be fined or if there is no owner, we can give the order to demolish that particular building.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Vinaka, I hope that the explanation clarifies the issue that you have raised. I hope that we can spread the message over whether they are in Suva or somewhere abroad. When this Bill comes as an Act, it becomes the by-laws of the government. This is the responsibility of the government to facilitate it for the betterment of our living, especially our hygiene and sanitation wherever we live. Any other questions apart from that clause that we discussed?

GAGAJ MARAF.- In my district, there about 4 houses that are vacant. The clause discussed previously is a good one because some of these owners of that vacant houses stay overseas do not leave on the island. Three of the owners of these vacant hoses live overseas. After years of neglect, the walls of these houses start to crack, while other parts starts to came apart. This is a good meeting because we can start to warn these individuals who are either living in Fiji or overseas to take heed of these amendments to the Public Health Act and if they do not, the fines can be given. One particular family that resides in Australia, is my neighbour, informed us that they will renovate their existing vacant house so that they will have a place to come to when they visit friends and families on the island. This is why I am raising this issue that when this amendment Bill is passed into law but they do not follow this law, after several warnings, they could be fined.

MR. TEROTUAM.- The issue that I want to raise now is that our beaches are gradually and surely being eroded by the rising tides. For some of us, if we have to go down to the sea, we will have to go down another 2 meters before we reach the beach. To counter this, some of us use coconut leaves to protect the young coconut trees that act as barriers to these rising tides. We are left with two choices; we either maintain our beautiful beaches or we lose our sand and land to the sea. We cannot built sea wall because we lack the necessary funding and we only resort to using organic means like coconut leaves to counter the surging tides. The sand is being eroded, and we are losing the land. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for that inspirational talk about climate change and the impact on our beaches. We will take that on and will pass this on to the relevant Ministry that will look after that. Even though it is not part of our discussion here on the Amendment Bill for the Public Health Act, we will take that, and we will redirect that question to the respective Ministry involved and thank you very much for that concern. Another before we move on.

MR. EELI.- Good morning honourable Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee. The effects of climate change have had a huge adverse impact on the island. One such adverse impact is the eroding of our foreshore and beaches. Now we are experiencing unusually bigger waves eroding sand and soil from our foreshore and affecting our homes. To cushion the impacts of these large waves, we normally put coconut fronds where it is heavily eroded. These coconut fronds protect the beach from erosion and the young coconuts trees as

part of the bigger plan to mitigate the erosions of the sand from the beaches. During one of the HI's inspections, she saw the fronds on the beach and told us to remove them from the beach. We complied immediately and after a few months, when she was not around, we experienced huge waves. Some of these huge waves almost reached my front door, Sir, I am raising this concern because we are using organic material to cushion the impacts of these large waves, but it is not allowed by the HI. I am raising this to support the comments of the what the chief had said earlier. We are choosing clean and nice beaches over the adverse effects of climate change. Thank you.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Thank you very much for that sentiment on the same subject, we do take note of that and there needs be to be some other conversation later with the Ministry for Health officials that are here.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- I think the issue from the Gagaj and yourself, Sir, with the HI is a situation where we can all practice some degree of common sense. The HI too will have to apply common sense in decision making and it depends on the HI and the policies that will govern your decisions. As long as the coconut fronts that have been placed on the beach to counter the rising waves, do not become breeding places for mosquitoes which can result in the spread of diseases. The HI Rotuma need to explain why coconut leaves cannot be used as barriers to rising waves perhaps, it becomes breeding places mosquitoes.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Vinaka, that was the supplementary question on the use of coconut fronts as cushion for rising tides, we will give you space to come back after our meeting today to discuss with our executive team from the Ministry of Health. We will move forward from clause 63 to clause 69. Here, generally we talk about our rural water catchments, and its importance. I hope that both districts got their own drinking water, or we have the main source from the main centre. I will talk on the importance of our rural water catchment in this area. That is inclusive of borehole as well as the wells we sometimes use. I was told yesterday that there are 4 boreholes on the island of Rotuma. Let me emphasise the importance of where our water source comes from. First, when we passed this Bill in Parliament, all our sources of water, whether it is a borehole or dam up there in the forest. These are restriction involving the Bill. You are not allowed whether it is lease or not. Even the landowners are not allowed to plant, cut down trees or graze great animals or even access the said water source area to extract that gravel or sand within the vicinity of the water source areas. This also covers boreholes; for borehole no development like building a home or toilet is allowed around 50 square feet of the borehole. It is very clear and straight forward because when we pass this Bill, the things I had mentioned, those are restriction which states that you are not allowed to do. You are covered by law and by penalty and even if you cut down the main pipe from the water source down to the village, there will be penalties for this. There are some incidents that we had encountered when we carried out our consultations around Fiji.

There was one incident, were there some collusions within the village whereby somebody went up to the water source, cut down the pipe leading to the village, and a worst case in the Western division whereby a carcass of animal was thrown into their main drinking source. Those who drink the water ended up in hospital. Unfortunately, in this incident, one individual passed away from drinking the contaminated water. That shows the importance of looking after our water sources. Our water sources are for everybody. We should drink clean safe and healthy water. Any activities out of that which I have already mentioned, those are the bylaws that will cover them. Planting, grazing, extraction or even trying to cut down the main pipe, which is the direct water source to the village, and I hope that it is very clear to everybody. We talk about water, we talk about life, healthy living, sanitation and hygiene. I hope that it is very clear when you talk about our drinking water, it is holistically our responsibility to look

after our drinking water because once these bylaws are passed in Parliament, any activity done on any wate source, you will be liable. The Hi will come, and the technical team will inspect and look at the severity of what had been done or damaged. That is where they will put you on the list. If you cannot pay, you will have to take a break at Korovou from six months, even 18 months after you have learnt your lesson and abide by the regulation of our village.

That is the nutshell, we talked about, the clauses 1 to 69, the overall overview of the 9 key areas that we have discussed. I will open the floor for a general discussion and the Members may give us some more advice on the importance of Bill and Its activities and how best we can work together as a team. Remember, our key focus is the importance of how we can look after our cleanliness, hygiene, our sanitation at all levels. I did mention from the beginning that we are all affected, not only those in the rural areas who we all are covered, but those in the urban centers and the maritime zone are covered in this amendment Bill. Interestingly enough, another area that was actually taken out in 2018, was a government body under the Ministry of Health. We called it the Rural Local Authority, and this where the hands and the support services of the government under the Ministry of Health. They will come down to each area, like for Rotuma, there will be a body that will make up a committee that will look after all the welfare and health of Rotuma, like the rubbish, your sanitary, when you talk about your rubbish dump, water safety and even when you talk about the penalties and all relevant issues. They are the ones that will actually be involved on the ground and they will be your contact areas concerning everything in this Bill.

We are trying our outmost best to get the Rural Local Authority back, which was taken out in 2018 functioning back. They play a critical role when we talk about Public Health (Amendment) Bill. They will be there to oversee and operate under the Ministry of Health to look at the importance of the Public Health (Amendment) Bill in front of us. I will look to the floor, to the honourable Members, to add to what had been discussed today. I will accept another two questions from the community. Deputy Chair, can you give us some refreshing ideas?

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Just continuing on from where the Chairman of the Committee had highlighted. I just want to add one thing that The Bill also allows the powers of entry to the local authority. The new inclusion is the Environmental Health Practitioner but for our sake it refers to the Health Inspector (HI). But the current law allows for the local authority. The new addition is the changing of Medical Officer, Sanitary Inspector to Environmental Health Practitioner. Even if the Bill passes, the local rural authority or the HI can enter premises where there is a nuisance especially if there are some breeding places for mosquitoes. The local authority and the HI have the powers, according to how it is worded, for the sake of the cleanliness, hygiene and sanitary conditions here in Rotuma. The Local Rural Authority was abolished some time ago. Now they will be brought back, according to the Ministry of Health. For the Gagaj of the Rotuma Council, unless those powers have been brought back, you still do not have authority yet. Once that authority kicks in, the same powers with the Environmental Practitioner Officer (EPO), the same powers will be given to you.

The Rotuma Council of Chiefs, you are the rural local authority here, you have the authority to enter any premises according to the law, because the word used, meaning either or discretionary. Either it can be them, or it can be you. But then pending when that authority is granted back to you. You can go in and look at these nuisance complaints. For us, you know, once that kicks in, the responsibility of the rural local authority here is the welfare and the well-being of the people. It does not only rest in the government or in the to the medical, or to the health practitioner, or the environmental practitioner.

The rural local authority, you also have a responsibility. You also have a responsibility according to what is in the law, it has always been there, since 1935 and looking at the current law, the word local authority has always been there too. You already have the power back then that it was somewhat removed by the previous administration. Now the Ministry for Health is trying to bring this power back to you because of this public health issue. These are some of the key issues that I want to raise. Once the powers that will be given back to you to the Gagaj, and the Council, you also have the power to enter any premises where there is a nuisance. If you see an unhealthy activity going on, there are tyres that are breeding place for mosquitoes, according to the law you can enter. These amendments give you the powers to also look after your people. But we will await the regulations from the Ministry of Health to reactivate the powers back to you. Those are some of the key areas of the Bill that I want to share with you. Secondly, what are your thoughts? I will just ask this question generally. There is a lot of fines in the current Bill. There is a lot of fines. The reason why I ask what are your thoughts are on the fines is because I am asking you is if you commit an offence, you will pay that fine. If the health inspector comes to your house, and you are careless about the upkeep of your surroundings, like having receptacles for breeding mosquitoes, you will be fined.

The reason why I am asking is because you are the ones who will pay. That is the reason why I am asking you, ladies and gentlemen here, what are your thoughts on the fine? If you look at the explanation being done about the fines, there is a big jump. From $2.00 way back in 1935, now it has elevated to the maximum of $1000. The lower end of the fines is $100. I am asking is it enough? The fine is OK. Can you pay 1000? Can you pay $1,000? Yes or no? This is the question because the Committee wants to listen to you. What I want to stress here is nothing is written yet in stone. We did not come here and just discuss this. This committee has the powers to remove something that is written here, we can change it, we can edit it or remove some things. Any thoughts on the fines, ladies and gentlemen? Good. OK. Can you have the mic here? Is it too expensive?

GAGAJ MARAF.- Sir, we will follow what the Bill outlines in terms of the fines. If you cannot pay the fine then face the alternative, which is imprisonment.

MRS. T. SAGAITU.- This morning, hearing about what you have mentioned concerning the fines being very high. I think we better move. The people of Rotuma or the people in these two districts better move. We better move to clean up our areas, our environment. If we maintain the cleanliness of our environment, there will be no fines given to you, yes. Personally, the $500 fine is low, but then when you start fining the people, they will move because they are frightened, and they do not have much money.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- So that is exactly why the Ministry for Health has come up with the fine setting, to put it up as a deterrent. So that you do not commit this. If you commit this, this is what will happen to you, but the solution you would definitely raise, Madam, we get ourselves organised, we clean up our homes and surrounds, there will be no fines.

GAGAJ MARAF.- Once you mentioned about the fines. I would like to tell the people of Noatau not to get frightened. If we follow the instructions, there will be no need to be afraid of the fines. The council of chiefs in Rotuma will try to work with the Do and the Ministry of Health officials to solve this problem based on the Amendments in this Bill and the rest of the clauses in the Principal Act that has not changed. Every district must study these amendments and get to know them because when these amendments are passed in Parliament, it will affect all villages. No one will be able to escape this, the DO is here and the soon we plan these things out, the better, because we can start to clean up our villages and district. Yesterday we were

sharing at the Council Chamber and one chief asked about the open coconut shells that are left near the homes. These shells can store fresh water that can lead to breeding mosquitoes. I was thinking to myself about my big swamp that I use to plant my *via*. I have the biggest swamp in the district where I plant my *via* which is a staple food for us. However, these swamps also breed mosquitoes. And I think I must clean my swamps for the sake of not allowing the mosquitoes to breed any further even though we enjoy the *via*. I believe that it all depends on how we well we clean the swamp. We have had these swamps for a long time and I know it is not easy to clean up the swamps or to destroy the swamps and there will be no more *via* for us to enjoy. Thank you.

MR. FONMONU.- Good morning I want to thank the honourable Chairman and Members of the Committee because the question on whether we agree or not agree with the fines. I want to state that I totally support the work that you are all doing, thank you.

MR. EELI.- I want to comment on clause 28. Since the discussions are on the fines, I do not know if the fines relating here but if you do not pay then you get $100 for your fine per day, every day. I do not know where this relates to businesses or to our local people because $100 for fine, per day is quite expensive because normally the rate here, if you happen to work for three to five hours for a person, the normal pay you get is $ 50.00 dollars. If you try to pay the 1000 apart from this and sadly, the fine will not be paid unless you have plenty people to help to pay the fine. If the $100 fine applies individuals, not the business, I think this too much for an individual to bear.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee and the members of the two districts that are here, Sir, thank you for your concern that is been raised. We know that it is too much and that is basically the intention for it to be too much. What we want to do is maximise compliance. Let us say your septic tank is leaking and your neighbour is suffering from the smell and the flies fly onto their food when they eat. There is a great risk of sickness. The children that play around that area are also at high risk. Now when the health officer comes and gives you the notice for you to remove it, let us say you are given $200 fine, and you have to remove them or deal with it within seven days. And when the officer come back after seven days, you have not done anything? That is why you are now fined a $100 every day thereafter because you willingly do not want to do anything. The $ 100 each day for not fixing the leak in your septic is to force you to fix it as soon as possible. Otherwise, you will keep on paying that $100 per day. That is in the Bill for the high-risk nuisance to be removed as soon as possible for people to live freely, enjoy their leisure and not get sick. In order for that to happen, you have to put something that might overwhelm you but will push you. It will demand that you comply. If we put $5, you will relax and just pay $5 and the high-risk nuisance will not be fixed as soon.

HON. J.N. NAND.- Earlier on, we had discussed something about the waste management and I think it was the beginning of last year Members of Parliament attended the workshop organised by the Ministry of Environment at the Suva City Council Chambers. It was an initiative by our Prime Minister when he was out of Parliament for some time. He usually collected the empty plastic water bottles and sell them to recycling companies. Under his leadership now, through the Ministry of Environment, they have initiated a campaign, titled: A Road to Litter Programme. We will collaborate with the DO Rotuma, where the Ministry of Environment will establish wardens in each district and provide the necessary training and education to the general public. They will provide the litter bins and all the necessary equipment to enable the wardens and the villagers to support this initiative and help with the management of the waste on the island. The DO had been advised yesterday and will get in touch with the Ministry of Environment and will see to this programme materialising soon.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- Do you want to make a comment?

MR. J. SUSAU.- Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and honourable Members of the Committee. It is not a question, but it is a request because I know we are talking about cleaning the environment. We have lots of garbage here like plastic and bottles. My request is can you do anything about the recycle. We have heard recycle plant, planned a long time but it has not materialised. I think if there was a recycling plant, people will be happy to take their plastics bottles, bag and beer bottles and all the empty bottles for recycle and at the same time they can be paid. This is one of my request and I ask If you can look into it. Thank you very much.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- Your submission is noted and we will take that into consideration, honourable Nand had explained about some NGO's that are willing to help in this kind of assistance. On behalf of the honourable Speaker of Parliament and the Chairperson, Deputy chairperson, we, the Members of the Committee, including our officials form the Ministry of Health, we would like to convey our sincere appreciation. Vinaka vakalevu to *Gagaj Maraf* and to the *vanua* to the people of Noatau and Oinafa. As you are all aware, there are a lot of diseases in Fiji. Yesterday at Itumuta hall, I was emphasising on the need for us indigenous people to take care of ourselves. This is the reason. We are very low in population. Fiji has not yet reached 1,000,000 and if we are not careful, in the next 10 years, our numbers will decline. The reason is because we iTaukei and Rotumans are the only ones in the whole world. Those who have gone overseas and are citizens there. I was telling them yesterday that for Indians, honourable Nand is here, you see some Indians here, some Indians in Africa, some Indians in India. That is why this law is very important. Compared Rotuma to other parts of Fiji, they are still yet to comply. When we go to villages, some villages still have horses and cows roaming around within some of these villages.

Nowadays people have changed, they do not want to listen to their chiefs. We discussed it openly in the village halls, in the village meetings. The reply is, *yes, I'll go and do it*. They will go but hey will never do it. Following years come, the nuisance is still there and consequently, diseases will spread. Now these are different kinds of diseases apart from HIV, AIDS, leptospirosis and dengue fever, and who are dying? it is us, the indigenous people. Therefore, this law will assist the government, it will assist the chiefs and all the people in Fiji so that we can comply. I hope with this consultation happening, we will take into account all your submissions and we will make sure that it will reach in Parliament. Through your submissions, we are adamant we can make a good law and come early next year in January, this law will come into effective or December, we are ready. I hope with those few words, you will start doing the cleanup campaign for your district and when we will come next year after we will win the election, sorry, honourable Nand, and we will see the positive changes in Rotuma, *vinaka vakalevu*.

MR. EELI.- Just a few clarifications to help the Members of this Committee concerning this. We have a lot to remember and a lot of clauses that needs more scrutiny. A kind request for future reference, if the Bill can be sent over, a week in advance to give us more time to read and come up positive comments and recommendations. Thank you.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- Your submission to is noted. The same issue was discussed Itumuta yesterday. The lateness of the handouts given but that this not only happened in Rotuma but this happened in other maritime islands like Kadavu and the islands of Yasawa, it has to do with the isolation of our islands. And I was telling the people of Itumuta yesterday that the important thing that we should be thankful for this government is that it is bringing back this democratic process of consultation before any amendments are done to any Bill. Consultation means we want to hear your voice before we pass this law. In the past 16 years,

without any of your views, the government will just go ahead and pass the law. It almost happened to the Rotuman Bill. However, with this government, we are trying to bring back the idea of consultation. We have started slowly and we are on the verge of coming to an end, but we hope that when the next government will come in, we will do a lot of consultation so that we can improve on the way we do consultations, send it to the district office. The district officer will then circulate it to the Gagaj of each District in Council of Chiefs and they discuss it in your villages. I am saying for the past 16 years, there were no consultations, we discussed these amendments is Suva and pass them in Suva and then come January you were unaware. But with the current government, with honourable Nand included, we will hear your voices and we will go back to Suva and we will take all your submissions into account. With those few words, *vinaka vakalevu*.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- If you need any further clarity on the discussion today, feel free to provide us with your written submissions. We will give you another three weeks. Is there any area that was left behind, it will discuss further within the community, our secretariate is here, you can have their e-mail address, the phone number, the Parliament Committee is open for your submissions. It happens everywhere and they call or send a written submission from respective areas that we visited, that will be included as part of his consultation.

GAGAJ MARAF.- As we come to the end of our discussion this morning. On behalf of Gagaj Kausiraf and all the subchiefs and the people of the two districts, I would like to thank you all very much. We are happy to hear from this Committee this morning regarding the amendments to the Public Health Act. We heard about the penalties, and they are high but if we follow and do what is right, we will not have to worry about the penalties. I am always encouraging my district to unite and work together for the common good of the district and the island. We are elated for the proposed amendments, especially the fines because these fines will act as a deterrent. The next time you all will return, you will witness a huge positive changes, especially in the district of Noatau. After this, people will not be able to give excuses that they were not aware. I am not going to talk about the other districts because if their chiefs do not to cooperate, then fine them. On behalf of the people from both districts, thank you very much.

The Committee adjourned at 10.41 a.m.

The Committee resumed at 12.00 p.m.

Interviewees/Submittees:		**Pepjei/Juju**
(1)	Ms. Katty Kafoa	Juju
(2)	Mr. Saau Injimo	Juju
(3)	Mr. Kamea	Juju
(4)	Mr. Petero	Juju

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Thank you very much for your presence to the villagers of Pepjei and Juju. Before we start, I would like to state that it is an honour and privilege to be here. As you are all aware, this is the Committee from your Parliament in Suva. We are here on behalf of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fiji Government. We represent the Committee on Social Affairs regarding amendment Bill on Public Health (Amendment) Bill from the Ministry of Health No. 4 of 2026. This Bill was enacted in 1935 and after 91 years, these are the first proposed amendments to it. I hope that you all got the copy in front of you, which clearly states the amendment to the Bill of the Public Health. There are 69 clauses and the reasons why we are here to discuss this Bill with you, is to see how best you can give your opinions on the discussion part of those clauses, and hopefully we will summarise it at the end of our discussion. Furthermore, I will ask the honourable Members to introduce themselves.

(*Introduction of Committee Members and representatives from the Ministry of Health)*

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.-Together with the team, we hope that you are familiar with those two gentlemen, the SDMO, plus our DO Rotuma. I will ask honourable Bia to lead us in our discussion today and please note that we are here to hear from you regarding this amendment Bill. Our discussion will be based on those 69 clauses in front of you. We need your opinion; we need you to give us your views. It is still in amendment format and when we collect all the relevant information during this consultation, that will give us the edge. When you go back to Suva, we will collate all your views before we table these amendment Bill to Parliament.

HON. A. BIA.- Just before we continue with our discussions in our *talanoa* regarding the Public Health amendment Bill, just to confirm if everyone that is in the house today has a copy of the amendment Bill. If there is anyone that has not received a copy, please raise your hands. It is important that you have one so that we continue to discuss the Bill that is in front of us. From 1 to 69, before we start, as the Chairman had alluded to, out of all the Public Health Amendment Act, it has been there, the Public Health Act has been there from 1935, until now, is 91 years. This is the first change that the Ministry of Health is proposing to Parliament to amend the 69 clauses or the 69 sections that are in the document that is in front of you. Numbers 1 to 69 and the reason for change, as the Chairman had stated, to modernise the way we govern ourselves in terms of public health and maintaining good hygiene and cleanliness and wherever we live in.

One of the major changes in the 91 years from 1935 till now, this Public Health Act, only governs those who are in the urban centres. For the first time ever, when this law is passed in Parliament, it becomes a law. It will now govern all of us, whether you live in the villages, in the rural areas, or you live in the maritime islands, Rotuma is included. We will all be governed under this Public Health Act.

You might ask why Public Health Act? Now, there are a lot of sicknesses easily spread throughout where we live in, especially in Rotuma. Of the fact that we can contain these sicknesses where we live in, we can stop it, but it is just because the way we live and the style of the way we live in our communities. We do not maintain good hygiene and we do not clean our compound. We put our rubbish carelessly and we do not maintain cleanliness. And that is where these kinds of sicknesses like leptospirosis and dengue fever will spread. If you are not careful, mosquitoes will breed in empty containers, tyres and empty coconut shells that lie around in your house or in your villages, mosquitoes will breed, dengue fever can be easily spread in the village that you live in. In the Public Health Act, one of the main amendments in the Public Health Act is the fines. Some of the fines, for the last 91 years had been $2, $5, $10.

One of the main amendments proposed by the Ministry of Health is that these fines will have to be increased. Now the Ministry of Health and the honourable Members will try and explain why they are recommending the need to increase the fines, which is to protect you. Also you have the responsibility to ensure that the cleanliness and the good hygiene of your environment. We will start with the document that is in front of you. Out of all the 69 amendments, we have narrowed it down only nine that directly involves us as we live in maritime islands and in the villages. Look at number 14. Number 14 is about the protection of health officers and officials that do visit our villages. I will ask the health officials that are here to explain the new amendments or the protection of the work that they do, the health officials, when they do come in for inspection. If there is a complaint that has been raised with them, they will come in for inspection and this new amendment will protect them while they carry out the work.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee and members of the two districts who are present here today. Section 14 is about obstruction of the duties that our officers perform on the ground. Basically, the main reason for the establishment of our Ministry of Health is to protect your health. And in doing so, our officers on the ground often face challenges on a daily basis while trying to perform their duties to protect you. We face a lot of obstruction from the members of the community. In some instances, people have sworn at our officers, some have released dogs to chase after our officers, some have physically harmed our officers. These sorts of harassments dampen the effort of our officers to protect you and your family. There has been nothing in the law that prevents or safeguards our health officers on the ground. We felt that it would be prudent to include that in the in the Bill. So now, if this is passed in Parliament, anyone obstructing the officers from performing the duties, will be guilty of an offence and be liable to pay $500 fine. If you cannot pay the fine within the time allocated, then you might face three months imprisonment. We need to see the importance of the work that our officers do on the ground. They are there to save you or ensure that you live a long and healthy life. Obstruction comes in few forms. Number one, if you obstruct physically, stopping them from doing the work that they need to do, that comes as obstruction. If you give false information, if they ask you, okay, so where did you go in the last seven days? And you were in the hall in Pepjei drinking kava there and you say, no, I was at home for the whole of the seven days. That false information is also seen as obstruction, and you can be liable for $500 fine or three months improvement.

HON. A. BIA.- If anyone wants to ask a question or clarification or wants to clarify any issues regarding the amendments of Public Health Act, you can raise your hands anywhere during our conversation. At any time, raise your hand, you can ask your questions. There is a point here. And just for your information, our session is recorded and before you ask your questions, please kindly say your name before you ask your questions.

MR. K. KAFOA.- I was born and raised here and brought my children here, then we moved to Fiji in 2021 for the education of our children. Before we left in 2021 the island was really clean. During those times, we hardly hear of sicknesses like Phalarises and NCD that are prevalent in our societies nowadays. But at that time, we had our HI and our chief, working together and inspected our village every three months from one end to another end of a district and placed fines where appropriate. But the fines at that time were small. But anyway, and the was very beautiful, well maintained, pigs were all in district pan. Now it is useless because the pigs have escaped from the pig pan and are roaming around our gardens destroying our roots and gardens. The second thing is the mosquitoes. When we returned from Fiji, all these things were coming up again because the HI had been driven out, which is not supposed to be. I do not blame the HI, I blame the Council of Chiefs who are supposed to be concerned about the welfare and work of the HI. But I am so glad that we have an Act that will be amended which will strengthen a clean and hygienic Rotuma through the fines. I do not want to pay $200 just to clean my compound. And in our customary law, any land that is near the village or facing the seaside are to be cleaned, banana trees must be maintained at a certain height especially if they are at the back of the homes because if that are left to grow taller, they can be places where mosquitoes can breed. And these are some of the preventative measures that we used before.

Our environment is getting worst and dirtier. And for me as a Rotuman, I have been brought up and bred here, I am ashamed to say that I am a Rotuman, because the condition of the island in terms of its cleanliness is pathetic. I am so happy and glad that now the Ministry of Health has proposed the amendments in the Public Health Act of 1935 to ensure that all over Fiji, the people will take responsibility in keeping their environment clean, especially here in Rotuma, where we can enjoy our beautiful island and to be free from any form of diseases.

HON. A. BIA.-Now, the two issues that has been brought forward in terms of mosquitoes and pig pans takes us to the next two topics of our conversation which is included in this Bill. Now I will give it to the Ministry of Health officials to explain about nuisance and one of the main aspect and inclusion in the amendment is about the breeding of mosquitoes. I will let them explain and the fines that are there. If you are caught not abiding by the laws that is amended, and if it is passed in Parliament, it becomes law.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee, members of the community for the two districts who are here today. We have a section in the Bill which is titled the Nuisance Section. Nuisance refers to any activity that is done in such a way that it can be injurious to human health. We have from A to S are about 20 categories of nuisance.

HON. A. BIA.- Just before Toga continues, you look at the document that is in front of you, 26, 27. Vinaka, back to you Toga.

MoH OFFICIAL.- There is a total of 19 categories of nuisances. It talks about any premises that is in such a way that it can be injurious to health, it talks about wastewater, it talks about waste, how you manage waste within your premises. There are 19 categories of nuisances. In this context, anyone that is found to be having a nuisance in your premises that can cause members of your family or your neighbours to be sick. The fines that are in the proposed Bill is a ceiling of $1,000, meaning it can range from $100 right up to $1,000, depending on how we see the risk of that particular reasons to be in terms of human health. Some minor reasons, you might be fined $100, $200, but for major nuisances, it is worth $1000, you can be fined because that we feel is a threat to the life of the community members. And then when you are given this fine and the notice to remove the nuisance, you are fined and you are given maybe a certain number of days, depending again on the magnitude of the work that

you need to do, you will be given that number of days to remove that particular nuisance. If you fail to do so within that period, then you will be charged an additional $100 for every day that you leave the nuisance unresolved. Take for instance, if you have a small pig house beside your house, and there are 3 pigs inside. Your neighbours complains because they cannot take the smell and the pig droppings are more than the neighbours can bear. When the health inspector comes and upon advice, you need to remove the pig pan, they will give you a fine because you are non-compliant. And you are fined $300, you are given seven days to remove it. Now, you pay $300, but when they come back after seven days, it is still there.

Therefore, every day thereafter, you will be charged $100 and another $100 tomorrow, another $100 next day, and another $100 next day, until you remove it. Every day, since the nuisance is not taken care of, anybody stepping on the spillage from the pan can get leptospirosis and die. It is a high threat to the life of community members. Moving on, in another section in the Bill is about mosquitoes. Now, in the Principal Act, but we sort of modifying it in such a way to be able to be more effective. The difference is this, before, the Principal Act states that if container or vessel or anything that has mosquito larvae is found in your compound, you will are guilty and will be charged with $10 fine. Now we have done it in such a way to be more proactive. So now if you have this factor, if this is passed to be an Act, if an officer comes to your compound and finds tire lying there. Just a tire lying there, no mosquito inside, you will be fined for the tire. This is the reason, if it rains later, the rainwater will go in the tire, the mosquito will be able to breed there. If they find a dry empty tin of fish, likewise, that will be seen as a non-compliance. And then the second level, is if they find something that already has water in it. Since, it already has water, all you need now is for mosquito to lay the eggs, then it will start to breed. So there are three levels. Before there used to be only one, have to be mosquito larvae. Now, as long as it is a container, if the container has water, and if the container has water and has mosquito, there are three levels to ensure that, you know, residents continuously clean the compound to get rid of these possible receptacles to be breeding sites.

HON. A. BIA.-So, I hope that is clear. Any questions regarding those discussions? Anyone want to seek clarification? Thank you. Just before the question is asked, may I ask the community members if we already look at thirty-nine, 40, and forty-one, because after this we will go into discussions on those numbers.

MR. S. INJIMO.- Just to add on to what was said, this is a village. What he was saying is about urban centres where they have fences. If in the villages like in Rotuma and in all over Fiji, we do not have fences, and our children play everywhere. And then they may leave the tires everywhere and when the HI sees the tire on my yard. Actually, it was the children who is playing earlier in my compound left the tire in my compound. I believe that the leeway should be given in such situations in all the rural areas.

HON. A. BIA.- Ministry for Health, would you like to clarify that?

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, and honourable Members of the Committee. Sir, thank you for that concern. We do understand where you are coming from, but the risk still remains, whether you intentionally put it or you do not intentionally put it there. What I am trying to say is for you to take ownership of your compound. If the tire is in your compound, then the owner of the compound needs to ensure maybe through daily inspection, remove it, because if you do not, then that tire that was not intentionally put there, will not intentionally breed mosquitoes, and the mosquitoes will intentionally bite you but not intentionally pass the dengue fever to you. The risk remains. We feel that it is your responsibility, whether the tire is

your compound or not, the owner is to ensure that on a daily basis s/he make the rounds in your compound and ensure that there are no breeding sites for mosquito in the premises.

HON. A. BIA.- Any more questions? And not that the tire is being put in your compound today, mosquito starts breeding.

MR. K. KAFOA.- I would like to clarifications on the pig issue because it is not here and we have issues concerning pigs escaping from the pan. Can we apply a law to the pans, because it includes the community. And then how are we going to go about it? I think this is between the council of chiefs and the districts to sort this out. I am with you honourable Members if you can draw up a law, for a standard for everyone to follow. We should be given a choice whether to keep all our pigs in the district pig pan or the individual families to take control of their own pigs outside of the district pig pans. It will be very easy for us to maintain the pigs and control the hazard of the pigs for healthy living. Thank you.

HON. A. BIA.- Thank you. I will give it again to the Ministry of Health officials just to clarify about pig pans. It is considered also under this amendment of the new Public Health Act.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, thank you, Madam, for raising that issue. I think, since we have been here since yesterday, in comparison, Rotuma is a bit organised in terms of the raising of animals. In some of villages that we have visited in Fiji, at the back of their houses, the family pig pans housing 4 to 6 pigs. When the wind direction changes, you can actually smell. This is a serious nuisance. These are the ones that are being targeted in these proposed amendments. The Public Health Act outlines that you cannot have a pig pen or a chicken shed not less than 200 feet. That is about 80 meters. But if you go to some of the villages in Fiji, it is around 10, 15, some even less than 10 metres from their houses. This is something that we want to combat these issues of breeding livestock near homes since the number of cases of leptospirosis is increasing and it is reoccurring every year. Now, when we went to Serea to discuss this issue, they had opened another new door. They said that they do not have animals kept in the village. They have it kept outside the village. But there are certain instances when the animals break out and they come into the village.

With the clarity being sort here, I believe it is similar to our case here in Rotuma, if we have that district pan, similar to the one that we came past on the way from Pepjei to Juju, it is okay. It is quite far from where we are and it is big enough area that it does not smell because the waste is not concentrated in a small area and the pigs are free to run around within that boundary. But in the case, if it breaks away from there and comes into the community, that is where the new amendment that was proposed from Serea can be also work here. If the pig owners can give your pigs a distinct earring or something that you put on the cows and the pigs to identify the owners. That can be used to identify whose pig it is and then a notice can be given accordingly. We are not allowed to brand animals nowadays. Branding is now considered cruelty to animals.

HON. A. BIA.-I hope that is clear. Any more questions?

MR. PETERO.- Since we are talking about the diseases spread by mosquitoes, I want to share about the village swamp that we use to plant *via*. I think nearly everywhere on the island, there is swamp for each district. Most people in the village like to eat the *via* and the swamp is the best place to plant the *via*. Unfortunately, this swamp is a breeding place for mosquitoes. What can the villagers do to fix this, since we love our *via*, but the swamp will breed more mosquitoes?

HON. A. BIA.- I will give it to the Ministry of Health officials just to clarify all the types of mosquitoes that is there, total number of types of mosquitoes, and where do they breed?

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee, members of the two districts that are here today. Thank you, Sir for the concern raised. This was also raised in our previous sitting this morning. And you know, the swampy area is the best place for *via* planting. The only suggestion that the Ministry of Health can give in this case is maybe a freshwater species of fish that can be introduced to that swamp. They will feed on the mosquito larvae and we usually advise the use of the Tilapia fish. One of the drawbacks of introducing Tilapia is that can they disrupt this wonderful marine environment. Perhaps, the Ministry of Agriculture can suggest a freshwater species like the *Vo* that can be introduced in the swamps, the small ones that can feed on the mosquito larvae.

However, the mosquito that breeds in those natural environment, including Aedes polynesiensis and the culex mosquitoes, one is a major vector for lymphatic filariasis, and I believe that not long ago lymphatic filariasis was a major problem here on the islands. Having that introduced in there will reduce the mosquito population and reduce the risk of that spreading amongst the population. For dengue vectors, they usually breed around the house with human-made or man-made receptacles that we have around like tires, containers, tins, bottles, things like that. Clear water not so much as compared to the swamp. The swamp is usually sort of grey kind of water, very blackish water. But the dengue mosquito prefers clear water to breed and that is the difference, honourable Chairman.

HON. A. BIA.- We will continue with our discussions. Let us go to number 39 is about a penalty which has been increased from $20 to $2,000. Now that fine is about venereal disease on the different types of disease that is caused by those sexually transmitted diseases, and this is HIV AIDS. Now the fine has increase from 20 to $2,000 is for those that have been confirmed as people who have been contracted HIV/AIDS and when they come to the island, then they willingly or purposefully spreading it out to those that have not contracted with the sickness. They can be fined for $2,000. Now interestingly, it has been confirmed in the last previous sitting by SDMO Rotuma that there have been confirmed 3 cases in the island. This fine of $2000 is to act as a deterrent to would be offenders and to protect you. If there is a person that is known and verified by the Ministry of Health that has contracted HIV/AIDS, s/he cannot be going around and purposefully or willingly spreading the HIV/AIDS to the other members of the communities.

Now, one might ask, why are the names not revealed? Now under the HIV Act and confidentiality we cannot disclose the names of those who are contracted the HIV AIDS virus. It goes with our constitution, and we have signed the United Nations Declaration for Human Rights about the right to privacy and to protect the information of these individuals. The HIV Act, according to the Ministry of Health, is also being under-reviewed, and when the consultations come around, maybe you can make suggestions as to maybe the disclosure of the names when they do come out or where do they live if they come to the islands so that you can know. Any questions regarding that?

MR. KAMEA.- Sir, can we go back to mosquitoes? I would love to ask this question to the HI who is responsible for this. Since this year, the whole year, I have not seen the HI come to the village to check whether I have a dump to put my rubbish and other things because there is a lot of rubbish all over the place. And secondly, five years ago, we had spray going around the island for mosquitoes. Since then, I have not seen any spraying of mosquitoes and I feel there are policies and things to enforce but this has not been happening. But I feel if the spraying continues, we will see the health and wellness of the people living on the island

improve. My second question is on fines. I feel the fines are very high especially when we in island in Rotuma and being fined $2000, $1000, and then yes, we understand. I ask before these rules are enforced, can the government organise workshops around the island so that the people are educated and have a fair idea about how the fines will be applied for different offences. I understand that in Suva most people have steady income but for most of the people in the maritime so not. We are poor, and being fined $1000, I feel it is extremely high, Sir. That is my concern. Thank you.

HON. A. BIA.- I will just give it to the Ministry for Health to answer that question. Quite interesting, we from the islands are very poor, but some of the villages that we visited, complained about a lot of drinking beers everywhere in some of the villages in Rotuma.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Standing Committee and our community here. I think one of the major changes or amendment that we also proposing in the Bill is giving the extra power to the health inspectors and the health officers so that they can enter the communities and inspect. This is one of the major changes that we have included in the proposing of this Bill so that the officer can come into the communities, write an infringement notice like what the LTA does. That is also what we want to introduce in this new amendment and the powers, additional powers to be given to the officers so that they can enter the communities. Number 2, I think you had mentioned about the spraying of mosquitoes. And again, the Ministry and the Government encourages that we do destruction of the breeding grounds or destruction of the receptacles through cleanup campaigns. I think that is the most effective way of trying to reduce the population of the mosquitoes and we are going to ultimately decrease the number of cases of dengue fever. If we do not destroy the breeding grounds but instead, spray today. When we return tomorrow, the other places that we miss out on, the mosquitos will return because the receptacles have not been removed or destroyed. The mosquitoes will lay their eggs, and then the next 10 days, you will see the number of mosquitoes increase, creating a lot of havoc. And the other thing is we are not encouraging the spraying unless there is an outbreak of mosquito borne diseases. The reason is that spraying of chemical is not done in the farms or in the bush.

We are doing it in the community where there is a vulnerable population, where there are children, where there are sick people and the elderly population. It is prudent that we do not expose the vulnerable in our communities to the chemicals through the sprayings. We are already exposed to a lot of the chemicals and the food that we eat and things that we drink, and then the spraying comes. If the Ministry for Health does the spraying every month or every two weeks to control the mosquito population in our communities, then we will be exposed to different types of chemicals. And I hope you understand why we do not want to spray out now because the vulnerable population in the community and we encourage one of the methods that Mr. Toga had mentioned. This is a biological method where we introduce the species to eat larvae. Number one measure is to destroy the breeding grounds and that is one of the effective means or ways of decreasing the population of mosquitoes. If you are not seeing the spraying happening in your village or in your district, the whole reason is we do not want to spray a chemical in our communities, unless there is an outbreak that we cannot control the population of mosquitoes, than we need to do a one-off spray, and then we encourage people to continue with the clean-up and the destruction of the receptacles.

HON. A. BIA.- We will continue with our discussions from number 39, number to numbers 41. Number 40 is about a penalty on offensive trade. And 41, is about a business that is currently thriving on the island, which is Airbnb, accommodations to visitors who come in. And I will ask the Ministry for Health just to put further clarifications on why this is included in the public health amendment.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, and honourable Members of the Committee and members of the community here from the two districts. Clause 40 is about offensive trade. An example of an offensive trade is any form of businesses that produces foul odour or loud noise or even producers byproducts that can harm human beings like slaughterhouses. If you go past the corridor of a slaughter around 6 o'clock, or 7 o'clock in the evening, you can smell something smelly, filling the whole area. That is the foul smell that the slaughter produces. The large-scale chicken farms like Crest and Rooster, produces foul smells from their slaughterhouses. Similarly, you will see Ratan company, who is crushing stones for road repairs. The stone crushing machine is producing a lot of dust that can harm the health of the villages nearby. At the moment, there is nothing stopping these types of businesses from coming beside any village and operating there. That is why we have put it in the amendments because we have received a lot of complaints from members of the community about some of these offensive trade operating just beside some of these communities. We could not stop it, nor can we remove them because they have already established themselves there.

The Bill proposes that anyone who wants to operate, must first get the approval of the Ministry for Health, register with the Ministry for Health so we will see that it will not affect you, then we will say, okay, you have met the health standards and other necessary requirements, you may go ahead. Any company that builds without these specific approvals from the Ministry for Health will be fined $500. And the second one, which is section 41, is again based on experiences through the years. We have received numerous complaints, concerning people who are renting in concern parts of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

One incident is that this individual who had complained about the house he and his family were renting from. It was in such a bad state that his family members could have got sick from the situation they were in. During the course of our inspection, we noted a double story house. The complainant was staying on the ground floor. Whenever, his neighbours on the top floor flushed their toilet, some of the wastewater would drip into the living room of the complainant. This was a major health risk. Preventative measures are considered and are included in the Bill. It states that anybody who wants to do any form of accommodation, whether it is a house to be rented, Airbnb, homestay, where people pay to go and live, the Ministry of Health must inspect and approve it first before you can run that business. Since people are paying money and being accommodated in substandard areas is a great concern. Another incident was a major outbreak of typhoid in the Northern Division from the cane farming area. Any of the men here have ever gone to cut sugar cane? But if you go and cut cane for cane farmers, they have labourers' quarters. The labourers' quarters is just like a place where you breed chicken. You know the 44-gallon drums? What the farmers do is they cut it open, and they flatten it and they used it to make the walls of the labourers quarters. There is no proper foundation, only soil. They put tarpaulin on the ground and that is where labourers sleep. And there are no proper toilets and all these basic necessities are all now captured in this Bill. So now if you own a sugarcane farm, you want labourers to come and cut your cane, you have to provide them with the standard quarters inspected and approved by the Ministry of Health. These are some of the things that we feel should be included in the Bill to better protect you, the communities and citizens of Fiji and Rotuma.

HON. A. BIA.- Our second last point of discussion for the day are numbers 54 and 55. Generally, they are about the hygiene and cleanliness of vessels that do serve maritime islands. I know for us here in Rotuma, they are vessels that do serve Rotuma, coming from Suva to Rotuma. These are derived from complaints received from the Ministry of Health about some of the vessels that are infested with insects and cockroaches and they do not clean their vessels well before passengers board. Now in clauses 54 and 55, owners of the vessels or the captains

of the ships, can be fined if the commuters, raise their complaints to the Ministry of Health if they think that the vessels that had travelled in is not up to the service that is required before passengers to come in. And our last topic of discussion is an important one which covers the majority of this amendment is about the protection of our water source. I will give it to the Chairman to close it with the explanation in terms of the protection of our water sources which includes boreholes and open the floor for discussions if there are other questions that needs to be raised.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Thank you very much for the live discussions we have today. We are in the final phase of our discussion today. We will continue from 59 right up to 67 and 68 because these clauses mostly concern the sources of our drinking water. When we talk talking about the sources, these includes a dam, borehole, and a well too. Wherever necessary, where we get the uniformity of where we got our drinking water, especially for our rural dwellers here at the maritime zone. We were told that there are about four boreholes here on the island. In these amendments in the Bill, the Ministry of Health has already defined the different sources of water and rural water catchment areas. I have already alluded to that, whether it is a well, whether it is borehole, whatever, a form of where we got our drinking water. By the amendments in the Bill, it clearly dictates that there should not be any cutting down of trees. Secondly, there should not be any planting done where our catchment of water is situated. Thirdly, there should not be any extraction of sand or gravel from where the locality is. It clearly goes down and says whether it is leased or not, even the landowners themselves, are not allowed to do those four points that I have mentioned earlier. Remember I talked about drinking water? It is part of our healthy living, healthy hygiene, healthy sanitary for living in our villages. If in any unfortunate instance, one of our villagers decides to go up to the village water source and cut down even the pipes, that villager is liable to be taken to court and charged with the relevant penalties that is within amendments in the Bill. Remember, it depends on the severity of what you have done to a water source. There are penalties involved. It is clearly stated in those handouts. If you cannot pay for the penalties, the bylaws which we are trying to make it into law is very clear. You can be charged or imprisonment from three to six months, depending on the severity, it can go up to 18 months. And I am hoping that penalty is very clear to everybody.

Just to round up our discussion this afternoon, another critical area that we are trying to get back is the services of the Rural Local Authority. Way back in 2018, this used to be the arm of the Ministry of Health. They played a very critical role in looking after the welfare of the local communities especially in the maritime areas. They look at how best to manage our rubbish, the cleanliness of the villages, looking after the safety of our children if there is an outbreak, our water sources, likewise the penalties involved. The rural local authority will be a body with the Ministry of Health and an arm of the government to facilitate all these things. I am afraid to say that in 2018 it was taken out. They play a very critical responsibility when you talk about maritime areas. In this Bill, we are requesting to get back that service and that will be on par with those who are in the urban centers. Remember urban centers, pay their bills, through rates. That is why they provide all those services, how they look after their rubbish, how they look after the welfare of their roads, even the electricity, and the importance of how they look after their health.

In this case, once we get back these operations for the rural local authority, they are the ones that will liaise with the DO, they will liaise with the medical team to look into all these amendment in this Bill which we are discussing today, which are 69 clauses altogether. You are left behind because there are avenues which the government is looking at to help and provide you, give you the lead role in looking at means and how best you can look after

yourselves, whether it is a pig pan, whether it is your poultry farm, whether it is your rubbish, any other avenue that is in regards, that will affect our public health in our daily lives. To sum it up today, unless if there are no other questions before we wrap it up. Any last questions concerning what we have discussed this afternoon?

MR. K. KAFOA.- Thank you for your contribution and allowing me to speak again. Can I take us back to waste management. There was a rubbish recycle planned earlier with Pacific Recycle, and a team came, and we did the various consultations. After the consultations, we waited for the implementations, but there was a pause. We do not know what happened because we had already formed a team. We already had our protocol sorted out like the kind of visiting and arranging everything on the island. But then we need waste management because of the increase of different kinds of wastes poses a health hazard. I got a land near that steep slope, and I asked the previous DO to put a sign at that place warning individuals against dumping on our land. Some people on the bikes throw the rubbish from the slope. And every time there is a high tide or king tide; all those things are washed up in front to our village. The tins and the plastics are scattered all over the front of our village. My second point is the maritime thing. I have been travelling on the boat because it is less expensive. The saddest thing is when we reach the wharf at 6 o'clock in the morning and there are no toilets at the wharf.

We are not served breakfast, and we have to hire a vehicle to buy food from the other side of the island. And then the thing is, we have to wait for our cargo which almost takes half a day. How can we address these issues? If the weather is bad and the ship has to dock at Motusa, then we have to climb down a rope ladder that is square. People like me with walking impairments will not be able to climb these types of ropes. My third point is on the increase in the numbers of those that contracted HIV in Rotuma. We have lots of workshops from the Ministry of Health that we have HIV to be tested. But if we are going to have that implementation of the HIV to be tested here, it is compulsory for a certain age, so we can prevent the spread of it. The fourth thing is, before we used to have birth controls. Now we do not know what is happening now with our young adults. We have early pregnancies that you can tell, you know. Why not our SDMO and HI have workshops with the younger generations on the prevention of this infectious spreading diseases. And the firth issue is I would liked to be cleared is how we manage all our waste. First thing we must revive our waste management plan. Second thing is our inspections by our health officials. From here, we are going to have a clean environment and healthy people in Rotuma.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Thank you, Madam for that. Can the Ministry for Health just give us those details on those three key points areas. I believe we have discussed those already. But just to wrap it up for us, the importance of those things you talk about the rubbish and the NGOs. I have already clearly stated the role of the rural local authority. That is the body that when it returns to the frame the operations, it will cover all these basic necessities, the clause that we are discussing here this afternoon. Can the Ministry of Health give us an outline on those three important areas so that we can wrap it up today. Thank you.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Honourable Members of the Committee, the members of the community of the two districts who are here today. Thank you, Madam, for the concern. You know, this is something that the rural local authority can provide solution to once they are reinstated. The provision of sanitary facilities and our wharf here in Rotuma to cater for travelling passengers while waiting for the ferry or when they do disembark from arriving ferries. In terms of the HIV and AIDS, SDMO has confirmed that the hospital is always open for anybody who wants to have the testing done. We will keep it confidential. Feel free to go do not be afraid. Power is when you know your status. That is when you will feel empowered

with that knowledge. And the SDMO will not give out personal information about patients, so you can be rest assured that whatever information of you, will be safeguarded. In response to the condom comment, yes, it is available also there in the hospital. It is right at the counter, you can just go and maybe when no one is looking around, then just grab it from there. But, as I mentioned to the last sitting, we had this morning, the real keyword to, or the real solution towards the spiking in HIV AIDS is, going back to Christianity and the rules that used to be there before. Morality, advising our children to wait for marriage, have only one partner, not to have multiple sexual partners because you never know who has the virus now. If you put a mark on them, some might say, hey lets us run away, the one has the HIV virus and will not be a not good social stigma. Honourable Chairman, I hope that this question has been answered.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Vinaka, honourable Nand, can you please give us an area of concern regarding our discussion on waste management this afternoon.

RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Is there another question?

MR. KAMEA.- I would like to bring the issue of the drinking water in Rotuma. You mentioned here about the boreholes and how safe is the water here especial at times water is closed because breakdown to the pipes and then when you open your tap, the wate is little muddy. That is why I am asking how safe the water is and if there is a person to see that the water is clean and safe to all the consumers here. Thank you.

MS. L. SAVU.- Yes, thank you to the honourable Chairman and the Members of the Committee. Thank you for the question. That is something that most of the members of the community have been asking about. For me, I take my cue from the Ministry of Health and the health inspector who is here in Rotuma. According to health inspector so far, it is all good and there has not been any disease spread through waterborne disease. And according to Water Authority, the water that is coming from the three boreholes are the safest sources compared to the other maritime islands. For Rotuma, we are all well and in good hands. Just like I mentioned, we get a cue from Ministry of Health through the health inspector for Rotuma.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE .- Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Do you wish to say something? HI, thank you can someone give the mic right to out HI.

MS. A. TUWAI.- I have been in the island for four years and five months. For our water, previous years, WAF did not add chlorine. WAF initiated the chlorination this year. When we use tested the water, the Coliform and E. coli percentage used to be high. After the chlorination, we tested the water, and it has gone to the normal water standard. Currently, our water is safe to drink. If you have murky water or muddy water, you can always call me to come and conduct water testing. And for water testing, we will have to take it through the Friday or Wednesday flights. Friday for it to be tested in the water lab in Suva. And for Madam's comment, usually my department, I am the only health inspector here in Rotuma, and for each district I go twice per district from August to August from our business year to the next. For the Juju district, this is my most challenging district, because we usually go through the district chief. I sent a letter beforehand, one week beforehand. We send a letter to the district chief as well as the community health workers for all clean up. We have two visits, that is the surprise visit as well as informing the chief and the community health worker. Both of the cases, people are hardly in their homes, so if they have to find or talk to someone about their compound, we will have to wait for the owner to come back from the farm or from the sea or from Suva, so it is a big challenge. We do two rounds of inspection per district or per village. For AMS, I think our last spraying was done five years ago. That was when our dengue cases increased, we only do the spraying if our dengue cases increase. We do not do a dengue mosquito spray because the mosquito becomes resistant to the spraying and to the chemicals.

RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Thank you very much HI, ladies and gentlemen, that concludes our consultation this afternoon. Just before we close, finally, the Bill, will go to Parliament, it will be passed, it will become law. One of the things that was lacking before was the enforcement part.

MR. PETERO.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Ministers, I would just like to talk about the fines. I find it too harsh because jumping from just $20 to $100 or $1,000 is just too much. I think maybe we should reconsider that. Since it is not yet gazetted, so I think you should go back and reconsider it according to how people earn money especially to the maritime source. Thank you.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Thank you. Would you propose a number?

MR. PETERO.- Just minus the third zero.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- OK, thank you. We welcome your submission, and the Committee takes note of that. Anyway, are there any other questions, comments?

MR. PETERO.- Concerning the wells, especially on the island, we have ancient wells here and I think the fines can be too much if it is to deal with the wells because the wells are not covered up. And I think over here we have to cover the wells up. And I think like what you said earlier about the wells and the swamp. Those, I consider wells should be part of the natural environment instead of man-made boreholes, even though it is dug by men. But if it is left for so long, it should be considered natural because our wells here is beyond, let us say it was being dug for over 100 years old ago. Some are probably over 50 years old. I would say this because I am 50 years, and those wells are here before myself. I think those things should be also reconsidered when it comes to fining people who own wells but do not cover them.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Anyone else wants to say anything? Okay, thank you. Thank you very much. If you look at the Bill itself in a nutshell, it is all about common sense. In a nutshell, it is all about common sense. If there is rubbish, clean it up, if there is spillage, clean it up. You have piggery next to the houses, move it further away from the houses. It is all about common sense. The reason why the Ministry of Health is bringing this in, because we tend to be negligent. We are negligent and casual. I was talking about before I finished my closing, I was talking about the word of enforcement. Look at this Bill, it was there 1935, the fines were $2 and such. Hence you see the MoH are pushing for this Bill to go because of the negligence of people. Everywhere in Fiji, here, wherever, negligence. We are negligent of our own personal health. When the government has to step in to look after us that is why I am saying all this is common sense. Hence, if you see the fines, they have been increased. Their proposals to reduce it, the committee will go and look at it holistically. If you resist it to say what my friend here has asked, $10, will we be negligent? Will we maintain it?

The reason why the fines are there, to deter you from committing that because of the negligence. The sickness that is being caused by all these leptospirosis, dengue fever, they are caused by the negligence of men. We leave our tyres in the village boundary, water gets it, mosquitoes breed. How we breed our pigs, manage our waste according to this Bill is all about common sense. To sum up our consultation here, thank you, ladies and gentlemen for your presence here this afternoon. The Bill is scheduled to be tabled in the September sitting, which is 4 weeks away. We intend to table the Bill back to Parliament, debated, and it shall be passed. Keep in mind, one thing that was lacking before was the enforcement. We will push as a Committee in our recommendations that the Ministry of Health will go forward in enforcement because if we do not enforce what we are trying to put here, there is no point in changing this

law. If we do not enforce or penalise people to do this, there is no point in changing this law. It is all about now enforcing the law. But first of all, you do not need to pay the fine if you just follow rules. Clean up your mess, and things should be better. With that, on behalf of the honourable Chairman and the Members of the Committee, the Ministry of Health delegation, the D.O., parliamentary staff, thank you very much for hosting us to your beautiful village. That concludes our consultation this afternoon,

The Committee adjourned at 1.13 p.m.

The Committee resumed at 3.51 p.m.

Submmittees/Interviewees: Itutiu Motusa

(1)	Gagaj Vakatua	Losa
(2)	Tevita Sosefo	Motusa
(3)	Mosese	Losa
(4)	Lisi Tolo	Motusa

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- It is an honour and privilege to be here with you this afternoon. It has been alluded by the *sevusevu* ceremony that the team in front of you is the Social Affairs Committee team from Parliament, representing the Speaker of the House of Parliament. Our presence here this afternoon, before we actually start with our deliberation on the consultation in front of us, I will ask our honourable Members to introduce themselves. Thank you honourable Members.

(*Introduction of Committee Members and representatives from the Ministry of Health)*

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- I would like to thank you very much honourable members and the technical team from the Ministry of Health. We will start our deliberation this afternoon. Respectively, we are here to hear from the public of this district. In front of us there is an amendment Bill, the Public Health Amendment Bill No. 4 of 2026. It was tabled in Parliament at the beginning of this year. The sole purpose of our outreach here this afternoon is to come to the public and discuss issues of concern. And hopefully you have a copy of that amendment Bill in front of you. I will take you through the history of this Bill. The Public Health Amendment Bill was enacted in 1935, it is 91 years old and the Ministry of Health had already proposed some amendments which is in front of you and hopefully for that amendment is the key area to be looking at on how best we can look at our how we look at our environment, our hygiene, our sanitation and how best you can look at where are the areas that we cover holistically in this clause. Before we continue further, I will ask the Minister Health to give us an overview of the Bill before we discuss the content of the clauses in front of us.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee and members of the community that are present this afternoon. The Public Health Act of 1935, as mentioned by the honourable Chairman, it is already 90 years old. It has about 17 parts, 142 sections and 26 regulations. The main aim of the Public Health Act is to maintain the cleanliness and the good hygiene in the surrounding environment in our communities. It is there to protect and safeguard the health of the public and to prevent future outbreak of diseases. That is basically the main aim of the Public Health Act. You have already heard about a lot of the outbreaks of diseases and that is we have proposed the amendments in this Act to have a proactive approach to prevent potential future outbreaks of these diseases. The primary intent of reviewing of this Fiji Public Health Act of 1935 is to modernise the Act and to align it to global best practices. You will agree with me this afternoon that our surrounding environment is something that affects our health. You will also agree with me that people do not get sick from the hospital, they get sick from the places where they stay like your homes and villages. If we do not maintain cleanliness in our surrounding and the hygiene in our communities, more people will get sick.

If you do not clean the drains and the surrounding environment, do not destroy the breeding grounds in your communities, the mosquitoes will come, they will lay their eggs, they

will hatch, they will fly, and they will bite you again, and we will have an outbreak of dengue fever, and other vector-borne disease. If we do not control animals in our environment, they will urinate and defecate around our compound. When the children will come and play around when there is rain, if you have a cut in your leg or in your hand, when you get exposed to the urine of the infected animal, you will get leptospirosis. And if we do not manage our waste well, whether it is a waste around our surrounding environment or human waste, you will see that there can be an outbreak of diarrhoea diseases and typhoid. This Act brings to the fore the environmental factors that affect our health. This Act also highlights the importance of waste management of the wastewater from the toilet or sanitary facilities to controlling the population of mosquitoes, protecting the water sources to renting of houses back then which did have Airbnb and other types of housing or accommodations that we have nowadays. In addition, this Act covers and regulates diseases that were not in existence 91 years ago like COVID 19 and Monkeypox to name a few. We need to review and amend the law so that we can include the new diseases that are not regulated in the Principal Act.

We also changed the list of the notifiable diseases in the public health type so that we will assist the team in the hospitals to report diseases, those that needs to be reported immediately, those that needs to be reported daily, those who needs to be reported weekly and monthly. Furthermore, there are a lot of the fines that has been included in the new proposal or the amendments that are before you. There are about 69 changes that we have proposed that is there in front of you. The government and the Ministry of Health feels that sixty-nine changes will modernise and assist us in trying to prevent disease burden and the outbreaks in the future. There are a lot of the amendments in the fines to act as a deterrent. In the Principal Act of 1935, fines ranged from $2, $10, $20, accordingly. The new proposed amendment to the fines ranges $50, $100, and right up to $2,000 so that it can deter people in our communities from contemplating to break the Public Health Act. Part of the amendment is the bringing back of the rural local authority, which was removed in 2018, thus weakening the oversight that the Council of Chiefs of Rotuma had over the Public Health Act.

In the Principal Act, under Section 140, outlines that the public health tax should not be applied to the villages. However, when we do our surveillance, we find that every month, every quarter, every year, we captured the increase in the number of typhoid in the rural areas, increase in the number of leptospirosis amongst the Fijian population when compared to others, increase the number of typhoid in the Fijian population, and what we found out that a lot of the iTaukei population, when they come to the hospital, they require the tertiary care. When they come to the hospital, the SDMO has to call for a mercy flight to come from Suva to CWM, or when you come to a health center in Valelevu or in Samabula, the medical officer has to call the ambulance to take people tertiary care.

This trend indicates to us when people are sick, they stay at home, they have the traditional medicine and everything, and hope to get better. Once their sickness is really serious and then they come to the hospital expecting the doctors to look after them and to see them, but when they come to the hospital, they require tertiary care. That is why we feel that we should change the Act so that we can be proactive in the way we deal with our health. We are more responsible of our health. We seem to be cleaning our environment and ensuring the cleanness of our environment so that we can reduce the burden of disease in our country and we can have a healthy and productive population. The aim of the call of the Ministry of Health is to have a healthy population. When we do our job, we will have healthy people in our community. When we have healthy people in the community, we will have a healthy community, a healthy population, a healthy Fiji, and if we have a healthy Fiji, we will have productive people in Fiji that will assist the government improving the economy.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Thank you very much, team from the Ministry of Health. Members of the community that is holistically what we are going to discuss here this afternoon. We already discussed the importance of the overview of the Bill, elaborated by the team from the Ministry of Health. Hopefully, there will be a lot of discussion during this presentation time from the Committee. If you see fit for any amendments, to be included in today's siting, whether you recommend or whether you try to discuss this further with the Committee, feel free to raise your hands up, we will get you the mic. It will be based upon each clause that we will go through with you and will give the option time to come back with any answer that you may see especially when you talk about whether the penalties are too high or too low or any queries or clarity regarding those clauses in front of us. To the public community that are present here this afternoon, we have started from clause one and now we are at clause 14. I hope that we are in the same page.

If you look at clause 14, it is the subheading on the obstruction to the staff of the Ministry of Health. I may start on the importance of the work of the Health Inspectors (HI), especially on the importance of how they perform their tasks when they come up to the community level. They are not covered in the Principal Act of 1935. But we have proposed amendments that covers the roles when they perform their duty, when they have come down to village level. Firstly, you cannot obstruct them from doing their work, by chasing them out your compound or the owners of the property release their dogs to chase the HI out of own of the property. To a serious extent, one of their staff was badly assaulted by a four-by-two timbers in the Western side, which resulted in the hospitalisation of the HI. Clause on 14 really indicates how best we look after these staff from the Ministry of Health when coming to do their work. Any form of obstructions, whether it is physical verbal or whatever contact may arise during their time to perform their task, you are liable to be reprimanded under this clause.

Another area that is very important to look at is how are false information is being spread out to the public. During the COVID, after one, two, three shots that were given to us, another group of people came up with another concept. They said that they can take it out. Most of the people in Fiji, used that method. But from the World Health Organization's perspective, that was meant to cure COVID all around Fiji as well as the country that we are in. For fake information, if you relay false information, to the public, you are liable to be prosecuted. And the fine is from $500 to $1,000. I may ask you, what do you think about that fine on obstruction alone? Is it too much or too low? Or what is your decision here? A lot of the areas that we have covered, they give their opinions on this. They say, since you are staying in the village, it is too high for us. Some places around Fiji, when we went for a consultation, they say it is too low, that it should be more. We need your input on this. Anybody want to give it a go? Just raise your hand. While we are still at close 14, feel free. This is a general discussion area about the Public Health Amendment Bill in front of us.

MR. T. SOSEFO.- Going back to the question, Sir, the fines, I believe in the villages, the fines, if you go around, most of us are unemployed, mostly farmers staying in the villages, so the fines should reflect what we can pay. It is not that we are trying to reduce the penalties, but we should ensure that people will be able to pay the fines. If we put a $500 fine for a person sitting in the village, I believe, it will take a person at least three to four months to go and cut the copra to pay all that fine. It will take time. But if intend to increase the fines, we should look at the category for the outer islands in comparison to the urban areas. The rural areas should be different in the sense that it should be slightly lower. The urban areas should have a different rate and the rural areas should have a different rate, depending on the income of the people.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Can you give us an idea which figure you are looking at to break it down for rural areas, especially here in Rotuma?

MR. T. SOSEFO.- See, that will depend on the severity of the case. If dealing with the dogs and pigs or the cattle. I think the pigs, will cause a lot more damage to the farms when compared to dogs, who are capable of spreading diseases. We will look at around about $100 to $200.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- $100 to $200.

MR. T. SOSEFO.- Yes, Sir.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Since we are talking about the obstruction of the staff, if you are recommending the fines to be dropped to $100 to $ 200, the Committee is happy to take that on board. It will be based on our matrix when we go back to Suva, finalising all the reports from Rotuma and all the recommendations from other places in Fiji. If this is the case, we will move forward. We will go straight to clause number 15 to 22. It is about the penalties and this is very important for all of you to understand when we talk about the medical officer, about their health, when we talk about any nuisance, when we talk about any breeding places for mosquitoes, that you will not attempt to, even though you were given a fine, to clear all those rubbish, like a tyre or a place that has stagnant water in our village. For the penalty part, I will ask honourable Bia to brief us on the importance of how the fine and the penalties are being worked out according to this amendment Bill.

HON. A. BIA.-Vinaka Chairman, through you. Now, just on the fines, if you look at the document that is in front of you, number 18 and number 39, it talks about fines. As I have alluded to by the question that was posed by the honourable Chairman, in terms of fines from 1935 when this law was enacted up until now 91 years later, a lot of fines still falls on $2, $5 and $10. Now what the Ministry of Health proposes is that the fines that need to be lifted so that it matches the way and the lifestyle we are living in at the moment. There are a lot of new diseases coming in. COVID-19 is a good example and apart from COVID-19, there are a lot of other new diseases coming from around the world. Now we cannot determine whether it will come to our shores or not. Now what we can do is to try and protect ourselves from these kinds of diseases. Now some of the diseases that are easily spread, like what's in the current Bill, like leptospirosis, typhoid, dengue fever, a lot of these diseases that are killing lives at the moment. We can easily prevent it while we are at home. Now if you maintain good hygiene and cleanliness at your house and at your community or at your village, these diseases will not easily spread in the village. Now the fines are being proposed and in many of the places we have visited, some say the fines are too much. Even we have had submissions that fines should be less than the proposed amount.

Those in the urban centres pay more and we in the village, in the maritime islands, in the remote communities, pay less. Now these are some of the suggestions that we had received. Now, for the fines that have been proposed by the Ministry of Health, one might ask, is the government running out of money that it has increases fine? No. Your life is important. Life cannot be bought. When sickness or disease comes, it does not care whether you are poor or rich. These fines act as a deterrent. It gives you the responsibility to look after your children, look after the future of Rotuma, look after the future of your district. Now you are responsible so that when you see someone putting rubbish carelessly or there is a tyre lying carelessly and an empty container that can breed mosquitoes, you will have the responsibility, okay, you will need to take that away. If not, you will be fine, $500,000, $200, depending on the severity of the offensive committed. Now it gives you the responsibility so that you can protect the future of your district and the future of Rotuma in the coming years. You can make suggestions if the

fines are too high like the gentleman raised a good point earlier. Penalty should vary and the Chairman said we have accepted that suggestion. Now those are some of the discussions that we have in terms of the fines. From 1935, $2, or $5 were fines and when Ministry of Health takes someone to court, the offender will pay the fine, will return home and will leave the tire there in the compound, even though the tire can be a breeding place for more mosquitoes the community. Moreso, the low fines are no longer a deterrent because anyone can easily pay 2 or $5 fine. But when you put $500, $200 or even $1,000, you will show that communal responsibility. You will remind yourself that you will need to look after your family, you need to look after your people in the village, because if you are not careful, the high fines will apply accordingly.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Any question, any clarity from yes, can I have a mic down there? We still on the fine.

MR. T. SOSEFO.- Still on fines, some of the places that we have cleaning up, are vacant and the owners are in overseas or Fiji. We are working and cleaning it, but we are not coping. If the fines come, will HI fine the people who owns the vacant lot or will the HI fine the community?

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Very good question. It was raised in earlier in the first consultation. Once this Bill is passed into law, whoever the owner is, he or she will be responsible for the fine, whether it is vacant house, or a vacant lot. As long as it breeds mosquitoes that will lead to dengue fever and all these sorts of diseases that surround us, the government will play a role to foresee and come down and try to track down who is the owner of that property. And I hope that this one is very clear. Nobody is left behind. You play your part in your community? Let the government play their role in identifying the owner of the property because in this Bill they are covered by the ownership of the said lot or the said house. Does that answer your question?

MR. T. SOSEFO.- Addition, Sir, looking at the communities within Rotuma, there is a lot of buildings sitting there, either partly damaged or 90% or 80% damages. Those buildings too cause a lot of a health hazard within the community. What do you think of those kinds of issues?

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- We have already talked about that. They are all covered. Whether it is vehicle, whether it is half damaged or whatever, the law is very clear. We will track down who is the owner of that property. If it is a breeding place for mosquitoes, which can cause dengue fever or even if you keep animals beside the house, it will be easy to track it down because we have got the people that will be running you down, especially the Ministry of Health, and there will be a special committee. We already mentioned it in our briefing; we will have to have those rural local authorities back into the picture. These are the arms, the mechanism of the Ministry of Health, that will come down. It was taken out in 2018 by the last administration. There is a proposal in this Amendment Act to get back that body that will be looking after Rotuma with the Ministry for Health and the Health Inspectors will walk hand in hand. The mechanism in place is very straightforward. That will be the task of the government to oversee all those things. Any other questions? We will go straight to clause 26 to 35, beginning at clause 26. It states about the existing list of nuisance and offensive trades. This is very important for us to understand and how they are in our society. There had been lots of discussion on this topic on our trip all around Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. And hopefully, you are not left out here on the island of Rotuma. I will ask the Ministry of Health to brief us shortly on the importance of nuisance as well as the offensive trade.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, Gagaj and members of the district. There is a section in the Act which has been cleaned up in this proposed Bill, which is called the nuisance. Nuisance is any work that is done in such a way that it can cause sickness. The way you dispose of your wastewater, the way you keep your animals, the way you dispose of your rubbish, if it is in a way that it is injurious to health, then that becomes a nuisance. Under the proposed Bill, there are 19 categories of nuisance. And for each category, if you are found to have non-compliance, then you will be fined with a fine that is fitting to that particular category, depending on the severity or the risk that it poses to human health. A basic example that you might relate to, is if you have a septic tank that is leaking and it is going onto the surface of the soil, your neighbour can smell, the children are playing and they are exposed to that and if the officer comes out and they tell you to improve and you do not improve and they fine you for that, maybe $200 or $300, and then you are given a time period for you to work on improving the urgent nuisance. Failure to improve on that, you will receive a further fine of $100 for every day that you do not do any improvement. The basic aim is to safeguard the community. Everyone has the right to feel safe where they dwell and that is in relation to nuisance. We have a range of fines from $100 to $1,000, depending on the risk, the fine will be given accordingly. A very small nuisance may be $100. A life-threatening nuisance is $1,000 fine. If you cannot pay them, maybe three months imprisonment will be the alternative. This is something, again, not to punish you, but something to be at the back of your mind to deter non-compliance.

When the men finish the work and they open their tin of corned beef, the women will be say, Hey, hey, you put the corned beef in the bin. If you throw it outside, you will be going to get the fine of $200, or $300. These are things that we call a deterrent. Before it happens, you are starting to give warning and things like that. The second part of the amendment Bill is about the offensive trades. Offensive trades, just like the name suggests, is offensive in nature. These are businesses that, in the way that they run their business, they are either very loud or very smelly or they produce by-products that can be injurious to human health. Cement factories and abattoirs, big piggeries, or huge chicken sheds can be classified as offensive traders. Before, there were no controls. Anybody can just come and build their offensive trade beside your village. There is this particular one that has been bothering some parliamentarians because had been receiving calls regarding the Vunivaivai chicken farm. This chicken farm produces foul smell and a lot of flies. The villagers in Vunivaivai cannot enjoy their life. When they eat in one piece of cassava, maybe 5,000 flies will be there. That is the nuisance that the chicken shed is bringing to the community. And now when they complain to health, they cannot do anything upon it because the chicken is already there. The chicken farm is already there and it supplies to the supermarket and the supermarket is supplies it to the people to eat. If they take it away, maybe there will be no food for the people.

But the idea now is put it in the Bill, put a control mechanism in there saying anybody who wants to operate any business that is classified under offensive trade must be approved by Ministry for Health before they start. If you receive an application saying one chicken shed want to build next to Motusa village, we will come and we will see if it is too close to us, we will say, no, because of the potential nuisance it will create.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- We are still on that subject. I will ask the Ministry for Health to get it further when we talk about venereal diseases. It is part of that subject we are already in. They are not expecting this, they will explain it to us. Listen carefully because when we talk about AIDS, the number of cases on Rotuma has just been confirmed by SDMO.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, and honourable Members of the Committee, ladies and gentlemen. There is a section called venereal disease in the Public Health Act that we also

want to stress a little bit to include what we are currently undergoing now in Fiji. As you know, there is a spike in HIV and AIDS. Venereal diseases are all sexually transmitted illnesses and diseases. They are inclusive of syphilis, gonorrhoea, and all different types. It is also inclusive of HIV/AIDS. Previously there used to be one penalty there. If someone is seen by a good doctor here, that has positive with one of the STIs or STDs, usually they will be give the medication and the doctor tells that person to go back home and for 30 days, s/he will have to abstain from having sexual relationships with anyone.

With the review at the end of the month, if the person is healthy, then the doctor will advise the person that it is safe to resume sexual commitments but to be cautious of having multiple unprotected sexual partners. If that person returns to the village and within the 30 days starts to go around, disregarding the doctor's advice about abstaining from sexual intercourse then villagers go to the doctor having symptoms similar to yours, the doctor will do the investigation and ask, okay, have you had sexual intercourse with anyone in the last few weeks? And if they give the same name of that person that the doctor had advised earlier to abstain, then that person will be charged. It is in the Act; the current charge is $20. If we keep it at $20, everybody will just continue having casual unprotected sex everywhere. That is why we have increased it to $2,000. If you cannot pay, then you will be imprisoned for the length of months stipulated in the amended Act. So again, this is fair to safeguard the people in our communities.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Vinaka, any question from anyone?

MR. T. SOSEFO.- Vinaka Sir, talking about the nuisance part of the fines, within the community we have a lot of children. When they dispose of their children's diapers, if they do not dispose the diapers well, the dogs will carry them around the village. That is a nuisance. What kind of find do will the offender face, Sir?

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- The fine is very clear when you look about the clause that is there. It is all covered in the clause. If you have time, go through those 69 clauses on nuisance. It covers rubbish, any leakage from the sewer line, nuisance when we have these business coming up lately and covers as rubbish. It's very clear. But we do not go item by item. That will be covered under our regulations. For the law, when we talk about rubbish, it covers whatever sorts of rubbish is there in the amendment. We will go through to clause 41. If you look at clause 41, there is no specific mention of short-term rental. Most of our visitors who come here, including us, stay in these Airbnb. It is not only Airbnb, covers the hotel, the homestays, and those rented buildings back in our urban centers. If you want to run these types of business, you have to seek registration from the Ministry of Health (MoH). The reason is that MoH will come and inspect whether that house is fit for human beings to stay in because they will be paying, and the owners will have to provide the acceptable standards nowadays. We are looking at it from the perspective of how best we can work with our healthy, hygiene, living, as well as sanitation. Currently, anybody can make up his own business like an Airbnb. Everybody can come and stay with the family or even little towns where entrepreneurs can provide rental quarters for visitors.

Likewise, when this Bill will be passed, we are looking at the 28th of September to pass this in Parliament, which will be include all those who are running these types of businesses, throughout Fiji and Rotuma, who will be bound by these bylaws. The Ministry of Health will give you the clearance of go-ahead based on their inspection. When they see if it is good for human health and occupation, then they will give you the go-ahead to have this type of businesses. These are referred to past experiences which they faced where some of the rental quarters, where the owners are staying on the double-storey building. The leakage from the sewer line drops down to where they were having their dinner as well as in their sitting room.

Currently, there is no laws covering and safeguarding those who were renting from these types of unsanitary conditions. The implementation of this Amendment Act will cover all those areas. Any questions so far? And I hope that we are going on the same page. Remember, I did mention that the more we discuss, the more we seek audience from the society and how best we can talk about issues of consent related to what is happening here in Rotuma, that will help us when we go and finalise our reports before tabling. Let us go straight to 48 to 52. It is about the diseases that is spread by mosquitoes. The Ministry for Health are the expert on this. I will ask them to give us an overview of these diseases that are being spread by the mosquitoes, especially in our area here in Rotuma. Ministry of Health.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Mr. Chairman, and honourable Members of the Committee, ladies and gentlemen, so there is a section in the Public Health Act that is titled Mosquitoes. This section focuses on ways in which we can prevent the breeding of mosquitoes which is one of the major causes of diseases in Fiji. Diseases like dengue fever, lymphatic filariasis and the Zika virus. If you have forgotten about the Zika virus, this was a very big thing sickness five to six years ago. This virus causes your head to be very small, maybe like a coconut and you can be very big, muscular but a very small head. It is a virus that is spread by mosquitoes. This is an ongoing battle by the Ministry of Health to try get rid of mosquitoes in the communities. However, still people are breeding mosquitoes, by carelessly leaving empty tires in their compound and throwing tins around. When it rains, mosquitoes breed in these tyres and empty tins and more mosquitoes bite and spread illnesses around. In reaction to that, we have put some amendments to that section of the Bill.

Now, there are a three-tiered penalty. Before, there used to be only one type of penalty in terms of mosquito. If we find a mosquito, the baby mosquito in one of the vessels at home, we will charge you for that. And the penalty is $10. But now we have put 3 categories of penalties. One, if you have a container. There is no water in it yet. There is a tire, there is a container, there is a tin, anything that can store water. If we find one of these in your compound, that is the first level of fine. The reason is because when it rains overnight the mosquitos can use it as a breeding site anytime. This is prevention. We do not want to be reactive, but proactive. The second one, if we find a receptacle and there is water in it. That is the second category of fine. And the third fine, if you see container with water with mosquito. That will be level 3, dry container, wet container or any container. This will deter people and encourage individuals every morning instead of morning runs or walk, you can clean premises to ensure that there are no breeding sites for mosquitoes.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Any questions on concerning what was discussed? Okay, we will move forward. We will go straight to clauses 54-55. It is about the standard of maritime vessels, as well as the ship masters, who are failing to maintain the sanitary level in their vessels. I believe we have been discussing about vessels for quite some time, especially for a second day. The importance of those who travel by these vessels is for the MoH to ensure through constant checks on the breeding places of cockroaches, insects, bed bugs and all these other insects that are a pest these ships and the vessels. From the Ministry of Health, they have their check on all these vessels for every six months. And remember the contingency for the movements of these vessels, is when they finish from here, they go to another port, whether it is Natovi or other maritime zones like Nabouwalu. The ship captains have discussed this issue for the Ministry of Health to come on board and have a look at the safety standards of each vessel when we talk about high hygiene standards. When this Bill is amended, they will definitely be looking at maybe once in a month to go around and they have their staff to oversee the importance of safety, health, hygiene, as well as sanitation. Anyone want to ask any question with regard to the boats that go in and out of Rotuma? We had some complaints from

our last presentation about the in wharf in Oinafa that does not have a place for washroom purposes. We have taken that on board. It is not in the Bill, but since it has been brought up to our attention, we will ensure that we will go back and report to the respective department to oversee all those hygienic areas of living whereby we do realise when you go out to wait for the ship, it takes time. It can be delayed for one or two hours, and these basic amenities should be provided. We are talking about the amount of time remains, and hopefully, this Bill that is being amended and presented to Parliament will become the bylaws of our country, we will look at those areas that I have lighted recently. Any other concern? Someone want to add some other information regarding what they are facing daily within the community. If not, we will move straight to the final section and end of this public consultation. It is from 59-60 right up to 67. which mostly is about our rural water catchment. I will ask the honourable Niudamu to brief us on this.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- For the water catchment, it is very simple health and hygiene issue. When there is a well here, or when you have any form of water source, it is against our health standards to go and do something near or around it. The problem in Viti Levu, is that there are plenty of villagers and landowners. They go to their land, and they start planting cassava, where the source of the water is. These problems arise all over some areas in Viti Levu and then they come up to the health department and even the village council cannot solve it. This law was made specifically for that where there is a water source somewhere, nobody, even the landowners are not allowed to go and contaminate the source. Furthermore, you are not allowed to go nearby or build the houses close to the water source because we know various wastes will infiltrate and contaminate the water source. The fines are high not to punish individuals but to deter individuals from being careless and irresponsible. We are talking about people who refuse to see logic and refuse to listen and a high fine will let them comply almost instantly.

Otherwise, they will continue repeating the same offence. We call it in criminal law, reoffending, because after serving time in prison, this person commits another crime or a health infringement from the Public Health Act because fines are so small that it hardly breaks the back of the offender especially when the fines range from $2 to $20. For instance, a court order might require an offender to pay $5, and this amount does not act as a deterrent to the offender and that is one of the reasons some people reoffend. I understand what the gentleman is saying. There are plenty requests from where we were yesterday about the fines, but as the honourable Chairman had said, you know, the purpose of the punishment is to deter.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- That is the actually the summary of the 69 clause in front of us. If there's any further question, yeah, gentleman at the back. When we make it this, it will be the final one before we wrap it up this afternoon.

MR. T. JOSEFA.- This is a general question concerning water. We in Rotuma face a lot of problems with the water authority. They close the water for 12 hours and at times we do not have water for a day or two. This is a daily occurrence we are tired of complaining. The water is turned off at the times when we need, early in the morning and is opened in the afternoon. There are some families that do not have water tanks, and these families suffer the most. I know, we are told to store water but some families do not have enough storage. If the family is big, they do not have enough water for their basic needs. I am asking if WAF can work to ensure that all families receive ample water especially at peak hours and to cut down on the prolonged water cuts

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- I can see the inspector is here. You might have some information on that. Can I have the mic to the Inspector just to give us some light on the

importance of the shortage of water here in Rotuma. She is the right person to advise us before we will take the further step to go back to the Water Authority of Viti Levu Head Office in Suva. Thank you, Health Inspector.

HON. A. BIA.- Have the water authority given reasons as to why they closed the water?

MR. T. SOSEFO.- They said they do not have money to pay for the overtime of the men operating after hours.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- We will take that on board. That is what they are saying here to Rotuma. But we will check with the executive team to give us an answer.

MR. MOSESE.- My question is, I am not sure whether this can work, but I have just got an idea. I worked at Intercontinental for 15 years in Natadola. Now we talk about waste management, and this is what I have learned in the tourism industry. When we recycle, we ask the villagers to help clean up the beaches and collecting all the bottles and plastic bottles and collectively we send it back to the company for recycling. In return, the money was paid by the hotel is shared amongst the villagers. Now, I am just thinking about waste management here. What if the government can help us with the environment? For example, when we talk about rubbish, we can get the communities to clean up our villages by recycling all the beer bottles, plastic water bottles, plastics and tins. It is just a proposal if we can assist by keeping our environment clean, by recycling in every district of the villages, can that happen here in Rotuma? All we need is for the government to impose more workshops in the villages on the importance of environment because there is a saying that clean environment, clean, healthy people. I am asking if the government can help us in doing that? I am just trying to say that what I saw in Fiji, if we can do that in the villages, we can do it also on the islands? A recycling process can help us and if we do this, our children will learn it. They will see it, and they will learn it. It is just the effect of health and safety. Can we recycle here at Rotuma? If this works, I tell you, we will have our communities clean safe and beautiful, not only for our own health, but to protect the sea and the maritime by keeping this island clean. That is what I am asking.

HON. I.S. VANAWALU.- Sir, we will take note of that. I believe it was already happening by the last village that we left. It was not working because there was no monetary part of it. Since we are trying to get back the rural local authority, this is a mechanism in place that they will oversee all these projects. They will liaise with other NGOs who are actually running all these types of recycling purposes. And so it will be easy because they pay rates. We talk about urban centers, there are urban centers that are assisted the NGOs. And here when we talk about the frame of moving around here and there, hopefully when the body is coming back here to Rotuma, that will facilitate all those requests. For your information, we have noted that it will be part of our discussion when we go back to Parliament.

MS. L. TOLO.- Thank you very much for all the fines and all the regulations that we have put in for us the people. Thank you very much for all the regulations and fines that is imposed for us people. My concern is he talked about AIDS, he talked about viruses, and we have an international port of call and the airport. And we have airborne diseases that can be brought into us. Is there anything government can do on their side to protect us from visitors and people who come on the boats? Health-wise, I know there is nothing at the moment, and it is free for you to travel and are welcome here any time. But that is my concern, with all these fines for us, can something be done regarding this. For people coming in, bringing in the AIDS, HIV, all these STIs and STDs, can the government monitor this? Thank you.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Thank you. Thank you very much for the question. A very good question. Probably the best example I would give is say COVID. COVID

19 broke barriers, broke boundaries, broke borders. The best example would be that. Currently for HIV, what I understand from the Ministry of Health, the law says that you cannot disclose the information about the infected person(s). That is what the law says. It complies with what the constitution says, the right to privacy and the human rights. But they are well aware of who has the disease. We definitely take that into consideration. Firstly, we have to look at what if there are other laws that cover that, because I am sure after COVID hit, there was some kind of mechanisms in place by the minister to stop it from ever happening again. But I am not sure as to the extent of fines, whether we fine someone or no. The current law, it is signed. There is nothing there that covers your question. But do you challenge the Committee to go and look at other laws, whether they cover that? Because I am certain some laws might cover that. But I am not too sure about the fines. If someone comes in with HIV, you cannot fine them. That is what I understand at the moment. But thank you for raising that. Any other questions? Yes.

MR. R. SOSEFO.- Just a question on findings for Rotuma Island. I am pretty sure you guys have been everywhere around the island. Just to your left or the right you might see there is a swamp everywhere. Things that we cannot control. It is a main breeding source for all these mosquitoes. Is there any way you guys can supply us with mosquito traps or anything like that that can help us bring the number of mosquitoes down.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- I am sure we can probably make a request directly to the Ministry of Health. They are here, after this you can see them face to face, probably ask if there is anything in the Ministry of Health, or cabinet that can source some funding. If not, probably the DO. But for my information, I am not too sure if there is any funding for the swamp and all those things. Probably the best people to answer that would be the Ministry of Health who are here. You can meet them straight after this before they leave you can come and ask them.

MR. MOSESE.- My question is something that is based on the welfare of children I am talking about drugs. We got people coming on boats and airplanes and last year the Division Commander said that the drug has not reached Rotuma yet. I am pleading for the safety of our children; can the security be more tightened on things coming from the wharf by boat or by plane. We do not want our children here to be influenced by what has happened. We do not want the drugs to this in our island and our children to be affected. That is the only thing I am asking, can security be more tightened on things coming from the our ports of entry before it reaches the island.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- And I take note of your concern that you raised. You make a very important point, that is the biggest issue that the country is facing right now, the battle, the war against drugs. I am on another Committee, and we are looking at the Police Bill. We are also looking into that issue. What we are trying to impose is that before any ship moves to outer islands, because of the concern that you raise, to have K9 units search the ships first before the boats leave. The current practice is only when the boats come in then they use the K9 units at the Suva wharf. We want to reverse it, we want to put it in the law before any vessels go to the islands, they search these vessels using the K9 units. Probably we can address that to the Airports Fiji Limited and other ports of entry where thorough searches are done with the assistance of the K9 unit. But you make a very good valid point, Sir. Thank you very much.

MR. T. JOSEFA.- I am going to take you back to clause 16, General Building requirements. My question is, Sir, will this law take the same standard with Fiji and Rotuma or will this be applied differently?

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- The very simplest form of answer is all the same because when the law is passed, it cannot be applied 50 percent to some, 50 percent. The law applies fairly and there might be some variables but applied 100 percent on everyone fairly, whether in the Rotuma or in the furthest island in Lau. The law has to be fairly applied throughout the country. Anyone else? No one else? Comments, questions? OK, very well. Thank you. Since there are no other questions and comments, ladies and gentlemen, we have been sitting for some time. The sun is setting on this beautiful island. Firstly, let me take this time on behalf of the honourable Chairperson and Gagaj and to you ladies and gentlemen who are here this afternoon, thank you very much for availing yourselves to take time out of your busy day to come and hear what the Committee has for us, basically what the government is proposing to do. In a very, very simplest form, ladies and gentlemen, I want to tell you whatever we will agree today is common sense. The government just trying to put it in black and white, pen and paper, to make it fancy or to make it work because all the things that we are discussing today is common sense. If there is rubbish, do something about it. If your septic tank is leaking, do something about it. If you have tyres and they are filling up with waters, do something about it. That is all common sense. That is all common sense. I told the last place before we came here, it is our negligence that has brought government to bring this kind of law. Our negligence, negligence brings leptospirosis. Our negligence brings dengue fever. Our negligence is when people die.

On behalf of this Committee, we urge you, do not be negligent when it comes to waste matters, on rubbish matters. The Ministry of Health are focusing so hard on the higher property people. The honourable Ratu Niudamu, yesterday he was telling us, we are the only two last indigenous left people here on this island. The point that he was trying to say that keep our population healthy. We are the last remaining ones. Our children will come later, they will replace us. The Ministry of Health has come up with this proposed Bill, proposed composition of these laws to strengthen our health because we are negligent. That is the nature of us. People are negligent. The nature of the human nature is negligent.

We are negligent. We do things just to do, but you do not know what you do can lead up to something. Septic tank is leaking, do something about it. If you do not do something about it, the law will apply. And once the law applies, do not complain because you were told to do something about it. This is all common sense. This law has been here from 1935. We are in 2026 now and so the message from the Committee and probably from the Ministry of Health, use your common sense, keep our environment clean, keep our families healthy. If there is rubbish, clean it, if there is waste, do something about it. No need to complain, just do something about it. Keeping in mind this law will also enforce the Rotuma Council.

The Rotuma Council and the health inspectors will have the powers to enter premises. If there are things nuisance, that may cause harm, cause seekers, they can be empowered by this law to enter these premises because of our negligence. The negligence is human nature. We just have to do something about it. You cannot take negligence away. It is part of human nature. Just try and make yourself better. That is probably the whole message that we were trying to bring today. On behalf of the honourable Chairman, the Committee Members, the representatives from the Ministry of Health and the staff from the Parliament, we thank you very much for coming in this afternoon and having your say. And that concludes our consultation for this afternoon.

GAGAJ VAKATUA.- Mr. Chairman, Members of the Standing Committee, and the technical officers, the police officers, and on behalf of the chiefs, the sub-chiefs, and the immediate members, I would like to take this time to thank you for the audience, the presentation that you have convened this afternoon in sharing mostly in addressing some of our

issues in which this Bill should give us conviction, responsibility as to what we should do and to think twice before obstructing of any health worker that would benefit the community. And I know that, as I have said, before, we already started a waste management project. I already advised all communities on what to do. And I am sure that they will all follow because it is not an order, it is a guideline to safety, to safeguarding our health and in guarding our resources, our environment and our heritage. And I believe that today I know some of the comments are about the penalties. But the penalty is something to think about before committing an offense. No matter how much the penalty is, it is only we to learn from the mistakes. Today we thank you because I know you have other plans this afternoon, but a message to the community, this is something that we should take heed of and notice the penalties. It comes in categories. It comes in forms which we do not expect. But expect this, it is our sole responsibilities for our community, the health, and the people of the island. With these few words and message, we thank you very much sincerely.

The Committee adjourned at 4.51 p.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL (BILL NO. 4 0F 2026)

VENUE: Malha'a Village, Malha'a District Hall

DATE: Friday, 28th August, 2026

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL HELD AT MALHA'A DISTRICT HALL ON FRIDAY, 28TH AUGUST, 2026 AT 9.20 A.M.

Present

(1)	Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	Chairman
(2)	Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure	Deputy Chairman
(3)	Hon. A. Bia	Member
(4)	Hon. J.N. Nand	Alternate Member
(5)	Hon. Ratu J.B. Niudamu	Alternate Member

Ministry of Health & Medical Services

(1)	Mr. Toga Vosataki	National WASH Coordinator
(2)	Mr. Luke Vonotabua	Acting Chief Health Inspector
(3)	Mr. Kelekele Inikasio	Sub Divisional Medical Officer (Rotuma)
(4)	Ms Anaisi Tuwai	Health Inspector (Rotuma)

Interviewee/Submittee: **Malha'a Village**

(1)	Mr. Taio R. Vaurosi	Pephaua
(2)	Mr. Fuata Kamoe	Elseé
(3)	Mr. Rave Tiuhea	Elseé
(4)	Mr. Eliesa Aisake	Pephaua
(5)	Mr. Jonathan Lobendahn	Pephaua

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much to the district of Malha'a for giving us the opportunity to be here this morning. Our apology for interrupting your normal programme. We are aware of what is happening on the other side of the island because of the youth 7s tournament. I believe some of our Committee Members are making their way since we find it difficult to communicate through the phones because the network is done at the moment. We will start it off and we will see how best we can try to present to you and hear your views. In front of us is the Public Health Amendment Bills Number Four of 2026, which was tabled in Parliament this year. Before we start, we will introduce ourselves.

(*Introduction of Committee Members and representatives from the Ministry of Health)*

Once the other honourable Members join us, they will introduce themselves. Apart from the team over here, we got also the team from Parliament, the secretariate team, who are here with us plus, the SDMO and the Health Inspector (HI) who are part of this engagement here in our village. When you talk about Public Health Amendment Bill, and I hope you got a copy, there are 69 clauses in front of us. We will go through the major 9 key areas that need to be discussed this morning. On the outset of our discussion this morning, when you talk about the history of the Bill, the purpose and the objective part of it, I will give the floor to the Ministry of Health to give us a brief scope of the intent, the objectives and the key aim of this amendment, Ministry of Health.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee and our members of the community in Malaha. This piece of legislation that the Standing Committee on Social Health is bringing to our community today is called the Public Health Act, enacted in 1935, and it is around 91 years old now. The reason why we feel that the government and the Ministry for Health feel needs to review and change the Public Health Act so that we can suit the global best practices. The main aim of The Public Health Act is to maintain the cleanliness and the good hygiene of our surrounding environment and the surrounding of our communities. Its main aim is to safeguard and to protect the health of the public and to prevent future outbreaks of diseases. In the past, we have gone through a lot of outbreaks, one of which just happened 4 years ago which was the COVID-19 outbreak.

We also had an outbreak of dengue fever, typhoid and leptospirosis and all that. This Act is there to protect and safeguard our health and to prevent a future outbreak of diseases. You will agree with me that people do not get sick when they are in the hospital. We get sick from the communities that we represent, or we live in. You agree? We get sick from the communities we live in. And a lot of the things surrounding us, surrounding our communities, our environment that is surrounding us, affects our health if we do not take care of it. You agree? If you do not keep our compound clean, if we do not address our waste management in the communities, then we all know that the waste will attract the flies, the cockroaches and the rats.

After the children play around with the waste in our surrounding environment, in the communities, around with the waste, the flies will fly to our food. If the food is not covered, they will infect our food. The cockroaches and the rats, they will play around with the waste and then they come inside the house and then they will play around with our food too. This tells us that our environment is very important because it can affect our health. If you do not destroy the breeding grounds of our receptacles, like, the tins, the coconut shell, the bottles, empty one that are around our communities, when it rains, it will contain water, the mosquitoes will come, they will lay their eggs and will hatch between10 days, 12 days. The mosquitoes will fly, and we will have a good number or maybe a higher density of the mosquitoes, other mosquitoes will be high in our communities and then they will bite us and infect us. And then they bite us, they suck our blood and can release more eggs and then we can get dengue. And the next thing you see will be an outbreak of dengue in our communities.

If we do not keep the animals properly, the dogs, our pets around properly in our communities, they will go around, they will defecate around, they will urinate around, and then the children will come and play again on the ground, and then they get contaminated with the urine and the faeces. And if that particular domestic pet or animal around the community is sick or has leptospirosis, then that bacteria will enter through the wounds of our children, and our members of the community, and then they will get sick with leptospirosis. If we do not keep our surrounding clean, ensuring the waste from our toilets, from our sink, from our bathroom is not drained out properly, then you will see the wastes all over the place. The children will also come and play on the ground, and they can get the scabies and other skin diseases, other children can get sick. There are a lot of the things that are there in the 69 clauses. These are the changes that the Government and the Ministry for Health is proposing in the amendments to this Bill to assist, to protect our health and to prevent future outbreaks. These are the 69 changes that are there. One of the notable changes that you will see in the 69 clauses that is in front of you are the increase in the fines, for non-compliance.

Previously, if the inspector comes to this community and goes to your house and sees the receptacle has water and has mosquito larva, s/he will charge you $10. This is hardly a deterrent because $10 is quite easy to pay, but when people do not pay, we take s/he to court, the magistrate will them, you have $10? And if s/he will reply yes, I have $10, and s/he will pay the $10, but still this individual has the receptacles that is still breeding the mosquitoes in his or her compound. However, this time around, in the proposed amendment Bill, we had increased the fines to deter people from breeding mosquitoes and to ensure that they are doing the cleanliness of the surrounding environment to prevent outbreak of diseases in our community. Our hospitals, our health system are inundated with those suffering from hypertension and diabetes. When we do not clean our surrounding environment, and then there is an outbreak of disease, that will affect our services in the hospital, because we will have a good number of people coming there, because there is an outbreak.

When you are not seen on time, then you will complain to the Minister for Health or to the divisional medical officer, you will claim that you were waiting for 2 hours in the hospital, but no medical staff attended to you, and this creates more stress, and your sickness does not get better. You might say, I sat there in the hospital, nobody saw me. I came there was no doctor. But the work is very easy and very simple for us, just to clean our surrounding environment so that we can prevent diseases in our communities. That is very simple. It is very simple. You just have to clean your surroundings so that you will ensure that you cut the chain of the infections that are going to happen, and that people will be healthy. The aim of the Ministry for Health is to have a healthy population. Healthy population will start from us. You need to be a healthy individual and a healthy community. When we have a healthy community, we will have a healthy district. When we have a healthy district, we will have a healthy Fiji. And when we have healthy people living in Fiji, we will be having productive people. And when people are productive, we will be able to contribute to the economy of this nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much Ministry for Health. That is the scope, the initial stage of the Bill, when you talk about the objectives and how the Bill is being modelled down in terms of having 69 amendments in. The Ministry for Health has given us a very clear picture of the amendments itself. And I hope that all of us are here will understand English. If there is none, we got an interpreter who is here with us too. He is from Rotuma and he can digest more on the subject area that we will discuss this morning. We are all good to move forward. Let us go straight to it, if you remember that documents in front of you, to the clauses from 1 to 14, that were mostly covered by the Ministry for Health. One important area that needs to be clarified and further discussed is one here at Malha'a. When we talk about the welfare of the Ministry for Health, when they come down to your district to do their work, clauses 1 to 14, especially for 1, 14 to 16, it clearly dictates if there is any obstruction from the villagers or around the district when we talk about how best our staff from the Ministry for Health or the Health Inspector to come and do their work. I will ask the Ministry for Health to brief us on the importance of obstruction of the staff during their work in the village or in the district.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Thank you, honourable Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee, ladies and gentlemen. This particular clause in the amendment Bill aims not only safeguard officers on the ground but also make the work that they do a little bit easier. We have past experiences where our officers, while trying to conduct their work, have been chased from the village, chased from the premises, Sometimes the owner of the premises released their dogs to chase after our officers. Sometimes they use the cane knives to threaten them. And even they go as far as physically abuse of our officers. And if this happens, if this

continues to happen, our officers will not feel confident to come into the community to carry their work. And therefore, they will not sufficiently protect your health as they should do on a daily basis. The basics of the Ministry for Health is to protect your health, the citizens of Fiji. That is why we have included a clause in that proposed Bill that is in front of you, saying that anybody who interferes with the work that officers do, whether you chase them, whether you threaten them, or even if you give them false information, you can be charged under that particular clause, which is the obstruction clause. You can be charged with a total of $500. If you cannot pay the $500 within the time allocated, three months imprisonment is the sentence that will be given by the magistrate. That is in regard to the obstruction of the officers of the Ministry for Health, honourable Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.-Any question on that clause, clause 14, from 1 to 14? Can I have the mic over to the side? Please just say your name and your district and focus on the subject that we are currently on.

MR. T. VAUROSI.- I am 74 years old. I will be talk about cleanliness. Before, when I was young, Rotuma was beautiful because at the time, the chiefs worked together with the DO and the HI. They inspected the district from one end to the other. Concerning HI, If she comes to the village, she should let the chief here know. Then the chief will wait for her with village health worker. That is why this place is easy to work with. You see, Malha'a and Rotuma are very dirty. Unlike when I was young, the island was very clean because the DO and the chiefs worked together to ensure that the all the villages were clean. When it was appropriate to impose the fines, the people never re-offended because the fines were high, and the people listened. I grew up at a time when the elders kept Rotuma clean, and now it is very dirty. I have been to Suva, and I toured around the world, but nothing compared Rotuma. However, nowadays the island is still beautiful, but it is very dirty. Now, when I was young, Rotuma was beautiful I have been around world but I know that Rotuma and Fiji are number one places in the world. I have been everywhere in Pacific, but Fiji is the number one in the world.

Fiji is the number one in the world because I have been everywhere in the Pacific and around the world, but I know that Fiji is the number one. I want Fiji to be very clean. I want Suva to be very clean. I want Rotuma to be very clean too. Please help. The HI, I need to do her job properly because you have to let our chief know when you will be visiting. Rotuma has some nice people because when the HI says anything regarding the cleanliness, the people will listen. The only thing that you need to do is let our chief know. We need the people to prepare to clean our island, our district and villages. I want you to stress this because when people come from Suva, they generate lots of waste. Since there is no proper waste management in place, each district is franticly struggling to manage their waste. There is evidence of empty beer bottles, plastic bottles, plastics and the other forms of rubbish that have made the districts look really dirty and unhealthy. And I tell you, if we are all committed, all districts will be able to manage all their waste and return Rotuma to its former glory.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We share the same sentiment. The purpose of this proposed amendment is to really look at what we are discussing here today. We talk about our hygiene, our sanitary, healthy living all have key objective that are outlined in the proposed amendment Bill, so that it will be covered under the bylaws, whereby you are bond by the law. Currently, the Ministry for Health, are just here to advise. They have no power. When you talk about the 1935, Principal Act until today, it has been 91 years. Therefore, the Government of the day, through the Ministry for Health, is looking at holistically, when we talk about Fiji and Rotuma, these are avenues whereby we can get the people together, get this Bill amended and be part of

our legislator, so that everybody, whether in town or in the rural areas, we have that responsibility to look after the cleanliness, the health and the sanitary aspects of our villages. The ministry will be active once this Bill is passed. You have already clearly stated, Sir, that the community has to be connected to the ministry before they come into the village. That is part of this amendment Bill too. After this Bill is passed in Parliament, looking at the next month, by September, the Ministry of Health will give you another one to two years time. They will come down and conduct awareness programme on this Bill. They will talk to the people; let you know the importance of what the Bill will entail. Additionally, there will be a part of the regulation and policy that will be run by the Ministry of Health to demarcate and detail that information down to the people. It will clearly state the task that is there. If you do not abide by those, our next clause from 16 to 22, is mostly with penalties or fines. It is part of the Bill. We already discussed the importance of the work done by the Ministry of Health. Now, if you go through all those clauses here, the key objective is the penalties and fines. There are different penalties and fines in the Principal Act that carried fines as low as $2.

Now it has increased to $50. Maybe in 1935, $2 was worthy a lot but after 91 years now, we are trying to look at various areas, and if you never comply, there are certain amounts from $2 right up to $200. From $1,000, the ceiling is $2,000. That depends on the severity of the issue that will be brought up by the Ministry of Health. When we talk about why there is so much amount that has been given to us, this is how we look at it. The high fines only act as a deterrent and last resort. It does not really say when there is a nuisance or if there is an outbreak somewhere in our village, immediately, the HI will come and give you the fines without at least 3 warnings. They will come and they will discuss it with you and see what other avenues that need to be addressed on the spot and they might give you some advance notice. Say for instance if one of the sewer pipe is leaking and it is next to your neighbour and it was brought up because of the foul smell and can lead to other diseases within our vicinity.

The Ministry of Health comes into the picture, and they will ask, okay, we will give you 14 days to fix that septic tank leak from that area. They will give you the first notice, second notice, but it turned out that never intended to abide by those notice. They will penalise you for not addressing that issue of concern, maybe after 27 days or even a month. The severity of penalties from $50 and up to $500 will come into play. Depends on the severity of the issue that is concerning us and I hope that we will discuss this as we move along to give you some hints on the importance of the penalties that is being given by us. I will ask the Ministry of Health to gives us more details on the respective penalties from the lowest to the highest that you are working on, and the explanation. Can the Ministry of Health discuss this as we move along to give you some hints on the importance of the penalties that are being proposed.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Thank you, honourable Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee, ladies and gentlemen. There is a section within the Act and in the Bill that is called nuisance. A nuisance is anything that you do that can result in sickness or even death. If you do not dispose of your waste in a safe manner, if you do not dispose of your wastewater in a safe manner, if you are keeping animals in a way that they can cause sickness, either to you, your family or to your neighbours, this is considered nuisance. The ceiling or the highest fine for nuisance is $1,000 and the lowest is $100. Depending on the risk that it poses to the health of your neighbours, that will be, you will be fined accordingly. A very small nuisance, you may be given a $200 or $100. But a severe one, which is life threatening, that will result in a $1,000 fine, maximum penalty of $1,000. In addition to that, there is also a section in the Bill that talks about mosquitoes. The heading of the section is Mosquitoes, and this deals with eliminating the breeding sites of mosquitoes. If you are found with breeding

mosquitoes within your premises, you can be fined under that particular section of the Bill or the Act. There are three stages. If you have receptacles, dry receptacles, wet receptacles, and receptacles that have mosquito larvae, those are the three categories that you can be fined. This is to motivate people to ensure that their compound is clean and free of receptacles that can breed mosquitoes.

Majority of the time, when there is a dengue outbreaks, the mosquitoes are not coming from another island to bite people in this island to cause a dengue outbreak. The people that get dengue are breeding their own mosquitoes in their own backyard that is biting them and causing them dengue. In order for us to protect them, we have to institute this fight so that they themselves can prevent mosquitoes from breeding in their backyard and biting them and giving them dengue. I hope that is clear. There is another section in the Bill and in the Act that is called venereal disease, and this is in relation to sexually transmitted illnesses and sexually transmitted diseases. When you talk about syphilis, gonorrhoea, the local name is *tona* and other diseases that can be transmitted sexually. I am sorry if this an offensive topic, but this can be an offense which carry a fine from $20 to now $2,000. To a person that has any of these diseases, has been informed by the doctor that they have the disease, have been advised to refrain from unprotected sexual activities, but continues to do so, and in doing so, has spread the illness to other people. The fine has increased from $20 to $2,000 to act as a deterrent. If the person is unable to pay the $2000 within the time allocated, then six months imprisonment is the alternative. I believe we have covered very important topics on penalties and fines. Any question on that?

MR. F. KAMOE.- We would like to say this; we appreciate the health inspector's work. Thank you very much, Ms. Tuwai, I know she has done her best. What my friend here, Taio, is trying to point out is the waste management is a reality. We humans produce it and we need to put waste management in the fore of our planning. We need to manage it because by ignoring it will not solve this perpetual problem, in fact, it will worsen our predicament. I would like to thank our health inspector for being with us all these years. She tried her best and I know there are some hiccups here and there, but that is to be expected. The point is that I would like to inform our honourable Members form Parliament and the officials from the Ministry of Health that your representative (HI) is doing a good job. We need her and we need to work with her to manage our health and maintain the cleanliness of all the districts on the island. Recently, we heard stories about Rarotonga from a friend who returned from there. He was amazed of the waste management plan there because it seems practical and the concept can be adopted here in Rotuma. For this to happen, we will need the correct infrastructure, the proper training of personnel and education of the villages and vehicles. The whole process can be a tourist attraction and generate income for the island. Once again, I would like to thank the HI for her work and urge her to continue to give it her best.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much. We appreciate the work that has been done by our reps from the Ministry of Health who are here. As we are all aware, they are here to perform their tasks. If that is the reflection of their services, it is a credit to the Ministry of Health and Wellness for Government of the Day on how best to look after all the staff, including the SDMOs who might stay here and retire. But that is part and parcel of our way to our service. We will go straight to covered nuisance. When we talk about the fines that are alluded to us by the Ministry of Health. There are other areas of avenue when looking at clauses 23 to 29, and they cover offensive trade. Offensive trade mostly covers most parts of Fiji. When you talk about huge poultry farms, the smelly part of it, the flies as well, where most of them are built near villages. There was a classic example when we talk about the Vunivaivai case. Everything

was approved and the land lease was approved. Crest Chicken and other bigger companies established themselves and operated. Later, the villagers realised that these companies were causing their sickness especially the foul smell and it related to unhygienic discharged of wastes. They are now complaining, but the ministry is trying their best to look for a solution. The irony here is that it was the ministry that did their checking and gave the green light to operate their businesses. This is what we do not want to happen here in Rotuma. This is where this amendment Bill comes into the picture. It is not only that, when you talk about pig pans, we are happy to see that you have a district pig pan which is quite far from the village. We were talking about diseases, the foul smell part of it, and the impact when they are very close to our village.

And for that case, it is part of these amendment Bill to look at those types of offensive trade. Another area that we are looking at is this stone crushing companies. There are always dusts when you go to Suva, especially in Lami, the cement factory surroundings, is an example. How the dust has been affecting the environment especially when you inhale dust over a period of time, can cause sickness. That was why these proposals are in the Act. If the district is planning to have these types of businesses, the Ministry of Health will advise you first. They will give the registration before they come and do their own inspection. They will advise the district about the repercussions, if they are very close to the village. Once the villages give their consent based on the stated repercussions, the Ministry of Health will issue the business license to operate

MR. T.R. VAUROSI.- I heard the talk about Rarotonga and he has never been there. He should talk about the places that he had been to. He should not say anything. You have never been there. I have been everywhere and that is why I talk.

MR. R. TIUHEA.- I have just one question, please. We had just finished discussing about the penalties, and I am sure our HI is present and the rest of the community. One of the things, as I mentioned earlier, was the penalties and the powers that are given to the HI. One of the issues that our leaders or the chiefs in the communities are having is working together with the His. When the inspection is done, multiple warnings can be given to families. And I am assuming that with this Bill, the HI will have the power within the guidelines to fine someone, or do we have to wait for the court to come to Rotuma, which happens like once a year, or do we have to wait for the court to determine that, or the health inspector has the authority or has the power to give fines to the community because it would take long for the legal team to come over. Sometimes we must put in requests for them to come to the island because of their busy schedule. And I feel that it is because the fines have not been given to the people, I am not sure whether it is because she does not have the authorisation to do that. But these kinds of uncertainty encourages people who are not cleaning the compounds to continue like that. It has been years now and our initiatives has actually enforced it. There are a few people who think that if it is not in the law, then the chiefs of the communities cannot really do much about that. Most of the districts in Rotuma share the same sentiments. Can you please clarify how under the current Act covers fines and penalties, the power that we can give the HI to give fines in the Rotuma for example?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- You clearly stated that correctly. Currently, the Principal Act does not empower the MoH through the HI to give out fines. The amendment Bill, has given power to the HI plus the Ministry of Health to come over and give the warnings, even penalise you on the ground, that is why we are amending this Bill. Before, they can always come and advise. Even coming to the village, they do not have the power based on requests. This is what they

face daily on the ground. Once it is enacted in Parliament, these will be bylaws of the government. And you did state that it will come under the Ministry of Health here, and they represent the HI. They will be the authorised body by the council plus the ministry that will oversee the operations of how this Bill will be encapsulated within Fiji and Rotuma. I hope that answers your question. We will move forward. We have to report to the airport because of our flight, which we have no control of, will not wait for us We will go straight to from 37 to 44. Before I do that, our honourable Members who are here, can they introduce themselves so that you are aware.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Good morning, everyone. Our sincere apologies for coming in late. I am a member of this Standing Committee. To my right is the Honourable Ratu Josaia Niudamu. He is the Assistant Minister of Justice. He is alternate Member of this Committee. Right at the door, the Assistant Minister for Youth and Sports, honourable Aliki Bia, who is also a Member of this Committee. He was busy opening the 7s rugby tournament that is happening at the Sumi grounds. Our sincere apologies for coming in late. We do not want to bother anyone else. That is just a simple introduction.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We will go onto 37 to 44 to 54, that will be covered by the Ministry of Health, but the disease that has been spread by mosquitoes. We were asked on our last consultation yesterday, about those houses that are idle, have occupied, and the others are not here? It was a very good question, but to let you know, when this Bill will be enacted to be a legislator of our country, that will be the work of the government to take down. Especially when we look at our district, a lot of properties are empty, some are in its very worst state. When you talk about cleanliness, hygiene and sanitary, we are all governed by these bylaws. Let us look at clause 41, it is about short-term rental property like Airbnb. In this amendment Bill, the Ministry of Health will have the power before you actually have your property to be rented out as a Airbnb or whatever form, even rental or hotels.

They will have the power to come and inspect the building to ensure that the necessary materials used in the house is up to hygiene standard, healthy living standard, and sanitary standards. There was one classical example way back in Suva, involving a rental double-storey house. The owner was staying on top and rented out the bottom flat. After some time, there was a leakage from the sewer line, straight to the kitchen of the bottom flat which included the dining area. I hope it does not happen here in Rotuma. This one of the reasons why the Ministry of Health is involved to check on these sanitary and hygiene issues. Moving forward, the power is given to the Ministry of Health through their heads and there are some selective criteria which need to be addressed first. You have to be registered under MoH and this will cover you well. For the safety of the occupants of the people that are coming over to the island, and their welfare, when we talk about healthy living, this is where it covers. Any questions on that?

MR. R. TIUHEA.- Thank you, since you have mentioned that, I think this is one of the rising issues here with Rotuma. My question, before any home is declared under this, is there are part in the process where the chiefs or the local leaders of the community has to write in or has to give approval or the community in order for a home to be rented out under Airbnb?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Will the Ministry of Health please share some light on that.

MoH OFFICIAL.- Thank you everybody, honourable Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee and ladies and gentlemen. Thank you, Madam, for the questions raised. Certainly, this is a prerequisite to the registration. If it is located within the village, then

a supporting letter from the village head or the village council for that particular premises to be used for accommodation. If it is located on a leased land, then either iTLTB or lands or whoever gives the lease as to consent to that land to be used for accommodation as well. So yes, this is something that is required, honourable Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope to clarify your question. We will go straight to the final part of these amendments in the Bill. If we talk about from 56 to 68, the main subject area here is our water sources. When we talk about water sources, this mostly covers the rural and maritime areas. I believe, more or less like boreholes and wells, which can be a water sources. The proposal Bill is about our water catchment or water sources. Where our water sources are, whether it is a borehole or well or even a dam out in the thick forest, whether it is leased or not leased, whether it is owned by the district or the village or whatever, these are restrictions in this amendment Bill. First, you cannot cut down trees where our water sources are. And I hope everyone is very clear. I am talking about those who talk about the dam out in the forest. Remember I did mention whether it is leased or not leased, even the owner of that piece of land, you are not allowed to cut down trees, to do your planting, grazing animals, or even remove sand or gravel from or within close proximity to the water sources.

Once this Bill is enacted, it will be part of the law of Fiji. Water sources are restricted areas, even landowners are not allowed to do any form of development or extraction directly from the water sources. When you talk about boreholes, they are 50 metres square, whereby you are not supposed to build your house, because we understand once you build your house, there will be a toilet. And the wastewater that goes out of the house will actually go back to where the water source is. But according to the amendment Bill, when you talk about our drinking water, the safety aspect part of it, the hygiene of the people, this is where it comes into the picture. And I hope that it is very clear and loud to everybody to give us some hints moving forward. If you intend to do that, remember you are bond by the law of Fiji and Rotuma. It goes to the extent if you are caught you will be penalised, like the industry that has been alluded to, possibly up from 6 months to 18 months imprisonment.

Once you learnt your lesson, then you can come back to the island. This is a proactive message to look at the importance of our water sources and catchment area. You are not allowed to cut any pipes of water that leads to the village or within those boundaries. It happens a lot of time in Fiji, whereby there are some pollutions within the village. Somebody goes up, cuts the pipes to the dam. Even in Ba in the last three years, there were a couple of animal carcasses thrown into the dams for drinking water. All of a sudden, all those people that were using those dams, all got sick. After the MoH investigation, they concluded that it was an act of ill intent. And I hope that will not happen in Rotuma, because you have a very good relationship and the right atmosphere to work with. Any question on that, when you talk about our water source?

If there is no question on that, that is basically the 69 clauses in front of us. We have covered all the main areas. And feel free, after we depart from here today, we will give another three weeks. We call it written submission from the respective districts. When you go through those 69 amendments and if it happens, that you have some issues that you missed to mention in today's meeting, you may contact the secretariate of Parliament before we table this in Parliament. Our secretariate is here. You can communicate with them and get their contact address. And through that written submission, it can be addressed to us so it will be part of our public consultation here at Malha'a. To end our consultation this morning, I will ask the Deputy Chair to wrap it up for us before we call it a day.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Are there any more questions, comments, queries, something thar you are clear with? Please do ask before we finish off. Nothing? Yes, please.

MR. R. TIUHEA.- This is one very important question from me. This is in regard to COVID that happened early 2019 and onwards. I am not sure whether this is applicable to the order. You know, in the last COVID, the needed to get vaccinated. The question is this. The last government enforced penalties for enforced penalties to those who did not take the vaccine during the COVID. The question is this, does this Bill also enforces, does the Bill give the right for the government of the day to enforce this on the people to be vaccinated? I am sure there are a lot of things and we still yet to face, more challenging viruses ahead. As a concerning member of the community with so many information that was received after COVID, my question is, does this Bill also force the government of the day to take the same stand as what happened the last time?

MoH OFFICIAL.- Thank you, honourable Chairman, Members of the Committee, ladies and gentlemen, Madam, thank you for the question. First of all, for clarification, the last government did not penalise anyone who did not take the vaccine. However, they were given the free choice to take the vaccine or not, but they were taken out of the front line if they were not vaccinated, meaning they were not allowed to go to work as health workers or teachers because these workers were in the front line, they were highly exposed. The government decided that only those who are fully vaccinated get to work in the front line because they are fully protected as compared to those who are not vaccinated. But it was not a penalty. And likewise for this government, there is nothing in the Bill that will penalise you if you do not get vaccinated, but you may lose the work if you are on the front lines because of the fact that you are exposed if you do continue to work in those areas. But other fines are still there. If you breach your isolation, if you do other things, the amendment during the COVID-19 is still in the Principal Act, and I think it has the highest penalty in the Public Health Act is $10,000. You can be fined if you breach isolation. If the doctor puts you under isolation in the hospital, please do not run away because you will have to pay $10,000 as a fine.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Are there any other questions?

MR. J. LOBENDAHN.- Sorry, my query is if the Public Health Act, will Rotuma be bonded by it?

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Yes.

MR. J. LOBENDAHN.- But we also have the Rotuma Act which has provisions for Public Health in it. Will they be aligned?

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Yes.

MR. ILIESA.- Just a comment. I think at the end of the day, whatever are discussed here from 1 to 69 should have been changed a long time ago, right? We are old and our health workers does not have the powers to carry out their work effectively. I know sometimes they face a lot of hassle but I think at the end of the day, it is down to the individual. If we are worried about our health and our well-being, it is up to us the person. Sometimes we get angry because people come and tell us what to do. But if we are doing what is right, then we should

not have any problems with that. So, in saying that, I think it is justified and thank you so much for coming to the island. I know it is not easy leaving families and work behind.

HON. RATU R.S.S. VAKALALABURE.- Thank you very much, Sir. I will take that as the last comment. I will just run a quickly run up. On behalf of the Members of the Committee, staff of the Ministry of Health, the parliamentary support team, and all those who are here, we wish to thank you very much for coming this morning. Having this public consultation just before we adjourn, and we would like to leave some reminders about we were discussed here today. It is all common sense in a nutshell, it is all common sense as my friend here said earlier. If you see your is sceptic is linking do something about it, if you see rubbish do something about if you see tires and tins in your village, do something about it. The last resort must be the fine because once the fine comes in, there is no more talking. There is no more leniency. It is all about common sense.

And Sir has asked for the empowerment of the Chief, the Rotuma Council of Chief. That is in the Ministry of Health Plan. When this amendment passes, the amendment will allow the health inspector and the Rotuma Council, which is the rural local authority to enter premises and check, look at all these cleared up. That is to look after our health, our well-being. Currently, there is no council but the Rotuma Council of Chiefs, and the head is in Labasa. When this Bill is passed, no one from Labasa can come here to check on what is happening here. The Ministry of Health will empower the Rotuma Council of Chiefs, where the chiefs working with the HI, to look at all these. What we were discussing here today was common sense. You must learn to exercise some common sense. If you see something that is wrong that may deprive someone of their health, do something about it. You can do it individually, do it as a community, do it as a village, but what we were discussing every day is common sense. Only if you do not do it, do not do anything, then the law will bite you.

But if you do something about it, you will not be fined. The reason why government has pushed for these amendments to come through because of our negligence. We are negligent. It is in human nature. Negligence breeds leptospirosis. Negligence breeds all this dengue fever. Negligence causes death to our people because we have seen something that could have already been prevented. We knew it, but we did not do anything about it. We saw it, we did not do anything about it. That is our negligence. This is why the government is pushing for this because we are negligent. The onus, as my good friend here said, is on us. You personally, the community, the village, whole of Rotuma can do it. No one else will come and clean up Rotuma. It is Rotuma and her people who will have to clean up Rotuma.

The onus is on you, the same thing is for us. When we go back to our places, nobody else will go and clean up places, it is us. But we are setting up the law so that you do it because if you do not do it, something will make you do it. The law and the fines are there. The health inspectors will be empowered to give infringement notices. But they will not do it on the spot. They must give some warnings once, probably twice. If the person is not listening, that means what? He or she is intentionally doing it so give them the fine. If they do not like it, you may appeal to the magistrate court when the court sits, but if you do not like it, the court can take you to prison. The mechanisms are already in place. This law has been there since 1935. There are only some changes, but all the things in this law are common sense. Exercise some common sense and have some pride in our villages, in our communities and in our homes. With those few words, I thank you all and that concludes our public submission for today.

The Committee adjourned at 10.40 a.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT NO 4. 2026

SUBMITTEE: Land Transport Authority

VENUE: Big Committee Room, Parliament Precinct

DATE: Tuesday, 2nd July 2026

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE BIG COMMITTEE ROOM, PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, ON 2ND JULY, 2026 AT 2.22 P.M.

Interviewee/Submittee:Land Transport Authority

Ministry of Health and Medical Services

1. Mr. Luke Vonotabua - Acting Chief Health Inspector
2. Mr. Toga Vosataki - National WASH Coordinator

In Attendance:

1. Mr. Irimaia Rokosawa - Chief Executive Officer
2. Mr. Raziq Khan - Manager Standards and Engineering
3. Mr. Marika Kaitani - Technical Officer, Standards and Engineering

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MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, members of the public, Secretariat, dear viewers, ladies and gentlemen. A very good morning to you all. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone, especially those watching this public hearing session.

At the outset, for information purposes, pursuant to Standing Order 111 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, all committee meetings are to be open to the public. Therefore, please note that this submission is open to the public and media and is also being aired via the *Walesi* platform and streamed live on Parliament's website and social media platforms.

For any sensitive information concerning the matter before us this morning that cannot be disclosed publicly, such information may be provided to the Committee either in private or in writing. However, please be advised that Standing Order 111 permits non-disclosure of information under certain circumstances. And these are:

- national security matters;
- third-party confidential information;
- personal or human resource matters; and
- Committee deliberations, including the development of Committee's recommendations and reports.

This is a parliamentary meeting, and all information gathered is covered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act 1965. Please bear in mind that we do not condone slander or libel of any kind, and any information brought before this Committee should be based on facts.

In terms of protocol, please minimise the use of mobile phones, and ensure all devices are on silent mode while the meeting is in progress. I also remind honourable Members and our guests that all questions must be addressed through the Chairperson.

Now, I would like the members of the Committee to introduce themselves.

(Introduction of Committee Members)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Today, the Committee will hear submissions from the Land Transport Authority in relation to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 4 of 2026. Before us, we have representatives from the Council, and I would like to thank them for availing themselves to appear before this hearing. Due to time constraints, please provide your responses briefly, after which members will

intervene with supplementary questions. I now invite the officials from the Council to introduce themselves and begin their presentation.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Acting Mr. Chairman, joining us online, honourable Members of this Standing Committee, the Secretariat, and officials from the Ministry of Health.

(*Introduction of Land Transport Authority officials)*

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, we respect and honour this opportunity as your officers from the and Transport Authority (LTA) to provide our submission pertaining to the correspondence that we received on the 25th May 2026, which was an invitation to provide a submission on the Public Health Amendment Bill, Bill No. 4 of 2026, that seeks to amend the Public Health Act of 1935.

For the information of the forum, our submission which was provided on the 27th of May are in three folds. Firstly, on the recommendations where we have identified gaps that need to be bridged, acknowledging what has already been incorporate, emphasis on continuous data sharing and goal congruence between various data agencies to ensure the intent and objective of the amendments does materialise.

Mr. Chairman, may I be allowed to take us through our submission proper. The LTA is supportive of the overall objective of the Bill. We respectively wish to highlight certain areas where land transport related consequences intersect with public health, and that which are not specifically addressed in the..

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene? Have you provided us with the submission that you are reading? Can you please provide it on the screen?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Do carry on Sir.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Thank you Mr. Chairman. In particular while the Bill provides a general control of population across land, air and water, some gaps still remain relevant to transport related environmental health concerns;

(1) carbon emission – the Bill does not provide specific standards or regulatory measures relating to vehicle emissions which continues to be a notable source of air pollution.
(2) noise pollution – while it is recognised as a nuisance, there is limited guidance on the regulations and enforcement from transport related vehicles, road traffic or the usage of horns.
(3) vehicle and transport related issues – there are careful measures addressing issues such as prolonged vehicle idling, oil leakage, or other environmental hazards arising from vehicle operations.

Also, in the areas of derelict vehicles, the Bill does not specifically address the management or timely removal of derelict vehicles, which may impose environmental and public health risks, including serving as breeding grounds for pests.

In the areas of hybrid and electrical vehicle batteries, the safe handling and disposal of high voltage batteries used in hybrid and electrical vehicles is not addressed.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Can we go step by step because we will not be coming back? Emissions is a real problem. You know, I know, and everyone knows. You are saying the Bill does not provide, and since the Ministry of Health is here, if they can brief us on that, because this is a major problem, especially when buses are parked at bus the station. How well it is covered, because this is the right time?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We will go through in an alphabetical order. We will give the opportunity to the Ministry of Health to give us some brief insight on that. We will start from A. CEO, if you can start again from A, and after that, we will discuss it as we move along. This is the only opportunity that we will ask the question, and will not come back to that when we finish up with the presentation.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- In terms of A, we have provided in the tailpipe emissions, the Bill does not provide specific standards or regulatory measures related to vehicle emissions. It continues to be a notable source of air pollution. What we are raising here, and even in our Land Transport Authority Act, we only have diesel in terms of emission standards. There is nothing on diesel nor on LPG. Now we are moving into electrical vehicles. These are the gaps even in the Land Transport Authority Act. Why we are raising this because this is a chance for us to amend the Bill in terms of consequential changes, so the number of Acts are harmonised, and when we pursue enforcements, it carries a lot of weight when a number of stakeholders working towards goal concludes to the same objectives.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you, CEO. That is the explanation behind it, when you talk about the tailpipe emission. It says the Bill does not provide any specific standard for regulatory measures relating to vehicle emission. I hope that the technical team from the Ministry of Health will understand that better, apart from a layman's term like what we are reading from the other end. We will ask the Ministry of Health to give us more light on that, so that we are talking on the same page. At the same time, it will give us the opportunity to come up with our supplementary questions.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Certainly a very good submission. We have no coverage on the proposed Bill in regards to that. There was a submission, I think, from Suva City Council in regard to idle vehicles, the buses at the bus stand, to switch off engines during the idle time, taking on passengers, and only turn on the engine once they are about to leave. However, there are some coverages under the Environmental Management Act, I think under section 35, that covers emissions and pollutants. Maybe the advice to the Committee is to see where we can complement that but not overlap the two legislations. If that is the case then maybe we can further specify the public health regulations, with limits and some regulations to that.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Thank you LTA for your brief presentation. I think for tailpipe emissions you will not include electric vehicles because they do not emit emissions, if I am right, unless it is a hybrid.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, what I was trying to raise are the gaps in our current regulations, even it does not have standards on electrical vehicles.

HON. K.K. LAL.- I believe there were some amendments done to Land Transport Authority Act recently.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- That is with regards to base and stand, the definitions and on the provisional licence.

HON. K.K. LAL.- My question is, were there amendments done to your Act?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Yes.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Did you present this in your Act amendments at that time?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- We have already given our submissions.

HON. K.K. LAL.- That Act amendment?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Yes.

HON. K.K. LAL.- With respect to this, I believe there were some news published previously with respect to emissions by buses, and the LTA was supposed to fine bus companies if they found them continuously having black smokes and stuff. Under what provision would you fine them?

MR. R. KHAN.- Mr. Chairman, for the current enforcement action on emissions, it is under the Traffic Regulations. There is no specific standard for the amount of pollutant, but it is on the visibility of smoke. If smoke is visible from a vehicle for more than 10 seconds, the LTA can issue a defect order for that vehicle to be repaired and brought back. In terms of the proposal in this particular submission, it is on specific pollutants, where many of our neighbouring countries are having specific standards of how much of each pollutant in a particular mix of tailpipe emission, which is captured and measured, such as hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide. Our idea of the submission was in line to that. As we are managing the climate change-related emissions for carbon, we also wanted to ensure that a particular provision is there to cover the pollutant aspect of it.

HON. K.K. LAL.- A very good explanation. Have you done any proactive measure in terms of getting devices to test these theories out before it is recommended to Government to change the regulation?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- In terms of devices, we have recently accorded budget provisions on our inspection lanes, where we will be acquiring inspection emission testers and other brake testers to ensure the upholding of our road safety standards. That is according to the current budget provisions for this current financial year. Our intent is to meet the standards that are currently with our neighbouring countries. However, we have been so fortunate in this financial year, we have been according to those budget provisions to acquire those vehicles.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Question to the Ministry of Health. Whatever they are requesting in the tailpipe emissions is it already covered in the Public Health Act? You just mentioned about the emission parts.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned, it is not covered under the current Bill. However, it is partially covered under the Environmental Management Act (EMA), talking about pollutants and permits to dispose waste and or pollutants. However, it is not really capturing vehicles or automobiles in particular. If the Committee thinks that this should be included, it can be further specified in the regulations in terms of what they are suggesting in coming up with best practise around global standards, which can be enforced upon routine operational inspections of these vehicles. I think that is where the submission is coming from.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, my final supplementary question on that subject matter. I want to say something, that this is be on – going and as a Committee, I believe that this is the right time for us. I know since I was in the Council, I used to face a lot of challenges with bus operators in terms of the emissions. I do not know how much it will hold in terms of regulation, however, if we have it in the Bill, it will carry more weight rather than the regulations as operators will need to be up to par with it. Currently, there is a gap and it is clear when you visit any bus station nowadays. Forget about the electric bus, that will take ages. There is a current issue of emissions and you can just imagine the people that sit at the bus stations especially the students who are suffering.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, just to add on to what is being discussed. Let us discuss a place like Delhi in India who also have a problem with pollution and when we discuss public health, pollution is a part of it, in its various forms and causes which include steel processing mills...

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Member, can you please stick the subject areas that we are discussing, that comes under 2B – Noise pollution. I hope that we are on the same subject.

HON. K.K. LAL.- We are talking about emissions, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I understand however, you have diverted from the topic that we are discussing. Let us be mindful on the topics of discussion. Are there any other issues to be addressed? If there are no issues, I believe the recommendations with the Committee have been alluded to from the first consultative process. LTA and the Ministry of Health can only submit, however, the beauty of it lies with the Committee, which is the only place that can do amendments, even if you take it the Solicitor General's office and the drafters, they will not be able to make any amendments. We have listened to your recommendations, it is within our hands and that will be part of our discussions under your submission, upon our return from our public consultations throughout Fiji. Now that has been taken care of, let us go straight to item (b) on Noise Pollution.

MR. I .ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, as earlier alluded to, while noise is a recognised as a nuisance, there is limited guidance on the regulations and enforcement of LTA on noise from vehicle, road traffic or the use of horns. These are only addressed in the LTA regulations however, we would like to have these incorporated into other Acts so that it carries weight in terms of enforcement and the practicality of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, we are currently on item (b) on Noise pollution, it is straight forward since Day one, where you have heard that it is a concern.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman , through you, when it comes to noise pollution, there are also car enthusiasts with hot dogs. In a practical and youth-led society, we may allow these shows, however, would it not minimise their career or hobbies even though it is a public health concern, there are times when people want to use it for recreational purposes. Would it not affect them as well?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, I believe that the officers from the LTA are coming from the needs of the general society. We understand that there are enthusiasts out there, in terms of hot dogs and their taste on different types of vehicles, however, it would help if it can be managed. We have received numerous complaints from residents living along the Nasese corridor and it is indeed a hassle for the officers from LTA receiving calls for every corner of the road to be enforced in terms of noise pollution. If this can be incorporated with other Acts, it will carry a lot of weight in terms of this enforcement.

HON. K.K. LAL.- I totally agree that noise pollution is a public health problem with respect to the Act and we should a specific noise pollution regulation capture in it, however, I am trying to understand how we can balance it since some of the population want it whilst the other population do not. Public health has a certain level may be a decibel limit on how much noise is acceptable. I understand that there are some vehicles that are manufactured with that type of noise decibel limits, so how od we balance this? This is relevant to the Public Health.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr Chairman, through you, as I mentioned earlier, if it can quantified in the regulations with a manageable decibel limit. This is what we are proposing.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, a supplementary question. This would affect the bikers as well. Some of these bikes are factory fitted with very high decibel hot dog noise, so this would affect them since some of them use this a mode of transport and with the high traffic in Suva, some of them buy bikes for their daily transport use. How would be manage this, even though there is a decibel quantified limit?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, should our proposal be put forward and it is incorporated in the regulations, this would managed from the port of entry. Otherwise, it would quite unfair the general public for these types of vehicles to be allowed to be imported into the country, yet we are trying to enforce this regulation. That is why the LTA is trying to push vehicle related issues into other Acts since, presently, we seem to be working in isolation.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, an additional question would be are hot dogs legal or illegal?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, if it is contributing to noise pollution, than it is breaching the LTA Act and in a way, it is illegal in terms of LTA regulations.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Remember that you are on public record, you are saying, in a way, can you be specific? Is it illegal or legal?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- If it creates noise pollution.

HON. K.K. LAL.- What is the limit? Do you have a limit to the noise pollution?

MR. R. KHAN.- In terms of the legality around hot dogs, as you have mentioned, that is a modified exhaust system and for any particular modification that is carried out on the exhaust of a vehicle, the applicant must get approval first from the LTA. If it is done in the particular way, where the drivers are able to demonstrate through the specifications the noise from the exhaust system, which is a policy related standard of less than 80 decibels measured at one metre around the radius of the exhaust, it can be approved, however, provided that it cannot do any further subsequent modification or performance related issues to the vehicle. It is assessed in that manner and on a case-by-case basis, it could be approved.

HON. K.K. LAL.- If I understand you correctly, hot dogs are legal as long as they meet the 80 decibel regulation?

MR. R. KHAN.- First, they have make an application and it will go through the approval process. It is not for someone to just make the exhaust adjustments and classify it as legal even if it falls within the particular limit.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We will go straight to item (c) on vehicle and transport related nuisance.

MR. I .ROKOSAWA.- In terms of the third recommendation – vehicles and transport emissions – there is no clear provision addressing matters such as prolonged vehicle idling, oil leakages and other environmental hazards arising from vehicle operations.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Before I go to the Ministry of Health, this is also a major issue – oil leakage. The Councils try their best to upkeep the bus stations, the concrete aspect et cetera. However, when a bus is parked and there is a leakage, and after the bus is gone, you see how it spoils the environment. I want to know, whether LTA has some laws in place that can be passed on to those operators on the non-compliance aspect, especially on oil leakage?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, I will give a brief response and then hand it over to our Manager Standards and Engineering to go into the technical details. Since we are talking about buses, I will start with our Quality Assurance Management Systems (QAMS). We have annual QAMS inspections because of the issues that we are facing in terms of bus operators are not able to maintain their bus fleets, we are doing two audit checks. First is the QAMS, and another audit inspection, apart from

their annual vehicle maintenance, because at times they have difficulties in trying to maintain their fleet. That is why we have instances of oil leakages, at respective bus stands.

MR. R. KHAN.- In terms of bus oil leakage in public spaces or on the roads, currently as a matter of enforcement, our regulations only empower us to issue defect orders for those cases. It is not directly on the oil leakage, but because the bus is defective, it is leaking oil. I think the idea of the submission here is if it is also considered as a public health issue in the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, then there could be more ways of enforcement where Town Council can also be empowered to issue fines on such cases.

HON. P.K. BALA.- We want to thank you for the recommendation that you people are proposing. However, if it can be in detail. As layman, we will not understand. It is very general, but if you can give the explanation that you are giving now. It is good that we are having a face-to-face meeting, but if you can just add on and give us some more details on the challenges that you face every day, and what is there for you to act on, and what you intend for us to deal with.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- If that can be provided to us. It is a request from the honourable Members. The more details of what the explanation is being going on, it will help us out when we try to finalise the Amendment Bill.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, we will surely act on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The technical team from the Ministry of Health, if you want to have some technical details on that, on the issue.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- I would like to thank the representatives from the LTA for bringing up the issue on oil spillage at the bus stands. I think that is very important because we are dealing with the public and the chronic exposures to oil on a daily basis. It is an issue that we need to work together, and include it in the Public Health Act in terms of the exposures to the public.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, our recommendation (d) is on derelict vehicles. The Bill does not specifically address the management or timely removal of derelict vehicles, which may pose environmental and public health risks, including serving as breeding grounds for pests. As matters currently stand in terms of the Land Transport Authority Act, if there are derelict vehicles as per the terms of the Act, we have to impound it first, take it through a public notice, try to contact the owner that those vehicles have been abandoned, and then we can opt for auctions or disposal of those vehicles should there be proceedings from the auctions. We are mandated by the law to keep it for nine months, before we send the funds over to the Ministry of Finance. It is a lengthy exercise.

While that is trying to comply with the Land Transport Authority Act and regulations, probably our biggest challenge is the companies that are involved in recycling. Currently, we only have Dayal's from Ba. In terms of the authority to go into a private compound, we need to be accompanied by police officers, if there are derelict vehicles in the private compound. Those are some of the challenges. We understand the intent of those regulations and legislations in the Act, but then it does also impose a lot of challenges on the LTA.

HON. P.K. BALA.- The way we see it, they have limited powers. This is the right time to connect the powers, the laws, in terms of breeding, because this is where public health comes in. This is also faced by Municipal Councils. You go and see on the roadside. Last night I was in Nausori and one vehicle is parked in the car park area, it must have been from ages, all the grasses, everything grown up there. I know there are other places, but because of the absence of laws, the authorities cannot act upon.

They have, but there is a long process. If this health and safety can come into place, instead of waiting nine months, if it can be done within a month or two months, the better.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- To add on further, certain members of the public know about that gap, and they would wait around until LTA auctions the vehicle, the next day they will be there in the LTA office, "Where's the proceeds?"

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much honourable members, we will go straight to hybrid and electrical vehicle batteries.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Hybrid and electrical vehicle batteries are safe handling and disposable high voltage batteries used in hybrid electrical vehicles is not addressed. These components may present environmental and health risks, if not properly managed. As I mentioned before, even we are facing challenges with internal combustion engines. Now we are moving into sustainable modes of transportations, electrical vehicles and hybrids. Disposable batteries are a challenge, and the private sectors that are involved in this market, is very limited. I will allow our Manager Standards and Engineering to add on further.

MR. R. KHAN.- Mr. Chairman, The biggest challenge is that people sometimes do not see hybrid vehicles and electric vehicle batteries as a risk, and I think that is the biggest risk itself. These are very high voltage batteries, and we see that they are not managed properly in garages, in workshops, even at people's homes. They are just lying around, weathering the conditions of the nature, and then probably a disaster waiting to happen.

Currently, under the powers that is with the LTA, we do not have any mandate on regulating how these are managed in workshops and garages. From the public health perspective, we believe that there is an opportunity for us to have more stricter regulations around these.

HON. K.K. LAL.- You spoke on something which was not spoken before, more like the elephant in the room, because we understand many hybrid vehicles have burned because of this issue. The Public Health Act may not have directly mentioned this. As LTA, how would you recommend that legislation to be structured because for disposal of this kind of battery requires a very sophisticated process. It is not just go and throw it in the dump. There is a way to do that. Have you done any expertise, research along those lines which can help Public Health to devise that kind of regulation?

MR..R. Khan.- Mr. Chairman, there has been a study conducted by Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) and they have a report on vehicle standards in the Pacific which covers part of the issue in terms of managing and disposing of high breed vehicle batteries.

Mr. Chairman, also that report identifies some of the gaps and current processes that are happening. As a way to manage that would be probably to have more regulations around people who are allowed to carry out these exercises may be having special permits only they can work with the required qualifications and facility to be able to work on hybrid and electric vehicles batteries something in relation to that.

HON. K.K. LAL.- If we are going to say that someone has to have a permit who should give that permit the Public Health Board or LTA because it is more like a contractor whoever that person is dealing with that disposal of battery.

MR. R. Khan.- Mr. Chairman, I think currently LTA we do not have the regulatory powers. Probably, the Ministry of Environment they like similar things have been done for other sectors. For example, in terms of disposal of derelict vehicles or even for metals they get a permit from Ministry of

Trade and I think Ministry of Environment has also something similar arrangement could be done. Of course, yes, I think it is very important to identify the right person or the right organisation to carry out this exercise.

HON. S. KUMAR.- Very good point. However, let us treat these batteries as rubbish. Like how the councils came and present and Public Health Board does have some sort of powers to intervene if there is a public nuisance in terms of rubbish not collected. Now, have you talked about solar batteries? If you talk about batteries in general then let us talk about it. We have car batteries as well. The normal diesel engine they have batteries. My van has a battery as well and not only electric power vehicles. Have you covered something along these batteries and disposals of them?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members and representatives from LTA they are current proposal. In the current Bill it does not talk about anything about the derelict vehicles handling and also the management and disposal of the batteries.

If that derelict vehicles and the batteries are receptacle that can hold water and can breed mosquitoes there is a section in the current Public Health Act and the proposal that is talking about even when it is dry or holding water or having mosquito larvae. This is where this law will apply in the Bill for receptacle. Otherwise, I think in workplace if it has to do with handling of the this kind of batteries I think the OHS comes in because of the exposes, PPE and all. In the disposal, I think that is something that is not regarded as a general waste where you can go and put it in a bin and put it out. Something that we can also further discuss.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, why I am coming back to Public Health these lithium batteries also have chemicals...

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Yes.

HON. S. KUMAR.- ...which can end up in our water systems in drinking water and also caused Public Health risk as well. This is why, in my recommendation, we should have something capturing this in part of Public Health.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- If you look at the other Act like the Environmental Health Act, these are covered there but that does not give us the responsibility of looking at our submission what they have already recommend for the Committee to go back and relook at it.

As discussed by the Ministry of Health when you look at this Public Health (Amendment) Bill, the amendment is to the Committee. For further opportunity wise where we will have to sit down and discuss this further with how best we can accommodate the request when you talk about the hybrid and electrical vehicles and the batteries here. We will go straight to f.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, in terms of our recommendation for (f) end of life for electrical and high regent powered vehicles. There are no provisions addressing the disposal or management or end of life alternative fuel vehicles with anticipated growth in some technologies this will be coming increasingly in the relevant area.

As part of our deliberations in earlier topics we have no end of life policies or regulations in terms of internal agents while we are moving into such sustainable mode of transportations there is a need to address this because the usage of this should be increasing in the near future.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We will go straight to the next subject area. It stated that at the same time LTA recognise if CEO can you just give us a brief on that on 1,2 and 3?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, the LTA recognises the Bill provides the usual basis for collaborations and coordination. Across agencies has alluded to from my introductory remarks we applaud the fact that inter-agencies collaborations as already incorporated in the Bill in terms of:

(1) shared focus on pollution controls;
(2) the Bill emphasises on environmental health support;
(3) broader efforts to address pollutions including those arise it from transport activities;
(4) regulatory supporting enforcement;
(5) expand the role of environmental health, practitioners may compliment LTAs compliance and enforcement functions particularly in areas of such monitoring and inspections;
(6) data sharing and reporting;
(7) be focus on surveillance, reporting; and
(8) offers opportunities for improve coordination and information sharing between relevant key agencies.

MR. CHAIRMAN.-Honourable Members, anyone want to discuss further on those information that has been said by the CEO. It is a straight forward statement but the onus still on us, how best we can execute that and look at ways and means to incorporate in this Public Health (Amendment) Act.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, may be this could be out of topic but coming back to Public Health in relation to LTA. Have you received complaints with respect to the LED lamp which is a Public Health risk as well to people and drivers eyes on the roads?

MR. R. KHAN.- Yes, we have received complaints and we have also taken action against those complaints and enforcement actions is taken where there is a misused of these devices on the roads. There is a provision for an exemption to have an LED lamp fitted on a vehicle provided that it is not used on public roads and is only for the use for off-road recreational activities. On that basis, they have the provision to utilise those lights, however, in cases where there is a breach we do take enforcement action. They are issue with fines and there permits can also be cancelled.

HON. P.K. BALA.- That is the problem. I mean why you want to exempt at the first place because you people are not everywhere. This is some of the things that we need to attend to.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, in addition to that when you talk about public health even if the Act is not mentioning anything in relation to that and still that is a public health risk. Eyes is an important part of the body. Therefore, if this device is harming people's eye while driving especially during the rainy period. When it is raining you cannot even see pedestrians crossing and it can cause an accident. You can kill someone. So, that is a risk as well. How are you capturing that and how are you working with FRCS to ensure that the illegal ones are not entering the country? I think certain amps are allowed. The ones that are more than 300 watts are basically illegal. How are you working with the enforcement border patrols in ensuring these do not enter into our markets? Remember our eye may be good, but the older folks who are driving may have difficulty at night

HON. P.K. BALA.- Before you respond to this, I will give an example. There was a video – I hope you people have seen that – on this light. There was a threatening issue, the owner of that vehicle was threatening the police and the police was threatening him. Because of these issues, if we can attend to this, we will not have problems on the road. I hope you have seen that video. He was questioning that you have stopped me, but there was another vehicle going with that same light and was never stopped.

HON. K.K. LAL.- It was in Nadi or in Nausori, if I am correct, where the police officer stopped a particular vehicle driver. He had LED lights and was being charged, but there was another vehicle

passing through also had LED lights. It seems like your LTA officers do not have the knowledge of the devices which LED lights are allowed, and which one is too bright, which one is not bright, and which one is normal. Some factory-fitted vehicles also come with LED lights, which are a bit bright, but they are factory-fitted, so the regulation allows them. The ones that are after-market are not allowed, and it becomes a public health risk at the end of the day.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, in regards to maintaining sanitation and general inspection of vehicles. Do you believe that it should be included because part of the Act we only cover ships / vessels in terms of general sanitation? This is by experience, some taxis that we go into, do not maintain their vehicles in terms of sanitary inspection. Sometimes there are small bugs that do exist in it. Do you think that it should be somewhere included in this Public Health (Amendment) Bill?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, I totally support the recommendations, if this will benefit the general public in terms of usage, especially for public service vehicles.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- If you are all good, then we will wrap it up this afternoon. Thank you very much honourable Members, and the team from the LTA for the in-depth Presentation to us this afternoon. There are a lot of sharing ideas going on. Remember we are still in the process of getting out these amendment Bill over Fiji. Thank you very much for giving us your time. We are trying to get all the necessary information from all stakeholders involved on how best this Amendment Bill is aligned to your daily operation of the day.

While hearing submission this afternoon and from other stakeholders already left for the last two weeks, it is an eye-opener for us. There are lot of takeaways for us to relook at your submission. We are always here to support. In case you missed something out of our public submission today, feel free to come back to us and we will give it an opportunity to relook at how our discussion today has been implicated in how you run your operations. For us we are more or less like a third party when you talk about this Bill. The author is here, we are lucky that the technical team from the Ministry of Health is always here to help us out. In due course, if we request any further clarity from LTA, we will be in touch through our Secretariate and hopefully you will avail yourself. On that note, honourable Members, the team from LTA and MoH, I declare this meeting closed.

The Committee adjourned at 3.15 p.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT NO 4. 2026

SUBMITTEE: Land Transport Authority

VENUE: Big Committee Room, Parliament Precinct

DATE: Tuesday, 2nd July 2026

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE BIG COMMITTEE ROOM, PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, ON 2ND JULY, 2026 AT 2.22 P.M.

Interviewee/Submittee:Land Transport Authority

Ministry of Health and Medical Services

1. Mr. Luke Vonotabua - Acting Chief Health Inspector
2. Mr. Toga Vosataki - National WASH Coordinator

In Attendance:

1. Mr. Irimaia Rokosawa - Chief Executive Officer
2. Mr. Raziq Khan - Manager Standards and Engineering
3. Mr. Marika Kaitani - Technical Officer, Standards and Engineering

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MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, members of the public, Secretariat, dear viewers, ladies and gentlemen. A very good morning to you all. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone, especially those watching this public hearing session.

At the outset, for information purposes, pursuant to Standing Order 111 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, all committee meetings are to be open to the public. Therefore, please note that this submission is open to the public and media and is also being aired via the *Walesi* platform and streamed live on Parliament's website and social media platforms.

For any sensitive information concerning the matter before us this morning that cannot be disclosed publicly, such information may be provided to the Committee either in private or in writing. However, please be advised that Standing Order 111 permits non-disclosure of information under certain circumstances. And these are:

- national security matters;
- third-party confidential information;
- personal or human resource matters; and
- Committee deliberations, including the development of Committee's recommendations and reports.

This is a parliamentary meeting, and all information gathered is covered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act 1965. Please bear in mind that we do not condone slander or libel of any kind, and any information brought before this Committee should be based on facts.

In terms of protocol, please minimise the use of mobile phones, and ensure all devices are on silent mode while the meeting is in progress. I also remind honourable Members and our guests that all questions must be addressed through the Chairperson.

Now, I would like the members of the Committee to introduce themselves.

(Introduction of Committee Members)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Today, the Committee will hear submissions from the Land Transport Authority in relation to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 4 of 2026. Before us, we have representatives from the Council, and I would like to thank them for availing themselves to appear before this hearing. Due to time constraints, please provide your responses briefly, after which members will

intervene with supplementary questions. I now invite the officials from the Council to introduce themselves and begin their presentation.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Acting Mr. Chairman, joining us online, honourable Members of this Standing Committee, the Secretariat, and officials from the Ministry of Health.

(*Introduction of Land Transport Authority officials)*

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, we respect and honour this opportunity as your officers from the and Transport Authority (LTA) to provide our submission pertaining to the correspondence that we received on the 25th May 2026, which was an invitation to provide a submission on the Public Health Amendment Bill, Bill No. 4 of 2026, that seeks to amend the Public Health Act of 1935.

For the information of the forum, our submission which was provided on the 27th of May are in three folds. Firstly, on the recommendations where we have identified gaps that need to be bridged, acknowledging what has already been incorporate, emphasis on continuous data sharing and goal congruence between various data agencies to ensure the intent and objective of the amendments does materialise.

Mr. Chairman, may I be allowed to take us through our submission proper. The LTA is supportive of the overall objective of the Bill. We respectively wish to highlight certain areas where land transport related consequences intersect with public health, and that which are not specifically addressed in the..

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene? Have you provided us with the submission that you are reading? Can you please provide it on the screen?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Do carry on Sir.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Thank you Mr. Chairman. In particular while the Bill provides a general control of population across land, air and water, some gaps still remain relevant to transport related environmental health concerns;

(1) carbon emission – the Bill does not provide specific standards or regulatory measures relating to vehicle emissions which continues to be a notable source of air pollution.
(2) noise pollution – while it is recognised as a nuisance, there is limited guidance on the regulations and enforcement from transport related vehicles, road traffic or the usage of horns.
(3) vehicle and transport related issues – there are careful measures addressing issues such as prolonged vehicle idling, oil leakage, or other environmental hazards arising from vehicle operations.

Also, in the areas of derelict vehicles, the Bill does not specifically address the management or timely removal of derelict vehicles, which may impose environmental and public health risks, including serving as breeding grounds for pests.

In the areas of hybrid and electrical vehicle batteries, the safe handling and disposal of high voltage batteries used in hybrid and electrical vehicles is not addressed.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Can we go step by step because we will not be coming back? Emissions is a real problem. You know, I know, and everyone knows. You are saying the Bill does not provide, and since the Ministry of Health is here, if they can brief us on that, because this is a major problem, especially when buses are parked at bus the station. How well it is covered, because this is the right time?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We will go through in an alphabetical order. We will give the opportunity to the Ministry of Health to give us some brief insight on that. We will start from A. CEO, if you can start again from A, and after that, we will discuss it as we move along. This is the only opportunity that we will ask the question, and will not come back to that when we finish up with the presentation.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- In terms of A, we have provided in the tailpipe emissions, the Bill does not provide specific standards or regulatory measures related to vehicle emissions. It continues to be a notable source of air pollution. What we are raising here, and even in our Land Transport Authority Act, we only have diesel in terms of emission standards. There is nothing on diesel nor on LPG. Now we are moving into electrical vehicles. These are the gaps even in the Land Transport Authority Act. Why we are raising this because this is a chance for us to amend the Bill in terms of consequential changes, so the number of Acts are harmonised, and when we pursue enforcements, it carries a lot of weight when a number of stakeholders working towards goal concludes to the same objectives.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you, CEO. That is the explanation behind it, when you talk about the tailpipe emission. It says the Bill does not provide any specific standard for regulatory measures relating to vehicle emission. I hope that the technical team from the Ministry of Health will understand that better, apart from a layman's term like what we are reading from the other end. We will ask the Ministry of Health to give us more light on that, so that we are talking on the same page. At the same time, it will give us the opportunity to come up with our supplementary questions.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Certainly a very good submission. We have no coverage on the proposed Bill in regards to that. There was a submission, I think, from Suva City Council in regard to idle vehicles, the buses at the bus stand, to switch off engines during the idle time, taking on passengers, and only turn on the engine once they are about to leave. However, there are some coverages under the Environmental Management Act, I think under section 35, that covers emissions and pollutants. Maybe the advice to the Committee is to see where we can complement that but not overlap the two legislations. If that is the case then maybe we can further specify the public health regulations, with limits and some regulations to that.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Thank you LTA for your brief presentation. I think for tailpipe emissions you will not include electric vehicles because they do not emit emissions, if I am right, unless it is a hybrid.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, what I was trying to raise are the gaps in our current regulations, even it does not have standards on electrical vehicles.

HON. K.K. LAL.- I believe there were some amendments done to Land Transport Authority Act recently.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- That is with regards to base and stand, the definitions and on the provisional licence.

HON. K.K. LAL.- My question is, were there amendments done to your Act?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Yes.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Did you present this in your Act amendments at that time?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- We have already given our submissions.

HON. K.K. LAL.- That Act amendment?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Yes.

HON. K.K. LAL.- With respect to this, I believe there were some news published previously with respect to emissions by buses, and the LTA was supposed to fine bus companies if they found them continuously having black smokes and stuff. Under what provision would you fine them?

MR. R. KHAN.- Mr. Chairman, for the current enforcement action on emissions, it is under the Traffic Regulations. There is no specific standard for the amount of pollutant, but it is on the visibility of smoke. If smoke is visible from a vehicle for more than 10 seconds, the LTA can issue a defect order for that vehicle to be repaired and brought back. In terms of the proposal in this particular submission, it is on specific pollutants, where many of our neighbouring countries are having specific standards of how much of each pollutant in a particular mix of tailpipe emission, which is captured and measured, such as hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide. Our idea of the submission was in line to that. As we are managing the climate change-related emissions for carbon, we also wanted to ensure that a particular provision is there to cover the pollutant aspect of it.

HON. K.K. LAL.- A very good explanation. Have you done any proactive measure in terms of getting devices to test these theories out before it is recommended to Government to change the regulation?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- In terms of devices, we have recently accorded budget provisions on our inspection lanes, where we will be acquiring inspection emission testers and other brake testers to ensure the upholding of our road safety standards. That is according to the current budget provisions for this current financial year. Our intent is to meet the standards that are currently with our neighbouring countries. However, we have been so fortunate in this financial year, we have been according to those budget provisions to acquire those vehicles.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Question to the Ministry of Health. Whatever they are requesting in the tailpipe emissions is it already covered in the Public Health Act? You just mentioned about the emission parts.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned, it is not covered under the current Bill. However, it is partially covered under the Environmental Management Act (EMA), talking about pollutants and permits to dispose waste and or pollutants. However, it is not really capturing vehicles or automobiles in particular. If the Committee thinks that this should be included, it can be further specified in the regulations in terms of what they are suggesting in coming up with best practise around global standards, which can be enforced upon routine operational inspections of these vehicles. I think that is where the submission is coming from.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, my final supplementary question on that subject matter. I want to say something, that this is be on – going and as a Committee, I believe that this is the right time for us. I know since I was in the Council, I used to face a lot of challenges with bus operators in terms of the emissions. I do not know how much it will hold in terms of regulation, however, if we have it in the Bill, it will carry more weight rather than the regulations as operators will need to be up to par with it. Currently, there is a gap and it is clear when you visit any bus station nowadays. Forget about the electric bus, that will take ages. There is a current issue of emissions and you can just imagine the people that sit at the bus stations especially the students who are suffering.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, just to add on to what is being discussed. Let us discuss a place like Delhi in India who also have a problem with pollution and when we discuss public health, pollution is a part of it, in its various forms and causes which include steel processing mills...

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Member, can you please stick the subject areas that we are discussing, that comes under 2B – Noise pollution. I hope that we are on the same subject.

HON. K.K. LAL.- We are talking about emissions, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I understand however, you have diverted from the topic that we are discussing. Let us be mindful on the topics of discussion. Are there any other issues to be addressed? If there are no issues, I believe the recommendations with the Committee have been alluded to from the first consultative process. LTA and the Ministry of Health can only submit, however, the beauty of it lies with the Committee, which is the only place that can do amendments, even if you take it the Solicitor General's office and the drafters, they will not be able to make any amendments. We have listened to your recommendations, it is within our hands and that will be part of our discussions under your submission, upon our return from our public consultations throughout Fiji. Now that has been taken care of, let us go straight to item (b) on Noise Pollution.

MR. I .ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, as earlier alluded to, while noise is a recognised as a nuisance, there is limited guidance on the regulations and enforcement of LTA on noise from vehicle, road traffic or the use of horns. These are only addressed in the LTA regulations however, we would like to have these incorporated into other Acts so that it carries weight in terms of enforcement and the practicality of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, we are currently on item (b) on Noise pollution, it is straight forward since Day one, where you have heard that it is a concern.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman , through you, when it comes to noise pollution, there are also car enthusiasts with hot dogs. In a practical and youth-led society, we may allow these shows, however, would it not minimise their career or hobbies even though it is a public health concern, there are times when people want to use it for recreational purposes. Would it not affect them as well?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, I believe that the officers from the LTA are coming from the needs of the general society. We understand that there are enthusiasts out there, in terms of hot dogs and their taste on different types of vehicles, however, it would help if it can be managed. We have received numerous complaints from residents living along the Nasese corridor and it is indeed a hassle for the officers from LTA receiving calls for every corner of the road to be enforced in terms of noise pollution. If this can be incorporated with other Acts, it will carry a lot of weight in terms of this enforcement.

HON. K.K. LAL.- I totally agree that noise pollution is a public health problem with respect to the Act and we should a specific noise pollution regulation capture in it, however, I am trying to understand how we can balance it since some of the population want it whilst the other population do not. Public health has a certain level may be a decibel limit on how much noise is acceptable. I understand that there are some vehicles that are manufactured with that type of noise decibel limits, so how od we balance this? This is relevant to the Public Health.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr Chairman, through you, as I mentioned earlier, if it can quantified in the regulations with a manageable decibel limit. This is what we are proposing.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, a supplementary question. This would affect the bikers as well. Some of these bikes are factory fitted with very high decibel hot dog noise, so this would affect them since some of them use this a mode of transport and with the high traffic in Suva, some of them buy bikes for their daily transport use. How would be manage this, even though there is a decibel quantified limit?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, should our proposal be put forward and it is incorporated in the regulations, this would managed from the port of entry. Otherwise, it would quite unfair the general public for these types of vehicles to be allowed to be imported into the country, yet we are trying to enforce this regulation. That is why the LTA is trying to push vehicle related issues into other Acts since, presently, we seem to be working in isolation.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, an additional question would be are hot dogs legal or illegal?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, if it is contributing to noise pollution, than it is breaching the LTA Act and in a way, it is illegal in terms of LTA regulations.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Remember that you are on public record, you are saying, in a way, can you be specific? Is it illegal or legal?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- If it creates noise pollution.

HON. K.K. LAL.- What is the limit? Do you have a limit to the noise pollution?

MR. R. KHAN.- In terms of the legality around hot dogs, as you have mentioned, that is a modified exhaust system and for any particular modification that is carried out on the exhaust of a vehicle, the applicant must get approval first from the LTA. If it is done in the particular way, where the drivers are able to demonstrate through the specifications the noise from the exhaust system, which is a policy related standard of less than 80 decibels measured at one metre around the radius of the exhaust, it can be approved, however, provided that it cannot do any further subsequent modification or performance related issues to the vehicle. It is assessed in that manner and on a case-by-case basis, it could be approved.

HON. K.K. LAL.- If I understand you correctly, hot dogs are legal as long as they meet the 80 decibel regulation?

MR. R. KHAN.- First, they have make an application and it will go through the approval process. It is not for someone to just make the exhaust adjustments and classify it as legal even if it falls within the particular limit.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We will go straight to item (c) on vehicle and transport related nuisance.

MR. I .ROKOSAWA.- In terms of the third recommendation – vehicles and transport emissions – there is no clear provision addressing matters such as prolonged vehicle idling, oil leakages and other environmental hazards arising from vehicle operations.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Before I go to the Ministry of Health, this is also a major issue – oil leakage. The Councils try their best to upkeep the bus stations, the concrete aspect et cetera. However, when a bus is parked and there is a leakage, and after the bus is gone, you see how it spoils the environment. I want to know, whether LTA has some laws in place that can be passed on to those operators on the non-compliance aspect, especially on oil leakage?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, I will give a brief response and then hand it over to our Manager Standards and Engineering to go into the technical details. Since we are talking about buses, I will start with our Quality Assurance Management Systems (QAMS). We have annual QAMS inspections because of the issues that we are facing in terms of bus operators are not able to maintain their bus fleets, we are doing two audit checks. First is the QAMS, and another audit inspection, apart from

their annual vehicle maintenance, because at times they have difficulties in trying to maintain their fleet. That is why we have instances of oil leakages, at respective bus stands.

MR. R. KHAN.- In terms of bus oil leakage in public spaces or on the roads, currently as a matter of enforcement, our regulations only empower us to issue defect orders for those cases. It is not directly on the oil leakage, but because the bus is defective, it is leaking oil. I think the idea of the submission here is if it is also considered as a public health issue in the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, then there could be more ways of enforcement where Town Council can also be empowered to issue fines on such cases.

HON. P.K. BALA.- We want to thank you for the recommendation that you people are proposing. However, if it can be in detail. As layman, we will not understand. It is very general, but if you can give the explanation that you are giving now. It is good that we are having a face-to-face meeting, but if you can just add on and give us some more details on the challenges that you face every day, and what is there for you to act on, and what you intend for us to deal with.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- If that can be provided to us. It is a request from the honourable Members. The more details of what the explanation is being going on, it will help us out when we try to finalise the Amendment Bill.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, we will surely act on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The technical team from the Ministry of Health, if you want to have some technical details on that, on the issue.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- I would like to thank the representatives from the LTA for bringing up the issue on oil spillage at the bus stands. I think that is very important because we are dealing with the public and the chronic exposures to oil on a daily basis. It is an issue that we need to work together, and include it in the Public Health Act in terms of the exposures to the public.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, our recommendation (d) is on derelict vehicles. The Bill does not specifically address the management or timely removal of derelict vehicles, which may pose environmental and public health risks, including serving as breeding grounds for pests. As matters currently stand in terms of the Land Transport Authority Act, if there are derelict vehicles as per the terms of the Act, we have to impound it first, take it through a public notice, try to contact the owner that those vehicles have been abandoned, and then we can opt for auctions or disposal of those vehicles should there be proceedings from the auctions. We are mandated by the law to keep it for nine months, before we send the funds over to the Ministry of Finance. It is a lengthy exercise.

While that is trying to comply with the Land Transport Authority Act and regulations, probably our biggest challenge is the companies that are involved in recycling. Currently, we only have Dayal's from Ba. In terms of the authority to go into a private compound, we need to be accompanied by police officers, if there are derelict vehicles in the private compound. Those are some of the challenges. We understand the intent of those regulations and legislations in the Act, but then it does also impose a lot of challenges on the LTA.

HON. P.K. BALA.- The way we see it, they have limited powers. This is the right time to connect the powers, the laws, in terms of breeding, because this is where public health comes in. This is also faced by Municipal Councils. You go and see on the roadside. Last night I was in Nausori and one vehicle is parked in the car park area, it must have been from ages, all the grasses, everything grown up there. I know there are other places, but because of the absence of laws, the authorities cannot act upon.

They have, but there is a long process. If this health and safety can come into place, instead of waiting nine months, if it can be done within a month or two months, the better.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- To add on further, certain members of the public know about that gap, and they would wait around until LTA auctions the vehicle, the next day they will be there in the LTA office, "Where's the proceeds?"

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much honourable members, we will go straight to hybrid and electrical vehicle batteries.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Hybrid and electrical vehicle batteries are safe handling and disposable high voltage batteries used in hybrid electrical vehicles is not addressed. These components may present environmental and health risks, if not properly managed. As I mentioned before, even we are facing challenges with internal combustion engines. Now we are moving into sustainable modes of transportations, electrical vehicles and hybrids. Disposable batteries are a challenge, and the private sectors that are involved in this market, is very limited. I will allow our Manager Standards and Engineering to add on further.

MR. R. KHAN.- Mr. Chairman, The biggest challenge is that people sometimes do not see hybrid vehicles and electric vehicle batteries as a risk, and I think that is the biggest risk itself. These are very high voltage batteries, and we see that they are not managed properly in garages, in workshops, even at people's homes. They are just lying around, weathering the conditions of the nature, and then probably a disaster waiting to happen.

Currently, under the powers that is with the LTA, we do not have any mandate on regulating how these are managed in workshops and garages. From the public health perspective, we believe that there is an opportunity for us to have more stricter regulations around these.

HON. K.K. LAL.- You spoke on something which was not spoken before, more like the elephant in the room, because we understand many hybrid vehicles have burned because of this issue. The Public Health Act may not have directly mentioned this. As LTA, how would you recommend that legislation to be structured because for disposal of this kind of battery requires a very sophisticated process. It is not just go and throw it in the dump. There is a way to do that. Have you done any expertise, research along those lines which can help Public Health to devise that kind of regulation?

MR..R. Khan.- Mr. Chairman, there has been a study conducted by Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) and they have a report on vehicle standards in the Pacific which covers part of the issue in terms of managing and disposing of high breed vehicle batteries.

Mr. Chairman, also that report identifies some of the gaps and current processes that are happening. As a way to manage that would be probably to have more regulations around people who are allowed to carry out these exercises may be having special permits only they can work with the required qualifications and facility to be able to work on hybrid and electric vehicles batteries something in relation to that.

HON. K.K. LAL.- If we are going to say that someone has to have a permit who should give that permit the Public Health Board or LTA because it is more like a contractor whoever that person is dealing with that disposal of battery.

MR. R. Khan.- Mr. Chairman, I think currently LTA we do not have the regulatory powers. Probably, the Ministry of Environment they like similar things have been done for other sectors. For example, in terms of disposal of derelict vehicles or even for metals they get a permit from Ministry of

Trade and I think Ministry of Environment has also something similar arrangement could be done. Of course, yes, I think it is very important to identify the right person or the right organisation to carry out this exercise.

HON. S. KUMAR.- Very good point. However, let us treat these batteries as rubbish. Like how the councils came and present and Public Health Board does have some sort of powers to intervene if there is a public nuisance in terms of rubbish not collected. Now, have you talked about solar batteries? If you talk about batteries in general then let us talk about it. We have car batteries as well. The normal diesel engine they have batteries. My van has a battery as well and not only electric power vehicles. Have you covered something along these batteries and disposals of them?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members and representatives from LTA they are current proposal. In the current Bill it does not talk about anything about the derelict vehicles handling and also the management and disposal of the batteries.

If that derelict vehicles and the batteries are receptacle that can hold water and can breed mosquitoes there is a section in the current Public Health Act and the proposal that is talking about even when it is dry or holding water or having mosquito larvae. This is where this law will apply in the Bill for receptacle. Otherwise, I think in workplace if it has to do with handling of the this kind of batteries I think the OHS comes in because of the exposes, PPE and all. In the disposal, I think that is something that is not regarded as a general waste where you can go and put it in a bin and put it out. Something that we can also further discuss.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, why I am coming back to Public Health these lithium batteries also have chemicals...

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Yes.

HON. S. KUMAR.- ...which can end up in our water systems in drinking water and also caused Public Health risk as well. This is why, in my recommendation, we should have something capturing this in part of Public Health.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- If you look at the other Act like the Environmental Health Act, these are covered there but that does not give us the responsibility of looking at our submission what they have already recommend for the Committee to go back and relook at it.

As discussed by the Ministry of Health when you look at this Public Health (Amendment) Bill, the amendment is to the Committee. For further opportunity wise where we will have to sit down and discuss this further with how best we can accommodate the request when you talk about the hybrid and electrical vehicles and the batteries here. We will go straight to f.

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, in terms of our recommendation for (f) end of life for electrical and high regent powered vehicles. There are no provisions addressing the disposal or management or end of life alternative fuel vehicles with anticipated growth in some technologies this will be coming increasingly in the relevant area.

As part of our deliberations in earlier topics we have no end of life policies or regulations in terms of internal agents while we are moving into such sustainable mode of transportations there is a need to address this because the usage of this should be increasing in the near future.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We will go straight to the next subject area. It stated that at the same time LTA recognise if CEO can you just give us a brief on that on 1,2 and 3?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, the LTA recognises the Bill provides the usual basis for collaborations and coordination. Across agencies has alluded to from my introductory remarks we applaud the fact that inter-agencies collaborations as already incorporated in the Bill in terms of:

(1) shared focus on pollution controls;
(2) the Bill emphasises on environmental health support;
(3) broader efforts to address pollutions including those arise it from transport activities;
(4) regulatory supporting enforcement;
(5) expand the role of environmental health, practitioners may compliment LTAs compliance and enforcement functions particularly in areas of such monitoring and inspections;
(6) data sharing and reporting;
(7) be focus on surveillance, reporting; and
(8) offers opportunities for improve coordination and information sharing between relevant key agencies.

MR. CHAIRMAN.-Honourable Members, anyone want to discuss further on those information that has been said by the CEO. It is a straight forward statement but the onus still on us, how best we can execute that and look at ways and means to incorporate in this Public Health (Amendment) Act.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, may be this could be out of topic but coming back to Public Health in relation to LTA. Have you received complaints with respect to the LED lamp which is a Public Health risk as well to people and drivers eyes on the roads?

MR. R. KHAN.- Yes, we have received complaints and we have also taken action against those complaints and enforcement actions is taken where there is a misused of these devices on the roads. There is a provision for an exemption to have an LED lamp fitted on a vehicle provided that it is not used on public roads and is only for the use for off-road recreational activities. On that basis, they have the provision to utilise those lights, however, in cases where there is a breach we do take enforcement action. They are issue with fines and there permits can also be cancelled.

HON. P.K. BALA.- That is the problem. I mean why you want to exempt at the first place because you people are not everywhere. This is some of the things that we need to attend to.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, in addition to that when you talk about public health even if the Act is not mentioning anything in relation to that and still that is a public health risk. Eyes is an important part of the body. Therefore, if this device is harming people's eye while driving especially during the rainy period. When it is raining you cannot even see pedestrians crossing and it can cause an accident. You can kill someone. So, that is a risk as well. How are you capturing that and how are you working with FRCS to ensure that the illegal ones are not entering the country? I think certain amps are allowed. The ones that are more than 300 watts are basically illegal. How are you working with the enforcement border patrols in ensuring these do not enter into our markets? Remember our eye may be good, but the older folks who are driving may have difficulty at night

HON. P.K. BALA.- Before you respond to this, I will give an example. There was a video – I hope you people have seen that – on this light. There was a threatening issue, the owner of that vehicle was threatening the police and the police was threatening him. Because of these issues, if we can attend to this, we will not have problems on the road. I hope you have seen that video. He was questioning that you have stopped me, but there was another vehicle going with that same light and was never stopped.

HON. K.K. LAL.- It was in Nadi or in Nausori, if I am correct, where the police officer stopped a particular vehicle driver. He had LED lights and was being charged, but there was another vehicle

passing through also had LED lights. It seems like your LTA officers do not have the knowledge of the devices which LED lights are allowed, and which one is too bright, which one is not bright, and which one is normal. Some factory-fitted vehicles also come with LED lights, which are a bit bright, but they are factory-fitted, so the regulation allows them. The ones that are after-market are not allowed, and it becomes a public health risk at the end of the day.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, in regards to maintaining sanitation and general inspection of vehicles. Do you believe that it should be included because part of the Act we only cover ships / vessels in terms of general sanitation? This is by experience, some taxis that we go into, do not maintain their vehicles in terms of sanitary inspection. Sometimes there are small bugs that do exist in it. Do you think that it should be somewhere included in this Public Health (Amendment) Bill?

MR. I. ROKOSAWA.- Mr. Chairman, I totally support the recommendations, if this will benefit the general public in terms of usage, especially for public service vehicles.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- If you are all good, then we will wrap it up this afternoon. Thank you very much honourable Members, and the team from the LTA for the in-depth Presentation to us this afternoon. There are a lot of sharing ideas going on. Remember we are still in the process of getting out these amendment Bill over Fiji. Thank you very much for giving us your time. We are trying to get all the necessary information from all stakeholders involved on how best this Amendment Bill is aligned to your daily operation of the day.

While hearing submission this afternoon and from other stakeholders already left for the last two weeks, it is an eye-opener for us. There are lot of takeaways for us to relook at your submission. We are always here to support. In case you missed something out of our public submission today, feel free to come back to us and we will give it an opportunity to relook at how our discussion today has been implicated in how you run your operations. For us we are more or less like a third party when you talk about this Bill. The author is here, we are lucky that the technical team from the Ministry of Health is always here to help us out. In due course, if we request any further clarity from LTA, we will be in touch through our Secretariate and hopefully you will avail yourself. On that note, honourable Members, the team from LTA and MoH, I declare this meeting closed.

The Committee adjourned at 3.15 p.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

WATER AUTHORITY OF FIJI PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT NO 4. 2026

DATE: Monday, 8th June 2026.
VENUE: Committee Room (East/West Wing), Parliament Precincts

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST/WEST WING), PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS ON MONDAY, 8TH JUNE, 2026 AT 3.05 P.M.

Interviewee/ Submittee : Water Authority of Fiji (WAF)

In Attendance:

Water Authority of Fiji

(1) Mr. Seru Soderberg	-	Chief Executive Officer
(2) Ms. Ulamila Kunatuba	-	Legal Officer

Ministry of Health

(1) Mr. Luke Vonotabua	-	Health Inspector
(2) Mr. Toga Vosataki	-	National Wash Coordinator

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable members, members of the public, secretariat, dear viewers, ladies and gentlemen, a very good afternoon to you all. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone in this premises this afternoon, especially the viewers that are watching this public hearing session live. At the outset, for information purpose, pursuant to Standing Order 111 of the Standing Order of Parliament, all Committee meetings are to be open to the public.

Therefore, please note that this submission is open to the public and the media, and is also being aired via *Walesi* platform, and streamlined live on Parliament website and social media platform.

For any sensitive information concerning the matter before us this afternoon that cannot be disclosed in public, this can be provided to the committee either in private or in writing. However, please be advised that Standing Order 111 in the following circumstances permits of non-disclosure of information and these are;

(1) national security matters;
(2) third party confidential information;
(3) personnel or human resources matters; and
(4) Committee's deliberation and development of the Committee's recommendation based on the report.

This is a Parliamentary meeting, and all information gathered is covered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privilege Act of 1965. However, please bear in mind that we do not condone slander or libel of any sort, and any information brought before this Committee should be based on facts. In terms of protocol of this Committee meeting, please minimise the usage of mobile phone and all mobile phone to be on silent mode while the meeting is in progress.

I wish to also remind honourable Members and our guests that all questions to be asked are to be addressed through the Chairperson. I would like the Members of the Committee to introduce themselves, and the official from the Ministry of Health. Honourable Members, and the officials you may introduce himself now.

(Introduction of the Members of the Committee and Ministry of Health)

Today the Committee will be hearing submissions from the Water Authority of Fiji in relation to the Public Health Amendment Bills, Bill No. 4, 2026. And before us, we have the representative from

the Water Authority of Fiji, and I would like to thank them for availing themselves to appear to this hearing. Due to the essence of time, you may give a response brief. The Members will intervene with a supplementary question. On that note, I now invite the officials to introduce themselves and then begin with their presentation.

(Introduction of representatives from Water Authority of Fiji)

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee. I will be providing this afternoon is an executive summary of the detailed submission that we have put forward. To start off, the Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) is supportive of the intent of the Bill to modernise the public health legislation, not only to strengthen the water quality and environmental regulations, but also we have noted the protection of water sources and the penalties for non compliance. However, they are within the recommended amendments to the Bill. There are some concerns regarding overlap with WAF statutory mandate.

Mr. Chairman, through you, the first point of our concern is on the definitions. There has been some changes in the terminologies. There is also a need for some clear definitions to avoid ambiguity within the Bill itself. Definitions include waste, sanitation, waste bins, septic tanks to name a few. While sanitation and water supply schemes are broad, there is a need to determine and define the applicability in the urban context which could be WAF's mandate and the private system which is owned by individuals and is currently unregulated and the rural communities which WAF has assisted in terms of development but at the completion of the installation of this infrastructure, these are maintained by the communities. There needs to be a reference made to the Cabinet-approved Rural Water and Sanitation Policy that is an existing policy.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene? I mean, you have said that there is a partnership between WAF and communities. So, once it is handed over to the community so if there is any issue or defect anything, who is liable for that, is it WAF or the community?

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Mr. Chairman, through you, with respect to the infrastructure that the Water Authority of Fiji has mandated to implement for the rural communities, WAF is tasked with the responsibility of implementing the infrastructure the training. The water committees are then responsible for the day-to-day operation of the infrastructure. However, if there comes a time when an issue has turned up that is beyond the capability of the water committee, then the Water Authority of Fiji steps in to rectify what those issues might be.

The water committee has a responsibility to the day-to-day operations, however, the issues that may go beyond their capability is when the Water Authority of Fiji through the government will step in and rectify those challenges.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, why I have raised this is because I know for myself there is a lot of partnership and we want to thank you people for appearing before the Committee rather than other stakeholders saying written submissions. Why I am saying this, what are some of the areas that you see from the Amendment Act that will affect?

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Mr. Chairman, through you, in terms of the areas within the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, one of the key areas that we see is first is the board representation. What we note is the positions within the board has been given to certain positions, however, what is missing from within the board is a representative of the Ministry of Public Works. They are our guiding ministry or representative from Water Authority of Fiji. We say this because the water and wastewater infrastructure are specialised infrastructure they are not your normal run-of-the-mill infrastructure. There needs to be some technical know-how that exists within the board specifically for the water and wastewater sector.

HON. P.K. BALA.- So, Mr. Chairman, since Ministry of Health officials are here can they explain why they have been missing? To me, honestly they are the main stakeholder if you really look at it. So, what was the reason for them to be left out?

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, just to follow up to Honourable Bala, all amendments can be made to include them.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, I think we can consider also having a member from the Ministry of Works or the Water Authority of Fiji

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chairman, through you, these are some of the very important points which we were discussing earlier. It is good they are here appearing before the Committee and we were able to hear their concerns in regards to the representation. On the other point, in regards to the catchments, the partnership, you do the project and hand over to the Committee. This is in regards to the protection part, water contamination and all that. I see most of these projects which has been done, are still open without some boundaries or fences and all that and can be very easily contaminated. How this can be protected, are there any other avenues how we can do that?

MR. S. SODERBERG.- That is one of the inclusions in the current Bill that we are supportive of. Within the Bill itself, there is a clause with respect to the protection of catchment areas. We have just made an additional request that in addition to the listed areas, activities that has to be prohibited, that we include quarry excavation and sand extraction and land clearing within these catchments. Currently, there are no laws that dictates this space in terms of catchment management. The best that the Water Authority of Fiji can do at the moment is, carry out awareness on why the catchment management is important, however the action that is taken after the fact, that currently lies with the community, especially for the rural areas.

We are currently in the process of implementing water catchment for our bigger system, which is the urban areas. However, we have limited powers within the catchment for the rural communities, but this Bill covers that space quite sufficiently. We are requesting if they could consider including quarrying, excavation, sand extraction and land clearing activities within the catchment that gives us better security for the water supply services to the communities.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Let us deal with this matter and put it to rest. You have basically done 99 percent and 1 percent is left. In our earlier consultations, there was an issue raised in terms of compensation. We have talked about contamination now. For workplaces, they are covered, but the case in Ba, people died, people were sick, but they never had any cent. What is your view, now that we are doing some changes to the Public Health Act? Maybe this is the right time if you can give your views and opinions, so that the Committee can consider and deal with it.

MR. S. SODERBERG.- We are in agreement to the proposal that there has to be accountability taken for the protection of every Fijian who is out there, which means, when it comes to the catchment management or the quality of water that is provided for our community, there has to be a better accountability, meaning the clauses that are in here necessitating the protection of the catchment as well as the fines. We are in support of what is being proposed in the Bill.

HON. P.K. BALA.- My point was compensation for the victims. What is your view on that?

MR. S. SODERBERG.- In terms of compensation to the victims for issues that may arise, we are not against it. We are in agreement that there has to be some form of compensation for the miscarriage of duties to those who are responsible for the catchments and water supply systems.

One of the other areas that we would like some consideration is on the regulatory overlaps when we read the Bill. Within the Bill, it grants the Board of Health powers to approve, revoke, and regulate water and wastewater infrastructure. This would create a duplication of current WAF Act and the legal responsibility for planning, design, construction, and operations.

If I may, as I had stated earlier, the infrastructure that we constructed at the Water Authority of Fiji is specialised infrastructure. We have gone through this particular scenario such as this in the past, where one of the local authorities had demanded that we provide them with all our technical drawings for a treatment plant. Unfortunately, we made the submission, but they did not have the technical expertise to assess it. What ended up happening is that, our detailed drawings, sitting with them for a couple of months, with them being unable to give or add value to what we have provided.

We are requesting that the Bill focusses on public health and the strategic side of things, while the things such as the operations of a water supply, wastewater infrastructure, remains with the Ministry of Public Works and the Water Authority of Fiji, and then with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Public Works talking to each other to regulate this particular space. That is on the regulatory overlap.

HON. P.K. BALA.- A very good point. Since the Ministry officials are here, if they can give us some background on what they have said so it is easy for us to understand.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- It is certainly a good point for discussion. The Ministry of Health technical working group initially is trying to address existing gaps that are there. This particular amendment aims at focussing on new treatment designs, when we talk about new septic tank designs that are going to be implemented into rural areas, a new water treatment design that will be put in place that has not been currently used in the country. Well-articulated by the CEO, MoH does not have any technical expertise, however, when the submission do come to the Central Board of Health, the first thing that we do is liaise with a network of countries that we share best practices with, perhaps may have used or are familiar with the said system, the pros and cons of the system. In addition, we circulate the details and specs of the treatment system to our stakeholders including, including the Ministry of Works for their comments as well. They provide the technical expertise whereby the Central Board of Health says this particular sceptic tank design will not result in an outbreak of typhoid if implemented in the rural areas later down the line. This is based on evidence that we have had, whereby certain designs have had serious adverse effects to health. There was a major outbreak in Ra (2007 – 2011), a number of individuals had lost their lives, with the disease burden, heavily impacting the MoH system as well. This is something that the MoH seeks to address, not really taking over from WAF, in terms of the technical expertise but bridging the gap in terms of the new designs that will be implemented in the rural communities which could potentially adversely affected our fellow Fijians. Thank you, honourable Chairman.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, hearing their discussion made by the officials form MoH and WAF, both play a vital role in our communities. Fijians need water daily and at the same time the health and safety of all Fijians are equally paramount. What is at stake here is the clear demarcation of the roles that they play from the MoH according to the Act and where WAF play their roles in relation to the Act.

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Vinaka Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, as we had already discussed, this is something that we are supportive of which is the protection of water sources and contamination relating to water sources is fully supported by the Water Authority of Fiji, which is part of this Bill. We are recommending that the list be expanded to include quarrying, excavation, sand extraction, and land clearing activities, which present similar contamination risks. So WAF is in full support of that particular clause within the Bill, Sir.

HON. P.K. BALA.- As far as the creeks are concerned — rivers, creeks — it all comes under the Ministry of Lands. They have their own Act. How different is their Act compared to the amendments that you have brought in? Because I can see where they are coming from, and now we have another player in it. That is the Ministry of Lands. They are the authorised body that gives licences and approvals. But in terms of the amendment, how does it affect the Act that the Ministry of Lands is governed by, if there is one?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairperson and Members of the Committee, maybe the National WASH Coordinator will add on to what I am going to say, but I think what the CEO is mentioning is the protection of the water sources, ensuring that no one carries out quarrying or river gravel extraction close to the water source. That is what he is referring to in terms of protection of the water source.

So, if there is a water source already there for a community, no one should be grazing animals, farming, or extracting gravel in the vicinity.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, if I may, I understand what you are saying. What I am saying is that when the Lands Department or Ministry of Lands gives approval, it comes subject to a list of conditions. That is where I am coming from — how does that affect your amendment?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Through you Mr. Chairman and thank you honourable Member for the question. This is certainly something of concern, whereby the Ministry of Health and the Water Authority are looking to secure and protect water catchments and sources, while the approving authority for other uses lies with the Ministry of Lands, as rightfully mentioned by the honourable Member.

Basically, this can be incorporated into the existing mechanism of coordination — the Health Impact Assessment (HIA). When stakeholders are pulled in for initial discussions regarding quarrying or gravel removal near water sources, the Ministry of Health, as suggested in earlier submissions, can ensure that the water supply catchment is considered. This may influence the Ministry of Lands to move the activity downstream or to another location where it will not affect the water source.

HON. V. PILLAY.- As we speak now, we see most of the catchments where leased land around the water source, and people are actually logging or running cattle farms. All this is happening as we speak. So how are we going to address it when people have leased land and are already engaged in cattle, goat farming, logging, and similar activities? How will this Bill address all that?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Through you Mr. Chairman, honourable Member, thank you so much for that question. This is certainly something that the Technical Working Group has given much thought to. Although we cannot control all activities surrounding the source water, we focus on wilful and intentional sabotage of the water supply. As the Bill clearly demarcates, anyone damaging apparatus or wilfully polluting the water supply. These are the ones that we are going to penalise. However, the activities that contribute to the source water itself can be addressed further down in terms of treatment of the drinking water before the consumption of the drinking water itself. Thank you, Honourable Chairman. CEO, we may continue now.

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Thank you, Honourable Chair and Honourable Members. The other area that the Water Authority of Fiji are looking at with some concern is just on the water source closure powers. Under the Bill, there is a provision that allows the board to close or restrict water sources and require alternative supply if there's any contaminant that is present within the water source.

This poses risks to water security, continuity of supply and may create significant operational and financial burdens. What the Water Authority of Fiji is recommending is that before any actions or any such restriction is imposed, that the Ministry of Health within the Bill to state that they would work with Water Authority of Fiji to come up with the best possible solution before we generally just shut down an entire water supply. We say this because there is, when you close down a water supply system, there is hundreds if not thousands of people that is going to be impacted.

There is a sanitation challenge that comes with it and in a lot of areas within around Fiji, alternative supply is not readily available. There are things that we could do, preventative steps or resolution steps to some issues that might have turned up. So we are requesting to allow for consultation with the Ministry of Public Works and the Water Authority of Fiji before any of this infrastructure is summarily shut down, Sir.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, if Ministry of Health can brief us because it is a very important, see as a committee, I think we should not do such things or make laws that will affect people. I think we should make law so that people are fully assisted with. I mean, just the way we should see and they brought up a very valid point.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman, if I could just maybe shortly enlighten the Committee on the intention of having that particular amendment in that proposed Bill. This is in an instant where through routine water surveillance, our technical officers on the ground detect certain contaminants within the water supply that is hazardous for human health.

And this can be a case-to-case basis. If it is basically just mere coliforms without E.coli indicating faecal matter, then this would be undertaken, as the CEO suggests, notice given to the water committee to improve, maybe clean the water catchment and so forth. However, if the contaminants identified includes heavy metals and other very lethal pathogens, then this is something that we need to capture in the Act, that we can shut it down before it results in a loss of life.

We have some instances around the country that we have identified some heavy metals, and I think the CEO is also aware of that. Without this amendment, we cannot come in and tell them that you stop drinking from this particular water source. And we feel that this is there to safeguard that particular community. Honourable Mr. Chairman.

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Vinaka Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, with respect to the emergency response, the WAF is just seeking a definition of leadership during contamination events. Within the Bill itself, there is a lack of clarity as to who takes the lead. We would like just clarity within the Bill itself on who takes the lead during a contamination event. If it is the Ministry of Health, or is it the Water Authority of Fiji, or is it the Ministry of Public Works? This is just to make sure that decisions are not delayed, or conflicting decisions are being made on the ground, because ultimately at the end of the day, if that happens, the community is the one that will ultimately suffer. We just need some clarity on the leadership in an event of contamination. That is not clear within the Bill. If the Ministry of Health is going to take leadership we would like that it is stated within the Bill that they take leadership, so we take directions from the Ministry of Health in case there was an event that happens.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ministry of Health can you just elaborate what is the brief on that on the leadership role who can take the lead?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, I believe that since this is a direct threat to human life Ministry of Health may provide guidance while closely working together with WAF in addressing the issue. So, for example, that I have said if we identify such hazardous containment within the water supply, while we communicate to the community that this needs to be shut down. Simultaneously, we reach out to WAF for alternative may be water cutting can be implemented that very same afternoon to address the water needs of that particular community. So, I believe it is more of the three entities the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Works and Water Authority of Fiji working hand in hand with each other, vinaka.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Just be clear so that we also understand what you talking about. He is talking about the leadership. Who will take the lead role but in your response you are saying that. There has to be someone in a Ministry to take a lead role. So, who is going to take the lead role?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- .- Mr. Chairman, I believe in that particular situation the Ministry of Health will take lead.

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Mr. Chairman, just on the new obligations such as the alternative supply infrastructure development that are been introduced as well as the new delegations of the approval for the design. All of these from our perspective there are some financial implications that is going to be going along with it however within the Bill that is not clearly identify who becomes responsible for the financial implication. Just from the WAF perspective, on behalf of the Government of Fiji we deliver around $150 million worth of infrastructure on an yearly basis. Within the Bill itself what is currently stating that the board would have to provide approvals for all designs that for water and wastewater infrastructure that needs to go in. That is an additional pathway that we will have to go.

There are a few things.

(1) Potential for delays for the implementation of critical infrastructure for water and wastewater.

(2) The confidence of the multilateral development banks who provide loans to the Government of Fiji or grants to put in water and wastewater infrastructure. There is a potential for their confident to waiver because of the additional requirements that comes in that space. So, we are requesting for the consideration again as I had mentioned earlier that the technical operational responsibilities is placed upon the Ministry of Public Works whom the Water Authority of Fiji reports to work with the Ministry of Health to make sure the ease of reference. We say this because currently we are delivering $150 million of infrastructure in yearly basis. This is projected to go up to about $400 million per annum in CAPEX over the coming years and in any delay in implementation would affect the general public as well.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, can just the Ministry of Health clarify the issues that was raised by CEO.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- .- Mr. Chairman, thank you so much for the opportunity to clarify. That particular amendment in the Bill is not there as an application for every project. It is a design. If it first design to be introduced it is the first of its kind then that needs to be approve by CBH. After that, that design can be rolled out into the country, if you are patenting that same design. It is not for every project, but a singular approval, so that the CBH provides that umbrella view on what systems that the country is using, and that these systems are not harmful to our citizens.

HON. A. BIA.- I guess under the Water Authority of Fiji Act 2007, I think it needs to be detailed again, and a bit demanded to cater for.

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Just noting the comments that have been provided by the Ministry of Health. The first of its kind design, we would not have an issue of getting that initial approval, noting that all the other works that we have to do would be as we have always assessed. What we would like to request, if it could be considered within the Bill, and that it states, that if it is a first of its kind design that is being introduced in the country for the first time, must go through the Board.

With respect to access to infrastructure, there has been an expanded inspection powers to the inspectors that will come in and inspect our infrastructure. We would like to request that there is controlled access protocols for a lot of our infrastructure. Our water treatment plants and wastewater

treatment plants have controlled protocols, because we come in contact with the chemicals and specialised equipment, and within the Bill itself, it says that at any given time that they would be able to walk into that infrastructure and do the assessment.

There are occupational health and safety requirements before a visitation for some of our sites. We would like to, within the Bill, that it states that we would be notified, we would be happy to take any of the inspectors through our infrastructure, but there are also sites that would require specialised equipment that must be worn before any inspection can be undertaken. We are requesting, instead of just overarching approvals that control access protocols is observed, especially when it comes to water and wastewater infrastructure and the sensitivities around maintaining security in these areas.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Under obstruction, WAF can be also charged if they do not allow to their premises as per the amendment Bill. That is where the CEO is coming from. As he has said, there are other protocols within the metered zone in the WAF area. That is what he is speaking about. If the Ministry can update clearly on that, please?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Yes, we do understand the point raised by the CEO. While we try and maintain that the umbrella of monitoring in all water sources, rural and urban, there are certain safety aspects that need to be adhered to in terms of the workplace. When entering the Water Authority work areas, we need to abide by the rules that we have in place, meaning that we have to go through the proper channel where the safety equipment and then proceed to where the inspections need to take place.

In this regard, I believe that obstruction would be a little different as compared to in general areas. In this regard, maybe it would be a case-to-case basis. If the officer feels that following the process is being delayed in such a manner that certain improvements have to be done before they are allowed inside, then that can be deemed as obstruction. Whereas, if it is just a basic helmet on, safety vest on and escorted in, I think that should be okay.

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Mr. Chairman, on the same access to infrastructure, the Water Authority of Fiji is currently working with the Department of Water and Sewerage and the Ministry of Environment, who do routine inspections of our infrastructure. All they need to do is notify us in advance and access is allowed to every single infrastructure we have under our care.

The next one is on penalties and fines. The Water Authority of Fiji, generally on the introduction of the fines, is supportive of it and it being imposed. What we would like to see within the Bill are some mechanisms in place so that the public, including WAF, are not unfairly disadvantaged when it comes to fines. There needs to be some clearly defined mechanisms and protocols where these fines are issued. Mechanisms for the issuing of fines and penalties should be embedded within the main Act itself or a separate regulation is created for the fines as they are.

To bring the summary of the Bill to its conclusion, Sir, the following are the Water Authority of Fiji recommendations.

1. Within the Bill that the statutory roles of Water Authority of Fiji under the Water Authority of Fiji Act 2007, is preserved.
2. Emergency operational works can proceed without regulatory delay.
3. Decisions affecting public water supplies are made jointly between WAF and the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Health.
4. Regulatory interventions are supported by the objective scientific and engineering assessments.
5. Financial responsibility arising from public health directives has to be clearly defined.
6. Existing WAF infrastructure and approved systems are recognised as compliant unless demonstrated otherwise through a formal risk assessment.

These amendments would maintain the Bill's public health objective while safeguarding WAF's ability to deliver safe, reliable and uninterrupted water and wastewater services throughout Fiji. That brings me to the end of my submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much WAF, honourable members, are there any final supplementary questions?

HON. V. PILLAY.- In regards to the penalties, you agree to the penalties. My concern is the infrastructure, especially near to the Municipal Councils where we have the villages or informal settlements where we do not have sewer lines. The penalty is quite high and they can also expect a lot of complaints from the community. The penalty is high and they do not have the infrastructure in place. What is your view on that?

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Taking note of the point that has been raised by the honourable Member. I tend to agree with you when it comes to the less privileged members of community that there has to be some special consideration when it comes to those fines. As I stated, there has to be some mechanisms in place as part of our submission that has to ensure that the public is not unfairly disadvantaged when these fines are being meted out. That is why we are requesting for mechanisms in place under the main Act, or a completely separate regulation submitted just on the fines themselves. That is where this issue, where the less privileged members of our communities, the challenges they face, would be considered and set out in those regulations.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- On the water fluoridation from the main water source, it is one of the effective public health approach for the management of dental diseases. We are informed that it is the infrastructure used to be operational by WAF, but has stopped, causing significant increase in dental cases amongst our population, especially in the Lami-Nausori corridor and the major municipalities. Would WAF consider reintroducing the water fluoridation initiative as one of the public health interventions in this case?

MR. S. SODERBERG.- The Water Authority of Fiji would be happy to consider the reintroduction of fluoridation. However, there are certain considerations that will have to take into place. The impact of fluoridation that is present in water on the existing infrastructure and the actual impact to the community themselves. Would we consider it? We definitely would be able to reconsider it if this is what is proposed by the Committee and the government.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much Water Authority of Fiji. At this juncture, I wish to sincerely thank you all for availing yourself to this public hearing session. We thank you for your time and hope that you will avail yourself for any further queries that the Committee may have on today's submission. If there is any area that need to be addressed, which we have left behind, or need to be addressed in our future dealing regarding the Public Health Act 1935, you are welcome to do so through your written submission back to the Committee. On that note, I declare our meeting this afternoon closed.

The Committee adjourned at 3.51p.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

WATER AUTHORITY OF FIJI PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT NO 4. 2026

DATE: Monday, 8th June 2026.
VENUE: Committee Room (East/West Wing), Parliament Precincts

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST/WEST WING), PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS ON MONDAY, 8TH JUNE, 2026 AT 3.05 P.M.

Interviewee/ Submittee : Water Authority of Fiji (WAF)

In Attendance:

Water Authority of Fiji

(1) Mr. Seru Soderberg	-	Chief Executive Officer
(2) Ms. Ulamila Kunatuba	-	Legal Officer

Ministry of Health

(1) Mr. Luke Vonotabua	-	Health Inspector
(2) Mr. Toga Vosataki	-	National Wash Coordinator

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable members, members of the public, secretariat, dear viewers, ladies and gentlemen, a very good afternoon to you all. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone in this premises this afternoon, especially the viewers that are watching this public hearing session live. At the outset, for information purpose, pursuant to Standing Order 111 of the Standing Order of Parliament, all Committee meetings are to be open to the public.

Therefore, please note that this submission is open to the public and the media, and is also being aired via *Walesi* platform, and streamlined live on Parliament website and social media platform.

For any sensitive information concerning the matter before us this afternoon that cannot be disclosed in public, this can be provided to the committee either in private or in writing. However, please be advised that Standing Order 111 in the following circumstances permits of non-disclosure of information and these are;

(1) national security matters;
(2) third party confidential information;
(3) personnel or human resources matters; and
(4) Committee's deliberation and development of the Committee's recommendation based on the report.

This is a Parliamentary meeting, and all information gathered is covered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privilege Act of 1965. However, please bear in mind that we do not condone slander or libel of any sort, and any information brought before this Committee should be based on facts. In terms of protocol of this Committee meeting, please minimise the usage of mobile phone and all mobile phone to be on silent mode while the meeting is in progress.

I wish to also remind honourable Members and our guests that all questions to be asked are to be addressed through the Chairperson. I would like the Members of the Committee to introduce themselves, and the official from the Ministry of Health. Honourable Members, and the officials you may introduce himself now.

(Introduction of the Members of the Committee and Ministry of Health)

Today the Committee will be hearing submissions from the Water Authority of Fiji in relation to the Public Health Amendment Bills, Bill No. 4, 2026. And before us, we have the representative from

the Water Authority of Fiji, and I would like to thank them for availing themselves to appear to this hearing. Due to the essence of time, you may give a response brief. The Members will intervene with a supplementary question. On that note, I now invite the officials to introduce themselves and then begin with their presentation.

(Introduction of representatives from Water Authority of Fiji)

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee. I will be providing this afternoon is an executive summary of the detailed submission that we have put forward. To start off, the Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) is supportive of the intent of the Bill to modernise the public health legislation, not only to strengthen the water quality and environmental regulations, but also we have noted the protection of water sources and the penalties for non compliance. However, they are within the recommended amendments to the Bill. There are some concerns regarding overlap with WAF statutory mandate.

Mr. Chairman, through you, the first point of our concern is on the definitions. There has been some changes in the terminologies. There is also a need for some clear definitions to avoid ambiguity within the Bill itself. Definitions include waste, sanitation, waste bins, septic tanks to name a few. While sanitation and water supply schemes are broad, there is a need to determine and define the applicability in the urban context which could be WAF's mandate and the private system which is owned by individuals and is currently unregulated and the rural communities which WAF has assisted in terms of development but at the completion of the installation of this infrastructure, these are maintained by the communities. There needs to be a reference made to the Cabinet-approved Rural Water and Sanitation Policy that is an existing policy.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene? I mean, you have said that there is a partnership between WAF and communities. So, once it is handed over to the community so if there is any issue or defect anything, who is liable for that, is it WAF or the community?

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Mr. Chairman, through you, with respect to the infrastructure that the Water Authority of Fiji has mandated to implement for the rural communities, WAF is tasked with the responsibility of implementing the infrastructure the training. The water committees are then responsible for the day-to-day operation of the infrastructure. However, if there comes a time when an issue has turned up that is beyond the capability of the water committee, then the Water Authority of Fiji steps in to rectify what those issues might be.

The water committee has a responsibility to the day-to-day operations, however, the issues that may go beyond their capability is when the Water Authority of Fiji through the government will step in and rectify those challenges.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, why I have raised this is because I know for myself there is a lot of partnership and we want to thank you people for appearing before the Committee rather than other stakeholders saying written submissions. Why I am saying this, what are some of the areas that you see from the Amendment Act that will affect?

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Mr. Chairman, through you, in terms of the areas within the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, one of the key areas that we see is first is the board representation. What we note is the positions within the board has been given to certain positions, however, what is missing from within the board is a representative of the Ministry of Public Works. They are our guiding ministry or representative from Water Authority of Fiji. We say this because the water and wastewater infrastructure are specialised infrastructure they are not your normal run-of-the-mill infrastructure. There needs to be some technical know-how that exists within the board specifically for the water and wastewater sector.

HON. P.K. BALA.- So, Mr. Chairman, since Ministry of Health officials are here can they explain why they have been missing? To me, honestly they are the main stakeholder if you really look at it. So, what was the reason for them to be left out?

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, just to follow up to Honourable Bala, all amendments can be made to include them.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, I think we can consider also having a member from the Ministry of Works or the Water Authority of Fiji

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chairman, through you, these are some of the very important points which we were discussing earlier. It is good they are here appearing before the Committee and we were able to hear their concerns in regards to the representation. On the other point, in regards to the catchments, the partnership, you do the project and hand over to the Committee. This is in regards to the protection part, water contamination and all that. I see most of these projects which has been done, are still open without some boundaries or fences and all that and can be very easily contaminated. How this can be protected, are there any other avenues how we can do that?

MR. S. SODERBERG.- That is one of the inclusions in the current Bill that we are supportive of. Within the Bill itself, there is a clause with respect to the protection of catchment areas. We have just made an additional request that in addition to the listed areas, activities that has to be prohibited, that we include quarry excavation and sand extraction and land clearing within these catchments. Currently, there are no laws that dictates this space in terms of catchment management. The best that the Water Authority of Fiji can do at the moment is, carry out awareness on why the catchment management is important, however the action that is taken after the fact, that currently lies with the community, especially for the rural areas.

We are currently in the process of implementing water catchment for our bigger system, which is the urban areas. However, we have limited powers within the catchment for the rural communities, but this Bill covers that space quite sufficiently. We are requesting if they could consider including quarrying, excavation, sand extraction and land clearing activities within the catchment that gives us better security for the water supply services to the communities.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Let us deal with this matter and put it to rest. You have basically done 99 percent and 1 percent is left. In our earlier consultations, there was an issue raised in terms of compensation. We have talked about contamination now. For workplaces, they are covered, but the case in Ba, people died, people were sick, but they never had any cent. What is your view, now that we are doing some changes to the Public Health Act? Maybe this is the right time if you can give your views and opinions, so that the Committee can consider and deal with it.

MR. S. SODERBERG.- We are in agreement to the proposal that there has to be accountability taken for the protection of every Fijian who is out there, which means, when it comes to the catchment management or the quality of water that is provided for our community, there has to be a better accountability, meaning the clauses that are in here necessitating the protection of the catchment as well as the fines. We are in support of what is being proposed in the Bill.

HON. P.K. BALA.- My point was compensation for the victims. What is your view on that?

MR. S. SODERBERG.- In terms of compensation to the victims for issues that may arise, we are not against it. We are in agreement that there has to be some form of compensation for the miscarriage of duties to those who are responsible for the catchments and water supply systems.

One of the other areas that we would like some consideration is on the regulatory overlaps when we read the Bill. Within the Bill, it grants the Board of Health powers to approve, revoke, and regulate water and wastewater infrastructure. This would create a duplication of current WAF Act and the legal responsibility for planning, design, construction, and operations.

If I may, as I had stated earlier, the infrastructure that we constructed at the Water Authority of Fiji is specialised infrastructure. We have gone through this particular scenario such as this in the past, where one of the local authorities had demanded that we provide them with all our technical drawings for a treatment plant. Unfortunately, we made the submission, but they did not have the technical expertise to assess it. What ended up happening is that, our detailed drawings, sitting with them for a couple of months, with them being unable to give or add value to what we have provided.

We are requesting that the Bill focusses on public health and the strategic side of things, while the things such as the operations of a water supply, wastewater infrastructure, remains with the Ministry of Public Works and the Water Authority of Fiji, and then with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Public Works talking to each other to regulate this particular space. That is on the regulatory overlap.

HON. P.K. BALA.- A very good point. Since the Ministry officials are here, if they can give us some background on what they have said so it is easy for us to understand.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- It is certainly a good point for discussion. The Ministry of Health technical working group initially is trying to address existing gaps that are there. This particular amendment aims at focussing on new treatment designs, when we talk about new septic tank designs that are going to be implemented into rural areas, a new water treatment design that will be put in place that has not been currently used in the country. Well-articulated by the CEO, MoH does not have any technical expertise, however, when the submission do come to the Central Board of Health, the first thing that we do is liaise with a network of countries that we share best practices with, perhaps may have used or are familiar with the said system, the pros and cons of the system. In addition, we circulate the details and specs of the treatment system to our stakeholders including, including the Ministry of Works for their comments as well. They provide the technical expertise whereby the Central Board of Health says this particular sceptic tank design will not result in an outbreak of typhoid if implemented in the rural areas later down the line. This is based on evidence that we have had, whereby certain designs have had serious adverse effects to health. There was a major outbreak in Ra (2007 – 2011), a number of individuals had lost their lives, with the disease burden, heavily impacting the MoH system as well. This is something that the MoH seeks to address, not really taking over from WAF, in terms of the technical expertise but bridging the gap in terms of the new designs that will be implemented in the rural communities which could potentially adversely affected our fellow Fijians. Thank you, honourable Chairman.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, hearing their discussion made by the officials form MoH and WAF, both play a vital role in our communities. Fijians need water daily and at the same time the health and safety of all Fijians are equally paramount. What is at stake here is the clear demarcation of the roles that they play from the MoH according to the Act and where WAF play their roles in relation to the Act.

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Vinaka Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, as we had already discussed, this is something that we are supportive of which is the protection of water sources and contamination relating to water sources is fully supported by the Water Authority of Fiji, which is part of this Bill. We are recommending that the list be expanded to include quarrying, excavation, sand extraction, and land clearing activities, which present similar contamination risks. So WAF is in full support of that particular clause within the Bill, Sir.

HON. P.K. BALA.- As far as the creeks are concerned — rivers, creeks — it all comes under the Ministry of Lands. They have their own Act. How different is their Act compared to the amendments that you have brought in? Because I can see where they are coming from, and now we have another player in it. That is the Ministry of Lands. They are the authorised body that gives licences and approvals. But in terms of the amendment, how does it affect the Act that the Ministry of Lands is governed by, if there is one?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairperson and Members of the Committee, maybe the National WASH Coordinator will add on to what I am going to say, but I think what the CEO is mentioning is the protection of the water sources, ensuring that no one carries out quarrying or river gravel extraction close to the water source. That is what he is referring to in terms of protection of the water source.

So, if there is a water source already there for a community, no one should be grazing animals, farming, or extracting gravel in the vicinity.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, if I may, I understand what you are saying. What I am saying is that when the Lands Department or Ministry of Lands gives approval, it comes subject to a list of conditions. That is where I am coming from — how does that affect your amendment?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Through you Mr. Chairman and thank you honourable Member for the question. This is certainly something of concern, whereby the Ministry of Health and the Water Authority are looking to secure and protect water catchments and sources, while the approving authority for other uses lies with the Ministry of Lands, as rightfully mentioned by the honourable Member.

Basically, this can be incorporated into the existing mechanism of coordination — the Health Impact Assessment (HIA). When stakeholders are pulled in for initial discussions regarding quarrying or gravel removal near water sources, the Ministry of Health, as suggested in earlier submissions, can ensure that the water supply catchment is considered. This may influence the Ministry of Lands to move the activity downstream or to another location where it will not affect the water source.

HON. V. PILLAY.- As we speak now, we see most of the catchments where leased land around the water source, and people are actually logging or running cattle farms. All this is happening as we speak. So how are we going to address it when people have leased land and are already engaged in cattle, goat farming, logging, and similar activities? How will this Bill address all that?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Through you Mr. Chairman, honourable Member, thank you so much for that question. This is certainly something that the Technical Working Group has given much thought to. Although we cannot control all activities surrounding the source water, we focus on wilful and intentional sabotage of the water supply. As the Bill clearly demarcates, anyone damaging apparatus or wilfully polluting the water supply. These are the ones that we are going to penalise. However, the activities that contribute to the source water itself can be addressed further down in terms of treatment of the drinking water before the consumption of the drinking water itself. Thank you, Honourable Chairman. CEO, we may continue now.

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Thank you, Honourable Chair and Honourable Members. The other area that the Water Authority of Fiji are looking at with some concern is just on the water source closure powers. Under the Bill, there is a provision that allows the board to close or restrict water sources and require alternative supply if there's any contaminant that is present within the water source.

This poses risks to water security, continuity of supply and may create significant operational and financial burdens. What the Water Authority of Fiji is recommending is that before any actions or any such restriction is imposed, that the Ministry of Health within the Bill to state that they would work with Water Authority of Fiji to come up with the best possible solution before we generally just shut down an entire water supply. We say this because there is, when you close down a water supply system, there is hundreds if not thousands of people that is going to be impacted.

There is a sanitation challenge that comes with it and in a lot of areas within around Fiji, alternative supply is not readily available. There are things that we could do, preventative steps or resolution steps to some issues that might have turned up. So we are requesting to allow for consultation with the Ministry of Public Works and the Water Authority of Fiji before any of this infrastructure is summarily shut down, Sir.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, if Ministry of Health can brief us because it is a very important, see as a committee, I think we should not do such things or make laws that will affect people. I think we should make law so that people are fully assisted with. I mean, just the way we should see and they brought up a very valid point.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman, if I could just maybe shortly enlighten the Committee on the intention of having that particular amendment in that proposed Bill. This is in an instant where through routine water surveillance, our technical officers on the ground detect certain contaminants within the water supply that is hazardous for human health.

And this can be a case-to-case basis. If it is basically just mere coliforms without E.coli indicating faecal matter, then this would be undertaken, as the CEO suggests, notice given to the water committee to improve, maybe clean the water catchment and so forth. However, if the contaminants identified includes heavy metals and other very lethal pathogens, then this is something that we need to capture in the Act, that we can shut it down before it results in a loss of life.

We have some instances around the country that we have identified some heavy metals, and I think the CEO is also aware of that. Without this amendment, we cannot come in and tell them that you stop drinking from this particular water source. And we feel that this is there to safeguard that particular community. Honourable Mr. Chairman.

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Vinaka Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, with respect to the emergency response, the WAF is just seeking a definition of leadership during contamination events. Within the Bill itself, there is a lack of clarity as to who takes the lead. We would like just clarity within the Bill itself on who takes the lead during a contamination event. If it is the Ministry of Health, or is it the Water Authority of Fiji, or is it the Ministry of Public Works? This is just to make sure that decisions are not delayed, or conflicting decisions are being made on the ground, because ultimately at the end of the day, if that happens, the community is the one that will ultimately suffer. We just need some clarity on the leadership in an event of contamination. That is not clear within the Bill. If the Ministry of Health is going to take leadership we would like that it is stated within the Bill that they take leadership, so we take directions from the Ministry of Health in case there was an event that happens.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ministry of Health can you just elaborate what is the brief on that on the leadership role who can take the lead?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, I believe that since this is a direct threat to human life Ministry of Health may provide guidance while closely working together with WAF in addressing the issue. So, for example, that I have said if we identify such hazardous containment within the water supply, while we communicate to the community that this needs to be shut down. Simultaneously, we reach out to WAF for alternative may be water cutting can be implemented that very same afternoon to address the water needs of that particular community. So, I believe it is more of the three entities the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Works and Water Authority of Fiji working hand in hand with each other, vinaka.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Just be clear so that we also understand what you talking about. He is talking about the leadership. Who will take the lead role but in your response you are saying that. There has to be someone in a Ministry to take a lead role. So, who is going to take the lead role?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- .- Mr. Chairman, I believe in that particular situation the Ministry of Health will take lead.

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Mr. Chairman, just on the new obligations such as the alternative supply infrastructure development that are been introduced as well as the new delegations of the approval for the design. All of these from our perspective there are some financial implications that is going to be going along with it however within the Bill that is not clearly identify who becomes responsible for the financial implication. Just from the WAF perspective, on behalf of the Government of Fiji we deliver around $150 million worth of infrastructure on an yearly basis. Within the Bill itself what is currently stating that the board would have to provide approvals for all designs that for water and wastewater infrastructure that needs to go in. That is an additional pathway that we will have to go.

There are a few things.

(1) Potential for delays for the implementation of critical infrastructure for water and wastewater.

(2) The confidence of the multilateral development banks who provide loans to the Government of Fiji or grants to put in water and wastewater infrastructure. There is a potential for their confident to waiver because of the additional requirements that comes in that space. So, we are requesting for the consideration again as I had mentioned earlier that the technical operational responsibilities is placed upon the Ministry of Public Works whom the Water Authority of Fiji reports to work with the Ministry of Health to make sure the ease of reference. We say this because currently we are delivering $150 million of infrastructure in yearly basis. This is projected to go up to about $400 million per annum in CAPEX over the coming years and in any delay in implementation would affect the general public as well.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, can just the Ministry of Health clarify the issues that was raised by CEO.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- .- Mr. Chairman, thank you so much for the opportunity to clarify. That particular amendment in the Bill is not there as an application for every project. It is a design. If it first design to be introduced it is the first of its kind then that needs to be approve by CBH. After that, that design can be rolled out into the country, if you are patenting that same design. It is not for every project, but a singular approval, so that the CBH provides that umbrella view on what systems that the country is using, and that these systems are not harmful to our citizens.

HON. A. BIA.- I guess under the Water Authority of Fiji Act 2007, I think it needs to be detailed again, and a bit demanded to cater for.

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Just noting the comments that have been provided by the Ministry of Health. The first of its kind design, we would not have an issue of getting that initial approval, noting that all the other works that we have to do would be as we have always assessed. What we would like to request, if it could be considered within the Bill, and that it states, that if it is a first of its kind design that is being introduced in the country for the first time, must go through the Board.

With respect to access to infrastructure, there has been an expanded inspection powers to the inspectors that will come in and inspect our infrastructure. We would like to request that there is controlled access protocols for a lot of our infrastructure. Our water treatment plants and wastewater

treatment plants have controlled protocols, because we come in contact with the chemicals and specialised equipment, and within the Bill itself, it says that at any given time that they would be able to walk into that infrastructure and do the assessment.

There are occupational health and safety requirements before a visitation for some of our sites. We would like to, within the Bill, that it states that we would be notified, we would be happy to take any of the inspectors through our infrastructure, but there are also sites that would require specialised equipment that must be worn before any inspection can be undertaken. We are requesting, instead of just overarching approvals that control access protocols is observed, especially when it comes to water and wastewater infrastructure and the sensitivities around maintaining security in these areas.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Under obstruction, WAF can be also charged if they do not allow to their premises as per the amendment Bill. That is where the CEO is coming from. As he has said, there are other protocols within the metered zone in the WAF area. That is what he is speaking about. If the Ministry can update clearly on that, please?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Yes, we do understand the point raised by the CEO. While we try and maintain that the umbrella of monitoring in all water sources, rural and urban, there are certain safety aspects that need to be adhered to in terms of the workplace. When entering the Water Authority work areas, we need to abide by the rules that we have in place, meaning that we have to go through the proper channel where the safety equipment and then proceed to where the inspections need to take place.

In this regard, I believe that obstruction would be a little different as compared to in general areas. In this regard, maybe it would be a case-to-case basis. If the officer feels that following the process is being delayed in such a manner that certain improvements have to be done before they are allowed inside, then that can be deemed as obstruction. Whereas, if it is just a basic helmet on, safety vest on and escorted in, I think that should be okay.

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Mr. Chairman, on the same access to infrastructure, the Water Authority of Fiji is currently working with the Department of Water and Sewerage and the Ministry of Environment, who do routine inspections of our infrastructure. All they need to do is notify us in advance and access is allowed to every single infrastructure we have under our care.

The next one is on penalties and fines. The Water Authority of Fiji, generally on the introduction of the fines, is supportive of it and it being imposed. What we would like to see within the Bill are some mechanisms in place so that the public, including WAF, are not unfairly disadvantaged when it comes to fines. There needs to be some clearly defined mechanisms and protocols where these fines are issued. Mechanisms for the issuing of fines and penalties should be embedded within the main Act itself or a separate regulation is created for the fines as they are.

To bring the summary of the Bill to its conclusion, Sir, the following are the Water Authority of Fiji recommendations.

1. Within the Bill that the statutory roles of Water Authority of Fiji under the Water Authority of Fiji Act 2007, is preserved.
2. Emergency operational works can proceed without regulatory delay.
3. Decisions affecting public water supplies are made jointly between WAF and the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Health.
4. Regulatory interventions are supported by the objective scientific and engineering assessments.
5. Financial responsibility arising from public health directives has to be clearly defined.
6. Existing WAF infrastructure and approved systems are recognised as compliant unless demonstrated otherwise through a formal risk assessment.

These amendments would maintain the Bill's public health objective while safeguarding WAF's ability to deliver safe, reliable and uninterrupted water and wastewater services throughout Fiji. That brings me to the end of my submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much WAF, honourable members, are there any final supplementary questions?

HON. V. PILLAY.- In regards to the penalties, you agree to the penalties. My concern is the infrastructure, especially near to the Municipal Councils where we have the villages or informal settlements where we do not have sewer lines. The penalty is quite high and they can also expect a lot of complaints from the community. The penalty is high and they do not have the infrastructure in place. What is your view on that?

MR. S. SODERBERG.- Taking note of the point that has been raised by the honourable Member. I tend to agree with you when it comes to the less privileged members of community that there has to be some special consideration when it comes to those fines. As I stated, there has to be some mechanisms in place as part of our submission that has to ensure that the public is not unfairly disadvantaged when these fines are being meted out. That is why we are requesting for mechanisms in place under the main Act, or a completely separate regulation submitted just on the fines themselves. That is where this issue, where the less privileged members of our communities, the challenges they face, would be considered and set out in those regulations.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- On the water fluoridation from the main water source, it is one of the effective public health approach for the management of dental diseases. We are informed that it is the infrastructure used to be operational by WAF, but has stopped, causing significant increase in dental cases amongst our population, especially in the Lami-Nausori corridor and the major municipalities. Would WAF consider reintroducing the water fluoridation initiative as one of the public health interventions in this case?

MR. S. SODERBERG.- The Water Authority of Fiji would be happy to consider the reintroduction of fluoridation. However, there are certain considerations that will have to take into place. The impact of fluoridation that is present in water on the existing infrastructure and the actual impact to the community themselves. Would we consider it? We definitely would be able to reconsider it if this is what is proposed by the Committee and the government.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much Water Authority of Fiji. At this juncture, I wish to sincerely thank you all for availing yourself to this public hearing session. We thank you for your time and hope that you will avail yourself for any further queries that the Committee may have on today's submission. If there is any area that need to be addressed, which we have left behind, or need to be addressed in our future dealing regarding the Public Health Act 1935, you are welcome to do so through your written submission back to the Committee. On that note, I declare our meeting this afternoon closed.

The Committee adjourned at 3.51p.m.

VERBATIM REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Public Health (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 4 of 2026).

SUBMITTEE : Fiji Institute of Engineers

VENUE : Big Committee Room, Parliament

DATE : Wednesday 29th July, 2026

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST WING), PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS ON WEDNESDAY, 29TH JULY, 2026 AT 10.22 A.M.

Committee:

1. Honourable Iliesa Vanawalu - Chairperson
2. Honourable Viam Pillay - Member
3. Honourable Praveen Bala - Member
4. Honourable Alipate Tuicolo - Member

Apology:

1. Honourable Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure- Member
2. Honourable Aliki Bia - Member

Interviewee/Submittee: Fiji Institute of Engineers

In Attendance:

1. Mr. Pratap Singh - President
2. Mr. Sanil Sami - Member

Ministry of Health & Medical Services

1. Mr. Luke Vonotabua - Acting Chief Health Inspector
2. Mr. Toga Vosataki - National WASH Coordinator

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, members of the public who are tuning in this morning, Secretariat, dear viewers, ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning to you all. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone here this morning, especially the viewers who are watching this public hearing session.

At the outset, for the information purposes pursuant to Standing Order 111, the Standing Order of Parliament, all Committee meetings are to be open to the public. Therefore, please note that this submission is open to the public and media, and is also being aired via the *Walesi* platform, streamlined live on Parliament website, and social media platform.

For any sensitive information before us concerning the matters this morning that cannot be disclosed in public, can be provided to the Committee either in private or in writing. However, please be advised that Standing Order 111 in the following circumstances, permits for non-disclosure of information and these are:

(a) national security matters;
(b) third party confidential information;
(c) personnel or human resources matters; and
(d) Committee's deliberation and development of the Committee's recommendation based on this report.

This is a parliamentary meeting, and all information gathered is covered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act of 1965. Moving forward, please bear in mind that we do not condone slander or libel of any sort, and any information brought before this Committee should be based on facts.

In terms of protocol of this Committee meeting, please minimise the usage of mobile phones and all mobile phones are to be on silent mode while the meeting is in progress. I wish to also remind honourable Members and our guests that all questions to be asked, are to be addressed through the

Chairperson. I would like the Members of the Committee to introduce themselves and the official from the Ministry of Health.

(Introduction of Committee Members)

Today the Committee will be hearing submissions from the Fiji Institute of Engineers. This is in relation to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 4 of 2026). Before us, we have the representative from the Institute, and I would like to thank them for availing themselves to appear to this hearing. Due to the essence of time, you may give a response brief, and the Members will intervene with their supplementary questions during your presentation. Now I invite the officials to introduce themselves and begin with their presentation.

(Introduction of Officials from Fiji Institute of Engineers)

MR. P. SINGH. - Mr. Chairman, it is a great opportunity to be here to present to the Standing Committee, and we appreciate that. On behalf of the Institution, we will present what we believe needs to be looked into in the Bill. I would like to perhaps address at the outset, that a formal submission with consultation of our greater membership will follow this meeting, because as volunteers of the Institution, we have not had an opportunity to reach the greater membership, but we have a presentation which is from the Council. We will present something after the meeting which is more like our formal presentation.

On that note, I will ask Mr. Sami to start the presentation.

MR. S. SAMI.- Thank you, sir. These were some of the items that we looked at from the Bill, and we wanted to raise it in this forum. The first one was the introduction of the Head of Environmental Health. There is a significant implementation responsibility provided under the Act to this particular role. However, the Bill does not define the qualifications of this particular role. We wanted to point out if that can be included for the Head of Environmental Health and the Environmental Health Practitioner. If the roles are defined, the qualifications are defined, the person has the appropriate knowledge and skill set to implement the Bill.

Additionally, when we compare…

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene? As stated by Mr. Singh, that they were unable to get all the engineers or the associations together to do the submission, and he has assured us that after this presentation, they will go back and do the submission. I think, since the Ministry staffs are here, it is very important if we can respond to their queries. For example, the one that he has raised, so that we are on the same page, and they can also take back that to their members and do a submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- On that note, I will ask the technical team from the Ministry of Health to give us a brief update about the Head of Environmental Health, its significance, the roles and the responsibility that comes within.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, and members of the Standing Committee, and the representatives from the Fiji Institute of Engineers. The Head of Environmental Health qualification, the activities and work are stipulated under the job description of that position which requires that the person has the knowledge and the experience the skills and abilities in addition to that a postgraduate qualification or master's qualification on environmental health and an experience of about 15 to 20 years in the management position. Also, the appointment as an Environmental Health Practitioner through the Fiji Allied Health Act and the Fiji Institute of Environmental Health.

In addition, the Environmental Health Practitioner should have a qualification that is given by the Fiji National Institute the bachelor's in environmental health. Not any other qualification, it is a bachelor's in environmental health because that allows the practitioner to also go through the prescribed courses including that he has to go through the relevant legislation. After graduation, the person is also appointed under the Fiji Allied Health Act and has to be a member of the Fiji Institute of Environmental Health before given an appointment to enforce the various legislation including the Public Health Act that is part of the work that they do to enforce the Public Health Act, Food Safety Act, Tobacco Control Act, Building in cremation and Quarantine Act. That is part of the work that Environmental Health Practitioners does.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene. I just want to ask the representatives here, if you see the competition of board, I think this is the first time that a person qualified in construction and civil engineering so he or she will have the seat in the board. So, I think that will assist the engineers.

MR. P. SINGH.- Mr. Chairman, I think I totally agree with honourable Bala. If there is a seat for the engineers in construction industry on the board, that will help. If it is a new position, then it is very well thought.

MR. S. SAMI.- Mr. Chairman, I just want to request us to consider is we made a comparison with the New Zealand Health Legislation just for comparison to learn. We noticed that New Zealand no longer regulates drinking water through its general health legislation. This is covered under a Water Act. In Fiji we have a Water Authority of Fiji Act 2007. We wanted to seek clarification whether it would be more appropriate for this water regulation to be covered under the Water Authority Act. That was one item. Perhaps that needs further discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, sir, for that important area which we already covered concerning about the Safety of the Water Act. Hopefully the Ministry of Health will be able to give us some light on that.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, firstly, thank you so much for the clarifying question. The view from the Ministry of Health to the answer to that question is, no, and the reason is that well compared to New Zealand, Fiji is quite limited in the space that Water Authority of Fiji actually services the water supply in Fiji. A very big proportion of the country still access to rural water sources that are unregulated and fall outside the scope of Water Authority of Fiji. This is basically the reason why we have this legislation under the Public Health Act, and we seek to explore more in detail through this Bill to safeguard our communities in the rural areas. This is in direct response to what the communities are facing on the ground. When we walk on the ground this is the feedback we get. Well compared to New Zealand where we have no grasp of what the citizens experience, we have full experience of what our Fijians go through on a daily basis whereby their water sources are being disrupted by people that carry out activities like fishing and farming within the immediate space around water sources. We feel that this is a direct threat to the health of these communities. Having this addressed through this Bill should enable the Ministry of Health to lessen the burden of waterborne diseases that we suffer each year.

MR. S. SAMI.- Mr. Chairman, the next two items are somewhat interrelated in the sense currently for the design of water and sewage. The board will scrutinise and approve each of the designs based on its own judgment. I note there is no technical benchmark or design criteria that is set out which the engineers should meet. Can we consider adopting or referencing an existing benchmark from perhaps like the Australian drinking water guidelines, the WHO guidelines or perhaps we can have a Fiji specific standard because this will then provide the engineers with the specific guidance rather than a discretionary sign off which can vary from offices to offices and over time. At the moment, there is no technical guidelines set for the design.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Alright, we already discussed it at beginning of our journey on this Bill. There is a lot been done on that subject area but we will hear it from the Ministry of Health. What is up for them, their benchmarks to some of the standards that are with them and hopefully that will clarify further on that.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, the purpose of that particular section in the Bill is to provide an oversight on new designs that are being brought into the country. Due to advanced technological era that we have actually entered in there are new designs to be more durable in terms of sustainability and also be more cost effective for our communities. In the attempt to address both the durability and the cost effectiveness of the designs, there are more designs in the market now than there was maybe in 1935 when the Principal Act was passed. Right now, there is limited powers with the board in ensuring that no one can just come up with any design and build on the ground. What is there to say that whatever design that they implement on the ground will not result in a massive infectious disease outbreak. In the country like we had back in 2007, when a particular design of a septic tank failed in the particular design that it was designed to do.

For that, the Bill aims to regulate any new designs being brought in should be vetted by the board and in the board we have some technical expertise. We have an engineer who is there. Any further technical advice needed, we would obviously go through consultation with our partners in the Department of Water and Sewerage. We will forward them the design, have them scrutinise and comment. We will forward to Water Authority of Fiji, have them been scrutinised and comment before we look at global best practices where this design has been maybe implemented around the world. With that the board then can make a clear judgment whether this design, if implemented in Fiji will do what is needed to be done in the purpose and will not result in any adverse health effects on the community and that is the reason why that is captured in the Bill. With the renewal being put at three years because sometimes over the years, we see some defects, and this can be addressed to whoever has come up with a design to make necessary amendments to the design to ensure that they address the defects that have been found on these particular designs.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, since we have the engineers here, are you satisfied with that time frame of three years that is in the Bill and as stated by Ministry of Health?

MR. S. SAMI.- Sir, is that for the renewal of the design review of three years? We can come back to that. However, what I wanted to emphasise on is, at the moment the burden is placed on the Board to scrutinise the full design. There is a concept called duly qualified person concept, which is very similar to what Fiji Engineers does for cyclone certification. A competent chartered engineer has the responsibility to ensure they check a particular structure and sign off for it to be compliant. We would suggest and recommend a similar concept here, where an engineer is able to sign off on a design and present it to the Board which would avoid a lot of administrative work and bottlenecks.

If we look at it, we have a Board of eight members to get a quorum to get them to vet and review designs, can be a time-consuming process. If we have similar to what Municipal Councils require for structures, if it is signed off by a structural engineer, that structural engineer carries a professional indemnity cover and bears the liability for the design. With that respect, we can fast track the approvals.

HON. P.K. BALA.- I think it is a very important point because here we are talking about obligation. What he is saying is, that that burden, as stated in the Bill, is on board now, but to take off that burden out, that responsibility be given to the engineer because they pay insurances. If that can be looked into? I think it is a very good suggestion.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Thank you, honourable Member for the clarifying question. Unfortunately, for this particular section in the Bill, it does not totally focus only on structural integrity

of the design, but it is to do with the purpose of the design. When we design a septic tank system, it is not whether that can hold up for 20 years. It is to do with whether the septic tank can carry out the purpose it was designed for, and that is, the breakdown of waste before it is discharged into the environment. We need to first ascertain whether the inflow of waste and the waste discharge is decreased through the septic system. If it is strong, it lasts for 100 years, but if it does not serve the purpose of creating a septic environment where the wastewater and the sludge is being broken down to a state that the infectious state is dramatically decreased, it cannot cause disease or illness spread, then that is the main purpose why the Board has that oversight.

Of course we will have structural advice from our engineers and all that, but the basic oversight intended by that section is to have an oversight that this design, when implemented, will not result in a typhoid outbreak later down the line. I believe if you look from that lens, then you will get the purpose of why that section is in the proposed Bill.

HON. P.K. BALA.- What are you suggesting that the engineers do not have the 'know-how' on the development or the design of the … I want to understand because it is very important for us as a Committee and for the engineers as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Just a word of thought from me, we believe when we talk about engineers, the Ministry of Health will provide that information from the engineers' perspective, either from the Institute or their own engineers, who are qualified to give them some information, but for us as a Committee, that will be part of your recommendation during your submission on the written submission to us. We will be able to look at the overview of the importance, the function and how we can cater for that while discussing about the end result it does not end up having a mass disease outbreak elsewhere. All these are processes and procedures, which we believe should be taken on board at all areas of function so that when the Bill is passed, that covers all areas. That is why we rope all of you on board, all the respective stakeholders, give a peace of mind, your thoughts and recommendations that will help us. Hopefully, that will come up in your written submission.

MR. S. SAMI.- Just to add on, when we talk about engineers, we also have water engineers, hydraulics engineers, not only structural and civil engineers, there are other core discipline engineers who look at public health and public safety as well. We will provide that in our written submission.

One thing we noted was the Act currently does not provide any appeal or review pathway for a decision or any compensation if a Board decision is found to be wrong. What we wanted to suggest is that, if we can consider a review mechanism through the honourable Minister or a tribunal to reconsider a Board decision – a review mechanism in the Bill.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, in the absence of that review process or appeal process, does the Principle Act has a provision where a Minister can look into the appeals of the review?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, the Bill does not have the appeal mechanism because it is currently embedded in the Principle Act, that any decision or any order can be appealed. It gives the specifics to the timelines that the Bill must be made and what needs to be included in that appeal. In the Bill are the 69 intended amendments that we feel that needs to be included into that parent Act in order to improve the services that Ministry of Health provides to the citizens of Fiji.

MR. S. SAMI.- We noted in the Bill, in terms of the Local Government responsibility versus the Central Board oversight, currently there is no clear demarcation on when the Board should intervene a local authorities' power. Where Municipal Council can go ahead and implement certain parts of the Bill, there is no clear demarcation on where the Board can go and where the Municipal Council can go. We wanted to recommend that there be some mechanisms where the Municipal Council is the first responder

or the first implementer of the Bill and the Central Board is a review or appeals body, so that this will avoid duplication and confusion in terms of whose direction or whose directive to follow. If there is an issue in the community, should the Municipal Council address that first or should the Board intervene directly? There is no clear demarcation at the moment.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will just give an oversight on that, on what we have understood during our moving around. This is the first time for Amendment Bill to cover all the municipal market as well as those who are out in the rural. We all confined that whatever bounds are within the council, they are bound by the council representative because they pay their rates and all these things. However, the importance of the Bill is to get that done across the Board through the Rural Local Authority, the rural and the urban.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, I take your attention to Amendment 12, Section 12(2) of the Bill which specifically says, where the board is satisfied that a local authority has defaulted in its duties. That is the demarcation that is needed for the board to step in. Where the board is satisfied after of course communication several times with them that they need to deal with that, and they need to use this timeline and all that if they are satisfied that still the urban or Rural Local Authority is defaulting in carrying out that duty then the board steps in.

I think if you refer to Section 12 of the Bill, it clearly specifies the reason why the board has to step in because at the end of the day, we feel that if the community is suffering from a certain type of nuisance and the Rural Local Authority is defaulting in addressing that, then the community has every right to reach to a higher entity to ensure that their concerns are heard and that higher entity in this Act becomes the Central Board of Health. The Central Board of Health will then without turning a deaf ear will give instructions to the Rural Local Authority this is what the community is telling us. Deal with this within 28 days, 21 days, 14 days, 7 days or 24 hours depending on the severity of that particular issue. If they fail to do that, then that is where the board steps in. This is only on duties that are specified under this Act. There are other duties that the rural local authority, municipal council perform that comes under their Local Government Act and for that the board cannot supersede the municipal council. It is only for duties specified under the Public Health Act.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chairman, through you, that also applies for the municipal council together with the Rural Local Authority?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Honourable Member, yes. For the purpose of the Public Health Act as an oversite for both urban and rural local authorities for duties they perform under the Act because it is the board itself that delegated them those duties for them to perform. If the Board feels that they are not performing those duties after communication and reminder and directives, then the board steps in to do that. There is also a special clause that says that any area in Fiji that does not fall under the jurisdiction of any local authority then the board itself may become the local authority for that particular area.

MR. S. SAMI.- Mr. Chairman, can we consider having a public register of approved designs in the Bill? This is for public facing transparency mechanism. When we have a register of approved designs or contaminated sources or non-compliant premises, this can actually allow the engineers to check for compliance status independently of the board. We do not need to go to the board to get verification or clarification. Again, it becomes an administrative process. If there is a register of approved designs or contaminated sources the engineers can very easily refer to that, check that and go ahead with their designs accordingly. That is a suggestion.

Mr. Chairman, we wanted to ask in terms of how does the Bill correlate to the National Building Code of Fiji and whether this should be under a separate ministry.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, thank you for that question. The National Building Code used to be part of the Parent Act, however, there is a movement currently in place to develop a Building Act and that is currently being handled by the Ministry of Public Works. The Bill, although it is separate from the National Building Code, it tries to complement the National Building Code in every way it can, however, not really overstepping that. In addition to that, I also mentioned that on one side is the National Building Code which is being worked on to be a National Building Act and the other side is of course the Town Planning Act which deals with developments processing and all that. The Bill aims at addressing the gaps of both these two legislations in the different ministries that look after them. That is about the National Building Code.

MR. S. SAMI.- Mr. Chairman, of the two last comments that we have is we wanted to recommend and this is similar to what I have raised earlier, is that the designs submitted must be guaranteed by a chartered engineer recognised by the Insurance Council of Fiji and Engineers Fiji to safeguard the public. A chartered engineer is one who has a professional indemnity cover, has gone through the qualification check and is approved and recognised. When a design is submitted by that particular individual, it should be accepted. Additionally, we recommend that the central board composition of eight members currently we understand, has got one engineer. We recommend that the composition should include representatives from Engineers Fiji, Master Builders Association and the Fiji Association of Architects as being key players in the design and documentation and stakeholders for engineering and architecture. Therefore, we recommend that the central board consider having these as its members.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Is that all for today on your presentation?

MR. P. SINGH.- Mr. Chairman, I believe like I said at the outset we have covered enough in the short time we were given but once we have consulted our greater membership then we will submit something formal for the Committee to take on board.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Fiji Institute of Engineers, honourable Members, are there any supplementary questions based on the area that has been covered this morning?

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, I am just a bit concerned on the suggestions made at the end, I mean the representation aspect because you already have an engineer on the board so I am just wondering what difference it would make to have another engineer from the association.

MR. S. SAMI.- Mr. Chairman, so our suggestion is that the engineer be a representative of Engineers Fiji and be a professional member of Engineers Fiji. When we have a professional member of Engineers Fiji they are duly recognised in their qualification and they are also recognised in their core area of practice whether the core area is civil, structures, Geotech or whatever discipline of engineering.

The suggestion is there because there are other individuals who can call themselves engineers but whether they are recognised and chartered engineers is a question. Our suggestion is that this person should be representative or appointed in consultation with Engineers Fiji. Similarly, we request if there is a member from the Fiji Master Builders Association.

HON. P.K. BALA.- May I intervene, that is where I was coming from that you are saying that those who are members can only be in the Board, but there are certain chartered engineers who are not members of the Board, if that can be clarified?

MR. P. SINGH.- I must say, Engineers Registration Act 1976 has never been enforced. In the absence of that Act, the recognised Board is Engineers Fiji, may I correct, the name of the institution is Engineers Fiji. Engineers Fiji has certain competence requirements, the Code of Conduct, various things to be assessed to award membership or bestow.

Currently, we have different grades of membership, and there are certain grades of membership who call themselves chartered. That can be a full member, a professional member or a fellow. When you are chartered, you are delivering service to the public. When you are delivering service to the public, you must indemnify yourself in case something goes wrong, so the public is entitled to claim through your insurance. The risk of employing engineers who do not have chartered status – some I think are because of the lack of regulation and not enforcement of the law – there are some who purport to be engineers, and that is a major concern for our institution which we have been trying very hard and working with the government and different agencies.

We must leave this room with complete satisfaction that how these names and statuses are created and who awards them and how competent or not competent these people are. Sitting and providing service to the general public, we always have worked with the Insurance Council of Fiji and the Association of Banks to protect the interest of everyone, including the Government. We would not like to see a natural disaster happening where people have gone ahead and signed plans and it happens that they have no qualification even.

This is a major dilemma for the nation, including the government. We are working, and perhaps the Government has embarked on registering engineers through Engineers Registration Board. Once this is done by the government, I think Engineers Fiji can work closely with the government to see who should go on the register. We can have this discussion, feel free to, but I will leave it there. If someone has any comment, please do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- That point is clarified by the President of the Fiji Institute of Engineers. I believe we will part for the time being. There was a lot of very interesting discussion this morning concerning the importance of the two gentlemen here from the Institute of Engineering. Hopefully, we will be expecting your written submission very shortly. Do not rush, compile all the relevancy which you need for the Committee to take it on board to be added into the Bill before we make our final submission to Parliament.

At this stage, the Bill is with the Committee. Only the Committee can make any amendments based on the recommendations and the relevant information gathered during our consultation, especially for this morning. At this juncture, I wish to sincerely thank you all for availing yourself to this public hearing session. We thank you for your time and hope that you will avail yourself for any further queries that the Committee may have on today's submission. On that note sir, our consultation meeting this morning is closed.

The Meeting adjourned at 11.04 a.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL

Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar

SUBMITTEE:	**Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar**
VENUE:	**Big Committee Room, Parliament**
DATE:	**Friday 24th July, 2026**

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE BIG COMMITTEE ROOM, PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, ON 24TH JULY, 2026 AT 9.17 A.M.

Committee Members

1. Hon. A. Bia - Acting Chairman
2. Hon. P.K. Bala -Member
3. Hon. K.K. Lal - Alternate member
4. Hon. A.N Tuicolo - Member

Interviewee/Subcommittee: Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry

In Attendance:

1. Dr. Andrew Tukana - Permanent Secretary
2. Ms. Vivian Alifereti - Principal Engineer (Waterways Division)
3. Ms. Ashnita Prasad - Senior Veterinary Officer (Koronivia)
4. Nitya Singh - Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Waterways & Sugar (Koronivia)
5. Mr. Soane Remudu - Crop Development and Extension Services: MoA and Waterways.

Ministry of Health and Medical Services

1. Mr. Toga Vosataki - WASH Coordinator
2. Mr. Luke Vonotabua - Acting Chief Health Inspector

HON. A. BIA.- Honourable Members, members of the public, Secretariat, dear viewers, ladies and gentlemen A very good morning to you all, and it is a pleasure to welcome everyone especially the viewers that are watching this public hearing session.

At the outset, for information purposes, pursuant to Standing Order 111 of the Standing Order of Parliament, all Committee meetings are to be open to the public. Therefore, please note that this submission is open to the public and the media, and it is also being aired via the *Walesi* platform, streamlined live on Parliament's website and social media platform

For any sensitive information concerning the matter before us this morning, that it cannot be disclosed in public This can be provided to the Committee either in private or in writing.

However, please be advised that Standing Order 111, in the following circumstances, permits for non-disclosure of information and these are related to:

1. National security matters,
2. Third party confidential information,
3. Personnel or human resources matters; and
4. Deliberation and discussions conducted in the development and finalisation of the Committee recommendations and reports.

This is a parliamentary meeting, and all information gathered is covered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act of 1965. However, please bear in mind that we do not condone slander or libel of any sort, and any information brought before this Committee should be based on facts.

In terms of protocol of this Committee meeting, please minimise the usage of mobile phones, and all mobile phones are to be in silent mode while the meeting is in progress.

I wish to also remind honourable Members and our guests, that all questions to be asked are to be addressed through the Chairperson. I would like the honourable Members of the Committee to introduce themselves and officials from the Ministry of Health.

(Introduction of the Committee Members and representatives from the Ministry of Health)

HON. A. BIA.- Today, the Committee will be hearing submissions from the Ministry of Agriculture. This is in relation to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 4 of 2026 and before us, we have, again, representatives from the Ministry, and I would like to thank them for availing themselves to appear to this hearing. Now, due to the essence of time, you may give the responses briefly. The members will intervene with their supplementary questions, and I now invite the officials to introduce themselves and then begin with the presentation. Thank you, and your time may start now.

DR. A. TUKANA.- Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Standing Committee, also to the representatives from the Ministry of Health.

(Introduction of officials from Ministry of Agriculture)

DR. A. TUKANA.- Before we proceed, I think there were a few issues that were raised when the Ministry of Health were doing consultations and those issues were based around pesticide use, blockage of drains as well as farm management and stray animals. Thus, we have the team here that may be able to answer some of those questions after I give my presentation on the amendment of the Public Health Bill.

Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee, I will not take too much time summarising some of the points that we have raised in relation to the amendment of the Public Health Bill No. 4 of 2026. Firstly, the Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry acknowledge the opportunity to provide submissions on the proposed amendments to the Public Health Act of 1935 through the Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 of 2026.

The Ministry supports the overall intent of the Bill as it aligns with and complements the Ministry of Agriculture's 10-year non-sugar policy as well as the sugar sector and

sustainable development plan by strengthening water source protection, environmental health, waste management, pollution control, livestock and poultry management and disease surveillance.

Mr. Chairman, if I may, in relation to public health, I think it closely links with the activities that the Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar does on the ground because most of the diseases that are carried or hosted by animals can be passed on to humans, so that is a critical area for us in relation to other water resources areas. The agricultural sector chair and members of the committee remain closely interconnected with public health outcomes, as I mentioned, also through:

(a) food protection systems, pesticides and chemical use;
(b) livestock management;
(c) watershed protection;
(d) irrigation practices;
(e) waste management; and
(f) rural sanitation.

As such, the proposed amendments will have direct implications on agricultural productivity, compliance, obligations, farmer livelihoods and sustainable resource management. Therefore, the ministry submits the following observations and areas of recommendations, which include:

(a) strengthening environmental health protection;
(b) improving water quality and sanitation standards;
(c) enhancing disease prevention and outbreak response;
(d) improving enforcement against pollution and unsafe waste disposal;
(e) modernising penalties for non-compliance; and
(f) promoting interagency coordination.

The Ministry recommends that the implementation measures carefully balance public health protection with the operational realities faced by our farmers, our agricultural processes, livestock operators, rural communities and smallholder producers.

Mr. Chairman, some of these areas which will have key impacts on the agricultural sector around water safety and agricultural activities. We recommend that the Bill should clearly recognise agricultural water use and provide sector-specific guidelines for those particularly around:

(a) irrigation;
(b) water quality standards;
(c) safe agrochemical application in waterways;
(d) buffer zones around rivers and catchments; and
(e) integrated watershed management.

The Ministry further recommends a collaborative regulatory framework between the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar and the municipalities. The management of agricultural waste is the second area, Mr Chairman, which focusses on livestock waste and manure, crop residue, abattoir waste, fertiliser runoff, plastics and plastic mulch, and agricultural packaging and sugar industry byproducts. The recommendation is that

the Bill should include provisions enabling the development of agricultural waste management regulations, farm education and extension services and support, incentives for composting and sustainable water use and reuse, and gradual implementation timelines for rural farming communities and technical assistance before enforcement penalties are imposed. The third area is around chemical and pesticide management and this year...

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene? Quite a few times in your submission you have mentioned about the penalty. There has been increasing penalties and the way we see it as a committee, is how this will relate to the farmers. What do think in terms of the increased penalty? Is it too high or is it good enough? We went out for public consultations and in some areas, people were happy with the fines that has been stated however some people have shown their concern in terms of increased fine. How does the ministry feel about penalties since there are a lot of areas where the fines have been increased.

DR. A. TUKANA.- Mr. Chairman through you, if I may have a few remarks in relation to that question. In relation to penalties, I think there needs to be some review or this question on one side, I guess the Ministry of Health is trying to impose those penalties as a deterrence. However, on the other side, if it is going to impact the agricultural activities, we would also like to see that it is not too high that it becomes a hindrance to the agricultural production activities. On the other hand, there will be some areas that we probably need to include that will incur penalties, since some of those areas under the agricultural production, are currently not being penalised if they are not following the regulation of the law. They might incur new penalties, but we have to see that it does not go to such an extent that it might hinder the agricultural activities that are being carried out.

HON. P.K. BALA.- At the moment, the penalties are basically across the board. The Ministry staff have assured the Committee that they are drawing up a policy regulation in relation to that so that a small farmer is not charged or levied penalty to a person who operates a million dollar or two million dollar.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, just a question to the Permanent Secretary. How much is the fine written in the proposed Act amendment? Do you know?

MR. A. TUKANA.- I think there would be several different classes of fine.

HON. K.K. LAL.- The highest?

MR. A. TUKANA.- Probably if I could ask the Ministry of Health representatives …

HON. K.K. LAL.- No, my question is to you. Did you read the Act and what is the highest amount of fine proposed by the public health?

MR. A. TUKANA.- Can you specify which fine?

HON. K.K. LAL.- The highest in the Act, I believe, is $1,000.

MR. A. TUKANA.- This is for which area of…

HON. K.K. LAL.- Failing to comply, if I am correct.

MR. A. TUKANA.- I think there may be several areas of…

HON. K.K. LAL.- The highest is $1,000, right?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, in the Public Health Act, the maximum fine is $10,000, and that is to do with infectious disease. This was an amendment conducted during the 2019-2020 COVID-19 period. However, the highest penalty recommended or proposed in the Bill is $2,000 in relation to venereal disease. In terms of agriculture and water uses the PS was alluding to, the maximum fine that is proposed is $1,000. Just for clarification, Mr. Chairman.

HON. K.K. LAL.- I believe, PS, your section of concern in your Ministry or your farmers would be up to $1,000. Most farmers in Labasa we visited, had that issue with fines. As honourable Bala has stated, that there would be a policy drawn up, first warning, second warning, third warning, and then a fine is brought up. There was a concern from the Labasa irrigation sector. They complained about diapers that end up in their flood irrigation system and that is causing a lot of health problems with regards to their crops, their sugarcane fields and their households when there is a flood. What do you have to say about that? How would you prove that, because people do throw rubbish? This is the job of the Local Government and all those people. From the Waterways section, what do you say about that? What is your opinion?

MR. A. TUKANA.- I think they should not be polluting the waterways. There is also the issue of the drains connecting from the town centres into some of the rural areas and going into the drains and streams. There needs to be more awareness in relation to people and not just dumping anyhow into waterways, streams and rivers. There needs to be a regulation. These activities need to be regulated and if we catch them in the act, there is an avenue for us to fine them. As I have said, the drains are connected from the municipalities, and sometimes it is blocked causing flood, but yet the drains are not being cleaned. Those drains eventually, before they get into the waterways, are interconnected to rivers and streams and right into the river. My view is that it should not be the case - they should not be doing it - but yet people are still doing it. If we get them, then I think that is the whole reason why we should take them to task and fine them. However, as you mentioned, there should be a process where we give them first, second and third warnings before we take them to task.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Honourable Member, if I may just add on to what the Permanent Secretary of Agriculture has briefly explained. We believe that from the public health perspective, the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways, if they were to solely bear the burden of clearing drains when communities dump waste into them, would be a very big - or very mammoth - task to them. This is basically why the Bill proposes the reintroduction, or the bringing back, of rural local authorities. The main solution to that, we believe, is when we bring back the Rural Local Authority, for them to provide waste management services to these rural communities. Only then can these communities have a place or have a pathway of removing waste from their households. Can we be sure that they will not be dumping into the drains? This is happening across Fiji.

We might penalise someone here, but overnight, someone else will start to dump. We believe that in the proposed Bill, with the reintroduction of the Rural Local Authority, we should be able to assist Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways with that, Mr. Chairman.

DR. A. TUKANA.- Honourable Member, through you, I think the fourth area was around livestock zoonotic diseases, and I had raised this earlier, and Biosecurity as well as disease surveillance, and using the One Health approach.

The recommendation there, Sir, is to have a strong integration between public health and the veterinary authorities, as well as to have those information-sharing protocols developed and improved. This is particularly important during disease outbreaks, as well as to have joint surveillance systems for zoonotic diseases, and to have clear emergency response procedures to protect, and the protection of food supply chains during outbreaks. The fifth area there, Sir, is increased enforcement powers and penalties. I think we have touched on this a little bit.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Permanent Secretary, sorry just to intervene on the recommendation that the Ministry recommends that the Bill recognise the role of national biosecurity and veterinary services. Can you clarify more on what is required there.

DR. A. TUKANA.- Sir, according to the Acts that the Biosecurity works on and works with, it also needs to review its strength. and it can have some of that embedded within the Public Health (Amendment) Bill -particularly because most of these diseases are posed by animals or livestock (inaudible) to monitor and make decisions.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Ministry for Agriculture, your recommendations are very broad. You are saying strong integration between public health and veterinary authorities, information-sharing protocol, joint surveillance systems, clear emergency response. These are very broad, generalised recommendations. You can give a more policy- based one – where, in which policy, do you want that change to happen? That is my opinion.

I believe that when you are presenting to the Parliamentary Committee, the Parliamentary Committee later on works with the Public Health officials: "Okay, these people want these areas changed. Let us work on that". Maybe after this submission, you can go back and write another submission, a detailed one.

In which area do you want a strong integration between the public health and the veterinary service? In which area? Is it with regards to stray dog control? or is it regards to the farming aspect of it? Because veterinary science is a very broad area, right? We have to look at a very, how should I say, a simplified version because for them to understand which area you strictly want this, for example, production of food supply, is it commercial food supply, the private sector, or is it the backup we have in the warehouse for emergency purposes or food security purpose in the farming areas? Where do you want that? It is very broad. That is my opinion.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. PS, as alluded by honourable Lau, after this, the submission does not end here. You can always go back and put into finer details all the recommendations that you have put it in writing to the Secretariat of this Committee. You may continue with the submission.

DR. A. TUKANA.- Honourable Member, if I may just respond to one example. For example, you mentioned the information sharing. At the moment, you know, they are working in their own silos. We are working in our own silos. That is one example and we need to probably develop task force or policy to improve on that. We have taken on board your points, honourable Member, and we will continue to work with them on that, okay.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Honourable Members and representative from the Ministry of Agriculture. I think, this is a very technical, a very useful, and a very important significant submission from the Ministry of Agriculture. This assists the Ministry of Health in combating the continuous relapsing of the leptospirosis in Fiji. We believe that, coming from them, that they would want us to have that in our legislation, have it in our Bill, is in itself a very considerate gesture from the Ministry of Agriculture. The Technical Working Group in the Ministry will also try to look in ways that we can assist the Committee in drafting that in. Of course, in working together with the Ministry of Agriculture in the few days in the future.

DR. A. TUKANA.- Honourable Member, the other areas we feel may need more clarification and discussions are around the broader powers of farming or over farming activities, as well as offensive trades and agricultural processing. These include kava pounding, quarrying, recycling operations, and other processing activities.

There is also a need for inter-ministerial coordination. As mentioned by the representative from the Ministry of Health, we should be forming working groups in the near future. This would include the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, the Water Authority of Fiji, the municipal councils, and the disaster management agencies and offices.

The recommendation is that the Bill should empower coordinated enforcement, shared inspections, joint data systems, and integrate public awareness initiatives. This should reduce duplication, improve efficiencies, and ensure consistency in regulatory implementations. The Bill should also provide for capacity building and rural development support.

No. 7 is in relation to climate change and environmental resilience. This impacts the agricultural sector through flooding, droughts, water contamination, coastal erosion, and climate-sensitive disease outbreaks.

The recommendation is that the Bill should integrate climate resilience principles by protecting watersheds and catchments, promoting sustainable land use, strengthening disaster preparedness, encouraging climate-smart agriculture, and supporting ecosystem-based approaches to public health protection.

To conclude, the Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry support the modernisation of the Fiji's Public Health legislation and recognises the importance of strengthening environmental health systems to protect public health systems to protect public health and well-being. The Ministry recommends that the implementation of the Public Health (Amendment) Bill be carefully considered in relation to its operational realities of the agricultural sector and adopt a balanced approach that protects public health, supports sustainable agriculture, encourages compliance through education and partnership and strengthens inter-agency collaboration. And the Ministry also recommends that the implementation guidelines be developed collaboratively between the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and the Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar, the Water Authority of Fiji and relevant agencies to ensure that enforcement measures relating to farming, livestock, poultry and water catchment protection measures relating to are practical and science-based and do not unnecessarily impede agriculture development. The Ministry remains committed to working closely with the Standing Committee and relevant stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of the proposed Amendment Bill.

HON. A. BIA. - The floor is now open to the honourable Members if they wish to raise any issue or queries regarding the presentation from the Ministry of Agriculture.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, in previous consultations, there were some concerns raised regarding the stray dogs and this basically falls under your Ministry. Unfortunately, we have not heard anything from the presentation regarding the stray dogs, nuisance, pollution and even the kava pounding. These are some of the areas which was not covered before. Now it is in the amendment Bill. How would the Ministry seize these amendments and especially in regard to the stray dogs because this has become an issue. I am not saying just go and do the poisoning campaign and all those things. But what is the plan? Because this has been raised especially by the municipal councils who were here before the Committee. So, we would like to hear so that it assists the Committee and we can do some justification to those concerns that were raised by the stakeholders.

DR. A. TUKANA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, I think in relation to the potential of transmission of diseases from dogs to humans, then we could probably try to include some of that to be embedded into the Bill, but mostly at the moment it is under the legislation for the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways, particularly under the Dogs Act. There also needs to be some consultation with the municipalities in relation to giving them some powers here as well.

We had a meeting with the Permanent Secretary for Local Government a week ago; this was also related to stray dogs. I think there was a case recently where someone had passed away again, they were working and collecting some garbage somewhere, some of the council members I guess, and a stray dog just came up and attacked and he tried to escape, and he got crushed by the vehicle. It was very sad indeed. We are also working with the Ministry of Local Government to try and ensure that if they do review their legislation to be able to give them a bit more power, for example to do dog trapping.

At the moment, we are doing all of that and we are giving them to the entities to de-sex them. That is the programme that we have, but again it needs people to do that work, and I think that most of the times, you find that we have the Act which is already outdated, and then we also do not have the people to regulate them. We do not have the number of staff to regulate them, so that is an issue at the moment. We are trying to work with other stakeholders to be able to work towards a common goal.

I think in relation to diseases that can pass from dogs to humans. We have some already on some livestock that I have seen, but it is focused more on poultry. I think the whole gist of that was because of avian influenza that had a risk of coming in previously. But there is also a need to have some of that in terms of zoonotic diseases that can pass on to humans, not only for dogs, but for other livestock that can pass diseases to humans. Did I answer your question, honourable Member?

HON. P.K. BALA.- Chairman, just a follow-up. I have observed that there is no concrete suggestion in it since as you mentioned that we have lost one life recently, in regard to the Suva City Council and there are many which are not reported. People have difficulty with doing their morning walks. Previously, the Ministry for Agriculture, with the municipal councils were carrying out this campaign. However, we have not seen or heard of any campaign in a long time. I mean, how long people will suffer? Someone has to take responsibility and as far as I am concerned, I know it is the Ministry for Agriculture.

DR. A. TUKANA.- Chairman, if I could just respond. We are working on that, for example, this year, we have conducted more than 2,000 dogs that we captured and desexed. The issue is the population of dogs. It is not a short-term solution. It will take a few years, since, in terms of animal welfare, we cannot just go and kill these stray dogs, as there will be a huge outcry from the animal welfare people. Therefore, the direction we are taking is to capture, desex and we are also trying to rehouse them. The problem is if they end up being a stray again, and the problem is still there until they pass away, or they die. The programme will take quite a few years and once the dogs are desexed, they cannot reproduce.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Chairman, may I intervene? You have mentioned about 2,000 dogs. What period is that?

DR. A. TUKANA.- For this financial year.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Sure?

DR. A. TUKANA.- Yes, we have done that, and we are working closely with the SPCA. We are already doing that. However, the issue is licencing. We are also carrying out licencing. Some of the dogs may be licenced, however, they are not restrained. They can be licenced, but they can come out and attack people as well. This is the issue and in that, awareness needs to increase, so that the dog owners have the responsibility. Once they have been licenced, they need to be confined. If they come out and attack somebody…

HON. P.K. BALA.- Chair, just a follow-up question. Does the Ministry issue licences?

DR. A. TUKANA.- Yes, as well as the other entities that are around like SPCA et cetera.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Okay.

DR. A. TUKANA.- That is in place however, we need to probably review the fines again and take some of them to task and we need the people to monitor that. If we can give the powers to the people in the councils to have that authority to go around and monitor, if dogs are not licenced, then the owners will pay for a licence, or they will be taken to task.

HON. P.K. BALA.-Mr. Chairman, through you, those licences have conditions?

Dr. A. TUKANA.- Yes. They have conditions.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Through you Chair. A very interesting and very sensitive topic. We have viewers and citizens listening over this parliamentary session who are big-time animal fans. You will also see on social media when there is an animal attacked by criminals; there is an outcry. In addition, to what was raised by honourable Bala. Can you confirm to the public and to the Parliamentary Committee, whether you or any of the other authorities poison dogs? Yes or no?

DR. A. TUKANA.- That was an issue a few years back, honourable Member. Chairman, through you, if I may respond. I remember when I was working for the Ministry of Health, we did the poisoning campaign within the city limits and there was a huge outcry because even though we put out notices a few days prior to doing the campaign, some of the pets do get out and they also get caught up in this poisoning. What the direction is now, we do

not do that anymore in the city areas or the urban centres. We only do them on the request from the farms or from the farmers in the rural areas.

It is one of the ways we try to safeguard other animals, because they can certainly pick up a bait and take it where other dogs will be involved in eating that bait if they take it into a home. The idea is to give out the notices a few days prior to carrying out the poisoning campaign. We stake the baits. We get the stray dogs that are out there, they will just eat it the way it is staked. Then they collect it if it is not eaten early in the morning, so there is no chance of when the pet animals are released in the morning, come and pick that up. However, some of those are still happening at the moment – in the rural areas on the farms, not in the city limits.

HON. K.K. LAL.- You said that you only do poison baiting in the rural or in the farm area. Which type of farms are these? Crop or animal farms?

MR. A. TUKANA.- These are mostly livestock farms, on the request. If you weigh up the cost, when we do poisoning in relation to the number of heads of animals that are being killed by the stray dogs, it is quite high. It is a disincentive to the farmers to continue, for example, raising sheep, as much as 30 percent are being killed.

HON. K.K. LAL.- My follow-up question to that would be, for example, there was a case in Ba where a horse died at the water source, and it caused Hepatitis B, if I am correct? Does your poison kill the animal or the stray dog instantly, or does it take time to kill?

MR. A. TUKANA.- Normally, the trend is, we find them next to where they had eaten the baits. That is the indication that it kills them instantly.

HON. K.K. LAL.- That is not a definite answer. It is more like an assumption that you normally find them beside the poison bait. What if that dog ends up in a water source?

MR. A. TUKANA.- What you are suggesting, honourable Member is that the dog would travel from there to the water source. Yes, that is a potential risk, but we try to ensure that we place our baits as far away as possible from water sources and other areas that might cause issues later.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Rather than killing dogs, we have good Samaritans in Western Division who have animal shelters. Why does your Ministry not provide extra funding to them? Normally we see them on social media asking citizens to fund their campaign. Can your Ministry fund those citizens who have a private animal shelter, and you capture these stray dogs and transfer them to that animal shelter?

MR. A. TUKANA.- Mr. Chairman, through you. At the moment we are supporting those entities to do desexing, however, in terms of shelter, I think that is something we can discuss further with them and see if there is a possibility to work something out. Everything is based on the amount of money we are given, and if there is a need, then we probably have to look for a bit more money to support that. As I have mentioned before, the solution is a bit long term, and one of the options is to rehouse and shelter them. The other option is to just release them back where they become a stray again, even though they cannot reproduce, but they still contribute to the problem in the short term.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Have you looked at options available to us from our international partners? For example, how do you do it in Australia, New Zealand, or other countries? Instead of directly killing them, unless they are really sick, then they inject them or something, but have you seen options or ways how they do it better than us?

DR. A TUKANA .- Well I think the direction we are taking honourable Member is very similar to what they are doing as well but we just need a bit more data so we need to implement some surveys and some data collection to see how impactful our strategy is taking place over this.

HON. A.N. TUICOLO.- Thank you, Chair. I'm referring to 3.4. Most of the existing livestock farms are located near waterways. Should there be an outbreak of zoonosis near these farms? What would be your recommendation on how to penalise these farmers? And how would you prevent this problem from happening in the future?

DR. A TUKANA .- Chair through you, honorable Member. I think that is a very, very good question. And I guess some years back, we had been working with the Ministry of Health to see how we can work closely on this. I will just give you one example. When you say an outbreak of zoonosis, do you mean an outbreak within the livestock population or the human.

At the moment, we have got the prevalence of brucellosis, bovine and brucellosis in cattle in Fiji as well as bovine and tuberculosis. We have also heard from the data from the Ministry of Health that the incidence of human tuberculosis has been increasing somewhat so over the years. The bovine tuberculosis in cattle can also present the same symptoms in humans. whether that increase in the cases of bovine tuberculosis in humans is from bovine tuberculosis or actual human tuberculosis, we still need to find that link. I do not know how much in terms of analysis has been done, but we still do not see that link, but we suspect that it can also be some of the cases happening in humans can also be from livestock cattle. But we still need to find out whether that is actually bovine or human.

That is the issue at the moment and there needs to be more work done around that before we can actually say, okay, the increase here in humans is because of... But there is suspect there because a lot of these people, the other example, is leptospirosis. The other suspect is most of these people that work in these farming communities do not even have proper PPE or footwear. There is a risk that these diseases can be transmitted. But until we can find that there is a link, then we need to increase that awareness to ensure that they are aware. If they go milking, they need to be careful that when they come back, they need to wash their hands properly before they have a cigarette or take food.

Otherwise, it can be transmitted through urine and feces. And they are handling feces; they are stepping on that almost every day when they go into this farm. They need to be aware that the risks are always there. But then for increases in infection in humans, if we do not link it up, then it is going to be hard to say, okay, this is coming from livestock. But even though we suspect, that is there. For leptospirosis, after extreme weather events like flooding and all of that, it's correlated to an increase in cases of leptospirosis. We know that it is there. But we need to confirm it through diagnostics. Thank you, very much honourable Member.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Thank you honourable Chairman and honourable Members and representative from the Ministry of Agriculture. Just to add on to what PS Agriculture has mentioned. Ministry of Agriculture, Biosecurity and the Ministry of Health are trying to strengthen the One Health approach. We also have a Leptospirosis Task Force that is chaired by the PS of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services. We have a whole lot of partners and the ministries that are working together in terms of the prevention of leptospirosis together with the academia and our partners. We also have a MOU with the biosecurity and the Ministry of Agriculture on doing inspection and operation for control of leptospirosis and the testing, especially dogs when there is an outbreak. There is already some coordination that is happening, and I think maybe it is for us, the Ministry of Health, Agriculture and the biosecurity, we will have to work on what we would like to have in the regulations to strengthen the coordination that we have on the prevention of zoonotic diseases and in terms of the disease surveillance.

HON. A. BIA.- Thank you Ministry of Health, thank you honourable Members, thank you PS and your staff. At this juncture, I like to sincerely thank you all for availing yourselves for this public hearing session. We thank you for your time and hope that you will avail yourself for further queries that the committee may have on today's submission. On that note, I formally bring our consultation to this morning to a close.

The Committee adjourned at 10.05 a.m.

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE BIG COMMITTEE ROOM, PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, ON 24TH JULY, 2026 AT 10.21 A.M.

The Committee resumed at 10.21 a.m.

Committee Members

5. Hon. A. Bia - Acting Chairman
6. Hon. P.K. Bala
7. Hon. K.K. Lal - Alternate member
8. Hon. A.N Tuicolo
9. Hon. S. Kumar - Alternate member

Ministry of Health and Medical Services

1.	Mr. Toga Vosataki	-	WASH Coordinator
2.	Mr. Luke Vonotabua	-	Acting Chief Health Inspector

Subcommittee: National Fire Authority (NFA)

In attendance:

1.	Mr. Puamau Sowane	-	Chief Executive Officer
2.	Mr. Qionilau Moceitai	-	Chief Fire Officer
3.	Mr. Sefanaia Cola	-	Structural Fire Safety Department
4.	Mr. Nabuka Nakavu	-	Salary Division (NFA)

HON. A. BIA.- Honourable Members, members of the public, Secretariat, dear viewers, ladies and gentlemen A very good morning to you all, and it is a pleasure to welcome everyone especially the viewers that are watching this public hearing session.

At the outset, for information purposes, pursuant to Standing Order 111 of the Standing Order of Parliament, all Committee meetings are to be open to the public Therefore, please note that this submission is open to the public and the media, and it is also being aired via the *Walesi* platform, streamlined live on Parliament's website and social media platform

For any sensitive information concerning the matter before us this morning, that it cannot be disclosed in public This can be provided to the Committee either in private or in writing.

However, please be advised that Standing Order 111, in the following circumstances, permits for non-disclosure of information and these are related to:

5. National security matters,
6. Third party confidential information,
7. Personal or human resources matters; and
8. Committee deliberation and development of the Committee's recommendations and reports.

This is a parliamentary meeting, and all information gathered is covered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act of 1965. However, please bear in mind that we do not condone slander or libel of any sort, and any information brought before this Committee should be based on facts.

In terms of protocol of this Committee meeting, please minimise the usage of mobile phones, and all mobile phones are to be in silent mode while the meeting is in progress.

I wish to also remind honourable Members and our guests, that all questions to be asked are to be addressed through the Chairperson. I would like the honourable Members of the Committee to introduce themselves and officials from the Ministry of Health.

(Introduction of the Committee Members and representatives from the Ministry of Health)

HON. A. BIA.- Today the Committee will be hearing submission from the National Fire Authority (NFA). This is in relation to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, Bill 4 of 2026. Before us we have representatives from the NFA, and I would like to thank them for availing themselves to this hearing. Due to the essence of time, you may give the responses briefly. The honourable Members will intervene with their supplementary questions whenever they see fit. I now invite the officials to introduce themselves and then begin with the presentation.

(Introduction of the National Fire Authority’s representatives)

HON. A. BIA.- If you wish to respond to any questions, please kind reminder to push the mic close to you so that the audio is also recorded live. Again, the honourable Members will intervene whenever they see fit to ask questions. CEO, you may start with your presentation.

MR. P. SOWANE.- Mr. Chairman, may I request Rishi to throw up our presentation material, and our submission will be shared by the honourable Members. I also gave you a presentation. That is our official submission.

HON. A. BIA.- CEO, kindly asking that our Secretariat is currently looking for your submission.
We have your written submission with us. And if you can proceed with your submission, briefly explain your presentation and if our Secretariat finds the document then they can throw it up on the screen.

MR. P. SOWANE.- Mr. Chairman, our presentation this morning, it also provides our support to the Bill. But we also have some recommendations.

HON. A. BIA.- If you look at the screen in front, there is only NFA submission that is there on the attachment in the email.

MR. P. SOWANE.- The one on the right...

MR. P. SOWAU.- Through you, Chair, before you is our presentation and official written submission in which we have gone through the Public Health Amendment Bill 2026 which encompasses the whole perspective or spherical perspective of the National Fire Authority (NFA) and envelopes the whole core role of the National Fire Service in Fiji. We made nine recommendations to eight clauses with one goal based on life safety. The clauses that we are going to address today are Clause (s) 4, 14, 16, 19, 33, 41, 57, and 69.

Chair, the National Fire Authority supports the overall objectives of the Public Health Amendment Bill 2026 in modernising the Public Health Act of 1985 through stronger public health governance, environmental health management use and control, water safety, disease prevention, and enforcement powers. It is in that sense, that we recommend the targeted amendments so that the Bill fully recognises fire safety hazards and material management and emergency responses.

I alluded to earlier that this is our submission envelopes the whole spectrum of our service in Fiji. The next slide is on clause 4 regarding the representation of the Board of Health. We viewed the composition of the Board of Health and what we observed that the proposed board draws on environmental health, medicine laws, engineering, consumer protection, and local Government. However, it does not include emergency services or fire safety representation. We have recommended that the clause should have as part of the board of Health, the Chief Executive Officer of the National Fire Authority, or his or her nominee. The reason is also articulated in the other paper that we have distributed, that the public health mandates routinely carrying out life safety across the locality, hazards, materials and disaster response.

Mr. Chairman, the National Fire Authority under the ambulance services, has only two permanent members which are the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Health and Medical services and the National Fire Authority Chief Executive Officer. The rest of the other three representative are chosen by the line Ministers. It is very important to consider the representation of the National Fire Authority, since there is no current representation on the Board of Health.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Chair, may I intervene? I understand that the NFA comes directly under the Ministry for Local Government, which is its line ministry. If you see the composition of the board, the director is represented in the board. Do you still feel that the CEO of National Fire Authority or his or her nominee should be on the board?

MR. P. SOWAU.- Through you Mr. Chairman, even though I understand the point where you are coming from, Sir, but in terms of discussion, the expertise of the technical background of what needs to be discussed within the Board, the Directors will lack the depth of the discussion, comparing it to the Chief Fire Officer or the representative of the National Fire Authority.

HON. P.K. BALA.- May I intervene? I fully agree, and I have raised this in earlier meetings as well. Permanent Secretary or Director, if they represent, that does not mean they know the background of certain areas.
This is the Board. I am asking Ministry officials, can there be a provision, because this is not only National Fire Authority that has raised this, there had been other stakeholders who had raised this, basically those who are dealing with technical aspect of it? Can we include an inter-agency technical team, apart from the Board? I think that is where they are coming from, because if they are not represented fully, then there is no purpose of this amendment.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, the Bill in its current form is before the Committee to deliberate, and I think it is the discretion of the Committee to make the decision. However, we can also include the officer in charge of the Fire Authority in the district to be member of the local authority. That was part of the Rural Local Authority. The Chief Fire Officer who is here, used to be a member of the Suva Rural Local Authority back in those days. We can include officers in charge of the National Fire Authority in the district in the local authority, but again, at the discretion of the ...

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, those local authorities are at a different level. This, we are talking about the national level. We have a Board that is well and good, but what we have been hearing, and as you have mentioned that it is before the Committee, we can suggest and get it done, but it is good to have views from all the key stakeholders. I agree with NFA, because earlier on, the Ministry of Agriculture has raised the same issue, and I think there was another stakeholder who had raised this. I am not suggesting that we enlarge or expand this Board, but if we can have a technical inter-agency group that can assist even the Board, because, for example, a Director for Local Government does not mean he or she knows everything. I think that is where they are coming from.

HON. A. BIA.- CEO, clearly a good point has been raised by the honourable Bala but as have been alluded to by the Ministry of Health, the Bill is before the Committee and we will take on board your recommendations and discuss it on the need for you to be represented in the Board.

MR. P. SOWANE.- Clause 14 on demolition of unsafe structure. We also looked into this clause, and our issue is the demolition may involve fire damage structures on structural instability, hazardous material and a significant public safety risk. Our recommendation requires the head of environmental health to consult with the National Fire Authority before ordering demolition of unsafe of fire damaged structures. The reason being, it is down there and why it matters because the NFA is the expertise in investigation, and we want to ensure that the scenes are not disturbed prematurely for evidence.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, I think someone will have to take responsibility in terms of declaring that that particular building to be demolished because yesterday the Ministry of Local Government also suggested there should be consultation. At the end of the day there should be one Ministry responsible, because let us make no mistake, we can have a lot of Acts. We can have the National Fire Authority Act; we can have the Local Government Act. But what we understand as a Committee is that the Public Health (Amendment) Bill is basically looking after the public health aspect. I do not know where, if you can elaborate more on that, because it is not only you. Other stakeholders have also raised that there should be consultation before any demolition.

MR. P. SOWANE.- Mr. Chairman, the reason we brought this up is because we also deal with legal matters in terms of structures damaged by fire and producing fire reports. For example, building owners, when their buildings are affected by fire, require our report to be submitted for insurance purposes. Without our fire report, they will never be able to claim insurance. That is the reason we are saying this.

There is a particular example I want to share with the forum. A structure burned down in Laucala Resort. When our people arrived, the whole structure had already removed. The question that comes to mind is, why? We asked the hotel owner, why did you disturb the fire scenes? You can be taken to task for that. We need to inspect and identify the cause of the fire. It went to the length where we had to confront the owner and say, "The reason we see from this side is that you are removing or disturbing the fire scene because you want to remove evidence of illegal activity carried out within the facilities." We are dealing with drugs nowadays. Evidence can be destroyed before we come in. Arson evidence can be destroyed and other matters. That is the reason we are saying that before ordering the demolition of any structure damaged by fire, they have to consult with us after we have already done the survey and inspection on that building.

HON. A. BIA.- Ministry of Health, would like to further clarify the issue.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Sir, thank you for the point that has been brought up, and we thank you for the specifications you have alluded to. However, I feel we have slightly deviated from the initial intent of that clause in the Bill, which focuses solely on buildings that unfit for human habitation due to health aspects. It has nothing to do with fire, whether before or after. The condition of that dwelling or building is such that it is injurious to human health. That means it can cause sickness, even death, if people continue to dwell in it That section is brought in after corrective measures. If they are not done within that period, then and only do we recommend for demolition. It is to do with the threat the building in its current state poses to the health of the inhabitants and has nothing to do with fire.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Thank you, NFA, for your presentation so far. Coming back to the example you gave, when someone destroys evidence, what does the law state?

MR. P. SOWANE.- You can be taken to task for them.

HON. K.K. LAL.- You can be or you will be?

MR. P. SOWANE.- You will be taken to task.

HON. K.K. LAL.- The answer is there. Why are we lenient? We take them to task. That is my comment. If the law states you will be taken to task if you destroy evidence, then in that

case the hotel owner should have been taken to task unless NFA does not want to prosecute him.

MR. P. SOWANE.- Honourable Member, that is the reason we are stating this. I brought it up and it was already with the Police in the case of Laucala. That is why we are bringing this up. We do not want situations where public health says, "Destroy that" without consulting us, when we have already completed our investigation. It is a simple consultation with us to stating, yes, you can go ahead because we have completed our report and it is here. Go ahead with it. That is where we are coming from.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Just a follow- up. Now it is clear in regard to fire, you still hold those powers. NFA has those powers. I do not think the Ministry of Health will come in with other laws, because whatever you have has been clarified. The power still lies with you.

MR. P. SOWANE.- Honourable Member, we want to bring this up to elaborate more, so they understand the powers we also have and consult with us before ordering demolition. They can order demolition without consulting us, and we may not have completed. It might be affecting, as you have clearly stated, the path given to them to order demolition because of the public health that can affect the public. But the procedure should include consultation with us to ensure we have completed the investigation. That is the reason we raise this.

HON. A. BIA.- Before I give the floor to honourable Ketan Lal, I wish to provide clarity as alluded to by the Ministry of Health. The current amendment has nothing to do with buildings that have been burnt. It only considers existing dwellings. If the state of any existing dwellings causes sickness or disease, then the Ministry of Health, under this Act, will act upon the amendment. But for any building that has been burnt, it is still within your preference.

MR. P. SOWANE.- Sir, for any existing building, we have no jurisdiction. It is up to public health to make decisions. But in that Section it also mentions burnt structure.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Sir, through you, if I may. Ministry of Health, let us take a scenario. You have a three-story concrete building burnt, and the structure is unsafe and they are taking time to investigation, but the structure is already unsafe and can be harmful to the public or homeless children and people taking shelter. That becomes a public health risk. How do you handle the situation with this Act? The Public Health Board overrides jurisdiction, overrides investigative authority, and demolish the building or barricades it? How do you handle that? This is an example.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Honourable Members of the Standing Committee and representative from National Fire Authority. Thank you so much for that clarifying question, honourable Member.

In that line of questions, there is one prior to demolition order, which is the closing order, and prior to that, we have a notice of eviction. That can be steps taken prior to the fact, while we await National Fire Authority to complete the investigation. It is not only a single enforcement direction pathway that we have. We do not just jump straight into demolition. There is notice to abate nuisance with a period. If that is not complied with, notice of eviction comes in place for them to relocate, so, as to remove themselves from the health risks of staying in that particular dwelling. If that does not eventuate, then the last one that comes in is that, of course, the demolition order that we recommend for. I believe in all that few steps that we will adhere to, NFA will be consulted and we will have ample time to carry out the investigations.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, through you, this is the homeless people you are talking about, you are giving them eviction notice?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Anyone dwelling in such a premises that may be injurious to health. If they are staying in that particular premises, poses a health risk to themselves. This is where that particular premise to my original example, the is structure unsafe and there was a fire in the structure. They are the NFA who investigates and who basically creates the structure of evidence and stuff. If the structure is still not safe and homeless people are living there, homeless kids come in there, drug use, they use that space. The structure collapses. Who takes responsibility?

Do you barricade the, I understand you use your tape to barricade that, but how does Central Board of Health come into this? I understand CBH has some certain rights here. When the council and authorities do not act, the Central Board of Health can. In this kind of situation, there are some structures which are still unsafe around Fiji. You have the Nabua PRB flats, if I am correct. What about those kinds of flats? You can still see people hanging around that place. It is unsafe. According to engineers, it is unsafe. How will the CBH step in? At the end of the day, it will be the NFA and the ambulance coming there to rescue the people.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, I think that is a very good scenario that is being brought up by the honourable Member. Mr. Chairman, I think in that particular case, since the building is clearly in the jurisdiction of NFA, NFA will take lead in not only conducting the investigation but ensuring that it is cordoned off in such a way that no one can actually come in and start to squatter or stay within the vicinity and of course they can always seek the assistance of police to try and remove these people. The public health only comes in the pathway, if the dwelling that they dwell in, which has not caught on fire, poses a health risk to the occupants.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, just a follow-up. If a building is condemned by the relevant authorities, take the PRB as an example, but people still reside, so from the time of that notice given to them to vacate, but they are still there, and in between something happens, who is responsible? Because maybe this is the right time, since we are amending laws, these are all captured. Because in the absence of laws, we have to face these difficulties. A good example is that the building has been condemned, but people are still residing there.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, I believe that the team from National Fire Authority would agree with me for that particular scenario. The PRB will be responsible since the structure is theirs and they should have a plan in place to demolish or repurpose that particular structure. The PRB can then communicate and coordinate with the Fiji Police Force to step in and put in preventive measures for communities not to come in because of the risk of the structure collapsing on top of them. Honourable Chairman.

MR. P. SOWAU.- Chairman, the next submission is on clause 14 and 33 on environmental health inspection. Our issue here is the environmental health practitioners can inspect premises but do not have no clear pathway to flag serious fire hazards to the NFA and our recommendation is to permit or require practitioners to notify the NFA on significant fire hazards, hazardous substance, unsafe flammable storage or obstructed exits. The reason why we are bringing this up is the joint enforcement, impose public safety outcomes and

reduces duplications of inspection and alignment to the online application of a portal for new and existing facilities.

HON. A. BIA.- You can continue CEO and we will continue to refer on the document that is in front of us now.

MR. P. SOWAU.- On numbers three and four, on public approval and public health safety on clause 16 and 13 in terms of building plans and infrastructure approvals. Our issue is the Bill requires site plans, drainage plan and local authority approval; however, it does not expressly require fire safety review. Our recommendations include required NFA consultation for hospitals, lodging houses, public buildings, industrial facilities, hazardous occupancy and high-risk premises and private and residential homes. This is to ensure consistency with the national building code and the fire safety standards mean of escape provisions and fire plans access.

This is one of the problems that we are currently facing here in Fiji in terms of structural fires. The high end is on residential homes. Every year between 90 to 95 percent of structural fires come from residential areas and only five to 10 percent are from commercial industrials. It is very low in the commercial industrial areas because we continue to inspect their facilities on an annual basis in comparison to residential homes.

We have the power under our Act to inspect residential homes however we are not practising it right now due to our capacity and having legislation that is applicable within the fire boundaries only. When it is outside of the boundary area, the NFA does not have any regulation, and this is why we are very thankful that this Act has been revised to include it.

HON. A. BIA.- CEO, when you say you are not doing it right now because of your capacity, does that mean you do not have the manpower?

MR. P. SOWANE.- Before we did not have the manpower. I am talking about inside the boundary, within the municipal boundaries, we are only inspecting the commercial and industrial. We are not looking at the residential homes. When I am talking about residential home, meaning that we are supposed to be part of the approval agency in terms of approving residential building that is supposed to be constructed within the municipal boundaries. Even though our Act allows us to do that, but we are not part of that. We are talking to our Ministry to include us to be part of the vetting agency for residential homes within the municipal boundaries. That is something that we are still not part of, and we see the number of fires that are coming …

HON. A. BIA.- CEO, what does not enable you to empower, because within the Act, you have the power to do it.

MR. P. SOWANE.- The process in terms of approval does not come to us. The only thing that comes to us is the commercial and the industrial buildings. The residential buildings have a different flow, so it does not come to us. The reason why we are bringing this up, because this one is particularly outside the municipal boundaries, and it is inclusive of rural settlements and villages. That is the reason why we are saying that we are in support of this because we see that we are not part of this clause. That is the reason why we are bringing this recommendation for them to consider.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Section 19, as alluded to by the CEO for NFA, is the provision in which we make reference to the building application process so that we can reserve the enforcement mechanism of the building process. However, the building process is moved to the Town Planning Act with the new bypass amendment that was passed earlier in the year. Section 19(a) makes reference to Town Planning Act section 7 which talks about that process. If an amendment to include the NFA would be done, it would be the amendment section 7 of the Town Planning Act. The Public Health Act does not empower the process as to say that all building applications would now go to NFA for rural areas. If that was to be included in an amendment, it would be included in section 7 of the Town Planning Act.

This can be something that the Committee can consider maybe as a consequential amendment for this review if the NFA submission is to be taken into consideration by the Committee. However, the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026 aims at emphasis on subsection (b), which is focussing more on *iTaukei* villages. For that, of course, we will collaborate with NFA once we receive the plans for *iTaukei* villages. We will have them comment on it before we will proceed with it. Just to inform NFA that although we want to have that oversight in *iTaukei* villages, there will not be as stringent measures as to the building process outside of *iTaukei* villages, but something to guide our people in the community in the *iTaukei* affairs community. The *iTaukei* communities, of course, should align themselves into what public health feel is necessary in preventing disease outbreak.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. CEO, I hope that clarify your issue, but please note that the Committee have taken your recommendation on that.

MR. P. SOWANE.- sir, Clause 19 on Healthcare Waste Management regarding the plan under Section 30. The issue is the healthcare facilities hold medical gases, oxygen cylinders, flammable chemical infectious waste, and electrical mechanical systems, presenting both health and fire risk.

Our recommendation, sir, is to require waste plan include fire prevention, emergency evacuation, hazardous and combustible storage rules, fire response protocol, and NFA coordination. The reason we are bringing this up is that the waste management should address public health and fire safety hazards together.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. CEO, this point was raised by honourable Ketan Lal while we were in Taveuni, in regards to the waste from the hospitals. I will ask the Ministry of Health, in terms of healthcare waste management plan, to further elaborate on the issue.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Sir, thank you so much for the concern and the issue raised. We welcome that suggestion. However, it may be included in a separate plan, perhaps a hospital or healthcare facility safety plan, where all safety measures are included in terms of evacuation of the facility, assembly areas, fire extinguishers, and all that.

This particular plan, however, is specifically for medical waste. The reason is that this is something new we have introduced, governing the legislating of healthcare waste from point of generation. That is where nurses use needles and syringes and then discard them into sub-containers, with other waste placed into separate bins. The orderlies then transport the waste by trolleys and temporarily store it in a particular area before they take it to a separate, protected storage area under lock and key. From there, it is collected and taken to the site where it is destroyed.

In that sense, the medical waste plan covers the process from the point of source within the facility to the point of storage outside of the facility. We would not consider placing

hydrants or fire escapes as relevant within this plan. However, we do take the suggestion on board. We can look at ways to develop healthcare facility safety plans that include where to place fire extinguishers, escape routes, assembly areas during fires, and how to store your cylinders and fuels. All these necessary details can be part of that plan.

MR. P. SOWANE.- Sir, I just want to remind the forum that whatever we are presenting today is simply elaborating and offering our services for members to consider when it comes to planning. We do not want anything in the future to be harmful to the public. Sir, the next issue is emergency power and outbreak response under Clause 3. The Bill creates divisional and subdivisional outbreak response teams, but it does not identify emergency response as key partners. For example, pandemic response teams. It states the formation of divisional and subdivisional response teams but does not include emergency response.

We recommend coordination with NFA, Fiji Police Force, the National Disaster Management Office, Water Authority of Fiji, and municipal councils. This is important because public health emergencies often coincide with disaster and emergency response operations. One example is the pandemic that passed through our nation. During that period, only the National Fire Authority was outside conducting prevention through fumigation and related work. That is why we raise this, that the Fire Emergency Response Team should also be included.

HON. A. BIA.- Ministry of Health, there is a good observation from the NFA, since they are the only organisation that carries out emergency rescues when there is an accident or flooding. We work more closely with Police. This Committee looks into their reports, and when we visit their Fire Stations, one of the key elements of operations is providing rescue services. Would you clarify if they can be, or have already been, included in the Subdivisional Outbreak Response Team?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Honourable Members of the Standing Committee and representatives from the NFA, thank you CEO for a very good submission. This is something the Ministry of Health can take on board, but not this team in its current form. The Subdivisional Outbreak Response Team and the Divisional Outbreak Response Team comprise medical professionals from various departments within the Ministry of Health, contributing towards the control of a disease outbreak, not other emergencies. We have lab technicians, subdivisional nursing managers, medical officers, and environmental health officers as part of the team. They discuss surveillance, treatment, and awareness.

There is a different team the Ministry of Health deploys during other emergencies, called the Health Emergency Response Team (HERT). This team usually goes out during a natural disaster. That is the team we believe should be part of this coordination. This is something we will take back to the Ministry and have a technical working group look at ways to include in the Public Health Regulations, in coordination with the NFA, the HERT shall proceed in emergencies focusing on rescue and treatment of victims.

MR. P. SOWANE.- Sir, Clause 41 – Common Lodging Houses and Accommodation. Our issue here is the registration requires tax and business registration, proof of ownership and waste plan. But there is no mention on fire safety documents at all. Our recommendation is to also add under the section 92(1)(a) that there is proof of NFA fire safety compliance on extinguishers, smoke alarms, emergency lighting and means of escape and evacuation plans. Why it matters, sir, because accommodation premises present high life safety risk during fires

and NFA ensures that it complies with the National Building Code of Fiji for Class 2 and Class 3 buildings. That is the reason why we are bringing this up.

Having mentioned that, sir, in comparison to last year, there was 14 deaths from fires. In comparison from January to now, we already have 12 deaths, so we still have another five more months go before so how many more people will die? We always concern on the number of people that are dying inside their homes. That is the reason why we are bringing this up for consideration as well.

HON. K.K. LAL.- With respect to adding NFA into the Airbnb registration process, I understand that this is only for business registration and compliance purpose. But NFA in general, you already look after the building passing and all those things when it is a bigger structure under the local government passing process. When the rural authority will come in, then you will obviously have that approval process there as well. For duplicating the process, I do not see a reason to duplicate the process here because you are already an important section in the business registration building passing that basically comes under your responsibility and the council's responsibility.

MR. P. SOWANE.- Honourable Ketan, the reason why we are bringing this up is because they are talking about rural facilities. Our Act only allows us to work within the municipal boundary. It does not give us the villages and we have no jurisdiction over the rural facilities. With their Act, that will empower us to also look into the rural setups.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Just a follow-up. Now, this amendment will cover all of Fiji, including villages, which was not before. How does that fit in? At the moment, they are saying, which you all are aware of, that their responsibility is within the municipality. Now, that will go beyond the municipality. How do they connect things?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Acting Chairman, this is something that we can address at the local authority level, usually when we receive applications in the local authority. If FNA is not immediately represented in the board, the application file will be circulated to Government stakeholders, including the National Fire Authority for their comments before we can proceed with the process.

In that regard, I believe they can offer their advice in terms of the development in the iTaukei communities. Again, learning from the Nadoria fire, where one house burnt and caused the other four to burn as well.

MR. P. SOWAU.- Chairman, the next submission Chairman is on clause 57 and 13 in terms of water supply, protection regarding water quality standards, monitoring and approvals. We would like to inform the forum that the Bill needs to strengthen protections of drinking water sources, infrastructure and assets that also serve fire fighting, in particular, having the capacity for firefighting services as well. We recommend that there is required firefighting water supply in infrastructure approval in terms of hydrant availability, the emergency storage, appliance access points and the protection of critical sources as the water infrastructure serves both public health and as a firefighting function. For example, in most instances, particularly in the rural areas, there is no ample source of water for firefighting services. It is not just about the quality of water; we would also wish to bring to the attention of the forum that they should also consider the capacity for storing water for firefighting as well.

Through you, Chairman, the next submission is on clause 69 in terms of offensive trades and high-risk industry. The issue is the new trade asphalt plan automotive workshop, fibreglass or extraction queries and tyre threading involve flammable liquids and fuel storage and dust explosion risk. We recommend that a fire risk assessment be conducted first before a licence is issued for approved emergency plans, adequate fire protection system, firefighter supplies and the NFA consultation. The reason is the new offensive trade significantly increases the fire risk exposure particularly in the rural settlements or in rural setups.

In conclusion, in terms of consideration of our submission, we feel that our recommendations have a more complete national risk framework. We would like to show that the National Fire Authority fully supports the Public Health amendment Bill in 2026. We recommend that the amendments to clauses 4, 14, 16, 19, 33, 41, 57 and 69 so the Bill can fully recognise the link between the public health and fire safety hazardous materials management and emergency response.

HON. A. BIA.- I will now give the floor to the honourable Members. If there are any other last comments from the members.

HON. K.K. LAL.- I thank the NFA for the very brief presentation. I do have one concern or one recommendation as well maybe this is for both the current Government members who are listening here as well. We have fires happening at a very high rate nowadays and one of the causes is many of these structures do not have fire alarms. Fire alarms are deterrents as they help us escape fires. This is a public health safety issue. Can we look at options of making that a compulsory law for everyone to put a fire alarm for example, at least two in their house, where one can be located in the kitchen and one at a passageway so that there is a clearance for escape especially in the household or in the domestic environment. I understand the commercial environments are compulsory need, but domestic, we are forgetting about them, and most of these fires are happening around the domestic areas.

This is becoming a public health matter as well. We need to start bringing up laws or even including in the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, that it is compulsory for every household to have a fire alarm. Either it is wired to your power line, or a battery operated one, and you can have the NFA or someone checking every month.

We look at stray dogs as a nuisance in the public health system, which is right now an important topic, but no one is talking about saving human lives when it comes to fires. We should start having a serious discussion around that. I understand you might agree, but then it comes to the part that it is going to be expensive putting a fire alarm, but is it more costly than your life or your property? That is the question we should start asking. In this live session, I understand someone may pick this up, but we need to start from somewhere. This Committee needs to start the discussion somewhere. If the NFA and the public health officials here can include that in the law, that will really help us save lives in the future.

You see the family of five members who died, if there was a fire alarm, at least it could have woken them up and directed them out of the house or alerted them and the neighbours that there is a fire alarm. In overseas countries, that is a compulsory. In New Zealand, I understand, the fire alarms are checked by the house owners every month. They come, test, and move on. Why cannot we do that in Fiji? One property down, the next one is also catching

fire, and the livelihoods are all gone. The life is gone. We talk about stray dogs, we talk about the nuisance, but we are not talking about fire safety hazards.

MR. P. SOWANE.- Thank you very much, honourable Ketan. We always like the comment that always come from honourable Kitan in terms of his concern on the life of the people in terms of fire safety. Yes, what he is saying is very true. In Fiji, in our various communities, we continue to advise members of the public to instal smoke alarms because, he has correctly stated, that when we go off to sleep, there is no one else who will be there to wake you up during that time. Most of the fire victims in Fiji demise because of they cannot wake up in time and when they wake up, they look around and they cannot find the keys and their doors are locked.

The installation of smoke alarms, even when it is reaches certain temperature or smell smokes, it will activate the alarm and will wake the homeowners that will give them time to escape. In terms of legislation, we are taking cue from Australia. We are in partnership with the Queensland Fire Department.

Currently, we are drafting a cabinet paper in terms of legalising the installation of smoke alarms to all residential homes in Fiji, because that is the only way we can save peoples' life and their properties. Early detection of fires and early deployment of our firefighters to the affected areas will save lives and the property. That will be coming very shortly, and we also request your support in terms of this cabinet paper that we are proposing for the new for a new legislation that will come into effect to instal smoke alarms to all residentials. It does not really matter whether it complies to the building code or what. As long as it is a dwelling home, you must instal your smoke alarms.

HON. K.K. LAL.- It is good to hear that there is a Cabinet paper coming on this legislation. Maybe we will also want to include FCCC in this and regulate the pricing of fire alarms, because we do not have many rich people in Fiji. We have people in the poor category or living in rural communities who may not be able to afford expensive fire alarms.

We need to make sure they are not disadvantaged, because more fires occur in those settings where structures are very different compared to modern ones. To safeguard them, at least to have a fire alarm, there needs to be a regulated price. We need to also look at those matters so that everyone is treated the same, the price can be set, and businesses are not taking advantage of our citizens, because fire alarms are for safety and fire deterrence.

HON. A. BIA.- Honourable Ketan Lal, thank you for that suggestion.

MR. P. SOWANE.- Sir, in terms of the model used in Australia, they also consider those who are unfortunate. In Australia, the government prepares the budget for this and gives it to the fire service, and they are contracted. We also have contracted suppliers, and it is applied to all fire services in Australia. It is handed out to members of the public with free installation of smoke alarms. That is the model currently used.

HON. A. BIA.- Honourable Members, are there any further comments?

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- Sir, a follow-up question on your recommendation point No. 9: The identification of obstructed exits. Can it include the identification of security grills

installed over windows and doors in any dwelling if they lack a quick-release mechanism, especially during an emergency?

MR. P. SOWANE.- Can I ask STU-SFS to reply to that in terms of the application of the National Building Code?

MR. S. COLA.- Sir, through you, thank you for your questions. In terms of obstructions of exit routes, that is part of the requirement of the National Building Code, whether we have counted an exit door as an exit and provisions for windows that can be counted as an exit in a residential house. That also covers grill doors and burglar bars on windows. The provisions are there in the building code for windows and exit routes towards exit doors. Those are some of the points that need to be looked at in terms of obstructions.

HON. A. BIA.- I hope that clarifies your issue honourable Tuicolo, and if there are no other comments.

Mr. CEO, would you add some final comments for the Committee before we close our consultations this morning?

MR. P. SOWANE.- Sir, there is no further comment from us. I believe all the comments we have mentioned have already been thoroughly discussed. But we want to thank the forum for including the National Fire Authority in this discussion on the revised Bill. Thank you very much.

HON. A. BIA.- At this juncture, I sincerely thank you all for availing yourselves for this public hearing session. We thank you for your time and hope you will avail yourselves for any further queries the Committee may have on today's submission. On that note, I formally bring our consultation to a close.

The Committee adjourned at 11.34 a.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL

1. **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change**

2. **Ministry of Local Government**

SUBMITTEE: **1) Ministry Environment and Climate Change**
2) Ministry of Local Government.

VENUE: **Big Committee Room, Parliament**

DATE: **Wednesday 22nd July, 2026**

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST/WEST WING), PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND JULY, 2026 AT 9.29 A.M.

In Attendance

1. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	-	Chairperson
2. Hon. A. Bia	-	Member
3. Hon. V. Pillay	-	Member
4. Hon. P.K. Bala	-	Member
5. Hon. A.N. Tuicolo	-	Member
6. Hon. S. Kumar	-	Alternate Member

Ministry of Health and Medical Services

1. Mr. Toga Vosataki	-	WASH Coordinator
2. Mr. Luke Vonotabua	-	Chief Health Inspector

Interviewee/Submittee : Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

1.	Ms. Genevieve Jiva	-	Manager Policy and Planning
2.	Ms. Michelle Baleikanacea	-	Senior Environment Officer
3.	Ms. Iva Josivini	-	Senior Environment Officer

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, secretariat, dear viewers, ladies and gentlemen; a very good morning to you all. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone here especially the viewers that are watching this public hearing session live.

At the outset for information purpose pursuant to Standing Order 111 of the Standing Orders of the Parliament that all committee meetings are to be open to the public. Therefore, please note that this submission is open to public and media, and is also being aired through the Parliament channel at the *Walesi* platform and social media platform.

Any sensitive information before us, that cannot be disclosed to the public this can provided to the Committee either in private or in writing however please be advised that Standing Order 111 in the following circumstances permit for non-disclosure of the information and these are:

(1) national security matters;
(2) third party confidential information;
(3) personnel or human resource matters; and
(4) Committee deliberation and development of Committee's recommendations and reports.

This is a parliamentary meeting, and all information gathered is covered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act of 1965. However, please bear in mind that we do not condone libel or slander of any sort, and any information brought before this Committee should be based on facts. In terms of the protocol of this Committee, please minimize the usage of mobile phones and all mobile phones are to be on silent mode while the meeting is in progress.

I wish to also remind the honourable Members and our guests that all question are to be asked and address through the Chairperson.

I would like the Members of the Committee and the official from the Ministry of Health.

(*Introduction of Committee Members)*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Today the Committee will be hearing submissions from the Ministry of Environment. This is in relation to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 of 2026. Before us, we have the representatives from the Ministry, and I would like to thank them for availing themselves to appear to this hearing. Due to the essence of time, you may give a response brief. The Members will intervene with their supplementary question during your presentation. I invite the officials to introduce themselves and then begin with their presentation.

(Introduction of the Ministry of Environment officials)

MS. G. JIVA.- Mr. Chairman, this morning I will be presenting our submission on the Public Health (Amendment) Bill and I offer apologies from our Permanent Secretary as he is currently on official travel and not able to join us today. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has reviewed the Bill and is pleased to provide the following feedback, which is also on the screen for reference.

Overall, we are supportive of the intent to modernise public health law and highly supportive of the definitions, penalties and revised institutional arrangements the Bill introduces. From a cross-sectoral regulatory perspective, the Bill represents a significant advancement in aligning Fiji's public health framework with its environmental and climate goals, particularly those established under the Environment Management Act, 2005 (EMA) and its amendments, and the Climate Change Act, 2021 (CCA).

The Ministry has thoroughly reviewed and identified specific areas where we feel further amendments can be made to reduce the risk of introducing provisions that overlap and conflict with the Environment Management Act 2005. From the Ministry's perspective, there are several provisions that create substantive jurisdictional ambiguity, overlap with existing environmental laws and potentially exceed the relevant scope of the Health Act. The Bill substantially expands the powers of the Ministry of Health and Environmental Health Practitioners into areas that are already regulated under the Environment Management Act 2005, and the subsequent regulations that are administered by the Ministry.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene? I have gone through their responses and have picked up a lot of things that they are saying. I want to know from the Ministry officials that when you were drafting this Amendment Bill, did you bother to see the environment laws? That will make things easier for us to understand.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Thank you honourable Member for the clarifying question. This was something that we felt was necessary in the initial steps of the review, and we were very careful to bridge existing gaps but not to overlap existing legislations that are with the Ministry of Environment.

MS. G. JIVA.- We will identify specific sections that we feel can provide further clarity in relation to not contradicting or overlapping with the Environment Management Act 2005. I will start with jurisdictional and governance concerns. In clause 5D, paragraph 2, it states that 'the Board may give directions on water, land, air and noise pollution,' however we feel these matters are given treatment within the Environment Management Act 2005. The Ministry believes it is critical to clarify that the Board's powers in relation to pollution come into effect only when there is an imminent public health emergency associated with pollution. There should also be provisions that

clarify the need for consultation with the Ministry to ensure alignment and complementarity between our relevant agencies. In clause 12, paragraphs 2 and 3.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Environment is saying that it is already covered under Environment Management Act 2005. How does this law will work? Are you going to work in isolation? If that clause is already covered, how do you implement, how will you deal with this?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- In this aspect, while the Ministry of Environment covers within the Environment Management Act 2005 aspects of impact towards the environment, the Public Health Bill aims at addressing the impacts directly towards public health. Let us take an example of a septic tank seepage. It would not be a direct impact on environment and would not affect climate change of any kind. However, a simple seepage of sewerage can result in a massive outbreak of typhoid fever.

With this, 5 D, paragraph 2 is talking about Local Authorities not being able to remove nuisances within their jurisdiction. Therefore, the Board then steps in to ensure that that particular nuisance is removed. If the Environment Management Act 2005 is looking at massive pollutions to the environment, the Public Health (Amendment) Bill is looking to cover the gaps of minor aspects of pollution that directly impact health. It might not have a direct effect on the environment as a whole, a waterway, mangrove swamp, but it is significant enough to result in a massive outbreak of infectious disease.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, if that is the case, then what are you trying to tell us?

MS. G. JIVA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, thank you, honourable Member and the Ministry of Health officials. We fully recognise the Ministry of Health's powers in relation to health-specific emergencies, and we do not wish to contradict that. We are simply requesting within this particular recommendation that the committee consider adding in the Bill to clarify that this is only for imminent public health emergencies that the Board's powers come into play, as well as put in a provision to consult with the relevant agencies. If there is any pollution-related concerns, that the Ministry of Health consults with the Ministry of Environment before putting forward an action plan.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The onus is on the Committee to do any amendments, and not the Ministry of Health. It is the Committee hearing the submission, we will take note of it and will ensure that what we have discussed today is incorporated in this draft Bill.

MS. G. JIVA.- This is well noted. Moving on to clause 12 paragraphs 2 and 3, it states that the Board can appoint persons to perform duties where a local authority defaults, including pollution control. The Ministry is of the view that this creates a parallel enforcement system, and we request this provision clarify that pollution matters are primarily referred to our Ministry.

In clause 56 (p), it states that noxious matter ...

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, I am a bit confused. Again, the Ministry of Environment is saying that the laws or the enforcement is a parallel enforcement system. In other words, what she is saying that they have that in place, and the Ministry of Health. Am I right in saying that? How does it work? Both officers at one point in time will go and stand at a scene, challenging or exercising their powers. What is this?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Yes, the intention of that particular amendment in the Bill is to, again, focus on issues directly pertaining to human health and not really to the environment. The works

required that the local authority, either rural or urban, in the area that they are operating, has the burden or the responsibility of removing certain nuisances that may exist in public space that can result in adverse human health effects.

This clause is talking about the default of that particular local authority in addressing that issue. I think we have addressed this with the Committee quite often over the past and we talked about if they are unable to do that then the board may appoint someone to do that work and then the cost will be accorded again to the local authority. Again, focussing on the removal of that particular nuisance as to prevent health complications and safeguard the public. That is where that Section of the Bill is coming from, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, you have the ideas now or you want to further clarify on that?

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, I am happy with the response because we have dealt this earlier on but the way Ministry of Environment has come up I mean to me it is confusing and that is where I am coming from. So, that is why I need some clarification.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, through you on that note kindly ask the Ministry of Environment if you see confusion just please quote from where it matches your EMA and the role that is carried out so that we see the difference of the clarity of role that is played.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that will give us some clarity. So, let me make our work easier in terms of looking at which reference you are trying to identify. If you can give us a classical example that will carry a lot of weight in doing our work. So, on that note we will continue our presentation.

MS. G. JIVA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, just on this point I will request our officials from the Waste and Pollution Control Unit to come in because this is already a standard practice within the Ministry as well as our recently established Compliance Unit and Chief Inspector that has been approved in the new budget. We have the capacity and clarity to be able to carry out these duties in relation to pollution control. For the specific provisions I will request, Ms. Iva to come in, please.

MS. IVA.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, in terms of the legislation under the Environment Management Act on that specific section, so we are quoting exactly from Section 21 of the Environment Management Act, whereby an inspector, if it is to go out into the field and it believes that the impact of pollutants affect or may have risk to the environment that is where we actually try to see the impact of pollutants to the environment.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, if I may just add, so I think that is very clear. The Public Health Act protects human health whilst the Department of Minister of Environment focusses on all other environment factors, we look at environment factors that affect human health.

HON. P.K. BALA.- So, the confusion was here on this sentence when you have said parallel enforcement system. That has confused us but that is ok.

MS. IVA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, in Section 56(p), it stated the noxious matter of water flowing into any harbour, river, pond or ditch or upon any foreshore is a nuisance. This provision also directly overlaps with Section 51 of the Environment Management Waste Disposal and Recycling Regulations which already govern pollution control, waste discharge, disposal activities and protection of water bodies and foreshores through established permitting, compliance and enforcement mechanisms. As it is currently drafted the provision may

create duplication of enforcement powers, conflicting regulatory decisions and uncertainty for regulated entities.

The Ministry therefore recommends that Section 56(p) be amended to exclude waters, foreshores and pollution discharge already regulated under the EMA or alternatively require mandatory consultation and joint approval between the Ministry of Health and our Ministry before enforcement action is taken in relation to matters already subject to environmental regulations under the EMA and its subsidiary regulations. Section 56 also defines nuisance broadly. To strengthen enforcement, this section should explicitly include illegal storage or discharge of hazardous substances, as defined in the EMA, which includes toxic materials posing long-term risk to health. This can allow our health practitioners to act against chemical risk to public health. Littering and pollution offences remain governed primarily by the Litter Act of 2008. Section 32...

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Ministry of Environment. We need some clarity on that.
The Ministry of Health has some points to raise it up.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee and representatives from the Ministry of Environment. Just to clarify Point 6, Section 56(p), as mentioned by our colleagues that it is contradicting with the EMA. I would just like to clarify to the Committee that this is in existence in the Principal Act of 1935 and the EMA came in 2005, so it is already there in the Principal Act, but it was under (j) and the reason why it is in the Bill because of the renumbering that must happen within the amendment. That particular Section has already been included from 1935.

Mr. Chairman, just to clarify to the Committee, in looking at it from the two lenses, if we look from that perspective, we can see that these are not contradictions, but actually complementing each other. I take us to a case in Colo-i-Suva recently, a few months back, where we had to close that recreational water that we always love to go on Sundays and Saturdays to. There was a piggery located next to that, not really next to the waterway, but within the perimeter of that waterway. Then there was a leptospirosis case from one of the individuals that enjoyed the recreational waterway. As a result, the Ministry had to advise the park owners to shut it down. That is a basic example of a difference between environment and public health, I would say, "priority". A piggery in the forest is not actually a risk to environment, but it being there is a great risk to public health, since that is a recreational water. With that unless if they want to take it upon the EMA to now take the legislation down to every piggery owner, and every pigsty owner, and chicken owner, chicken shed owner, and all that. I think a clear separation still exists, whereas things might not be an environmental issue, but maybe a health issue. That is where the Bill is looking to address.

Mr. Chairman, Section 56, the definition of nuisance is from (a) to (s). That is basically what our officers are facing on the ground when they deal with public health issues. It might look broad to an environmental officer, but to an environmental health officer, in terms of public health, this is quite very, very specific in terms of the work that we do on the ground. I hope that clarifies a little bit, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ministry, you understand better on that ground in terms of your responsibilities based on this legality part of it.

MS. G. JIVA.- Mr. Chairman, if I may, to provide some further clarity. I thank officials from the Ministry of Health for providing that explanation. I fully agree that there is certainly complementarity and a clear separation between our responsibilities under environment and their responsibilities under public health.

Our recommendations are to provide that further clarity within the Bill, as well as to avoid any duplication. Whether matters covered under the EMA, to identify specifically, which matters relate to environment and which matters relate to health. In addition, if we can set up a joint consultation and approval process, then perhaps this will also make things easier in the long run to also avoid any conflict between the mandates of the two ministries.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, just to add on to that, and also during our consultations that we have done, we have clearly articulated to the public that whoever is polluting rivers and foreshore, it is covered under EMA. But if there is a sickness that is born out from the rivers and this foreshore, then public health kicks in, in terms of the regulations that they have provided.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr .Chairman, just to add on what my colleague have just said. Ministry of Environment, do you agree that, as far as EMA is concerned, it talks about and protects about the environment and not the public health? That is where Ministry comes in. What is the issue?

MS. G. JIVA.- Mr. Chairman, through you. Our main concern is where any provisions of duplication may come in. For this particular section, the bodies of water foreshores and pollution discharge. When it is a direct impact of the pollution, we wish for EMA to take effect. And when it is a result of affecting public health because of that, then for health officials to come in. But for us, ultimately, to work together to ensure that these impacts are not exacerbated.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, if I may. Honourable Members, on (7), we totally agree that litter and pollution offences remain governed primarily by the Litter Act. We are not talking about the whole litter offences and the pollution. But if you see the proposed Bill, it talks about mosquitoes. Therefore, our work is driven by the disease.

If you see this one part under mosquitoes, that is where we come in on receptacles that can hold water and become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. That is where we are coming in. Not the whole of the litter, but just the receptacles that can hold water. It is the tyre, the vase, the empty containers around the residential area. That is our concern, if it becomes a receptacle, and that is where we are also going to be charging people in the proposed Bill.

Number two, I think we mentioned about the long-term effect on public health. I know that you are also doing monitoring on the chemicals and its impact on the environment. We are also concerned on the human exposure to the chemicals and their long-term exposures that can cause cancer. That is where we come in.

MS. G. JIVA.- Mr. Chairman, I will move to our comments on Section 32 of the Bill, which requires health care facilities to have a health care waste management plan. The Environment Management, Waste Disposal and Recycling Regulations of 2007 already regulate waste management plans, including for health care facilities. The Bill risks creating separate waste management standards and inconsistent compliance requirements from different enforcement agencies.

Additionally, this provision should require such plans comply with the Solid Waste Management Strategy and National Chemical Management Plan established under Section 14 of the EMA 2005. This ensures consistency in handling special wastes. Overall, the Ministry believes the Bill as drafted allows the Central Board of Health, whose members are not required to have environmental science or climate expertise, to override or duplicate environmental regulation. Further refinement and clarification of the role of the Board is recommended.

The Board composition currently excludes environmental expertise and at the very least should therefore be an addition to the composition, stipulating that a person with expertise in environmental science also be nominated to the Board by the Ministry.

I will move on to definitional issues. The term Environmental Health Practitioner is not defined in the Bill currently. This creates unhelpful ambiguity and introduces a risk of conflicting understanding of who this refers to. We believe the definition needs to clarify if this refers to a person with public health or environmental health qualifications or a combination of both.

How are these practitioners registered?

It is not currently clear if these practitioners refer to individuals with formal training, in environmental sampling and pollution control or how these practitioners differ from environmental inspectors mandated under the EMA. To ensure legal consistency...

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, if Ministry of Health can let us know what's the difference.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, the Environmental Health Practitioner is a term that is brought in replacement of an existing term. The existing term that exists under the Principal Act of 1935 is Sanitary Inspector or commonly known as Health Inspector. We are aligning with the global best practices the modern term that is used around the world right now. What we know as a Health Inspector in Fiji is commonly known in New Zealand, Australia and England as Environmental Health Practitioners or Environmental Health Officers. It is just a name change from what we do. We do not have qualifications in environmental science but our basic qualification is environmental health, so we get the basic qualification of Bachelors in Environmental Health. We have Masters in Environmental Health and so on and so forth. This is in in aligning to that to ensure that we are recognised globally as well with the alignment of the title. Therefore, we are not bringing in a totally new name. It is substituting a name that was currently used in the Act which is the Sanitary Inspector Health Inspector.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, you have raised that there is no one in the board with the background of environmental expertise but there is one. A person who is qualified in or has extensive experience in public environmental health.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, if I may during the briefing in our consultation within and from the technical offices and the Members of the Standing Committee, we agreed that we bring a lot of the public members but the Director of the Local Government is a member of the Central Board of Health.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, that is fine. Director normally does not have background knowledge on every aspect, but she has raised that someone from the Environmental Health background is already here. Unless she is saying something else that I do not know.

MS. G. JIVA.- Mr. Chairman, if I may, my apologies, honourable Member, if I was not clear. We are recommending a member with expertise in environmental science or climate change rather than separate to or additional to environmental health expertise specifically on environmental science or climate issues.

Thank you That is noted you can go ahead now Thank you chairman. I will move to point 12 where we wish to recommend ensuring legal consistency and enhance enforcement capacity of environmental health practitioners. It is recommended that there be a stand-alone definition of waste

inserted into section 2 of the Principle Act. Currently, while the Bill utilises the term waste in various contexts, such as defining nuisances, conveniences and health care waste management plans, it fails to provide a formal legal definition for the word itself. By amending the Bill to mirror the comprehensive definition found in Section 2 of EMA, the Ministry can ensure that health practitioners have explicit legal authority to regulate a broader and more relevant range of pollutants in their work.

I will move to technical environmental issues. Water supply and sanitary facility setbacks requirements in section 124 (Principal Act) require facilities be constructed not less than 50 metres away from the nearest well or borehole. The Ministry requests clarification on the basis of this recommendation and its alignment with existing regulations, and in some cases a 50-metre setback may be wholly insufficient as a means to prevent contamination. We recommend a minimum setback of a hundred metres to offer higher protection and that the provision could allow special approval to be granted by the Board in specific cases where achieving this minimum is not possible.

Mr. Chairman, subsection 2(b) stipulates that sanitary facilities must not be constructed uphill from any water course, stream, lake, pond or reservoir. In the Ministry's view this should be amended to the following and I quote: "…uphill from any water course, stream, lake, point or reservoir or within any identified floodplain or groundwater recharge zone as designated by the Ministry of Environment."

I will move to offensive trades in Schedule 2. The Bill currently adds several new activities to Schedule 2, offensive trades requiring approval. However, many of these activities are already subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements under the Environment Management Act 2005. As a result, the Bill currently creates a parallel approval pathway through local authorities and the Board without provisions citing Environment Management Act 2005 requirements in relation to EIA and public consultation. The Ministry recommends that section 39 (Principal Act) be amended to reflect existing law and legal requirements.

Climate Change Dimensions: Section 103 to 107 (Principal Act) in the provisions relate to mosquito-related nuisances. We recommend this be amended to ensure environmental health practitioners are required to consider projected climate impacts that may increase the risk of mosquito-borne disease. We also believe mesh requirements for water tank inlets and outlets in section 106(2) (Principal Act) should specify the mesh size and requirement to replace the mesh after a specific time frame to avoid long-term issues. The Bill currently does not mention public health risks arising from flooding, storm surges, cyclones, heat waves or sea level rise and other climate impacts. The Ministry suggests the introduction of a provision that requires various implementing bodies mandated by the Act to have regard to health impacts of climate change and extreme weather events.

HON. P.K. BALA.- If the Ministry can highlight on flooding aspect, it is very important?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- It is a very important area when you talk about the climate change and the dimension, look at number 18. It is mostly concerned about our public health risk arising from flooding, storm surge, cyclone, heat waves and sea level rise et cetera. This is totally new to the Committee. Hopefully that will give us some light on this so that we understand it better.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- This is a very good point by the Ministry of Environment. However, it might be quite difficult to regulate around that space in terms of the climate effects and natural disasters that do occur. However, we do have strategies in place: more resilient wash infrastructure, for example, alternative water supply systems, whereby you have more than one supply system. If one gets affected by a natural disaster, you have an alternative to resort to. Looking at resilient

sanitary facilities, if there is a cyclone or a flood, the facilities do not get affected. Yes, also as mentioned by the Chief Health Inspector, focussing on hygiene as well. These are areas that we have some policies on, but it is quite difficult from the public health point of view to try and regulate what happens during disaster.

We have an overarching legislation from the Disaster Management Office, and we then create our policies and align them to that. I believe that should clarify, unless if the Ministry of Environment has some suggestions of what specific regulations, they would want to be put in place in terms of that. However, we have some policies in place – WASH policies that we are looking at expanding even further, looking into evacuation centres, trying to prevent evacuation centres from being overcrowded. However, it might not be possible to legislate the amount of people, because these are people who are displaced and desperate and you cannot tell them that this place is full, you have to look for another place. These are the things that the Ministry is also focussing on, while aligning our policies to ensure that whatever is brought in by these climate change effects is minimised in terms of adverse effects to human health.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, if the Bill is passed, it will empower the health officials more, because one of the amendments that have been brought up, will include villages. Whenever there is a natural disaster, the power is there, if there is an outbreak of any disease, they can just come in wherever they want. Since 1935, it did not include villages in the Public Health Act. Now one of the new amendments that villages are included, so when there is a natural disaster, a flooding, and there is an outbreak of any disease, they can come in whenever they want.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that clarifies, Ministry of Environment.

MS. G. JIVA.- Mr. Chairman, we also recognise that we cannot predict climate impacts in its totality, and we are not wishing to introduce specific regulations or provisions, but we recommend the inclusion of language that implementing bodies take into consideration potential climate change impacts, and in particular, for extreme weather events. We are also happy to work with the Ministry in implementing, as we have existing policies around relocation – the planned relocation guidelines – and its standard operating procedures, that are also working on Category 5 housing plans and building codes and can be made in such a way to prevent further impacts from climate change and public health.

We believe that the Bill would also benefit from a provision that allows the Board to issue guidance or regulations to support climate resilient public health infrastructure. I will move to enforcement. Under section 16 C, the Board may issue a fixed penalty notice to any person who designs and instals water and sewage work that presents a risk to public health. This provision could penalise designers or engineers who followed approved standards, but face a situation where site conditions have changed, for example, through flooding. Strict liability without reasonable diligence defence is problematic. The Ministry suggests that after 'any person', the words 'who knowingly or negligently' be added to address this.

Section 66 E makes it an offence to wilfully engage in fishing activities, which may further contaminate any water supply or water source. The Ministry suggests a further qualification by amending this provision to read, and I quote: "… wilfully engages in fishing, farming, logging or grazing activities, with the knowledge that such activities are likely to contaminate any water supply or water source."

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the Ministry appreciates the opportunity to provide the submission on this very important bill and we stand ready to further engage in support of the

views presented in this submission. We are also willing and able to provide any further information as required to improve alignment of the Bill with the EMA and Climate Change Act and ensure the operational boundaries between the mandate and scope of relevant legislation is clarified and aligned.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Ministry of Environment, for a very thoughtful discussion this morning based on your presentation. I believe most of the questions we are supposed to discuss have already been discussed during the presentation, but I will give the floor to the honourable Members if there is any supplementary questions.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- Mr. Chairman, all environmental pollution degrades ecosystems and poses direct long-term risks to the human well-being. We understand that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change mitigates these threats through preventative measures like strict Environmental Impact Assessment, and pollution discharge permits. Do you consult with the Ministry of Health before issuing any permits?

MS. I. JOSIVINI.- Honourable Member, in terms of permits, we at times consult the Ministry of Health if we see that it requires approval from their end in terms of septic tank of the facility because under the Waste Permit System there is some provision in there that it requires approval of the Central Board of Health in terms of setting up septic tanks.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, honourable Members and the management team from the Ministry of Environment. I believe most of what has been anticipated today through your presentation has been taken note by the Committee that is in front of us, but the door is still open for any further consultation. If you see fit what we have discussed today it will be fruitful if we discuss together because currently the Bill is with us in Parliament. Any adjustment or amendment to the Bill is the prerogative of the Standing Committee. Therefore, that does not stop you if you need to further clarify issues of our discussion today, you can come back again to us like in a written submission format, whatever that best suit us. For the general presentation we have a lot that has been there in terms of your recommendation. We will go into by details and see where there are gaps or whatever relevant need to be incorporated in the Public Health (Amendment) Bills we will do that for the Ministry.

On that note, at this juncture, I wish to sincerely thank you all for availing yourself for this public hearing session. And we thank you for your time. And we hope that you will avail yourself for any further queries that the committee may have on today's submission. On that note, I declare a public consultation this morning.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am

The Committee resumed at 10.26 a.m.

Subcommittee: Ministry of Local Government

In Attendance:

1. Ms. Seema Sharma - Permanent Secretary
2. Mr. Mohammed Ziar - Director Town and Country Planning
3. Ms. Masilina - Representative of Local Government

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, members of the public, Secretary, dear viewers, ladies and gentlemen. A very good morning to you all. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone here this morning, especially our viewers that are watching this public hearing session.

At the outset, for information purposes pursuant to Standing Order 111 of the Standing Order of Parliament, all Committee meetings are to be open to the public. Therefore, please note that this submission is open to the public and the media and it is also being aired via the *Walesi* platform and streamlined live on Parliament website and social media platform.

For any sensitive information concerning the matter before us this morning that cannot be disclosed in public, this can be provided to the Committee either in private or in writing. However, please be advised that Standing Order 111, in the following circumstances, permits for non-disclosure of information and these are:

1. national security matters,
2. third-party confidential information,
3. personal or human resources matters; and
4. Committee's deliberation and development of the Committee's recommendation and the report before us.

This is a Parliamentary meeting and all information gathered is covered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act of 1965.

However, please bear in mind that we do not condone slander or liable of any sort and any information brought before this Committee should be based on facts.

In terms of protocol of this Committee meeting, please minimise the usage of mobile phones and all mobile phones are to be on silent mode while the meeting is in progress.

I wish to also remind Honourable Members and our guests that all questions to be asked are to be addressed through the Chairperson. I would like the members of the Committee to introduce themselves and the officials from the Ministry of Health.

(Introduction of the honourable Committee Members and the Ministry of Health officials)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Today the Committee will be hearing submissions from the Ministry of Local Government. This is in relation to the Public Health Amendment Bills, Bill No. 4 of 2026.

Before us, we have the representatives from the Ministry of Local Government, and I would like to thank them for availing themselves to appear to this hearing. Due to the essence of time, you

may give a response brief, and honourable Members will intervene with their supplementary questions. And now I invite official to introduce themselves and then begin with their presentation. Thank you, you may start now.

(Introduction of officials from Ministry of Local Government)

MS. S. SHARMA.- We will begin with our submission. Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Standing Committee for allowing the Ministry to come and present here today and specifically to accommodating for rescheduling of our submission date. As you would see on the screen, the Ministry did do a written submission on the 12th of June which still remains in our formal position on this draft amendment to the Public Health Act.

Today's oral presentation, we wish to highlight some of the implementation issues that we would request the Committee to consider. At the outset, the Ministry supports the purpose of the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2006. Fiji obviously needs a modern Public Health Framework with strong sanitisation and environmental health controls built in, and effective responses to nuisance, disease risks and unsafe premises.

Our concerns are not whether these protections should be strengthened; they definitely should be. But our concerns are that there are several clauses that cross into town planning, subdivision, development control, engineering designs, building regulations and municipal administration. We believe that in the current Bill, those boundaries need to be made a little clearer, so that the Bill either creates parallel approval processes, or there are conflicting directions or uncertainty over who is accountable.

The Ministry would like to ask the Committee to support the Bill's public health objectives, while redrafting some of the provisions that allocate planning, development and building functions to this Bill currently. Just stepping back a little to January 2025, there was a Cabinet decision taken via decision number 35 of 2025 that says the roles and responsibilities should be assigned according to the institutional expertise. We expect the mandate of this Bill should also be looking at those organising principles.

Firstly, the Cabinet decision was to look at development and planning across Fiji, should follow one coherent standardised planning framework. The technical expertise of land use planning, development control and subdivision sort of rests with the Department of Town and Country Planning, which operates under the Town Planning Act of 1946 and Subdivision of Lands Act of 1937. Municipal councils perform functions assigned to them under those laws, but the rules and technical oversight should be consistent nationally, including whether it is a municipal area, peri-urban or rural areas.

Secondly, the Cabinet decision was that the Ministry responsible for health, which obviously is the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, should retain the responsibility of sanitisation responsibilities, environmental health inspections, nuisance abatement, communicable disease control, waste and hygiene requirements and the health consequences of water, sewerage and premises conditions.

Thirdly, the decision was that the Ministry for Works should lead the national building code and the regulatory and disciplinary framework for qualified persons involved in building works, which should include engineers, architects, building designers and the builders. These functions must

work together through one coordinated approved pathway. Clear allocation does not weaken public health, but it gives each agency authority in the field where they have the competence in. Based on the above decision, in November of the year 2025, Cabinet endorsed the first phase of amendments to the Town Planning Act, which included an amendment to Section 7 which extended the provisions of the Act to development outside town boundaries, to reemphasise..

HON. P.K. BALA.- PS, this presentation is not on the screen?

MS. S. SHARMA.- Sir, this presentation is aligned with our written submission, that was our written submission, we are putting more emphasis of some of the sections. That was our written submission that was given by the ministry on the 12th of June

HON. P.K. BALA.- I do agree but you have raised some points that have basically gone over my head, I thought that if it was there or if we had a copy …no we do not have it.

MS. S. SHARMA.- Shall I continue Mr. Chairman.

MR.CHAIRMAN.- Will give us an opportunity time to go at least a specific area one at a time so that we can look at areas that we need to address from the Committee and that is where honourable Bala is coming from.

MS. S. SHARMA.- Mr. Chairman, no worries. I think the Director just said they have managed to get a soft copy of the presentation of what I am speaking of right now. We will put that up.

MS. S. SHARMA.- I was basically on the decision of Parliament which was in November 2025, where the Parliament passed the first phase of amendments to the Town Planning Act of 1946 which included amendments to a section that extended provisions of the Act to development outside of town boundaries, ensuring consistent planning, control and oversight across peri-urban and rural development areas.

From here, Mr. Chairman, we will just go section by section. The first section we want to look at is Clause 16 of the amendment, which proposes Section 19, it should not create a parallel approval process. The Ministry welcomes the intention of Clause 16 to require compliance with the Town Planning Act before construction. However, proposed Section 19 is too narrow and incomplete in three aspects.

Firstly, it refers only to Section 7 of the Town Planning Act. Section 7 is concerned with the development within town planning areas. The specific reference alone to this section does not capture the full planning framework, approved schemes, regulations and other permissions that are provided for under the Town Planning Act. It does not by itself establish a standard planning rule across Fiji.

Secondly, the clause is limited to land used for a dwelling house or a building for business purposes. Development is broader than construction of building. It looks at landfilling, excavation, earthworks, reclamation and a number of other areas, such as even looking at drainage alteration, subdivision and material change of use that could affect flooding, erosion, wastewater, mosquito breeding and a number of other areas.

Thirdly, paragraph (B) refers to a separate notice and site plan to be furnished to the local authority for approval. Unless the Bill expressively integrates this step with the existing Development Approval System – hopefully soon to be online Building Planning Approval System (BPAS) – it may create a second application and a second approval for the same excess and drainage

matter. The Ministry recommends that clause 16 be redrafted so that all relevant development compliance with the Town Planning Act, as passed in 2025, any applicable planning schemes and regulations, the Subdivision of Lands Act and the National Building Code were relevant.

The Department of Town and Country Planning or any other authority lawfully exercising the powers of planning functions, should decide on planning and subdivision matter. The Ministry of Health should provide its sanitary and environmental health assessments as a referral within the integrated process and not as a separate planning approval.

The Bill should also state that the registration, licence, notice of clearance approved under the Public Health Act does not authorise development, subdivision, building works or a change of use that lacks the approval required under any other law. What we are suggesting is, just because there is a registration provided under the Public Health Act, it should not be seen as the final approval. There should be the relevant planning approvals that should be updated.

Moving to clause 13 of the Amendment Bill, which talks about water …

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, if we can clarify? Clarifying section 19, it is in existence from the Principle Act of 1935, and that is the way it is stated, dwelling house or building for business purposes, and we want to stay within that, focussing on human health through the development. Other developments like quarry, gravel extraction, we believe that can be the focus of the Ministry of Environment. With that section 19, we are seeking to expand that, as you might have heard, that the Bill aims to take this legislation into *iTaukei* villages like it has never existed before.

In terms of development in *iTaukei* villages, that will not require to go through the Town Planning Act process, this is where subsection (b) comes in, where they need to furnish plans for approval to the local authority. We are not duplicating the planning approval of Town Planning, it remains. In fact, we have put clause (a) there to comply with Town Planning Act provisions of section 7, so that we can now enforce Town Planning provision under this Public Health Act.

On the ground, our officers can now take people to task for a legal development, and we understand that Town Planning being mainstreamed in the Central Division or in the Divisions, find it very difficult to enforce this in the rural areas. This is the reason why we wanted to capture it in the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, so that once it is there, officers on the ground can go to any construction site and say, "Where is your approved plan from Town Planning?" If they do not have it, then they can enforce that particular section 19(a). However, (b) again, is there for facilitation, the intention is to have an oversight of development in the *iTaukei* villages and settlements on *Mataqali* land that from the Ministry of Health, it is a growing concern in terms of infectious disease year-after-year. Just a point of clarification to the Committee on that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. M. ZIAR.- In relation to the comments made to the *iTaukei* villages or approvals therein, in the Town Planning Act there is no coverage or no mention of *iTaukei* villages. It is excluded from the town planning process. The idea of having an approval done by town planning within an *iTaukei* village is not feasible for us, because if you also note the Act refers to the whole of Fiji. I think there needs to be some clarity in terms of whether the *iTaukei* aspect that the official from the Ministry of Health was talking about can actually be reflected in the provision as well.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- The point of clarification I just made is that, that particular section needs to govern the building applications and development in *iTaukei* villages. We are not going to send it to town planning. The intention is not to involve town planning in *iTaukei* villages. It is for the local authorities to have a certain degree of oversight to ensure that there is no overcrowding in terms of the building built too close to each other, the types of drainage and waste management they

use. This is part of the effort of the Ministry of Health in governing that aspect of public health, looking at *iTaukei* villages, in terms of building. Again, it is just going up to the local authority and not coming up to town planning. The intention is for the local authority to have an oversight on development in *iTaukei* villages to ensure that it does not later turn up as something that contributes to a massive outbreak of infectious disease.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene? I think what the Director for Town Planning said, that the Planning Act covers the whole of Fiji, but villages were exempted. Now you are putting in place where they will come under the direct control of local authorities?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Apologies, honourable Member, through you, Mr. Chairman, can you come again to what you mentioned?

HON. P.K. BALA.- The Director is saying, that the Act covers the whole of Fiji. The Public Health Act? The Town Planning Act.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- I am not really sure about the Town Planning Act.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Let me finish. In that case, villages were exempted. This is the first time when villages have been included in the public health. What I am saying is, now they will come under the direct control of local authority. Am I right in saying that?

MS. S. SHARMA.- Moving on to clause 13 – Water, Sewerage and Sewerage Disposal Designs. This clause specifically requires that the Central Board of Health scrutinise and approve water supply, sewerage and sewerage disposable designs and provide approvals that are valid for a period of three years. They could revoke the designs and issue fixed penalties on it. We believe obviously that public health interest is legitimate, but the Bill should be designed to distinguish between the sanitary oversight from the technical design approvals.

Health should be empowered, and we totally agree, where the issues would lead to eventually any outbreaks or diseases and things, or where there is proper sanitization and no overcrowding. It should be set to sanitary outcomes, assess the health risks, inspect the systems, require abatement and issuing of public health, clearances objections.

The board's approval should be sort of an integrated part of the existing technical approval processes including the planning and as we talked about the Business Process Analysis (BPAS). This does not sort of create a duplication of process, but it is sort of like when an application that is not in a village is going through a building approvals process as other agencies like you have National Fire Authority that look at the things OHS looks at different sections. You have Fiji Roads Authority. Similarly, this process of the Ministry of Health should be embedded into integrated into the process. When a second design approval, we believe by the board would sort of create a duplication of the existing scrutiny and could produce a different condition.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, if I can just clarify on the issue, madam PS, I am sorry but the particular section is talking about new design. It is already there in the Public Health Act of 1935 that any new design for Water Supply System and for the wastewater needs approval from the Central Board of Health. Now, once the system is approved, any developer who wants to build will still have to go through the BPAS process because they will lots together they building application and the system that will be used.

MS. S. SHARMA.- What we only asking is if it could be an integrated process rather than a separate approval process. When an approval process is being considered it is done as an integrated

process. What we believe is when amendments are done to legislation rather than going and creating a parallel process or a process that sits outside of a current approval process why can't we sort of integrate? We are not saying give it to Department of Town and Country Planning to do it and that is not their responsibility but they become an approval agency as part of an integrated process, that is all.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, through you, I believe, just to assist in further clarifying what the section actually intends to do. So, this is talking about bringing in foreign designs that are not being used in Fiji. If it has never been used in Fiji, we have no idea of the effects it will bring to human health. Therefore, we need to put a cap or an oversight on foreign designs being brought in or any amendments to the existing designs that currently exist in Fiji. I was to bring in a design that is being used somewhere in Asia and want to use it in Fiji, this is what the section talks about. I have to get that umbrella approval first from the Central Board of Health, where the Central Board of Health not only will send to our partners to look at the technical part in terms of engineering and all that, but we will also liaise with our partners overseas where it is being used, what are the pros and cons, any advantages and disadvantages before the board actually makes the final decision. Now, once the design is approved by the Central Board of Health, it can be used by any person willing to construct. The application process will not be, as mentioned. It will not be duplication. It just a just a one-off for a particular design to be used in Fiji. If that helps in clarifying.

MS. S. SHARMA.- Mr. Chairman, just to add on what we want to point out is, I mean, I understand but that would mean if there is a new design coming in but then that new design also has a validity for three years only. Why would a new design expire after three years if you have already given it the authorisation?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, there are certain issues that may arise further down the line after approval is given. We note a particular design that was approved was repealed in 2007, in the fact that it had defaulted and caused a major outbreak of typhoid fever in the Western Division. Therefore, the Central Board of Health had to then revoke that particular design.

If we had no section where we can pull existing designs, even if defects are identified, there would be no power to do so. That clause provides for the Board. The power to retrack a particular product if it becomes defective in a way we did not foresee, countries that used it before did not foresee, and somehow, maybe due to climate change or whatever reason, it is defective in a way that affects human health.

MS. S. SHANDIL.- Mr. Chairman, to point out on the same issue, the Central Board of Health requirements are already embedded in the Town Planning General Provisions of 1999, Schedule F, Provision 50, which talks about development applications must address water supply, serious treatment and disposable, and household and trade waste requirements. These matters are relevant to the Director's assessment of the location, access, use, lot size, and other areas that planning consider. All we would look at is when the drafting is to make sure it is an integrated process rather than another pathway for approval that does not create confusion or requirements for developers to go through.

Mr. Chairman, Clause 14, which is about the demolition powers requirements for safeguards and technical coordination. They proposed Section 16(a), which would allow the Head of the Environment Health or a delegate to order the demolition of a structure or building that is in sanitary condition and cannot be abated.

Demolition, we believe, is a strong intervention that also engages building safety, planning enforcement, and other responsibilities, which are property rights and municipal responsibilities.

The proposed section applies throughout Fiji, including municipal areas. When we read this proposed Section with 5(e), 16(a) and subclause (g), it may create a parallel demolition process within the municipal areas where municipal councils, acting as the relevant local authority, already exercise those powers under Sections 21 to 29 of the Public Health Act, where such notices should be given.

The Bill should sort of make it clear that except in genuine immediate public health emergencies, an order within a municipal district is subject to consultation and subject to the existing local authority procedures. In the event, say, there is a disagreement between the Ministry of Health and the Council, then the matter could be referred to the Central Board of Health for a written decision or advice. Just making sure that when you are looking at something within municipal boundaries, there is relevant discussion done with the municipal council before any decision of a demolition is taken. What we say is that where there is an immediate public health emergency requiring urgent action, the power should then be subject to relevant.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene? What I understand is if municipalities fail, then only you people will intervene. Am I right in saying that?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee and representatives from the Ministry of Local Government.

Rightly said by the honourable Member, 5(d) and (e) exist with the municipal councils and with the local authority. They will not overlap each other. Health officers from the Rural Local Authority will not come to the municipal council and give the order to demolish buildings in the municipal council area. Municipal council officers will not go into our rural areas and give notice to demolish. They will both use their legislation within their boundaries. It is only when they default in doing so that the Board steps in as an overarching body, Mr. Chairman.

MS. S. SHARMA.- Mr. Chairman, I just have two issues. One, just to point out that the Public Health Act applies all over Fiji, which means within municipal areas also. That means that power is a power that sits above also.

Secondly, the issue could be that you could say where the municipal council failed to take action, but what if the building is compliant with the building requirements, but there is this sanitation matter. We are just asking for clarity because right now, we have these learned gentlemen here who know what the drafts are, but in time to come people may use it to their own, you know, how they wish to interpret the legislation. We are just requesting for clarity to make sure when a law is applied all over Fiji, which the Public Health Act is, those kinds of safeguards put into the legislation that says when within municipal boundaries how the action should be taken, when outside of municipal boundaries what is the powers of the rural local authority. That is all.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee and colleagues from the Ministry of Local Government. For the Public Health Act, municipal councils are empowered by the board to conduct 5(d) and 5(e) within their area. The Ministry of Health in the rural and local authority will not oversee them in the work that they do. However, the board, since they delegate the powers of the Public Health Act to the municipal councils, they reserve the right to oversee them for the Public Health Act duties and functions only. Not for duties specified

under the Town Planning Act, not for duties under the Environmental Management Act, specifically for the Public Health Act.

The Public Health Act is governed by the Central Board of Health, then delegates its powers to urban local authority, which is the municipal council, and rural local authority, which is under the Ministry of Health.

MS. S. SHARMA.- Mr. Chairman, if I may. Exactly the point I have been trying to make is that the Central Board of Health has that overarching power.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- PS, here the power lies with the Committee.

MS. S. SHARMA.- Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- If you want to make a recommendation, it is to the Committees, not to the staff from the Ministry of Health.

MS. S. SHARMA.- No, no, as I was putting it to you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- They are no more in control now. The power is within us. Those amendments if we see fit.

MS. S. SHARMA.- Sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Let us go ahead with our presentation.

MS. S. SHARMA.- Looking at the next clause, which is clause 24, that amends the powers to make regulations relating to buildings by requiring consultations with the Board and the Minister responsible for Local Government. Again, noting the decision of Cabinet in early 2005, we just believe that this section should just include another bit of consultation when you are looking at anything that may have an impact on the National Building Code or anything to do with building construction to include the minister responsible for works to also be consulted.

Moving on to municipal governance, which is covered through clause 5, 9, and 11. Just to point out, that with respect to the governance of framework for the municipal councils under the Local Government Act of 1972, for the proposed section 8(b), operational notice and urgent administrative action should be taken by the executive head or a properly authorised officer.

The Ministry just recommends the replacement of chairperson of a local authority with a defined term such as the head of the local authority because when it comes to municipal councils, whether it is towns or cities, this person is the CEO of the council, not the chair of the council.

Obviously, for rural authorities, it would be a chairperson, but when it comes to councils, because that power through the delegation in this legislation will be given to the municipal councils, we just require a request for a definition for municipal councils not to just simply say the chairperson of local authorities, but to say the head of the local authority. And the head could be defined as the CEO of the municipal councils.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene? I think, but I need this clarification. The local authority, you mean the rural local authority?

MS. S. SHARMA.- Both.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Both?

MS. S. SHARMA.- Yes.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Yeah OK.

MS. S. SHARMA.- There is also an amendment to Section 11, we believe that the municipal council should not be subjected to a separate rule, where a definition should outline which, local authority is being captured under Section 11 of the Public Health Act because there is a separate appointment procedure outlined in the Local Government Act for the municipal council which is also defined as a local authority. We just want to make sure that, that definition or the demarcation is clear when you are talking generally about local authorities. Section 11 talks about quorums and things like that so we would prefer that when it comes to talking about local authority where you mean municipal councils it should make reference to the Local Government Act.

Mr. Chairman, I think this was also discussed a bit about section 5D and 5E should remain confined to the defaults under the Public Health Act. Section E, therefore, should not be read as allowing the board to displace the proper decision of a municipal council acting as the relevant local authority. Before the board assumes a local authority's functions, the authority should receive a written notice and a reasonable opportunity to remedy a default and the Ministry for Local Government, should be consulted except where immediate action is necessary where there is a serious health issue.

We have talked about short-term accommodations and lodging uses. The Ministry supports stronger regulations on these contemporary lodging uses and the definition should be functional and technology neutral and should cover homestays, backpackers accommodation, guest houses and a number of other areas. We believe there's also a Tourism Act that has been passed that looks into these areas also, so it just has to be aligned to that.

In terms of penalties, the Ministry supports meaningful penalties but what we would recommend that there be a proportionate structure for these penalties. Where there is a distinction, in addition, there should be a specifically distinguish between an individual and a body corporate and whether it is a first or repeat offences.

Fixed penalties should also be accompanied by clear notice, review, and enforcement procedures. We also encourage compliance while reserving the strongest sanctions for repeat offenders. Again, in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the Ministry supports having a stronger Public Health Act. Our submission is that stronger health protections must be accompanied by clearer institutional boundaries.

Again, making reference to the legislative effect that was given through Cabinet and Parliament in 2005, where the functions have been reassigned according to expertise. If we can, again, look at Clause 13, 14, 16, and 24 and just to make sure that it is clearer rather than duplicating any of the other agencies approvals processes. Looking at establishing of one standardised planning framework across Fiji and one integrated application pathway which is BPAS or whatever online system is the successor thereafter.

We look at clarity on municipal governance under the proposed 5D, 5E, 8B, and amended Section 11and to provide a clear process when it comes to looking at demolition matters in municipal areas including council consultations and then referral of disputes to the board and what could be some emergency safeguards.

Again, with those proposals, we look at this legislation that would modernise public health protection in Fiji and not creating any second planning or building control systems, but it will provide clearer accountability, more consistent rules and a more efficient service to communities, councils, investors and developers. Thank you again Mr. Chairman and honourable Committee Members, for allowing us to do this presentation.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much Ministry of Local Government, for a thorough brief presentation to the Committee. The floor is open to the Committee, if there are any supplementary question.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, I do not have any questions, but the way I see and the concerns that has been raised by the Ministry for Local Government, I do not think there will be any area of duplication, number one. Number two, overall, this amendment basically will enhance the public health aspect. Let us be clear in our mind, your responsibility stays with you, but in terms of public health, I think this is where we are going to strengthen laws, especially in terms of default, non-compliance, unsafe and all those aspects. I do not see there will be any duplication in regard to the amendment that we are dealing with right now.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, I believe that wraps up our presentation today. We totally agree with what has been discussed. The Committee will look at the recommendation put forward by the Ministry of Local Government. It will give us an avenue, the areas that we need to relook at in terms of the gaps, and that there is no oversight, especially when we talk about duplication of work, which has been clarified by the honourable Bala. Give is the opportunity. This is part of our work. We will go through this presentation thoroughly, and ensure that whatever has been recommended, collaborate with the Public Health (Amendment) Bill.

At this juncture, I wish to sincerely thank you all for availing yourself for this public hearing session. We thank you for your time and hope that you will avail yourself for any further queries that the Committee may have on today's submission.

The Committee adjourned at 11.12 a.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL

Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources

SUBMITTEE:	**Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources**
VENUE:	**Big Committee Room, Parliament**
DATE:	**Tuesday 21st July, 2026**

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST/WEST WING), PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS ON TUESDAY, 21ST JULY 2026, AT 9.13 A.M.

Attendance:

(1) Honourable Iliesa Vanawalu - Chairman
(2) Honourable Aliki Bia - Member
(3) Honourable Parveen Bala - Member
(4) Honourable Alipate Tuicolo - Member

Interviewee/Subcommittee: Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources

In Attendance:

(1) Mr. Asakaia Tabua - Acting Permanent Secretary and Surveyor General
(2) Mr. Apisai Vulawalu - Assistant Director of Lands
(3) Mr. Panapasa Cabenalevu - Senior Research Officer / Legal Officer
(4) Ms. Raksha Rani - Principal Scientific Officer (Geological Services Division
(5) Ms. Elizabeth Cavuilati - Manager Policy

Ministry of Health & Medical Services

(1) Mr. Luke Vonotabua - Acting Chief Health Inspector
(2) Mr. Toga Vosataki - National WASH Coordinator

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, Members of the Public, the Secretariat, dear viewers, ladies and gentlemen who are tuning in this morning for this live presentation on Parliament, a very good morning to you all. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone here this morning, especially the viewers who are watching this public hearing session live. At the outset, for information purpose, pursuant to Standing Order 111 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, all Committee meetings are to be open to the public. Therefore, please note that this submission is open to the public and the media. It is also being aired via the Walesi platform, streamlined live on Parliament website and social media platform.

For any sensitive information concerning the matter before us this morning that cannot be disclosed in public, this can be provided to the Committee either in private or in writing. However, please be advised that Standing Order 111, in the following circumstances, permits or non-disclosure of information, and these are:

(1) national security matters;
(2) third party confidential information;
(3) personnel or human resources matters; and
(4) Committee's deliberation and development of the Committee's recommendations based on this report.

This is a parliamentary meeting, and all information gathered is covered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act of 1965.

Moving forward, please bear in mind that we do not condone slander or libel of any sort. Any information brought before this Committee should be based on facts. In terms of protocol of this

Committee meeting, please minimise the usage of mobile phone and all mobile phones to be on silent mode while the meeting is in progress.

I wish to also remind honourable Members and our guests that all questions to be asked, are to be addressed through the Chairperson of the Committee. I would like the Members of the Committee to introduce themselves and the officials from the Ministry of Health.

(Introduction of Committee Members and officials from Ministry of Health)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tuning in through Viber, it is one of our honourable Members, honourable Viam Pillay, all the way from Ba this morning.

Today, the Committee will be hearing submissions from the Ministry of Lands. It is in relation to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 of 2026. Before us, we have the representative from the Ministry, and I would like to thank them for availing themselves to appear to this hearing. In the essence of time, you may give a response brief, but the honourable Members will intervene with the supplement questions during the presentation. Now I invite the officials to introduce themselves and then begin with the presentation.

MR. A. TABUA.- Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to thank the Committee for inviting the Ministry to come and present its submission on the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026.

(Introduction of officials from Ministry of Lands & Mineral Resources)

MR. A. TABUA .- Mr. Chairman, I will ask our Legal Officer to present this morning.

MR. P. CABENALEVU.- Mr. Chairman, briefly, the Ministry has identified 13 points. We will go point by point for the discussion in today's meeting:

1. Clarification of Jurisdiction Overlap with the Land Administration

What we have identified is that, the Bill should ensure the exercise of the powers, under the Public Act, does not unintentionally override or conflict with statutory powers exercised under the mentioned legislation: the State Lands Act of 1945, Land Use Act of 2010, Town Planning Act of 1946, Subdivision and Development Approval Processes, Land Administration, Policies Procedures, Conditions containing the Lease, Licence and Permits issued by the Director of Lands.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry recommends that the Bill expressly reserve statutory functions and powers of the Director of Lands and other relevant land-related authorities.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I may intervene in. I believe the clarification is very clear on the overlap of Land Administration legislation in front of us on the PowerPoint presentation. We are all on the same page when we look at the importance of our State Land, the Land Use Act of 2010 and Town Planning Act 1945. Since we are still on that part of the presentation, it will only be prudent to ask the team from the Ministry of Health to give us some lights on how important the Ministry recommends the Bill expressly reserve statutory functions and the power of Director of Lands and other relevant land-related authorities, which in a nutshell, we believe we are all concerned here?

Before we move forward, I may ask the Ministry of Health technical team to give us more of an oversight on the patent respect part of it and how well they interreact and overlap in the Ministry of Health that we are discussing this morning.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene? Before we give the opportunity to the Ministry officials, may I ask the solicitor from the Ministry of Lands, if they had identified any areas where it is an override, rather than Ministry of Health coming in? They must have gone through this amendment and it will make things easier for us, as a Committee, to understand that as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, we will take this opportunity first.

MR. P. CABENALEVU.- Mr. Chairman, what we mean in this particular point is that if there is any area of inconsistency or any overlap of powers in the proposed Bill, we are suggesting if that can be looked into and addressed it at this level, sir.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Therefore, you have not identified any inconsistencies or overlaps at the moment?

MR. P. CABENALEVU.- We have gone through the Act. We have seen, Sir, that the Act is very clear, but what we would like to see is that, in the process, it does not have any overlap or any conflicting areas in our legislation.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We all agree with that. The floor is open now to the Ministry of Health.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, I think your concern is to do with the developments that are happening, and part of the requirements for any development that is submitted to the rural local authority and the urban local authority are for the development to be consented either by the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB), a legal document if it is a freehold land and consented by lands. I think that is where we honour the land use, and I think your Act. I hope that is clear. In the past that used to happen in any development that if it falls under the Ministry of Lands, the Director of Lands will consent to any type of development. If it falls under the TLTB, the TLTB will consent before it goes to the local authority and through the Town Planning for approval.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, I hope that one is clear to everyone. It is a concern whether it is a TLTB or the land falls under the Ministry of Land, they are given that authority and approval first before any development takes place within that boundary.

MR. P. CABENALEVU.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, Section 13, the role of the board. The Ministry requires clarification if these provisions apply to all rural and maritime projects carried out by other ministries and organisations.

Currently, under the Rural Water and Sanitation Policy 2021, the Water Supply Management Plan is submitted to the Department of Water and Sewerage for approval of any water supply and sanitation infrastructure for rural and maritime areas before work can commence. Our comment, Mr. Chairman, is that, if all relevant government agencies could be consulted prior to any project development.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- That is very clear, honourable Members, speak volumes about the important parts of it agencies that are governed especially for the approving body which they should be consulted prior for any project development.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, under Section 13(5)(b), it is very clear. It talks about new design. This is just interrelations to Public Health but all the other process in terms of building approval it remains the same. This is just the new design they do comes in. It is proper that the Minister of Health do thorough checks that is confined within the public health regulations that are there.

MR. P. CABENALEVU.- Section 14, powers of the head of the Environmental Health. The Ministry recommends that the Bill incorporate a formal consultation mechanism with the Director of Lands whenever enforcement actions affect state land interests. Circumstances such as demolition or closure orders may have significant legal, administrative, financial and social implications beyond public health consideration. Such a provision would ensure coordinated Government actions, protect lawful tenure rights, avoid jurisdiction conflicts and promote sound land administration while maintaining the ability of health authorities to respond effectively to genuine public health risk. We recommend emergency exceptions to preserve public health powers in urgent situations.

The Ministry proposes the inclusion of these provisions or subsection emergency exception provided that in the presence of an immediate and serious threat to public health, requiring urgent intervention, action may be taken without prior consultation, but the Director of Lands must be notified as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that Part 3, Section 1(4) is very clear to the honourable Members, the explanation has been given by the Ministry of Land.

MR. P. CABENALEVU.- Mr. Chairman, we move on to Section 64, Recovery of Costs and Expenses. The Ministry recommends that the Bill should provide a Statutory Lien only becomes effective upon registration against relevant title and lease record.

Registration of Statutory Lien.

The Bill does not specify whether the lien arises automatically upon expenditure, by the rural local authority. Where the registration is required before the lien becomes enforceable, the authority responsible for the registration, the form and inventory requirements for registration.

Mr. Chairman, the Bill is silent on the role of the Registrar of Titles. The Bill does not specify whether lien ranks. The Bill does not distinguish or address the different land tenure ship, its tenure category is administered under different legal frameworks.

We recommend that a rewording be done and read a statutory lien created under this section shall not take effect until it has been duly registered in accordance with applicable land registration legislation. The local authority shall lodge notice of lien with the register of titles who shall record the linen against the relevant title or lease and upon payment in full of all outstanding costs. The interest and charges the local authority shall issue a certificate of discharge and lodge the same with the Registrar of Titles within 30 days.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, we thank the team from the Ministry of Lands for wonderful submissions. For this particular Section 64, this was put in by the technical working group from the Ministry of Health to address a certain challenge that our officers face on the ground. When we attend to a particular complaint or during normal routine inspections, we come across a particular household that is creating a nuisance in that surrounding. Any nuisance in particular. What we do is we try to then enforce abatement notice to the person that is involved. The problem is sometimes the property owner is not the actual occupier.

In this case, the occupier then says that they are not the owner. If you want to give the notice, you must give the notice to the owner. We are caught in a dilemma because the owner sometimes is overseas or somewhere else. It is quite difficult to get corrective measures done if this is not included in the legislations. The legislations we recommend to amend is if the occupier is not the owner, then the current occupier can be the one held accountable for that particular nuisance because they are

currently staying in that household, and they are currently contributing to that nuisance in existence. This is basically why that section is included in this legislation.

I believe in this clarification, we can now bypass the whole legal document of verifying through the lease, I mean the Registrar of Titles and all that. When we deal with public health sometimes, we need 24 hours, 48 hours to rectify these issues. You know writing all these legal documents to the Ministry and the Titles Office, Registrar of Titles, it may actually delay the intention of the legislation itself which is to empower officers in rectifying issues like this on the ground. This is the clarification to the Committee from our team from the Ministry of Land.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene if the Ministry officials can also highlight the Committee that they have raised that the Bill is silent on the role of the register of titles so that may assist the Committee.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, I think the Office of the Registrar of Titles actually play a pivotal role in the Public Health Act in the fact that any development that needs to proceed on a particular set piece of land, requires the land document - the title document – as a key piece requirement. The builder or the person intending to construct has the responsibility of producing that title in order to satisfy or get the approval of the rural or urban local authorities. I think it may be silent, but it is there in the requirements for any development.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, through you. As we have discussed earlier, any development on State land or any development on iTLTB land requires the developer or any individual must get the consent and this is where this connects. Am I right? That will solve the problem because if I want to develop on State land, I have to come to you to get a consent.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members and the Ministry. I hope that one is clear to everyone. That is part and parcel of any development. We have to have the clearance if there is a state land, if it is an iTLTB. These are all processes and proceeds that need to be addressed first. I hope that it is very clear to all of us this morning. Ministry of Lands, you may continue with your presentation.

MR. A. TABUA.- Mr. Chairman, we move on to No. 5 - Section 32(e), water contamination offences libel for conviction. The Ministry suggests encompassing additional activities that may lead to contamination of water sources. The additional activities to be included are mining, quarrying, and other development projects.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, that is very clear and it is added value to the Bill itself that we are talking about this morning. In addition to the activity to be included, I believe we have not touched base on these important areas when we talk about the water contamination offences, which is liable for any conviction or fine.

What we have discussed, I will just give you a brief summary on that. Where there is a catchment of water, even the landowners do not have accessibility to plant, raise animals, cut down any overhanging trees, or whatever. Whatever comes in this morning through the Ministry, for me, is totally new. I need to be corrected on this. We talk about mining, quarrying, and other development projects. It is like an added activity that needs to be addressed when you talk about water contamination.

Honourable Members, I believe the Ministry of Health should give us some clarification on whether they have incorporated this or whether it needs to be really re-looked at moving forward. Ministry of Health.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee, and representatives from the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources. This is a very good submission for us, if you would like to include this in the Bill. What we have had recently is a submission by the Fiji

Institute of Environmental Health President, Mr. Josefa Tabua, and General Secretary, Mr. Onisimo Sadranu, on the inclusion of Health Impact Assessment (HIA) in the Bill.

If the written submission has come through to the Committee, and if that is considered, then any development such as mining, quarrying, or other projects that the Ministry of Lands might have the approval for, if the HIA is conducted, then we might have the recommendation. If there is a water source that will be disrupted, we might recommend either moving it downstream or upstream, just not exactly in the immediate surrounding of that particular water catchment, to avoid contamination or damage to the physical infrastructure.

If this is also included, and if the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources actually feel that they would want that included it in the Bill, the technical working team — and I think the Committee also — welcomes that idea, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, are you okay with that explanation? Let us move forward. Ministry of Lands.

MR. A. TABUA.- Mr. Chairman, we move on to Section 33(g), Part 6 and Part I, locate and plot cases on GIS. The Ministry suggests changes that would allow for mapping of cases using different geospatial technologies, software, and methods that are available to the Ministry of Health instead of just one software.

Recommendation is: that related geospatial data be geo-referenced and mapped to support special analysis and decision-making.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, are you all good with that? Or we need to further explanation from the Ministry of Health on that subject area, Ministry of Health.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee and representative from the Ministry of Land, this is something that is new to us - the introduction of the GIS - something that we want to incorporate in the work that we do to assist us with the disease investigation and outbreaks that we have. I know that we have been working with the Ministry of Lands in the training of our officers.

We take note of the suggestion from Minister of Lands to improve the way we are doing our investigation for cases, so that we can locate the cases more easily when we are - doing a disease investigation, and identify our hotspot areas for leptospirosis, dengue and typhoid.

MR. A. TABUA.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Committee Members, Section 57 - presence of contaminant at source of drinking water. The Ministry suggests the inclusion of boreholes after a well, as part of the water supply source, as this is widely used by rural and outer island communities. The inclusion of boreholes is noted at the initial 120 beam but not present thereafter.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ministry of Health, that is part of our deliberation on that.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, we can include that if borehole is missing. I know that the Ministry of Lands is doing a lot of work on borehole as an alternative source for water supply in communities that do not have accessibility to the treated or articulated system that is provided by Government. We totally agree that we should include also the boreholes. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We all agree with that.

HON. A BIA.- Mr. Chairman, I think in 120 (b),(c) and (d), all of the opening remarks of (b),(c) and (d) have boreholes included in those sections.

MR. A. TABUA.- Mr. Chairman, Section 57 - presence of contaminant at source of drinking water. The Ministry recommends the inclusion of the word "to" after notice'.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Noted, Sir.

MR. A. TABUA.- Mr. Chairman, Section 57- the presence of contaminant at source of drinking water. The Ministry would like clarification on liability if a member of the community contaminates the borehole source.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable members, that is very interesting. We talk about this Bill in front of us. It seems that we are going in depth on how best we can accommodate that request. Hopefully, we look at the importance and how best they can give us some feedback as well as outcomes when we are trying to finalise this Bill in front of us. Ministry of Health, you want to add some on that?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee and the representative from the Ministry of Land and Mineral Resources. This is a new introduction to the Bill, where we look to have a penalty for people who intentionally contaminate water supply from farming and activities at source water to damaging pipeline apparatus or storage apparatus right down to building or constructing toilets well within 50 metres from an existing well or bore that is currently being used for the community.

The penalties for any person who will willingly or intentionally creates that contamination to the water supply. I think the penalty under Section 67 is $1,000. Again, this is there to deter people from carrying out such activities and hopefully safeguard the water supply systems in our communities and prevent a lot of waterborne illnesses that are causing a lot of sicknesses, and this is a burden to the Ministry and to the county.

MR. E. TABUA.- Section 57, Penalty for Polluting Water Supply.

The Ministry suggests inclusion of groundwater recharge zones as this is a critical role in sustaining freshwater resources. Recommend that it should read as any person who in any way defiles, pollutes, permits, suffers drainage or refuse for his or her land to follow into or be deposited in any water source, stream, lake, pond, groundwater, recharge zones or reservoir forming part of the water supply.

MR.P. CABENALEVU.- Section 57, penalty for polluting water supply. The suggested penalty of 1,000 for the Ministry is too low compared to the cost of the restoration of surface water catchment and even groundwater aquifer is significantly higher in order to mitigate any contamination situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Are you recommending any amount to surpass that $1,000 because you did recommend that you suggest it to be more. What are the figures that you are looking at? My apology, the Bill raised many times subsequently from $5,000 to $10,000. I hope that you have done a feasibility study on this.

MR. P. CABENALEVU.- The Ministry should differentiate the penalties compared to a commercial company to an individual or to a community to ensure that the penalty goes together with the contamination done by each entity or persons that contaminate the water source.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We have to take that on board? Honourable Members, remember the Bill was straightforward, whether you were running a business or an individual, maritime or an urban cent this demarcate the responsibility how those have been contaminated while looking at the fines that must be increased. The Committee will work on these suggestions.

MR .P. CABENALEVU.- Point number 12, a penalty increases may disproportionately affect rural leaseholders.

(1) graduate compliance notices remediation periods.

The Bill should prescribe reasonable remediation periods based on the nature and severity of the public health risk;

(2) technical assistance pathway before penalties.

The Bill should empower local authorities and environment health practitioners to provide guidance and technical advice before enforcement action is taken, particularly where compliance requires specialized knowledge or infrastructure improvements.

The Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources (MLMR) position supports stronger penalties for serious public health risk, but recommends that enforcement provisions to also include education, technical support and reasonable opportunities to remedy non-compliance. This approach is particularly important in rural communities, agriculture leased areas and informal settlements where infrastructure limitations may affect a person's ability to immediately comply with public health requirements.

MR. P. CABENALEVU.- Point number 13 Informal settlement enforcement requires land regularisation and resettlement coordination. The Ministry commands to consideration should be given to the application of these powers within informal settlements located on state land where occupants may have long-standing residential arrangements and where government is actively pursuing settlement upgrading, regularisations and resettlement institutes.

The Ministry is concerned that enforcement action undertaken without prior coordination, may have significant social, economic, and legal implications for affected communities and may undermine ongoing Government policies relating to housing, land tenure regularisation and poverty alleviation.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene. I think at the early stage, we have thoroughly discussed on this and since Ministry of Lands is here may, I ask them, for example, there is an informal settlement and people are residing there, but you are the landlord. If there is any non-compliance or anything, it will go to the landlord and not to the tenants. Am I right? I just need this clarification because all those tenants who are residing there is on a *vakavanua* arrangement or something like that just like in TLTB land. If that clarification can be made so that it is easier for us to understand and since Lands Department is here.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ministry of Land. can you update us on that?

MR. P. CABENALEVU.- Mr. Chairman, I think there are two scenarios when it comes to informal settlement:

(i) illegal settlers, settling on state land; and
(ii) *vakavanua* which go through the process of getting consent from the landowners before you are sitting on a particular land. For state land, most of the settlers or occupying the state lands are illegal so that is something that is beyond the ministry's rule where we need but we must go through the process of regularisation which comes under the Ministry of Housing.

This is one of the biggest challenges in the ministry is to contain people moving in to stay within the state land. There are people who come and occupy illegally state land but the process is that we can evict or remove them but we go through the process of regularisation occupants that are sitting on the state land. When it comes to the process of contaminating water sources or illegal developments, that is where we actually come in to advise them that we have to go through the legal process in order to do any development on state land. I think that answers the question of the honourable Member.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, I think another scenario is for Melanesian settlements. A lot of them are on state land and are guided by community lease. They have trust. What happens in that case?

MR. A. VULAWALU.- Mr. Chairman, through you. For a settlement that has a community lease, a trustee acting on behalf of the settlement will be the door of the settlement to the Ministry. Whatever development or whatever activities they would like to undertake, on their community, they would like to go through their trustee. So once the trustee has recommended whatever they have requested for, and come through to the Ministry, we will consider that, sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, are there any further supplementary questions before we wrap it up this morning?

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, again, in case of non-compliance, it is the trustee that will be responsible.

MR. A. VULAWALU.- For non-compliance by any member of the community, the trustee, cannot act on that, but subject to the consent of the Director of Lands being obtained.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- Can you identify how many informal settlements are on State lands?

MR. A. TABUA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, we can provide a written submission on that to your office.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Noted, sir. Thank you very much for that. Are there any other supplementary question from honourable Members?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, if I may, through you, honourable members and representatives from the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, again, we thank you for such a very good submission this morning. Just for your information, the Bill actually looks to increase the involvement of the Ministry of Health in these informal settlements, trying to look from the perspective of disease prevention. Although, we often look at them as temporary dwellers or settlers, some have stayed there for over 10 years. We feel that, you know, even though some may stay for two months, three months, or more than 10 years, what is critical is that they at least adhere to a certain standard of sanitation and good hygiene. So as to prevent surges or outbreaks of infectious diseases in our informal settlements.

In terms of buildings, that are intended to be built in these settlements, the Ministry might come in to the people who are constructing, provide advice on the ground, on how to space out the housing so as not to be too congested, or how to get rid of wastewater. Maybe an ideal site where they would build the intended home that would be better than other sites. This is something that we will look to work together with the Ministry of Lands in, not really putting in stringent building regulations, but just a sort of oversight on the sanitation and hygiene in these communities to ensure that while they live there, they are healthy and able to contribute positively towards the Fiji Government's economy.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, honourable Members and our guests who are present here this morning. At this juncture, I wish to sincerely thank you all for availing yourself for this public hearing session.

We thank you for your time and hope that you will avail yourself for any further queries that the Committee may have on today's submission. On that note, I have declared this public submission closed.

The Committee adjourned at 9.59 a.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL
Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji [MSAF]

SUBMITTEE:	**Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji [MSAF]**
VENUE:	**Big Committee Room, Parliament**
DATE:	**Tuesday 28th July, 2026**

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE BIG COMMITTEE ROOM, PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, ON TUESDAY 28TH JULY, 2026 AT 10.16 A.M.

Present

1. Honourable Iliesa Vanawalu - Chairperson
2. Honourable Aliki Bia - Member
3. Honourable Viam Pillay - Member
4. Honourable Praveen Bala - Member
5. Honourable Salen Kumar - Alternate Member

Apologies

1. Honourable Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure - Deputy Chairperson
2. Honourable Alipate Nagata - Member

Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF)

1. Mr. Tuikilakila - Senior Legal Officer
2. Mr. Saula Tuiloma - Ships Inspection and Survey Officer

Ministry of Health and Medical Services

1. Mr. Luke Vonotabua - Acting Chief Health Inspector
2. Mr. Toga Vosataki - WASH Coordinator

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, members of the public, Secretariat, dear viewers, ladies and gentlemen A very good morning to you all, and it is a pleasure to welcome everyone here this morning especially the viewers that are watching this public hearing session.

At the outset, for information purposes, pursuant to Standing Order 111 of the Standing Order of Parliament, all Committee meetings are to be open to the public Therefore, please note that this submission is open to the public and the media, and it is also being aired via the *Walesi* platform, streamlined live on Parliament's website and social media platform.

For any sensitive information concerning the matter before us this morning, that it cannot be disclosed in public, this can be provided to the Committee either in private or in writing.

However, please be advised that Standing Order 111, in the following circumstances, permits for non-disclosure of information and these are related to:

1. national security matters;
2. third party confidential information;
3. personal or human resources matters; and
4. Committee deliberation and development of the Committee's recommendations and reports.

This is a parliamentary meeting, and all information gathered is covered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act of 1965. However, please bear in mind that we do not condone slander or libel of any sort, and any information brought before this Committee should be based on facts.

In terms of protocol of this Committee meeting, please minimise the usage of mobile phones, and all mobile phones are to be in silent mode while the meeting is in progress. I wish to also remind honourable Members and our guests, that all questions to be asked are to be addressed through the Chairperson. I would like the honourable Members of the Committee to introduce themselves and officials from the Ministry of Health.

(Introduction of the Committee Members and representatives from the Ministry of Health)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Today the committee will be hearing submission from the Maritime Safety of Fiji. This is in relation to the public health amendment bills number four of 2026. And before us we have the representative from Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) and I would like to thank them for availing themselves to appear to this hearing. Due to the essence of time, you may give a responses brief. The member will intervene with a supplementary question during your presentation time.
On that note, I now invite the official to introduce themselves and begin with their presentation. Thank you very much. You may start now.

(Introduction of Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji officials)

MR. TUIKILAKILA. - Through you, Chair, on your instructions we briefly offer the following points in terms of MSAF's comments to the Public Health Bill. And as a background, we would like to start off with the mandate of the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji, as established under the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji Act 2009. Its mandate briefly addresses the following, which is to provide services in administering and enforcing the Ship Registration Act 2013 and the Maritime Transport Act 2013, which includes:

(a) ensuring maritime safety;
(b) maritime security, and marine protection;
(c) advising the state on matters relating to its mandate; and
(d) representing the state internationally on maritime affairs, carrying out its mandate to ensure maritime safety on ships.

HON. P.K BALA.- Chair, may I intervene? What I see from the presentation, and I understand that the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji is responsible for ship registration. I am not sure whether it is already in the Act or if it is not. However, there is an important aspect of ships relating to public health that seems to be missing. This may be the right time, since we have received a lot of complaints regarding the public health aspect on ships. Can you clarify where it is covered? Is it in your presentation? I do not

see anything in the mandate, which talks about marine protection, maritime security and advise the state on matters relating to its mandate. However, if you can provide a reference so that it will assist the committee in that respect.

MR. TUIKILAKILA.- Through you, Chair, we would like to give a brief overview of mandate, and we will in turn provide an answer to the honourable Member's query and contextualise how we interrelate with the Ministry of Health. As part of the ship safety mandate, it encompasses the survey processes and inspection processes that are carried out by MSAF. Part and parcel of this is to also look into the sanitation and hygiene scope of the ship. In this regard, we also work hand in hand with the Ministry of Health, since they are experts in terms of public health, and we rely on their various certifications as part of our checklists in terms of our survey process.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Chair, may I intervene? This is what I was basically trying to say regarding MSAF's reliance on the Ministry of Health. Since you are responsible for issuing licenses, do you not think that there should be conditions to the license issuances?

MR. TUIKELEKELE. - Through you, Chair, as part of the ship inspection process and the ship survey scope, MSAF does not pass a vessel until it has the requisite certifications from the Ministry of Public Health officials. This is in terms of sanitation and hygiene, which includes the fumigation process. Once we have that certification, then we proceed to the other parts of our checklist.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, through you. You are talking about certification, but in terms of frequent checking of hygiene practices in vessels or ships, is there any mandated time frame which you do or you often check vessels or you wait for a complaint to be lodged?

MR. TUIKILAKILA.- What we are proposing as our comments to this Bill is, we are recommending heightened and increased spot checks from the Ministry of Public Health officials on sanitation and hygiene scope and in relation to fumigation processes. We do spot checks, but because the expertise observation is with the Ministry of Health, we are more on what we can observe on the ships. However, for actual expert testing and observations, we rely more on the Ministry of Health, and we do encourage those spot checks. Through our submission, we also address those elements.

HON. A. BIA.- Maybe a good suggestion would be the Municipal Councils, employ health inspectors within the offices. In terms of efficiency of providing services, rather than sending an email and waiting for the Ministry of Health to do inspection, I think maybe that is a good way to go, by employing health inspectors within the MSAF that could carry out this role for you.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, just a follow-up. I think this is where the problem is. You, as an organisation, rely on other entity, but you are responsible of issuing licences. What is stopping Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji to have someone with a good background knowledge on health aspect? They might come as they wish, but if you have your own personnel to look after the health aspect, that will solve all the problems, because that is where the problem is.

MR. TUIKILAKILA.- Mr. Chairman, we do take on board that comment. Respectfully, we continue to encourage the shared work with the Ministry of Health, because they have the full larger

framework under the Public Health Act, ancillary to support all the necessary health inspections on board, which is not fully encompassed under the Maritime Transport Act or the Ships Registration Act. What we propose in our comments is to tighten the controls in our working relationship with the Ministry of Health, through improved compliance and verification measures in the current certification process.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Secretariat, take note of that important area that has been discussed by the honourable Members. I believe it is very critical, and we have to take that on board too.

MR. TUIKILAKILA.- I will go straight to page 2 of the presentation, since we have touched a bit on the contextual issues and the jurisdiction demarcations. In terms of clause 3 of the Bill, it refers to section 2 of the Principal Act, which is simply the interpretation clauses – definitions. There are some definitions that we wish to highlight, which might streamline the focus and the ambit of the Act and its purpose. A particular reference is made to the definitions of "vermin", and we note there is a corresponding use of the term "nuisance" throughout the Public Health Act.

We respectfully propose that there could be a reconciliation of these terms, and these terms could be defined, because there are some pests that we have observed on board that might not be encompassed under these definitions.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- MSAF before we take the next step on that I believe it will be wise since we are on the subject matter for Ministry of Health to give us some insight on that.

MR. TUIKILAKILA.- Absolutely.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee and our representatives from the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji. First of all, thank you so much for the presentation and the wonderful first part of the submission this morning.

Mr. Chairman, the submission by MSAF before the Committee this morning is suggesting that the definition in that particular Section 3 of the Bill, be expanded to include cockroach and bed bugs. It is included in the universal definition of vermis but it is not actually defined in the Act itself. This would assist I think the submission is the enforcement of a later part of the Act or the Bill which is Section 112, which addresses specifically if we do include in that definition then we can address the existence of cockroaches and bed bugs in ships. The submission from MSAF to broaden the definition not only limiting the definition to vectors of medical importance but as we all know there are some vectors that are not necessarily medically important in spreading illnesses but are quite a nuisance to us in the fact that they might bite or irritate us all through the night.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene. Just get the matter if that can be accommodated or not?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Basically that is what I am recommending to the Committee that this is something that the Committee can consider.

MR. TUIKILAKILA.- Mr. Chairman, we thank the representatives from the Ministry of Health for accommodating this. We had also propose the definition of premises. We acknowledge there is a definition of premises within the Principal Act. It has not been touched by the current Bill. If it could be broadened to apply to ships where relevant to where the context of Ministry of Health inspection applies to ships just to strengthen the Bills applicability to the maritime context to give them direct recognition because of the shared ship inspection scope.

Mr. Chairman, moving on to Item No. 2, in reference to Section 54 of the Bill, which seeks to amend Section 112 of the Principal Act. You note from the Bill that there is now a list of indicators in terms of routine health inspection on board. I believe it is (a) to (f) on the Bill list of indicators that the health inspector must satisfy his or herself to ensure that those areas are adequately addressed.

Section 54, you note on the Bill that it says that the health inspector may conduct a routine inspection. We humbly respect if that 'may' could become a 'requirement', 'shall or must' since our ship's inspection relies on the health certification.

Mr. Chairman, through you, we would also request that since the Ministry of Health regulates fumigation, conducts fumigation, oversees and regulates the fumigation on board to ensure sanitation and hygiene. We would ask if post-fumigation process that there is another inspection done just to ensure that the vermin, the nuisance, the pests have been duly eliminated.

As raised by my learned friend earlier, pests are something we cannot fully eliminate on board ships, but we can manage and we can control them because through proper fumigation we ensure the elimination of their environments on board, and through spot checks also ensure that the crew on board the ships are also doing their jobs in terms of continual sanitation practices on board.

This is just to also combat because we cannot control passengers and cargo that come on board as potential carriers of other vermin and pests. It is a control issue. But at least from our end and the end of the Ministry of Health, we propose that there will be further inspection, post-fumigation and prior to issuance of the health clearance certificate.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- MSAF, just a question on that. What is the validity of the fumigation certificate on board?

MR. TUIKILAKILA.- Mr. Chairman, it is a six month validation certificate.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- From experience, is it sufficient enough when you talk about the movements of the vessel in and out of ports? What do you think when you talk about experience - wise? Is six months okay or can you do it quarterly, whatever best suits the issue that we are trying to solve over here. It will help the Committee in our points of discussion and in trying to formulate this Bill that can come as an Act.

MR. TUIKILAKILA.- Mr. Chairman, I believe six months is more than enough, but if we can also have frequent spot checks in between, I think that is also part of our proposal this morning.

MR. S.J. TUILOMA.- Mr. Chairman, just to compliment public health as well, once the …

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chairman, through you. After all the explanation and what MSAF have said, how will it operate once this Bill is passed? Can the Ministry of Health elaborate on that? Similar to the checks MSAF is having on the ships, what we understand now is that the Ministry of Health will also be having regular checks on all the ships once this Bill is passed.

There are also fines, so can the Ministry provide some information on how they will operate once this Bill is passed, and with the current terms, how they will operate?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Standing Committee and our colleagues from MSAF. Thank you, honourable Member, for the clarifying question. The duties that are being discussed this morning are actually something that we have been doing for a very long time. They have been a prerequisite to their licensing process, in that in order for them to issue a license, the Ministry of Health has to issue a Ship Sanitation Certificate, with supervision of fumigation conducted in terms of the pest.

What they are now submitting to the Committee is that not only the Fumigation Certificate to be given, but it has to be given after post-inspection to verify the effectiveness of the fumigation. We believe that in some instances it might prove difficult in terms of our roll-on roll- off vessels that have specific times to operate. If you conduct fumigation now, we might need to do re-inspection tomorrow morning. During that time, the boat keeps on providing the service and therefore new pests and new vermin may be introduced, affecting the way that we actually evaluate the effectiveness of the fumigation conducted. If there is a way in which MSAF and we can work together to coordinate for them to hold the vessel until reinspection is conducted a few hours later, then yes, I think that should be something that the Committee can consider.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chairman, I understand in regards to the licencing part where they need the approval from Ministry of Health. I am talking about the vessels and coming from different ports and reaching the different ports, like coming from Nabouwalu, going into Ellington, Savusavu, whether the Ministry of Health official needs to check these ships regularly after this Bill is passed.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, through you, thank you honourable Member for that clarifying question. This is something that we have not done in the past, regular boarding to conduct inspection. What we were referring to is the periodical inspection conducted every six months in order for the ship's sanitation to be renewed and fumigation to be conducted.

This Bill now proposes, like any premises, the power to enter and conduct routine or spot inspections and carry out spot fines for any non-compliance that we might find on the ship. This intends to strengthen the ship sanitation and hygiene levels in the vessel.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Just a follow-up, so apart from that six months inspection, this will be spot checks given anytime by both agencies or just Ministry of Health.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, for our environmental health practitioners, to spot check board at any time especially during complaints, when we receive complaints that boat is in such a condition the officers may board at the next docking or should they wish our office in Bua might have a random boarding schedule that they can put in just in order to keep our ship operators on their toes in

terms of keeping the ship in the condition that is conducive for passengers to travel without contracting any form of infection or illness.

MR. TUIKILAKILA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, we recognise the tiring work that our Ministry of Health inspection officers have been doing on the ground. We would just respectfully wish to highlight at least in terms of the six-monthly survey cycles when their inspectors come on board because at least at that time the vessel is in dock and is not operating. At least if the post fumigation verification check, could at least be implemented during the cycle time. I understand the concern raised by my learned friend during this would be applicable probably to the spot check if there is a quick turnaround of the ship. But that said, if we are going to value public sanitation and hygiene standards, and there will be something for Ministry of health to flag because if they flag something to us, which might affect the validity of that certificate, we will definitely take our cue from them in terms of holding the ship during the spot check.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chairman, again I am not really able to understand why six months when we see the vessels going, thousands of passengers and the vehicles and the things are moving from this port to the other port. What I was thinking was this Bill is passed, similar to the green light that is given by MSAF, the Ministry officials will be also checking on this vessel regularly not in six months' time.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much honourable Members for that. Since it is in our hand now, we will ensure that this is part of our recommendation to the Bill and hopefully that the Ministry officials are taking note of that. You may continue your discussion.

MR. TUIKILAKILA. - In terms of the same Section (54) of the Bill, proposing to amend Section (112), by introducing a part (A), we also recommend the inclusion of a further clause under the proposed Section (112) (A) that would allow the inspection of MSAF and the Ministry of Health to also ensure that the sanitation and hygiene of crew and passenger living spaces are also in order, including the medical facilities on board or the medical stores.

If there are no further issues, I will progress to item number three, under Section 55 of the Bill. We have no issues since it is a penalty regime, in terms of any non-compliance with abatement or cease notice for the removal of a nuisance. The Ministry of Health has proposed enforcement measures there $200 fine along with further court action if the nuisance is not removed. For the purpose of clarity, if the language under Section (117) (1) which Section 55 wishes to amend, if it can be specified that it is an infringement offence for which the Bill might have to also be supported by proper framework of authorisations for their officers to issue those fines on board and secondly if the quantum that $200 fine could be increased especially for the larger ships, measuring about 15 metres.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Do you have any figures which you prefer in discussing increased penalties for the bigger vessels? This will give us some ideas on what the preferred recommendation is, for example, from $200 you explained that it is quite a small figure for larger organisations that deal with commercial activities. Do you have any suggestions?

MR. TUIKILAKILA.- We are highlighting this as it is also a work in progress for our maritime laws. We are also reviewing our fine quantum, so we are not in a position to provide a figure on what we

propose it needs to be increased, being mindful not to target the smaller boat owners and those who rely on this for a living.

HON. V. PILLAY. - Mr. Chairman, yes, I agree with him in regard to the fine under nuisance. It is just $200 and on the other side, you see the nuisance for our communities is $500. For a normal resident or community member, they will be charged $500 under the nuisance penalty. However, a boat owner with thousands of people travelling on their vessel, involves thousands of dollars and under nuisance they are penalised with a $200 fine only. We need to look at this again.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Chair, may I intervene? Just a follow-up question. Am I right in saying that MSAF are also reviewing your fees and charges?

MR. TUIKILAKILA.- It is not official. We are currently discussing it internally; however, it may not be considered. We are just reviewing it internally.

HON. P.K BALA.- Chair, the reason why I asked for some suggestions or maybe you can provide us some is due to the expectancy in that area and it will also assist the committee in our recommendations. We do not want to get things from thin hair. If it is $500 there has to be a reason for it, and if it is $2,000 then there has to be a reason for it. Can MSAF provide us with a proposed increased figure for penalties once you go back as will it assist the committee as suggested by you.

MR. TUIKILAKILA.- Certainly, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- MSAF, you may continue with the presentation.

MR. TUIKILAKILA.- Lastly, on item four in relation to clause 57 of the Bill. We note that the Bill proposes comprehensive provisions under this clause to introduce water testing frameworks on board ships because there is a ships part to the Principal Act. We wish to further support this as we support the entire Bill and that our comments are meant to be complementary to strengthen that regime. Specifically, we would ask if there could be specific water testing for ships at the point of source and at the point of consumption. We understand that the Ministry of Health is proposing mechanisms for testing within these proposals, which is outside the MSAF scope. We do look at, as part of our survey, from observations, the condition of water tanks, and pipes, but since the Ministry of Health is proposing those scientific-based and data-based water testing, we request if that could be specifically addressed to ensure good water quality on board the ship.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, MSAF. I believe that is a very important area which needs to be rectified and discussed further with the Committee when we talk about water source. Especially at the loading part, where the excess is bound to be. Maybe I will ask the Ministry of Health, do you have any monitoring on the water source all over our wharf, where it is supplying water to all these vessels? Do you have any spot check to see the compliance and the standard, or is it done by WAF?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, thank you so much for the clarifying question. We conduct water sampling for all water sources around the country, but we hardly test the water on ships, and this is something that we are proposing in this Bill. We have a section that allows us to board the vessels and

take water samples to ensure that the passengers who travel are not at risk of consuming the contaminated water, especially when the holding material of the vessel is made of a material that can corrode. This is something that we want to explore in the proposed Bill. Moving on, if the Committee feels the Bill is to be passed in Parliament, then this is something that we will be doing in the near future.

MR. TUIKILAKILA.- That sums up the brief proposals that MSAF has towards the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026. We reiterate our support to the Bill and hope that the proposals could be framed and accommodated in a way that would strengthen its implementation. There are no further question, that is all from MSAF.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much. Honourable Members, the floor is open now if there are any supplementary questions which need to be incorporated on the subject area that we are discussing with MSAF this morning. It can be general, it can be supplementary, or it can be a supported question to what we have discussed this morning.

MSAF, just the last one from me. This is a general question in terms of the festive season, the overcrowding of passengers on the boat. We as the islanders, always travel and we face this in and out during our travel to the islands. The control aspect part of the capacity of the vessel in relation to the number of passengers that must be on board. We believe sometimes there is really an overcrowding. How often do you check the boat before they depart whether it is in Natovi, Kadavu, Lau or even Lomaiviti. Sometimes we really have no space to move in especially during festive season, Christmas like that and the weather is not confined to us during those periods. Can just give us some assurance on those?

MR. TUIKILAKILA.- Mr. Chairman, I acknowledge that issue. It is something we definitely take back to our management. What I can offer, Sir, is that this is an issue that we try to stringently regulate. We know that the festive season is the busy period. Our enforcement officers on the jetties and on the wharves, they do carry out the actual physical counting of passengers that get on board to ensure that they match the survey certificate limits. We try to improve this process every year and try to manage the expectations and how we implement that. It is something that we are always working on to try and improve because there are also infrastructure issues which we also are trying to manage as the ships queue up. We are also working on our recruitment measures to ensure that we have more enforcement officers deployed on the wharves and on the jetties to support these efforts.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much MSAF for those in depth presentation to the Committee. Now we have a lot of thinking when we discuss this with you and this give us a more like bridging the gap that was actually there when we talk about these two ministries how best they function and the important role that you place. I believe that from the Committee side there should be lot of interaction in terms of operation-wise. This is in like generalizing for the betterment of the service that we provide to the public which we are here to facilitate.

At this juncture, I wish to sincerely thank you all for availing yourself for this public hearing session. We thank you for your time and hope that you will avail yourself for any further queries that the Committee may have on today's submission. On that note, our public submission today is closed. Thank you very much for your time.

The Committee adjourned at 10.58 a.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL 2026

SUBMITTEE: **Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and iTaukei Affairs Board, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Rural, Maritime & National Disaster Management**

VENUE: **Big Committee Room, Suva**

DATE: **Tuesday, 2nd June, 2026**

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE BIG COMMITTEE ROOM, PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, ON TUESDAY, 2ND JUNE, 2026 AT 9.19 A.M.

Interviewee/Submittee : Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and iTaukei Affairs Board
Ministry of Health and Medical Services
Ministry of Rural, Maritime & National Disaster Management

In Attendance:

1. Mr. Paula Tuione - Acting Permanent Secretary
2. Ms. Venina Moce - Acting Director Development Services
3. Ms. Talei Kocovanua - iTaukei Affairs Board
4. Ms. Sova Nagatalevu - iTaukei Affairs Board

Ministry of Health and Medical Services

1. Mr. Luke Vonotabua - Acting Chief Health Inspector
2. Mr. Toga Vosataki - National WASH Coordinator

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, members of the public, Secretariat staff, dear viewers, ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning to all. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone who is here in this room today, especially the viewers who are watching this public hearing session live. At the outset, for information purposes, pursuant to Standing Order 111 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, all Committee meetings are to be open to the public. Therefore, please note that this submission is open to the public and the media, and is also being aired via the *Walesi* platform and streamed live on Parliament's website and social media platforms.

For any sensitive information, honourable Members and our guests here this morning, concerning the matter before us that cannot be disclosed in public, this can be provided to the Committee either in private or in writing. However, please be advised that Standing Order 111 permits non-disclosure in the following circumstances:

1. National security matters;
2. Third-party confidential information;
3. Personnel or human resources matters; and
4. Committee deliberations and the development of the Committee's recommendations, as well as the report before us.

This is a parliamentary meeting, and all information gathered is covered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act 1965. However, please bear in mind that we do not condone slander or libel of any sort, and any information brought before this Committee should be based on facts. In terms of the protocol for this Committee meeting, please minimise the use of mobile phones. All mobile phones are to be on silent mode while the meeting is in progress. I wish to remind honourable Members and our guests that all questions are to be addressed through the Chairperson. I would now like the honourable Members of the Committee to introduce themselves.

(Introduction of Committee Members)

Today, the Committee will be hearing submissions from the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and the iTaukei Affairs Board. This is in relation to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026, Bill No. 4 of 2026.

Before us, we have representatives from the Ministry, and I would like to thank them for availing themselves to appear at this hearing. Due to time constraints, you may give a brief presentation, and the

honourable Members will intervene with supplementary questions during your presentation. I now invite the officials from the Ministry to introduce themselves and then begin their presentation.

(Introduction of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and iTaukei Affairs Board officials)

MR. P. TUIONE.- Firstly, we acknowledge the opportunity given to the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and the iTaukei Affairs Board to be part of this consultation on this very important Bill, which we believe is aligned with how best we can address the well-being of our iTaukei communities and their needs in that regard. I think the governance structure is such that we really need the Bill in place so that we can better address their well-being. Mr. Chairman, we have submitted our written submission to the Secretariat, and I will briefly touch on some of our comments in regard to this draft. Overall, Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, we support it.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene? The Acting Permanent Secretary has just stated that he has provided a written submission. We have not received it.

MR. P. TUIONE.- Mr. Chairman, just this morning we have submitted a written submission. We have already emailed it to the Secretariat, and I think you will have time to review it. I will, however, briefly take the Committee through our written submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Have you received that, Secretariat?

SECRETARIAT.- Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Okay, we have not had access to that for the time being. Just give us a brief. If anything comes up on the screen, it will be sufficient for us.

MR. P. TUIONE.- Noted, Mr. Chairman. Overall, the Ministry supports the amendment of the Bill. The Bill highlights very important governance on how best we can look into public health in the rural sector in regard to iTaukei communities. We also note that the Bill recommends penalties that will assist our communities in complying with standards on how they manage public health in a holistic approach. Therefore, we support the Bill. However, there are a few matters that we would like to highlight this morning.

First is the clear definition of the boundary. The Bill refers to sanitary districts. The iTaukei governance structure has clear provincial boundaries that extend down to districts and villages. We would just like clarification on the definition of the boundary, as this would answer whether the Bill also includes villages. The reason being that we also have current regulations that clearly demarcate the public health component under the iTaukei regulations of 1996. These are some of the matters we would first like to highlight, and we would appreciate clarification if this can be clearly stated in the Bill.

Second to that, there are some mentions of the local authorities...

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Acting Permanent Secretary, what do you recommend for us to address as we move along in relation to the question raised by the Ministry?

MR. P. TUIONE.- Yes, I would prefer that they be addressed before we move to the next part, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, honourable Members. I believe that is a very important area that needs to be addressed. Remember they have their own by-laws in terms of how they

look at the structure of each village, in terms of the regulations that are covered in their own Bill, which they have already stated. On that note, honourable Members, if there is any query on that, the technical team will sum it up for us.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, I think the answer will come from our good friend from the Ministry of Health. However, I just want to know, as a matter of interest, the Acting Permanent Secretary has just mentioned that they have the 1996 regulations, which include the health aspect of it. I just want to know whether you had a look at those regulations before doing this amendment?

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, through you. A good point is being raised by the Acting Permanent Secretary, because in the Bill it talks about the power of entry. Does it mean that, when considering boundaries and the power of entry, it also includes villages?

MR. L. VUNITABUA.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, and the team from *iTaukei* Affairs. In terms of the boundaries in the current Act and also in the Bill, it is clearly stated that there is a Rural Local Authority and also an Urban Local Authority. The Urban Local Authority refers to municipal councils that look after ratepayers, and outside the urban area is the Rural Senatorial District. Those who do not pay town rates fall under the services provided under this Act by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

In the principal Act, the current Act that we have, Section 140 clearly states that the Public Health Act shall not be applied in *iTaukei* villages. That is Section 140. In the proposed Bill, we are proposing that the Act be applied to the whole of Fiji. That will also include *iTaukei* villages. This is the Public Health Act 1935 that we are seeking to review. In past experience, we have seen that we cannot enforce the Public Health Act in *iTaukei* villages. Although we receive a number of public health complaints from villages, we cannot enforce the Act because Section 140 does not allow the Act to be applied to *iTaukei* villages.

We also observe that many health issues arise from *iTaukei* communities, including animal keeping, cleanliness of villages, wastewater disposal, sanitary conditions in some villages, and mosquito breeding. These are the issues, and we also conduct monthly disease surveillance. You will note that a significant number of cases are coming from the *iTaukei* population compared to other populations. Leptospirosis cases are about 70 percent *iTaukei*, and dengue fever cases are also about 70 percent *iTaukei*. These are the challenges we are facing, and that is why we have proposed, in the interpretation part of the proposed Bill, that the Act be applied to the whole of Fiji.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Acting Permanent Secretary, does that answer your question, or do you have any further explanation on that?

MR. P. TUIONE.- Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the explanation from the team from Health. We also understand the issues that have been highlighted. It is a reality in some villages. However, we would suggest, as clearly stated by the honourable Member on Section 16, that the Head of Environment Health has the power to enter any premises. If it could be considered, for example, through consultation, because we have provisional regulations that state that for anyone to enter any villages, it needs to go through the Provincial Office and the *Turaga ni Koro*. If this could be considered in consultation with the Provincial Office, as there is existing legislation in place that may guide the matter, rather than allowing anyone to enter, as Section 16 states on powers to enter any premises and inspect, it would be good to consider that.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you, Acting Permanent Secretary. That area is noted by the team here with us. We will try to incorporate it as we proceed and will consult with honourable Members as well as our technical team from the Ministry of Health. It is well noted, and we will consider it.

MR. P. TUIONE.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, the second matter we would like to raise this morning is the clear definition of the word "obstruction" as highlighted in the compliance provisions. If this could be clearly defined in that context, it would assist understanding the current status of our villages. I think we need to clearly define this in order to understand what constitutes obstruction, and when a person may be considered to be in breach of compliance under this Act. Therefore, we would like to request that there be a clear definition of "obstruction."

MR. CHAIRMANI.- I believe the answer to that question will come from the Ministry's technical team who are present here with us this morning. If they can further deliberate on the importance of the subject matter, which is the obstruction area, the floor is open to you, Ministry of Health.

MR. P. TUIONE.- Section 16(a) page 9(c)

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, and members of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and the iTaukei Affairs Board. "Obstruction of duties" is something that is present in all sections of the Act. Simply, it is anything that may deny or prevent officers of the Board from carrying out their duties. This may take many forms, including refusal to permit entry into premises and refusal to allow officers of the Board to carry out any aspect of their duties as prescribed by the Board. These all constitute obstruction under the Public Health Act. For assistance, in terms of the submission today, this could also be included in the preliminary section of the Act, to assist anyone who seeks to clarify what is meant by "obstruction" in the Public Health Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, any supplementary questions?

HON. A. BIA.- I think the obstruction correlates very well with the power of entry. I am just putting forward an idea, and I think the Ministry of Health would also assist on this. In relation to the power of entry, with this Bill, I believe the Ministry respects the legislation and the laws that are already in place for villages as well as provincial councils. However, this is critical in the context of health emergencies, for example, COVID-19. What the Ministry of Health experienced during COVID-19 was the need to go through all procedures, even in an emergency situation, when accessing villages. I think this Bill will assist in enabling the Ministry of Health to respond more quickly in critical emergencies or health crises, should they occur again, so that we are better prepared.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Sir, for that. I believe the point is becoming clearer to everyone now. Acting Permanent Secretary, you may continue.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene? I just want to know from the Acting Permanent Secretary what some of the major concerns are that you wish to highlight in relation to this "obstruction" provision, because the honourable colleague here has clearly stated the reason behind including this in the Amendment Bill. He has also given an example of COVID-19 and what staff went through.

MR. P. TUIONE.- Mr. Chairman, I think the explanation from the Ministry of Health and also from the honourable Member is now clearly stated. Section 16(c) states obstruction of the Head of Environment Health and officers. Although it is not clearly defined in that section, it is now well clarified. In any emergency, including a COVID-19 outbreak or any disease outbreak, I think that is now well defined. We are raising this point because the penalty is $500. It does not clearly state the circumstances, particularly in emergencies, and I think that is very important for us to note.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- It is well noted, Acting Permanent Secretary. We are still having preliminary discussions at this stage. This is assisting both us and the Ministry before we compile the report back to Parliament. This is an area that we need to address from both sides.

MR. P. TUIONE.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, I think lastly, to conclude what we have found in our submission this morning, and from hearing from the team from Health, the Act will be including villagers and *iTaukei* communities. We appreciate that, in the sense that it also addresses some of the fundamental public health issues. However, we would like to also highlight that it is important to note that the Bill will be geared towards a community-centred health approach, where the people will be a very important component in this, especially in relation to our traditional *iTaukei* knowledge. There is knowledge within our practices that can assist the team from Health in relation to this Act.

Secondly, we appreciate the idea that consultation will be more inclusive across all communities. We would also like to highlight that. We are willing to say that you will be able to consider our Act as well, as well as the Regulations of 1996. We are willing to discuss further how we can synergise the two in order to achieve the objective of keeping our people healthy and resilient as we move towards the various challenges emerging in our villages, including health and other socio-economic factors.

Lastly, we would also like to highlight environmental stewardship. If the Ministry of Health can also consider this from the perspective of *iTaukei* culture, emphasising stewardship of land and sea resources, and how best the Board will be able to deliver the implementation of this Bill, considering these important resources that *iTaukei* people are blessed to own. We also wish to recognise customs and official programmes for sustainable health outcomes, if that can also be considered. In the legislative review, we also note cultural sensitivities; however, we believe this Bill is very important, and we would like to highlight that these aspects be considered moving forward.

In conclusion, this Bill would take a more holistic approach, where people will be committed to taking ownership of it and implementing it with a good heart, and with an understanding of its importance. This also extends to capacity building in villages. If there is a possibility for this to be translated into *iTaukei*, and for thorough consultations to be undertaken to raise awareness, that would be appreciated. We understand that the consultation programme we received was about one day in each province, and we hope that our health inspectors and specialists, with the assistance of the Roko Tui, will assist in improving awareness of this very important Bill, so that ultimately people will take ownership and be willing to implement it.

Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, I think that concludes our submission this morning. We would be willing to assist and may come back at a later date to submit our written submission again, if that can be allowed. We need to consult our team, provincial officers, and council members, and then we will submit another written submission in about two weeks' time. Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, we thank you again for this opportunity. This is all from the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and the iTaukei Affairs Board.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I believe what you have alluded to, in terms of the interpretation of the Bill in the three languages, was part of our request to the Ministry of Health. Maybe they are considering that as part of how best we can communicate with the public in those three languages. We were mindful, before going out to conduct consultations throughout Fiji, to have those versions readily available.

Ministry of Health, can you comment on that, particularly on getting that organised in the three languages before we go out, especially *iTaukei*, Hindi and English? Currently, it is in English, which we all agree on, but the other language versions also need to be available so that people can be fully aware during our consultations with the public.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- The proposed amendments in the Bill have already been translated into the iTaukei and Hindi languages. We are ready to circulate them when we conduct the consultations.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- By looking at the Bill and the presentation this morning, I believe they have covered all the key critical areas that need to be addressed in consultation with the Ministry of Health, apart from their own legislation, which they have already discussed with us. On that note, if there are any supplementary questions, they need to be raised now. They have already advised us that they will be submitting their written submission to us.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Acting Permanent Secretary and the team, the current law under the Act was not applied to villages. Once this amendment is passed and comes into force, it will now be applied in villages. You have mentioned obstruction and nuisance. The Bill also addresses some structures, particularly those we see in villages and rural areas, where structures may not have been constructed in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authority. Residents may also be required to vacate such structures, and these structures may be demolished. The penalties have also increased significantly under the proposed changes. What is your view on that?

MR. P. TUIONE.- What I have stated earlier is how best the two will work together. Our current public health penalties are not as high as those proposed in the revised legislation. Secondly, the structures in our villages are communal rather than individual. In that sense, we need to consider how some of these penalties will be addressed when looking at communal systems, such as drainage systems that are communally owned by the village. As rightly stated by the honourable Member, that is why I am requesting thorough awareness in this regard. If not, honestly speaking, more than 50 percent of our villages could be penalised. While that may be fair in some cases, some people may end up facing imprisonment or having to pay thousands of dollars in penalties. I am therefore requesting that thorough consultation and awareness be carried out before this is put into practice.

HON. V. PILLAY.- These penalties will be charged individually per home, not on a communal system. As soon as this law is passed, we can expect a number of complaints to be made to the relevant authorities. The law is very good, and everyone needs to be looked after in regard to public health. However, it is the manner in which it will be applied, and how people will be penalised, including the amounts stated in each instance, that is of concern, as they are quite significant.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ministry of Health, can you please enlighten us on what has been discussed so far, particularly on some of the important areas raised?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, certainly this is something that the iTaukei community will need to take on through advocacy. During the sessions that we will conduct prior to the actual rollout of enforcement, it may take one to two years, focusing on advocacy within the iTaukei settings that currently exist—through the Bose Vakoro, Bose ni Tikina, and Bose ni Yasana — ensuring that everyone is fully aware of the implications of the legislative changes.

I think the concern from the Ministry is well noted, as well as the concern from the honourable Member, that the community needs to have an understanding that once enacted and awareness is carried out, iTaukei communities will need to understand that certain matters now fall under a legal framework, rather than what previously existed under traditional arrangements. Mr. Chairman, any form of non-compliance will result in hefty fines, as described by the honourable Member—fines that are intended not to punish, but to deter such practices. On that note, I would also suggest to the Ministry and the Board, in their submissions over the next fortnight, that they look into what already exists under the iTaukei

Affairs Act, which they feel is not adequately covered in the Public Health Act, and perhaps make a submission to align the two.

One area in particular that stands out is the keeping of animals. In the Public Health Act, which applies to areas outside iTaukei communities, there is a standard of 200 feet, which is about 80 metres from the nearest structure—any house, church, mosque, garage, or school should be about 200 feet (80 metres) away. However, under the iTaukei Affairs by-laws, it clearly states that there should be no rearing of animals within Fijian or iTaukei villages. If they feel it would be better incorporated into the Public Health Act, then we would accept that submission to come through. Otherwise, this is taken into consideration by the team. Awareness and advocacy will certainly be one of the main priorities moving forward.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chairman, as you have mentioned in regard to animals, we have been to many villages, and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs will agree that we have seen piggery sheds located right beside houses. We have also seen cattle within close proximity to residential boundaries, and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs will be aware of the land sizes and boundaries involved. We also see water catchments where cattle are present in the surrounding areas. All these matters will need to be addressed once this Bill comes into force, as there are fines and other enforcement measures associated with non-compliance.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, again to the Permanent Secretary and the team from the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and the iTaukei Affairs Board, I guess now the onus is on you to re-look at the Bill and try to correlate it with what the Health officials have said regarding the current legislation, Acts, and processes that are in place. For example, this Bill, if passed, calls for a review in terms of the Integrated Village Development Plan (IVDP) and the village by-laws. All of this needs to incorporate many of the matters that have been raised here, which directly impact the lives of villages and communities in rural and maritime areas.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chairman, I see this Bill as very important. The laws are very important and should be applied to all. However, those are some of the issues we have observed currently happening, as I have stated, including matters relating to the penalties.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, we have gone through this. What this amendment does is safeguard the health and safety of all citizens so that no one is left behind. The basic issue here is our approach. As you have stated, you will provide a written submission, and we would like to know in detail the difference between your regulation and the amendment that has been proposed. When this was first tabled, we were all concerned that villages had now been included. We shared that sentiment at the time. However, after reviewing this and considering what we have experienced in this country, it is good to have laws in place.

That said, it is the approach and the fines that we need to revisit. Mr. Chairman, through you, we are very much willing to work with the Ministry to find ways and means. We do not want to impose something directly on the villages. As you mentioned 50 percent, I would say it is closer to 80 percent. So, we need to be very careful in what we do. We look forward to the submission you have assured us of, and then we will move forward.

MR. P. TUIONE.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of this forum, all the comments are noted. We will work with the Ministry of Health regarding our current bylaws that are in place. We agree on the importance of this Bill for the well-being of our people, especially our rural *iTaukei* communities. We also agree on the need to improve the approach to implementing this Bill. Our current Bill, just for

the forum's understanding, clearly states the issues that have been highlighted: rearing of animals, maintaining cleanliness, drainage, and so forth.

However, the penalties were not significant. Monitoring was usually carried out by our offices, the Roko Tui, together with inspections by inspectors. I believe the current Bill will strengthen monitoring and introduce higher penalties, which will assist greatly, but we must prepare our people well. We agree that awareness is essential. There will also be a need for Government to ensure that waterways and agriculture contribute to improving the main drainage systems.

Drainage is very important. It is one of the main issues, as these areas are breeding grounds for mosquitoes, which lead to diseases. I hope that, holistically, the Government, the Ministry, our provincial councils, and corporate companies will work together with the councils to achieve the intent of this Bill. Once again, *vinaka vakalevu* for this opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Acting Permanent Secretary. Any last comments from the Ministry? That brings us to the wrap-up of our session this morning on the Public Health (Amendment) Bill before us. There is just one more area that needs to be addressed while the Ministry is still here. I believe our Secretariats have been communicating with you regarding public consultation timelines and the areas we need to visit.

Looking at the stakeholders involved, we currently have over 30 stakeholders. In that regard, I believe the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs plays a very critical role in ensuring our reach during public consultations. Hopefully, the Ministry has taken note of our timelines as we prepare to engage with the respective areas under the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, particularly the provincial offices and district levels, right down to the advisory councils.

At this juncture, I sincerely thank you all for availing yourselves for this public hearing session. We appreciate your time and hope you will be available for any further queries the Committee may have on today's submission. On that note, honourable Members and our guests this morning, including representatives from both Ministries, I declare this meeting closed.

The Committee adjourned at 10.00 a.m.

The Committee resumed at 10.28 p.m.

Submittee - Ministry of Rural, Maritime & National Disaster Management

Attendance

1. Mr. Josefa Navuku - Deputy Secretary

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, members of the public, Secretariat staff, dear viewers, ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning to all. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone who is here in this room today, especially the viewers who are watching this public hearing session live.

At the outset, for information purposes, pursuant to Standing Order 111 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, all Committee meetings are to be open to the public. Therefore, please note that this submission is open to the public and media, and is also being aired via the *Walesi* platform and streamed live on Parliament's website and social media platforms.

For any sensitive information, honourable Members and our guests here this morning, concerning the matter before us that cannot be disclosed in public, this can be provided to the Committee either in private or in writing. However, please be advised that Standing Order 111, in the following circumstances, permits non-disclosure of the following:

- National security matters;
- Third-party confidential information;
- Personnel or human resources matters; and
- Committee deliberations and the development of the Committee's recommendations and report.

This is a parliamentary meeting, and all information gathered is covered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act 1965. Moving forward, please bear in mind that we do not condone slander or libel of any sort. Any information brought before this Committee should be based on facts. In terms of the protocol for this Committee meeting, please minimise the use of mobile phones, and all mobile phones are to be on silent mode while the meeting is in progress. I wish to also remind honourable Members and our guests that all questions are to be addressed through the Chairperson. I would now like the Members of the Committee to introduce themselves.

(Introduction of Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I would also ask the members of the submittees to introduce themselves.

(Introduction of team Health and team from Ministry of Rural and Maritime & Disaster Management)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Today the Committee will be hearing submissions from the Ministry of Rural and Maritime and Natural Disaster Management. This is in relation to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 of 2026. Before us, we have a representative from the Ministry, and I would like to thank him for availing himself to appear before us at this hearing. Due to the exigencies of time, you may give a brief response, and Members will intervene with supplementary questions.

MR. J. NAVUKU.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, senior advisors from the Ministry of Health, and officials of Parliament, I bring greetings from the Ministry of Rural and Maritime and Disaster Management. My name is Mr. Josefa Navuku, currently the Acting Deputy Secretary for the Ministry since December 2025, and my substantive post is Divisional Commissioner Central. At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to thank the Committee for the opportunity to participate in making submissions to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 of 2026. We thank you for this opportunity to be part of this transformation initiative.

As you are aware, this initiative is part of modernising and transforming legislation that was enacted 90 years ago. Speaking to the advisors on what is being proposed in the Bill, I am sure most advocates and rural development actors will look forward to participating in providing their suggestions to this transformation initiative. However, the Ministry kindly requests that our formal and detailed submission be provided within a fortnight, as we are currently in the process of consolidating comments from our four Divisional Commissioners and 14 Provincial Offices.

Given the importance of this Bill, it is only fair that each stakeholder, including our Ministry, provides detailed responses based on observations and experiences over time. We kindly request the Committee to bear with us while we provide our comments within the next fortnight. However, we will make a few brief comments today, and we would be grateful if these are taken on board and considered when the formal submission is received.

Mr. Chairman, we would also like to acknowledge the support from Team Health in the past. We are partners in working in the rural space, not only during normal times when we provide collective efforts in accessing essential services and basic needs for our fellow Fijians, but also during emergencies. We acknowledge Team Health for the support provided in such circumstances. We value these contributions, particularly in the rural space and in the context of this transformation of a key parent Act.

Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to highlight a few matters for the Committee's consideration. First and foremost, we emphasise the importance of the Bill and the proposed amendments that will be made over the next three to six months during the finalisation process. We respectfully request that the Bill be aligned with the National Disaster Risk Management Act 2024, as this is a new Act that provides guidance not only for natural disasters but also national disasters. We believe it is important that its spirit and provisions are taken into account during these amendments.

Second, Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, we acknowledge the importance of this Bill to the Ministry, particularly in the rural development space. The Ministry is currently undergoing a change management process under the rural development policy. The proposed amendments have a bearing on key programmes such as the High Risk Water and Sanitation programme and the Rural Housing Programme. These programmes have been returned to the Ministry in the last three years, and improvements are being made to their design. We respectfully request that any changes to the Rural

Housing Programme be aligned and harmonised with the Public Health Act amendments, so that improvements under the Bill are reflected in our programme design and parameters.

Third, Mr. Chairman, we wish to highlight the Ministry's ongoing change management process, which includes the development of the first-ever National Rural Development Policy. In the past, rural development has largely been based on goodwill and practice. Most line agencies, including Team Health, have their own Acts and provide interventions in the rural space. We would kindly request that, in discussing the amendments, Team Health also be invited to contribute to the ongoing development of the National Rural Development Policy. We look forward to incorporating improvements from the Public Health (Amendment) Bill into that policy framework.

Fourth, Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, public health in the rural space remains a critical platform for development, both in normal times and during emergencies. We suggest consideration be given for representation from our Ministry in coordination mechanisms proposed under the Bill, at both national and sub-national levels. We note ongoing discussions on strengthening coordination through central public health and local authority structures. Given our network at divisional and provincial levels, including our coordination with District Advisory Councils, Provincial and Divisional Heads of Departments, as well as support in Bose ni Tikina and Bose ni Yasana forums, we respectfully request inclusion in these coordination mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, as stated earlier, our formal and detailed submission will be provided within a fortnight. This will incorporate experiences and observations from our 14 Provincial Offices. We also stand ready to assist the Committee and Parliament during the consultation phase across the 14 provinces. Please do not hesitate to engage our Divisional Commissioners and Head Office to support logistics, venues, and participation, given our existing network.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, we thank you for the opportunity to participate in this transformation initiative this morning. We confirm that our detailed submission will be provided within the next fortnight.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- In summary, honourable Members, I believe there were four major areas of concern that need to be addressed. Apart from that, they have already given us the green light that they will go back within two weeks' time to submit their written submission to the Committee. The floor is now open, honourable Members. Are there any further supplementary questions based on the four subject areas we have discussed?

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, just for confirmation or clarification, will the National Rural Development Policy (NRDP) replace the Integrated Rural Development Framework of 2009?

MR. J. NAVUKU.- Thank you, honourable Member, for the question. The National Rural Development Policy is currently being developed based on the findings of the review of the Integrated Rural Development (IRD) Framework. As honourable Members are aware, the IRD Framework was introduced in 2009 to assist in coordinating rural development. We engaged a consultant under the Ministry's guidance and undertook a change management process. Part of this included reviewing the IRD Framework with stakeholders, including Team Health. Based on those findings and with the approval of Cabinet, we are currently in the process of developing the Rural Development Policy.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, just a supplementary question to that. Why I ask this is because, as you have mentioned, the current Bill before the Committee, the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, directly correlates with the policy and the framework that are in place. My suggestion

would be to wait for the Bill to be passed and integrate it with the new policies and the framework and regulations that will be implemented by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development to cater for rural communities, including those in the maritime islands as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Just one area of concern from my side is the National Disaster Risk Management (Amendment) Act, which we believe is already in force. Can the Ministry of Health provide some further explanation on how it overlaps or collaborates with the current Public Health Act?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- The National Disaster Risk Management Act 2024 has a significant bearing on health emergencies. One of the greatest health emergencies the country has experienced is COVID-19, and through this we gained important lessons in incorporating health emergencies into the current framework under the National Disaster Risk Management Office.

Post-COVID-19, there were extensive consultations between the two Ministries to align the Incident Management Team within the Ministry of Health with the national framework, which addresses not only natural disasters but also other disasters and emergencies, as clearly outlined by the representative. This is something we will continue to look at moving forward, particularly in terms of how it can support and empower the public health sector during health emergencies. One of the key gaps identified during COVID-19 was the lack of coverage in empowering Divisional Commissioners to mobilise resources and manpower during health emergencies, compared to natural disasters.

This was a key area discussed between the two Ministries, and the objective is to align public health emergency response under the National Disaster Risk Management Framework. This would empower coordinated support in the implementation of the Public Health Act, particularly the amendments relating to infectious diseases, which were central to the COVID-19 response. If that answers the question, Mr. Chairman.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- In addition to that, under the National Disaster Risk Management framework, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services leads two of the clusters: the Health and Nutrition Cluster and the WASH Cluster under the cluster system. Also, in terms of coordination mechanisms, just to clarify for the honourable Member from the Ministry of Rural and Maritime, there are proposals for Provincial Administrators to be members of the Local Authority and for the Chair of the District Advisory Council to be included. These are new proposals that have been made through the Committee's recommendations.

In all Local Authorities in Fiji, when this is brought back, the Provincial Administrators, the Roko Tui, and the Chair of the District Advisory Council will be members. This assists in strengthening coordination mechanisms at both the national level and the sub-national or district level.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I thank you very much, honourable Members and our guests, especially our team from the Ministry of Health who are present here this morning. At this juncture, I wish to sincerely thank you all for availing yourselves for this public hearing session. We thank you for your time and hope that you will be available for any further queries that the Committee may have arising from today's submission.

Before I close this important meeting this morning, as our Acting Permanent Secretary is still here with us, I believe coordination is happening between the Secretariat of the Parliament and your Ministry on how best we can proceed with public consultation and public submissions. While noting what you have outlined this morning, I hope there is a combination of resources that will need to be addressed.

You hold a very important role when going out to the rural areas under your Ministry Act and the policies being implemented, and hopefully that will support us in meeting the timelines and deadlines set by Parliament in consultation with the Ministry. On that note, I declare this meeting closed.

The Committee adjourned at 10.51 a.m.

VERBATIM REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Public Health (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 4 of 2026).

SUBMITTEES : **1) Nasinu Town Council**

2) Ministry Of Tourism And Civil Aviation

VENUE : Big Committee Room, Parliament

DATE : Tuesday, 9th June, 2026

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST/WEST WING), PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS ON TUESDAY, 9TH JUNE, 2026 AT 11.25 A.M.

Interviewee/ Submittee: Nasinu Town Council

In Attendance

1. Mr. Jone Tuiono - Special Administrator
2. Ms. Lydia Eliana Lazel - Special Administrator (Legal Officer)
3. Ms. Kritisha Chand - Assistant Health Inspector

Ministry of Health

1. Mr. Toga Vosataki - National WASH Coordinator
2. Mr. Luke Vonotabua - Acting Chief Health Inspector

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, members of the public, Secretariat, dear viewers, ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning to all. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone, especially the viewers who we are watching this public hearing session live.

At the outset, for information purposes, pursuant to Standing Order 111 of the Standing Order of Parliament, all Committee meetings are to be open to the public. Therefore, please note that this submission is open to the public and the media, and is being aired via the Walesi platform, streamlined live on the Parliament website and social media platform.

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In terms of protocol of this Committee meeting, please minimise the usage of mobile phones and all mobile phones to be on silent mode while the meeting is in progress. I wish to also remind the honourable Members and our guests that all questions to be asked are to be addressed through the Chairperson. I would like the honourable Members of the to introduce themselves and the officials from the Ministry of Health.

(Introduction of honourable Committee Members)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Today the Committee will be hearing submission from the Nasinu Town Council in relation to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 4 of 2026). Before us, we have the representatives from the Nasinu Town Council, and I would like to thank them for availing themselves to appear to this hearing. Due to the essence of time, you may give a response brief. The honourable

Members will intervene with a supplementary question during the presentation. Now I invite the officials to introduce themselves and begin with their presentation.

(Introduction of officials from Nasinu Town Council)

MR. J. TUIONO.- Today we will discuss our submissions and will later submit the written form, but we are verbally making our submissions to the Committee this morning. We noted the Public Health Act of 1935 and its direct implications with the Local Government Act of 1972. We also noted that there are overlaps between these two pieces of legislations that need to be considered and taken on board.

Our first point is local authorities and governance. We noted that the Public Health Act clearly establishes local authorities as key actors in the sanitary districts with powers to enforce health regulations, inspect premises, and abate nuisances. The Local Government Act defines council's structure, duties, and by-laws, including authority over drainage, waste, housing, and streets.

Where they overlap, the councils are the implementing arms of public health policy at the municipal level. I need to emphasise that it is not at the national level, but at the municipal level. That is where the council's powers are enshrined within its jurisdiction and boundaries. I will ask our legal officer to enlighten us on some of the issues on the topic of local authorities and governance.

MS. L. LASEL.- Honourable Chairman, through you, we just want to bring to the Committee's attention to the Public Health Bill. I refer the Committee to clause 5, the new section 5(d) (e), whereby the board has powers over the local authorities. According to this clause, the board can supervise the councils, summon the councils, perform council's functions, recover costs from the council, and exercise all powers of a local authority. The suggestion from the Nasinu Town Council submission today recommends that before the board exercises powers on behalf of the local authority, there must be mandatory consultation, written notice, and an opportunity for the local authority to rectify the issue.

MR. J. TUIONO.- Secondly, on sanitation and waste management.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Chairman, firstly you are saying at the municipal level. Do you not consider the extended boundary as well. That is one. The other point is that the board has a representative. So, what you are saying is that it should be mandatory for the board to consult municipalities before implementing anything, but your representative is already on the board. What are you basically trying to tell us?

MR. J. TUIONO.- Thank you, honourable Member. I think the authority and powers rest with the local municipal council. The board that sits in the council has the legal authority under the Act to take charge of this, rather than the provision that the Health Act supersedes or comes into more powers over the Local Government Act. Does that answer your question, sir?

HON. P.K. BALA.- No, I was just responding to her comment because the whole idea of having representatives from different stakeholders to be part of the board is what has basically been said. They will make sure that the interests of those stakeholders are always represented. That is why I see there is a disconnection. But if you can emphasise on that.

MS. L. LASEL.- Chairman, through you, what we suggested here is that because the board currently, under this amended Bill, will supervise the councils. It summons the council on matters, performs council's functions, recover costs from Councils, and exercise all powers of local authority. Our suggestion here is to recommend, just before the Board exercise its powers, on behalf of the local authority, there must be consultations to be conducted before they can rectify the issue. This is just a suggestion from the Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We will give the floor to the Ministry to highlight the importance of the issues on the consultation between the two respective entities.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Thank you so much for the point brought forth for clarification on the proposed amendment to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026. The idea that is coming across is thinking of them as two separate entities. However, we believe, from the Ministry of Health, that the establishment in 1935 of local authorities was such that it was of the same body. The Central Board of Health is a centralised body that then delegated its powers to Rural Local Authorities and Urban Local Authorities. If we think about it in that way, they are not two entities coexisting, but rather a parent body, and part of that parent body being delegated powers to perform in rural and in urban.

Having a member being present in the body itself is basically what the honourable Member was referring to. It takes away the feeling of separating the entities, rather it is part of the same body. The amendment that is being referred to is the inclusion of subsection 3, meaning, if the Board supervises both works in urban and rural sanitary districts and if there is a current work that needs to be done that the local authority cannot do, then the Board appoints someone to do the work. The cost is then bored by the local authority, simply because maybe on that level they do not have the expertise to do the work required or the mechanics to ensure that the works are carried out according to what the Board feels is necessary to be done. This is why that particular clause is included in the amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much Ministry of Health, for your enlightenment on that issue of concern. We believe that we are all here for one common purpose, and we are moving forward. Hopefully, your written submission will be inclusive on that. When we tidy it up from the Committee's perspective, that will be part of our submission, when we compile our report. I hope this is very clear. We are all here to discuss issues of concern. There should not be any barrier between the two entities. That is clearly stated when the statements that have been alluded to by the Ministry of Health.

MR. J. TUIONO.- Our second common area of interest is sanitation and waste management. The Public Health Act requires proper pre-release, drains, dustbins, and regulates cesspits, refuse, disposal, and sanitary services. The Local Government Act, on the other hand, grants councils powers over drainage, sewerage, and sanitary services. The overlap, both Acts mandate councils to maintain hygienic environments and enforce waste management standards. I will hand over to our legal opinion on this issue.

MS. L.E. LAZEL.- For this, I want to refer the Committee to clause 13. It is about water and sewage design approval. In here, the Board gains authority to approve, revoke, and penalise water and sewage design. From the Nasinu Town Council, we need to clarify the relationship between the Board, the Municipal Councils, Water Authority Fiji, and Planning Authority to prevent duplications and delay in development approvals.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much madam for that on the sanitation and the water management.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Thank you, honourable Chairman, and thank you so much for the question, for the clarification to the Committee. This was something that we touched on a little bit yesterday with Water Authority of Fiji in regards to first time designs, if you are introducing a new design for either a septic tank or water treatment system that has never been used in the country, this needs to be submitted to the Central Board of Health to vet, gather information and then make the final decision to approve or revoke the design based on global best practises and gathering information from our technical expertise through our partners, through Ministry of Public Works and other partners that exist.

The intention here is to govern that no one comes up with their own design and implement it because this may result, as I mentioned yesterday, in a big typhoid outbreak or other infectious disease outbreak in times of emergency when there is a mass damage to sanitary facilities, what can be the bare

minimum that can be used and that should be approved by the board as well to ensure that what is being used, that post-disaster short-term response does not lead to ripple effect of further health complications down the line. I believe that clarifies that point, Honourable Chairman.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Chairman, may I intervene, so what about the existing ones? I mean, it is well and good to submit the new designs, however, I think the majority will fall on the existing ones, so how will municipal Council handle that at their level?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Thank you honourable Member. To assist in clarification, the current Act addresses that, the Central Board of Health will give the continuous approval of designs. We also have a set of designs that is referred to as, Central Board of Health (CBH) approved.

If any community or any partner would like to implement a sanitary facility or water treatment, they would reach out to the Central Board of Health for any designs, and we would refer them to the designs that have been already approved by the Central Board. The existing designs are still there, we do not throw them away, however, it is only considering new designs that become more environmentally friendly and cost effective for rural communities. These are the ones that are coming in and we feel that the Central Board of Health needs to continue with the monitoring.

HON. V. PILLAY.- With the current amendment Bill in discussion and under Nasinu Town Council, we see the number of informal settlements in the villages around. What are some of the current challenges in regard to the waste management, with regards to the complaints you receive and how you deal it in regard to the penalties? Whether people are currently charged with the amount that is in place? Whether some people have been taken to court? What are the current challenges? If you can explain, then I will raise my second question.

MR. J. TUIONO.- Honourable Member, I must admit that we are overburdened right now as I speak about Nasinu town because of the number of informal settlements, a total of 54 of informal settlements a total of 54 informal settlements all together that has even expanded our ability to service their needs. While the emphasis is on rate payers, we also cannot overlook that these informal settlements are also taxpayers in terms of VAT. They have every right to demand the services of Government. In that we are providing rubbish collections, for example. We run our rubbish trucks to pick up their rubbish at certain locations.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, may I intervene. I think let us not confuse ourselves.

MR. J. TUIONO.- Alright, sir.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Even though they are paying VAT or whatever that does not give them right for the service they need. They have to pay their town rates for the service delivery.

MR. J. TUIONO.- Through you, Mr. Chairman, that is a valid comment. We would love to have them pay their rates to us, but the law inhibits does not permit us to do that. It has to go up to another level where the honourable Members seated here will have that to take up to the national Government that can be legislated by law.

HON. V. PILLAY.- My second question is once this law is passed with the number of informal settlements and the infrastructure not in place there is huge penalties associated to the law. You already must be receiving a lot of complaints within the municipalities and informal settlements because of waste management and all this Bill will give more power with huge penalties. Do you think this is fair without the infrastructure in place?

MS. L. LASEL.- Mr. Chairman, through you, I think under this Public Health (Amendment) Bill Clauses 25 to 29, speak about the increase of penalties and the numerous penalties increase is very dramatically. You can see that, for example, a $20 fine which is current now has increased to $1,000, $10 is to $5,000 and $40 is to $1,000 and general offences is up to $5,000. The Council view that while the stronger penalties encourage compliances, the increase may be excessive for us especially in Nasinu where low and medium household earners is housed within the boundary and small businesses. So, we find any challenges like what you have mentioned. So, what we recommended is to introduce a warning notice maybe to give a compliance period before the significant penalties are imposed and that is something that we have already put in our submission to be suggested to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, madam, for that. It is part of your written submission. We are looking forward.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chairman, through you, here we are talking about shelters, homes which are not in conditions. This Bill will also empower and give power to the offices where they can vacate people. The shelters can be demolished. This will be a huge issue for our people especially in the informal settlements and in the villages. I do acknowledge your response in regard to the penalties which the Committee will decide at a later stage, but we are talking about good houses. We are talking about good drains. We are talking about good wastewater management system. This cannot happen overnight. Do you think there should be some time frame or some vigorous awareness as far as all these issues are concerned so we can prepare our people given a time frame?

MR. J. TUIONO.- Mr. Chairman, we thought of implementing some precautionary measures rather than accepting the penalties that are highlighted in this Bill taking that into consideration that our people are not yet ready to be met with such draconian penalties, and some of them will go to prison if they do not pay up. Who is going to mend and balance the needs of that particular family if that happens?

Secondly, we really need to look at revolutionary building code practices to be implemented, rather than, we go ahead with the suggestion of the Bill. I strongly support the honourable Member's insertion that we give a time frame to this.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Before I go on to the informal settlement – you have 54 informal settlements – I want to clarify myself. What I meant was, on the rating aspect, that those who live in the informal settlements, do not pay rate, but you can levy them special charges. Secondly, you have the largest number of informal settlements in Fiji and we, as a Committee, do not want to see that we do a law that will affect people. We need to see how this law is designed to assist people.

Considering that, we need to have some breathing space, so what is the time frame? Earlier on, a stakeholder came here and said that all these informal settlements will be brought to the subdivision stage. It will take time. However, once this law is implemented, as you have stated, most of them will be put behind bars. What is the time frame that you people are looking at, to suggest, maybe not now, but in your written submission after discussing with your colleagues? It is important for this Committee to know what is the breathing space that we are looking at.

MR. J. TUIONO.- We have thought of commissioning a study on this, and there are a lot of studies that had happened with some of these NGOs and educational institutions. However, this needs to have a broader study so that any law that is implemented will be enveloping all the needs that is on the ground. Just saying this, I am reflecting on the 1935 Act to see how much study was done for the framers of that Act to sustain them over the years until today, and now we are moving to review that. Everything is done on Commission studies. When we try to quickly amend an Act without proper studies, it has

negative implications in the end. I take your suggestion on board honourable Member. It is a very valid suggestion. We will look into that deeply, Mr. Chairman for that matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Council for that. I believe the Ministry of Health will be able to give us some in-depth highlights on what had already been discussed and alluded to.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Of course, certainly a good point for discussion. The increase in penalties and the shift from the old mechanism to the new fixed penalty notices, is based on experience of the officers on the ground. For 91 years, we had been doing abatement notices, follow-up visits, and with the current disease burden year after year from our communities suffering outbreaks on an annual basis is in itself an indicator that things need to change. We feel that these fines are not there to punish. If we look from the punishment point of view, then obviously it feels a bit heavy on our fellow citizens. However, the fines that are being introduced are there just to inform our fellow citizens that this is a deterrent if you do not comply with public health standards that are clearly demarcated within the Public Health Act. Again, the penalty of not exceeding $20 to not exceeding $1,000 is providing a ceiling of which a detailed categorisation then will be followed through in the Public Health Regulation that will be specific to individual nuisances that is identified in Section 56 right down to Section 62 of the current Act.

Depending on the severity of the nuisance, the health risk that the nuisance poses; the fine will be allocated accordingly. Simple nuisance can be fined $50 before they are given time to rectify, failure to rectify or attempt to rectify, then will lead into charge and summons for them to appear before the magistrate and they can plead with the magistrate if they need more time for the leniency of the court. That is what we feel is fair. There are always grounds for appeal that our fellow citizens can always resort to.

We feel that if the Bill is passed, we can dedicate maybe a whole year with advocacy and awareness in DEC meetings, in community meetings, in Tikina Council meetings, provincial council meetings, in the media, massive campaigns that our citizens need to know that the Public Health Act has been amended in such a way that if you are doing this, you need to rectify it before enforcement takes place. This is something that we will, of course, prioritise before the actual enforcement is rolled out.

We do believe that on a case-to-case basis whereby infrastructure is not available, this will be considered by the officers when they issue the fines as well. While we want to guide the communities in raising the living standard, we want to be as impactful as possible in terms of bringing down the disease burden and making our Fiji communities healthier and more productive.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Chairman, through you, we all agree that we need to strengthen our public health, there is no doubt about it. But we need to be real in terms of what we are discussing and what we want. My concern is that, as you have stated, that the officers will determine the charges, but I do not see any mechanism where the determination will come from. Sometimes staff work on a mood basis. If the mood is good, good. If the mood is bad, instead of $50, $200. In the absence of the mechanism to determine, that is where our concern is. But if you can explain the mechanism to us, it will help the Committee.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Chairman, through you and thank you, honourable Member, for the question. Yes, this is certainly something that we feel is very important, not allowing personal feelings to affect the judgement of the officers. That is basically why it has been proposed that in the regulation, there is a table listing the nuisance, the type of nuisance, and the penalty that it is accorded to that. And they cannot go beyond that. If it says greywater disposal from domestic property, fine

of $50, just because they do not like the way the property owner is speaking to them, they cannot charge them $1,000. They have to abide by the regulations and the categorisation that is there.

MR. J. TUIONO.- For the convenience of time, I think I will just run through. Please allow her to respond to the last question.

MS. L.E. LAZEL.- While going through the Bill, what I could not find here is what covers the enforcement officers when they go out in regards to the penalties. It will be a high risk when our officers are going out in the public. I did not see that being covered in here. However, what we suggest from the Council is, the compensation which they are liable for. Sometimes when our officers are out there, they are being bitten by dogs or even at a stage they will be physically assaulted by some members of the public. Who is liable for that or who will compensate that? Is it coming from the Council or who is liable to pay that compensation? Our suggestion if that can be captured in the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The Ministry of Health is listening to that and we will take note of that. That will be part of your submission, and we are here to look into that too.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chairman, on that point, can those residents be charged under nuisance when it is associated with a huge penalty? For example, what you have said, the officers are going to premises and are bitten by a dog and all that. There is a section under nuisance that can be applied and there is a huge penalty.

MR. J. TUIONO.- Our third common area of interest is nuisance control. Public Health Act defines nuisance as incendiary premises, pollution, overcrowding, mosquito breeding, and empowers local authorities to inspect and abate them. The Local Government Act authorises councils to regulate noise, litter, hawkers, and other community disturbances through bylaws. The overlapping issue here is councils act as enforcement bodies for nuisance abatement protecting public health and community order. I think that also ties very well with what has been expressed today when our officers go out to issue these penalties and what is covered is meted out for them.

HON. P.K. BALA.- This is something that Councils have challenges, especially in terms of stray dogs. It is a nuisance, and I am surprised that is missing here. The Ministry of Agriculture also comes into the picture, but I would suggest if in the written submission the Municipal Council can include it in because maybe this is the right time, since it is the biggest challenge for all the municipalities.

MR. J. TUIONO.- The fourth issue is on building and housing. The Public Health Act sets requirements for building sites, privies and demolition of unsafe structures. The Local Government Act provides Council's authority over housing schemes, land acquisition and regulation of streetlights and drainages. The overlapping issue is that councils regulate construction standards to ensure safe and healthy living conditions. The fifth issue here is on food.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Can you just elaborate a little bit on the overlaps?

MR. J. TUIONO.- Overlapping on building and housing, can I have our legal elaborate on that?.

MS. L.E. LAZEL.- What I have noted here is under clause 41 in your Bill. That is common lodging housing, which includes Airbnb. Basically, this clause assists the council in regulating lodging houses, Airbnb operations, and waste management. The Council's perspective strongly supports this clause, but requests authority to impose additional local licencing requirements through bylaws.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The Ministry is taking note of that and it is part of the Bill under renewals.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Since we have Ministry officials here, can they provide information on that in respect of licencing?

MR. LUKE VONOTABUA.- Thank you honourable Chairman and honourable Members. The Bill is quite clear, where it states that the local authority is to register all house letters lodging and common lodging houses which means that the urban local authority referring to the councils also register as well as the rural local authorities will register including what is proposed in the Bill is a rented house and commercial because that is where a lot of the complaints are coming from due to substandard sanitary condition and the standard of the house. That is covered in the Bill in terms of the registration however, in terms of leaving a fee, that is absent from it.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- In that case, can we accommodate that to be part of the written submission from the councils? Feel free the floor is still open for discussions.

MR. J. TUIONO.- The fifth issue is on food safety and public spaces. Public Health Act regulates bake houses, butchers, hairdressers and food premises to prevent contamination. Local Government Act allow councils to manage markets, car parks and public spaces. The overlap is that councils oversee food safety and hygiene in public marketplaces and commercial premises. On number six which is our final issue that we are highlighting is supervision and enforcement.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The Ministry is willing to comment on that especially for Part five regarding food safety and public spaces.

MR. LUKE VONOTABUA.- Honourable Chairman through you and Members of the Committee and our counterparts from the National Town Council. You will see that part four is being repealed on food safety and it is covered under the Food Safety Act. Food Safety Act in I think 2003 and Food Safety Regulation of 2009. That has covered the food safety component and the offices including in the local government and in the local authority are again appointed to be authorised officers to enforce the Food Safety Act and Food Safety Regulation. I hope that clears on the food safety issues.

MS. L.E. LAZEL.- Thank you honourable Chairman. The Bill under Clause (57) on water quality monitoring. Basically, in this Bill, it is the local authorities that may require us to conduct water testing, provide alternative water supplies, undertaking monitoring programmes. The suggestion to the Committee is that the Government should provide dedicated funding and technical resources because the council may not have the sufficient capacity to perform these functions.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Can that be brought as a written submission to us?

MS. L.E. LAZEL.- Yes honourable Chairman.

MR. J. TUIONO.- Final point is supervision and enforcement of the Public Health Act Amendment Bill 2026 strengthens the central board of health supervisory role over councils, expands enforcement power and increases penalties for breaches. Local government provides ministerial oversight of councils and their bylaws. The overlap is of both Acts establish multi-level governance where councils enforce but higher authorities supervise and ensure compliance.

With that in mind honourable Chairman, I think the power on the central board of health from our point of view is quite overburdening to some extent because they are encroaching into our authority as jurisdiction within our boundaries under the Local Government Act. If that can be reconsidered.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, any supplementary question on that?

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, coming by way of just clarification I think the Ministry of Health can also assist in this. Just by looking at the submission that was made today in terms of all the overlaps that are there on the six issues that you have raised there is an air of confusion in terms of the roles that you play, the local authorities and the role that the Ministry or the controlling body plays under the Public Health Act. If you look clearly again at Section 5(d)(1)(2)(3), it clearly outlines that the Public Health Act the controlling body cannot interfere in the process or the work of local authorities. They can continue with their work. So, in case if the local authority continues to delay or continues not to adhere to the issues that have been raised by the public then the controlling body will come in which clearly articulated in 5(d) of the Public Health Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN.-Thank you very much, honourable Member, for that update on the same subject matter that we are discussing currently.

MR. LUKE VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, again the powers of the supervision and all the other duties it has to do with the implementation of the Public Health Act only. The Board will not take over the Council or other things that is regulated under the Local Government Act and the bylaws of the Council. It only has to do with the implementation of the Public Health Act.

So, I think there is an appointment too that is made that all Environmental Health Practitioners once I think they are given a practising licence by a body like the Fiji Allied Health and the Fiji Institute of Environmental Health the board appoints them to enforce the Public Health Act in the area that they are going to be working. That would include all the municipal councils in Fiji and the Rural Local Authority.

So, basically the supervision as I have mentioned is to do with the implementation of the Public Health Act only. I hope that is clear.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for your update. The forum that is here this morning are all aware of what is actually being said between it is a discussion issue of relevant authorities. Honourable Members and other supplementary question before we wrap it up this morning.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chairman, my last question to the Nasinu Town Council. We all are aware in settlements, villages and in informal settlements, there are some good structures, good buildings with good wastewater management system and there are nearby homes with not good wastewater system temporary shelters and all that.

The Bill in its current form if it is passed with the penalties in place, there can be serious social issues in the communities because you will start to receive the complaints from the nearby residents that the other residents does not have the right wastewater management system. What we heard earlier from Ministry of Health in regard to the measures in place or time frame for awareness and giving people the opportunity to fix those issues because one side they will start to receive the penalties and the other side they will have to fix that issue. So, there can be a big social issue. What is your view on that?

MR. J. TUIONO.- Mr. Chairman through you, I think it is a valid suggestion and we from the Council are very mindful of the importance of the Act has to be attuned to the needs of the people on the ground that is our stand because quite often we plan at the higher level without recognising the struggle that people face on the ground.

Again, I re-emphasise that the Council is the mirror of a national Government. Democracy at the national level, is felt it should be alive at the local community level. When I mentioned democracy, it is entailing and enveloping all the issues that are raised from our honourable Members here today. For the

Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Local Government to take that into serious considerations, for policy makers, planners, and even those in authorities who make approval of this Bill, should take that into serious consideration.

Most of our people are not as affluent as most people in developed countries. We are not a matured capitalist economy. We are just an island economy that is striving, trying to find a way to chart its path into these modernised communities and societies. Take that into mind. Do not run us so quickly because we will confuse everyone. Putting penalties as punitive measures, draconian in its sense, will rebound and have a negative effect on the people.

MS. L.E. LAZEL.- Mr. Chairman to add on to that, to answer the honourable Member's question, I think we have a task here in the Nasinu. If this Bill is going to be passed, then we must do an awareness to its fullness to the communities, to the schools, and to everyone in the Nasinu, including the informal settlements, even though they are not our ratepayers. The second thing is to do a publication through newspapers, media, social media, whatever, so that it can reach every household and for them to understand the law is very important.

Lastly, we are encouraging these hands across the Nasinu area, working with other stakeholders. I think that is another platform that we can use so that this awareness can reach everyone and every citizen within the Nasinu area.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Nasinu Town Council, for a very lively discussion this morning based on this subject that is before us. We are all mindful of the importance of this. The Ministry plays a critical role on that, and relevant stakeholders too have been taken on board. That is why we are given the opportunity for almost more than 30-plus stakeholders involved before they actually come back to us during our discussion period. There is a huge role for us to play when we go up to the public to hear their voices out on the public submission. It is due in two weeks' time.

Hearing from the relevant stakeholders, like you, who are present here this morning, now we came to realise the importance of why we need to discuss within the Ministry and the stakeholders. The important role that you play will be part of our consideration when we actually submit our report based on the relevant stakeholders' recommendations and we will be moving out to the public to hear their views. We are still at the processing stage. If there is a need for you to come back to us with a written submission, it may happen that after you submit, something pop-ups again that need to be rectified with us, feel free to come back to us.

We are given a task for almost three months to come back to Parliament to table this Bill. The opportunity from the stakeholders and the public is always open. Our Secretariat is willing to accommodate that during our correspondence period. We are looking forward for your written submission, maybe in whatever time that will be given to us. We will consider all those as part of our suggestion here this morning.

On that note, at this juncture, I wish to sincerely thank you all for availing yourselves, especially the Nasinu Town Council. Our public hearing this session play a very critical role in making our final suggestion, which will enable the Committee to table back to Parliament in due course. We thank you for your time and hope that you will avail yourself for any further queries that the Committee may feel that you have in your submission time in the due course that we are looking forward. On that note, thank you very much for your presence here this morning. I thank the team from the Ministry of Health and honourable Members. I declare this meeting closed.

The Committee adjourned at 12.19 p.m.

The Committee resumed at 12.26 p.m.

Submittee			Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation
In Attendance			
1.	Ms. Salaseini Daunabuna	-	Permanent Secretary
2.	Ms. Jacinta	-	Director
3.	Ms. Annie Kwan Sing	-	Manager Policy and Standards
	Ministry of Health Officials		
1.	Mr Luke Vonotabua	-	Health Chief Inspector
2.	Mr. Toga Vosataki	-	National Wash Coordinator

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Members of the public, secretariat, dear viewers, ladies and gentlemen, a very good day to all of you, and it is a pleasure to welcome everyone, especially the viewers that are watching this public hearing session. At the outset, for information purposes, pursuant to Standing Order 111 of the Standing Order of Parliament, all committee meetings are to be open to the public. Therefore, please note that this submission is open to the public and the media, and it is also being aired via the Walesi platform, streamlined live on Parliament website and social media platform.

For any sensitive information concerning the matter before us this afternoon that cannot be disclosed in public, this can be provided to the Committee either in private or in writing. However, please be advised that Standing Order 111, in the following circumstances, permit for non-disclosure of information and these are based on national security matters, third party confidential information, personnel or human resources matters, and Committee deliberation and development of the Committee's recommendation based on this report.

This is a parliamentary meeting, and all information gathered is covered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act of 1965. Moving forward, please bear in mind that we do not condone slander or libel of any sort. Any information brought before this Committee should be based on facts. In terms of protocol for this Committee meeting, please minimise the usage of mobile phones and all mobile phones to be in silent mode while the meeting is in progress. I wish to also remind honourable Members and our guests that all questions to be asked are to be addressed through the Chairperson.

I would like the members of the Committee to introduce themselves and the official from the Ministry of Health.

(*Introduction of Committee Members and officials from Ministry of Health and Medical Services)*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Today the Committee will be hearing from the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation. This is in relation to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 of 2026. And before us, honourable Members, are the representatives from the Ministry, and I would like to thank them for availing themselves to appear at this hearing. Due to the essence of time, you may give a response brief, and members will be due to the essence of time you may give a brief response, and honourable Members will intervene with a supplementary question. Now I will invite the official from the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation to introduce themselves and begin with their presentation.

MS. S. DAUNABUNA.- *Bula vinaka,* Mr. Chairman and the honourable Members of the Committee. We are here this morning from the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation. I will invite my colleagues to introduce themselves before I do my submission.

(Introduction of the officials from the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation)

MS. S. DAUNABUNA.- We, from the Ministry, look after two of the key sectors in the country, which are tourism and aviation. Our submission this morning will speak to a few of the clauses of the Bill, which really touch on the tourism sector. We recognise that the Bill is a very good attempt to modernise the legislation. If you look at the year of enactment of the original legislation, almost spans 90 years, almost a century, it is about time that we modernise some of the provisions. From our side, we want to highlight six specific provisions and if we are able to get clarifications on those as we progress. However, there are only six specific clauses that we wish to highlight.

Firstly, in terms of clause 3(d), we note that there is introduction of an amendment to the definition of 'house let as 'lodgings'. We want to seek clarification if this is also an attempt to bring in accommodation types that exist as Airbnb accommodations. If that is the case, we see that there is no simplified compliance framework for small-scale local operators and there should be room for equal playing field for those that operate within this space. The updated definition on 'house let as lodging' also includes a hotel and residential property when individual room or space is rented out. If there can also be clarification on regulatory lines between those that operate in terms of high-end resorts and those that operate on residential rental.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- May I ask the team from the Ministry of Health to elaborate further on that and clarify.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- The modernising of the Act looks to bring it up to date with what is current at the moment. One of the areas that we found lacking is the inclusion of some of the housing forms that are present now as opposed to 1935 in common lodging house looking in to address where this impacts health. I think one that clearly stands out is labourers' quarters for cane harvesting and others that we feel impacts human health at that level. In terms of the houses let as lodgings, we receive a whole lot of complaints on the ground in relation to the tenants who complain about the sanitary conditions of the rented houses, and we are limited in the Public Health Act to address that. When we intervene, the owner normally vacates the tenant and the rationale behind this is to renovate the said property and now, a tenant that simply wanted some improvements is left out to look for another place to rent.

From such scenarios, we decided to include this in the preparatory phase to eventually add them to the house legislation logging definition which will require under the registration for property owners to have basic health and safety standards ready to be inspected before the owners are given the green light to operate. This is the intention of this inclusion of this in the definition, including the Airbnb and homestay, these two forms of accommodations stand out. While the licencing is left to Hotel and Licencing Board, we look at the registration to ensure that it complies with sanitary and hygiene standards in relation to the Public Health Act, then the green light to operate will be given from our end, vinaka honourable Chairman.

MS. S. DAUNABUNA,- Can we make a suggestion, just requesting if Ministry of Health is able to do some alignment with the recent Tourism Act that was passed in parliament in the latest seating, because it defines tourism accommodations, which also includes these sorts of offerings. Short-term rentals offered on peer-to-peer platform, which is sort of like Airbnb providers.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, thank you very much to the ministry for that. We believe that after the public consultations, you have the opportunity to submit your written submissions to the

Committee. The Committee will meet and relook at the depth of the written submissions and consider them.

MS. S. DAUNABUNA.- Our second provision that we want to highlight is in terms of the substantial increase in penalties. I am highlighting that some of the amounts have jumped from, for example, $20 to $1,000 or $5,000. If there can just be some demarcation in terms of when such penalties apply, because in the tourism space, we have the large operators and the small operators. If the Ministry is cognisant of that in terms of those that operate within Fiji.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you MoH, can you give an update on that.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Yes, certainly it is something that we will consider. It is constantly being brought up by the honourable Member of the Committee that there needs to be categorising of the penalties in accordance with the services that is provided. A simple one is maybe in relation to a five-star accommodation. That can be addressed accordingly.

MS. S. DAUNABUNA.- Chairman, the third clause we want to highlight is Clause (14) in terms of the broad entry powers. The Bill introduces that the head of environmental health or delegated practitioners can enter premises at any reasonable time to inspect or take samples. We just want to highlight if there can be some lead time towards this, especially if we are talking about resorts and hotels, just so that we minimise disruptions for guest experiences. Additionally, if inspections occur during peak hours or high occupancy guest areas, just some sort of lead time be considered so that we can minimise disruptions to guest experiences.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka MoH, they are asking for a leeward to be given to them especially for the various categories of accommodation that has been highlighted by the Bill.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Thank you, Mr. Chairman, honourable Members and the team from the Ministry of Tourism, this is something that we can also consider. The proposed Bill specifically mentioned I think, A to G based on that, those are the powers that are given for the purpose of why we need to visit.

In addition, madam PS, through experiences, what we found was when we make an appointment and come to a hotel for inspection, we see a changeover as to what the current status was. Sometimes we make a surprise visit to the hotel because when we receive a complaint and when we come there it is totally different because when we make an appointment three days, five days or a day before, the kitchen area, the whole of the hotel is clean, water blasted and everything. Sometimes I think we need to make some surprise checks to see first and what is the condition, I hope that you will also understand where I am coming from.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chairman, through you, if they do not allow now under this current amendment, if this goes through they can be also charged under obstruction. Like here we are discussing about a hotel and then the same penalty applies to a residence. This needs to be categorised also.

MS. S. DAUNABUNA.- Mr. Chairman, the next clause we want to highlight is Clause 57 of the Bill which is the powers to restrict or shut water supply. The Bill grants the Central Board of Health significant authority to intervene when drinking water whether from wells, boreholes or public-private supply systems pose a health risk. If the board determines a significant health risk, it must require the local authority to ensure access to that water source.

From our perspective, the Bill gives certain provisions in terms of this requirement, and we want to highlight if a private water system is deemed a risk the board can serve notice on the owner.

This may impact to a great extent, those that operate especially in the outer island resorts because they rely on specific boreholes or desalination plants.

Just consideration if there can be some sort of discussions with them if there is an opportunity to see how they would factor this in terms of their planning or budgeting. Just highlighting that some of these requirements we know that it is for the greater good but also because the tourism sector is vulnerable and is a reputation sector that we need to just make sure that we are balancing things up as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN.-It is a straight forward statement that we are all aware what is happening at that level, the demarcation and the distribution of how they actually come into the picture in terms of distributions from the high level end right to the grassroot especially those who are talking about the Airbnb plus those hotels. I hope that you can give us some comments on that.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Yes, may I intervene. I think yesterday the similar sentiment was raised by Water Authority of Fiji. So, that is basically in the same line.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, I think the closure of the water source will only happen if there is an outbreak of disease that is happening. After thorough investigation and then the source is known to be from the water that they are drinking or maybe if the water sampling is done and then we find that the water used is grossly contaminated with *Escherichia Coli* or *Fecal Coliform* and that is the only way that the water source can be closed but otherwise through the experience we work on alternative drinking water especially in the hotels to resort to bottled water. The advice is given, and I totally agree to what was mentioned. I think the reputation of the tourism industry in Fiji is very important to us, and that is why we are taking this as a precautionary and preventative measure to avoid any outbreak of diseases in the hotels.

MS. S. DAUNABUNA.- The next clause we wish to highlight is clause 16 of the Bill in terms of regulatory overlap and uncertainty in infrastructure and double approvals for building. Clause 16 requires owners to comply with the Town & Country Planning Act 1946 and seek specific site drainage and access approval from the local authority. Just raising that this could add bureaucracy that could delay tourism development projects.

Secondly, water and sewage validity periods. Approvals for new water and sewage designs are only valid for three years and must be renewed. This also creates administrative burdens and uncertainty for long-term resort infrastructure planning. If that can be taken into consideration – the layers of bureaucracy and the fact that this would then add further administrative burden. If you look at lifetimes of tourism projects, they can run from three years, five years and sometimes even 10 years to complete a project.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- That is well noted by the Ministry and the honourable Members.

HON. P.K. BALA.- I just need one clarification on that subject matter. Is it Ministry of Health or the local authorities, municipalities or the Town & Country Planning dictates on the time frame?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- The amendment that is put in place is giving reference to the building application process that is governed under the Town Planning Act, and anyone that wants to or intends to utilise any land for any construction needs to adhere to what the amendment says. It is not an extra process. It is the Public Health Act directing anyone who intends to construct anything on any set of pieces of land that they need to adhere to the building application process that is mentioned in Town Planning Act section 7.

The timeline, they can build within the two years that is specified under the regulations once the approval is done. The validity is for two years. However, they can always reapply for the renewal of that approval. It is not limiting you but giving you that timeline to kick off the project. It caters for those who seek financial assistance through banks and loans, get the approvals and then submit that through banks. It gives a clear two-year cushion for that process to take place. I think the Town Planning Act for this is the one that supervises that.

MS. S. DAUNABUNA.- The last provision we wish to highlight is clause 26 of the Bill in terms of certain nuisances. The Bill defines nuisance as anything in the opinion of the environmental health practitioner is offensive to the public or injurious to health. These includes noise, smoke and even specific traits such as *kava* pounding. We wish to raise that this can create ambiguity. Clarification is needed on noise as a nuisance, noting that we also have hotel zoning and operations in which there are mixed activities. Not only resorts or hotels operating, but there are other surrounding activities. If you can just be clearer, I believe in this definition of what would be nuisance, noting that accommodation providers are also included within the provisions of the new Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thak you very much Ministry. I believe we are on that same page, on the clause 26, the nuisance and noises.

HON. A. BIA.- Chairman, through you, just adding to that, for the Ministry there are also hotels that conduct concerts. Musicians take part in their festivals, and some of these hotels are close to villages. When we talk about nuisance, these villages, once the Public Health Bill is passed, may see a loophole in the Bill that they can complain about. Many of the big hotels in the Western Division are located within the vicinity of villages.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you, can the MoH share more light on that, when we talk about the big hotels, where festive seasons are near, with the loud noises emanating from these big hotels where they are in close proximity to some of the villages.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Chairman, through you, and thank you honourable Member for the question. If it is in regard to the noise level, yes, certainly something that we can include that. As earlier submissions had suggested that we categorise noise as also part of nuisance and maybe we can regulate that especially in such circumstances where a community is located so closely to commercial premises. Certainly, something that the Committee can include, and we can explore further with minimum standards and associated fines included in the regulations, honourable Chairman.

MS. S. DAUNABUNA.- Chairman, those were the clauses we wanted to highlight as specific to our sector. And we will also be putting forward a written submission that will complement the submissions we made today.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- On behalf of the Committee, we are looking forward to your written submission. It will help us greatly. What we have discussed today is simply to open our minds so that we can understand where you are coming from. The author is here; the Ministry of Health is here, and they are willing to take it on board, but any amendments to the Bill must go through the Committee.

At this juncture, I wish to sincerely thank you all for availing yourselves to this public hearing session. We thank you for your time and hope that you will avail yourselves for any further queries that the Committee may have on today's submission. On that note, I declare this meeting closed.

The Committee adjourned at 12.53 p.m.

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT BAGASAU COMMUNITY HALL, CAKAUDROVE ON MONDAY, 10TH JULY 2026 AT 9.30 A.M.

Present

Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	-	Chairman
Hon. A. Bia	-	Member
Hon. A.T. Nagata	-	Member
Hon. K.K. Lal	-	Alternate Member

Apologies

Hon. V. Pillay	-	Member
Hon. P.K. Bala	-	Member

Ministry of Health and Medical Services

Mr. Luke Vonotabua	-	Chief Health Inspector
Mr. Toga Vosataki	-	WASH Co-ordinator

Submittee: Residents of Bagasau Village

In Attendance:

1.	Mr. Viliame Qase	-	Bagasau
2.	Mr. Atunaisa Qerei	-	Bagasau
3.	Ms. Tarisi Ratawa	-	Bagasau
4.	Mr. Samisoni Baikeitoga	-	Bagasau
5.	Mr. Epineri Baikeitoga	-	Bagasau
6.	Ms. Sera Wakolo	-	Bagasau
7.	Ms. Melania Sauvou	-	Bagasau
8.	Ms. Losalini Ravucake	-	Bagasau
9.	Ms. Ana Maimalolo	-	Bagasau
10.	Ms. Miriama Qolikoro	-	Bagasau
11.	Ms. Mere Buli	-	Mataikoro
12.	Ms. Fipe Mocevakaca	-	Bagasau
13.	Ms. Mereia Waqaca	-	Bagasau
14.	Ms. Luisa Drodrovakawai		Bagasau
15.	Ms. Amelia Qiqi	-	Bagasau
16.	Ms. Mereseini Finau	-	Bagasau
17.	Ms. Salaseini Rokolui	-	Bagasau

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na kerea ga na liuliu ni bula ena noda vanua me na liutaki keda ena dua na masu.

(Prayer)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni bera saka ga ni da tekivu ena mataka nikua, au nanuma meu na sureti ratou na nomuni lewe ni Palimedi me ratou vakamacalataki iratou mada. Era tiko saka talega qo o iratou na wekadatou mai na tabana ni bula, ka ratou na qai vakamacalataki iratou talega.

(Introduction of Committee Members & officials from the Ministry of Health)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na tukuna ga e so na ka me da kila saka tiko. Na lawa vakatutu e kau wavoki tiko qo, e nodratou lawa vakatutu na tabana ni bula se Public Health (Amendment) Bills No. 4 of 2026. E da vakabauta ni dua nai tavi levu e kauta wavoki tiko na komiti qo ena veivakararamataki ka gadrevi kina na nomuni

vakatutu se nomuni vakatulewa, se veika o ni nanuma me baleta na tikina e 69 na lawa vakatutu ka tiko qori e matada na kena lavelave.

Me yacova na 1935, e sa yabaki 90 nikua ka ratou nanuma tiko na tabana ni bula me sa kau wavoki e Viti ka yaco sara ki Rotuma na vakasama ni kena vakatetei kei na kena veitalanoataki na tikina e 69 koya sa vakatututaki tiko qo me veisau. Na vuna levu me baleta tiko na noda tiko bulabula kei na noda tiko savasava.

Au na kerei honourable Tuicolo me na dolava vei keda na kena vakasama ena ulutaga rabailevu sa tu meda na veitalanoa kina ena mataka ni kua.

HON. A. TUICOLO.- Me vaka sa vakamacalataka oti na turaga Chairman me baleta tiko na lawa. Na lawa koya e buli tiko ena gauna qo esa yabaki 90. Na vakatutu e kau wavoki tiko mai qo, vei kemuni na lewenivanua, na 69 na vakatutu e vukea me vakavinakataka na lawa, ka tiko qori na 69 na veiveisau ena tikidua e matamuni.

Dua na veisau e vakatututaki tiko, o keda esa matau tiko vei keda na cavuta na health inspector. E dua na veisau me na veisau na yacadratou mai na health inspector to environmental officers. Ena solia vei koya na kaukauwa me na mai vakadikeva na veivale ke so beka na mate e kunei ena veikorokoro, ena soli vei koya na kaukauwa mena mai vakadikeva na vale, rawa ni kauta eso na ka e kunea me rawa ni lai vakadikevi ka vakakina nai yaya beka e vakayagataki tiko e vale. Qo e so na ka ena mai dikeva na environmental health officer.

E dua tale na veiveisau, ke dua na matetaka, na head of environmental health e rawa ni solia na vakasala me rawa ni ra mai cula ni tatarovi ni matetaka. Ya e dua na veiveisau e kauta mai lawa e vakatututaki tiko qo. Ena gadreva na nomuni nanuma beka se so beka na veika ko ni rawa ni cau mai kina. E dua na veisau, kevaka sa vakaroti mai na tabana ni bula ni dua na ka me caka, ko ni qai sega ni cakava – ena rawa ni ko ni na totogitaki kina. Se so nai tukutuku ko ni vakadewataka tiko beka, e rawa ni totogitaki koya e dua e vakadewataka tiko nai tukutuku cala.

Na veiveisau talega e kauta tiko mai qo, me vaka ni sa yabaki 90 – e levu na totogi. E so na totogi koya a se $20 mai na yabaki 1935 sa toso cake kina $2,000. Ni na raica tiko e dua na totogi e tiko qori e toso cake mai na $20 ki na $2,000. E so na lewenivanua ena veivanua keitou sa taleva oti mai, era tukuna tiko ni sa rui totogi levu baleta nira tiko ga vakanakoro, me kau mai vei nai lavo.

Na totogi qori e biu tiko me tatarovi tiko vei ira na lewenivanua mera kakua ni cakava na veika sa lavaki mai ni tabu. Na totogi tiko qori e vaka na mate koya e dewa mai na veiyacovi me vaka na HIV/AIDS. Koya e dau ya $20 e sa gole cake ki na $2,000. Ke dua e kunei ni nakita tiko me vakadewa tale vei so na lewenivanua na mate qo, sa vakadeitaki talega ni nona totogi ena toso mai na $20 ki na $2,000.

E dua tale na veiveisau sai koya nai balebale ni nuisance se na vakosakosa e veikorokoro. Sa lavaki tale tikoga na totogi vakakina eso na veivale koya sa sivia beka na tamata era tiko ena dua na vale (overcrowding). Vaka talega kina na vurevure ni wai, eso beka na lewenivanua e cudruvaka beka ga na veivosaki e lomanikoro se loma ni mataqali ka lako me lai vakavuvuya na wai ka ra gunu tiko mai kina na lewenikoro, e tiko talega na kena totogi ka sa tabaki tiko qori ena tikidua, sa na rawa talega mo ni soli vakasama mai kina ke levu se lailai e tiko ena loma ni vakatutu. Sa kerei mo ni solia mai na nomuni dui vakasama.

HON. S. KUMAR.-This Public Health (Amendment) Bill looks at amending 69 parts in the old Bill which is necessary so that we can bring about a lot of improvement in our public health system. When we talk about public health, Sir, it deals with our health in the environment in which we live and how we can get affected easily if the environment is not clean and hygienic. Some of these examples are in our surroundings, at home managing our wastewater, keeping the compound clean, disposing the rubbish properly, burning and burying our waste, recycling. All these things, if not done carefully, it starts to breed mosquitoes which spread disease such as dengue fever, malaria, typhoid, diarrhea, leptospirosis. All these diseases are very common and very easily bred and very easily spread amongst people and many people have died in Fiji.

When there is an outbreak, we see the hospitals become full very quickly. When the health officials trace down and find out that a particular village contributed to spreading of disease. What was wrong there, maybe the drain was not cleaned. A lot of tinned cans are thrown here and there, and mosquitoes are breeding there. The wastewater is not managed properly; the septic tanks are not done properly, especially in informal settlements and common villages.

Sometimes it looks okay to us from the surface, but when we analyse it carefully, we see that mosquitoes are getting into the septic tank; the flies are going into the septic tank. The bad smell is coming out of the septic tank and creating nuisance to the neighbouring houses. These are some of the things that the Public Health (Amendment) Bill seeks to amend.

Right now, with the old bill, the health inspectors cannot enter and inspect communal villages and infringe notices. That makes the work of Ministry of Health difficult in terms of ensuring that the diseases are not spreading quickly or to combat all those diseases. Now, this Bill gives the health inspectors authorities and power to go and inspect the itaukei villages as well who are said to be contributing because previously have shown that some of the villages have significantly contributed or they were the ones from where the disease broke out.

That is why villages have their rules and every Monday, they clean their village. Sometimes people do not participate equally. Some dodge and do not come for the cleaning of koro. Now, the health inspectors can go inside the villages and check to ensure that everything is of the proper standard. That is one positive change that is coming about.

As alluded by the honourable in the beginning, the fines have increased. The fine will no longer be $2 to $10. This itself is a deterrent. People when they hear about hefty fines, they are scared so they ensure, and they become responsible. We must dispose of these empty cans properly, so they become responsible. This is how we can ensure that our environment is safe and clean, and it does not allow any disease to spread.

In most of the villages, we see that their water supply is coming from their own source. That also contributes to poor public health that gets contaminated because of the dead animals, or the drains are designed in such a way that the fertilisers and manures are going to the water source or mosquitoes are breeding there. It is not clean; those are the things which can be ensured with the powers given to health inspectors.

Also the water from the sink, how you manage that. Sometimes we are very careless about the water that goes from the sink. Maybe it is creating a mud pool somewhere near your house. The water from the bathroom, where do you take that? Sometimes we like to keep that water somewhere and then we plan rourou there with the idea that rourou grows best in that kind of water. That same rourou, when you go to pick, you go without wearing any shoes or flip flops. The risk is just behind your house of you becoming infected or prone to getting sick.

These are the things that are being managed in this Bill, and you have a copy already with you. You will go through it and make your submissions, some of the things you feel that we have missed out, or there are some things that are unique to this particular area. You can always raise it up – the stray dogs, the rubbish disposal, where you dispose of your rubbish. You want a system where your rubbish is taken away and disposed of.

These are some of the things that will be looked after by the return of Rural Local Authority. Right now, we have the town and city councils. You have Savusavu Town Council, but they do not provide the service right up till here because they only cater for their ratepayers. They pick up their rubbish; they go and do the inspection when there are any complaints in the town area. They went and attended to solve the problem, nuisance, making noise, people shouting at night, people pounding grog overnight. It is a nuisance; elderly people want to eat their vunikau and rest. Drunkard people are blasting the music.

Also in villages, it is how you keep your animals – susu vuaka, bulumakau and toa. Even dogs, there are plenty of dogs in the villages. People love dogs and people come and drop dogs near the village, that is how you acquire a lot of dogs and over time, they become a nuisance. Even dog shits, when you step on that can also contribute to diseases.

In overseas countries, you cannot keep dogs anyhow. You keep it inside your house you look after them, you bath them, you take them to hospital, take them for a walk, with the chain you cannot let them free. You walk with them and if they pooh-pooh, you pick it up and bring it back to your house or where the bins are provided.

Why they can do that way because their public health act is very strong. That is how when you go overseas, you say, oh those people are very clean, neat and we cannot find any plastic, bottle because people fear the fines that is imposed in their public health act. Ours is very old, some of the words here are very old and it does not make sense.

The new nuisance is the diaper and the disposal of diapers. That is the new nuisance in communities. It remains there for years and years, if you dump it somewhere and then you see dogs carrying it around because there is something inside that dogs are attracted to it. It blocks the drain, waterways and floodgate. It is modern problem. When this act was designed in 1935, we only knew about napkins because we grew up in napkins.

Now, diapers are creating a nuisance in the community. Imagine the informal settlement, squatter settlements, town areas – how they are managing their rubbish. They just throw it anyhow at night. Some rubbish from Savusavu, you must be finding it in your plantation. When people go to the jetty at night, they put it in the bag and throw it to your plantation. In sugar cane fields, people have found rubbish because managing rubbish is becoming a headache for people. Maybe there is no space, no avenue. The said thing, it is not provided though you want to pay $1 per week or $2, but the service is not there. The Rural and Local Authority, when it returns to power, these are their duties; to look at how they can expand their service in remove set up.

I hope with these words, I am able to capture the most of the 69 amendments that are intended. There are other acts also running parallel to it. The Litter Act is there – fine has been raised from $40 to $200 but it has zero impact on our population because no one is reporting because no one is recording the video. People who are travelling are eating, throwing their packets away, they drink the juice, and they threw the bottles, it cracks, all these things will now be tidied in the Public Health Bill. Everyone will watch and everyone will become responsible and above all, everyone will become scared. There will be one 'rere' inside you that if I do not do this properly, I can be fined. The health inspector will come because slowly, you will see a very peaceful, very clean, very neat and tidy Fiji. The civic pride will wake up inside us because the Act is there, and the Bill is there.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Thank you honourable Shalen for the very brief explanation. I just wanted to let you know that this law is presented by the Government. These MPs here are all representing the Parliament. The process is – they propose the law, it comes to Parliament and Parliament brings it to the people asking your opinion. This is your time to share your views, concerns about this Bill and about this law that the Government is changing, bringing the fines that they have increased. This is the time for you to ask questions on all those things.

The law is not in effect at the moment, but it will be after this Committee deliberates, takes it to Parliament, tabled in Parliament and then it comes into effect. This process is more like we are asking the people what do you think about this law that they are changing. From my end, I would like to hear from you and your concerns on this Bill particularly and your opinion and recommendations.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au vakabauta ni sa matata oya na veika e vasokumuni tiko ena loma ni lawa vakatutu koya e tiko vei keda qo na kenai lavelave ena vosa vakai taukei. E 69 kece na tabana e vakatututaki mesa veisau, kenai balebale niu sa dolava yani qo na veitalanoa, au na kerea ga mo laveta na ligamu, mo qai vamacalataka na yacamu ruarua kei na koro o lako tiko mai kina. Ni na qai rai kina 69 na vakatutu ka tukuna na tabana ko ni via

vosa kina. E tiko vei kemuni na galala ke ko ni na via taroga mai na kena vakamacala matata se cava na vuna sa rui levu kina na totogi, na veika me baleta na veiyawaki ni noda tara vale vovou ena noda lomà ni koro, na kena vakacicivi na lawa ni benu, na septic tank, na wai ni savasava ka vakakina na wai ni valenikuro ka ra okati kece tiko ena lawa ni vakatutu e 69 qori.

Vei kedatou e Bagasau nikua, datou kalougata ni digitaka na matanitu me mai caka eke na veivakararamataki. Keitou a tiko mai Taveuni na noa, ka sa qaravi rawa mai Taveuni, sa tiko qo me keitou sa na lesu tale tiko i Suva. Oti qo keitou na gole yani ki Naweni ka sa na cava e keya na veika me baleti Vanua Levu kece. Au nuitaka ni koni na vakayagataka na gauna vinaka qo ni veitalanoa me yavutaki na vakasama ni veiveisau ni lawa vakatututaki e 69 koya e volai tiko qori.

Au sa na kerei keda meda sa na tekivu. Ena 1935, na lawatu oqo e 70 na pasede kina 80 na pasede na tauvimate ena noda vei health centre sai kedatou na tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu. Kedatou ga tou vakaosota tiko na valeniwai kei na valenibula. Eso ni ra qai yaco yani, sa gadrevi saraga me ra kau ena ambulance ka vakadua sara ki Savusavu se ki Labasa. Qo talega e dua na yavu bibi, ka ratou kerea tiko na tabana ni bula ni se bera ni veitauvi na mate, sa yaga me cula mai na vakasama ni noda tarova na mate. Na tiki ni vakatutu levu oya na kena sagai tikoga me laveti cake na noda tiko bulabula vakai tikotiko, vaka mataqali se vakoro ena loma ni veisiga eda bula tiko kina.

A caka na lawa vakatutu qori me baleti keda na tamata, a sega na caka na tamata me baleta na lawa vakatutu qo, kau nuitaka ni sa na matata na kena vakasama oya. Sa dola na noda veitalanoa kau sa kerei ratou na turaga dabe tiko e liu qo me ratou sa liutaki keda yani. Ni digitaka ga e dua na tabana, keitou na qai vakamacala yani kina.

MR. S. DAKUITOGA.- Me baleta na lawa koya sa tu qo, me baleta na fine. E vakayacori tiko na fine qo se sega, se volai tu ga ka sega ni vakayagataki? Sa tu oti tu qo na fine ena lawa makawa, au via taroga ga se vakayagataki tiko se sega?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na fine koya e tiko qo me vaka e ratou laveta mai na tabana ni bula, ena gauna esa tuki kina me sa lawa ni noda matanitu, sa na qai cakacakataki. Ena gauna qo, edatou se tiko ga ena vakasama ni kena vasokumuni tiko mai nai tukutuku. Nai totogi koya e tiko qori, na veika e ratou sa raica tiko na tabana ni bula ni yaga me na qai vakayacori me veiraurau kei na so na veika eda sega ni vakayacora ena noda veikoro lelevu. Se bera ni dua na ka e vakayacori, sa qai sagai tiko qo me lai lawatu ka qai cakacakataki. Au kerei ratou na tabana ni bula me dua mada na nodratou vakamacala ena tabana ya.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Me vaka sa vakamacala tiko kina na turaga Chairman, na bill veiveisau e tiko qori esa qai vakatututaki tiko. Ia na nomuni taro me vaka na totogi koya era sa tu makawa, a caka tiko mai. E gadrevi gona na veisau ni laurai ni tamata e sega ni kauwai vakalevu baleta ni $2, $10 nai totogi. Era lako ga ki valeniveilewai, era sauma e $10 ka ra mai vakawelewele tu yani. Ya na vanua e lako tiko yani kina na vakatutu de na rairai vinaka me toso cake toka me rawa ni vakawai me dua qai cakava na totogi qo na sa na lai talanoataka wavoki na veivanua ni soso yaqona, se na bose vakoro, ka sa ra na qai kila e levu na lewenivanua ni sa vakabatina mai na qiokata sai koya na lawa ni tabacakacaka ni bula.

MS. M. BULI.- Au marama ni Nakobo kau vakawati mai ena mataqali qo. Na ka ko ni tukuna tiko ni sa oti mai Taveuni, oti ga eke ka dou sa gole sara i ra tale, au kila ni sai koya saraga ya nai rogo e Vanua Levu. E dua walega na vakatataro, vacava o ira na veikorokoro tale eso era sega ni kila na ka sa yaco tu qo. E dua walega na vakatataro kevaka keimami sega ni tiko kina ena nomuni taro tiko mai kina. Ni vosoti au, au sa taro tale yani ena vuku ni ka ya. Baleta ni kai Viti, oti ga da lai vakadewa, oti so sa lai vakadewa cala tale. Na vuku ni ka qo ni na dua na cakava na ka cala ike s ana totogi qai tukuni " keimami seg ani kila" koya beka ga ya na ka au taro kina.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Taro vinaka. Au na kerei ratou na tabana nib ula me ratou vei vakararamataki na vanua e tarogi tiko mai ya. Na kena yaco yani kina noda Viti kei Rotuma nai tukutuku.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, vakavinavinaka vakalevu vua na marama e taro cake tiko mai.

Vakalekaleka ga meu vakaraitaka ni dau caka na public consultation. Ratou dau digitaka na mata timi ni komiti mai Palimedi, eso na vei representatives mai na vei community, vica na koro, vica na tikotiko vei ira na veiwekani na India, vica na tikotiko ena loma ni taoni, vica na taudaku ni taoni. Me na laurai vakatautauvata na noda rai, sega ni kau taucoko ena veivanua taucoko, na tauri ga mai na sample ni veivanua.

Ena Vanua Levu, keitou se tekivu mai Macuata, Taveuni ka sa vakacavacava yani qo i Cakaudrove. Sa qai tiko na vakavakarau ni wasewase Tokalau. Nai tuvatuva ya e nodratou tikoga na Komiti.

Ia, ni sa yaco me sa lai pasitaki i Palimedi na lawa qo me sa lawa tu, sa na qai taura tale na Tabacakacaka ni Bula dua se rua na yabaki ena kena vakatetei mai na itukutuku, na curumi na bose ni tikina, bose ni yasana me rawa ni vakararamataki kina na lewenivanua i Viti me da kila vinaka sara ni bera ni tekivu vaqaqacotaki na lawa qo.

Ia, keitou vinakata me kua ni balavu sara baleta na gagadre ni kena vakayagataki na lawa qo sa tu sara tu ena siga nikua. Ena vuku ni noda sa vakabebe tiko na lewe ni vanua i Viti, me da muri na vakasala ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula.

Vakabauta ni sa sau ni nomuni taro. Ena sega ni lakovi taucoko na veikorokoro, ni vosota ni keitou sega ni yaco yani i Nakobo. Na tuvatuva qo e nodratou tikoga na lewe ni komiti, na vanua e digitaki me rawa ni kumuni kina na nomuni nanuma me baleta na lawa vakaturi sa toka qo e matada

MR. V. DAKUITOKA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Dakuitoga)

Taumada, ena vuku ni tukutuku dou sa vakaraitaka tiko na Tabana ni Bula na mataka ni kua, kila ni keimami sega ni curuma na veika dou curuma tiko ena vuku ni kena qaravi tiko na cakacaka ni Tabana ni Bula ena vuku ni noda vanua oqo.

Taumada, na veika dou vakatututaka tiko na mataka vinaka ni kua, au via mai duavata tikoga na vakasama dou sa kauta tiko mai. Baleta na vuna qo, ni kemuni sa lako curuma oti mai na veiqaravi ni o ni kila na veiqaravi sa oti, na loma ni vica na yabaki sa oti, da raica ni $2 na totogi ni raici na gauna qo eratou sa laveta cake tale. Au duavata na veika eratou sa cauraka tiko mai na mataka ni kua.

Au duavata na vakasama, sega ni dua na ka au vakamelea eke, au nanuma meu tokona ga na vakasama eratou sa laveta cake mai ena vuku ni vakasama qo me kau ena loma ni nodatou matabose, vakadewataki mai vei keda me rawa ni da rokova na lawa vakatutu e kau tiko mai na mataka vinaka ni kua. Au duavata tiko na nodratou vakasama, na veika kece eratou sa mai cauraka tiko qo baleta ni ratou lako curuma tiko na veiqaravi qo.

Ena loma ni vica na yabaki, lako tale mai na loma ni gauna qo, ratou sa kauta tiko mai na vakatutu qo ena loma ni noda vanua me da mai rogoci kina na domo ni noda vanua, domo ni lewenivanua me rawa ni qai pasitaki kina eso na itukutuku eratou kauta tiko mai na mataka ni kua.

Au tauca ga dua na vosa ni vakavinavinaka, au sa duavata ga. Au via tokona ga na vakasama dou sa kauta tiko mai na mataka ni kua ena vuku ni veika dou sa raica mai na loma ni vica na yabaki sa oti vakaveiqaravi vaka Tabana ni Bula. Dou sa tovolea mo dou laveta tale na mua ni yabaki ni veiqaravi qo. Au tukuna ga na mataka ni kua meu tokona na veivakasama dou sa biuta na mataka ni kua ena vuku ni ka dou sa cauraka mai.

Au via tokona talega na vuku ni kena mai rogoci na domo ni vanua ena mataka vinaka ni kua. Keimami na lewenivanua me mai rogoci na domo i keimami. Au sa tokona na vakasama dou sa kauta tiko mai na mataka ni kua.

E 69 na tikina e toka ena lawa vakatutu qo, au sa vakavinavinaka. Ka sa raica na Tabana ni Bula, kau mai vei keimami, sa duavata na vuku ni vakasama qo ena mataka vinaka ni kua.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Totoka.

Na gauna keitou sa na oti kina ni kua, gauna qo na sega ni lesu tale mai.

Gauna sa lai tuki kina me sa lawa tu ni noda Matanitu, dou na qai kaya tiko, "Io, na lawa vakatu qo a vakaitavi kina neitou koro; keitou duavata na vakasama a kau wavoki tiko mai qo."

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, we just wanted to share this with you. The fines will not discriminate where you live. If you live in the village, if you live in town, if you are rich, if you are poor, or whoever — even if it is me — the fine is equal to everyone. You earn $1.00 or you earn $100.00 per week, you still get the $1,000 fine, or up to $1,000, if you make an offence. I just want to make that clear because, as you accept it, then afterwards do not complain when you come and get fined.

Normally people complain, "Oh, we were not consulted." This is the consultation process before the fine comes into effect. I understand previously the villages were not included in the health inspection system or the mechanisms that were in place. Now they will be. So that means all our villages have to follow that protocol. We have requirements, we have to follow the request of the health inspector that we improve the way we live in the villages.

How we put our pigpens, how far they should be, how close they should be, the chickens we feed, the places where we put our septic tanks — these are the things that health inspectors will now bring in. Later on, do not complain about it, because this is the consultation process where you are agreeing that these amendments are okay.

Some places we went, some people did not agree because they cannot afford the $1,000 if they are fined. Some of you here have agreed, and it is a very good thing because we want to improve our health system, our villages, our future for our generation. So, it is a good starting point for the day, especially for us coming all the way from Taveuni with the rough sea. But please do know that you are also supporting this important Bill. Thank you.

HON. S. KUMAR.- Mr. Chairman, through you, dear villages, I just want to assure that there will be a lot of education and awareness once this Bill is passed, as alluded to by the Ministry of Health.

The fine will not be implemented overnight. The Health Inspectors will not come overnight and start inspecting and checking. There will be a period of education and awareness. The radio will talk about it, the television will broadcast about all these things. You will go through a lot of education.

Despite all this process — the consultation, the Bill drafting, taking the Bill into Parliament, education and awareness — when the implementation begins, the fine will also have a process. You will get a warning, first warning, second warning, improve; if you are not improving, then the fine is definite. The fine should be the highest, multiplied by ten by then, to deter people.

Do not worry if you still have the pit toilet. You continue using it so long as you ensure that it is not creating rooms for mosquitoes to breed there and spread disease. So long as your compound is neat and tidy, everything is okay, you do not have to worry much.

From here onwards, when you are trying to make something, just keep in mind all these regulations that are there. You will have good control and supervision by the rural and local authority. You will go to them, they will come and inspect, they will guide you.

Do not be scared, and you also start talking about it in the communities, in the villages. Take the Talanoa around and talk to prepare everyone.

MS. L. RAVUCAKE.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Ms. Ravucake)

Au via vakaraitaka ga ni kua me baleta na tiko bulabula vei ratou na Tabana ni Bula. Au kerekere ke rawa ni levu na gauna me ratou dau lako mai me ratou mai rai koro, baleta me ratou mai veisemati vata kei Turaga ni Koro ena veikorokoro. Baleta ni ratou rawa ni raica sara ga na loma ni koro, o ni levu na veivunikau

era tu qo dodonu me ra samaki, na wai ratu qo dodonu me ratou lako mai me ratou mai vosa tiko vei keimami. Keimami na qai yadra tiko na neimami vakasama ena veika era vinakata o ratou na Tabana ni Bula.

Kena karua, au via vakaraitaka ena valeniwai. Vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni dou yaco tiko mai, o kemudou na tiko mai na Palimedi, dina ga ni dau tu yadudua na gauna o ni na qai siro sobu mai. Siga ni kua, siga marautaki vei au ni dou curuma mai neitou lomanikoro. Sa leqa sara tu ga na veika e dodonu me qaravi kina dua na tauvimate ena valeniwai.

Meu tukuna vakadodonu, so na gauna dau tauvi au na ceguoca. Ia, au sa lako tiko i valeniwai, ena so na gauna sa sega na pamu au dau vakayagataka, au sa lai volia tiko mai na Kemesi. Au vinakata ga meu mai vakararamataki kemudou ena so walega na ka lalai e dodonu me keimami bula tiko kina. Me tarai keimami tiko me keimami kua ni dau lako i valenibula, me keimami kua ni cicivaki i valenibula ni sega tiko na valeniwai.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Rua na iulutaga bibi e tiko ya. Vakabauta ni ratou sa vakarogoca tiko na Tabana ni Bula.

Na kena karua, beka ke donu noqu nanuma, na veiqaravi ena nodatou valeniwai e tiko qo.

Dua na kena sapolo rawarawa ga ena veika me baleta na pamu sa sega ni tiko. Nuitaka ni ratou na Tabana ni Bula ena ratou na raica toka na tikina ya.

Cava beka na matai ni nomuni vakatutu?

MS. L. RAVUCAKE.- Ratou na Tabana ni Bula,

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Nodratou dau veisiko mai na Tabana ni Bula raraba.

MS. L. RAVUCAKE.- Keitou madaga na koro o Bagasau. Keitou volivolitaki tiko na marama me rawa ni so na gauna me ratou dau lako mai, ratou mai veisiko tu, me ratou mai vakasalataki keimami na marama ena so na ka e dodonu me keimami cakava ena loma ni koro.

Na cava e dodonu me keimami cakava me kua ni sa yaco sara ga dua na ka me ratou sa qai dau lako mai. Kena levu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tabana ni Bula rawa ni dou veivakararamataki ga vakatotolo. Dua ya na rai koro kei na leqa sotavi tiko ena nodratou valeniwai.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, me baleta na neitou vakalesilesi ena vuku ni itavi ratou dau qarava na veivakasalataki ena veikorokoro, e toso tikoga. Eratou tiko na vakalesilesi eratou veiqaravi tiko ena nodatou valenivolavola mai Savusavu, Cakaudrove. Tiko kina na Turaga ni Naitasiri, e liuliu tiko vakaraica na valenivolavola i Cakaudrove kei Taveuni.

Ia, 90 na yabaki ni neitou veiqaravi tiko mai, dua na kena vosavosa vaka Macuata dau tukuni tu: sa dra ga na yame na levu ni vakasala, na vakasala sega ni cakacakataki. Ni tukuni me musu qo, kau laivi qo, oti mai e vica na yabaki lesu tale mai dua na vakalesilesi vou, musu qo, kau laivi qo, dua tale na vakalesilesi vou musu qo, sega ga ni dua na ka e caka.

Mai na rai ya, nanuma kina na Tabacakacaka ni Bula me veisau ga eso na tiki ni lawa. Iliu na lawa qo dau sega ni oka kina na koro vakaviti, koya ya sa veisau toka ena tikina e 2 koya tiko qori. Tikina e 2 e tiko qori sa volai kina na lawa qo me sa okati Viti raraba.

Kena ibalebale: koro vakaviti, na tikotiko vakagalala, na tikotiko formal settlement, se cava ga sa rawa ni keitou curuma na gauna qo. Sega walega ni vakasala, sa keitou cakacakataka sara ga na kena vaqaqacotaki na lawa.

Kena ibalebale kevaka eratou dau lako tiko mai iliu na vakalesilesi e tukuni tiko me musu qo, musu ya, sega tiko ni rogoci. Dou waraka vakalailai, sa na vakarau muri mai dua na vakasala, lako toka mai muri, dua na kena qio kata me vakagagacotaka toka na kena muri.

Kena karua, me baleta na nodatou valeniwai, au na sureta na nodatou Vualiku me na saumi taro ga me baleta na valeniwai.

MR. V. CAVUILATI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, vakavinavinaka vakalevu na vuku ni kauwai e gole saka tiko mai.

Bera niu sauma na taro, au via vakuria vakalailai na veika sa cauraka tiko na wekaqu me baleta na lawa makawa. Keitou dau waraka tu ga me keitou dau sureti yani, keitou na qai rawa ni gole mai na veikorokoro, na bose vakoro se na veivakasalataki. Ia, na lawa vakatututaki tiko qo, gauna ga keitou sa via curuma mai kina na koro, keitou sa na gole mai. Au kila me da na namaka tiko ya, levu na gauna keitou sa na veitalevi tiko mai kina ena noda veikorokoro, vakabibi na taudaku ni veikorolelevu.

Na karua beka ga ni taro me baleta na veiyaya ena noda valenibula. Vakadinadinataka tiko ni tiko na dredre ena Tabana ni Bula ena veiqaravi eso, vakabibi ena itikotiko vaka nursing station. Au sa na taura tiko na nomudou itukutuku, na qai lai vakadewataki vua na Vuniwai Levu ni Vualiku, vakabibi tiko na ipamu se na veika e gadrevi ena nodatou valenibula e Bagasau.

Mataka talega ni kua, au gole tiko mai vata kei na rua na neitou vakalesilesi me mai laurai na nodatou valenibula. Kena sagai tiko me na vakavinakataki na valenibula qo i Bagasau kei na valenibula i Naweni ena loma ni yabaki ka tu mai ena tuvatuva vakailavo vou i Matanitu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vakabauta ni tukutuku rogorogo vinaka ya. Sa tiko na ituvatuva levu ni Matanitu, na kena laurai na nodatou tikotiko vaka ni valeniwai me vaka sa tuvani tiko, o Bagasau vata kei Naweni.

Au sega ni kila se a veiwekani vakacava na neitou curuma tiko mai qo, kena ituvatuva sa davo rawa tu ya.

Eda rawa ni tukuna kina ni dou kalougata tiko na veika sara ga o ni vinakata tu sa basika tu ni kua.

. MS. T. RATAWA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Ms. Ratawa)

Taumada, au vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni rawa ni ko ni siro mai. Au kerekere veivosoti talega ena mataka ni kua, baleta ni last time a mai tukuni vei keimami ni ratou sa na lako mai na Palimedi.

E vakarautaki vakavinaka sara ga na loma ni hall qo. Au kerekere veivosoti tiko vei kemudou na lako mai cake, ni siro mai moni nanumi keimami mai.

Kerekere ga vei kemudou, ni ko ni lako mai me vakamatatataki mai vei neitou Turaga ni Koro. Era sa lako sara tikoga mai qo, ira mai cake sara. Keitou kerea tikoga yani keitou bera na mataka ni kua. Au kerekere veivosoti tiko ya baleta na bera ni mataka ni kua. Au vakavinavinaka ni dou sa tiko rawa.

Matai ni ka au na via vosa kina: ena koro qo e levu tiko na neitou koli, na toa. Au kerekere ke rawa ni laurai na yasana ya edua na lawa se ka me biu. Kalougata na koli ni qai lako mai edua na Vuniwai mai Taveuni, mai sele kece o ira na koli, vakavuna kina me sega ni sivia sara. Ke rawa ni dua na lawa me vauci ira qo me maroroi me vaka na veilawa tale e tu.

Era veilakoyaki tu ga, e sega ni dua na lawa e vauci ira. Vakakina na toa, ke rawa ni biu edua na lawa. Keitou sega ni tiko ena yasana ya, ia na gauna sa toa kece ni koro qo sa tabili yani, sa dua na ka noqu oca, noqu saga tiko na toa. Ke rawa ni biu edua na lawa me vauca na ka kecekece, me ra maroroi na dui taukei, me ra dui maroroi na nodra dui koli vata kei na nodra dui toa, me rawani kakua ni vakavuna leqa vakalevu vei keimami.

Kena ka tolu, kevaka e rawa ni laurai ni bera ni tara edua na vale ena koro, keimami tara vale ga, e sega ni dua na lawa e vauca. Ya na vuna keimami na qai dau cicivi ratou na health inspector baleta ni sa kacabote na sewerage ena vanua e dau lako kina. Baleta gona ni sega ni mai check-taka kina me rawa ni laurai edua na kena bai.

E vica ga na ka au vinakata me vakavinakataki kina na veika me baleta na neitou koro, vata na neitou raica sa caka tiko ya edua na wavu vou. E sega tu na neitou bai, me vaka ni dau dave se tau mai na uca, na wa vakadua mai na vanua kece qo. Ia, keitou se waraki ratou tikoga na Tabana ni Sala vata kei ratou na Tabana ni Tiko Bulabula.

Keitou vakavinavinaka vei Sir, sa lesu oti eke, sa mai cakava oti eso na ka eke me rawa ni mai veivuke. Ia, keitou se tiko vata ga kei Sir ena so na ka e tukuni tiko ya.

Ni tiko tale na Turaga kei na Marama, au mai vosa levu sara tiko vei kedra ena mataka ni kua. Sega ni balavu, sa vakasakiti na kena levu.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- Via dua na taro mai na nona taro o Marama Dreu, na katolu ni taro.

Bera ni ratou sauma na Tabana ni Bula baleta na tara ni vale. Na lawa vou qo, ni ko sa tara vale ena koro, na veivakadonui me lako mai vei ratou na Rural and Country Planning.

Se bera ya, dua tale na taro meu na tarogi ratou na Tabana ni Bula. Eso na veitalanoa vata kei ira na lewenivanua, era tukuna tiko ni sa kacabote beka na septic tank koya vakamacalataka tiko o Marama Dreu. So sa lako sara tikoga na wai ni septic sa tiko iwai. Baleta na vale vou ga ena gadrevi kina na vakadonui mai vei ratou na Rural and Country Planning.

Dua na taro: vakacava o ira na veivale koya sa tiko rawa, koya era leqa tiko na nodra septic tank, na cava beka ena caka vei ira?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, taumada na sau ni vakatataro nei Honourable Member. Kevaka sa pasi na lawa ni kua, na cava na yaco me baleti ira era sa tu rawa tu na nodra septic tank, sega walega ni o ira qai caka na nodra?

Ena wase rua tiko na veiqaravi:

1. Gauna sa pasi kina na lawa, na veika taucoko ena qai caka oti me sa na vakamuri na kena ilakolako vou.

2. O ira sa tu rawa tu, sa na qai caka eso na mitigating factor. Vakavo sara kevaka me mataqali va ya me sa kacabote, sa na qai soli na notisi me rawa ni ra veisautaka, me rawa ni ra cakava na ka vou. O ira era dramutu se caka tu ena dua na kena iwalewale e sega ni tuvaki vinaka, era sa na qai saga tiko me ra veisautaka na kena iwalewale vou, koya tiko na Central Board of Health, na kena veimataqali design koya rawa ni da vakayagataka o keda na koro vakaviti, koya rawa ni ceguva toka na vakatawa ni taga ni tu vakavanua.

Ena vuku ni sau ni taro ni koli: sa tiko edua sara ga na lawa ni noda Matanitu o Viti, na lawa ni koli ka vakatokai tiko na *Dogs Act*. Qo na nodratou lawa na Tabacakacaka ni Teitei, ka rawa ni ratou vakaqaqacotaka na Tabana ni Animal Health se na vanua ni manumanu. E tu sara tu ga kina na kena vakalesenitaki na koli, na cava na ibalebale ni stray dogs, cava na yaco kevaka e katia e dua na tamata na koli, ka kece me baleta na koli e tiko kina.

Sega tikoga ni dua na *Chicken's Act* koya me rawa ni vakatabui na toa mai na kania na niu, saga ni koya tiko qo vei kedatou. Au vakabauta mai kea sa na qai lako ga mai kina na Tabacakacaka ni Bula, koya vakaturi tiko qo e matamuni. Sa tiko kina na lawa ni kena susugi na manumanu, ka manumanu sa wili tiko iloma na veimataqali birds — wili tiko kina na toa, ga, pato kei na cava soti tale na manumanu eda dau susuga me rawa ni vakatawa toka ni kuro.

Koya saka beka ya, au vakabauta ni sa via saumi taucoko na loma ni taro ena siga ni kua.

MR. E. DAKUITOGA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Dakuitoga)

Au sa rogoca vakalailai na itukutuku a tukuna na marama qo, kau kila ni sega ni matata vei kemudou. Kevaka dou gole yani ena neitou uciwai qo na gauna qo, dou na raica e levu sara toka na wai.

Ratou caka wavu tiko qo o ratou na RPA. Kevaka dou na lako eke, dou na raica na wavu e tiko i cake, tiko kina na wai. Na wai ya sa mai vakavuna tiko na luvu ni neitou koro. Ni dau dave, sa vakavuna tiko na luvu ni neitou koro baleta ni tiko i cake na wavu.

Ia, sa dola oti edua mai cake ya, koya qo e sega tu ni dola baleta ni keitou complaint-taka tiko ni vakavu luvu tiko ena neitou koro na wai.

Kevaka dou na lako eke, dou na raica na drekeniwai qo sa sega ni rawa ni lutu sobu tale na wai. Ni gauna ni siga balavu, sa dau via boi tale na wai. Kena ibalebale, dou sa na rawa ni kila na cava e yaco, sa tu vakadua na wai.

Kena ibalebale, na Tabana ni Bula au kila ni sa na rogoca tiko. Keitou sa complaint-taka oti kina Tabana ni Bula. Tabana ni Bula tale beka ga e sogota tu vei ratou na RPA me ratou kua ni dolava baleta ni cala tu na ka e caka tiko ya.

Dua talega na vakatataro, sa yaco tiko beka ivei na vakasama ya?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- E sega ni tiko na lawa vakatututaki tiko qo na ka me baleta na nodatou itikotiko.

Vakabauta ni ratou sa rogoca tiko na Tabana ni Bula. Au na kerea mo ni biuta mai vakatutu, dua e tokona me na rawa vei keitou, me keitou na lai vakamuria na tabana cava, na vanua e lai tao tiko kina.

MR. E. DAKUITOGA.- Au sa vakatura tiko.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MS. M. BULI.- Na vuku ni Tabana ni Bula sa lai yaco i valeniwai.

Ia, dua walega na vakatutu au kauta cake tiko yani: ke rawa ni dua beka na neitou Vuniwai, baleta ni sa tiko na neitou Nasi.

Ni na vinakati na Vuniwai, keitou na cici sara i Tukavesi kevaka sa cala ya, keitou sa tini sara ga i Savusavu.

Kevaka ena bula tiko, kevaka e sega, sa na cavuka koso na icegu ena tolo ni sala qo. Koya beka ga na vakatutu e gole tiko yani.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Taro vinaka, e sega ni tiko na lawa vakatututaki tiko qo, au na kerea mo na vakatura mai, ka me tokoni. Neitou itavi me keitou na qai cabetaka ivale levu vu ana Minisita ni Tabana ni Bula

MS. M. BULI.- Au sa vakatura cake tiko yani.

MS. T. RATAWA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na kauti keda ga vakatotolo kina meda isoso ni wai, vanua e vure tiko mai kina na meda wai se na paipo. Kedatou qo e tiko na nodatou soso ni wai?

LEWENIVANUA.- Io.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na lawa vakatututaki tiko qo me baleta na meda soso ni wai, e tolu tiko na ka lelevu e vauca:

1. Kaya mada ke sa tiko i cake nodratou vanua na Sau Turaga se Turaga – sa tabu vua o taukei ni qele se dua e tiko ena loma ni koro me na teitei ena vanua e tiko kina na meda soso ni wai.
2. Sa na tabu kina na susu manumanu.
3. Tabu talega kina na kena tavaki na kau.
4. Tabu talega ni ko vakacacana e dua na tolo ni wai (kaya mada dua na veitalanoa ga eke, o cudru ga o lako cake, lai taya na paipo koya lako sobu mai na koro).

O ira kece ya sa tiko na kena totogi ena loma ni lawa vakaturi qo. Na vuna au via tukuna kina vei kedatou, baleta ni vauci keda kece tiko na lawa qo na soso ni meda wai, baleta e qarava na bula raraba ena loma ni tikotiko ni koro.

Yaco mai Ba vica na yabaki sa oti, mate na manumanu, dua ga na veimaliwai ca o ira na tiko kina, ra qai lai biuta mai ena medra isoso ni wai na manumanu, mani vakaleqai kina e rua na bula ena loma ni yabaki sa oti.

Na lawa vakatutu kece e kau tiko mai qo, ratou sa vakadinadinataka na Tabana ni Bula ni sa yaco tiko ena noda vanua. Sega ni dua na ka eratou qai mai semasemata tiko me rawa kina ni talevi mai kina na noda veikorokoro. Ena loma ni 90 na yabaki na nodratou vakadidike tiko mai, au a kaya tiko mai cake, 70 kina 80 na pasede ni tamata era lako ena noda valenibula o kedatou ga. Ira na tiko ena loma ni veikoro lelevu ena bula savasava kei na veika era qarava me baleta na nodra bula vakavuvale e taucoko tu.

Ya na vuna koya sa vakabibitaki mai kina na tiko savasava kei na tiko bulabula, me sa okati kina o keda na tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu.

Nanuma meu sa cava eke ena vakavure vakasama toka vei keda. Kena iotioti ga, kevaka e dua na nanuma ni na qai veitalanoa beka kina vakoro se vaka-itikotiko se vakavuvale, ka yaga mo dou na vakatututaka tale mai se written submission, ratou tiko qo na neitou vakalesilesi. Se vo tale tiko qo e rua kina tolu na vula na neitou wavokiti Viti tiko ena vakasokomuni kina na itukutuku ni bera ni keitou qai lai dabe i Palimedi, me keitou vakumuna kece na itukutuku e soqoni mai Viti. Keitou sa na qai raica e vei na vanua koya e bibi ka yaga, veiraurau kei na noda bula i Viti, me na lave cake i Palimedi me sa lai lawatu ni noda vanua kei na noda Matanitu.

Vica saka na mala ni vosa dravuadravua ya, au nanuma me sa mai cava kina nodatou veitalanoa ena mataka ni kua. Dou vosota ni sa bibi sara na kena itautau, nuitaka ni da na ciqoma tiko na kena yalo kei na kena vakasama ena rarama ni gauna vou eda sa tiko kina ni kua. Vinaka saka vakalevu

The Committee adjourned at 10.30 a.m.

The Committee resumed at 1.09 p.m.

Present

1. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu - Chairman
2. Hon. A. Bia - Member
3. Hon. A.T. Nagata - Member
4. Hon. K.K. Lal -Alternate Member
5. Hon. S. Kumar - Alternate Member

Apologies

1. Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure - Deputy Chairperson
2. Hon. V. Pillay - Member
3. Hon. P.K. Bala - Member

Ministry of Health and Medical Services

1. Mr. Luke Vonotabua - Chief Health Inspector
2. Mr. Toga Vosataki - WASH Coordinator
3. Mr. Vakaruru Cavuilati - Divisional Health Inspector, North.

Submittee: Residents of Naweni Village

In Attendance:

1. Ratu Josefa Kabakoro
2. Mr. Naibuka Vuibureta
3. Mr. Sekove Yasava
4. Mr. Mateo Rokovesa
5. Mr. Daniele Matakanace
6. Mr. Iosefo L. Naduva
7. Mr. Tusoba Seru
8. Ms. Ulamila Vuilabasa
9. Mr. Maika Lewanavanua
10. Mr. Eparama Daina
11. Mr. Emosi Viavia
12. Mr. Apenisa Maikorowiri
13. Ms. Laisa Tamanisau
14. Mr. Emori Waqa
15. Mr. Josateki Tavitaga
16. Mr. Ilaitia Radovu
17. Ms. Rosalia Naduva
18. Ms. Kacilia Diseru
19. Ms. Diakisi Leveni
20. Ms. Sisilia V. Dakai
21. Ms. Perina Drika
22. Mr. Sikeli Tamonesia

MR. CHAIRMAN. - Ni sa tiko saka nai tikotiko vakaturaga ena nodatou tikotiko, na gone turaga saka na Tui Naweni, ena loma ni yavusa vakaturaga e rua. Ni tiko na masi ni vanua tabu eda mai tiko ena dua na siga tale e daidai. Au vakabauta ni sa matata saka tiko vei kemudou nai lakolako ni nodra na gone turaga na Speaker ni Vale ni boselawa. Keitou na dabe saka tiko qo na lewe va, keitou lewe ni Palimedi ka keimami mata digitaki mai na veitikina kei na yasana ka keimami sa lai lewe saka tu ni matanitu.

Ni bera saka ga ni na tekivu na noda veitalanoa, au na kerei ratou na mata mai na Palimedi me ratou na vakamacalataki iratou mada.

(Introduction of Committee Members & officials from Ministry of Health and Medical Services)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au sa na kauti keda vata talega kina lawa vakatututaki. Au vakabauta ni sa tiko vei kemuni na kenai lavelave. Na 69 na lawa vakatututaki ka tiko qori na kena lavelave, ya na vanua eda na veitalanoa tiko kina ena yakavi ni kua. Na kena railesu – ena 1935 a mai vakalawataki tiko na lawa vakaturi bibi qo. Eda sa tiko ena 2026 vakacaca ka sa via yabaki 90 na lawa vakatutu se lawa tu ni noda vanua ko Viti mai na 1935. Sa ratou qai laveta rawa na tabana ni bula me sa yaco e so na veiveisau lelevu koya vaka eda raica tu qori e 69 na tabana e yaga me na veisautaki na kena maroroi na noda bula ni tiko bulabula, tiko savasava ena loma saka ni noda veikoro vakaviti.

Na yabaki 1935, na lawa vakaturi a lako saka tiko mai ya e qaravi ira tikoga na tiko ena loma ni tauni lelevu. Koya na kenai lavelave sa lako tiko mai qo, sa wili tiko kina me okati kece o keda na lewei Viti – o ira na tiko ena tauni kei keda talega na tiko ena veikoro ena loma ni noda yasana e 14.

Au nuitaka ni sa na via matata toka ya, au na kerei honourable Bia me na tosoya mada vakalekaleka vei kedatou na veivakararamataki ni lawa vakatututaki eda na veitalanoa kina nikua.

HON. A. BIA.- Ni sa tiko sobu saka na turaga ni vanua, ni sa tiko talega na marama, vakalekaleka sara na vuku ni vakamacala enai naki ni lakolako ka lako saka tiko ena sigalevu ni kua me vaka sa vakamacala taumada kina na turaga nai liuliu ni bose ena kena tovolei me vakasokumuni nai tukutuku se na nomuni nanuma na lewenivanua ena vuku ni dua na lawa vakaturi saka tiko ena loma ni vale ni boselawa, ka keitou wavoki saka tiko qo ka vakatokai na Public Health Act. O koya e kenai naki saka me vakaukauwataka tale na noda qarauna na bula ni tiko savasava kei na tiko bulabula ena noda veikoro se na veivanua eda dui tiko kina vakabibi na noda veivale.

Sa 90 na yabaki na lawatu mai na 1935 me yacova mai nikua, ena gauna se ciciva mai kina na lawa qori, e dua na veisau levu sai koya na kena tovolei ena matai ni gauna me sa oka na koro ena lawa oqo. Na kena cici tu mai ena 90 na yabaki e qaravi ira tikoga na tiko ena veitauni, ia qo nai matai ni gauna me sa oka na koro ena vuku ni lawa ni kena vakadeitaki tiko eso na lawa virikotori me baleta na noda tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava ena noda veikoro. Eda na vakataroga se cava na vuna esa oka kina na koro. E dua nai naki levu sai koya na nodratou dikeva tiko na tabana ni bula ni levu mate ka dau lai vakavu leqa ka veidewavi vakatotolo me vaka na typhoid, na dengue, na mi ni manu, na leptospirosis – e levu vei ira na veimate oqo ka dau lai vakavuna na leqa, era dau lako tiko yani e valenibula e levu ga vei keda na veikoro vakaviti ka da dau kauta tu yani e levu na mate ca oqo.

E ratou sa qai raica na tabana ni bula ni dua na yasana e rawa ni wali kina, sai koya na kena tarovi ga ena vanua eda tiko kina na kena qarauni na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava e rawa ni tarovi kina na mate oqo. E dua na lawalawa e nanumi tiko me na veisau se me na kau mai ena kena vakatututaki tiko mai na lawa vakaturi oqo, sai koya na kena dau qarauni me savasava vinaka na noda koro. Na benu me kua ni biu vakaveitalia, me laurai me kua ni tubua tiko na saula ni koro se na noda saula ni vale ka rawa ni vakasucu kina na namu e rawa ni vakadewa na dengue. Me da dau raica ka dikeva vakamatua sara na wai e lako tiko mai ena loma ni valenisili se na wai ni valelailai me raici me vakadrodroi vakavinaka. Me kakua ni dua na gaunisala me laki vakadewa tale kina na mate vei ira na gone era tiko e loma ni koro, se vua e dua tale na vuvale.

Mai na veicala kece oqori kei na kena tovolei me vakadeitaki ena noda bula ni tiko savasava kei na tiko bulabula, ena loma ni 90 na yabaki ka veiqaravi voli mai kina na lawa vakaturi oqo, e laurai ni totogi era tu ga ena $2, ka so e $5, $10 ka so e $20. Sa ratou qai raica na tabana ni bula ni levu na gauna ni ratou lako yani me ratou vakasalataki keda na lewenivanua ena vuku ni veika e leqa, na tamata e vuki cakava tuga baleta ni ra kila ni ra gole ga kina mataveilewai ka ra sauma e $2, $5 – oti ya ka ra mai vuki vakayacora tikoga ka levu tikoga na lewenivanua era gole tiko yani ki valenibula ka so era laki leqa sara. Ni qai kau yani e so na kisi, e sa bibi saka tiko ena noda veivalenibula.

Sa ratou raica kina na yasana qo, sa laveti kina e so nai totogi vakaturi tiko ena lawa vakaturi qo ka tiko sara eso ena $200 ka so e $1,000, so e $2,000. Nai naki levu sai koya na noda vakauqeti na lewenivanua meda sa na rere na biu benu vakaca, da rere ena sega ni samaka na noda koro baleta ni da kila kevaka eda na vakayacora, sa tiko na veitotogi oqori.

E dua talega nai naki levu se dua na veisau e kau mai, sai koya na kena taqomaki na nodai vakaso ni wai. Ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi oqo, kevaka e sa na lai pasitaki ena loma ni Vale ni boselawa ena vica na vula ka tu mai, nai vakaso ni wai kece ke qele lisitaki se sega, kevaka ga e dua nai vakaso ni wai sa ra gunu tiko kina na koro se tikotiko vagalala, e tabu ni dua e benuca se vakacacana nai vakaso ni wai. E tabu madaga ni dua me taya na paipo koya e drodro tiko mai kina na wai

ka ra gunu tiko kina na koro. Nai naki levu, sega ni tukuni ni taqomaki me rawa ni ra totogitaki kina na lewenivanua. Nai naki levu sai koya, me savasava tiko ena veigauna na wai era gunuva tiko na veikoro ka me kakua ni veidewavi eso na mate e rawa ni vakavuna na kena gunuvi na wai duka.

Ya na vica na ka e rawa ni kau mai ena vuku ni lawa virikotori qo, ia mai na lawa kece e 69 vakadua na veisau. Oya e tolu beka ga se va na veisau au nanuma ni na tarai keda vakalevu ena vuku ni vanua eda tiko kina, na koro se nai tikotiko vagalala eda sa na kovuti kece vakadua ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi tiko qo sai koya na Public Health Act. Mai dua saka tiko na noqu vosa lekaleka sa vaka saka oya na kena levu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nuitaka ni sa na matata vei keda na vakadewa ka mai tukuna tiko nai tokani ya me baleta na lawa vakatututaki qo na Public Health. Na kena veisau kei na tabana e 69 koya e gadrevi tiko me veisau qo. Au sa na dolava na noda veitalanoa, sa soli tiko vei keda na galala ena loma ni nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga, keo ni vinakata mo ni vosa mai na dua na tabana mai na 1 kina 69, ni laveta na ligamuni.

MR. E. DAME.- Au gone ni Dromuninuku kau mata talega ni tikina ena koro kecekece qo mai Dromuninuku ki Tacilevu. E dua walega na vakatutu au laveta tiko nikua sai koya na vesu manumanu. Au kila ni mosoni qo e dau lakova na veibose vakoro, e dua ga na ka e kau tiko mai sai koya na nona dau vakacaca na manumanu vakabibi na vuaka. Da vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni sa rawa ni dou lako mai me datou mai dabe vata ena vuku ni kena sagai me valuti eso na vakatutu e dau curu mai na bose vakoro, lai yaco kina bose ni tikina ka sega ga ni dua nai wali ni leqa e dau yaco kina.

Da vakavinavinaka vakalevu ena sasaga sa cakava tiko na matanitu me sa laveti cake me sa totogi vakalevu sara o ira na taukei ni manumanu ena vuku ni kena sagai mera kua ni vakacaca vakalevu ena veiyasa ni koro ena kena sagai me ra vesuka na nodra manumanu, ia e sega ga. E dua ga na vakatutu au saga tiko qo sai koya me rau enforce taki mada o rau na turaga ni koro kei nasi ni koro baleta ni rau liga ni veiqaravi ena loma ni dua koro, ka tiko talega kina na tabana ni bula. Me vaka ni levu na gauna e rau dau laveta cake eso na ka, ka levu era dau vosa kudrukudru ena levu na gauna.

Au kerea walega na matabose qo ena vuku ni vakatutu qo me rawa enforce taki na lawa ena kena sagai me soli vei rau na kaukauwa vaka talega kina me rau dau vakalewena tiko e dua na fomu ena kena sagai tiko na kena vakasavasavataki tiko na loma ni koro me baleta na noda bula raraba.

Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni dou lako mai ena siga e daidai, me mai rogoci tiko kina na veika kece qo.Nai karua talega ni ka au via vakaraitaka sai koya na wai se musu tolo ni paipo e dau caka. E levu na ka keimami sotava talega kina loma ni koro oqo vakabibi vei ira era dau cudru tu ga ka ra lai cakava tu e so na ka baleta ni ra kila ni tabana ni bula raraba ka se gadrevi tikoga kina me datou saga tiko me rawa ni vakaukauwataka ka vakamaucokonataka tiko na kena sagai me maroroi na paipo, maroroi na wai kau kila ni dua na ka e bula bibi ena loma ni dua na koro sai koya na bula ni vakadrodroi ni wai.

Vaka talega kina na kena teiteivaki tiko ena loma ni koro. Au kila ni levu nai teitei e yaco tiko e lomanikoro ka dau vakavuna talega na kena lako mai na mate veitauvi eso ka sa gadrevi tale tikoga kina. Eda vakavinavinaka vakalevu ena veilavelave dou sa laveta tiko mai nikua ka keimami tokona tiko ena kena sagai me rawa ni valuti na bula raraba ena kena sagai me vakavoutaki na tiko savasava ena loma ni dua nai tikotiko.

E vaka talega kina na vale ni vakacegu ka kerei tikoga na loma ni matanitu ke rawa ni veivuke tale tikoga mai eso na vuvale e tu e lomanikoro qo ka ra sa vakayagataka tikoga na pit toilet. Eso era se vakayagataka tale tikoga na veikau qo ka sa gadrevi tikoga kina ke rawa ni raica tale tikoga na tabana ni matanitu me bau vukei mai o ira na tiko vale ni vakacegu me ra lai maroroya kina nodra benu. Koya walega ya e vica na vakatutu au laveta tiko ena siga ni kua.

Keimami vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni dou rawa ni siro sobu mai, ka dodonu me keitou lai soli tukutuku i Savusavu, ia ni dou sa lako mai ena loma ni tikina vinaka o Naweni qo, sa dua na ka na levu ni marau kei na rairai vinaka ni rawa ni mai rogoci talega na domoi keimami e na loma ni tuvatuva ni matanitu me rawa ni pasitaki me rawa kina na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava ena veisiga ni mataka kei Viti.

E dua talega na ka au via laveta cake tiko nikua baleta e levu na workshop au dau attendtaka me baleta na environment. Baleta na town boundary e yaco tikoga ena town area vakabibi vei keitou na tiko ena loma ni Hibiscus Highway mai vei ira na freehold land. E sa gadrevi tale tikoga ke rawa ni ra lai tarogi se vanua cava era biuta tiko kina na nodra benu, baleta ni levu na gauna, ira na freehold land qo era dump taka ga na nodra rubbish ena uciwai e drodro tu ya vakabibi koya e tiko mai Nacekoro. Na benu ya qai lai nodratou o ratou na tiko mai Nacekoro ni sa lai duka tu na tolo ni

wai ya ena vuku ni kena sagai me maroroi na nodra benu, baleta na vanua qo e dua na vanua e cavuka tiko kina na bula ni veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula ka vaka talega kina o ira na tiko ena vei freehold land qori. Ke rawa mera kovuti tale tikoga ena tikina qo o ira na tu vakagalala tu me rawa ni lai tarogi talega se na vanua cava e maroroi tiko kina na nodra benu ka me rawa ni sagai e dua nai wali ni leqa mera lai vukei talega kina.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- E rabailevu sara na vakasama oya ka okata toka e va vakadua na ulutaga bibi ni noda veitalanoa ena sigalevu e daidai. Kenai matai na kena maroroi na manumanu ena loma ni nodatou i tikotiko wili vakakina na nodatou i vakaso ni wai kei na kena veiqaravi kei na benu vakaca me vaka da kila kece tiko, o ira na tiko ena loma ni koro lelevu e vauci ira na lawa vei ira na dau sauma nai vakacavacava ena veikoro lelevu.

Au na kerei rau na tabana ni bula me rau na veivakararamataki mada ena tolu na ulutaga ya, ni bera ni datou na qai lakova yani na veika me baleta na benu vakaca.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Cavuti tiko na vakavinavinaka ena veitikina eso e cauraki saka tiko mai ena siga ni kua. Veivakadeitaki tiko na tikina ni susu manumanu sa wili tiko ena lawa vakaturi sa tiko qori ena tikina e 26 ka sa wili tiko kina na kena vaqaqacotaki ni lawa qori me baleta na susu manumanu se na kena vataukeni na manumanu.

Nai tukutuku me baleta na meda wai ni gunu. Na lawa vakaturi e tiko qori ena tikina e 26, na tikina e 32, 48, 57 kei na 60. E lima taucoko na tikina qori e sa vakatututaki tiko qori na taqomaki ni nodai gunugunu ni wai. Kenai balebale na gauna sa na pasitaki kina kina loma ni boselawa na lawa vakaturi ka toka qori, qai dua me vakaleqa na meda gunugunu ni wai, se dua e musuka na paipo se tonoka na tani ni wai me vakasausataki tiko na meda gunugunu ni wai, sa rawa ni na okati koya na lawa ni tabacakacaka ni bula koya da raica tiko qori.

Na ulutaga me vaka na ulutaga koya eda wasea tiko me baleta na kena maroroi vakavinaka na nodatou rubbish, na tabacakacaka ni bula, ena lawa vakaturi sa toka qori e matada e sa vakatura tiko me na kau lesu mai na Rural Local Authority. E a dau tu e liu, ni bera na 2018 qai mai taba bokoci ena 2018 me yacova tiko mai na siga nikua. Ni dau tiko na Rural Local Authority, e rau dau veiceguvi vata kei na matabose ni tauni. Na vanua e yaco kina na matabose ni tauni, e qai tekivu kina na veiqaravi ni Rural Local Authority. O ira na wekada qori era tiko mai qori ena Hibiscus Highway, era vakasaga tiko e dua na vanua me maroroi kina na nodra benu. Nai wali ni leqa levu ga e rawa ni vakasamataka na tabacakacaka ni bula, me dua nai walewale me rawa ni ra biuta kina na nodra benu e dua na gaunisala e rawa ni maroroi vakavinaka. Kenai balebale me provide taki e dua na solution me maroroi kina na nodra benu, ke sega, kevaka e vakatabui mai na yasana mawi, era na benu e yasana matau. Ke vakatabui e yasana matau, era na benu e loma. Me dua ga na vanua me na gole kina na benu. Koya saka ya, e vakanananu tiko kina na lawa vakaturi ka tiko qori me na kau lesu mai na Rural Local Authority.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nuitaka ni sa na saumi na nomuni taro mai vei ratou na tabana ni bula. Dola saka tiko na veitalanoa. Dua na wekaqu e dabe toka mai muri ya.

VILLAGER.- Cavuti na vakavinavinaka ena vuku ni veitalanoa walega me baleta na benu. Au vakavinavinaka ni sa tiko na vakatutu ni kena laveti cake na veiqaravi. E dua na vatataro kei na kauwai – au kila ni noda veikorokoro, sa na yacova mai na liga ni veiqaravi ya, sa levu dina na benu. Na vakanananu ni sa tiko na tabana ni bula me rawa ni dua kina nai rairai ni kena maroroi na benu. Keitou a veitalanoa tiko ena bose vakoro ena loma ni koro vakaturaga qo ena vica na vula sa oti baleta na kauwai ni sa oso mai na veirusa ni koro na bulu benu. Ia ni toso vata tiko vata kei na veivakatoroicaketaki, sa na gadrevi me na vakayagataki na veitiki ni qele ena yasa ni rusa ni koro me toso yani kina na koro.

Ia na leqa levu ena lai sotavi, ni na lai sotavi tale na bulu benu qo me sa na lomanikoro. Na cava nai rairai e rai tiko kina na tabana ni bula ena kena maroroi vakavinaka na benu, me kua walega ni maroroi na loma ni koro ka me kau vata na dua na vanua meda rawa ni galala mai na benu.

MR. V. CAVUILATI.- Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu ena vuku ni taro ka gole saka tiko mai ni tiko na kauwai me baleta na benu sega walega nio kemudou e Naweni. Na veivanua kece e caka tiko kina na veitalanoa qo, era kauwaitaka vakalevu tiko na veitalanoa me baleta na benu.

Me baleta saka tikoga na kena maroroi na benu, e vica tiko na kenai walewale. Na kenai matai saka ga me vaka eda sa kila tiko beka na koro ni dau qaravi tiko na kena vuli ena kena vakalailaitaki na benu se na 3R concept. Na kena dau wasewasei na benu mera maroroi. Ena vakalailaitaka talega na benu koya e dau lai bulu kevaka eda vakayagataka vakavinaka na vuli ya na 3R kei na kena veiwasewasei vinaka na benu kei na duidui ni vanua me na maroroi kina.

Na kenai karua saka ga me baleta na kena vakalesui mai na Local Authority. E tiko kina e dua na neitou dau ni veiqaravi ena kena maroroi na benu. Oqo e tautauvata ga kei na nodratou veiqaravi na town council. Kevaka eda na vinakata me da na qaravi ena veiqaravi ya, meda na tu vakarau ena noda sauma na kena lai kau mai na noda benu. E sega ni kau wale na noda benu ke lai biu ena kenai benubenu. Ena vakai ira talega na tiko e loma ni tauni era sauma tiko na nodra town rates, na nodra garbage fees koya e maroroi kina na nodra benu.

Ya e rua na ka meda rawa ni vakasamataka tiko ena noda tiko ena veikoro vakaviti enai walewale e rua koya keitou vakanananutaka tiko na tabana ni bula ena kena vakalailaitaki na benu kei na kena vuli ka dau mai qaravi. Na kenai karua, ke sa na vakayagataki na veiqaravi ni Local Authority, me da na tu vakarau na lewenivanua ena kena saumi na noda benu me na vakaleleci sara yani kina i benubenu me na lai maroroi kina vakavinaka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- E 69 kece na tabana koya e vakatututaki tiko qori me veisau. Au nuitaka ni ko ni na rawa ni digitaka ga mai na naba koya e tiko kina me rawarawa kina na noda veitalanoa. Na yakavi ni kua ena sega ni lesu tale mai vei kedatou, nai otioti tiko ni koro ni neitou wavokiti Vanua Levu tiko qo ena nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman through you, this bill or this law has been presented to Parliament by the Ministry of Health. This Parliamentary Committee here made up of Opposition and Government MPs in a bi-partisan manner is here to ask your opinion if these laws are okay for you. At the same time, there are some things in this law, which will later affect you, meaning there increases in fines as the honourable Member has explained. It is not a small fine, it is a big fine and it is not going to discriminate against you if you are living in the village, or you are living in the town or if you are rich or poor. Everyone will be treated equally, meaning if the health inspectors see that you need to be fined, there is a process that gives first, second and third warning, but later on, they might give you $1,000 fine.

This is the time the Parliamentary Committee is here to hear you to basically tell us if you are okay with the laws that they have presented. They are going around Fiji, they have completed Viti Levu, now in Vanua Levu and later the maritime communities because when the Local Authorities come in, there will be some enforcement. Before, the health inspectors did not enter the villages, now, the health inspectors will come in with their awareness and everything. Once all those things are done, then you will be liable to ensure that those laws are followed, so this is the opportunity I am requesting my fellow Kasavu people if you can raise your concerns regarding this bill or talk about this Bill.

If you have any questions, the Chairman is here and other members from Ministry of Health are here. Tell them what you think about this bill. Thank you.

VILLAGER.- E dua na kerekere, kevaka e rawa ni maroroi tiko beka nai tukutuku qo. Au kila ni lekaleka na gauna e soli vei keimami me keimami irova kina na pepa qo, e levu na ka e tu me veitalanoataki. Au kerea ga mai muri ke rawa ni biu cake kina nodatou matabose me dau soli na gauna vei keimami me rawa ni keimami vakananumi rawa mai se me keimami raica na cava e vinakati me veisautaki. Ena loma ni gauna lekaleka qo, au vakabauta ni sega ni dua ena rawa ni solia vakatotolo sara e so na ka. Ni qai via tukuna e sa bera baleta nikua ga na siga ni bula.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Esa ciqoma saka tiko na nomuni vakatutu. E dina taucoko, vei keitou e Palimedi ni sa vo tiko e rua na macawa, e sa vakau vei ira kece na Roko ena kena gadrevi me yaco mai nai tukutuku me mai wilika rawa ni bera ni keitou qai yaco mai. Sa kerea saka tiko na veivosoti ena tabana bibi ya.

Na kenai karua saka ga, ni oti na nodatou veitalanoa nikua, ena soli tale tiko e rua se tolu na vula ke o ni nanuma moni qai wilika vinaka na lawa vakatututaki qori, e so na vanua ka yaga moni rai kina se kerea kina na kena vakamacala, se ni vakatututaka (written submission) sa kerei mo ni qai veitaratara kei ratou na vakailesilesi mai Palimedi. E tiko vei ratou na nodratou email se naba ni talevoni, se yaco na gauna mo ni na veitalanoa kina kei na nomuni matavuvale, tokatoka se mataqali, basika e so na veika e yaga dina me mai tokona na lawa vakatutu qo, sa soli tiko vei kemudou e rua se tolu na vula mo dou qai vakatutu yani .

Nikua, dou kalougata nai otioti ni koro e Vanua Levu ni nomudou na madigi, dou vakayagataka vinaka na gauna vinaka oqo. E rogo kina na domomudou ka na lai katoni tu ena Palimedi me 10 vakacaca na yabaki. Ke dua na ka e gadrevi me na veisau tale ena loma ni lawa vakatutu qo, me dau rai lesuvi tale na veika a vasokumuni e Viti na gauna oya. Au sa nuitaka ni sa via matata toka ya.

VILLAGER.- Dua ga na kerekere qo me baleta tikoga eso na ka e voleka vei keda, baleta ni sa rui levu na ka e tukuni mai qo. Vakacava mada na vuaka? E vica mada na fine kevaka e dua e basuka na lawa ni vuaka? Baleta eke, na

vuaka sa veivanua kecega e lako tu kina. E vaka e bera tiko na lawa, ke rawa ni musuki na ka qo. Sa levu na vuaka era wavoki tu e lomanikoro qo. E vica na totogi?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na kerei rau na vakalesilesi liu mai na tabana ni bula me rau veivakararamataki mada ena tikina oya. Matai e vakabibi tiko ena vuaka era susu tiko ena noda veikoro, koya era wavoki tu e lomanikoro, se na kena yawa mai na vanua dodonu me lai tiko kina e dua na bai ni vuaka.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Ni tiko nai tikotiko vakaturaga ena siga ni kua, ni dabe saka na vuvale vanua ena siga ni kua. Na gauna saraga eda veivosaki tiko kina qo, na lawa ni tabacakacaka ni bula e sega ni kovuta tiko na veikoro vakaviti. Ya na vuna e tiko qori na tikina naba rua na nomuni teveli koya e tiko qori e matamuni. Qori esa sagai ena lawa vakaturi qo, me sa veisau ya me sa lawa ni tabacakacaka ni bula me sa robota taucoko na noda Viti raraba wili kina na koro vakaviti.

Ena gauna saraga qo, kedatou vauci tikoga ena lawa ni tabacakacaka itaukei, na kena provincial by-laws e volai tiko kina ni sa tabu na susu manumanu ena loma ni koro vakaviti. Na vakatutu e tiko ena lawa vakaturi qori me sa oka mai na tabacakacaka ni bula na tiki ni lawa oya. Na kenai totogi e vakatututaki tiko ka rua tiko na kenai wasewase. Na vale vakaitaukei se na tiko vakavanua e $200 e nanumi tiko me na lavaki ena susugi ni vuaka ena loma ni koro vakaviti.

Ena kena wasewase (commercial) eda kila tiko ni tiko eso era bisinisi vuaka me vaka i Wahleys, Leyland ka vica na kai jaina era sa tauyavutaka tiko na nodra bai ni vuaka lelevu. Koya ya e tiko na kena totogi e $400. E rau veisemati na rua ya – kenai matai me vakadonui ena lawa vakaturi qo me sa roboti Viti na lawa vakaturi. Ni sa donu oya sa na qai tiko na tikina e 26 koya e okati kina na susugi ni manumanu, sega walega ni vuaka.

Eratou tukuna mai Serea ni dau bogi na vanua, e dau lailai na tamata ena lomanikoro ka levu na bulumakau. Eso tale na vanua era tukuna sa sivia na koli – na veimataqali manumanu eso. Na lawa vakaturi tiko qori, ena tikina e 26 e biu tiko kina na susugi ni manumanu ena lawa kei na kena totogi. Na kena totogi koya au vakamacala tiko kina ya, ka vakaturi tiko ena lawa vakaturi qori. E $200 kevaka e vakaitaukeni vakaikoya, kevaka e dau ni bisinisi e $400. Au vakabauta ni sa na saumi tiko beka kina na lomatarotaro e gole saka tiko mai.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na cava na nomudou nanuma na nodai tikotiko vakaturaga. E lailai se levu se me vakatubutaki?

VILLAGER.- Au kerea tikoga ke sa vaka oqori me sa biu mai, ke sa rawa ni biu rawa saraga mai e vica. Me da qai raica vaqo me da sa kila o ka qo na kenai sau qo. Se cala na leqa qo, na kenai sau qo. Me sa tuvani saraga mai, mera qai raica o ira na lewenivanua mera sa kila, sa kua ni caka eke na susu vuaka baleta keimami na totogi kina qo. Baleta ni lako tuga mai qori e $200 me mai kilai tale na kena wasewasei ka me rawa ni tukuni rawa mai.

Ena veikorokoro qo, keda lai lako tale tiko vaya, ena kabi vata tale tiko na Village by-laws ka se sega tuga ni caka. Koya tale beka ga qo, sega ni macala se gauna cava ena lai lako mai tuba na kena totogi.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Na kena dau buli na lawa, kenai matai ena yaga me kua ni veicoqacoqa vata kei so na lawa era sa tiko rawa. Koya e biu tikoqo, ena vuku ni veiqaravi ni tabacakacaka ni bula ena loma ni vicasagavulu na yabaki e lako curumi mai, keitou raica ni dina e tiko na lawa ni tabacakacaka i taukei ni tabu na susu manumanu ena lomanikoro. E sega ni vaqaqacotakitiko na lawa oya. E dredre vei keitou na tabacakacaka ni bula me keitou na vaqaqacotaka na lawa ni tabacakacaka itaukei, ni sa qai mai neitou kina na dredre ni veiqaravi baleta ni dua e tauvimate, na kena revurevu kei na ka taucoko vaya, e lako mai na tabacakacaka ni bula.

Na vakatutu koya e tiko ena lawa vakaturi qo, kevaka esa vaya, ia me sa soli kecega vei keitou me rawa ni keitou vakaukauwataka na lawa ni kena maroroi na bula vakabibi koya e mataqali vaqori, na susu manumanu. Na susu manumanu ena tikina e 26 qori, e volai tiko kina na vakasosavo – qori e dua na ka e caka na kenai vakarau me vakasabalia se substandard ena vosa vakavavalagi. E vica tiko na tikina era na oka tiko kina, e raica tiko ni 15 beka na tikina ka vakatokai tiko mera vakasosavo. E rua tiko tikina e kovuta tiko na kena susugi na manumanu. Na gauna e sa biu kina oya, na kena totogi sa qai toka era, na kena totogi me kakua ni sivita na $1,000. Ya nai totogi cecere duadua e rawa ni soli. Me da qai taura mada e dua e vagolea tiko nona wai ni septic tank, gole tu ga ena ikeli koya ya ena duatani na nona i-votavota. Na susu manumanu ena duatani na kena i-totogi.

E lalawaka tiko na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ni sa biu na kena i-totogi me cecere duadua e $1,000 ena loma ni kena Public Health Regulation, me na qai biu kina vaka o ni vakamacalataka tiko. Me sa na qai biu kina vakamatailalai na table koya tiko kina na cala, vata kaya na kena i-totogi vakailavo.

Dua talega na ka sa lako tiko mai loma ni lawa vakaturi qo, me vaka tiko na ka dau cakava na LTA — na infringement notice. Caka na infringement notice me rawarawataka na kena vaqaqacotaki na lawa ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula.

Me baleta na Village by-laws, au na kerei honourable Bia me na vakamacala kina.

HON. A. BIA.- Na veivakadeitaki ga ena vuku ni Village by-laws kei na kena duidui mai vei koya e veitalanoataki tiko qo. Koya qo, ni na qai pasitaki ga ena loma ni Valeniboselawa, koya sa lawa sara ga me vaka na noda Yavu ni Vakavulewa levu.

Kena ibalebale, kevaka e dua e vakayacora e dua na ka e vakatabui tiko ena loma ni lawa qo, sa rawa ni kau ena mataveilewai, sa rawa ni totogitaki vakailavo.

Na duidui ni noda lawa ni koro e va qo: na noda lawa ni koro se na Village by-laws okoya, se vakamatanitutaki ga, se oka tikoga okoya me dua ga na ituvatuva vakamatanitu. Koya se bera ni biu me oka me lawa ena dua na Yavu ni Vakavulewa.

Kevaka o ni na raica ena vica na vula sa oti, sa qai vosa tiko kina na Minisita ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei, na kena sagai me sa okati na Village by-laws se na lawa ni koro me tiki ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa levu.

Na kena duidui qo: na Village by-laws (lawa ni koro) e sega ni rawa ni kauta e dua me cala vakoro ena loma ni lawa ni koro. Kevaka o kauta ena mataveilewai, okoya ena lai winitaka ga nona kisi ena mataveilewai baleta ni donu tiko okoya ena vuku ni lawa levu ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa. Vakavo sara kevaka me sa okati na lawa ni koro se na Village by-laws se cakacakataki tiko na gauna qo, me na qai okati me tiki ni lawa ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa, sa qai rawa ni tautauvata okoya vata kei koya oqo.

Ia, mate na kena veitauvi eda na sega ni rawa ni tarova, na bula talega eda na sega ni rawa ni volia. Koya ya sa kauta mai kina na Tabana ni Bula na lawa qo me vukei keda na lewenivanua.

Au veiwasei madaga, ni veitalanoataki tiko qo na manumanu. Au wilika tiko na vakarerevaki ni mate qo na leptospirosis, koya ra vakavuna na manumanu, veitalanoataki tiko qo na vuaka, na bulumakau. E tukuni na kena vola itukutuku, era dau vakadewa na manumanu ena vuku ni nodra dau mi.

Taura mada na rara qori, ni tau na uca, so na vuaka se koli lako mai tiko na rara. Ni tau na uca, e suasua na rara, era lako yani na gone, ra qito. Qai so na gone e mavoa tiko vakalailai na tiki ni yagodra. Na vanua ya e curu kina na manumanu qo.

E vakatokai tiko na kena vosa vakalalagi: na manumanu e vakadewa okoya na leptospira. Ia na manumanu ya e tiko ena qele ni mamaca, e taura tiko ni vakamacawa se vakavula. Na gauna ga e tau kina na uca, okoya e bula tale.

Vica na yabaki sa oti, dua na outbreak levu mai Nadi. Qai va qo na veika eratou vola na Fiji Sun: “A legitimate killer, living amongst us.” E dua na mate e veivakamatei sara ga vakatotolo, e bula tu ena kena maliwa.

Na vuna e kau tiko mai kina na lawa qo, e dua na tiki bibi, sai koya me da qarauna o keda na dau vakamanumanu, me da kakua ni vakaleqa na nodra bula o ira na kawa kei Naweni ena siga ni mataka, kei ira na kawa kei Viti ena veisiga ni mataka.

Kevaka eda vinakata me ra tamata bulabula na kawa kei na luvei Viti ena veisiga ni mataka, au vakabauta ni sa kena gauna donu qo me kau mai kina na lawa qo, me taqomaki keda, taqomaki ira na luveda, me ra rawa ni ra qarava na itavi ni vanua, lotu kei na matanitu.

MR. E. VIAVIA.- Vinaka saka vakalevu. Au kila sa na via sauma kece saraga na taro, kena totolo ga kena vinaka me rawa ni qai veisau tiko na lawa sa qai kuria ga na kena vinaka.

MR. M. ROKOVOSA.- (Vakamacala e sega ni sala vata tiko na lawa vakatututaki tiko)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dua saka ga na taro. Qo e tiko iViti se tiko na taudaku kei Viti na koro o ni tukuna tiko qo?

MR. M. ROKOVOSA.- Na vuni noqu kerei kemudou toka baleta ni taukeni vakavanua..

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na taro au taroga tiko na koro ni tukuna tiko qori e tiko i Viti se tiko na taudaku kei Viti?

MR. M. ROKOVOSA.- Vinaka vakalevu au tokona tiko na lawa, da sega ni vinakata me da benu vakaca, da sega ni vinakata me tasere tu na vuaka. Au kauta tikoga yani na vakasama ya de na nanumi kina so na kena vakasama baleta na kena biu mai ni l awa. Ia, e taukeni tu vakavanua era lewa tu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Donu vakavinaka na wekaqu, sa ciqomi saka tiko na nomuni talanoa, matata vakavinaka tu, vinaka vakalevu sara na nomuni cau ena veitalanaoa ena sigalevu ni kua.

MR. L. DANE.- Sa tiko saka kemudou na lewe ni Palimedi, ni sa tiko na Turaga Tui Naweni, dou tiko na masi ni vanua.

Dua ga na ka au raica tiko qo sai koya na kena soli tiko na i-totogi ena vuku ni tukuna tiko okoya register, okoya e sega ni register, ena lutu vakalailai. Ia, da vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni rawa ni da mai raica qo, rawa ni vakatututaka tiko mai qori ke rawa ni raici tale mada na veitotogi qo, se tautauvata ga na totogi e tau mai vei ira era tu i taoni vata kei ira na tu ena koro.

Au vakamacala tiko qo ena Tikina 29, lako sobu mai ena vuku ni kena sagai… me vaka e vakaraitaki tiko ya mai na $2 kina $100. Vaka talega kina mai na $100 kina $500. Au kila ni totogi e lako tiko qo yacova sara tiko ga na $1000.

Ia, da sega ni vakuwai na veika dou sa laveta cake tiko mai, ke rawa ga ni raici vakabibi vei keda na tu vakakoro, vaka talega kina o ira na tu mai na tikina au vakamacalataka tiko qo, sai koya na tikina e 43. Tukuna tiko na totogi era vakayagataka edua na vanua e lawa e register, vaka talega kina na tikina 60 e tiko talega na totogi raraba ni basu lawa by-laws.

Au kerea ke rawa ni vakamatatataki mada ga na tiki ni lawa ya, Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

MR CHAIRMAN.- Na kerei rau na Tabana ni Bula, na kena vakabibitaki na lawa e tiko qo vakacaca, e vauci keda na tiko ena koro lelevu kei na taudaku ni koro lelevu, wili kina o ira na dau ni bisinisi.

Kevaka dou nanuma na nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga me da biu vata kei ira na tiko ena loma ni koro lelevu me bibi, mamada vei keda, rawa ni vakatututaki ena Matabose qo.

MR.. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, na tikina e 29 e vakamacalataki tiko kina na dodonu ena Yavu ni Vakavulewa vei dua na lewenivanua. Na tikina e 60 e vakamacalataki tiko kina na dodonu ni dua na

lewenivanua ena Yavu ni Vakavulewa me na appeal-taka na *nuisance order*. Qo koya na vakasosavu na ka au vakamacala taumada tiko kina.
Kevaka o sega ni duavata kina, taura mada kevaka sa gole tiko i vale na wai ni septic tank, sa gole tiko ena keli, qai gole mai ratou na vakalesilesi ratou sa raica, qai soli vei kemuni na *nuisance order*. Na *nuisance order* ya moni vakagalalataka na leqa koya yaco tiko ena loma ni vica na siga. Kemuni qai nanuma ni sega ni dodonu ya, e tu na galala vaka nomudou vakalewe ni vanua mo na appeal-taka na order ena High Court ni noda vanua.

Koya tiko qori sa na qai lai rogoca ena valenivolavola ni veilewai na High Court. Kevaka sa winitaka na kisi, sa cegu sara ga eke. Kevaka sa raica na valeniveilewai ena tukutuku sa biuta yani na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ni dodonu ga mo vakagalalataka, ena balavu ni kena lako tiko mai na kisi oya sa na qai tau vei iko na totogi taumada, vata e biu tiko ya me $2 ena veisiga mai na siga oya. Koya ya sa na veisau, sa na $100 na toso cake mai na $2 kina $100. Vakabauta ni sa na matata oya vei keda baleta kevaka o sa via appeal, mo na kila tiko ni na oti e tolu na vula, au qai sega ni winitaka noqu appeal. Kena ibalebale, na tolu na vula ya, dua na siga meu sauma tiko e $100 me kuri ni totogi taumada koya lavaki tiko ya. Vakabauta ni sa matata.

Eso dau vakayacora ya me vaka toka e delay tactic, me vakabalavutaka kina se vakadredretaka na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula.

Na Tikina 43 qori e vosa tiko e dua na ka keitou raica na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ena veiqaravi keitou cakava tiko mai ena loma ni vica na yabaki. Dua na dredre levu e tiko, nodra dau gole vakayauyau yani o ira na wekada ena vuku ni nodra dau kudru yani i valenivolavola na tuvaki ni vale era dau redetaka. Qai sega ni dua na ka vakalawa e tiko vei keitou me keitou taqomaki ira kina na wekada.

Dua na kena vakairataki: ratou na lai cakacaka i Labasa, ra rede tiko e dua na vale, kena tuvaki e ca tu na valenivo. Gauna sara ga qo e sega ni tiko dua na lawa ena Tabacakacaka ni Bula me taqomaki ira. Na lawa vakaturi koya sa tiko qori, e sa tukuna tiko me dua e via cicivaka e dua na nona vale rede, Airbnb, yaco madaga vei ira na taukei ni dovu – bareki ni musu dovu. Kevaka eso vei keda sa bau gole oti e dua na vanua ni musu dovu, o ni na kila vinaka na ka au tukuna tiko qo.

E dua lai tiko ga na vale vakacevaceva, qele ga na laca ra moce kina, valenivo e caka sara tu ga vakasabalia. Kevaka sa na mani pasitaki na lawa vakaturi qo, e sa na gadrevi me ra na register taucoko o ira era via cakava na veimataqali icili vakaoqo: boarding house, na labourers quarters, na Airbnb, na vale me redetaki. Kena ibalebale, kevaka au sa tara e dua na vale e vinakati me na redetaki me na rawaka vakailavo, au na lako taumada ena Tabacakacaka ni Bula. Sa tara oti na vale, me ratou mai raica, sa kilikili vakakina me tawana na tamata, sa qai soli vua na veivakadonui me sa qai redetaki. Keitou sa rawa ni tamusuka eke na leqa koya yaco tiko na gauna ni kua.

Na totogi koya qori, kevaka e dua e sega ni register qai sa cakava tikoga, kauta tikoga na dau musu dovu me lai vakatawana na vale koya sega ni register, caka tiko na rede, sega ni register na vale ya. Vakatutuki tiko qori na kena totogi ni sega ni register, me na sauma na uma ni lavo qori. Vakabauta saka ni tiko ni sa matata beka ya vei keda.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vakabauta ni sa matata na kena vakamacalataki na wekaqu?.

MR. E VIAVIA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, totoka saka na veitalanoa ena siga levu ni kua.

Au sa vakatututaka, au sa marautaka vakalevu na rai ni Tabana ni Bula me biu eso na ka ena loma ni Palimedi me maroroi kina na lewe i Viti.

Au sa vakatura ni sa ciqomi tiko na vakatutu ena siga levu ni kua. Sa salavata tiko na kerekere, kerea ke tiko na vanua, qai dua na ka e vinakati me biu yani se written submission me qai biu yani na Palimedi.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Totoka saka na veitalanoa ena siga levu ni kua.

Au sa vakatututaka, au sa marautaka vakalevu na rai ni Tabana ni Bula me biu eso na ka ena loma ni Palimedi me maroroi kina na lewe i Viti.

Sa tiko qo o iratou na neitou vakalesilesi. Kevaka e tiko o Turaga ni Koro, me na taura nodratou naba ni talevoni, email address me vaka e gadrevi tiko ya.

Na written submission, ni oti na veitalanoa qo, sa na qai levu tale na ka tou na qai raica mai me veiraurau tikoga kei na ulutaga 69 da veitalanoa tiko kina ena siga ni kua.

Na vakayacori ni nomuni gagadre, au nuitaka ni da na veitalanoa tiko ena loma ni vula tolu sa tiko qo iliu.

MR. S. TAMANISAU.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, kerea mo dou veivakararamataki ena Tikina 33.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, na kena toso tiko na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula ena vica sagavulu na yabaki sa toso mai, raica tiko e dua na veiqaravi keitou dau qarava e sega ni vakalawataki tu me rawa ni veimaroroi ena vuku ni veiqaravi e caka.

Na Tikina 33 e vosa tiko me baleta na mate veidewavi totolo – *outbreak*. Na gauna sara ga qo kevaka e dua na mate me vaka na typhoid, outbreak e yaco eke se dua tale na veimataqali mate levu, Tabacakacaka ni Bula i Savusavu e dua na mata timi lailai e tiko kina e vakatokai tiko na sub-divisional outbreak response team. E tiko kina ratou na vuniwai, nasi, na cakacaka ni lab, ratou nodatou health inspector. Ratou sa qai dau cakava na cakacaka ni sega walega vakadidike, na cakacaka talega ni kena sagai me tarovi na mate.

Na sub-divisional outbreak response team e tiko i Savusavu, mai na Divisional Office mai Labasa sa qai tiko tale kina e dua kalawa cake vakalailai na Divisional Outbreak Response Team. Ratou mai cake sa qai vukea tiko na mata timi i Savusavu ena kena qaravi tiko na itikotiko koya sa veidewavi tiko kina na mate veidewavi vakatotolo se na infectious disease qo.

Na Tikina 33 vaka me vakalawataka na timi e rua ya – na sub-divisional outbreak response team kei na divisional outbreak response team. Ena cakacaka rau dau qarava, rau qarava tiko mai, ia e sega tu ni vakalawataki tu na nodra veiqaravi. Dua na vuna levu e caka mai kina qo baleta ni sega ni vakalawataki tu, dua na dredre levu keitou dau sotava na Tabacakacaka ni Bula.

Taura mada na mate na typhoid. Na typhoid e vu mai dua na manumanu somidi koya dau tiko ena noda wawa na tamata. Na gaunisala ga e rawa ni gole mai kina i tuba, koya dau salavata mai na noda vale lailai. Kena ibalebale, koya e dua na mate dewa ena gaunisala duka beka da rawa ni tukuna.

Kena ibalebale, kevaka eda soso yaqona tiko, qai dua vei kedatou sa tauvi koya tiko na mate, gole i valelailai, vakasavasavataki koya mai, qai sega ni vakayagataka vakavinaka mai na sovu vata na wai me vuluvulu kina, mai losea na yaqona, da yadua na bilo qo, keda kece da tauvimate.

Io, ni sa lako mai na sub-divisional outbreak response team, ratou saga me na mai caka na kena vakadidike: o cei soti sa tiko vua me rawa ni gunu vuanikau, o cei e tiko ena loma ni primary se secondary contact. Kevaka sa tiko e dua na vuvale, ratou na vosa ni vuvale – kemudou sa rivariva bi na rawa ni tiko talega vei kemudou.

Sa positive qo e dua, dau qai soli e dua na container lailai me ra tawana mai kina vakalailai na sabolo ni nodra valelailai, me na qai vakadeitaki mai se tiko ga vei ira na mate ya se sega. So rawa ni bulabula vinaka tu, sa tu vei ira na manumanu ni mate, o ira sara ga qo era qai dau lose yaqona, vakarau kakana, sa qai dau veidewavi kina na mate qo.

So na gauna keitou solia yani na tavaya ni sabolo, ira qai dau bese ni tawana mai. Vanua ya e druka kina neitou veiqaravi baleta ni sega ni tu vakalawa me tukuna vua e dodonu mo solia na sabolo ena tiki ni lawa qo. Koya saka ya na tikina qo. Me sa vakalawataki ga na veiqaravi ya.

Kevaka e sega, sa na qai wavoki tiko i nakoro, lai dewa na koro tarava na nona vakadewa wavoki tiko na mate ya. Na mate ya e ra yali kina e vica na bula ni lewenivanua o Viti ena vica vata na yabaki eda sa lako sivia. Dua toka na mate rerevaki na mate na typhoid.

Ia, na yalani na kaukauwa ni neitou veiqaravi kevaka e sega na tikina oqo. Na tikina qo sa qai tukuna kina na kena dodonu me tauri na sabolo, dodonu me test-taki e dua, na mataqali va ya. Lai yaco sara ena isolation. Kevaka sa laurai ni veitauvi talabusese ena loma ni koro i Naweni, sa qai dua vakayagataki na tiki ni lawa ya: "Okay i Naweni, baleta ni dou sa veitauvi vakalevu tiko na mate qo, sa na tarovi na veilakoyaki."

Sega ni vakarawarawataka me dua e lako qai kauta tale na mate me lai dewa tale. I liu dau vakavosa tu ga, keitou vakanuinui sara tu ga, ia so na vakadrecike dau yaco. So na gauna sa tukuni: "Sa kerei me da kakua ni veitosoyaki," tamata veitosoyaki ga, na mate e veidewavi ga. Dredre na cakacaka ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula, koya saka ga e biu tiko kina na lawa vakaturi ena tikina qo me vukea walega na neitou veiqaravi me keitou taqomaki kemuni.

MR. S. TAMANISAU.- Dua saka ga na taro, Sir. Rogoci tiko na veitalanoa ena siga ni kua, da raica tiko na veitalanoa vakavuvale ni kena tara, sa vinakati me vakavinakataki eso na vale koya keimami tara tu ga.

Koya dou sa kauta mai qo me keimami sa muria na plan, me na soli na kena plan, keimami qai tara na vale. Na kena tara na vale. Ia, tou sa lai veitalanoataka tiko qo na totogi, na ka e kauta mai na mate vakavuna tiko e levu vei keimami na lako yani i nakoro.

Ia na kauwai e tiko: na cava tale eso na mate era tiko? Koya vakamatei tamata sara tikoga ena gauna qo me vaka na NCDs (mate sureti). Dua talega ya na neimami kauwai baleta na ka sara ga keimami kania, ka keimami gunuva, so mada ga keimami lai volia tale mai taoni na makete, koya na kakana era vakawainimatetaki tu.

Tiko e dua na tiki ni nomuni tuvatuva mo dou na kauwai kina baleta keitou i Naweni qo, keimami sa organic kece tu. Na ka keimami teivaka, keimami sega ni vakayagataka na wainimate ni co ca me keimami spray-taka neimami teitei. Keimami sa tea sara tikoga na kakana bulabula baleta ni keimami na kania, ena yaga vei keimami.

Vaka tautauvata kei na dua na niu e a kau sara i Amerika na virgin oil, ya na niu, qai yaco eke qai lai reject mai baleta ni tu kina na wainimate.

Na kauwai e tiko baleta au a sa kerea oti ena dua na bose va qo, lako mai o rau na Minister, na kena spray-taki na gaunisala ni lori baleta o ira na luvei keimami era kana tu ga ena veitolo ni sala era spray-taka. Sa laurai na weleti, na ka kece ya sa vuavauai caca baleta na kena rerevaki gona na wainimate.

E tiko e dua na kauwai talega e tiko vei kemudou kevaka dou sa na vakalawataka na ka qo, me keimami qai bau nanumi talega. Keimami na dau tu vei ira na cakacaka tu i gaunisala, dua na ka me vakadikevi me ra kakua ni spray-taka na gaunisala. Me vaka na vakaso ni wai o ni tukuna tiko qo, na vei drain era tu qori e muria sobu mai eso talega na neimami drano. Keimami bula tiko kina ena dua na gauna balavu, tu kina na ika, era se bula mai kina o ira na neimami qase, ka mai vakavu tauvimate talega kina.

Na kauwai tikoga kina kevaka e rawa ni dau qai nanumi ena tiki ni lawa qo, ke ra nanumi talega o ira era dau vakayagataka tiko na wainimate. Keimami kerea tale na koro vakaviti, sa kerei saka me sa vakatabui talega kina.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dua na vakatutu ya. Au kerea me na vakatututaki mai, me na qai tokoni.

MR. S. TAMANISAU.-Sa vakatura saka.

LEWENIKORO.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nanuma me da sa cava toka eke ena siga ni kua.

Sa soli tiko na galala rua kina tolu na vula kevaka dou vinakata mo dou vakatutu tale yani ena loma ni nomuni Palimedi, sa tiko qori o ratou na kena dau.

Ni veitalanoa vata kei iratou, tiko na nasi ni koro, Turaga ni Koro, e tiko vei ratou na isema ni veitalanoa cava ga me vaka na talevoni se mona livaliva, me na qai vakau yani na itukutuku vakasokomuni yavutaki ena 69 na Tabana ni Bula raraba koya vakatututaki tiko qo.

Au na kerei honourable Tuicola me na cavauta na vosa ni vakavinavinaka ena vukudra saka na Turaga na Sipika ni Bose Lawa.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- Ni bera ni'u na tauca tiko na vosa ni vakavinavinaka, a vakaraitaka tiko o Turaga Dreu baleta na NCDs.

E tiko vua na veiveisau lalai ni totogi e tiko qori, ni na raica na tikina 39 mai na $20 kina $2,000. Qori me baleta tiko na mate e vakadewai, e vu mai na veiyacovi. Koya sa toso cake kina na totogi, kevaka e dua e sa dikevi vakavuniwai, sa vakadeitaki ni tiko vua na mate ka nakita tiko me vakadewava tiko na mate ni veiyacovi me vaka na HIV/AIDS, kena totogi sa tiko qori ka sa toso cake kina $2,000.

E wili talega kina o ira era vakadewa na mate ena icula. Ni sa lako tiko mai taoni na gauna qo na icula, kece qori kena totogi era sa tiko qori e $2,000. Vinaka vakalevu.

Ena vukudra na Turaga na Sipika ni Palimedi, vaka kina na Chairman ni Standing Committee ni Social Affairs, kei ratou na itokani keitou gole vata tiko mai ena siga ni kua, vakakina o ratou na Tabana ni Bula kei ratou na veiqaravi i Palimedi era tiko rawa ena siga ni kua, au taura na gauna qo meu vakavinavinakataki kemuni kece kina na tiko rawa ena siga ni kua, dina ni tiko na dui osooso ni matavuvale, koro, ni rawa ni vakagalalataki kemuni mo ni tiko rawa ena sigalevu ni kua.

Au vakabauta na veika eda mai veivosakitaka qo ena vukea vakalevu na bula raraba, vakauasivi na veikorokoro, rawa ni vukea talega na noda bula yadudua vaka kina na matavuvale.

Levu ga na vosa ni vakavinavinaka sa mai cauraki ena siga levu ni kua, sa vakasakaya na kena levu.

The Committee adjourned at 2.16 p.m.

The Committee resumed at 1.09 p.m.

Present

1. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu - Chairman
2. Hon. A. Bia - Member
3. Hon. A.T. Nagata - Member
4. Hon. K.K. Lal -Alternate Member
5. Hon. S. Kumar - Alternate Member

Apologies

1. Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure - Deputy Chairperson
2. Hon. V. Pillay - Member
3. Hon. P.K. Bala - Member

Ministry of Health and Medical Services

1. Mr. Luke Vonotabua - Chief Health Inspector
2. Mr. Toga Vosataki - WASH Coordinator
3. Mr. Vakaruru Cavuilati - Divisional Health Inspector, North.

Submittee: Residents of Naweni Village

In Attendance:

1. Ratu Josefa Kabakoro
2. Mr. Naibuka Vuibureta
3. Mr. Sekove Yasava
4. Mr. Mateo Rokovesa
5. Mr. Daniele Matakanace
6. Mr. Iosefo L. Naduva
7. Mr. Tusoba Seru
8. Ms. Ulamila Vuilabasa
9. Mr. Maika Lewanavanua
10. Mr. Eparama Daina
11. Mr. Emosi Viavia
12. Mr. Apenisa Maikorowiri
13. Ms. Laisa Tamanisau
14. Mr. Emori Waqa
15. Mr. Josateki Tavitaga
16. Mr. Ilaitia Radovu
17. Ms. Rosalia Naduva
18. Ms. Kacilia Diseru
19. Ms. Diakisi Leveni
20. Ms. Sisilia V. Dakai
21. Ms. Perina Drika
22. Mr. Sikeli Tamonesia

MR. CHAIRMAN. - Ni sa tiko saka nai tikotiko vakaturaga ena nodatou tikotiko, na gone turaga saka na Tui Naweni, ena loma ni yavusa vakaturaga e rua. Ni tiko na masi ni vanua tabu eda mai tiko ena dua na siga tale e daidai. Au vakabauta ni sa matata saka tiko vei kemudou nai lakolako ni nodra na gone turaga na Speaker ni Vale ni boselawa. Keitou na dabe saka tiko qo na lewe va, keitou lewe ni Palimedi ka keimami mata digitaki mai na veitikina kei na yasana ka keimami sa lai lewe saka tu ni matanitu.

Ni bera saka ga ni na tekivu na noda veitalanoa, au na kerei ratou na mata mai na Palimedi me ratou na vakamacalataki iratou mada.

(Introduction of Committee Members & officials from Ministry of Health and Medical Services)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au sa na kauti keda vata talega kina lawa vakatututaki. Au vakabauta ni sa tiko vei kemuni na kenai lavelave. Na 69 na lawa vakatututaki ka tiko qori na kena lavelave, ya na vanua eda na veitalanoa tiko kina ena yakavi ni kua. Na kena railesu – ena 1935 a mai vakalawataki tiko na lawa vakaturi bibi qo. Eda sa tiko ena 2026 vakacaca ka sa via yabaki 90 na lawa vakatutu se lawa tu ni noda vanua ko Viti mai na 1935. Sa ratou qai laveta rawa na tabana ni bula me sa yaco e so na veiveisau lelevu koya vaka eda raica tu qori e 69 na tabana e yaga me na veisautaki na kena maroroi na noda bula ni tiko bulabula, tiko savasava ena loma saka ni noda veikoro vakaviti.

Na yabaki 1935, na lawa vakaturi a lako saka tiko mai ya e qaravi ira tikoga na tiko ena loma ni tauni lelevu. Koya na kenai lavelave sa lako tiko mai qo, sa wili tiko kina me okati kece o keda na lewei Viti – o ira na tiko ena tauni kei keda talega na tiko ena veikoro ena loma ni noda yasana e 14.

Au nuitaka ni sa na via matata toka ya, au na kerei honourable Bia me na tosoya mada vakalekaleka vei kedatou na veivakararamataki ni lawa vakatututaki eda na veitalanoa kina nikua.

HON. A. BIA.- Ni sa tiko sobu saka na turaga ni vanua, ni sa tiko talega na marama, vakalekaleka sara na vuku ni vakamacala enai naki ni lakolako ka lako saka tiko ena sigalevu ni kua me vaka sa vakamacala taumada kina na turaga nai liuliu ni bose ena kena tovolei me vakasokumuni nai tukutuku se na nomuni nanuma na lewenivanua ena vuku ni dua na lawa vakaturi saka tiko ena loma ni vale ni boselawa, ka keitou wavoki saka tiko qo ka vakatokai na Public Health Act. O koya e kenai naki saka me vakaukauwataka tale na noda qarauna na bula ni tiko savasava kei na tiko bulabula ena noda veikoro se na veivanua eda dui tiko kina vakabibi na noda veivale.

Sa 90 na yabaki na lawatu mai na 1935 me yacova mai nikua, ena gauna se ciciva mai kina na lawa qori, e dua na veisau levu sai koya na kena tovolei ena matai ni gauna me sa oka na koro ena lawa oqo. Na kena cici tu mai ena 90 na yabaki e qaravi ira tikoga na tiko ena veitauni, ia qo nai matai ni gauna me sa oka na koro ena vuku ni lawa ni kena vakadeitaki tiko eso na lawa virikotori me baleta na noda tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava ena noda veikoro. Eda na vakataroga se cava na vuna esa oka kina na koro. E dua nai naki levu sai koya na nodratou dikeva tiko na tabana ni bula ni levu mate ka dau lai vakavu leqa ka veidewavi vakatotolo me vaka na typhoid, na dengue, na mi ni manu, na leptospirosis – e levu vei ira na veimate oqo ka dau lai vakavuna na leqa, era dau lako tiko yani e valenibula e levu ga vei keda na veikoro vakaviti ka da dau kauta tu yani e levu na mate ca oqo.

E ratou sa qai raica na tabana ni bula ni dua na yasana e rawa ni wali kina, sai koya na kena tarovi ga ena vanua eda tiko kina na kena qarauni na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava e rawa ni tarovi kina na mate oqo. E dua na lawalawa e nanumi tiko me na veisau se me na kau mai ena kena vakatututaki tiko mai na lawa vakaturi oqo, sai koya na kena dau qarauni me savasava vinaka na noda koro. Na benu me kua ni biu vakaveitalia, me laurai me kua ni tubua tiko na saula ni koro se na noda saula ni vale ka rawa ni vakasucu kina na namu e rawa ni vakadewa na dengue. Me da dau raica ka dikeva vakamatua sara na wai e lako tiko mai ena loma ni valenisili se na wai ni valelailai me raici me vakadrodroi vakavinaka. Me kakua ni dua na gaunisala me laki vakadewa tale kina na mate vei ira na gone era tiko e loma ni koro, se vua e dua tale na vuvale.

Mai na veicala kece oqori kei na kena tovolei me vakadeitaki ena noda bula ni tiko savasava kei na tiko bulabula, ena loma ni 90 na yabaki ka veiqaravi voli mai kina na lawa vakaturi oqo, e laurai ni totogi era tu ga ena $2, ka so e $5, $10 ka so e $20. Sa ratou qai raica na tabana ni bula ni levu na gauna ni ratou lako yani me ratou vakasalataki keda na lewenivanua ena vuku ni veika e leqa, na tamata e vuki cakava tuga baleta ni ra kila ni ra gole ga kina mataveilewai ka ra sauma e $2, $5 – oti ya ka ra mai vuki vakayacora tikoga ka levu tikoga na lewenivanua era gole tiko yani ki valenibula ka so era laki leqa sara. Ni qai kau yani e so na kisi, e sa bibi saka tiko ena noda veivalenibula.

Sa ratou raica kina na yasana qo, sa laveti kina e so nai totogi vakaturi tiko ena lawa vakaturi qo ka tiko sara eso ena $200 ka so e $1,000, so e $2,000. Nai naki levu sai koya na noda vakauqeti na lewenivanua meda sa na rere na biu benu vakaca, da rere ena sega ni samaka na noda koro baleta ni da kila kevaka eda na vakayacora, sa tiko na veitotogi oqori.

E dua talega nai naki levu se dua na veisau e kau mai, sai koya na kena taqomaki na nodai vakaso ni wai. Ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi oqo, kevaka e sa na lai pasitaki ena loma ni Vale ni boselawa ena vica na vula ka tu mai, nai vakaso ni wai kece ke qele lisitaki se sega, kevaka ga e dua nai vakaso ni wai sa ra gunu tiko kina na koro se tikotiko vagalala, e tabu ni dua e benuca se vakacacana nai vakaso ni wai. E tabu madaga ni dua me taya na paipo koya e drodro tiko mai kina na wai

ka ra gunu tiko kina na koro. Nai naki levu, sega ni tukuni ni taqomaki me rawa ni ra totogitaki kina na lewenivanua. Nai naki levu sai koya, me savasava tiko ena veigauna na wai era gunuva tiko na veikoro ka me kakua ni veidewavi eso na mate e rawa ni vakavuna na kena gunuvi na wai duka.

Ya na vica na ka e rawa ni kau mai ena vuku ni lawa virikotori qo, ia mai na lawa kece e 69 vakadua na veisau. Oya e tolu beka ga se va na veisau au nanuma ni na tarai keda vakalevu ena vuku ni vanua eda tiko kina, na koro se nai tikotiko vagalala eda sa na kovuti kece vakadua ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi tiko qo sai koya na Public Health Act. Mai dua saka tiko na noqu vosa lekaleka sa vaka saka oya na kena levu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nuitaka ni sa na matata vei keda na vakadewa ka mai tukuna tiko nai tokani ya me baleta na lawa vakatututaki qo na Public Health. Na kena veisau kei na tabana e 69 koya e gadrevi tiko me veisau qo. Au sa na dolava na noda veitalanoa, sa soli tiko vei keda na galala ena loma ni nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga, keo ni vinakata mo ni vosa mai na dua na tabana mai na 1 kina 69, ni laveta na ligamuni.

MR. E. DAME.- Au gone ni Dromuninuku kau mata talega ni tikina ena koro kecekece qo mai Dromuninuku ki Tacilevu. E dua walega na vakatutu au laveta tiko nikua sai koya na vesu manumanu. Au kila ni mosoni qo e dau lakova na veibose vakoro, e dua ga na ka e kau tiko mai sai koya na nona dau vakacaca na manumanu vakabibi na vuaka. Da vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni sa rawa ni dou lako mai me datou mai dabe vata ena vuku ni kena sagai me valuti eso na vakatutu e dau curu mai na bose vakoro, lai yaco kina bose ni tikina ka sega ga ni dua nai wali ni leqa e dau yaco kina.

Da vakavinavinaka vakalevu ena sasaga sa cakava tiko na matanitu me sa laveti cake me sa totogi vakalevu sara o ira na taukei ni manumanu ena vuku ni kena sagai mera kua ni vakacaca vakalevu ena veiyasa ni koro ena kena sagai me ra vesuka na nodra manumanu, ia e sega ga. E dua ga na vakatutu au saga tiko qo sai koya me rau enforce taki mada o rau na turaga ni koro kei nasi ni koro baleta ni rau liga ni veiqaravi ena loma ni dua koro, ka tiko talega kina na tabana ni bula. Me vaka ni levu na gauna e rau dau laveta cake eso na ka, ka levu era dau vosa kudrukudru ena levu na gauna.

Au kerea walega na matabose qo ena vuku ni vakatutu qo me rawa enforce taki na lawa ena kena sagai me soli vei rau na kaukauwa vaka talega kina me rau dau vakalewena tiko e dua na fomu ena kena sagai tiko na kena vakasavasavataki tiko na loma ni koro me baleta na noda bula raraba.

Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni dou lako mai ena siga e daidai, me mai rogoci tiko kina na veika kece qo.Nai karua talega ni ka au via vakaraitaka sai koya na wai se musu tolo ni paipo e dau caka. E levu na ka keimami sotava talega kina loma ni koro oqo vakabibi vei ira era dau cudru tu ga ka ra lai cakava tu e so na ka baleta ni ra kila ni tabana ni bula raraba ka se gadrevi tikoga kina me datou saga tiko me rawa ni vakaukauwataka ka vakamaucokonataka tiko na kena sagai me maroroi na paipo, maroroi na wai kau kila ni dua na ka e bula bibi ena loma ni dua na koro sai koya na bula ni vakadrodroi ni wai.

Vaka talega kina na kena teiteivaki tiko ena loma ni koro. Au kila ni levu nai teitei e yaco tiko e lomanikoro ka dau vakavuna talega na kena lako mai na mate veitauvi eso ka sa gadrevi tale tikoga kina. Eda vakavinavinaka vakalevu ena veilavelave dou sa laveta tiko mai nikua ka keimami tokona tiko ena kena sagai me rawa ni valuti na bula raraba ena kena sagai me vakavoutaki na tiko savasava ena loma ni dua nai tikotiko.

E vaka talega kina na vale ni vakacegu ka kerei tikoga na loma ni matanitu ke rawa ni veivuke tale tikoga mai eso na vuvale e tu e lomanikoro qo ka ra sa vakayagataka tikoga na pit toilet. Eso era se vakayagataka tale tikoga na veikau qo ka sa gadrevi tikoga kina ke rawa ni raica tale tikoga na tabana ni matanitu me bau vukei mai o ira na tiko vale ni vakacegu me ra lai maroroya kina nodra benu. Koya walega ya e vica na vakatutu au laveta tiko ena siga ni kua.

Keimami vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni dou rawa ni siro sobu mai, ka dodonu me keitou lai soli tukutuku i Savusavu, ia ni dou sa lako mai ena loma ni tikina vinaka o Naweni qo, sa dua na ka na levu ni marau kei na rairai vinaka ni rawa ni mai rogoci talega na domoi keimami e na loma ni tuvatuva ni matanitu me rawa ni pasitaki me rawa kina na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava ena veisiga ni mataka kei Viti.

E dua talega na ka au via laveta cake tiko nikua baleta e levu na workshop au dau attendtaka me baleta na environment. Baleta na town boundary e yaco tikoga ena town area vakabibi vei keitou na tiko ena loma ni Hibiscus Highway mai vei ira na freehold land. E sa gadrevi tale tikoga ke rawa ni ra lai tarogi se vanua cava era biuta tiko kina na nodra benu, baleta ni levu na gauna, ira na freehold land qo era dump taka ga na nodra rubbish ena uciwai e drodro tu ya vakabibi koya e tiko mai Nacekoro. Na benu ya qai lai nodratou o ratou na tiko mai Nacekoro ni sa lai duka tu na tolo ni

wai ya ena vuku ni kena sagai me maroroi na nodra benu, baleta na vanua qo e dua na vanua e cavuka tiko kina na bula ni veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula ka vaka talega kina o ira na tiko ena vei freehold land qori. Ke rawa mera kovuti tale tikoga ena tikina qo o ira na tu vakagalala tu me rawa ni lai tarogi talega se na vanua cava e maroroi tiko kina na nodra benu ka me rawa ni sagai e dua nai wali ni leqa mera lai vukei talega kina.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- E rabailevu sara na vakasama oya ka okata toka e va vakadua na ulutaga bibi ni noda veitalanoa ena sigalevu e daidai. Kenai matai na kena maroroi na manumanu ena loma ni nodatou i tikotiko wili vakakina na nodatou i vakaso ni wai kei na kena veiqaravi kei na benu vakaca me vaka da kila kece tiko, o ira na tiko ena loma ni koro lelevu e vauci ira na lawa vei ira na dau sauma nai vakacavacava ena veikoro lelevu.

Au na kerei rau na tabana ni bula me rau na veivakararamataki mada ena tolu na ulutaga ya, ni bera ni datou na qai lakova yani na veika me baleta na benu vakaca.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Cavuti tiko na vakavinavinaka ena veitikina eso e cauraki saka tiko mai ena siga ni kua. Veivakadeitaki tiko na tikina ni susu manumanu sa wili tiko ena lawa vakaturi sa tiko qori ena tikina e 26 ka sa wili tiko kina na kena vaqaqacotaki ni lawa qori me baleta na susu manumanu se na kena vataukeni na manumanu.

Nai tukutuku me baleta na meda wai ni gunu. Na lawa vakaturi e tiko qori ena tikina e 26, na tikina e 32, 48, 57 kei na 60. E lima taucoko na tikina qori e sa vakatututaki tiko qori na taqomaki ni nodai gunugunu ni wai. Kenai balebale na gauna sa na pasitaki kina kina loma ni boselawa na lawa vakaturi ka toka qori, qai dua me vakaleqa na meda gunugunu ni wai, se dua e musuka na paipo se tonoka na tani ni wai me vakasausataki tiko na meda gunugunu ni wai, sa rawa ni na okati koya na lawa ni tabacakacaka ni bula koya da raica tiko qori.

Na ulutaga me vaka na ulutaga koya eda wasea tiko me baleta na kena maroroi vakavinaka na nodatou rubbish, na tabacakacaka ni bula, ena lawa vakaturi sa toka qori e matada e sa vakatura tiko me na kau lesu mai na Rural Local Authority. E a dau tu e liu, ni bera na 2018 qai mai taba bokoci ena 2018 me yacova tiko mai na siga nikua. Ni dau tiko na Rural Local Authority, e rau dau veiceguvi vata kei na matabose ni tauni. Na vanua e yaco kina na matabose ni tauni, e qai tekivu kina na veiqaravi ni Rural Local Authority. O ira na wekada qori era tiko mai qori ena Hibiscus Highway, era vakasaga tiko e dua na vanua me maroroi kina na nodra benu. Nai wali ni leqa levu ga e rawa ni vakasamataka na tabacakacaka ni bula, me dua nai walewale me rawa ni ra biuta kina na nodra benu e dua na gaunisala e rawa ni maroroi vakavinaka. Kenai balebale me provide taki e dua na solution me maroroi kina na nodra benu, ke sega, kevaka e vakatabui mai na yasana mawi, era na benu e yasana matau. Ke vakatabui e yasana matau, era na benu e loma. Me dua ga na vanua me na gole kina na benu. Koya saka ya, e vakanananu tiko kina na lawa vakaturi ka tiko qori me na kau lesu mai na Rural Local Authority.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nuitaka ni sa na saumi na nomuni taro mai vei ratou na tabana ni bula. Dola saka tiko na veitalanoa. Dua na wekaqu e dabe toka mai muri ya.

VILLAGER.- Cavuti na vakavinavinaka ena vuku ni veitalanoa walega me baleta na benu. Au vakavinavinaka ni sa tiko na vakatutu ni kena laveti cake na veiqaravi. E dua na vatataro kei na kauwai – au kila ni noda veikorokoro, sa na yacova mai na liga ni veiqaravi ya, sa levu dina na benu. Na vakanananu ni sa tiko na tabana ni bula me rawa ni dua kina nai rairai ni kena maroroi na benu. Keitou a veitalanoa tiko ena bose vakoro ena loma ni koro vakaturaga qo ena vica na vula sa oti baleta na kauwai ni sa oso mai na veirusa ni koro na bulu benu. Ia ni toso vata tiko vata kei na veivakatoroicaketaki, sa na gadrevi me na vakayagataki na veitiki ni qele ena yasa ni rusa ni koro me toso yani kina na koro.

Ia na leqa levu ena lai sotavi, ni na lai sotavi tale na bulu benu qo me sa na lomanikoro. Na cava nai rairai e rai tiko kina na tabana ni bula ena kena maroroi vakavinaka na benu, me kua walega ni maroroi na loma ni koro ka me kau vata na dua na vanua meda rawa ni galala mai na benu.

MR. V. CAVUILATI.- Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu ena vuku ni taro ka gole saka tiko mai ni tiko na kauwai me baleta na benu sega walega nio kemudou e Naweni. Na veivanua kece e caka tiko kina na veitalanoa qo, era kauwaitaka vakalevu tiko na veitalanoa me baleta na benu.

Me baleta saka tikoga na kena maroroi na benu, e vica tiko na kenai walewale. Na kenai matai saka ga me vaka eda sa kila tiko beka na koro ni dau qaravi tiko na kena vuli ena kena vakalailaitaki na benu se na 3R concept. Na kena dau wasewasei na benu mera maroroi. Ena vakalailaitaka talega na benu koya e dau lai bulu kevaka eda vakayagataka vakavinaka na vuli ya na 3R kei na kena veiwasewasei vinaka na benu kei na duidui ni vanua me na maroroi kina.

Na kenai karua saka ga me baleta na kena vakalesui mai na Local Authority. E tiko kina e dua na neitou dau ni veiqaravi ena kena maroroi na benu. Oqo e tautauvata ga kei na nodratou veiqaravi na town council. Kevaka eda na vinakata me da na qaravi ena veiqaravi ya, meda na tu vakarau ena noda sauma na kena lai kau mai na noda benu. E sega ni kau wale na noda benu ke lai biu ena kenai benubenu. Ena vakai ira talega na tiko e loma ni tauni era sauma tiko na nodra town rates, na nodra garbage fees koya e maroroi kina na nodra benu.

Ya e rua na ka meda rawa ni vakasamataka tiko ena noda tiko ena veikoro vakaviti enai walewale e rua koya keitou vakanananutaka tiko na tabana ni bula ena kena vakalailaitaki na benu kei na kena vuli ka dau mai qaravi. Na kenai karua, ke sa na vakayagataki na veiqaravi ni Local Authority, me da na tu vakarau na lewenivanua ena kena saumi na noda benu me na vakaleleci sara yani kina i benubenu me na lai maroroi kina vakavinaka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- E 69 kece na tabana koya e vakatututaki tiko qori me veisau. Au nuitaka ni ko ni na rawa ni digitaka ga mai na naba koya e tiko kina me rawarawa kina na noda veitalanoa. Na yakavi ni kua ena sega ni lesu tale mai vei kedatou, nai otioti tiko ni koro ni neitou wavokiti Vanua Levu tiko qo ena nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman through you, this bill or this law has been presented to Parliament by the Ministry of Health. This Parliamentary Committee here made up of Opposition and Government MPs in a bi-partisan manner is here to ask your opinion if these laws are okay for you. At the same time, there are some things in this law, which will later affect you, meaning there increases in fines as the honourable Member has explained. It is not a small fine, it is a big fine and it is not going to discriminate against you if you are living in the village, or you are living in the town or if you are rich or poor. Everyone will be treated equally, meaning if the health inspectors see that you need to be fined, there is a process that gives first, second and third warning, but later on, they might give you $1,000 fine.

This is the time the Parliamentary Committee is here to hear you to basically tell us if you are okay with the laws that they have presented. They are going around Fiji, they have completed Viti Levu, now in Vanua Levu and later the maritime communities because when the Local Authorities come in, there will be some enforcement. Before, the health inspectors did not enter the villages, now, the health inspectors will come in with their awareness and everything. Once all those things are done, then you will be liable to ensure that those laws are followed, so this is the opportunity I am requesting my fellow Kasavu people if you can raise your concerns regarding this bill or talk about this Bill.

If you have any questions, the Chairman is here and other members from Ministry of Health are here. Tell them what you think about this bill. Thank you.

VILLAGER.- E dua na kerekere, kevaka e rawa ni maroroi tiko beka nai tukutuku qo. Au kila ni lekaleka na gauna e soli vei keimami me keimami irova kina na pepa qo, e levu na ka e tu me veitalanoataki. Au kerea ga mai muri ke rawa ni biu cake kina nodatou matabose me dau soli na gauna vei keimami me rawa ni keimami vakananumi rawa mai se me keimami raica na cava e vinakati me veisautaki. Ena loma ni gauna lekaleka qo, au vakabauta ni sega ni dua ena rawa ni solia vakatotolo sara e so na ka. Ni qai via tukuna e sa bera baleta nikua ga na siga ni bula.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Esa ciqoma saka tiko na nomuni vakatutu. E dina taucoko, vei keitou e Palimedi ni sa vo tiko e rua na macawa, e sa vakau vei ira kece na Roko ena kena gadrevi me yaco mai nai tukutuku me mai wilika rawa ni bera ni keitou qai yaco mai. Sa kerea saka tiko na veivosoti ena tabana bibi ya.

Na kenai karua saka ga, ni oti na nodatou veitalanoa nikua, ena soli tale tiko e rua se tolu na vula ke o ni nanuma moni qai wilika vinaka na lawa vakatututaki qori, e so na vanua ka yaga moni rai kina se kerea kina na kena vakamacala, se ni vakatututaka (written submission) sa kerei mo ni qai veitaratara kei ratou na vakailesilesi mai Palimedi. E tiko vei ratou na nodratou email se naba ni talevoni, se yaco na gauna mo ni na veitalanoa kina kei na nomuni matavuvale, tokatoka se mataqali, basika e so na veika e yaga dina me mai tokona na lawa vakatutu qo, sa soli tiko vei kemudou e rua se tolu na vula mo dou qai vakatutu yani .

Nikua, dou kalougata nai otioti ni koro e Vanua Levu ni nomudou na madigi, dou vakayagataka vinaka na gauna vinaka oqo. E rogo kina na domomudou ka na lai katoni tu ena Palimedi me 10 vakacaca na yabaki. Ke dua na ka e gadrevi me na veisau tale ena loma ni lawa vakatutu qo, me dau rai lesuvi tale na veika a vasokumuni e Viti na gauna oya. Au sa nuitaka ni sa via matata toka ya.

VILLAGER.- Dua ga na kerekere qo me baleta tikoga eso na ka e voleka vei keda, baleta ni sa rui levu na ka e tukuni mai qo. Vakacava mada na vuaka? E vica mada na fine kevaka e dua e basuka na lawa ni vuaka? Baleta eke, na

vuaka sa veivanua kecega e lako tu kina. E vaka e bera tiko na lawa, ke rawa ni musuki na ka qo. Sa levu na vuaka era wavoki tu e lomanikoro qo. E vica na totogi?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na kerei rau na vakalesilesi liu mai na tabana ni bula me rau veivakararamataki mada ena tikina oya. Matai e vakabibi tiko ena vuaka era susu tiko ena noda veikoro, koya era wavoki tu e lomanikoro, se na kena yawa mai na vanua dodonu me lai tiko kina e dua na bai ni vuaka.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Ni tiko nai tikotiko vakaturaga ena siga ni kua, ni dabe saka na vuvale vanua ena siga ni kua. Na gauna saraga eda veivosaki tiko kina qo, na lawa ni tabacakacaka ni bula e sega ni kovuta tiko na veikoro vakaviti. Ya na vuna e tiko qori na tikina naba rua na nomuni teveli koya e tiko qori e matamuni. Qori esa sagai ena lawa vakaturi qo, me sa veisau ya me sa lawa ni tabacakacaka ni bula me sa robota taucoko na noda Viti raraba wili kina na koro vakaviti.

Ena gauna saraga qo, kedatou vauci tikoga ena lawa ni tabacakacaka itaukei, na kena provincial by-laws e volai tiko kina ni sa tabu na susu manumanu ena loma ni koro vakaviti. Na vakatutu e tiko ena lawa vakaturi qori me sa oka mai na tabacakacaka ni bula na tiki ni lawa oya. Na kenai totogi e vakatututaki tiko ka rua tiko na kenai wasewase. Na vale vakaitaukei se na tiko vakavanua e $200 e nanumi tiko me na lavaki ena susugi ni vuaka ena loma ni koro vakaviti.

Ena kena wasewase (commercial) eda kila tiko ni tiko eso era bisinisi vuaka me vaka i Wahleys, Leyland ka vica na kai jaina era sa tauyavutaka tiko na nodra bai ni vuaka lelevu. Koya ya e tiko na kena totogi e $400. E rau veisemati na rua ya – kenai matai me vakadonui ena lawa vakaturi qo me sa roboti Viti na lawa vakaturi. Ni sa donu oya sa na qai tiko na tikina e 26 koya e okati kina na susugi ni manumanu, sega walega ni vuaka.

Eratou tukuna mai Serea ni dau bogi na vanua, e dau lailai na tamata ena lomanikoro ka levu na bulumakau. Eso tale na vanua era tukuna sa sivia na koli – na veimataqali manumanu eso. Na lawa vakaturi tiko qori, ena tikina e 26 e biu tiko kina na susugi ni manumanu ena lawa kei na kena totogi. Na kena totogi koya au vakamacala tiko kina ya, ka vakaturi tiko ena lawa vakaturi qori. E $200 kevaka e vakaitaukeni vakaikoya, kevaka e dau ni bisinisi e $400. Au vakabauta ni sa na saumi tiko beka kina na lomatarotaro e gole saka tiko mai.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na cava na nomudou nanuma na nodai tikotiko vakaturaga. E lailai se levu se me vakatubutaki?

VILLAGER.- Au kerea tikoga ke sa vaka oqori me sa biu mai, ke sa rawa ni biu rawa saraga mai e vica. Me da qai raica vaqo me da sa kila o ka qo na kenai sau qo. Se cala na leqa qo, na kenai sau qo. Me sa tuvani saraga mai, mera qai raica o ira na lewenivanua mera sa kila, sa kua ni caka eke na susu vuaka baleta keimami na totogi kina qo. Baleta ni lako tuga mai qori e $200 me mai kilai tale na kena wasewasei ka me rawa ni tukuni rawa mai.

Ena veikorokoro qo, keda lai lako tale tiko vaya, ena kabi vata tale tiko na Village by-laws ka se sega tuga ni caka. Koya tale beka ga qo, sega ni macala se gauna cava ena lai lako mai tuba na kena totogi.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Na kena dau buli na lawa, kenai matai ena yaga me kua ni veicoqacoqa vata kei so na lawa era sa tiko rawa. Koya e biu tikoqo, ena vuku ni veiqaravi ni tabacakacaka ni bula ena loma ni vicasagavulu na yabaki e lako curumi mai, keitou raica ni dina e tiko na lawa ni tabacakacaka i taukei ni tabu na susu manumanu ena lomanikoro. E sega ni vaqaqacotakitiko na lawa oya. E dredre vei keitou na tabacakacaka ni bula me keitou na vaqaqacotaka na lawa ni tabacakacaka itaukei, ni sa qai mai neitou kina na dredre ni veiqaravi baleta ni dua e tauvimate, na kena revurevu kei na ka taucoko vaya, e lako mai na tabacakacaka ni bula.

Na vakatutu koya e tiko ena lawa vakaturi qo, kevaka esa vaya, ia me sa soli kecega vei keitou me rawa ni keitou vakaukauwataka na lawa ni kena maroroi na bula vakabibi koya e mataqali vaqori, na susu manumanu. Na susu manumanu ena tikina e 26 qori, e volai tiko kina na vakasosavo – qori e dua na ka e caka na kenai vakarau me vakasabalia se substandard ena vosa vakavavalagi. E vica tiko na tikina era na oka tiko kina, e raica tiko ni 15 beka na tikina ka vakatokai tiko mera vakasosavo. E rua tiko tikina e kovuta tiko na kena susugi na manumanu. Na gauna e sa biu kina oya, na kena totogi sa qai toka era, na kena totogi me kakua ni sivita na $1,000. Ya nai totogi cecere duadua e rawa ni soli. Me da qai taura mada e dua e vagolea tiko nona wai ni septic tank, gole tu ga ena ikeli koya ya ena duatani na nona i-votavota. Na susu manumanu ena duatani na kena i-totogi.

E lalawaka tiko na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ni sa biu na kena i-totogi me cecere duadua e $1,000 ena loma ni kena Public Health Regulation, me na qai biu kina vaka o ni vakamacalataka tiko. Me sa na qai biu kina vakamatailalai na table koya tiko kina na cala, vata kaya na kena i-totogi vakailavo.

Dua talega na ka sa lako tiko mai loma ni lawa vakaturi qo, me vaka tiko na ka dau cakava na LTA — na infringement notice. Caka na infringement notice me rawarawataka na kena vaqaqacotaki na lawa ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula.

Me baleta na Village by-laws, au na kerei honourable Bia me na vakamacala kina.

HON. A. BIA.- Na veivakadeitaki ga ena vuku ni Village by-laws kei na kena duidui mai vei koya e veitalanoataki tiko qo. Koya qo, ni na qai pasitaki ga ena loma ni Valeniboselawa, koya sa lawa sara ga me vaka na noda Yavu ni Vakavulewa levu.

Kena ibalebale, kevaka e dua e vakayacora e dua na ka e vakatabui tiko ena loma ni lawa qo, sa rawa ni kau ena mataveilewai, sa rawa ni totogitaki vakailavo.

Na duidui ni noda lawa ni koro e va qo: na noda lawa ni koro se na Village by-laws okoya, se vakamatanitutaki ga, se oka tikoga okoya me dua ga na ituvatuva vakamatanitu. Koya se bera ni biu me oka me lawa ena dua na Yavu ni Vakavulewa.

Kevaka o ni na raica ena vica na vula sa oti, sa qai vosa tiko kina na Minisita ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei, na kena sagai me sa okati na Village by-laws se na lawa ni koro me tiki ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa levu.

Na kena duidui qo: na Village by-laws (lawa ni koro) e sega ni rawa ni kauta e dua me cala vakoro ena loma ni lawa ni koro. Kevaka o kauta ena mataveilewai, okoya ena lai winitaka ga nona kisi ena mataveilewai baleta ni donu tiko okoya ena vuku ni lawa levu ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa. Vakavo sara kevaka me sa okati na lawa ni koro se na Village by-laws se cakacakataki tiko na gauna qo, me na qai okati me tiki ni lawa ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa, sa qai rawa ni tautauvata okoya vata kei koya oqo.

Ia, mate na kena veitauvi eda na sega ni rawa ni tarova, na bula talega eda na sega ni rawa ni volia. Koya ya sa kauta mai kina na Tabana ni Bula na lawa qo me vukei keda na lewenivanua.

Au veiwasei madaga, ni veitalanoataki tiko qo na manumanu. Au wilika tiko na vakarerevaki ni mate qo na leptospirosis, koya ra vakavuna na manumanu, veitalanoataki tiko qo na vuaka, na bulumakau. E tukuni na kena vola itukutuku, era dau vakadewa na manumanu ena vuku ni nodra dau mi.

Taura mada na rara qori, ni tau na uca, so na vuaka se koli lako mai tiko na rara. Ni tau na uca, e suasua na rara, era lako yani na gone, ra qito. Qai so na gone e mavoa tiko vakalailai na tiki ni yagodra. Na vanua ya e curu kina na manumanu qo.

E vakatokai tiko na kena vosa vakalalagi: na manumanu e vakadewa okoya na leptospira. Ia na manumanu ya e tiko ena qele ni mamaca, e taura tiko ni vakamacawa se vakavula. Na gauna ga e tau kina na uca, okoya e bula tale.

Vica na yabaki sa oti, dua na outbreak levu mai Nadi. Qai va qo na veika eratou vola na Fiji Sun: “A legitimate killer, living amongst us.” E dua na mate e veivakamatei sara ga vakatotolo, e bula tu ena kena maliwa.

Na vuna e kau tiko mai kina na lawa qo, e dua na tiki bibi, sai koya me da qarauna o keda na dau vakamanumanu, me da kakua ni vakaleqa na nodra bula o ira na kawa kei Naweni ena siga ni mataka, kei ira na kawa kei Viti ena veisiga ni mataka.

Kevaka eda vinakata me ra tamata bulabula na kawa kei na luvei Viti ena veisiga ni mataka, au vakabauta ni sa kena gauna donu qo me kau mai kina na lawa qo, me taqomaki keda, taqomaki ira na luveda, me ra rawa ni ra qarava na itavi ni vanua, lotu kei na matanitu.

MR. E. VIAVIA.- Vinaka saka vakalevu. Au kila sa na via sauma kece saraga na taro, kena totolo ga kena vinaka me rawa ni qai veisau tiko na lawa sa qai kuria ga na kena vinaka.

MR. M. ROKOVOSA.- (Vakamacala e sega ni sala vata tiko na lawa vakatututaki tiko)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dua saka ga na taro. Qo e tiko iViti se tiko na taudaku kei Viti na koro o ni tukuna tiko qo?

MR. M. ROKOVOSA.- Na vuni noqu kerei kemudou toka baleta ni taukeni vakavanua..

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na taro au taroga tiko na koro ni tukuna tiko qori e tiko i Viti se tiko na taudaku kei Viti?

MR. M. ROKOVOSA.- Vinaka vakalevu au tokona tiko na lawa, da sega ni vinakata me da benu vakaca, da sega ni vinakata me tasere tu na vuaka. Au kauta tikoga yani na vakasama ya de na nanumi kina so na kena vakasama baleta na kena biu mai ni l awa. Ia, e taukeni tu vakavanua era lewa tu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Donu vakavinaka na wekaqu, sa ciqomi saka tiko na nomuni talanoa, matata vakavinaka tu, vinaka vakalevu sara na nomuni cau ena veitalanaoa ena sigalevu ni kua.

MR. L. DANE.- Sa tiko saka kemudou na lewe ni Palimedi, ni sa tiko na Turaga Tui Naweni, dou tiko na masi ni vanua.

Dua ga na ka au raica tiko qo sai koya na kena soli tiko na i-totogi ena vuku ni tukuna tiko okoya register, okoya e sega ni register, ena lutu vakalailai. Ia, da vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni rawa ni da mai raica qo, rawa ni vakatututaka tiko mai qori ke rawa ni raici tale mada na veitotogi qo, se tautauvata ga na totogi e tau mai vei ira era tu i taoni vata kei ira na tu ena koro.

Au vakamacala tiko qo ena Tikina 29, lako sobu mai ena vuku ni kena sagai… me vaka e vakaraitaki tiko ya mai na $2 kina $100. Vaka talega kina mai na $100 kina $500. Au kila ni totogi e lako tiko qo yacova sara tiko ga na $1000.

Ia, da sega ni vakuwai na veika dou sa laveta cake tiko mai, ke rawa ga ni raici vakabibi vei keda na tu vakakoro, vaka talega kina o ira na tu mai na tikina au vakamacalataka tiko qo, sai koya na tikina e 43. Tukuna tiko na totogi era vakayagataka edua na vanua e lawa e register, vaka talega kina na tikina 60 e tiko talega na totogi raraba ni basu lawa by-laws.

Au kerea ke rawa ni vakamatatataki mada ga na tiki ni lawa ya, Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

MR CHAIRMAN.- Na kerei rau na Tabana ni Bula, na kena vakabibitaki na lawa e tiko qo vakacaca, e vauci keda na tiko ena koro lelevu kei na taudaku ni koro lelevu, wili kina o ira na dau ni bisinisi.

Kevaka dou nanuma na nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga me da biu vata kei ira na tiko ena loma ni koro lelevu me bibi, mamada vei keda, rawa ni vakatututaki ena Matabose qo.

MR.. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, na tikina e 29 e vakamacalataki tiko kina na dodonu ena Yavu ni Vakavulewa vei dua na lewenivanua. Na tikina e 60 e vakamacalataki tiko kina na dodonu ni dua na

lewenivanua ena Yavu ni Vakavulewa me na appeal-taka na *nuisance order*. Qo koya na vakasosavu na ka au vakamacala taumada tiko kina.
Kevaka o sega ni duavata kina, taura mada kevaka sa gole tiko i vale na wai ni septic tank, sa gole tiko ena keli, qai gole mai ratou na vakalesilesi ratou sa raica, qai soli vei kemuni na *nuisance order*. Na *nuisance order* ya moni vakagalalataka na leqa koya yaco tiko ena loma ni vica na siga. Kemuni qai nanuma ni sega ni dodonu ya, e tu na galala vaka nomudou vakalewe ni vanua mo na appeal-taka na order ena High Court ni noda vanua.

Koya tiko qori sa na qai lai rogoca ena valenivolavola ni veilewai na High Court. Kevaka sa winitaka na kisi, sa cegu sara ga eke. Kevaka sa raica na valeniveilewai ena tukutuku sa biuta yani na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ni dodonu ga mo vakagalalataka, ena balavu ni kena lako tiko mai na kisi oya sa na qai tau vei iko na totogi taumada, vata e biu tiko ya me $2 ena veisiga mai na siga oya. Koya ya sa na veisau, sa na $100 na toso cake mai na $2 kina $100. Vakabauta ni sa na matata oya vei keda baleta kevaka o sa via appeal, mo na kila tiko ni na oti e tolu na vula, au qai sega ni winitaka noqu appeal. Kena ibalebale, na tolu na vula ya, dua na siga meu sauma tiko e $100 me kuri ni totogi taumada koya lavaki tiko ya. Vakabauta ni sa matata.

Eso dau vakayacora ya me vaka toka e delay tactic, me vakabalavutaka kina se vakadredretaka na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula.

Na Tikina 43 qori e vosa tiko e dua na ka keitou raica na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ena veiqaravi keitou cakava tiko mai ena loma ni vica na yabaki. Dua na dredre levu e tiko, nodra dau gole vakayauyau yani o ira na wekada ena vuku ni nodra dau kudru yani i valenivolavola na tuvaki ni vale era dau redetaka. Qai sega ni dua na ka vakalawa e tiko vei keitou me keitou taqomaki ira kina na wekada.

Dua na kena vakairataki: ratou na lai cakacaka i Labasa, ra rede tiko e dua na vale, kena tuvaki e ca tu na valenivo. Gauna sara ga qo e sega ni tiko dua na lawa ena Tabacakacaka ni Bula me taqomaki ira. Na lawa vakaturi koya sa tiko qori, e sa tukuna tiko me dua e via cicivaka e dua na nona vale rede, Airbnb, yaco madaga vei ira na taukei ni dovu – bareki ni musu dovu. Kevaka eso vei keda sa bau gole oti e dua na vanua ni musu dovu, o ni na kila vinaka na ka au tukuna tiko qo.

E dua lai tiko ga na vale vakacevaceva, qele ga na laca ra moce kina, valenivo e caka sara tu ga vakasabalia. Kevaka sa na mani pasitaki na lawa vakaturi qo, e sa na gadrevi me ra na register taucoko o ira era via cakava na veimataqali icili vakaoqo: boarding house, na labourers quarters, na Airbnb, na vale me redetaki. Kena ibalebale, kevaka au sa tara e dua na vale e vinakati me na redetaki me na rawaka vakailavo, au na lako taumada ena Tabacakacaka ni Bula. Sa tara oti na vale, me ratou mai raica, sa kilikili vakakina me tawana na tamata, sa qai soli vua na veivakadonui me sa qai redetaki. Keitou sa rawa ni tamusuka eke na leqa koya yaco tiko na gauna ni kua.

Na totogi koya qori, kevaka e dua e sega ni register qai sa cakava tikoga, kauta tikoga na dau musu dovu me lai vakatawana na vale koya sega ni register, caka tiko na rede, sega ni register na vale ya. Vakatutuki tiko qori na kena totogi ni sega ni register, me na sauma na uma ni lavo qori. Vakabauta saka ni tiko ni sa matata beka ya vei keda.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vakabauta ni sa matata na kena vakamacalataki na wekaqu?.

MR. E VIAVIA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, totoka saka na veitalanoa ena siga levu ni kua.

Au sa vakatututaka, au sa marautaka vakalevu na rai ni Tabana ni Bula me biu eso na ka ena loma ni Palimedi me maroroi kina na lewe i Viti.

Au sa vakatura ni sa ciqomi tiko na vakatutu ena siga levu ni kua. Sa salavata tiko na kerekere, kerea ke tiko na vanua, qai dua na ka e vinakati me biu yani se written submission me qai biu yani na Palimedi.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Totoka saka na veitalanoa ena siga levu ni kua.

Au sa vakatututaka, au sa marautaka vakalevu na rai ni Tabana ni Bula me biu eso na ka ena loma ni Palimedi me maroroi kina na lewe i Viti.

Sa tiko qo o iratou na neitou vakalesilesi. Kevaka e tiko o Turaga ni Koro, me na taura nodratou naba ni talevoni, email address me vaka e gadrevi tiko ya.

Na written submission, ni oti na veitalanoa qo, sa na qai levu tale na ka tou na qai raica mai me veiraurau tikoga kei na ulutaga 69 da veitalanoa tiko kina ena siga ni kua.

Na vakayacori ni nomuni gagadre, au nuitaka ni da na veitalanoa tiko ena loma ni vula tolu sa tiko qo iliu.

MR. S. TAMANISAU.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, kerea mo dou veivakararamataki ena Tikina 33.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, na kena toso tiko na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula ena vica sagavulu na yabaki sa toso mai, raica tiko e dua na veiqaravi keitou dau qarava e sega ni vakalawataki tu me rawa ni veimaroroi ena vuku ni veiqaravi e caka.

Na Tikina 33 e vosa tiko me baleta na mate veidewavi totolo – *outbreak*. Na gauna sara ga qo kevaka e dua na mate me vaka na typhoid, outbreak e yaco eke se dua tale na veimataqali mate levu, Tabacakacaka ni Bula i Savusavu e dua na mata timi lailai e tiko kina e vakatokai tiko na sub-divisional outbreak response team. E tiko kina ratou na vuniwai, nasi, na cakacaka ni lab, ratou nodatou health inspector. Ratou sa qai dau cakava na cakacaka ni sega walega vakadidike, na cakacaka talega ni kena sagai me tarovi na mate.

Na sub-divisional outbreak response team e tiko i Savusavu, mai na Divisional Office mai Labasa sa qai tiko tale kina e dua kalawa cake vakalailai na Divisional Outbreak Response Team. Ratou mai cake sa qai vukea tiko na mata timi i Savusavu ena kena qaravi tiko na itikotiko koya sa veidewavi tiko kina na mate veidewavi vakatotolo se na infectious disease qo.

Na Tikina 33 vaka me vakalawataka na timi e rua ya – na sub-divisional outbreak response team kei na divisional outbreak response team. Ena cakacaka rau dau qarava, rau qarava tiko mai, ia e sega tu ni vakalawataki tu na nodra veiqaravi. Dua na vuna levu e caka mai kina qo baleta ni sega ni vakalawataki tu, dua na dredre levu keitou dau sotava na Tabacakacaka ni Bula.

Taura mada na mate na typhoid. Na typhoid e vu mai dua na manumanu somidi koya dau tiko ena noda wawa na tamata. Na gaunisala ga e rawa ni gole mai kina i tuba, koya dau salavata mai na noda vale lailai. Kena ibalebale, koya e dua na mate dewa ena gaunisala duka beka da rawa ni tukuna.

Kena ibalebale, kevaka eda soso yaqona tiko, qai dua vei kedatou sa tauvi koya tiko na mate, gole i valelailai, vakasavasavataki koya mai, qai sega ni vakayagataka vakavinaka mai na sovu vata na wai me vuluvulu kina, mai losea na yaqona, da yadua na bilo qo, keda kece da tauvimate.

Io, ni sa lako mai na sub-divisional outbreak response team, ratou saga me na mai caka na kena vakadidike: o cei soti sa tiko vua me rawa ni gunu vuanikau, o cei e tiko ena loma ni primary se secondary contact. Kevaka sa tiko e dua na vuvale, ratou na vosa ni vuvale – kemudou sa rivariva bi na rawa ni tiko talega vei kemudou.

Sa positive qo e dua, dau qai soli e dua na container lailai me ra tawana mai kina vakalailai na sabolo ni nodra valelailai, me na qai vakadeitaki mai se tiko ga vei ira na mate ya se sega. So rawa ni bulabula vinaka tu, sa tu vei ira na manumanu ni mate, o ira sara ga qo era qai dau lose yaqona, vakarau kakana, sa qai dau veidewavi kina na mate qo.

So na gauna keitou solia yani na tavaya ni sabolo, ira qai dau bese ni tawana mai. Vanua ya e druka kina neitou veiqaravi baleta ni sega ni tu vakalawa me tukuna vua e dodonu mo solia na sabolo ena tiki ni lawa qo. Koya saka ya na tikina qo. Me sa vakalawataki ga na veiqaravi ya.

Kevaka e sega, sa na qai wavoki tiko i nakoro, lai dewa na koro tarava na nona vakadewa wavoki tiko na mate ya. Na mate ya e ra yali kina e vica na bula ni lewenivanua o Viti ena vica vata na yabaki eda sa lako sivia. Dua toka na mate rerevaki na mate na typhoid.

Ia, na yalani na kaukauwa ni neitou veiqaravi kevaka e sega na tikina oqo. Na tikina qo sa qai tukuna kina na kena dodonu me tauri na sabolo, dodonu me test-taki e dua, na mataqali va ya. Lai yaco sara ena isolation. Kevaka sa laurai ni veitauvi talabusese ena loma ni koro i Naweni, sa qai dua vakayagataki na tiki ni lawa ya: "Okay i Naweni, baleta ni dou sa veitauvi vakalevu tiko na mate qo, sa na tarovi na veilakoyaki."

Sega ni vakarawarawataka me dua e lako qai kauta tale na mate me lai dewa tale. I liu dau vakavosa tu ga, keitou vakanuinui sara tu ga, ia so na vakadrecike dau yaco. So na gauna sa tukuni: "Sa kerei me da kakua ni veitosoyaki," tamata veitosoyaki ga, na mate e veidewavi ga. Dredre na cakacaka ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula, koya saka ga e biu tiko kina na lawa vakaturi ena tikina qo me vukea walega na neitou veiqaravi me keitou taqomaki kemuni.

MR. S. TAMANISAU.- Dua saka ga na taro, Sir. Rogoci tiko na veitalanoa ena siga ni kua, da raica tiko na veitalanoa vakavuvale ni kena tara, sa vinakati me vakavinakataki eso na vale koya keimami tara tu ga.

Koya dou sa kauta mai qo me keimami sa muria na plan, me na soli na kena plan, keimami qai tara na vale. Na kena tara na vale. Ia, tou sa lai veitalanoataka tiko qo na totogi, na ka e kauta mai na mate vakavuna tiko e levu vei keimami na lako yani i nakoro.

Ia na kauwai e tiko: na cava tale eso na mate era tiko? Koya vakamatei tamata sara tikoga ena gauna qo me vaka na NCDs (mate sureti). Dua talega ya na neimami kauwai baleta na ka sara ga keimami kania, ka keimami gunuva, so mada ga keimami lai volia tale mai taoni na makete, koya na kakana era vakawainimatetaki tu.

Tiko e dua na tiki ni nomuni tuvatuva mo dou na kauwai kina baleta keitou i Naweni qo, keimami sa organic kece tu. Na ka keimami teivaka, keimami sega ni vakayagataka na wainimate ni co ca me keimami spray-taka neimami teitei. Keimami sa tea sara tikoga na kakana bulabula baleta ni keimami na kania, ena yaga vei keimami.

Vaka tautauvata kei na dua na niu e a kau sara i Amerika na virgin oil, ya na niu, qai yaco eke qai lai reject mai baleta ni tu kina na wainimate.

Na kauwai e tiko baleta au a sa kerea oti ena dua na bose va qo, lako mai o rau na Minister, na kena spray-taki na gaunisala ni lori baleta o ira na luvei keimami era kana tu ga ena veitolo ni sala era spray-taka. Sa laurai na weleti, na ka kece ya sa vuavauai caca baleta na kena rerevaki gona na wainimate.

E tiko e dua na kauwai talega e tiko vei kemudou kevaka dou sa na vakalawataka na ka qo, me keimami qai bau nanumi talega. Keimami na dau tu vei ira na cakacaka tu i gaunisala, dua na ka me vakadikevi me ra kakua ni spray-taka na gaunisala. Me vaka na vakaso ni wai o ni tukuna tiko qo, na vei drain era tu qori e muria sobu mai eso talega na neimami drano. Keimami bula tiko kina ena dua na gauna balavu, tu kina na ika, era se bula mai kina o ira na neimami qase, ka mai vakavu tauvimate talega kina.

Na kauwai tikoga kina kevaka e rawa ni dau qai nanumi ena tiki ni lawa qo, ke ra nanumi talega o ira era dau vakayagataka tiko na wainimate. Keimami kerea tale na koro vakaviti, sa kerei saka me sa vakatabui talega kina.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dua na vakatutu ya. Au kerea me na vakatututaki mai, me na qai tokoni.

MR. S. TAMANISAU.-Sa vakatura saka.

LEWENIKORO.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nanuma me da sa cava toka eke ena siga ni kua.

Sa soli tiko na galala rua kina tolu na vula kevaka dou vinakata mo dou vakatutu tale yani ena loma ni nomuni Palimedi, sa tiko qori o ratou na kena dau.

Ni veitalanoa vata kei iratou, tiko na nasi ni koro, Turaga ni Koro, e tiko vei ratou na isema ni veitalanoa cava ga me vaka na talevoni se mona livaliva, me na qai vakau yani na itukutuku vakasokomuni yavutaki ena 69 na Tabana ni Bula raraba koya vakatututaki tiko qo.

Au na kerei honourable Tuicola me na cavauta na vosa ni vakavinavinaka ena vukudra saka na Turaga na Sipika ni Bose Lawa.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- Ni bera ni'u na tauca tiko na vosa ni vakavinavinaka, a vakaraitaka tiko o Turaga Dreu baleta na NCDs.

E tiko vua na veiveisau lalai ni totogi e tiko qori, ni na raica na tikina 39 mai na $20 kina $2,000. Qori me baleta tiko na mate e vakadewai, e vu mai na veiyacovi. Koya sa toso cake kina na totogi, kevaka e dua e sa dikevi vakavuniwai, sa vakadeitaki ni tiko vua na mate ka nakita tiko me vakadewava tiko na mate ni veiyacovi me vaka na HIV/AIDS, kena totogi sa tiko qori ka sa toso cake kina $2,000.

E wili talega kina o ira era vakadewa na mate ena icula. Ni sa lako tiko mai taoni na gauna qo na icula, kece qori kena totogi era sa tiko qori e $2,000. Vinaka vakalevu.

Ena vukudra na Turaga na Sipika ni Palimedi, vaka kina na Chairman ni Standing Committee ni Social Affairs, kei ratou na itokani keitou gole vata tiko mai ena siga ni kua, vakakina o ratou na Tabana ni Bula kei ratou na veiqaravi i Palimedi era tiko rawa ena siga ni kua, au taura na gauna qo meu vakavinavinakataki kemuni kece kina na tiko rawa ena siga ni kua, dina ni tiko na dui osooso ni matavuvale, koro, ni rawa ni vakagalalataki kemuni mo ni tiko rawa ena sigalevu ni kua.

Au vakabauta na veika eda mai veivosakitaka qo ena vukea vakalevu na bula raraba, vakauasivi na veikorokoro, rawa ni vukea talega na noda bula yadudua vaka kina na matavuvale.

Levu ga na vosa ni vakavinavinaka sa mai cauraki ena siga levu ni kua, sa vakasakaya na kena levu.

The Committee adjourned at 2.16 p.m.

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT DOGORU VILLAGE, MACUATA ON TUESDAY, 7TH JULY 2026 AT 10.52 A.M.

Present

Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	-	Chairman
Hon. A. Bia	-	Member
Hon. A.T. Nagata	-	Member
Hon. S. Kumar	-	Alternate Member
Hon. K.K. Lal	-	Alternate Member

Apologies

Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure	-	Deputy Chairperson
Hon. V. Pillay	-	Member
Hon. P.K. Bala	-	Member

Submittee: Dogoru Residence

In Attendance:

1.	Mr. Isireli Rokomina	-	Dogoru
2.	Mr. Savenaca Rasogo	-	Vatulovona
3.	Mr. Napolioni Ravula	-	Nasaqa
4.	Mr. Semi Raqaraqara	-	Yacadigi
5.	Mr. Manoa Ratuvili	-	Dogoru
6.	Mr. Lorosio Salavuce	-	Savusavutaqa
7.	Mr. Joeli Turagalevu	-	Vunikawakawa
8.	Mr. Petero Namoce	-	Dogoru
9.	Mr. Semi Radradra	-	MP.C.
10.	Mr. Epeli Tabuarua	-	Dogoru
11.	Mr. Mataraki Ulacake	-	Nasaqa
12.	Mr. Elia Savenaca	-	Dogoru
13.	Mr. Josevata Ualuvu	-	Vunikawakawa
14.	Mr. Sakeo Tuiwainikai	-	Dogoru
15.	Mr. Keesi Cabealawa	-	Dogoru
16.	Ms. Karolina Ilisabeta	-	Dogoru
17.	Ms. Asinate Lewailagi	-	Dogoru
18.	Ms. Elisabeta R.	-	Dogoru
19.	Mr. Viliame V.	-	Dogoru
20.	Mr. Petero	-	Dogoru
21.	Mr. Nabarieli Sisa	-	Dogoru
22.	Mr. Isala S.	-	Dogoru
23.	Mr. Atunaisa	-	Dogoru
24.	Mr. Sireli Rokomina	-	Dogoru

25.	Mr. Petero Tukidia	-	Dogoru
26.	Mr. Borosio Rokete	-	Dogoru
27.	Mr. Semesa	-	Dogoru

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni sa tiko na veiwekani eda mai tiko rawa ena mataka ni siga edaidai. Sa noqui tavi dokai saka tiko meu cavuta e dua na vosa ni veikidavaki ena vukudra na Sipika ni noda boselawa, era veitalai saka tiko mai ena vuku ni kena kau wavoki tiko e dua na lawa vakatututaki ka mai wili me lawa ni noda matanitu ena 1935. E daidai e sa viavia yabaki 90 tiko ni kua na lawa vakaturi koya e kau wavoki tiko qo. Ni bera ni tou na qai goleva yani na kena matailalai kei na veika e tu vakavolivolita, au na kerei na wekaqu na Turaga na chief health inspector mai Verata me liutaki keda ena dua na masu.

(Prayer)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na sureti iratou nai tokani na lewe ni nomuni Palimedi keitou dabe saka tiko qo, me ratou na vakamacalataki ratou mada.

(Introduction of Committee Members)

(Introduction of officials from Ministry of Health and Medical Services)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dou kalougata nai tikotiko vakaturaga ni rawa ni siro mai na nona veitalai na Turaga na Sipika me keitou mai vakayacora tiko e dua na itavi levu ena kena kau wavoki tiko qo e dua na lawa vakaturi mai na 1935. Na nodratou lawa vakaturi tiko na Tabana ni Bula – ya na vuna e ratou lewe levu tiko na tabana ni bula e ratou na mai veivuke tiko ena kena vakasama ni veivakararamataki kei na kena veisau na lawa tu ya kina lawa vakatututaki e rauta tiko ni 69 na tabana duidui koya e gadrevi me vakatututaki me sa veisau me rauta na gauna vou ni veiqaravi e da sa tiko kina nikua.

Au nuitaka ni na dua na gauna vinaka e da na mai veitalanoataka, na cava o ni gadreva ena vuku ni lawa vakatututaki tiko qo kau nuitaka ni sa tiko vei keda nai lavelave ka toqai toka ena vosa vaka itaukei. Kevaka e se bera tiko na nomuni lavelave, e tiko ya o ratou na dauni veiqaravi yasana mawi vei au, me tou na veitalanoa kina me rawa ni matata na cava na veivakararamataki, ka yavutaki ena vakasama o koya e gadrevi tiko me na lai veisau ena loma ni nomuni Palimedi.

Au na kerea na noqui tokani, honourable Bia me na vakararamataki kedatou mada enai tekivu ni lakolako ni kena veisautaki na lawa vakatutu qo.

HON. A. BIA.- Ni sa bula vinaka tale na turaga na marama, vakakina vei keda kece sara na tiko ena siga vinaka ni kua. Vakalekaleka sara, me vaka sa vakamacala tiko kina na Turaga nai liuliu ni bose. Nai naki ena vuku ni gole saka tiko mai ena siga vinaka ni kua, sai koya na kena vakamacala taumada ena kena tovolei me soqoni se vasokumuni na nomuni nanuma na lewenivanua ena vuku ni dua na lawa ka sa tu mai ena loma ni 90 na yabaki tekivutaki mai ena 1935 me yacova tiko mai qo, sa qai vakanananu na matanitu me veisau. E

rauta ni 69 na tikina e tiko ena lawa oqo sai koya na Public Health Act. Na lawa ena kena qarauni se vaqaqacotaki na noda tiko savasava kei na noda tiko bulabula ena veivanua e da tiko kina, se da tiko e nakoro se da tiko ena tikotiko vagalala voleka e nakoro se vanua cava ga o tiko kina.

Qo e dua na lawa ka ratou sa sasaga tiko kina na Tabana ni bula me mai biu ena loma ni vale ni boselawa me sagai me veisautaki me rawa ni veiganiti kei na bula eda sa tu kina ena gauna oqo. Kevaka o na vakataroga se keu tiko e nakoro, ena okati vakacava o au ena lawa oqo? E dua na veisau e tiko ena kena vakaturi mai na lawa oqo sai koya ena loma ni 90 na yabaki, e sega ni oka vakadua tu na koro ena lawa oqo. Qo e sa sagai me biu I loma na koro me oka ena vuku ni lawa ni kena qarauni na noda tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava.

Kevaka o na taroga se cava na vuna e sa oka kina na koro. E ratou tukuna tiko na tabana ni bula ni dua na gauna balavu e vakayacori tiko mai na veiqaravi ena tabana ni bula ena noda veivalenibula kei na noda veikorokoro, e laurai ni levu na mate dewa vakatotolo me vaka na typhoid, leptospirosis, mi ni manu, dengue fever – e levu na mate vakaoqo e lako tu yani ena noda veivalenibula e levu ga vei keda na koro vakaviti eda kauta tu yani. E oso tu na valenibula ka so na kisi e lako yani sa lai voleka saraga ni kau tani na bula ena vuku ni bibi ni mate.

E ratou qai raica kevaka e vinakati me tarovi me maroroi na noda bula na kawai taukei se o keda na tiko ena koro vakaviti me da bula balavu ka da qarava vinaka nai tavi ni vanua, sa na ganita na lawa qo me na biu yani ena noda veikorokoro me qarauna na noda tiko savasava kei na noda tiko bulabula. Me da qarauna talega o ira na noda kawa era muri tiko mai.

E dua tale na veisau sai koya na kena qarauni na tiko savasava ena loma ni koro. Mo samaka vakavinaka na saula ni nomu vale, se na saula ni koro. Ke laurai ni vakasucu na namu ka tubua tiko na nomu yasa ni vale, vakayacori na vakadidike qai laurai ni namu era vakasucu tiko ena containers se na taya era tiko e nomu vale, vakavuna tiko na veitauvi ni dengue ena loma ni koro. Na lawa oqo e sa na rawa ni kauti iko vakalawa se o totogitaki vakailavo nio rawa ni lulevaka tiko na kena samaki na nomu lomanibai o tiko kina.

Na kenai katolu sai koya na kena laveti nai totogi. Na loma ni 90 na yabaki tu mai kina na lawa qo, so na totogi e tu ena $2 sa toki cake sara kina $100, $500 ka so e $1,000 ka so e $2,000. E so ena tukuna e cava e sa tubu cake kina vakaoqo na totogi – sa vaqara I lavo beka na Tabana ni bula se matanitu. Sega e sega ni kenai naki ya – e dua na kenai naki sai koya na bibi ni mate sa tiko ena gauna oqo kei na veika eda sa sureta tiko mai se na veika ra vakau tiko mai vanua tani, eda vakayagataka tiko na kakana kei na noda draki ni bula, ka so na mate vakaoqo kevaka eda sega ni qarauna na tiko savasava kei na tiko bulabula, sa na rawarawa ni tauvi keda tiko kevaka eda sega ni qaqarauni. Sa qai biu yani e so na lawa vakaoqo me rawa ni vakadeitaka se vaqaqacotaka o iko mo qarauna, na nomu koro, qarauna na nomu matavuvale ena vuku ni tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava.

Ya vakacaca e 69 vakadua na tikina koya e tiko oqori ka gadrevi me veisau, ka vakalekaleka walega na veika au nanuma ni bibi e tiko ena loma ni lawa, ia ena levu tiko na

gauna me da na veitalanoa kina da veitarotarogi ka na liutaki keda tiko yani na turaga nai liuliu ni bose ena vuku ni veitalanoa ena siga ni kua. Mai dua saka tiko na noqu vakamacala lekaleka, va saka tiko oya na kena levu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ya vakacaca na veika e kau tiko mai nikua me tou na mai veitalanoa kina vakarawarawa ga ka vakatotolo. E kau sara tikoga mai ena loma ni nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga ka sa kenai balebale, na gauna ena lai veisau kina na lawa vakatututaki qo, dou na kalougata na nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga ni dou wili ka tiki ni kena veitalanoataki na kena vakacaberi kei na kena vakatututaki na lawatu oqo me lai oka me lai lawatu ni noda matanitu.

Me vaka ni kaya tiko na noqui tokani ni sa 90 na yabaki, ya e sa balavu sara. Na veivakararamataki kedatou na dabe kina nikua, qo e tiki ni kena dau gadrevi me vakavoui se veisau e dua na lawatu me vakatututaki. E dau gadrevi vakalevu ena loma ni noda Palimedi me mai rogo na domoda na lewenivanua, kau nuitaka ni da na veitalanoa sara kina vakavinaka ena yavu e 69 ka tu qori e matada. Keitou na qai veitokoni tikoga ena kena saumi tiko na nomuni vakatataro ena vakasama ni veivakararamataki kau nuitaka ni sa tiko vei kea na tikidua ni 69 na tabana koya e gadrevi tiko qo me veisau mai na lawatu koya a tiko mai na 1935.

Me vaka nio ni sa yadua kece tiko, nio na wilika e tiko kina e 69 taucoko na tikina e gadrevi me na veisautaki ka se vakatututaki tiko me veiraurau kei na veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula ratou tiko qo ena gauna vou eda sa tiko kina nikua. Na ka ena kerei, kevaka o gadreva mo na vosa, ena kau wavoki tiko yani na gusu ni vosavosa se mic ka tiko vei ratou na timi ni veiqaravi. Ni na qai vosa mai ni tukuna na yacamuni, na nomuni koro, kevaka o turaga ni koro, ni rawa ni cavuta nio turaga ni koro se o mata ni bose ni yasana se cava ga. O na qai raica na tikidua mai na tikina e 1 kina 69 se na vanua cava o ni via vosa kina.

Na yavu levu ga e tiko e loma ya, me na rawarawa na vanua tou na veitalanoa toka kina. O na rawa nio tukuna vaqo, au vinakata meu na vosa na tabana e 13 me rawa ni datou na veitalanoa ena tikina e 13 vata kei na lavelave sa tiko qori vei kemuni. Rawa nio ni na taroga mai se cava na vuna sa rui levu kina se lailai na totogi ke donumaka nai totogi. Ia na kena vakamacala e tiko kina kei na kena matailalai e tiko vei keitou koya na vanua e veisau mai kina na Bill ya, me keitou qai sauma yani kina nomuni taro.

Ya ga nai tavi e mai qaravi tiko ena mataka ni kua ena nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga, kau nuitaka ni datou na veitalanoa ga kina vakarawarawa sara ka da na veitalanoa talega ena galala. Na vuna e kau wavoki tiko kina na gusu ni vosavosa qo baleta me katoni kina ka lai maroroi tu na kena vasokumuni nai tukutuku qo ena nomuni loma ni Palimedi. Kevaka talega oni gadreva moni kila na cava e yaco ni kua, ni oti ga na noda bose qo, ni lako ena webpage ni Palimedi e sa tiko kece kina na veika e vakayacori ni kua. Na kena katoni e dau vukei keitou me keitou lai rai lesuva na veika kece sara a veitalanoataki ena loma ni nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga eke.

Keitou sa otivi Viti Levu mai, ka keitou sa tiko qo e Vanua Levu. E nanumi tiko me keitou na qai lele yani ki na Yatu Lau, Lomaiviti, Kadavu ka yaco sara yani ki Rotuma. Qo

na tiki levu ni veiqaravi ni nomuni matanitu ka dau qaravi ke vinakati me veisau se me vakavoui e dua na lawatu sa tiko mai me dau caka na kena vakatututaki – koya saka ya na vu ni neitou mai tiko kina eke ni kua.

Au nuitaka ni sa na via matata toka nai balebale ni neitou yaco mai, na kenai naki ni vasokomuni ni tukutuku me na vukea na rogo ni domomuni na lewenivanua ena gauna sa na lai veisau kina na lawa vakatutu ka tiko qo e matada.

O iratou na taukei ni lawatu oqo, sai ratou na wekadatou ratou dabe tiko qo. Ni sa yaco e dua na lawa vakatututaki ena loma ni noda matanitu se lako ena Cabinet, e qai dau lako ena loma ni Palimedi. Ena gauna sa yaco kina e loma ni Palimedi sa qai dau wase na komiti cava me na kauta wavoki na lawa vakatutu ya. Kenai balebale na veitalanoa ena mataka ni kua, keu kauta mai vakarawarawa mai na kena vakasama, datou sa veitalanoa sara tikoga qo e Palimedi ka ni sa kau mai vei kemudou. Au nuitaka ni da na vakaitavi kece, keda na tiko qo kina kena vakatututaki na lawa vakaturi koya e gadrevi tiko me veisau ka sa tiko qo vei keda na kenai lavelave.

Au sa sureta toka e dua vei ratou na turaga me liutaki kedatou ena kena dolavi na veitalanoa qo. Ni raica ga na naba 1 ki na 69 ena tikina cava o ni via vosa kina.

MR. I. ROKOMINA.- Ni sa tiko na veituraga ni koro, ni tiko na turaga na marama, qo na veika sa vakaraitaka tiko o iratou na gole tiko mai ena noda vale ni boselawa ka ratou mai vakaitavi kina ena mataka ni siga ni kua. Au kila ni siga bibi, siga vinaka baleta na vakatutu qo ena sega ni yaco koso. Ena yaco saraga me lai bosei ena vale ni boselawa. Au kerei kemuni na lewe ni koro, turaga ni koro me da vakaitavi ena vosa baleta na tikidua eda via vosa kina. Au sa mai dolava rawa qo vei kemuni, sa vaka oya na kena levu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Meda raica mada na matai ni draunipepa ena tikina e rua ena section 1(a) ka volai toka ena lawa vakatutu qo ni lawa qo e baleti Viti taucoko. Na vuna e veisau kina na tabana qo me vakadeitaki ni taurivaki na lawa oqo ena veiyasai Viti taucoko. Na kena totogi e volai toka qo e sega. Na kena vakamacala e tukuni toka ni vakadeitaki na veiqaravi e tautauvata ena veivanua. Na tikina ya e toka qo, e kaya toka na wekaqu tiko e yasaqu matau ni lawatu mai na 1935 e a baleti ira ga na tiko ena veikoro lelevu ka sega ni wili tu kina na veiqaravi ena vuku ni taudaku ni veikoro lelevu se noda tikotiko vakoro. E ratou raica tiko na Tabana ni bula, ka sa rogo oti vei keda na kena vosa ni 70 na pasede na tamata tauvimate e lako e valenibula e laurai na kena fika soqoni ni levu taudua o keda na tiko ena taudaku ni koro lelevu. Na veimataqali mate cava ga – koya e vakavuna na namu, na mi ni manu, na coka dra kei na kena veimatalalai e so.

Sa kenai balebale ya, o kedatou ga na tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu baleta ni tou a sega ni ologi tu ena lawa oqo mai na 1935, tou vakasinaita tiko na valenibula. E dua na vosa e talei e toka qo e dakuna – ratou kaya tiko ni da qai yaco yani e valenibula, sa sega walega nio lako yani mo laurai vei nasi se vei vuniwai. Sa kacivi saraga na ambulance. Kenai balebale ya nio keda na tiko ena taudaku ni koro lelevu, e da sega ni maroroya tiko na tiko bulabula, tiko savasava koya e ologi tiko ena vakatutu e 69 ka tiko qo e matada.

Na rai vakarabailevu sa vinakata o iratou na tabana ni bula me sa kau rawa yani nai tukutuku me tukuni rawa vei keda na tiko bulabula, na veika dodonu me caka, na kena vakasavasavataki na loma ni koro, na vanua era dau vakasucu kina na namu, na wai ca ni noda valelailai se na septic tank, na vanua dodonu mera na vakasirovi kina. E wili tale tikoga ena lawa vakatutu qo kevaka e da via tara vale vovou, e nanumi tiko me na vakalesui mai me tiki ni lawatu qo na Rural Local Authority.

E da kila kece tiko ni yabaki 2018 sa mai kau laivi na veiqaravi ni tabana qo vei ratou na Tabana ni bula. O ratou saka na tabana qo e ratou yadrava tiko na veika me baleti keda me vaka na tara vale, ka tiko vei ratou e so na approved plan ka sa vakadinadinataki ni rawa ni vakayagataki ka so talega na veika me baleta na noda septic tanks. Sa tiko e so na kabani koya ratou vakadonuya ni sa yaga me vakayagataki me veiraurau kei na gauna vou eda sa bula tiko kina nikua.

Na railesu totolo ga, sa oti na gauna ni caka dramu 44 na qaloni koya dau nanumi tu me septic tank vei keda na tu e nakoro. Na kena laurai tikoga ni sa totolo sara tiko na mate veidewavi ena loma ni nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga. Ya e so na ka e kovuta tiko na tabana e rua ya, kau nuitaka niu dolava tiko na kena vakasama ya, e kau saraga mai ena vakasama ni veika ka ratou vasokumuna na Tabana ni bula ni sa yaco dina tiko ka sega ni wili tiko kina e so na mate veitauvi koya e tiko, ka da na qai veitalanoa tiko kina kevaka ena levu tiko mai na nomudou taro. Ya e dua na kena sabolo rawarawa ga ya, au nuitaka ni sa via matata toka ya me baleta na 69 na lawa vakatutu tiko qo.

Kevaka e dua e via tomana na vosa ya, ni lave ga na ligamuni me qai kau wavoki yani na nodatou mic koya e cowiri wavoki tiko qo.

HON. A. BIA.- Au via dolava walega vakalailai na nodatou veitalanoa. Ni na vakataroga se cava na vuna sa rui bibi kina na noqu nanuma kei na veika meu cavuta se na veitalanoa me da na vakayacora. Ena gauna a biu kina na lawa qo ena vale ni boselawa, sa qai lewa mai na Turaga Sipika na gauna me kau lesu tale yani kina. Sa qai tukuni mai kina matabose qo, na vula o Seviteba se Okotova me sa biu lesu tale yani kina ena loma ni vale ni boselawa me sa lai dua na lawa o koya.

Kevaka sa dua na lawa o koya, mo na kila na bibi ni nomu oka o iko, me vaka au sa vakamacala oti mai kina. Kenai balebale na benu ca, ke vakayacori tiko na benu vakaveitalia ka vakavuna tiko na tauvimate qai soli na kudru se tabaki iko o Turaga ni Koro qai qiritaka kina Tabana ni bula ni vakayacori tiko na benu ca e ke. E laurai ni vakavuna tiko na tauvimate, ka ratou na qai lako yani, o sa na warning taki, kevaka o vuki cakava tiko, o sa na totogitaki vakailavo ena lawa oqo. Qo na vuna e bibi tiko kina na noda veitalanoa.

Ena gauna sa na lai lawa kina o koya, mo kila tiko ni da sa na vauci kece tiko ena lawa oqo. Me da lesu tale ena kenai naki – e sega ni tukuni me vakabobulataka e dua. E gadreva tiko na Tabana ni bula me da laveta cake nai tagede ni tiko savasava kei na tiko bulabula ena noda veikoro. E dua tale na yasana, kevaka iko raica, e dua na bolebole levu sa tu vua na Tabacakacaka iTaukei, oya na kena tovolei me vakailavotaki na Integrated Village Development Plan me rawa ni talave cake na koro enai tagede e gadreva tiko na tabana ni

bula me da tu kina. Sa da na bolebole talega na lewe ni koro me da sa na laveta nai vakarau ni noda bula na tiko ena loma ni koro, qarauni na veiyawaki ni tara ni vale, qarauni na tiko bulabula, laurai me kua na benu ca, me kua ni vakasucu na namu e loma ni koro, na manumanu me ra vesu vinaka.

Na siga ya, au sa vakasamataka tu na bibi ni lawa qo kevaka ena lako ena Yatu Lau. Nio iratou mai Yatu Lau e cake, na vuaka e karua toka ga ni koli. E tu sara tuga e yasa ni vale. O kedatou na tiko qo, e levu tiko na manumanu ka so na gauna era dau lako mai loma ni koro, era tiko na koli, sa da na qaqarauni nai taukei ni manumanu baleta kevaka e vakadewava tiko na mate, e da sa rawa ni totogitaki. Kevaka o vuki cakava tikoga, sa rawa nio lai vakacagicagi vakalailai e Vaturekuka, ka sa ka bibi kina me da veitalanoa.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, this law is presented by the Ministry of Health. They presented this law to the Parliament. The job of this Committee is to come to the people, ask your views, take your views, take your recommendation back to Parliament, discuss and change the necessary law before it is passed. The process that is here, the consultation, is a very important process. It allows the Turaga ni Koros, villagers, members of the public to give your views.

Once the law is passed, then it is finished. It can only be changed again in Parliament. There will not be another set of consultation process. There would be, but it is going to take a long time. This is the only time you have to present your views to this Committee members. If you want to speak in itaukei, we have members here who will translate for us. We have no problems, but this is the only time for you to speak. You need to open yourself in the manner that we all can discuss.

You can also give recommendations on what you think is right or what you think is wrong. Before the fine was only $2 or $5. Now it is $500 or maybe $1,000 and it is going to affect all of you at some point. This is the time for you to say, no, I do not want that $1,000 as it is too much. This is the time for you to speak to us. We cannot tell you what to say, it is your job to tell us what you want, so that is the perspective I have for you.

MR. S. RADRADRA (Turaga ni Koro Dogoru/Mata ni Tikina o Wailevu) – E dua ga na noqu kauwai me baleta ga na kena mai boko na Rural Local Authority ka dau qarava tiko na tikina dou sa kauta tale mai qo ni sa laurai na veimate lelevu. Au via taroga se cava a boko kina ya ka sa qai mai sagai me yavala tale mai qo.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- E dua na taro vinaka, au na qai sureti rau na Tabana ni Bula ni rau kila vakavinaka na vu ni kena mai boko kina ena 2018 na Rural Local Authority kei na kenai tavi a tu taumada na kena veiqaravi kei na kena nanumi me sa lesu tale mai ka tiki ni lawatu na kena vakatututaki na lawa tou sa veitalanoa tiko kina nikua.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Ni tiko saka na turaga nai liuliu ni bose, ni tiko na lewe ni boselawa, ni tiko na turaga na marama ena loma ni nodatou koro vakaturaga. Au kila na vakatulewa a mai tau ena 2018, ya na vakatulewa ni matanitu. E dua na vakatulewa ka sa vakadavora na matanitu ena 2018 ka sa gazette taki kina na kena sa kau laivi na Rural Local

Authority ka sa na soli na veiqaravi vei iratou na matabose ni tauni me ratou na qarava mai na veika ratou a dau qarava tu na Local Authority.

Au vakabauta ya nai vakamacala lekaleka ga au rawa ni cakava, baleta ni vakatulewa a sa vakatulewa kina na matanitu ena gauna ya, ena 2018 ka sa sega talega ni dua na kaukauwa e tiko vei keimami me keimami na saqata yani na lewa ni sa vakadavora na matanitu ni bera ni kacivaki na budget ena yabaki 2018.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nuitaka ni sa saumi na nomuni taro ya Mata ni Tikina.

HON. K.K. LAL.- It is my understanding that different governments that come in bring in different type of ideas, so the previous government removed it according to their understanding that it was no need for them and they were integrating everything under one office. When there is a new government and when there is a new head in the Ministry, they think that we need to bring local authority back, that is their prerogative meaning that is their job. If a new government is there tomorrow, they might say, oh we are going to change the name of rural local authority to Dogoru Local Authority. That is entirely up to the government.

There is an understanding that different government may have different set of ideas. Why I understand it was sent to the council boundaries and all those things, normally in overseas countries, everything falls under the local government. I believe the previous government may have tried to streamline everything under one roof rather than having two different departments doing the same job. That is my understanding, but I believe that time they closed it, now this Government is there, and they bring it back which I believe is a good thing for this Government.

It is up to the next leader or the next person who is in charge if they want to continue or they want to remove it totally. Bring back the Rural Local Authority is in one way a good thing for the health inspectors. In terms of the COVID response and all these kinds of disease response, it helps the local boundary monitoring.

I also believe that one of the most important aspects is sanitation and hygiene. In rural communities, sometimes we build houses just like that without proper planning, without proper septic tanks. Because these things are not planned properly, it affects our health. For example, your septic tank is just a normal one with rock and tin. As time goes on, that tin rusts so in simple language, the pooh pooh, is going to go to your water source and will make you sick.

The Ministry for Health have simple design for affordable septic tanks which you can make at home and there is hardware which sells plastic septic tanks that can take you for longer period of time. These are the type of things that the Rural Local Authority and the health inspectors will help the communities in terms of ensuring that your hygiene, septic tank, chicken pen, pig pen and all these things are proper. We do not want people to become sick.

If I want your vote, I will say that this is wrong, but this Committee is a bipartisan committee. You have four government MPs, and I am from the Opposition. I may say, this is wrong, but when you look at the bigger picture, we are here together to ask for your permission that we will go ahead with this Bill. If you have recommendations, we are going to change it. If you think something is wrong, we will work together to change it. That is why we are here together.

When we take it to Parliament, we are both from different sides – Government and Opposition. But here, we are trying to tell you that this Bill is very important because it is a very old law from the British time. Now it is modern time, so we have to have modern solutions for it.

MR. SAVENACA.- Au tokona vakalevu na Bill e kau tiko mai qo. Na koro qo a voleka saraga ni red zone, ia na vu ni noqu tokona kina na Bill ni tiko bulabula qo baleta veitalia se da turaga levu vakacava se tamata lailai vakacava, na tauvimate ena lako ga mai me vaka na leptospirosis, na mi ni manu. Ya na vuna au tokona na lawa vakatutu oqo me rawa ni laveti cake ka vakabulabulataki tale na tiko bulabula ena noda vanua lomani qo ko Viti.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Totoka nai vakamacala ya ena vuku ni tiko bulabula. Au na kauti kedatou vakatotolo kina tabana e 57 ena tikidua. E kaya tiko na ulutaga ya, nai vakarau rarama me baleta na meda wai. Au vakabauta o keda na tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu e vuqa vei keda eda gunu wai ena vanua e lako mai kina na vakaso ni meda wai. Au sega ni kila vei kedatou eke, se e tiko kina na vakasama ya se dou gunu wai mai Labasa se evei.

Kenai balebale e tiko na nodatou vakaso ni medatou wai eke ena vanua e maroroi mai kina na medatou wai ni bera ni qai lako mai na nodatou loma ni koro vakaturaga. Na lawa qo e vauca tiko e tolu na ulutaga bibi ni vanua e drodro mai kina na medai vakaso ni wai. Na gauna e sa na wili kina me sa lawatu ni matanitu na lawa vakatutu qo, sa na vakatabui mo lako I teitei ena vanua e lako tiko mai kina nai vakaso ni meda wai. E tabu na teitei ka tabu talega mo susu manumanu kina. E tabu talega ni ta na veikau lelevu e tiko kina. E tabu talega nio vakacacana e dua na tolo ni paipo ka okati kece tiko ena lawa vakatututaki tiko qo. E tiko vata kei na kenai totogi. E sa sega talega ni tiko vei iko e dua na dodonu keo iko o taukei ni qele mo vakayacora tiko ya. Na bibi ni ka qo e vauci keda tiko. Keo na tukuna – sega qo na neitou qele, qo na neitou vanua – nio na lako e mataveilewai sa tiko vata kei na kena totogi.

E via kaya tiko na vakasama levu qo na kena maroroi na wai savasava meda gunuva na tiko ena loma ni tikotiko se na vanua e lako mai kina nai vakaso ni wai. Au vakabauta ena loma ni tolu na macawa sa oti, eratou a veilewaitaki iratou na tabana ni wai o iratou na taukei ni qele mai cake ga qo vei kedatou koya era gunu tiko kina o Labasa. Sa caka e dua na kena veiyalayalati ka ratou sa duavata na kena saumi lesu vei ratou na ka kece me baleta nai vakaso ni wai ya.

Na lawa qo e vauca kece tiko ya. Ena gauna sa tuki kina e Palimedi me sa lawatu, sa sega ni tiko vei iko na kaukauwa. Keo mani taukei ni qele sara seo turaga ni koro, se cava ga

o via cakava ena vanua e lako mai na soso ni wai, o sa vauci vakalawa. Ko na totogi vakailavo ka rawa talega nio na veilewai ka lai vakacagicagi beka me vula ciwa se vula 12 ki Vaturekuka. E biu tiko ya ka sega ni kenai balebale mo ni na totogitaki. E biu tiko na tabana bibi ya me vaka tiko e dua nai sasabai mei vakatatao ni da cakava na yacana vaka Peritania na 'deterrent'. Au dolava tiko na vakasama ena rabailevu ni veika eda dau vakayagataka sai koya na medai soso ni wai.

MS. ASINATE.- Au via vosa ga ena tikina e 20, 21 kei na 22 – na vosa makawa me baleta na valelailai kei na rubu ni benu. Na vosa makawa me baleta na vale lailai kei na rubu ni benu. E tautauvata o iratou na tolu qo.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ko ni vinakata e dua na veivakararamataki?

MS. ASINATE.- Io.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na sureti ratou na tabana ni bula. E sega ni matata tiko vei iratou na balebale ni vosa makawa me baleta na vale lailai kei na rubu ni benu. Na 22 na vosa makawa me baleta na vale lailai kei na rubu ni benu.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Ni tiko na vuvale vanua na siga vinaka ni kua. Taumada na vakavinavinaka levu ena vuku ni vakatataro e gole tiko mai. Tikina e 21 kei na tikina e 22 e dusia tiko e dua na veisau ka dua na yavu levu ni kena nanumi na vakavoui ni nodatou lawa. Me vaka era vakamacala tiko kina na turaga Chairman, na lawa qo se duri mai na 1935, nikua sa 90 na yabaki. Kenai balebale na lawa qo e qase kece vei keda na tiko e loma ni valenisoqo ni kua ka tiko e loma e so na vosa se vakayagataki ena gauna vaka koloni ka sa sega ni qai veiganiti kei na gauna eda tiko kina nikua.

E vica na vosa ya koya e volai tiko qori ena 21 kei na 22. Na vosa me vaka na 'privy'. Na privy e tu ena lawatu ena gauna qo. Kevaka au na tarogi keda na tiko ena loma nikua se cava nai balebale ni privy, eda na sega dina sara ni kila. Na privy ya na vale ni vakavakacegu. Kena balebale me sa boko laivi na privy ka me sa biu e loma na sanitary facility koya e sa yaca ni vale ni vakavakacegu tiko vakavavalagi ena gauna qo.

Vakakina na kava ni benu, se yacana e liu na 'dustbin' ka sa sega ni qai dua na vanua e vakayagataki kina na vosa na dustbin ena gauna ni kua. Keda kila ga ni da se vuli e primary school na dustpan koya keda dau kumuna kina na benu. Na kava ni benu ya na yacana na dustbin ena gauna vakoloni. Ena gauna nikua sa yacana na wastebin. Keitou sa nanuma me boko ya me rawa ni veisau. Ni dua e wilika kina na lawa, e rawa ni kila o koya na cava na balebale ni lawa ya. Ya e so na veiveisau ka tiko ena lawa vakatutu ena 21 kei na 22.

Dua talega na noda septic tank. Keda kila tiko ena gauna qo na septic tank. Na yaca e dau kilai kina e liu ena gauna vaka koloni na cesspit. Koya ya e se tiko ena vola ni lawa ena gauna ni kua. Kena balebale ni lako yani e dua me tukuna I vei nomu cesspit? Sa na dua na tama ni veilecayaki levu ena yacovi keda. Me yaco sara ni sa boko na cesspit ka sa biu na

septic tank. E dua vata tiko ga na ka, io e duidui ga na vosa eda vakayagataka kina mai na gauna ya ki na gauna qo.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nanuma ni sa saumi na nona vakatataro na marama ka dabe tiko mai ra ya. Ni tou tiko ga ena vakasama ni veisau ni lawa, e kaya toka o turaga Tovata ya, sa vosa vaka koloni ena 1935. Na vosa kece madaga keitou rogoca ena neitou wavoki tiko qo e ka vou tale tiko madaga vei keitou na tiko e cake qo. Baleta a sega ni dua vei keda a donumaka mai na kena mai vakadeitaka na matanitu me lawatu na vosa ka vakayagataki tiko ya.

Kevaka e so tale na vosa vovou dou nanuma ena nodatou koro qo me veisau, e rawa ni datou vakacuruma e loma. Ni sa tukuni ga na septic tank sa da na kila ya na vanua e mai maroroi kina na duka kece ni vanua eda tiko kina. Kevaka e mani yaco na septic tank me sega ni caka vakamatau, ka drodro na kena wai ca ka lai vakavuna na tauvimate vei dua tale na wekamu ka drau tiko veivolekati tikoga ka vauci tale tikoga ena lawa qo. O na totogitaki vakailavo mai vei nomu neighbour ni ratou raica ka ratou na qai solia vei iko e dua na notisi. Dou vakavinakataka qo ena loma ni vitu se 21 na siga, ratou na qai taleva lesu tale mai. Na vakasama tiko ga ni kena maroroi tiko na noda tiko bulabula. E so na ka lalai ka da rawa sara ni cakava wale tikoga kevaka madaga e kabasu toka na tolo ni paipo, me veisau ga na tolo ni paipo ya. Lai voli ga mai, sema, coba ka lako vakamatau tale na wai duka ya kina vanua dodonu mera lai vakacegu kina.

E wili talega kina na nomu biuta na wai ka gole mai na vanua ni vakasaqa. Qo na vanua kece era dau bula kina na manumanu koya e vakavuna tiko na tauvimate vei keda. Me buli na lawa me baleta na tamata. A sega ni buli na tamata me baleta na lawa. Me dabe toka e kea na noda vakasama. E kau mai na lawatu vakaturi qo me baleti keda kei na noda tiko bulabula, na noda maroroi ena vuku ni tauvimate ka sa vakadinadinataki vei iratou na tabana ni bula ni yaco tiko ni sega ni qaravi vinaka na noda tiko bulabula vakauasivi tiko na taudaku ni veikoro lelevu.

O ira na tiko e tauni, e vauci ira tiko na council. E ra sauma na kena vakacavacava, me kau na nodra benu, veika me baleta na nodra livaliva kei na wai era sauma. Kedatou na tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu, ya na vuna e kau tiko mai qo vei kedatou na lawa vakatutu qo. Dola tiko na nodatou gauna ni veitalanoa. Dou kua ni laiva na gauna qo me lako siviti kemudou qai sega ni rogo na domomudou e ke.

MR. S. RADRADRA.- Au vakavinavinaka ena veitalanoa nikua. E dua na sasaga levu a tiko ena tikina o Wailevu kei na yaubula ni yasana baleta na kena maroroi na veikoro, au na vosa tiko ena tikina o Wailevu. Na leqa e tiko koya na noqu vakatutu e liu me na laveti cake na Rural Local Authority me na vakabulai tale. Na leqa levu e tiko qo, kevaka dou na lako mai e gaunisala, dou na raica na benu era viritaki e gaunisala, era viritaki e na veiuciwai lalai. Qo keitou via valuta tiko ni vakavuna tale tikoga na tauvimate.

Ni sa kau tani na Rural Local Authority qo, sa sega ni manata na veika keitou nanuma na tabana ni yaubula ni yasana me mai qarava na cakacaka levu qo. Na benu sa qai toso cake ga, na veiuciwai era tu qo sa vakaloloma. Ya nai vurevure saraga ni bula vei keimami na

lewenivanua. Ke rawa ni dua na ka e cakava na matanitu, kau na beitaka na matanitu ni malumalumu baleta ni keitou sa kauta cake tiko ka sega ni dua na ka e caka kina. E sega ni rawa ni tarovi rawa na nodra viritaka na nodra benu o ira na dautei dovu tiko e ra qo. Keitou dau samaka na uciwai qo vakadua sobu ka so na gauna keitou dau tekivu mai ra ka samaka mai. Ia ni sa toso sobu yani, sa sega ni dua na neitou kaukauwa e tiko kina. Koya qo, au via laveta cake kina matanitu nikua, koya na lawa makawa sa mai boko qo me vakaduri, qo sa vakatutu ni tikina o Wailevu ka me toso cake na veiqaravi me rawa ni vauci vakalawa o ira na dau viritaka vakabutako tiko na nodra benu ena veiuciwai kei na veibati ni gaunisala vakabibi ni tiko vei keitou na rara ni waqavuka era na sobu mai kina o ira na vulagi kei ira na saravanua ka matai saraga ni ka era sotava na benu e gaunisala.

HON. S. KUMAR.- Thank you very much Turaga ni Koro. You have raised a very important point. Overall, we have been discussing this for weeks now in Fiji, and what we have established, and you would also agree with is the absence of strict law in our bill and Act that we currently have the Public Health Act that is giving rise to these issues we are facing today. The careless disposal of rubbish, people are disposing anyhow, anywhere, inside the sugarcane field, rivers and streams because they know, who will catch them. No one is watching or even or even if they are caught, they know that hardly anything will happen to them. Or if there is a fine, they know that the fine is very small which is $2, so they chose to pay $2 and dispose their rubbish in someone else's compound which may cause more than $2 to go and dispose it in Labasa rubbish dump or dig the ground or things like that.

The Ministry of Health are the architects of this Bill and they have faced many issues of similar nature over the years including diseases such as leptospirosis, dengue, malaria, typhoid and most of these diseases are found to be spreading or breeding in the informal and communal set up just like the itaukei villages and squatter settlements because for them, nothing is proper. Their houses are not built on plan, their septic tank is not designed properly, it is anyhow – they do it just to start off. Some used to put the 44-gallon drum before to be their septic tank. Over sometime, it starts to have de-foul smell and neighbours start complaining. There is a hole there and from there, the mosquitoes get inside, they breed and come out, so dengue, diarrhea, and typhoid and all these kinds of diseases spread.

The septic wastes and the wastewater, the water from the sink, washing machine is just going on the ground which is free flowing. Slowly, the area becomes boggy and then leptospirosis and all these things are bound to breed there.

Through this Bill, the effort is to bring about or raise the bar of our public health which is costing life and some thousand plus people have died due to leptospirosis in Fiji so far. The statistic is there, the Ministry of Health is there, and they know the condition of the hospital. People are complaining, hospitals are crowding because our rules are very flexible and very simple. It is not scaring; it is not deterring.

One way to deter people from following the rule and doing the right thing is to get sticker penalties and fines which is very much proposed in this Bill here before us. That is why we are taking this around, letting people know so that at the end when the Bill becomes

the Act, they do not complain that the fine is too much. There can be some submissions as to how you want the fine, right now the fine is one for everyone. Those businessmen, or business waste, commercial waste, industrial waste, residential waste and garbage and septic plus the informal settlements are all having same fine. Maybe some of the things we can suggest from the floor there, for the fine to be tiered in steps.

Those in informal settlements, rural and those who are not guided on how to build the septic tank, their fine should be a bit less because in open space, their pollution is not affecting much to the majority of the population. Whereas those in informal settlements, theirs should be different or residential. Where the engineer is coming inspecting and health inspector is coming and inspecting giving them the certificate and occupancy certificate, inspecting everything step-by-step as they build. If theirs is not in order, they should be given more fine than the ones in the village because they have been guided all throughout. It should not go wrong.

If it is giving problem, then their fine should be more compared to the ones who have never guided on how to make the septic tank. Plus, the factories, industry waste and pollution, theirs should be different. It should be in three steps. These are some of the things your villages can make, because when this becomes an Act, and it is imposed on you – it will affect the public. This Bill will be implemented on everyone. It does not exclude the people in government or in Opposition or those in high office. It will affect all of us because we live in this country, and this is about all of us.

HON. A. BIA.- Au sauma madaga vakalekaleka na nomuni taro. E rua saka na lawa e kovuta saka na rua na kudru o ni varaitaka tiko mai. E rua na lawa sa tiko oti – e dua na benu ca vakaveitalia ni dua na lewenivanua. Ena vula o Epereli sa qai oti qo ena yabaki qo, a sa pasitaki ena loma ni vale ni boselawa e dua na lawa ka vakatokai na Litter Act. E sa na rawa ni totogitaki e dua kevaka o raica ni benu ca, sa rawa ni totogitaki ena $200.

Ena vuku ni benu ena uciwai, e sa tiko talega na lawa e kovuta na benu ena noda uciwai vakatokai na lawa e qarava na noda yaubula na Environmental Act na kena wase 45 e tiko sara na totogi kina $250,000. E bibi sara tiko na lawa ni kena benuci na noda uciwai baleta ni levu vei keda eda vakararavi tu ena vuku ni kena rawati na bula ena veisiga ena veiuciwai kei na veivanua eda tu kina. Nai totogi kevaka e matai ni totogi e $250,000, kevaka e vuki cakava tikoga, sa na tau tale e cake e $170,000. E sa tiko na rua na lawa ya ka kovuta na benu ca vaka talega kina na benu ena noda uciwai.

Kena balebale kevaka e dua sa raica, sa nodai tavi ga me da na tukutuku yani vei ratou na kena valenivolavola me ratou lako mai, me ratou dikeva, ka me soli nai totogi vei ira na benu ca se vei ira na benuca tiko na noda uciwai. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, au kerea na nodra vakatutu na Turaga Mata ni Tikina me tokoni. Au kila ni se vakatutu vakavo saka tiko. Vinaka saka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Mata ni Tikina, au na kerea mo na vakatututaka tale mai na ulutaga bibi o ni kaya tiko qori. Na kerei kemuni na lewenikoro me na tokoni. Me na tiki ni neitou na lai raica tale

mada na gagadre titobu dina ni sa vauci tiko vakalawa ena vuku ni Komiti, kei na kena veiqaravi. Au kerea moni na vakatututaka..

MR. S. RADRADRA.- Au sa vakatura tiko na Rural Local Authority me na vakaduri tale. Au sa vakatura.

MR. E. NAVENACA.- Sa tokona

MR. S. RADRADRA.- Dua tale na ka keitou kauwai tiko kina. Sa laveti oti ena bose ni Tikina, sa lai vakarogotaki talega na bose ni Yasana me baleta na benu. Ni keitou sega ni taleitaka tiko na nodra benu tiko qo, dina tiko nomudou vakamacala. Na totogi veitalia na kena toso cake vakacava, ia na benu e caka e loma ni bogi levu. Dou vaqara na Matanitu dua na kena iwali me ratou bo me ra totogi me tini kina na cakacaka qo. Au sa vakatura.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- O ni sa vakatura oti tiko mai liu na vakasama oya, kerea me na tokoni tale madaga. Ke na sega ni na tokoni ena sega ni na pasi na mosoni ya.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka rau tiko qo na vakalesilesi iliu ni veiqaravi na tabana ina Vualiku. Kerea me dua mada nodrau vakamacala raraba na vakasama ni benu koya da goleva tiko qo.

MR. V. CAVUILATI.- Sa tiko saka na Turaga na Chairman, tiko na Komiti ni Boselawa, ni tiko na Turaga kei na marama na leweninodatou koro i Dogoru. Vinaka vakalevu na vuku ni taro sa gole tiko mai. Kila ni dua na kauwai levu e tiko me baleta na benu ca. Sega walega ni nodatou tikina qo i Wailevu, e kovuta sara tikoga na nodatou yasana qo i Macuata, vakabibi na loma ni vanua i Vanua Levu.

Keitou na Tabacakacaka ni Bula, na gauna sa na vakaduri tale na Local Authority, erua na tiki ni veiqaravi e tiko kina me baleta na kena maroroi na benu. E tiko kina edua na neitou tabana dau qarava na sanitation. Ena cakacaka vata kei na lewe ni tikotiko se na lewe ni veikoro me baleta na kena sagai me kau na benu ena taudaku ni veitaoni.

Ia e tiko na noda itavi na lewenikoro. E levu ga vei ira era benuca tiko qo baleta ni sega tiko na veiqaravi na vanua me ra biuta kina na nodra benu. Keitou na cakacaka kina vata kei kedana lewenivanua, e seganiu na kaya ni na *free* na cakacaka qo na kena kau na noda benu. E tiko na ka e lavaki na kena soqoni na noda benu kei na kena kau yani kina i benubenu.

Na kena ikarua, e tiko talega qo edua na kabani koya dau biuta mai na bin lelevu. Keitou sa tovolea tiko ena vica na veikoro. O ni na kila beka mai Wailevu, e yasa ni gaunisala e tiko kina dua na green bin. Ratou a kerea ga mai kina Tabana ni Bula, keitou a lai biuta yani dua na somate a caka mai kina, keitou a sauma na matai ni kena biu. Keitou tukuna vei ratou kevaka e lako vinaka na kena qaravi na maroroi na benu, na biu tarava sa na sauma na lewenikoro. Mai na gauna ya me yacova mai qo, era sa sauma tiko na lewenikoro na kena vakagalalataki tiko na benu mai na koro mai Wailevu.

Au kila na kena leqa e mai tiko baleta ni sega ni dua na tiki ni veiqaravi me qaravi keda tiko mai na tiko ena taudaku ni taoni. E tiko kina na noda itavi. Ira na tiko na loma ni taoni era sauma tiko na kena kau tiko na nodra benu, ra sauma tiko na nodra city rates, garbage fee. E tiko kina dua na ka au mai raica ena noqu veiqaravi ena Vualiku, e cavuka tiko na isema ya ka vakavuna tiko me bogi ga vakaoqo ra lako mai ra viritaka na veidovu baleta ni sega tiko gona na veika me qaravi kina na kena maroroi na benu.

Sa tiko kina na noda itavi, sega walega ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula, tavi talega ni lewenivanua. Kevaka o ni raica edua e benuca ni tabaka, me vaka sa vakaraitaki tiko na member ni komiti ni totogi levu, e sega ni rawa ni gole tiko mai na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ena siga kei na bogi me yadrava. Keda saraga sa na noda itavi na veitikotiko, kevaka eda sa raica edua e benuca tiko, tiko vei keda na

vakadinadina rawa ni gole yani ka vauci ira na lawa me baleta na totogi levu na nodra benu ca tiko ena noda itikotiko.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, sa da rogoca tiko ya. Rau saraga na veiqaravi tiko i Labasa, rau sa vosa tiko ya. Dua vei kemuni via vosa me baleta na ulutaga bibi tou goleva tiko qo? Na tabana o ni vakatututaka, se o ni via vosa kina, se o ni gadreva na veivakararamataki.

MR. S. ROISOGO.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Roisogo)

Au taro walega, vakacava na dovu? Baleta ni tekivu ga yani i cake qo me yacova na neitou uciwai levu, ya o ira na vakaloga ni dovu. Vakacava na manure kei na spray era vakayagataka tiko na gauna e tau kina na uca e drodro ina uciwai, edua na vakacacatalega e yaco tiko ena veika me baleta na dovu. Baleta ni levu na loga ni dovu era voleka sara ena bati ni uciwai. Kena levu saka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, taro vinaka ya. E sega ni okati tiko ena nodatou loma ni veitalanoa koya na lawa vakatutu e tiko qo. Au na kerei rau na Tabana ni Bula me dua nodrau veivakararamataki totolo ena vakasama ni manure, me soli na veivakadeitaki ni levu na veika e vakayacori tiko ena *manure* kei na spray e gole sobu tale kina wai, koya nodra ikanakana tiko na itikotiko qo.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Ni sa tiko saka na Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, tiko na Turaga lewe ni bose lawa, tiko na lig ani veiqaravi, ni tiko na leweni koro nodatou koro vakaturaga. Taudmada vakavinavinaaktaki tiko na kauwai cauraki saka tiko na mataka ni siga ni kua nav uku ni vakayagaki ni wainimate vata kei na manure ena veidovo vakabauta na wili talega kina o keda vakateitei kakana draudrau kei na veika tale eso.

Au kila ni tikina dina o ni vakaraitaka tiko, e sega ni tiko na lawa vakatutu taki tiko ratou kauta wavoki saka tiko mai na lewe ni Boselawa ena siga ni kua. Au kila ni tiko o ira na dau ni vakasala era dau vakasala ena veika me baleta na wainimate. E tiko vei ratou na FSC, tiko vei ratou na Tabana ni Teitei na wainimate koya vakayagataki vata kei na kena iwalewale ni vakayagataki ni wainimate. Na gauna ga ena sega ni vakayagataki na kena iwalewale koya e volai tiko ena tavaya ni wainimate se na ka eda vakasalataki mai kina, koya ya e rawa ni vakavu leqa.

So na gauna eda nanuma me da vakayagataka vakalevu na wainimate me na vakatotolotaka na teitei se na vakamatea vakalevu na co, ia, au kila na ka e bibi tiko na kena vakamuri tiko na vakasala e tiko na kena dau vakayagataki na wainimate. E levu na veika eda na raica kevaka sa tekivu tiko me sa na tiko na revurevu ni wainimate vakayagataki tiko ena veiteitei, kakana draudrau se na veidovu e tiko qo. E dodonu me sa na laurai tiko ke sa mate tiko na ika, eso na veika va ya. Vaka me vakaraitaka tiko ni dua na indicator ni dua na ka e leqa tiko vei na wainimate e vakayagataki tiko. Ya eso na ivakaraitaki.

Levu na gauna eda dau kauwai vakalevu na veika e yaco ena veika wavoliti keda me vaka era sa leqa tiko mai na sasalu se na kakana era tiko ena noda wai, era tiko qo ka da vakanuinui tiko kina ni vuku ni kakana, ka da guilecava tiko o ira na leweninoda vanua o ira era taura tiko na wainimate, era spray taka tiko na wainimate, era vakamirika tiko na masima, ra viri taka tiko na manure, keda eda expose tiko kina. Ni bera ni qai lako i Wailevu na kena drodro me tau mai na uca me drodro i Wailevu, o ira na noda lewenivanua o ira ya era expose tu ena wainimate qo. Au nuitaka ni dou na vakadinadinataka tiko na veika au tukuna tiko qo.

O keda na lewenivanua, o ira na cakacaka tiko qo na veidovu, na veivanua ra tiko qo na teitei kakana draudrau, o ira qo era tara tiko na wainimate, era spray taka tiko ka mix taka tiko. E vakabibitaki tiko kina na ka me baleta na noda dau qaqarauni se na daramaki na PPE me da taura na wainimate, mix taka na wainimate, vakayagataki na wainimate, sava na iyaya ni veiqaravi, qai muri na kena tau mai na uca, drodro e uciwai. Qo eda veitalanoa raraba tiko ga, na gauna ni dua na

lewenivanua e expose vei na wainimate e sega ni expose ga vaka qo, sa na leqai iko. Ena taura na gauna na nomu expose tiko ena veisiga ni nomu bula taucoko ena nomu qarava tiko na cakacaka ya, mena qai cakacaka vei iko na wainimate.

Vakabauta ni veivakararamataki tiko ga qo raraba vei keda, kila ni kau tiko mai na vakasama ni wainimate na kena drodro yani ena noda uciwai, na veivanua eda vakanuinui tiko kina na veika me baleti keda. Au vakararamataki keda tiko ena veika me baleta na kena vakayagataki na wainimate kei na veika e rawa ni yacova na noda bula. Na noda expose tiko vei na wainimate teitei, na wainimate ni coca, na yacana na chronic exposure ni ko na expose tiko kina qo me yacova ni ko qase, na kena itinitini na cancer. Au sa nanuma meu sa na veivakararamataki tiko kina levu ga na gauna eda dau lai vakasamataka vakalevu na nodra bula na veika era tu ena loma ni wainimate, na nodra lai leqa baleta na kena tau mai na uca, drodro sobu i waitui, ka da guilecava tiko ni o keda na lewenivanua, keda da cakava tiko na spray, mix taka tiko na wainimate, na noda bula talega e ka bibi. Au sa vakamacalataka na end result ni chronic exposure ni wainimate kece na cancer. Au nuitaka ni sa sauma tiko na nomuni taro.

MR. P. T. NAMOCE.- (Vcakamacalataki koya o Mr. Namoce)

Dua ga na kauwai, e vaka ni da tiko qo ena yavu ni kauwaitaki tiko na bula ni tamata. Dua ga na kauwai se vakatutu e kau cake tiko yani qo, ni laurai tiko na nomudou statistics na Tabana ni Bula e levu na tauvimate e lako tiko yani ena taudaku ni korolevu. E dua beka na kauwai kau tiko yani qo me baleta tiko na kena qaravi tiko na wai ni gunu e nakoro. Baleta mai na veikoro lelevu vakataoni era marautaka tiko na wai koya vakawainimate. Na taudaku ni koro lelevu e sega tu ni vakawainimate na wainigunu ena koro, koya beka ya na vuna levu e levu tiko kina na tauvimate gole tiko yani ena taudaku ni koro lelevu.

Kevaka e rawa ni dua na veivuke mai na matanitu vata na tabana ni bula, kevaka e rawa ni kau yani eso na gone era tiko e loma ni koro me ra lai vakatavulici ena kena mix taki na wainimate ena loma ni koro kei na vakasokomuni ni wai, me rawa ni lailai sobu kina na mate e lako tiko yani ena loma ni koro e yaco tiko mai ena vuku ni kena gunuvi tiko na wai sega ni vakawainimate. Kena levu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, dua na vakatutu vinaka ya, ia, na kena dina e da na rogoca vei ratou na tabana ni bula. E dina tiko na itukutuku ni levu na tauvimate e vu tiko mai na noda soso ni wai koya eda gunuva. Na vakadidike eratou kaya vei keitou me baleta tikoga na noda tiko savasava. Kerei ratou na tabana ni bula me soli kina na kena vakasama matata. E dina tiko na vakatutu ya: e levu tiko na tauvimate e gole tiko yani ena taudaku ni korolevu e vakavuna tiko na wai era gunuva ni sega ni vakawainimate. Tabana ni Bula.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, lewe ni matabose vakalawa, ni tiko na Turaga Roko, vuvale vanua ena siga ni kua. Taumada, na vakavinavinaka levu vei Turaga ni Mataqali ena vuku ni kauwai e tiko me baleta na gunugunu ni wai ena taudaku ni korolevu. Dina talega na itukutuku ni cauraka tiko ni vuqa sara na mate eda dau veiwekanitaki vata na wainigunu me vaka na mosi ni kete, coka, coka dra, na milamila, na cava soti ga e rawa ni da veiwekanitaka vata na wainigunu. Ia, na lawa vakaturi e tiko qo e matada, kena imatai, bera ni tau lai tara yani na uto ni nomuni taro, na lawa vakaturi e tiko qo e matamuni e lima na tikina sa vakaturi me curu kina loma ni lawa tu koya me taqomaka sara ga na meda gunugunu ni wai.

Kena ibalebale, ni bera mada ni da nanuma me da vakawainimate taka na meda wainigunu, me laurai mada na cava e vakavuna tiko na meda wainigunu. Kevaka eda sa tarova rawa, kena ibalebale na via vakalailaitaki talega na kena sagai me vakawainimatetaki na meda wai ni gunu. Tikina e 26, tikina 32, tikina 48, tikina 57, tikina 60 — qo na tikina taucoko sa vakaturi tiko ena lawa vakaturi me taqomaka sara ga na meda gunugunu ni wai. Sa qai tiko na vakasama, ke sa mani caka taucoko ya, da sa taqomaka, sa sega ni qai musu na kau mai na uluniwai, sa sega ni caka na teitei mai na uluniwai, sa sega ni dua e lai vakasausataka na uluniwai ena kena qolivi se cava tale na cakacaka,

sa sega ni dua e tara vale me voleka yani na vakaso ni wai. Da sa taqomaka rawa ya ena lima na tikina vakacurumi ena lawa vakaturi qo. Sa qai tukuna mai, io vakacava me vakawainimatetaki na meda gunugunu ni wai.

Au kila ni sa tiko na tuvatuva na nodratou master plan ena Department of Water and Sewerage, ka oka tiko iloma na kena vakatetei yani na vanua sa yaco tiko kina na gauna qo na kena vagolei na veiqaravi ni wainigunu savasava vaka kina na sewer line kei na sewerage system. Sa tiko na nodratou master plan me qai toso tiko vakagauna me veidonui na bula vakailavo eda sa lako curuma tiko. Ia, tabacakacaka ni bula e tiko eso na gacagaca e dau cakava me rawa ni da gunuva tiko kina na wai savasava.

Tiko na porokaramu ni vuli era dau cakava na vakalesilesi, e rawa ni caka ena noda veikorokoro, veitikina vakatokai tiko na water safety, security and sanitation planning. Qo e dua na ituvatuva me keimami yadrava kina na maroroi ni meda gunugunu ni wai me rawa ni savasava ka bulabula vinaka. Kena karua na household keep well — kena ibalebale na noda vakasavasavataka na gunugunu ni wai ena loma ni noda veivalevale. Dau tiko na wainimate dau soli, dau vakamacalataki vei ira na marama tina baleta me ra dau vakawainimatetaka na wainigunu vakabibi ena gauna ucauca, na gauna me dau dukaduka kina na meda wainigunu. Salavata ya, dau vakasalataki kina rabailevu vei keda na lewenivanua ke sa mani dukaduka se vuvu na wainigunu me da dau vakasaqara na meda wainigunu.

Au kila ni o ira na noda qase liu era donumaka mai na nodra dau vakayagataka na saqa. Na saqa wai draki vaka oqo eda dau raica ni tuvani toka ena matanisiga na saqa wai. Ya sara ga na iwalewale ni kena vakasavasavataki na wainigunu vei keda. Na kena mataqali me sagai me so ena koro me lai vuli, na kena balavu tiko ena viavia dredre, okoya na gadreva e dua na very technical na kila me na tiko. Kena imatai, na wai e tiko ya e sega ni vaka na Water Authority. Na Water Authority e lako mai, eratou tarova vakadua e dua na vanua, sa qai kilai na levu ni wai e tiko ena loma ni tobu levu oya. Taura mada ke sa dua na 1,000 litre. Mai na 1,000 litre ya sa qai calculatetaki na levu ni wainimate me treat taka na 1,000 litre. Kena balavu ni gauna me tiko kina na wainimate, na gauna sa biu kina, levu ni wainimate kei na balavu ni gauna sa donu vinaka, sa qai pamutaki mai kina reservoir levu, reservoir sa qai supply.

O kedatou na wai e sega ni tao, na wai ya e toso vakadua tiko ga mai. Kena ibalebale, kevaka o na biuta tiko na wai, ena calculatetaki na fluoride ni intake kei na fluoride koya lako ituba me na qai bala tiko na wainimate ena veiaua se na veirua na aua me na veiganiti kaya kei na wai vou e curu tiko mai. Kevaka e sega, ena balata ga yani na wainimate qo lailai vakalailai na wai e curu mai, sosoko sivia na wainimate, dou duvani tale na lewenivanua ena wainimate. Koya e cakacaka technical toka, e control toka nanodra tou cakava na Water Authority baleta sara ga na ka au vakamacalataka toka ya.

Keidatou rawa ni raica ga na rua na walewale au sa vakamacalataka taumada kina — na vuli ratou dau cakava na vakalesilesi kei na household treatment edau solia tiko na Tabacakacaka ni Bula me kena ikuri tiko ena lima na lawa vakaturi koya sa tiko qo ena matamudou na gone Turaga me vakaturi tiko ena noda Bose Lawa. Tiko talega eso na gacagaca ni veivuke tiko taudaku Tabacakacaka ni Bula, vei ratou na tabana ni wai e tiko beka e dua na ka e vakatokai na EPSystem. Tiko beka so ena Vanua Levu qo, o ni sa na raica tiko e tolu na tani: kena imatai biu kina na nuku sand and filter, kena karua biu kina na qereqere me vakamatea na manumanu, kena katolu sa qai dola tu me bula tu kina na lumilumi me kania na duka ni wai ca ni bera ni qai vakadrodroi me da gunuva. Dua beka na unit ya e $45,000 na sau vakailavo, dau kerekere dau gole beka ga na valenivolavola ni Yasana, qai kerekere cake, qai biuta nomudou kerekere vei DO se vei ratou na tabana ni wai ena veivuke ya.

Tiko talega eso na filter, na filter era volitaki tu ga. Na vei kabani ratou qo era volitaka tu na microan filter, rawa ni coba ga na nomu boto ni siqi ena valenikoro, dolava ga na paipo wai, lako mai

na paipo sa wai savasava, sa rawa ni tautauvata na wai ena loma ni taoni. Levu tale tu na kena veigacagaca eso e tiko. E tiko na kena isau lavaki vakailavo. Kena levu, saka Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vakabauta ni sa sauma vinaka nomuni taro yani na wekaqu ena vuku ni vakasama e lako tiko mai ya.

RATU V. MANOA.- Mr. Chairman, au vakamacalataka walega na veika me baleta na dovu – wainimate, na spray e vakararamataka na veidovu, na spray e baleta tiko na masala. Sega ni teivaki na masala ena dua na palat. Na container ni wainimate me vaqarataki ka bulu, me kua ni biu tu vakaveitalia. Safety overall - vaka mask ni ko spray. Kena rogo me taudonu.

MR. J. TURAGALEVU.- Au kerekere ke rawa ni vakamatataki kina na Tikina 41, 42 kei na 43.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tikina e 41, 42 kei na 43. Kerei kemudrau na Tabana ni Bula me dua nomudrau veivakararamataki kina.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.-Tiko na Liuliu ni Bose, lewe ni Bose ni Komiti, ni tiko na Turaga Roko kei kemuni na vuvale vanua ena siga ni kua. Na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula neitou toso tiko mai ena veiqaravi, vica na ka keitou qai raica tiko ni vaka e tataotaka tiko na veiqaravi. Na neitou sagata tiko me oni bulabula ka qaqa vinaka na lewenivanua o Viti. E vica tiko na ka e luluqa tiko iloma koya qo sa qai nanumi me biu vakatutu me so na ka me bonata mai na luluqa ya.

Tikina 41 e vakamacalataki tiko kina na common lodging. Kena ibalebale na common lodging e wili kina na vanua ni veivakacilitaki sau lailai, me vaka na bareki ni musu dovu. Sega tu ni dua na lawa a caka tu me baleta na kena qarauni na kena tuvaki me vinaka tu na kena ituvaki me vaka na valenivakavakacegu, vanua ni nodra moce na wekada era dau musu dovu me rawa ni tatarovi tiko na dewa ni mate. Vica na yabaki sa oti qai dua na veidewavi levu ni mate na typhoid, sa oti na COVID. Oti beka vica na yabaki sa oti qo, veitauvi e Labasa na mate levu na typhoid. Ena vanua gona ni musu dovu, ni bareki ni musu dovu era mai tiko kina veiwekani era musu dovu tiko, e sega sara tu ga ni caka vinaka na vanua ni moce, na qele ga tavuleni ra moce tu kina.

Oni sa kila vinaka na bareki ni musu dovu. Sa mani nanuma na vakalesilesi me vakaturi mai me edua na ka Tabana ni Bula me yadravi kina na tikina ya. Koya buli mai kina na lawa vakaturi qo. Gauna qo, ke dua na taukei ni dovu ni via dua nona bareki ni musu dovu me ra na mai tiko kina na dau musu dovu, na kena tuvaki me na raica rawa na Tabacakacaka ni Bula me sa donu me kilikili vaka kina me tiko kina na tamata qai rawa ni vakayagataki.

Tomana tiko na tikina qori, e wili tale tikoga kina na vale dau redetaki ena veikorolevu. O ira na wekada era dau lai rede tiko qo i Namara ena cakacaka ni veisiga, so dau gole i Suva ra dau lai rede. Sega tu ni dua na lawa e tu me taqomaki ira mai na mataqali vale e vakarautaki me ra rede tu kina. Keitou dau ciqoma so na vakatakukudru, sa dau gole yani ra dau tukuna na vale keitou tiko kina sa karua ga ni ba ni manumanu – na wai ca sa lako tu ga. Keitou dau gole yani, keitou dau lai raica so talega na mataqali vale era tu ya sa sega ni dodonu sara ga me vakayagataki. Sa mani nanumi me dua talega na tiki ni lawa me tagava talega na tikina ya. Na gauna qo kevaka sa loma soli na Komiti qo me sa kauta i Palimedi me sa pasi me sa lawa ena siga ni kua, na lawa vakaturi qo edua sa tara nona vale vinakataka me redetaki, me na raica rawa na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ni veiganiti vata kaya me tawana na tamata qai rawa ni redetaki. Ke sega, ena sega ni rawa.

Levu na informal settlement mai Suva ena gauna ni kua, e redetaki tu na vale ya, ira na tiko ya era rede tale tiko. Ya moni qai kila kina na tagede ni tiko bulabula, era sa rawa ilavo tiko kina o ira na cicivaka bisinisi tiko ka sega ni dua na lawa me taqomaki keda na lewenivanua ni da lai vakayagataka na vanua ni vakaicili vakaoqo. Koya ya sa qai tiko na kena totogi – kevaka edua sa cicivaka ga nona bareki ni musu dovu, cicivaka ga nona vale ni rede, sega ni register ena

Tabacakacaka ni Bula, rau sotava na kena itotogi sa toka qori. Ka sa wili tale tikoga kina na vanua taucoko sara ni vale ni veivakacilitaki me vaka na Airbnb, vale koya dau redetaki yadua na siga. Na lawa vakaturi sa tiko qo, koya kece na mataqali vale ni veivakacilitaki kevaka e vinakati me cicivaki vakabisinisi, me vakadonua taumada na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ni raica na kena tuvaki na veika e vakarautaki ena loma ni vanua ya, e veiganiti kaya me tiko kina na tamata sa qai rawa ni cicivaki. Ke sega, au sota vata kei na totogi ilavo ka levu koya tiko qori. Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vakabauta ni sa na matata toka na kena vakamacala ya. E wili talega kina na veiqaravi ni tiko ena noda koro koya eda tiko kina qo, vanua eda vakasoqoni kina na tamata. Kena ibalebale na tiko savasava na vanua ni vakavakacegu, me ra tuvaki na kena ivakarau koya ratou vakadonua na Tabana ni Bula. Kauta vakavoleka ga mai na vakasama qo me baleta tiko na tikina qo.

Kena ibalebale, e tiko kina itavi levu ena loma ni nodatou itikotiko vakaturaga, sa tara yani na loga ni dovu vei kedana dau ta dovu, yaco sara yani vei ira na tiko ena Airbnb kei na vanua e redetaki. Ya na vuna e vauci tiko kina na lawa qo, sega ni dua na lawa e vauci ira tu. Ka nuitaka ni gauna ni lai tuki kina e loma ni nomuni Palimedi na lawa qo, sa da na vauci kedana na lawa levu koya sa tiko ya.

MR. I. ROKOMINA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Rokomina)

Au na via vosa kina na tikina 69 me na qai dua noqu vakatataro me baleta na vakalatilati vei ira na dauniveqaravi me baleta na bula raraba. Dua ga na vakatataro me baleta na kudru ni veivanua e lako mai kina na ka me baleta na bula rarama. Ena sega ni rawa ni sogota na lawa virikotori tiko mai qo?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tikina 69 – na obstruction. Na lesu tale o cei e vakavuna na duka, e lako na vanua na kena vakamacala na veisautaka ni tabana e rua. E yavu levu ni tikina e 69 na vakalatilati vei ira na dauniveqaravi. E sa vauci tiko eke.

MR. I. ROKOMINA.- E dua ga na ka na vakalatilati na nodra dauniveiqaravi. Vakacava eso na dauniveiqaravi era cakava tiko eso na ka e veicalati ka vakavu veitalanoa. Kevaka sa na vakalawataki, sa na sega sara ga ni dua nomu dodonu mo vosa kina veitalia kevaka e cala tu na ka eratou cakava tiko.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, ni tiko na Honourable Members of the Committee, tiko na Turaga Roko, ni tiko na vuvale vanua ena siga nikua. Taumada, na vakavinavinaka levu ena vuku ni kena laveti tiko mai na lomatarotaro me vakararamataki vei keda ena siga nikua. Au nanuma meu kauti keda na tikina 14 e volai vakamatata tu kina na cakacaka koya dau qarava na vakalesilesi.

Na nona curuma e dua na itikotiko ena gauna e veiganiti me lai cakava kina na veiqaravi me vaka na tauri sabolo ni wai, sabolo ni wainimoli se dua na sulu se mocemoce me lai caka eso na vakadidike ni outbreak ni tauvimate, ni caka eso na inspection ni so na itikotiko — e tiko qo e vitu na itavi ena qarava na vakalesilesi. Ena gauna sa na qai tiko kina na ka ni vakalatilati, kena ibalebale o tarova e dua na vakalesilesi mai na kena vakayacori na nona itavi. Sega ni ko na vakatalevi koya qo.

Taura mada kevaka keitou tiko e valenivolavola, lako yani o Turaga ni Koro, dua na lewe ni vanua sa lai complain yani: “Noqu vale e tiko vaqo, na waica ni valelailai toka mai delana vakalailai sa gole tiko ga mai na noqu compound, na waica sa boica sara ga na neitou mata ni vale.” Keitou sa gole mai na vakalesilesi ena vuku ni tukutuku oya, sa volai na complain, register na yacana, na tukutuku matailalai, ratou gole mai na vakalesilesi ratou mai raica. Ratou gole ga mai, ratou tukuna vei Turaga ni Koro ni dua na complain e yaco yani e valenivolavola me lai laurai, o cei na taukei ni vale qo? Oi yasana ya, keitou veikau sara yani kei Turaga ni Koro na gauna keitou yaco yani kina e matanivale koya na vanua me keitou raica kina na ka qo. Qai duri mai kea o taukei ni vale, tukuna

mai: “Dou lako laivi, dou kua ni lako mai ke.” Ena gauna oya, na ka e vakaibalebaletaki ena vakalatilati — nomu sa lai tarova na vakalesilesi mai na nona qarava na nona itavi.

MR. I. ROKOMINA.- Na ivakamacala. E toka sara ga kina na vakavoui ni lisi. Noqu rai e veicalati tiko kei na nodra itukutuku vata na lewe ni mataqali se na koro, se na cava qai ratou sega ni vakayacora tiko na ka dodonu me vakayacori. E dodonu ga me keimami kua ni vakalatilati.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Io. Vakabauta ni na matata sara tu ga na kena vakamacala. Au na saga meu vakamacalataka sara me rawarawa me rawa ni da taura vinaka. Taura mada e dua na tauvimate, dua sa tauvi typhoid. Na lawa ni cakacaka tiko vei keitou, ke dua e tauvi typhoid, keitou na gole yani ena nona vuvale me keitou lai tauri tukutuku. Dua na soko o ni a gole kina? Dua na tamata a gole mai ke? Baleta na typhoid e rawa ni dewa ga ena ka o ni kania kei na ka o ni gunuva.

Kena ibalebale, laurai sara ga ena loma ni 14 na siga sa oti na vanua e lakova — qo na vakadidike. Sa na laurai o ira kece o ni a tiko vata ena loma ni tinikava na siga ya, era na lakovi talega me ra lai soli na nodra sabolo me na tauri nodra valelailai. Kevaka iko contact naba dua, ke tarogi o tauvimate qai tukuna o koya: “Keirau a tiko mai nona vale.” Keitou gole yani nomu vale me keitou lai tomana na neitou veiqaravi, na kena sagai me maroroi na kena veidewavi na mate ca. O iko qai sereka mai na nomu koli, me cicivi keitou mai, lokata mai na vale, sereka mai na koli — ya sa wili vakalatilati.

Na vakalesilesi, keitou tiko qo na Tabacakacaka ni Bula, e buli sara ga na tiki ni lawa qo me taqomaki keitou na dauniveiqaravi. Sa lako na keitou sele kava, vakacici na koli, laumoku na 4x2 — na kena sagai wale tikoga me taqomaki na bula ni lewenivanua. Sa biu tiko qo na vakalatilati kei na kena totogi me bibi, baleta keitou sega ni lako mai me keitou mai ravuravu ka vakarusa. Keitou sa gole ga mai me keitou taqomaka na bula, me rawa ni rawa vakalevu sara.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vakabauta ni sa via matata na kena vakasama, yani na vakasama ni vakalatilati. Na ka ratou tukuna tiko ya na ka ratou sa donumaka oti — na sere ni koli, na lave ni sele. Na lawa vakaturi koya tiko mai liu e sega ni dua na ka e baleti ratou na vakalesilesi. Sagai tiko ya me vakacurumi mai me rauta na gauna vou eda tiko kina, ena nanumi kina na nodra bula o ira na dauniveiqaravi.

MR. I. ROKOMINA.- Au vakatataro tikoga yani me baleta na Tikina 69. E veicalati toka vei au.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na Tikina 69 e volai toka qo ‘na lisi ni veivakacakacaka e vakavuna na duka se vakasosavo’.

MR. I. ROKOMINA.- Na kena vakamacala ga imuri.koya ga ya au vakataroga me vakamatatataki.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, na lisi tiko qo e sega ni lisi ni qele, qo na list se na tuvatuva ni veika e vakatokai me vakasosavo. Na vakasosavo sa qai lako yani kina na vakalesilesi me lai cakava na vakadidike ena vanua ya, sa qai lako mai kina na obstruction.

HON. A. BIA.- Koya sa vakadodonutaka na vakavakadewa.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Koya na list ni nuisance.

HON. A. BIA.- Koya sa tiko na vosa na vakasosavo. Sa qai tiko na ituvatuva ni veika kece e yaco e rawa ni vakavuna na vakasosavo.

Na veika e kovuta na vosa na ‘vakasosavo’.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- E sega ni lisi ni veiloga ni dovu. Na lisi qo na veika e kovuta na veika me baleta na vakasosavo. Na vosa vakaviti makawa qo e ka vou tiko vei kedatou. Tabana ni Bula na vakasosavo — na cava na kena vakamacala matata ena gauna vou eda tiko kina qo, na vosa ya? Vakasausa?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, na vakasosavo sa tiko beka ena dictionary ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei, e kena ibalebale tiko vakavalagi se kena ibalebale vakaviti — dua na ka e caka tu vakasabalia, se caka tu ga me rawa qai lai vakavu leqa.

R. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, ke sa sega tale ni dua na taro, au nanuma me da sa na yaco toka mada eke. E tiko na tuvatuva ena rua na kaloko, na kena golevi talega na vakasama eda dabe tiko kina qo ena vuku ni totolo ni toso ni gauna. Au vakabauta ena vuku sara ni nomuni Komiti kei na vuku ni veitalai ni Turaga Sipika ni Vale ni Boselawa, sa cavuti tiko na vakavinavinaka levu ena vuku ni veitalanoa matata savasava eda sa veitalanoa kina ena siga nikua. Sa levu na ka keitou sa mai rogoca, levu na ka keitou mai vulica, sa mai kaukaua lesu ena siga nikua na kena vakadeitaki na lawa vakatutu sa tiko qo e matada.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- Mr. Chairman, bera niu tauca na vosa ni vakavinavinaka. Au via dua talega noqu vosa me baleta eso na vakatutu e lako mai vei korokoro me baleta na totogi. E so era tukuna tiko na totogi sara ui levu. Me vaka ni ra tiko vakavanua, tiko vakoro, sega tiko na cakacaka. Dua na totogi e tiko ena tikina 39, toso cake tiko mai na $20 kina $2000. Sega ni macala ke a sa vakamacalataki. Qo e baleta tiko na mate dewa ni veiyacovi, koya sa tiko qo na HIV/AIDS. Ke dua e sa kila tiko, sa dikevi vakavuniwai, vakadeitaki tiko ni sa tauvi koya na mate qo, qai lako wavoki tiko me lai moce tale kei dua, lai vakadewava tale tiko na mate qo, sa tiko kina na kena totogi mai na $20 kina $2000.

Qo sa na oka talega kina o ira era vakadewa tiko ena veikoro lelevu na wainigaga ni veivakamatenitaki — na drugs, vakadewavi tiko qo ena kena pasitaki tiko nai cula. O ira kece era na wili kina kevaka era sa vakadewava tiko na mate qo ena gaunisala ni cula, tarai tiko na dra mai na dua na lewenivanua me rawa ni ra mateni kina. Koya beka ga qo au via wasea.

Kena karua, levu vei keda na vakamacalataka tiko na benu. Na benu koya sa laurai tiko vei korokoro qo levu ga na olo ni kakana voli mai na sitoa. Vei keda ga me da maroroya vakavinaka na noda dui benu, ena vakatalega ena vukea na bula raraba vakauasivi. Baleta niu sega ni kana lewenimanumanu, dua na ka au dau vakamacalataka me da dau kana ga mai na were. Ke o kana mai na were, na benu mai na were o na vakayagataka tale me manure ni nomu iteitei. Ya edua na gaunisala levu vei kemuni na tiko ena veikorokoro taudaku ni veikorolelevu, rawa ni vukei kemuni kina na kena control taki na benuca.

Ena vuku ni Turaga Sipika, vaka kina na Turaga Chairman ni Standing Committee ni Social Affairs, vata kei na lawalawa tiko rawa ena siga levu nikua, mata mai na Tabana ni Bula, taura na gauna vinaka qo meu vakavinavinakataki kemuni na lewenivanua. Au kila ni tiko nomuni dui osooso ena veisiga, na qaravi itavi ena nomuni dui matavuvale, se na qaravi itavi ena veikorokoro. Sa vakagalalataki kemuni mai, rawa ni da mai veiwaseitaka eso na itukutuku e tiko ena lawa qo sa kau wavoki tiko, ena rawa ni vukea kina na noda bula raraba.

Mai dua tikoga na vosa ni vakavinavinaka sa sega ni balavu sa vakasaka tiko ya na kena levu.

The Committee adjourned at 12.09 p.m.

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT LABASA CIVIC CENTRE BOARDROOM, MACUATA, ON MONDAY, 6TH JULY 2026 AT 9.07 A.M.

Present

1. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu - Chairman
2. Hon. A. Bia - Member
3. Hon. A.T. Nagata - Member
4. Hon. K.K. Lal - Alternate Member
5. Hon. S. Kumar - Alternate Member

Apologies

1. Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure - Deputy Chairperson
2. Hon. V. Pillay - Member
3. Hon. P.K. Bala - Member

Submittee: Head of government officials - Macuata
In Attendance:

1. Mr. Vakaruru Cavuilati - MOHMS Macuata
2. Ms. Lusiana Lawe - MOHMS Macuata
3. Mr. Josaia Raikoso - MOHMS
4. Mr. Kalivati Ratuva -
5. Mr. Manasa Tuilau - Town & Country Planning
6. Mr. Pauliasi Taukeinikoro - Macuata Provincial Council
7. Mr. Epeli Tabuarua - Macuata Provincial Council
8. Mr. Tevita Kalou - Macuata Provincial Council
9. Ms. Vasiti Bosebalavu - Macuata Provincial Council.
10. Mr. Tiko Saumalua - MOHMS Macuata
11. Mr. Irfaan Alam - Co-Operative
12. Mr. Qica Ilisoni - National Fire Authority
13. Mr. Nacanieli Tuilevuka - Nasekula
14. Ms. Shratika N. - Fiji Sun

Ministry of Health and Medical Services

1. Mr. Luke Vonotabua - Acting Chief Health Inspector
2. Mr. Toga Vosataki - WASH Coordinator

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, the technical team from Ministry of Health and Medical Services, the Commissioner Northern's Office who are present here this morning, and Provincial Council's office from the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, representatives from the Ministry of Health Northern Division and the media team from the Northern Division who are present here this morning. I will ask the Committee Members to introduce themselves.

(Introduction of Committee Members)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will take us very briefly on the overview of the Bill and its key objectives. The Bill seeks to amend the Public Health Act of 1935 to update policy procedures and improve compliance. It also aims to modernise Fiji's public and environmental health framework by introducing updated definitions, at the same

time strengthening educational arrangements, enhancing enforcement power, and increasing penalties to reflect the current public health risks, which we are actually discussing here this morning on our public consultation.

The amendments respond to evolving challenges, such as diseases, outbreaks, environmental pollution, waste management, and water safety. That is actually what the overview in a nutshell describes at the bottom of these amendment bills.

The key objectives of the Bill are to strengthen public and environmental health governance. We are all aware when we talk about good governance, that one is always at the platform. In a work environment where we all believe in ethics and values and patterns of good governance, that will elaborate the Bill itself facilitates the achievement of key objectives as we move along.

Secondly, it improves monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. We are all aware that this Bill is 90 years old. Alongside setting improvements in monitoring, we need enforcement on the ground. This will encourage and strengthen the implementation of these amendment bills.

Thirdly, it enhances preparedness and response to communicable diseases. We all remember what happened during COVID-19. We must be proactive and ready if there is another outbreak. When we talk about this Bill, we talk about diseases and the preparedness of the respective ministries at large.

Fourth, it ensures water safety, sanitation, and waste management systems. This is very important. We must safeguard our water, sanitation, and waste management. In rural communities, we must be mindful of their drinking water sources. Complaints have been raised about vandalism of pipes leading to villages. This Bill addresses such issues and ensures communities are better equipped.

Fifth, it updates penalties to deter non-compliance. This was a major concern raised during our trip to Viti Levu. Previously, penalties were as low as $10 or $20. The amendment bills now increase penalties based on the severity of the case, whether it involves sanitation, water protection, or waste collection. We also discussed sewer lines and building installations, which require approved plans.

In general, the Bill seeks to involve rural local authorities in oversight. Back in 2018, this responsibility was removed by the last administration. Since the 1935 Bill only covered municipal areas, one critical update now is to extend coverage to both urban and rural centres. Rural local authorities will play a vital role in delivering these services.

Lastly, the Bill aligns the law with modern public health practices. Remember, we are in 2026. The 1935 Act is 90 years old. We must update our policies, laws, and bylaws to meet today's demands.

So that is a broad overview of the Bill and its key objectives. I hope we will have a clear discussion this morning on how best to approach it. There are 69 clauses from the principal Act that we need to review. Please feel free to share your ideas, suggestions, or recommendations with the Committee. As I have said from day one, we have covered all of Viti Levu and this is a crucial opportunity especially for the people in the north to contribute. Even after we leave the Northern division this week, you are welcome to submit written recommendations. Our secretariats are available, and your input will be part and parcel of this process of how best, when we return to Parliament, to oversee what we have heard from the public at large. This will form part of the Committee's recommendations, ensuring that the amendments improve the process before we table the Bill back in Parliament.

I hope I have made the introduction very clear to everyone present this morning. I now open the floor for discussion and will invite honourable Bia to give us his brief on the Bill.

HON. A. BIA.- I believe the Chairperson has already spoken at length in English about the Bill. Please allow me to address it briefly in iTaukei. Vei kedatou na tiko qo ena vuku ni valenivolavola ni yasana, me vaka

sa vakamacalataka tiko vaka peritania na Turaga Chair, qo e dua toka na lawa vakaturi tiko mai na loma ni Vale ni boselawa ena gauna qo. E kovuti keda sara tikoga vakabibi, vakauasivi na kawai taukei vaka talega kina na noda veikorokoro se na tikotiko vagalala.

Na 90 na yabaki na kena lako tu mai na lawa qo, e sega vakadua tu ni kovuta na koro, io e dua na veisau e vakaturi tiko mai qo ena loma ni vale ni boselawa ka ratou vakatura tiko mai na tabana ni bula oya na kena matai ni gauna me oka na koro ena Public Health Act. E dua na kena veisau bibi tiko e kea na kena oka na koro. E da na vakataroga se cava e oka kina na koro. E ratou raica tiko na tabana ni bula ni levu na mate veitauvi se veidewavi vakatotolo me vaka na typhoid, na mi ni manu, leptospirosis – e levu ga na kisi vakaoqo e kune tu mai ena noda veikoro. Ni ra lako yani e valenibula, sa bibi sara tu ga na mate. Qai dua na gaunisala ni tatarovi eratou raica sai koya na kena biu yani na lawa qo me vaqaqacotaki se vakaukauwataki na tiko savasava kei na tiko bulabula ena noda veikoro, vakauasivi tiko na samaki ni sauka ni koro, na noda vale, na vanua e da tiko kina, na kena qarauni me kua ni vakasucu tu na namu ena so na veika e tu ena noda loma ni koro.

E dua tiko na lawa vakaturi sai koya na kena qarauni na manumanu era tiko ena noda lomanikoro. Vei ira na vaka ba ni vuaka, me laurai na tiko savasava kei na tiko bulabula ena noda veikoro eda tiko kina. E dua tale na veisau e vakaturi tiko mai, sai koya na kena taqomaki nai vakaso ni wai ena noda veikoro. E tiko saraga ena lawa vakaturi oqo sai koya na kena totogitaki e dua kevaka e benuca nai vakaso ni wai se ta madaga na paipo e lako sobu tiko mai ka vakadrodroi tiko mai kina na wai ki nakoro. Kevaka e dua e vakaleqa na vakadrodro ni wai se vakaso ni wai, e sa na oka ena vuku ni lawa vou kevaka e sa na lai pasitaki ena loma ni vale ni boselawa.

Au kila eso na yasana ni da raica, e veidutaitaki vata kei na lawa ni koro esa tiko vaka talega kina na integrated village development plan koya a kau tiko me ra cakava na veikorokoro. Ia, qo e dua ena tovolei vakabibi me tarovi rawa ni se bera ni bibi na mate ena kena dau veidewavi vakatotolo mera qarauni rawa na noda lomanikoro kei na noda koro vakakina na kawai taukei na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava ena noda veikoro.

Ya e vakacaca walega ia e levu tale tiko na veisau e tiko e loma. Kevaka ona wilika, e 69 vakadua na veisau e sagai ena vuku ni kena vakaturi tiko na lawa oqo. Au na solia e levu na gauna me da na veitalanoa kina – ya ga vakalekaleka na vuku ni rai ni lawa vakaturi qo ena kena sagai me lai biu ena vale ni boselawa ni noda vanua.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Chair through you, this Bill is a very important bill which requires an interagency involvement including the consultation process from both agencies and the citizens of the nation. At the same time, we have to understand that this Act is a very old Act from 1935, as Chair highlighted, and this is 2026.

We have modern diseases, modern infections, modern problems that require modern solutions. And I think the Ministry of Health has come up with some very good solutions. However, there are some concerns that were raised in previous consultation, which is connection to the fines that were increased, the regulations that are being placed.

At the same time, for Labasa, I visited communities here, and there are some issues which the communities highlighted, which is very relevant to this Bill. Along the way, when you present, I will be asking you some questions, which is very directly relevant to the Bill itself, public health.

Public health is not only thinking of rubbish, but access to clean water, access to water tanks, all these things, proper sanitary procedures and construction, all these things become part and parcel and as the provincial council, you also have a very big and important role in this. Same goes for the health department that is here in Labasa. So it is the Labasa Town Council as well. But apart from that, I am willing to hear what the provincial council is going to present and share with us.

We would also like to hear some of the challenges that you face, or the communities face, that will help us understand more how we can better this Bill for Parliament.

HON. S. PRASAD.- Bula vinaka once again to everyone. The two members and the Chair have highlighted most of the components of this Bill. Yes, this Public Health Bill is coming after 90 years back into the Parliament to be renewed and to make go through legislative changes. And one must understand why there is a need to take this Bill to the public. What concerns them? As we have heard that the Bill now gives the power to the health inspectors to enter the villages and do the inspection and fine.

Also the increase in fines, that is going to affect the citizens of this country, whereby they may not be prepared or they are not given that much time to align to the standard requirements of the health protocols. Also, now this also strengthens the rural local authorities who get the power to do the inspection whenever there is a building under construction. These are some of the things that we will see is captured in this Bill and once enacted, these are some of the changes that the public will expect.

The main one is the increase in the fees. The fine applies to all classes of people, whether they are in rural or they are in organised residential set-up, urban areas, businesses. They have all the same fines, so everyone has to pay the same fine, so we are here to deliberate and discuss and receive your submissions as to what are your views that should be considered and captured in this Bill so that the Committee is able to include those submissions and make appropriate recommendations for the Bill to be amended in such a way so that it is very user-friendly and healthy for the public in the long run.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I believe we all understand the importance of the Bill now. On the outset, it is about time for us to discuss it further. As has been alluded to, the Committee here are the ones responsible for any amendments and submissions and recommendations based on the Public Health Amendment Bill No. 4 of 2026. We do appreciate your contribution, whether it is a face-to-face discussion, whether it is in a written submission, or whatever format that you see fit for us to discuss.

Hopefully we have all access to a copy of the Clause 69. It is all in Fijian, it is in Hindi too, likewise in English. If you prefer to talk about any clauses from 1 to 69, you will raise your hand. The Secretariat will bring the microphone to you, and you must refer to the specific clause you wish to discuss. If something is not clear, you may ask the Committee for further clarification. If you want to explain, you can do so based on that clause.

Since everything discussed this morning is being recorded, you must first raise your hand, state your name, and mention which ministry you represent. Then, refer to the clause you want us to discuss so that we are all on the same page. For example, if you talk about clause 14, we will all refer to clause 14, and from there we will continue the discussion as we move along.

The team from the Ministry of Health, along with technical teams from Suva and support from the Divisional Office of Public Health, are here with us. We will all try to assist, so that by the end of today we have a clear and well-defined discussion regarding this Bill.

Further to that, it is only the Committee that can amend the Bill. The Solicitor-General's Office and the drafters can only advise us. Likewise, if the Ministry of Health requires further clarity on the Bill, they can submit their views in writing to the Committee. The responsibility lies with the Committee to execute its task of hearing from the public, which is very important.

I believe we have the numbers here today, and I am hopeful this will be a very fruitful discussion. Please feel free to raise any clause, and from there the Committee will provide further clarification on the importance of the changes, with support from the Ministry of Health. I now open the floor to everyone, and we will begin with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs to start us off.

MS. V. VOSABALAVU.- A very good morning to the panel that are present this morning, and good morning also to the officials that are present today. I work as the Provincial Conservation Officer. So, Macuata Provincial Council work closely with the registered itaukei villages in Macuata, and unfortunately we have just

been given this document this morning, and we have no time to go through it. So, just a few points that we would like to raise, and I am sure that we have been working closely with the Ministry of Health regarding waste management here in Macuata.

This is a very big issue for us, and I actually have seen in the Bill that we are talking about receptacles, bins, and other things that deal with mosquito breeding that causes the diseases that we always face every now and then. One of the issues that we would like to raise is the role that is played by the community health workers in villages, and the Turaga ni koros. I know that waste management is not part, or is very limited. There is limited things to talk about waste management in the iTaukei Affairs Act. It generally deals with the governance of the itaukei villages. And the Public Health Act also does not talk about waste management issues as something that we really have to look into.

I am just trying to bring up the issue of the roles of Turaga ni koros and community health workers. What are the actual roles in waste management? Like, public health is very general, and we are talking about waste generation on a daily basis in villages and in our communities. There are gaps with almost every legislation that we have, especially the Litter Act, the Environment Management Act, the Public Health Act, and we have other acts that deal with waste management.

But at a community level, I would like to raise that we probably can amend their job description to actually monitor and maybe give fixed penalty notices or something like that at a community level, and then we actually can refer it to the Ministry of Health about the health inspectors. The reason being, health inspectors and environment officers or arts conservation officers are not always in the communities to be monitoring all of these things.

This is one of the issues that we have been facing. Waste management is a very big issue in all communities today, not only in Macuata, but in all parts of the country. We have also seen that there is river dumping, dumping in vacant lands, dumping in forests, and all these things end up, when they burn these waste, they all end up creating other pollution that we know of. This is one of the suggestions that we would like to make if we can look at the roles of Turaga ni koro and the CHWs in our communities.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you, Ma'am, for that very important area of discussion. I believe Honourable Members, the discussion is very clear. She is from the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, and she has spoken about the importance of the role of the Turaga ni Koro. She highlighted the responsibilities of other ministries as well, particularly in relation to how rubbish is managed at the village level.

Generally, when we talk about clauses, I have been saying from the beginning that we must refer to the specific clause. That seems to be a common question, and we need everyone—the technical team from the Ministry of Health, as well as the Committee—to provide an overview when we discuss roles. This will help us understand how the amendment bills fit into the picture, giving us a clear sense of responsibility. Hopefully, that is now very clear to the Committee.

I will give the floor to the technical team from the Ministry of Health. Just open up our mind on that discussion so that we will have a very clear, demarcated discussion based on that area of concern, Ministry of Health.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Thank you honourable Chair and members of the Social Affairs Committee. And thank you for the concerns that have been raised by the iTaukei Affairs. If you look through the amendment Bill, something new that we would like to introduce is the infringement notice, similar to what the LTA does. That is something new that we want to introduce.

When you also look through the proposed Bill, it also mentions that there is a board - a Central Board of Health that is appointed by the Minister for Health, and the board appoints the officers for the municipal or the urban local authorities and the rural local authorities.

The urban local authorities are the health department in municipalities. When you mention about the infringement notice to be issued by the Turaga ni koro, I think that is another discussion. Kevaka ko ni vinakata mo ni na vakatututaka, mo ni na vakatututaka kina komiti qo. Because the Bill in its current form only mentions that Central Board of Health appoints the officers in the rural local authority and also in the urban local authorities, the municipalities, for them to enforce the Public Health Act.

Kenai balebale kevaka ko ni na vinakata me sa na qarava nai tavi qori na Turaga ni Koro, mo ni na vakatututaka. There is also provision in the proposed Bill that in areas where there is no local authorities, that the Minister can appoint people. Taura mada mai Moce se Ono-i-lau, e rawa vua na Turaga Minister me appoint taka na nasi me enforcetaka na lawa in the absence of the health inspector. Ya e rawa ni caka, ia o kemuni mo ni na vakatututaka. That is in terms of the enforcement. I think you have mentioned about the changing of the job description of the Turaga ni koro and I think that is with the iTaukei office for you to change the job description of the Turaga ni koro.

The community health workers, they have a scope that they have to work within. Ya e sa matata tiko ve ira na nasi ni koro. They become the ears and eyes of the Ministry in the communities and also in the settlements. Ena vuku ni benu, the proposed Bill is very clear and one of the parts there on mosquitoes and it states that any receptacle that can hold water and become a breeding ground to mosquito. Au kila ni tiko na lawa ni tabacakacaka I taukei na Fijian Affairs Act on the public health regulation. It talks about ensuring that there is no container that can hold water and can become a breeding ground.

Me kakua ni dua na wai me rawa ni vakasucu kina na namu. That is it. Also, in the public, in the new proposed amendment that we are proposing, we have mentioned that if a receptacle, a dry container in a residential area, sa rawa ni fine taki. The current Act states that when an inspector comes to a house and sees a receptacle that has larvae in it, you can fine $10. But with the proposed Bill, we are going more in depth in the assessment that we need to do, meaning that if an inspector comes to a residential area and sees a receptacle (na qa ni bilo, se na kava se tavaya) that can hold water and dry, a person can be fine. If the inspector comes in and sees that there is water inside, and if the inspector comes and sees larvae, because we feel that a dry container will be there in a dry weather. Ni gauna ga e tau kina na uca, sa na tawa na wai ka sa na vakasucu kina nan amu.

That is in terms of the garbage collection. If you see the initial Public Health Act of 1935, there is regulations for garbage collection by its municipal council. There is a lot of other things that we can do in terms of risk management that can be included in the regulation that will come after. And I hope that I have answered your question.

MS. V. VOSABALAVU.- Sir, e rawa beka ni sega ni veisautaki sara na job description nei Turaga ni Koro se nasi ni koro me vaka me soli beka ga vei ira e vica walega na kaukauwa me rawa ni tabaka kina se vakarautaka e so na evidence just to prepare the health inspectors when they come in because the health inspectors will not be present all the time. Levu na gauna dau vakanadaku ga o ira na health inspectors, o ira na veikorokoro sa tu tale vei na kena tutu makawa ga. The only time they try to clean up their villages is when the health inspectors or the environment inspectors are present.

I am just wondering if there is a possibility they can be given power or just limited power to actually just collect evidence, or they do not really have to give the notices that we have been talking about, but just to get information and probably reports on the things that they see around the village every day. That was the impression that I was thinking.

HON. A. BIA.- And exactly, that is the main purpose of the current Bill that we have. But lawfully, no one can stop the Turaga ni Koro anyone taking pictures of someone littering or doing something that might

concern other people in the villages. But with the law that we have, the amendment one, gives power that the Turaga ni Koro can raise their complaint directly towards the health inspectors. But one of the basic fundamentals of the amendment is that we have learned from COVID-19.

When COVID happens, one of the challenges that have been faced by the health inspectors or nurses and doctors, they cannot just straightforward come to the villages. They have to follow the process that is there. Contact the provincial council office, ask for permission, then go. But with the amendment that is here, if they ever received a complaint, the nature of the complaint may be, can, or the sickness that is there in the village can create an epidemic or pandemic. So the power is there for the health inspectors to come in and try and solve the issue that is there, if it is related within the law that is there.

Na kaukauwa e soli saraga vei iratou na tabana ni bula me ratou lako yani me ratou tarova kevaka e rawa ni dua na ka e yaco ena vuku ni bula ni tamata e rawa ni veidewavi kina e dua na mate. Kevaka e sa kila o Turaga ni Koro ni bibi, na lawa qo e solia na kaukauwa vei ratou na tabana ni bula me ratou gole yani. E dua talega na tiki bibi ni vakaturi ni lawa qori sai koya e vakatokai toka ena vosa vaka viti e volai tiko e keri na "vakasosavu" se nuisance. Na nuisance ena vosa vakavavalagi in plain English – o koya e dua na ka ena vakasausataki iko. Io nio kauta mai na nuisance me use it in public health – o koya kevaka e dua na ka e yaco, e rawa ni vakaleqa na noda tiko bulabula se rawa ni yaco me veitauvi na mate ena loma ni koro koya e wili kina na benu ca, na manumanu era sega ni qaravi vakavinaka ena loma ni koro, e sega ni samaki na koro ka wili kece ena vosa qo na nuisance ka na rawa ni lai vakaleqa na tiko bulabula ena loma ni koro.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au lesuva ga vakatotolo na veika e ratou a vosa tiko kina na Tabana ni Bula. Kevaka ni se tikoga na lomatarotaro, ni rawa ni laveta cake vaka mosoni me dua me na qai tokona. Au dolava tiko na gauna qo, kevaka e nanumi me lako cake mai vaka mosoni, sa na solia na galala. Ke rawa ni ratou dau curu yani nai vakalesilesi ni tabana ni bula kevaka e yaco e dua na outbreak beka.

REP.- Au sa vakatura saka na mosoni.

REP.- Tokona.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa ciqomi ya vei iratou na komiti, ka tou sa na toso yani ki nai karua ni vakatagedegede ni taro.

REP.- Ena vuku saka ga ni dua na tikina ena naba 18 tiko qo ena kena laveti nai totogi mai na $2 kina $50. Au kila ni keitou na via tokona toka na tikina ya baleta ni sa dua na ka na levu ni veivakararamataki sa caka wavoki tu qo ena noda veikoro me baleta na kena sagai tiko qo Viti ni tiko bulabula.

Vei keitou mada ena yasana o Macuata, mai duri na komiti ni tiko bulabula ni yasana ka caka na kena soqo ni yaubula ena veiyabaki. Io ni laurai vakavinaka, vaka e sega tiko ni ra cakacakataka rawa o ira na tiko e nakoro na veika e gadrevi tiko. Se dua na kaukauwa me soli yani vei ira na Turaga ni koro ka sa vakamosonitaki ya na kena sagai mera cakacakataka na noda lewenivanua na kena yadravi na tiko bulabula. Koya ya e tokoni tiko ena naba 18 ke rawa me sa soli vei ratou na tabana ni bula na kaukauwa me sa cakacakataki saraga na kena sagai me sa na cakacaka vata na koro kei keimami na soli vakasama tiko ena kena sagai me laveti na tiko bulabula me vaka au a vakaraitaka tiko ena bose sa oti vei keitou na komiti ni tiko bulabula ni yasana ni sa vakalawataki tu qo na manumanu me 60 na mita qai lai vesu. Na bai ni vuaka me toso na 60 na mita – koya ya kevaka e da vakadikeva ena gauna qo, e sega saraga ni dua na kena dina e laurai kina.

Ko ira e nakoro, era lewa toka ga na vanua e biu kina na bai ni vuaka. Era lewa toka ga na vanua e biu kina na nodra benu. Koya ya, e sa na via vinaka toka kina me sa biu e dua na lawa qo me rawa ni sa laurai e dua na kena veisau ena veiqaravi e qaravi tiko qo ena vuku ni laveti ni tiko bulabula ena noda veikoro. Koya, au tokona tiko kina na naba 18 me sa na soli na kaukauwa ni kena tubu nai tutu qo, ke rawa ni rawa vei ira mera qai

cakacakataka na veika e vinakati qo ena kena laveti na maroroi ni tiko bulabula ena noda veikoro vakauasivi na kena maroroi na benu.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Chair and honourable Members of the Committee, representative of the iTaukei Affairs Ministry and members of the public who are here today. E cavuti tiko na vakavinavinaka ena vakatataro e gole tiko mai me baleta na vakatutu e rua. Au gadreva meu veivuke walega ena kena vakararamataki. Na vakasama me baleta na benu se na vakasosavo se na kena cakacakataki na lawa vakaturi ena noda veikoro vakaviti. E dina na vakasama sa kau cake tiko mai – nasi ni koro kei Turaga ni koro e rawa ni ripotetaka mai. E dola tu ga na katuba, kevaka rau raica ni dua e cakava nai tovo veisaqasaqa kei na ka sa tiko ena lawa vakaturi, sa nodrai tavi saraga me rau na biuta mai na kenai tukutuku na valenivolavola ni tabacakacaka ni bula, sa na gole yani o valenivolavola ni tabacakacaka ni bula, sa na qai lai solia na notisi ke sa mani yaco ki vale ni veilewai, gole na tabacakacaka ni bula me lai valataka na kisi, o koya ga e ripote sa na qai vakadinadina e vale ni veilewai.

Me vaka na veitalanoa ni tikina e 18 – qori e vakamacalataki tiko na kina nai lavo e dau lavaki ina closing order. Na closing order qo me vakamatatatataki vei keda na lewenivanua eda tiko nikua, ke dua na vale e lai dikeva na tabacakacaka ni bula, keitou qai raica na kena tuvaki ni unfit for human habitation. Sa sega ni veirakorako me tiko kaya na tamata. Sa tu e dua nai vakatagedegede e rawa ni vakavu baca ka vakavu tauvimate ka rawa ni kauta laivi saraga na bula ni tamata. E dua ena kenai tuvaki se ina kena kaukauwa se na structural na building oya.

Na tabacakacaka ni bula sa qai dau solia na closing order. O iratou na tiko e loma me ratou na vakalala na vale, ka me vakavinakataki na nona vale ena kenai tuvaki, e rawa ni tiko kina na tamata sa qai lesu tale I loma, ka qai dau soli tiko na gauna lavaki – kevaka sa soli na order me vagalalataki qai sa lai oti e 7 na siga se ratou sega ga ni vakalala na vale. Se ratou vakavinakataki na vanue me vakavinakataki. Na vanua ya e dau $2 e dau saumi ena veisiga ni oti na 7 na siga se 14 na siga. Koya na period dausoli me ratou cakava kina na kena vakavinakataki kina na cakacaka e gadrevi.

Ke sega sa qai dau lavaki tiko e $2 ena veisiga, koya ya sa gadrevi kina me toso cake mai na $2 kina $50 baleta ni toso tikoga na levu ni siwa, e toso cake tale tikoga na kena rivariva bi ni kena na rawa ni veitauvi na mate ka rawa ni vakaleqai sara na bula ni lewenivanua ka nodratou ga na vuvale e ratou tawana tiko na vale ya.

Sa qai nanuma na tabana ni bula, ke toso cake qo, kenai balebale ena vakaukauwataka vakalailai na nodratou sasaga me ratou na vakavinakataka na ka e gadrevi me vakavinakataki ena order koya e soli ya. Koya saka beka ga ya, au nanuma meu veivakararamataki ga kina ena siga nikua, me rawa ni tou qai veivosaki tiko na cava na vu ni kena tubu, ka tou sa kila tiko na bibi e tiko edaku ni kena vakasamataki me vakatuburi na vakacavacava saka koya e tiko qori se na totogi.

HON. A.TUICOLO.- Au via vakamacalataka ga ni gauna oqo na lawa e se bera ni vauci kina na veikorokoro. Ena gauna ga e sa na pasitaki kina na bill qo, sa na vauci talega kina o ira na koro vakaviti. Kenai balebale na veitotogi beka koya sa tiko qo, sa na rawa kina vei ratou na Turaga ni koro se o ira na lewenivanua mera na vakaukauwataka na veiqaravi ni nodra dui korokoro.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na tarogi kemudou mada na wekadatou mai na Taukei Affairs. Ni da veitalanoa tiko ena clause 18 koya e volai tiko kina mai na $2 sa substitute taki kina $50. Na cava dou nanuma ena gauna me sa na lai vakadeitaki kina qo me sa lawatu ni noda matanitu. E levu se lailai? Na nomudou raica toka na penalty fines ni toka qori mai na $2 ki na $50 as a penalty. Na nomudou rai mai na kena qaravi na nodai tikotiko vakauasivi na taudaku ni koro lelevu. Da raica vata kei na noda rawa ka vakailavo – e tikina bibi oya. E cava na nomudou vakatutu mai na vualiku ni noda vanua. E lailai se levu se me toso cake tale?

Au gadreva meu rogoca na domomudou me vukea na komiti ena kena lako yani, keitou na qai lai raica vaka titobu sara kei na totogi talega qo e vaka e tautauvata tikoga vei ira na tiko ena loma ni koro lelevu se na taudaku ni koro lelevu. E se bera ni ra wasewasei vakamatailalai, kaya mada kevaka e dua na dau ni bisinisi e tiko e tauni, ke cakava o koya qo, e lai charge taki ena $50 e rawarawa toka ni na sauma baleta ni tiko vua nai

lavo. Ni sauma ga ka lesu tale kina ka ga e cakava tiko mai, sega ni dua na improvement e caka me vakavinakataka na veika tou veitalanoa tiko kina qo.

Ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu, vanua oya me datou na raica vakayalomatua. E tukuni toka vei ratou me dua e sauma e $50, vei ira e sai lavo toka ya. So na vanua keitou gole mai kina e Viti Levu era vakatututaka mai vei keitou na komiti me dua na lawa na $50 me dua me vauci ira na tiko ena loma ni koro lelevu me toso cake kei ira era tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu me toso sobu vakalailai. Kenai balebale se tiko ga na gaunisala ni veitalanoa qo ka se sega ni dua na ka e finalise taki ena bill. E se lako tiko ga qo na vasokumuni tukutuku, veivakararamataki, e solia vei keitou e dua na gauna vinaka me keitou na qai lai raica tale mada. Na bill e straightforward e $2.50 – ke ko vaka bisinisi e tauni se ko tiko mai ena taudaku ni koro lelevu, e vauci keda kecega vakadua na bill.

Ni dou veiqaravi tiko ena vukudatou ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu, e yaga mo dou na tukuna mai vakamatata vei keitou. Sa rogo oti mai Viti Levu na nodra vakatutu kau nuitaka ni na vaka talega kina na nodatou tiko qo ena Vualiku.

MS. V. VOSABALAVU.- Turaga Chair, au kerekere kevaka e rawa ni soli vei ira e dua na gauna me biu tikoga na $50 kau sa vakatututaka tikoga sega ni macala kevaka era na tokona na kena vo. Me dei tikoga na $50 ia me soli rawa vei ira na vakasala ni qo na ka e laurai e via dua beka na macawa me rawa ni vakavinakataki nai tikotiko ni bera ni qai tau nai totogi.

MR. T. KALOU.- Turaga Chair, ni vosoti au, na yacaqu o Tevita Kalou, Assistant Roko Tui Macuata. Me vaka saka ga na veika e datou veitalanoa saka tiko kina, au vakavinavinaka vei ratou saka na kena tabana ni sa qai vakamatatataki mai na tiki ni lawa saka qo. Ena vuku saka ni vanua, au laveta saka tiko, ni ko ni sa vakaraitaka tiko mai o kemuni na vanua mena mua saka kina nodatou veitalanoa.

Au rai saka tale tikoga ena vukudra na noda lewe ni yasana. Na bill se na lawa e general sara tuga. E sega ni wasea o ira na tiko ena tauni kei ira na tiko ena koro vakaviti, but looking into that, au vinakata meu na laveta saka yani nikua ke rawa ni biu e dua na kenai davodavo me matau se mama vakalailai vei ira na noda era tiko ena koro, se e rawa ni dua na tiki ni lawa tale mena qai curu me baleti ira saraga. Au vosa tiko qo kevaka tou kauta na lawa qo kina loma ni veikoro, e dua nai wase levu ni veikoro era biu ka ra oka ena lawa qo enai tuvaki ni veivale e tu ena loma ni noda veikoro. Dina ni oti o *TC Winston* sa ra qai tekivu vunautaki tiko na kena vakavinakataki ka vakaukauwataki na veivale, ia ena tiki ni lawa saka qo, e levu vei ira na noda era tu e nakoro ena lima na siga se na vitu na siga e soli tiko qo, qori ena viavia taura tale e dua na yabaki me ra na qai vakavinakataka.

Au sa kerekere saka tiko ke rawa ni tou biuta e dua na reasonable amount me rawa ni tagavi ira toka na noda, dina ni tautauvata na safety tou raica mai na yasana ni nodra rawa ka vakailavo e duidui mai vei keda na tiko saka yani ena vanua ni cakacaka e duidui mai vei keda na tiko yani na vanua ni cakacaka. Koya na tikina ya, au vakatura me rawa ni laurai tale e dua na ituvatuva me rawa ni kovuti ira na noda vakabibi, o ira na tiko ena rural, remote kei na maritime. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR CHAIRMAN.- Kemudou na Tabana ni Bula, rawa ni dou vakararamataki keda ni bera ni soli na gauna me keitou kauta kina na vakasama e rua na macawa.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Liuliu ni Bose, lewe ni komiti, kei na tokani ena Tabacakacaka ni iTaukei. Au vakabauta ni vinaka me vakamatatataki ga eke na ka au vakamacalataka tiko me baleta na sanitary condition. Na sanitary condition e sega walega ni tuvaki ni savasava ni loma ni vale, ia e wili talega kina na gacagaca ni vale me vaka na paipo ni wai. Kevaka e dau gole na veitikotiko ena taudaku ni koro vakaViti, eso na vale e dau redetaki me vaka na vale tabarua. I valenivolavola, e dau yaco yani eso na kudru, " ni ratou na rede tiko na vale ya, sa lako tiko na wai ena vanua keitou dau kana kina. Kerea mo dou mai raica mada". Ni keitou gole yani, keitou raica ni wastewater pipe ni vale tabarua e dodo tiko e loma ni vale, ka dodo tu vakaca.

Au sega ni vosa tiko qo me baleta na Category 5 cyclone proof ni vale, ia na structural part e sa vakavuna na insanitary condition ni loma ni vale. Na wai ni flush ni vale lailai e sa turu tiko ga ena vanua keitou dau kana kina. Na mataqali kisi va qo e dodonu me lako yani na Tabacakacaka ni Bula, me ratou raica ka soli notisi vei taukei ni vale me vakavinakataka na paipo ni wai. Kevaka e sega ni cakava, sa qai lavaki vua na totogi.

Na veiveisau e tiko ena loma ni Bill qo e vukea na neitou veiqaravi, ni keitou raica ni luluqa na lawa makawa. Kevaka e nanuma na Komiti qo me vakaturiai Palimedi me sa pasitaki, keitou na tagava rawa na yasana oya. Rawa ni soli na notice of conduct vei na vale redetaki, ka sa na sega ni taura na ilavo ni rede ni sa sogo nona bisinisi. Kena karua, soli notisi me vakavinakataka ena loma ni vica na siga, kevaka e sega sa qai lavaki vua na totogi vakailavo.

Baleta ni levu na noda lewenivanua era rede se ra tawana tu na veivale va qo, kevaka e mate e dua, na ilavo ena sega ni na sauma na bula sa kau tani oya. Sega ni dua na kena value to life. Qo na bibi ni vakasama ni veiveisau au tukuna tiko. Na vale ena koro, me vakavinakataki ga na tuvaki ni sanitary condition kei na hygienic condition, sega ni gadrevi me basu ka tara vou tale.

Na lawa makawa e cici tu mai ena 90 na yabaki, e sega ni wili kina na koro vakaViti. E laurai ni sa lutu sobu vakamalua tu ga na koro vakaViti. Kevaka eda nanumi ira na wekada ena koro vakaViti, sa dodonu me kau na lawa ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula kina loma ni koro me laveti cake na tagede ni bula.

Na Turaga Liuliu ni Bose a dolava na veivosaki, ni sa levu na baca ena vica na yabaki – dengue, mi ni manu kei na typhoid – levu tikoga o ira na wekada mai na koro vakaViti. Sega ni baleta ni sega na lawa, ia na enforcement e malumalumu. Keitou nanuma ni vinaka me biu na lawa vakaturi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula me vaqaqacotaka na veikoro vakaViti.

Me da laveti ira cake na wekada me ra tamata qaqa ena veisiga ni mataka. Qo na vakamacala au nanuma me vakararamataki keda kina. Au vakabibitaka tale na kena laveti cake na totogi, sega ni dua na ka me da vakatotogani kina na lewe i Viti, ia me dua na ka e biu me deterrent.

Na kena ibalebale: na bula ni koro. Kevaka e biu vakavinaka na benu, sa rawa ni lavaki kina na fine $100. Kevaka e sega ni muri, sa rawa ni lavaki kina na $200. Qo me ivakarere, me laveti keda kina na behavioural change me sa na lako mai ena noda veikoro vakaViti.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Nuitaka ni sa na matata na kena vakamacala vei ira na wekaqu mai na iTaukei Affairs. Eda na lesu vakatotolo ga ena Tikina 18 – veiveisau ni charge mai na $2 kina $50, kei na vakatutu me rawa ni wasewasei ena vanua eda bula kina. Me kakua ni tautauvata kei ira na tiko ena koro lelevu, ia me vakarautaki tale ga vei keda na tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu. Au kerea me tokoni rawa mada na vakasama qo ni bera ni da toso.

LEWENIVANUA,- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa na toso tiko na noda veitalanoa. E 69 kece na tikina se clause e tiko vei kemudou na kena ilavelave. Kevaka o vinakata mo vosa kina, mo na kaya ga, "Tikina e 24" se "Tikina e 36" me rawarawa kina na noda veitalanoa. Tiko talega na kena vakamacala levu e vakamacalataki kina na veika e amendtaki. E okati keda kece me da vakasamataka na bula ni tiko savasava kei na tiko bulabula ena loma ni noda itikotiko. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. K. RATUVA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, au via lesu ga ena tikina me baleta na local authority. Sega ni macala se tiko ena lawa vakatutu qo se sega. Au via vakatakila ga e dua na leqa: ena gauna qo, au vakabauta ni sa tu kece na development application ena ruku ni town councils. Ia na gauna sa oti, e dau tauri tu ena local authority ka tiko na kena clear jurisdiction vei ratou na health inspector. Au kerea ke rawa ni vakalesui tale mai na local authority na veika kece ni development e dau caka tiko, baleta ni tiko na town council ia ena gauna sa oti e sa macala vinaka na vanua ratou cakacaka kina na health inspector.

Qo ena rawa ni keitou cakacaka vakaveivolekati talega kina. Ni dua na development issue e yaco, e dau tiko na health issue me vakadikevi ni bera ni soli na approval. Ena gauna qo eso na town council e sega ni kila vinaka na ka e caka tiko. E dodonu me vakaraitaki vinaka na demarcation ka me vakalesui tale mai na local authority. Au vakatututaka me sa lesu tale mai.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Me vaka au sa vakaraitaka oti, dua na tiki ni vakatutu qo se clause na kena vakalesui tale mai na nodratou itavi na rural local authority. Ena 2018 a kau laivi na itavi bibi eratou dau qarava tiko me baleta na veiqaravi ni bula raraba mai vei ratou na Tabana ni Bula. Kevaka o wilika na ilavelave tiko oqori, na Tikina e 69 sa okati kina na kena vakalesui tale mai na rural local authority.

Ena gauna qo, sa cici tiko na urban local authority me vaka na kena cici ena loma ni koro lelevu. Sa tiko ena lawa vakatutu qo na kena vakalesui tale mai, baleta ni sa rai rabailevu na bibi ni nodratou itavi. Qo na vuna e sa vakavuna me disconnect tu na tabana ni veiqaravi ka qai kau laivi na tabana bibi qo. Mai Viti Levu, era sa tokona tiko me vakalesui tale mai na rural local authority, ka sa okati talega ena noda lawa vakatutu oqo.

HON. A. BIA.- Vinaka, au via vakavu veitalanoa ga vei keda na veiqaravi ena vuku ni Valenivolavola ni Yasana. Kevaka o raica na lawa vakaturi tiko qo, e 69 na veisau, e tiko kina na kena mai oka na koro ena lawa vou qo. Kevaka e dua e totogitaki vakailavo ni bera ni veisau, na lawa makawa e kaya ni lavo kece e rawa mai ena totogi qo e lako kece vei municipal council se local council. Ia, rawa ni veitalanoa ni sa oka na koro iloma: kevaka e dua e finetaki ena koro, me rawa ni lako ena Valenivolavola ni Yasana.

Qo me vakatututaki mai mo dou raica, baleta ni sa tiko ena gauna qo na lawa ni totogi kece e collecttaki me lako ga vei municipal council. Ia kevaka sa oka mai na koro iloma, e dodonu tale ga me vakaivotavota kina na Valenivolavola ni Yasana, me rawa ni lesu tale me vukea na koro ena kena laveti cake na ka e gadrevi tiko ena vuku ni lawa eratou vakatura tiko mai na Tabana ni Bula. Vinaka vakalevu.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members, thank you for your intervention and suggestion. I believe the discussion spoken in the iTaukei language was mostly about the local authority and related matters. As per confirmation in the parliamentary area, the Bill was circulated to your Ministry earlier, before your presence here, if I am correct. Therefore, I believe you must have already reviewed the entire (Amendment) Bill. I do have some questions for you:

The Public Health (Amendment) Bill seeks to strengthen preventive health care and address environmental health risks.

MR. K. RATUVA.- Sir, can you repeat the question again, please.

HON. K.K. LAL.- The question is the public health amendment bill seeks to strengthen preventive health care and address environmental health risks. Would the Provincial Council agree that a community of nearly 100 households without reliable access to clean water represents a significant public health risk under the provisions of this Bill?

HON. A. BIA.- Kemudou, vakabauta ni kevaka e sega ni vakadrodroi vinaka na wai ena loma ni koro, ka tiko kina rauta ni sivia e 100 na vale, e rawa ni vakaleqa na tiko bulabula.

MR. K. RATUVA.- It is a risk.

HON. K.K. LAL.- My second question is: Does the Provincial Council believe that it should empower the statutory duty of the local authority and Provincial Council to identify and report communities that lack access to safe drinking water and sanitary facilities?

MR. K. RATUVA.- Yes, Sir.

HON. K.K. LAL.- The Bill also promotes early intervention to prevent disease outbreaks. What measures has the Council taken to prevent potential outbreaks of waterborne diseases in the community? This is with respect to your responsibility. Remember, we are all part of this Bill — the interagency community. It is your responsibility, it is their responsibility, and it is our responsibility. Have you undertaken this previously?

MS. V. BOSEBALAVU.- I think we have done enough awareness and education within the communities. As part of this clause, it is not set under our members. Yes, we have carried out a lot of awareness in regard to the question you have asked.

HON. K.K. LAL.- I visited a community last night where we held a talanoa session in respect to this Bill. I was having a formal discussion in Vunivau Cemetery Road, with the community. They highlighted that there are 100 households without proper access to drinking water and that they had written letters to the Provincial Council requesting water tanks, but have received no response. I believe the PA is responsible for handling those letters, yet according to the District Advisory Council, they have not received any reply. Would you agree with my concern, or my question, that ensuring proper drinking water is a responsibility we must uphold, yet on the ground the situation is different? This is why we need to strengthen the law so that every agency fulfills its duty. I wish to highlight this matter — that is all from my end. Please look into this concern. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Se vo tiko na noda gauna ni veitalanoa. E 69 na tabana e tiko qo, vakabauta ni tou se tara tiko ga qo me yacova mada na kena oti na 69.

MR. K. RATUVA.- Mr. Chairman, au via vosa ga me baleta na wiliwili ni registration ni veikoro era register vou. For Macuata, we have 10 new villages. The process to establish them as villages requires us to work closely with the health inspector. We always need their support letter. I just want to know — is this covered in the Bill? Sa tiko na Bill qo me baleta nai tavi bibi ya?

We always require a support letter from the health inspector, a letter from the Fire Authority, and also from the Prime Minister's Office. But I want the health inspectors to be specifically covered. Me rawa ni kaukauwa kina na nodratou support letter me ra maroroi kina na health inspector. Qo eso na itavi eratou qarava, keitou cakacaka vakaveivolekati ni ra register taki e dua na koro vou. Au via taroga walega — are they covered in the new Bill? Vinaka saka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- E tiko na nodratou lawa vakatutu qo me baleta na veika e kau mai qo. Kerei ratou na Tabana ni Bula me ratou vakararamataki keda kina.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members, colleagues from the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, and members of the public. That is a very good suggestion. If something is not covered or captured under the proposed Bill, you may raise it or move a motion, but it should be properly included in your submission. Perhaps a section on village declaration by health could serve as a recommendation to the iTaukei Affairs Board, based on the current situation of the community — maybe considering the health components within that community. The local authority making such a recommendation would, I believe, address what they are seeking to have covered the Ministry of Health official, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kena vakamacala, ratou sa kaya tiko na Tabana ni Bula ni sa tiko talega ena lawa vakatutu qo e matada. Ratou tiko na Tabana ni Boko Buka, ka dua talega na itavi levu eratou qarava vakabibi na kena laurai e dua na itikotiko vou kei na veika e gadrevi kina. Ena noda koro lelevu, taudaku ni koro lelevu, e laurai na veika me baleta na wai. Au kerea na Tabana ni Boko Buka me solia e dua na nona vakamacala lekaleka ena vuku ni veiqaravi eratou qarava tiko, me rawa ni kauti keda kina na lawa vakatutu oqo kei na itavi levu eratou qarava tiko.

MR. I. QICA.- (Introduction of Mr Qica)

I agree, Mr. Chairman, on new developments regarding secondary water sources as alluded to by our Roko Tui for new villages. It has been a hurdle for us when we look at new developments, especially in emergencies such as fires. When we arrive at the scene, there is no secondary water source. When we speak of secondary water sources, we mean fire hydrants. With the Bill now before us, it will accommodate villages. Most of these villages are outside the town boundaries, and that is one of our hurdles — we do not have any secondary water source. We rely on rivers and streams, but access is difficult, and that is a point that needs further discussion. We will work with Town and Country Planning, and also with the Ministry of Health, in many ways, to ensure that new developments include in our reports the installation of hydrants within town boundaries. Since the Bill will now accommodate villages, this is why we need assistance from other agencies.

Dua saka ga na taro – Clause 16, this is on general building requirements. The proposed changes require owners to comply with the Town Planning Act before constructing a new building. So, if we are to accommodate the villages, they will need to have plans before erecting any building. With the plan, it comes with the fees. Other agencies will also need to provide their recommendations, if I am correct, before Town and Country Planning can grant approval. So this is just a question to raise. If that is the case, then perhaps we need to consider some incentives or ideas to help cover those costs.

Keitou sa kila na veikorokoro tiko qo, even the distance between one house to another has already been accommodated in the National Building Code. Ia ni sa tiko na Bill qo, keitou kerea rawa ni datou veitalanoa vakavinaka se cava na kena ituvatuva. Baleta na veikorokoro tu qo, na gauna ga era via tara vale kina, ra tara vale. For the National Authority, we also vet the plan in case of a new building. That has already been happening within the municipalities. For new construction, we vet the plan and require a minimum of five safety measures for any building before approval goes to the Council and to OHS. I believe Town and Country Planning will agree with that.

Ke rawa walega ni datou raica e dua na kena vakatutu, dua na kena moimoi me rawa ni matau toka vei ira na veikorokoro, me rawa ni ratou veivuke talega kina na Valenivolavola ni Yasana.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tabana ni bula, dua mada nomudou veivakararamataki.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members, colleagues from the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, colleagues from Town Planning, and members of the public. As you know, the building aspect of the Public Health Act has already been taken up. Without reference to that, the Act now refers only to the Town Planning Act, in such a way that although they take the responsibility, we still retain enforcement powers.

Taura mada qo — Town Planning, e vakatau ena division. Kevaka e dua sa tekivu tara vale vakailoa mai dua vei ratou na outer districts, it is difficult for the Town Planning Office to enforce against illegal developments. So, when we have a clause in the Public Health Act stating that anyone who wishes to construct on his or her land must do so according to the Town Planning Act, kena ibalebale, kevaka e dua ga sa tekivu tara vale, sa soli sara vei keitou na kaukauwa under the clause me keitou lako yani. Under that clause, we can ask: Where is your building plan? Where is your approval from Town Planning? We can enforce that part of our Act. Because it says in our Act, kevaka iko via tara e dua na vale, then you have to follow the process in the Town Planning Act.

However, in iTaukei villages, it is totally different, because Town Planning only applies when there is a title to the land — either a lease, subdivision, or similar. Kevaka sa tiko e dua na title, sa na qai rawa ni curu mai na Town and Country Planning. Kena ibalebale, se sega ni wili na koro vakaviti. For iTaukei villages, we believe approval should come under the Rural Local Authority. Not too strict but at least providing guidance on spacing and location approval. Taura mada qo: o au lewe ni koro mai Nasekula, au sa via tara vale. Au sa rogoca kevaka e dua via tara vale, me sa taura mai na approval ni Health. Lako mai na authority mai Labasa, au lai vosa vei ratou. Ratou tukuna me dua noqu plan me rawa ni lai taura mai na Rural Housing. Na Rural Housing e tiko ena PA's Office, sa tu kina na Rural Housing. Sega walega ni plan, koya sa stamp tu ga. Ratou solia talega na kena veivuke. I believe it is $8000 contribution, sa na rawa ni lako mai na kena vo me tara e dua na vale totoka

Ya na ka keitou nanuma me keitou cakava. Once the plan is registered and commercially submitted, the officer will then go onsite, iloma ni koro, lai raici Turaga ni Koro. Rau lako vata ena vanua e tara kina na vale: "Sega toso vaka qo, sa rui voleka vei na vale qori. Biu vei nomu septic tank? Na back part of the house." Gauna sa vinaka kina, sa tekivu tara na vale. Ratou sa na qai lai raica tale tikoga na neitou officer yacova sara ni sa tara oti. Sa na qai soli kina na kena vola tara me tawani. Ni ko ni na raica na noda veikoro vakaviti iliu, eda kila ni sa tiko e dua na planning e a caka. Baleta na cava? Na vale vakaviti era tara na noda qase, era sa laini vata tu ga kei na walai. Na spacing e uniform spacing, sega ni vary. Na gauna ni kua, ni da raica na veikoro vakaviti, sa sega ni dua na kena duidui mai na koro vakaviti vata kei na informal settlement mai Suva kei Nausori. Au kila dou na vakadinadinataka. Sa daku ga ni vale e dua, sa mata ni vale tale nei dua.

We believe that in order to uphold public health and public safety, sa curu iloma. NFA will be part of the Rural Local Authority. Na vanua ya na lako mai kina nomudou consent. Dua na kisi eda vakataroga wasoma, Mr. Chairman, oya na kisi ni kama e yaco mai Naduria, Rewa. Dua ga na vale e kama, ia ni oti na kama ya, sa kama e lima na vale — mai na dua kina lima. Ya e vakatakila tiko e dua na ka — sa veivolekati na vale. Baleta kevaka e vakadonui na NFA, e kemudou ke a veiyawakitaki, kevaka e kama e dua, ena sega ni rawa ni kama na kena karua.

This is where the Bill is coming in. It is not that we want to make things difficult for the community, ia, me biu madaga eso na ka ena nodatou koro vakaviti me vakaivakarautaka tale, me vueta cake vakalailai na nodatou tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava ena loma ni koro. Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au semata walega vakalailai na vakasama ya. Na gauna talega o na lai cakava kina noqu septic tank, sa tiko talega na kabani e approvetaki na kena plan mai na Tabana ni Bula me na vakayagataki. Sa oti na gauna ni dramu 44. Ia na gauna qo, sa tiko vei ratou e vica na kabani mai Viti eratou sa vakadinadinataka ni rawa ni vakayagataki na septic tank ya ena loma ni nodatou veikoro qo. Kena ibalebale, sa na yacova na stage ya, kevaka o sa via tara nomu septic tank, ratou sa na solia tiko na veivakadonui na kabani ka volitaka tiko qo. Na kena isau qo e ganita na bula ni tiko vakanakoro. Eda se tikoga ena veitalanoa ni Building Codes me baleta na kena tara na vale qo ena loma ni nodatou veitikotiko.

MS. V. BOSEBALAVU.- Turaga Chairman, au kerekere ga ke rawa ni vakamatataki na veika e cauraki o Honourable Ketan Lal me baleta na tiko tiko mai Vunivau. Na tikotiko ya na yacana o Dreketi, dua na lewe ni mataqali era sa tiko kina na duidui matatamata. Na Valenivolavola ni Yasana e vica ga na tikotiko vakagalala e tiko ena taudaku ni registered village koya keitou kila tiko ka sega ni wili kina o Dreketi. Au kila keitou na lai veitalanoataka tale beka kevaka e rawa ni sa oka mai vei keitou. Ia na neitou initiative ga — our own initiative — keitou a veisiko kina ena vula sa oti, ena itikotiko mai Dreketi, ena vuku ni nodratou complain ni sa rui levu kina na benu, ratou gadreva mai dua na tomitomi se na cleanup campaign. Keitou sa gole kina, ratou sa register kece na nodratou issues, ena veika kece e sotavi tiko. Au sa taura na nodratou itukutuku, sa qai kerei ga vei ratou kevaka e rawa ni biu mai e dua na nodratou ivola vei keitou vata kei Turaga PA, me rawa ni keitou qai gole yani ena veivakararamataki kei ira na government stakeholders. Au tarogi Turaga Roko toka qo, ia sega ni dua na ivola ratou biuta mai.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dou se wawa tikoga qo?

MS. V. BOSEBALAVU.- Keitou se wawa saka tikoga qo.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kererekere ga dou qai rai lesuvi ratou tale madaga, dua madaga na ka totolo vei ratou, sa vakacava na veitalanoa dou a cakava tiko ya. Sa ciqomi tiko. Vinaka vakalevu Madam na veivakararamataki ni tikina oya. Dua tale na tabana e tiko qo e guileca tiko?

MR. M. TUILAU.- (Introduction of Mr. Tuilau)

Ministry of Health we have been facing problems in terms of the enforcement on the ground. As mentioned in Section 19: An owner or lessee who intended to utilise any area of land for the construction of a dwelling house or building for business purpose. Just need to have clarity on this. Some have existing houses

they want to convert the use, now they are having Airbnb and homestays in town also and in the villages. In terms of the change in use, is that also captured in this?

In terms of landfill measures, most of the property space in Labasa is flood prone, they also filled their land. Sometimes without the consent of city approvals. If this can be captured as well in terms of land filling because it might affect the drainage and adjoining property as well.

I have also come across fines in terms of the nuisance by ships. Just noting this—if there is a different fine as well for cruise liners and local ships, because I think the fine is too small for overseas ships. For overseas ships the fine can be higher. Just noting from the Bill.

Also in terms of management of civic buildings, for example rural areas in the markets. In terms of the change in 2018, if the management of the civic or market building in the rural areas can remain with the municipal council. As you have seen, in terms of renovation and extension of these rural infrastructure, councils and the Ministry fund renovation and extension for what the vendors need. For example, for the Nabouwalu Market in terms of the extension of walkways and proper toilets, the Ministry of Local Government can fund that and can assist the Health Ministry, and Health may enforce in terms of the patient and all those.

I think the Town Planning Act does not cover developments on itaukei reserves. We rely on the Ministry of Health to polish developments in terms of itaukei reserves or itaukei lands. Some of our comments have been sent through our PS and to the Standing Committee.

HON. K.K. LAL.- With regards to landfill, I believe when someone is doing construction with respect to ground preparation there should be a pre-existing plan approved by engineers. If there is relevance to FRA, then FRA is at fault, but I think that is a very valid comment. There was a case in Davuilevu, Suva as well where one of the fines was doing work on their land, but the landfill exactly blocked the main drains causing severe flooding in Davuilevu. We take that comment.

The second one is more like a general comment. You requested the vendors' infrastructure to be built by the municipality. But you do not want the plan to be approved by the town councils, you want it to be done by the rural local authority. I should say it is more like double standard because we are asking the councils to do something which is out of their boundaries. But we are asking the council not to approve the plan as per what is the current law. I believe those kinds of vendors and construction and all those things fall under the rural local authority or the rural development ministry, so basically they can look after it. It appears directly relevant to the Bill at the moment, but I take your comments.

However, I believe that the Public Health Department is one of the consultations mentioned about the septic tank. They have certain designs which are affordable for our rural community. There are cheaper ones in use, and there is an expensive one which is easier for our rural community. Am I right, Ministry of Health? You have special designs for your rural community. It is not expensive, there are some cheap option there, they are trying to make sure that our health and safety serenity designs and usage is disease-free, because right now you can see we are facing diseases and modern problems which require strict solutions. I understand this may become a problem for rural communities, but at the same time we have to look at our health as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tabana ni Bula, dua na veivakararamataki totolo ena vuku ni vakasama lako cake tiko mai ya.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Committee, colleagues from the iTaukei Affairs Ministry and of course our partners from Town and Country Planning. It is good to know that your concerns are well covered in the Bill. Whatever your judgements on this are fully in the Bill. I think the experience was from here in Vanua Levu, and the concerns were actually raised by the gentleman sitting behind

me on the case of typhoid breaking the law that resulted or eventuated from the bareki ni musu dovu ni sega ni tuvaki vinaka tu na bareki ni musu dovu e qai veidewavi kina na mate na typhoid.

Era laveta cake mai na noqu i tokani dabe tiko i dakuqu qo me sa veisautaki na lawa me sa kovuta talega na veitikotiko, kena ibalebale Airbnb, vale madaga e redetaki, kei na bareki ni musu dovu. Ni dua sa via cakava me sa na vakadonua na Tabacakacaka ni Bula. Kena ibalebale, kevaka au sa kerea dua na vale me redetaki, sa approve oti kece mai na Town Planning, ka kece sa tara oti, au na qai lako tale kina Tabacakacaka ni Bula me lai registertaki kina noqu vale me redetaki. Sa ratou na qai lako yani na vakailesilesi, na kena tuvaki e set vinaka tu, sega ni dua na sewer e leak, sa na qai pasitaki, sa na qai rawa ni renttaki na vale.

Vakakina na musu dovu, sega ni rawa ni ko cakava dua na bareki ni musu dovu kevaka sa lomasoli na komiti me pasitaki. Keitou sa na yadrava mai nodra bareki ni musu dovu na veiwekani. Au kila na bareki ni musu dovu i Vualiku e tautauvata ga kei koya tiko mai na Mua-ira. Caka tu ga me substandard, ia na lawa qo sa tukuna me na caka vakavinaka, me dua na vale ni vakacegu vinaka me ra vakayagataka, na vale ni moce vinaka me lai moce kina me rawa ni ra mai cakacaka ra lesu i nakoro ra bulabula vinaka tu ga, sega ni veidewavi na mataqali mate.

Ena vuku ni ships, au na sureta na wekaqu qo me na vakamacala ga kina.

MR. V. CAVUILATI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, honourable Members of the Committee, kei keda na itokani, just in regards to the person from Town and Country Planning. In terms of ships, the Bill is covered under the ships sanitation for local vessels. Keitou na cakava na kena inspection, na qai dau soli tiko na ships sanitation certificates for our local residents. Me baleta na international vessels se na cruise liners, covertaki tiko vei na Quarantine Act, wili tale tikoga kina na waqavuka. Era duidui tale tikoga na kena fine me baleta na local vata kei na international vessels. Au kila na matata vei kedatou ya, ni duidui tiko na kena lawa me baleta na local vessels kei na international vessels. Kena levu saka, Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ratou tiko qo nai cavacava ni lewa ina Vualiku, na kerea madaga me dua nona vakadre kei na vakasala raraba ena vuku saka ni vakatutu tiko qo imatada.

MR. T. SAUMALUA.- (Introduction of Mr. Saumalua)

Mr. Chairman, the team that is accompanying the review of this Public Health Act. First of all, I want to thank the team. You have been travelling around our nation when we have heard it has taken 90 years for this review to happen. The reflection on what the Ministry of Health has faced over the years, the challenges that are at our disposal. I think it is the proper time for the review to happen since most of our colleagues, whether they are based at the clinical stations or in the public health setting, cry every now and then for legislation to support them in their daily work. Also, for the general population to have a say in the decision-making of their own health. This is the right time for it to happen. Thank you to the team for going around the rest of Fiji, leaving behind your comfort zone. I think the general thing is to help our people.

From the Ministry of Health in the North, likewise for the other divisions, we look forward to this materialising. This covers the general social aspect of almost every individual in Fiji. What we face in our clinical centres are push factors for our social settings in Fiji, and most of it, when I went through this leaflet, are covered. The hope is that other gaps will be raised elsewhere by the different teams that will come in to answer their queries and feedback. Although it may not be perfect, at least we are near perfect—that is what we want.

That is basically what the Ministry of Health from the North has put in, and I thank the team again, Mr. Chairman, and the accompanying team going around the rest of Fiji. We wish you well in other areas that you will visit—the government sector, the private sector, and other communities. Their contribution will all help in a near-perfect plan for us all. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Just a few reminder. Kevaka e dua na ka e lutu toka, feel free to come back to us through your written submission, that is part and parcel of the process. Kevaka dou nanuma na wekaqu dou tiko

qo vakacaca, kevaka e dua na vanua e lutu ka sega ni veitalanoataki nikua, e tiko tale dua na katuba, koya ratou tiko kina qori na neitou Secretariat, rawa ni dou volavola yani as a written submission vei keitou. Se vo tiko qo e rua na vula, keitou solia tiko vei kemudou na gauna. Ni veitalanoa nikua sa rabailevu sara na veika tou sa mai vulica kei na veika eda sa raica ni rawa ni vakavinakataki kina na vuku ni lawa vakatutu koya ka wavoki tiko mai qo nodratou lawa na Tabana ni Bula raraba.

Au nuitaka ni da na veitokonitaka vata, me da na qai cakacaka vata ena tikina ya ena vakasama ni kena volai tale yani vei kemudou eso na ka keitou nanuma ni yaga ka bibi me lai oka ena lawa vakatutu oqo ni bera ni keitou na qai laveta cake ena loma ni noda Palimedi. Honourable Tuicolo, dua saka nomuni vosa vakavinavinaka ena vukudra saka na Turaga na Sipika ni Bose Lawa.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- On behalf of the Speaker of Parliament, Mr. Chairman and the honourable Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, I take this opportunity to thank each stakeholder representative from various government ministries and members of the public who are present here today and taking part in today's consultation session. The proposed changes to the Bill that is before us are part of the Government's broader efforts to strengthen preparedness and response capabilities ahead of future emergencies. Thank you once again, and should you wish to send us your submission in writing, feel free to speak with our secretariat. Should you need further clarification on the Bill, you can speak with the Ministry of Health. Vinaka vakalevu.

The Committee adjourned at 10.46 am

The Committee resumed at 10.59 a.m.

Attendance: Turaga ni koro and Mata ni tikina – Macuata

1.	Ms. Ranadiniceva Raluna	-	Mata ni tikina Nadogo
2.	Mr. Atunaisa Tunaya	-	Mata ni tikina Wairiki
3.	Mr. Ilisoni Bativuaka	-	Liuliu ni komiti ni bula
4.	Mr. Tomasi Vula	-	Mata ni tikina Mali
5.	Mr. Meli Vunakece	-	Turaga ni koro
6.	Ratu Apenisa N.	-	Mata ni tikina
7.	Mr. Paula Tevita	-	Mata ni tikina
8.	Mr. Pita Drugu	-	Mata ni tikina
9.	Mr. Manoa Tuiwainikai	-	Turaga ni Mataqali Wairiki
10.	Mr. Pauliasi Taukeinikoro	-	Provincial Council

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Ni sa tiko na Turaga mata ni tikina dou tiko rawa, kemudou na marama kei na Turaga, kemudou na valenivolavola ni nodatou Roko Tui Macuata, ni tiko saka talega nai tikotiko vakaturaga ena loma ni nodatou vanua vakaturaga o Macuata, ena loma ni veitalanoa bibi eda na vakayacora tiko ena sigalevu e daidai. E ratou maliwai keda tale tikoga o iratou na vakailesilesi mai na Labasa Town Council kau nuitaka ni da na qai sema vata tiko na noda veitalanoa raraba ena vuku ni lawa vakatutu ni tabana ni bula ka kau wavoki tiko mai qo me da mai veitalanoa kina ka soli vakasama ni veivakararamataki. Ena gadrevi talega kina na nomudou vakatutu, ke so na lomatarotaro na tabana ni bula se na komiti, keitou sa na tu vakarau me datou na veivuketaka na veitalanoa me baleta tikoga na lawa vakatututaki mai na 1935 me yacova mai ni kua, sa yabaki 90 – e ratou sa qai lako mai loma ni Palimedi nai taukei saka ni lawa vakatutu qo na Tabana ni bula ke rawa ni mai vakayacori e so na veiveisau lelevu.*

Kevaka e tautauvata tiko na nodaru veitalanoa, na tiki ni draunipepa ka veisoliyaki tiko yani qori ena vosa vakai taukei, e 69 kece na tikina e gadrevi ka vakatututaki tiko me sa veisau me rawa ni rauta na veiveisau ni gauna kei na draki ni veiqaravi eda sa tiko kina e daidai – 2026 ena veiqaravi raraba ni tabana ni bula.

Au na kerei ratou na noqui tokani lewe ni Palimedi me ratou na vakamacalataki iratou.

(Introduction of Committee members)

(Introduction of officials from Ministry of Health and Medical Services)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Au na kerei honourable Bia me na dolava na noda veitalanoa me baleta na lawa vakatutu qo. Oti ya, e da na qai veitalanoa raraba kina ena kena vakasama kei na veika dou gadreva me rogo se so na vakatutu dou nanuma me na lave cake mai ena komiti qo, ni bera ni keitou na qai kauta cake ena loma ni nomuni Palimedi.*

HON. A. BIA.- I know that the Labasa Town Council too, is here. Please allow me to address the Bill in itaukei to the itaukei listeners that are here. *Na vakalekaleka ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi kau tiko mai ena siga ni kua. E vakamacalataka tiko na Turaga Chair, ka ko ni na vakataroga beka se ko ni oka vakacava ena lawa qo.*

Ena loma ni 90 na yabaki a tu mai kina na lawa qo mai na 1935, e dua na vakatutu e tiko eke, me sa qai matai ni gauna me oka na koro ena lawa qo me baleta na Public Health Act. Na kena vakadeitaki meda qarava vakavinaka ena vuku ni noda bula savasava kei na tiko bulabula ena noda veikoro. Na cava na vuna e a qai biu kina e loma ni oti e 90 na yabaki? E ratou raica na Tabana ni bula ni dau levu na mate kau yani ena noda veivalenibula ena noda vanua, e levu tuga o keda nai taukei ena noda veikoro vakaviti. E levu na mate koya e rawa ni dau lai vakaleqa na bula ka dewa vakatotolo me vaka na typhoid, na mi ni manu, leptospirosis ka levu na kisi bibi vakaoqo e rawa ni tarovi ga ena noda duikoro se nai tikotiko eda tiko kina. Koya ya, eda sa mai kovuti kina ena vakatutu vou oqo me rawa ni vukea na noda veikoro ena kena tovolei me tarovi na dewa ni veimate oqo.

Kevaka o na vakataroga se lawa cava soti e tiko e loma, e dua, sai koya na kena qarauni na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava ena noda veikoro. Na biu vakaveitalia ni benu, na samaki ni sauka ni koro se saula ni noda veivale. Kevaka e dua e sega tiko ni samaka vakavinaka na nona saula ni vale, se na vanua e tiko kina qai laurai ni vakasucu tiko kina na namu. E laurai e dua na kisi ni dengue mai na koro eda tiko kina, qai vakayacori na vakadidike qai laurai ni vale qo e tubua ka tiko kina na container, se na tyre ka ra vakasucu tiko kina na namu. Ni gauna e vakadikevi e laurai ni vakadeitaki ni veitauvi tiko mai kea na namu koya e vakadewa tiko na dengue, ena totogitaki saraga vakailavo se na rawa ni biu ena liga ni lawa o koya e sega tiko se lule tiko ena kena samaki na koro.

Kenai karua na kena taqomaki ni vakadrodroi ni wai ni gunu se na nodai vakaso ni wai. Veitalia se tiko nai vakaso ni wai ena qele vakaitaukei, qele lisi se sega. Kevaka ga e sa tiko e dua nai vakaso ni wai ka gunu kece tiko kina na koro se dua nai tikotiko, e sa taqomaki ena vuku ni lawa qo ka qarauni me kua ni dua e benuca se vakacacana ka rawa ni vakaleqa na tiko bulabula ni lewenikoro. Kevaka madaga e dua e lule ena vuku ni cakacaka vakoro, lai ta tu na paipo me rawa ni kamusu, ena oka ena vuku ni lawa qo na kena taqomaki na vakadrodroi ni wai ni gunu.

Na kenai katolu, ena bibi na tiki ni lawa qo, sai koya na kena laveti cake e levu na totogi e tiko e loma. E so mai na $2 sa toki kina na $1,000, $2,000, so e toki kina $100, $500 ena vuku tikoga, kevaka ona rogoca nai totogi, eso era tukuna sa vaqara ilavo beka na matanitu. Sega ni tukuni ni vaqarai lavo, o koya e biu tuga me rawa ni kila na tamata kevaka au vakayacora nai tovo oqo, au na rawa ni oka kina. E sa tovolei me laveti cake nai tagede ni noda tiko bulabula ena veikoro me rawa ni tarovi e levu na veimate dewa totolo vakaoqo.

Ena vica na yabaki sa oti, a laurai ena tabana ni tukutuku ni noda vanua ni dua na outbreak levu ni typhoid se leptospirosis mai Nadi. E a qai laurai ni mate qo e veitauvi o koya ena vuku tikoga ni manumanu ena kena sega ni qarauni ni ra sa lako tiko yani ena lomanikoro.

Keitou a tiko mai Serea ena colo kei Naitasiri, e dua na kudru e gole mai sai koya ni bogi, era moce na bulumakau ka ra yanaraka na loma ni koro. Ni ra qai yadra mai ena mataka lailai, sa benu tuga ni bulumakau wavoki ena lomanikoro. Io ya, ena vuku ni lawa qo, e sa na taqomaki kina na kena qarauni o keda na tiko e nakoro ka da vakamanumanu tiko, me na qarauni mera qaravi vakavinaka ka kakua ni lai vakaleqa e dua tale na gone se dua tale na matavuvale ena kena veidewavi na mate oqo.

Na valekaleka, e gadrevi meda veitalanoa. E 69 vakadua na veisau e gadrevi me vakaturi ena lawa oqo ka sa tiko qori vei kemuni na kena lavelave. Kevaka e tiko na taro ni na via taroga, sa vakarau tiko na komiti me na sauma na nomuni vakatataro ena vuku ni lawa bibi e oka kina na koro. E matai ni gauna ni oti e 90 na yabaki me baleta tikoga na kena tovolei me qarauni na noda tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava ena noda veikoro.

DRAFT

HON. K.K. LAL.- Chair, I think most of you are part of the consultation at Nabukadogo, but for the new ones, I believe the honourable Member has given a brief explanation. However, this Bill is very important, we had some medical crisis like COVID and new diseases that are coming up entering our Fiji borders. This Public Health Act basically strengthen our processes.

I believe there are some things in the Act which require some public views in terms of the fines, fees and all those things that will happen. There is no demarcation that if you live in rural community or if you are living in the cities, the fines will be equal - $1,000 or whatever it is there. We would like to hear your views on that and also the powers of the public health officers will be there as well. They can enter properties if they deemed and it has public health risks at the villages, so there should be protocols in place and all these things.

I look forward to hearing your views and sharing those thoughts to the Committee, so that we can strengthen this Act more.

HON. S. KUMAR.- Thank you and bula vinaka to everyone. This Bill which is in circulation amongst the public is a very important bill and it concerns each and every citizen. All parts of Fiji and it has to do with our health and diseases, how we as individual or we, as villagers, residents slowly contribute to some of the diseases that breed around us and how this has become a disaster in this 90 years when we have the old bill which is currently in play at the moment.

Why the need to revise the Bill or to amend the Bill? It is used to strengthen certain laws so that we are able to bring some control in the way people are disposing their rubbish and keeping their environment and compound and the statistics show that most of the informal settlements are the ones who are very lazy about their rubbish disposal and their environment, surrounding, the clean-up and that gives births to the diseases such as malaria, dengue, leptospirosis. All these things are there, so some of the changes are suggested as to deter so that you have some fines which deter people from making the mistake or becoming very lazy.

Some of the things that you will find new in the Bill is the increased fine that affects the public. We would like to see the submission on how you respond and how you react to these increased fines. It also gives powers to the health officers to go and fine anyone or to do the inspection and they have the powers now to enter the villages as well. That is one key new thing that is in the Bill. The health inspectors can now enter the villages and the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs has already forecasted that if this Bill comes into an Act, 50 percent of the villagers will be the victims of it because they will be most likely inspected by the health inspector for the general upkeep of their compound, the septic tanks, the wastewater disposal and all these things.

We have to see that our people are ready when this Bill comes into play. These are some of the main highlights and there are many other finer details in the Bill and slowly you will understand the importance of this Public Health Bill after all speakers and submissions are made.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Ya e vakacaca na veika e dolava yani na noda veitalanoa ena vuku ni ulutaga bibi e tiko e matada nikua. Na lawa vakatutu ni 1935, sa nanuma saka tiko na komiti ka veikauyaka wavoki tiko qo me mai rogoci na domoda na lewenivanua. Au vakabauta ni sa vakamacala vinaka sara kina o iratou nai tokani ena yavu kei na gagadre e tiko kei na veika e vakabauti ni na vakayacori vakauasivi tiko vei kedatou na tiko ena taudaku ni koro lelevu. Na kena vakabulabulataki kei na kena vakararamataki nai tavi levu qo ni tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava.*

E tiko wavoki qo na nodatou mic, ke ko ni gadreva mo ni na vosa ena dua na tabana e 69 koya e tiko vei kedatou qo na kenai lavelave, ena rawarawa mo ni na laveta na ligamu ka tukuna mai na yacamuni kei na vanua o ni gole mai kina. Ni qai laveta mai na tabana cava o ni via vosa tiko kina, kaya mada ena tabana e 21 se 38 me na rawarawa tiko kina na noda veitalanoa mai na lawa vakaturi e tu qori e matada. Na kena kau mai na

lawa vakatututaki qo e baleti keda. Eratou a sa vosa oti na kenadau ka ratou sa suka yani ena vuku ni veika e vauca na tiko ena loma ni noda veitauni se koro lelevu. Au vakabauta na noda tiko qo nai vakalesilesi mai na taudaku ni koro lelevu, tikina, ira saka na nodatou veikorokoro ka vakakina vei ratou na tiko ena council. Au vakabauta me tou sa na tekivu veitalanoa sara kina, ni vosa mai ena yalo galala, vakaraitaka mai na ka o vinakata. Kevaka o vinakata madaga me keitou vakamacalataka e dua na tabana mai na 1 kina 69 ka se sega tikoga ni matata na kena veitalanoa tou sa tiko kina ena mataka oqo.

Ena vuku saka ni vakasama oya, sa dola kina na noda veitalanoa. Ena gadrevi me da na vosa kece tiko ena mic. E katoni kece tiko na veitalanoa oqo – ya na vuna levu ga ni na laveliga ga mai, ni tukuna na yacamuni kei na tabana cava mai na 1 kina 69 ni via vosa kina me na rawarawa na noda raica vata ka da veitalanoa kina. E ratou tiko talega o iratou na tabana ni bula liu mai Suva ka ratou na qai veivuke tiko ena kena vakararamataki na veivakasama eda veiwasei tiko kina ena mataka ni kua. Sa dola tu oqo na nodatou veitalanoa.

Au vakabauta ni sa matata tiko vei kedatou nai lavelave e tiko qori. E so na vosa vakaviti tu qori kevaka madaga o vinakata mo kila na kena vakavakadewa e gole tiko yani kina, e ratou tiko qo na tabana ni bula. Kevaka e dua na tabana e vinakata me da veitalanoa kina, na neitou tiko qo me keitou vukei kemuni. Kevaka e da na veitalanoa tikoga vakataki kemudou, dou na sega ni kila na bibi ni lawatu koya e gadrevi tiko me veisautaki. Ni laveta ga na ligamuni ka dolava rawa ga, eda na qai veitalanoa e loma ni lawa vakatutu e tu qo e matada.

MR. P. YAVITA.- *Ni yadra re Mr. Chairman, dou sa bula vinaka tale mai na lewe ni komiti. Au kila kedatou sa veitalanoa oti mai Nabukadogo ena siga Vakarauwai. E dua ga na noqu vakatutu kei na noqu kerekere me baleta na power. Me soli vei health inspector na power. Na noqu kerekere ke rawa ni toso sobu vakalailai na powers ya vei ratou na Turaga ni koro me vaka na fish warden vei iratou na Fisheries vakabibi ena veikorokoro, ni lako tu ga mai e dua e tauni qo ka usana yani na nona benu. Era qai dau lai viritaka vaca tu ga e yasa ni koro, e veidogo. Ke rawa ni vukei o health inspector me soli talega na power vei Turaga ni koro se vei ratou na komiti ni tiko bulabula.*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Ena gauna qo, kevaka tou raica tiko na lawa vakatutu qo, e baleta tikoga vei ratou na liga ni veiqaravi na tabana ni bula. Kerekere tiko ga mai na wekaqu ya, ke rawa ni siro sobu e so na kaukauwa ya vei ratou na komiti ni koro se vei Turaga ni koro me veivuke tikoga na kena vakaqaqacotaki na tiko bulabula ena loma ni nodatou veikoro. Au na sureti ratou na tabana ni bula me dua saka na nodra vakamacala vakarabailevu ena tikina e kau cake tiko mai keya.*

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Ni tiko honourable Chairman, honourable Members of the Parliament Standing Committee, ni tiko vuvale na veiwekani ena siga ni kua. Vakavinavinakataki tiko na vatataro e gole tiko mai na siga nikua, na kauwai ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi esa tiko e matada.

Qo e dua na vakasama keitou vinakata na tabacakacaka ni bula me keitou vakamatatataka, ni keitou sega ni duavata. Ena vuku ni kena very technical nai tavi e gadrevi me na qaravi. Na gauna e yaco kina na kena vakaukauwataki na lawa, e vinakati saraga e dua na level ni expertise. E vinaka toka na qoliqoli baleta ni sa raica ga e dua e sa tiko e dua na waqa vulagi ena nodatou qoliqoli, kenai balebale sa qoli butako. Ena lawa ni tabacakacaka ni bula, e via vereverea toka vakalailai. You need some technical expertise me rawa nio kauta vakavinaka na kena vakaqaqacotaki na lawa vakabibi kevaka me valataka na lewenivanua ya, dou qai tini ki valeniveilewai. Ena vinakati kina na nomu technical expertise, o koya a veibooktaki na nona kila o koya ni ka e cakava oya e tarova na kena rawa ni lai veidewavi na mate. Koya ya keitou nanuma kina o nasi ni koro kei Turaga ni koro me rau rawa ni soli tukutuku walega me rau qiri vei ira na vakailesilesi – qo na ka sa yaco tiko e nakoro, e dua mai sova benu tiko eke se dua e cakava tiko qo. Keitou sa na qai lako yani na vakailesilesi ka ratou na qai lai vei booktaki nai vakalesilesi baleta na gauna ena yaco kina ki valeniveilewai, ena kacivi nai vakalesilesi me soli tukutuku. E very technical na nona soli tukutuku e valeniveilewai.

DRAFT

E levu na kisi e dau kau e dau laurai ni gauna e sega ni basetaki vinaka kina na vakadinadina, e dau viritaki ki tuba na kisi. Kevaka e viritaki ki tuba e dua na kisi, ya e sa dua na vakalusi gauna levu kina tabacakacaka ni bula. Keitou tosoya cake tiko madaga ena gauna qo na totogi me rawa ni ceguva madaga na court cost ni kauta e dua na kisi ki valeniveilewai. Kenai balebale kevaka me qai lai biu tale ki tuba na kisi ya, sa dua tale na vakalusi lavo levu. E dau tukuni tu, na gauna e kau yani kina na kisi ni tabacakacaka ni bula, e dua na vakalusi lavo levu ni mataniu baleta na gauna e lai cava taucoko kina na kena saulevu na kisi cici tiko vica na vula, lai tau na totogi qai rua ga na dola, tini ga na dola. Koya ya e nanumi tiko kina me momona saraga na kena caka lawa vakaturi qo ka sa nuitaki saraga me na caka vakavinaka me momona vinaka me rawa ni kau na kisi me cakacakataki vakavinaka taucoko na kena vakaqaqacotaki na lawa qoka baleta me talave kina na tiko bulabula e nakoro.

O Turaga ni koro kei nasi ni koro e rawa ni neitou vakadinadina, kenai balebale o ratou rawa ni veitaba ga ka solia mai nai tukutuku vei ratou na vakailesilesi, o ratou ga na vakalesilesi me ratou qai lai cakacakataka na lawa. Au vakabauta ni sa via matata tiko ya vei keda honourable Chair.

HON. A. BIA.- *Au kuria ga na vakamacala ena vuku ni benu. Au veivakararamataki ga ena dabe ni vale ni boselawa ena vula o Epereli, e sa pasitaki kina e dua na lawa vou ka oka ena vuku ni lawa na Litter Act of 2026 – na lawa ni benu ca. E sa mani pasitaki kina e dua na lawa vou sai koya, na kena totogitaki keo raica ni dua e benu ca. Na kena totogitaki e dua ni benu ca e sa tiko ena $200. Na kabani kevaka e raica ni lai benu tiko yani e nakoro, na vanua e sega ni dodonu me biuta kina na nona benu ka ko raica e dua na lori ni kabani se cava, e tiko na nodra totogi kina $10,000.*

Kenai balebale sa qai pasitaki saraga ena vula o Epereli na lawa ya. E sa tiko kevaka o raica ni dua e benu ca, sa tiko o ratou na tabana mo na ripotetaka yani kina me rawa ni ra totogitaki vakailavo. Ya dua na tamata kevaka o benu ca e $200 ia ke kabani, e tiko sara ena $10,000 nai totogi vakailavo.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Au vakabauta na wekaqu sa viavia taga vinaka na taro e lako tiko mai ya. E soli tiko na galala vua nai tutu vakaturaga ni koro kei na nasi ni koro me rau ripote mai ka rau mai vakadinadina tale ga. Ni sa lako ena mataveilewai, e ratou na lako yani na tabana ni bula baleta o ratou ga, ratou vakadonui vakalawa ena lawa vakatutu e lako tiko yani qo me ratou na qai lai valataka na kisi ya e loma. Au nuitaka ni sa na matata toka ya baleta e tiko vei ratou na kila vakacakacaka kei na lawa e vauci iratou me ratou solia nai totogi ke mani bibi sara, e ratou na rawa ni kauta talega ki na mataveilewai.*

RATU A. NACEBA.- *Ni sa bula vinaka tale mai na Turaga Chairman, ni bula vinaka na lewe ni mataveitalanoa cecere qo ni noda vanua lomani o Viti. Au cavutu mai ena loma ni tikina levu o Labasa kau mata talega ni tikina, mata ni yaubula talega ena noda tikina o Labasa. E dua na siga rokovi ka dokai vakalevu vei au ena mataka lailai nikua, ni rawa ni solia na nona gauna na noda matanitu lomani o Viti me mai rogoci na cava na neimami nanuma na tiko ena loma ni noda vanua lomani o Viti.*

Turaga Chairman, au kila ni koni sa rairai rogoca beka niu sa tukuna vei kemuni ena mataka e daidai ni o au na mata ni yaubula kau mata talega ni tikina o Labasa. Ko Labasa e dua na vanua rabailevu. Nio sa cavuta na yacai Labasa, o ni sa rairai taura vinaka nio Labasa e vakarurugi tiko ena veivakatoroicaketaki ni matanitu, o Labasa e vakatoroicaketaki tale tikoga ena vuku ni noda tiko vakavanua, tiko vakoro, au vakavinavinaka vakalevu ena mataka nikua ni mai rogoci ni sa oti e 90 na yabaki, sa qai nanuma na matanitu me vakayacori e dua na yavu ena kena qaravi na noda tiko bulabula ena loma ni noda tiko sautu.

Turaga Chairman, ena loma ni vanua o Labasa, au vakarogoca tiko ena mataka ni kua ni keimami wili vakalevu talega ena informal settlement ena kena maroroi tiko na tiko bulabula. Sa dina ni sa tiko oti na yavu ni vakavulewa ni noda matanitu o Viti, eda vakabauta ena loma ni tikina o Labasa ni levu sara na mate e basika tiko mai ena vuku ni informal settlement. Qo na vuna – o ira na wekada era mai tiko ena vuku ni

veivakatoroicaketaki ni veivakavaletaki, e levu vei ira era voroka talega na lawa ena kena dau susugi na manumanu, sega ni maroroi na benu, so vei ira era va qarati ni motoka tiko. Sa soli nai tukutuku ni sa dau kau tiko mai ena nomuni valenivolavola ni tabana ni bula e Labasa. E levu ga na gauna e attend taki beka ga, era cega vakaivola ia ni vakamuri tiko vakamalua, e levu na cakacaka e qaravi tiko mai ena loma ni gauna balavu qo e se bera tiko ni dua na ka me vakavotukana kina na veivakatutu e so e nanumi me vukea na tiko bulabula ka me na vukea talega na cakacaka ni tabana ni bula ena neimami veiqaravi na mata ni tikina ena komiti ni yaubula.

Meu na kauta mai ena loma ni tauni levu o Labasa. Turaga Chairman, sa via vica na vakatutu au sa kauta cake ena loma ni tikina o Labasa me baleta tiko na uciwai ka ratou drodro volekata tiko na tauni o Labasa. E dua na Qawa River ka dua na Labasa River. Ni da mai veitalanoa ena noda nanumi ira na tiko ena taudaku ni veitauni lelevu se ena rural me vakataka na yanuyanu o Lami, Kia, Macuata-i-wai, e levu na vakatutu e kau lesu tiko mai vei keitou ka dusia tiko mai na loma ni tikina o Labasa ni ratou tiko na town council me baleta talega na nodratou sovasova ni benu ka tiko talega o ratou na tabana ni wai me baleta na sewage. E levu na veivakacaca me baleta tiko na neimami qoliqoli.

Na veika e ratou sovea tiko na FSC ena loma ni wai na Qawa River ka levu na veika lelevu qo era lai sotava tale tiko o ira na tiko ena taudaku ni koro lelevu. E levu na waica e drodro e loma ni tauni, ia e so na veivakatutu sa kau cake mai ena loma ni nodatou tikina, me yacova mai qo, Turaga Chairman, na wai ka sova tiko enai qaqi ena gauna ni musu dovu se bera tikoga ni wali me yacova mai qo. E vakacacani tiko kina nai yaubula ka vakavuna tale tikoga na tauvimate ena so na gauna ka sa lai vakavu leqa talega vei ira na wekada era tiko ena taudaku ni koro lelevu.

Ena vuku ga ni tiko bulabula, vei kemudou na tabana ni bula, de dou rogoca beka e dua na vakatutu ni vinakati me dua na kaukauwa. E sega ni nanumi me soli walega e dua na kaukauwa ni veiqaravi mai na yawa ni vanua e tiko kina na valenivolavola vei keimami na mata ni tikina, na Turaga ni koro ke soli walega e so na veivakadonui me keimami taura eso nai tutu me vukei ira kina na vakailesilesi me keimami veitokonitaka na cakacaka ni veiqaravi.

Kenai balebale beka Turaga Chairman, ena loma ni bose vanua ena dua na vanua, ni na tauca na nona lewa na Turaga ni yavusa, o ira na lewe ni yavusa era sega ni rogoca na lewa vakavanua. Enai tutu nei Turaga ni koro, o ira na lewe ni koro era sa sega talega ni qai rokova na lewa nei Turaga ni koro. Ia ni lako yani nai tutu vaka mata ni tikina, keimami nai dewadewa ga ni vakalesilesi vakamatanitu, ia ena gauna edaidai vei keda na lewe ni tiko vakavanua, eda sa sega ni qai rogoci ira me vaka na bose vanua, bose vakamataqali sa tukuni vei keda na qoqolou kei na mateni, ia e sega. E gadrevi walega kevaka e rawa ni vakayacori e dua na gaunisala me rawa ni vukea talega na veiqaravi vaka mata ni tikina kei na Turaga ni koro.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee. *Ni tiko na vuvale vanua ena siga nikua. Au vakabauta ni via tautauvata tikoga na mosoni se kerekere/vatataro cakava tiko mai na mata ni tikina o Macuata. Au vakamatatataka tale tiko eke ni qo e dua na ka e sega ni keitou tokona na tabacakacaka ni bilo. Turaga ni Koro, nasi ni koro, mata ni tikina me tiko e dua na vanua me neutral. Ena sega ni rawa nio na mai tiko ena enforcement oti o qai lai cakava tale tiko nai tavi vaka Turaga ni koro se mata ni tikina. Ena yaco na gauna ena veicoqacoqa kina na rua qo. Qo na vuna e vinakati kina na enforcement duties se powers me tikoga vei ratou na vakailesilesi baleta me unbiased tiko na nodratou veiqaravi. Ni na lako yani mo lai raica toka na Turaga ni koro me sa vaqaqacotaka na lawa, sa lai raica toka ni vale ga nei tinana sa tiko kina e dua na leqa ka sa dodonu me soli na kena notisi, sa na via lai dredre toka na nona solia na notisi baleta ni marama tikoga na tinana.*

Kevaka e lako yani e dua na lewenivanua se dua na Turaga ni koro sa gole yani ena vale ni Turaga na Ratu na tui ni nona koro se tikina, ka vakasucu tiko kina na namu, sa na vakatatao toka vei koya ni sa na dredre toka me na cakava e dua na vakaukauwataki ni lawa baleta na nonai liuliu vakavanua koya sa tiko qori.

DRAFT

Ena levu na ka ena veicoqacoqa kina, kevaka madaga o sa na mani cakava, era sa na raici iko beci na koro, raici iko beci na tikina, sa na rawa ni vakaleqa na nomu veimaliwai ena nomu koro. Qo na vuna na tabacakacaka ni bula sa vinakata tiko na powers kei na enforcement ni Public Health Act, sa biuta madaga vei ratou na vakailesilesi. Veisemati ga vakavoleka vata kei ratou na vakalesilesi me ratou lako yani, caka vuli, soli vakasala, na cava soti na leqa ni vinakata me wali – e rawa ni ratou walia na vakalesilesi. Sega ni yawa vei keitou e dua na vanua, voleka vei keitou.

Na ka ga me kua ni yaco, me kakua ni tou cakava e dua na vakatulewa me na qai dresulaka tale na nodatou social construct ena nodatou veikorokoro vakaviti. Dui tu na noda dui veimaliwai, na gauna madaga keitou vinakata kina me biu mai na lawa sa tu rawa tu na lawa ni tabacakacaka itaukei, tabu na susu manumanu, tabu nio susu namu ena nomu tikotiko.

Nio na raica na tabacakacaka itaukei e tu kina, ko ni na taroga na cava e ratou sega ni vaqaqacotaka na tabacakacaka itaukei baleta ni veicoqacoqa talega vata kei nodratou construct ni veiqaravi – dau tukuna na tabacakacaka itaukei, ni dua na ka e yaco vakavanua da dabe ka veivosakitaka. Kenai balebale e veicoqacoqa vata kei na vaqaqacotaki ni lawa baleta na lawa e sega ni dua na dabe, sega ni dua na veivosakitaka. Sa lako ga na tabacakacaka ni bula kina vuvale ya, sa laurai ni sa susu tiko na namu ena nomu compound, vagalalataka na ka qori se na kati iko na fine e $100. Sa veivosaki ga vakadodonu.

Kevaka tou lai dabe tale tou veivosaki, kati na namu, veitauvi na dengue, mate tiko na lewenivanua ka tou saga tikoga na veivosaki. Ya na vuna sa nanuma kina na Tabacakacaka ni bula me tou sa biuta, na ka ga e tu ena loma ni tabacakacaka I taukei tou biuta ena tabacakacaka ni bula baleta me tou sa curuma yani na koro me tou sa na vakaukauwataka valailai na kena vakamuri na lawa, sa na qai sega dina kina na susu manumanu, sa na qai sega dina kina na susu namu, laveti cake na tiko bulabula ka ra kawa qaqa na noda kawa ni veisiga ni mataka me ra colata nai tavi ni vanua, lotu kei na matanitu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *E matata na veika eratou sa cauraka toka na tabana ni bula, na veika e maroroi na noda veiwekani kau vakabauta nai tavi levu e tiko eke sai koya na noda dui yadrava na noda duitavi vaka mat ani tikina, vaka Turaga ni koro. Na matanitu e semata sobu yani na veika e gadrevi kau nanuma de rairai yaga me dau levu na nomudou veitalanoa. E tiko na katuba vei ratou na Turaga Roko e Macuata, na tabana ni bula e ratou tiko qo na kenai vakalesilesi liu ena vualiku ka ratou sa rogoca tale tikoga na veitalanoa qo. Ke dua beka na vakasama bibi ena yaga me da veitalanoataka ni kua na lawa vakatutu qo e se bera ni vakadeitaki. E se tikoga ena vakasama ni veitalanoa koya e lako curumi saka tiko qo. Na levu ga ni noda veitalanoa ena solia vei keitou na komiti na titobu ni vakasama ena vakasokumuni me lai vukea na kena lai vakadeitaki na lawatu qo ni bera ni qai lave na nomuni Palimedi.*

Ena oti na noda veitalanoa ena siga e daidai sa vo tiko e so na ka tou sega ni veitalanoa beka kina se a lutu ka tiko vei kemudou na kaukauwa na wekaqu ni kua mo dou solia mai nomudou written submission. E rawa ni dou na qai biuta mai vakaitukutuku, ka ratou tiko wavoki tiko qo o ratou na neitou tabana mai na loma ni Palimedi ka yacadratou tiko na secretariat. Na written submission ena dau veivuke talega ena gauna tou veitalanoa face-to-face.

Au nuitaka na veika sa tukuni toka ya, ena vukei kedatou na vakasama rabailevu kevaka da tiko e loma ni tauni, na koro lelevu na lawa e vauca, vei kedatou talega na tiko ena vei settlement. Au vakabauta vei kedatou e Labasa e via vica toka beka na settlement e tu ena loma ni nodatou tauni qo o Labasa kevaka tou via kila vakararaba ga.

RATU A. NACEBA.- *E 22 saka.*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Ya e sa wiliwili levu sara.*

RATU A. NACEBA.- *E 17 saka tiko na kena koro, 20 tiko na kena yavusa, 53 na kena mataqali Turaga Chairman.*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Ya e sa rabailevu sara ka sa via tukuna tiko ke sa rabailevu na vanua da veiqaravi kina me sa tu vata kei keda na kena yalo, na kenai gu, na kena vakasama me rawa ni tou na goleva kina na rabailevu ni lawa vakatutu koya e kau tiko mai qo.*

RATU A. NACEBA.- *Ni vosoti au saka Turaga Chairman, ni se bera ga ni soli vua na marama. E dua saka ga na taro vei ratou na Ministry of Environment. Ke dua saka beka e tiko vei ratou na tabana ni tiko bulabula – e dua saka na neitou vakatutu na tikina o Labasa me baleti ratou tiko na FSC. Keitou sa lodge taka oti beka ena vula ono sa oti na kena complaint. Keitou se biuta mai ena loma ni yabaki sa oti me baletaa saka tikoga na nodra vakatutu na marama ni yavusa mai Qawa me baleta tiko e vica na koro vagalala kei na vica na koro ka ratou davora tiko na batiniwai na Qawa River.*

Keitou a biuta saka tiko na vakatutu ena nona sova tiko na kabani ni FSC na wai ca ni kabani ena loma ni uciwai. Qo saka na nodratou qoliqoli, na nodratou kanakana. Keitou se biuta mai na loma ni yabaki rua sa oti ka keitou se waraka tiko ga qo se sa yaco tiko beka e vei. E ratou mani tukuna na FSC me caka beka e dua na kena survey. Keitou sa lai vakananuma saka de dua beka ni vurevure tiko ni veivakatoroicaketaki ni matanitu. Na taro saka ga e tiko – sa yaco saka beka tiko e vei na kena maroroi tiko na yaubula ena tikina o Labasa.

Au sa vakatututaka saka. Sa tokoni talega.

MS. R. RALUNA.- *Au marama ni Vunivutu ena tikina o Nadogo kau mata tiko ni yaubula ena tikina o Nadogo. E dua saka ga na vakatutu au na via vakaraitaka. Au a Turaga ni koro ena neitou koro, ena lawa buli e sa dau tiko na neimami komiti ni tabana ni bula ena neimami dui koro. Na veika kece sara e lavaki mai ena tabana ni bula, keimami dau vakarautaka na neimami koro. Ena noqu sa mai tiko qo meu lewe ni komiti ni yaubula ni tikina o Macuata, e dua na ka levu keimami sotava tiko ena neimami koro vakauasivi o keimami na tiko ena taudaku ni tauni. Na kena dau soli tiko na laiseni vei ira na ta kau vakauasivi o iratou na Fiji Pine.*

Na neimami soso ni wai e tiko sara mai delana. Keimami madaga keimami taqomaka na kena ta na kau vaka talega kina na vakamakama. Ena loma ni vica na vula sa oti, a tauri keimami tiko na tau ni uca. Keitou sara madaga e neitou koro keitou vakadinadinataka na kena gole yani na wai ni uca koya e drodro mai na wai ena neitou soso ni wai e sa damudamu saraga ena vuku ni kelikeli e caka mai delana vakauasivi tiko o iratou na Fiji Pine vata kei ratou na ta kau. E dua beka ya na vakatutu keitou mani taroga kina se soli vakacava vei ira na laiseni mera cakacaka mai delana ni tiko kina na neimami soso ni wai. Na neimami soso ni wai e kilai vakamatanitu na vanua keimami dau vola vakatukutuku na Turaga ni koro na vanua e tiko mai kina, ia keimami kidacala ni lai ta tale mai kina na kau. Na veika kece ya, e dodonu mera dau kerea yani o ira na dau lai ta kau – vei kemudou na tabana ni bula vaka talega kina na matanitu me dau laurai vinaka na kena soli vei ira na vanua me lai ta kina na kau.

Na noqu koro e tiko kina na nursing station ka tiko talega kina e dua na koronivuli. Keimami gunuva vata kece tiko na wai ya. Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni sega ni dua na mate e tauvi keimami ia keimami sa lako ga yani ena mataniwai e tu sa gole ga kina na wai, ni keimami qai raica na wai ena mataka ni siga ya, sa damudamu sara tuga. Keimami sa dau gunu tiko mai ena veiyabaki sa oti me yacova mai na kena tei tu na pine qo vata kei kato ni kau vei ira na wekada na noda vasu era ta kau tiko mai delana ka sa vakavuna saraga me rairaica na wai koya. E main thing tiko na noda bula na tamata. Ya ga na vakatutu au kauta tiko mai mataka e daidai.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- *Honourable Chairman, ni tiko na vuvale vanua ena vanua vakaturaga o Caumatalevu ena siga ni kua. Au na via vakaraitaka ni ka vinaka na nomuni tukutuku qori e sa kovuti tiko ena*

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lawa vakaturi koya eda tiko kina nikua. E laurai ni liu a sega ni dua na ka e vauca tu na meda gunugunu ni wai. Keitou raica ni vica neitou kisi e dua na mataqali e solia ga na vurevure ni wai, vurevure ni wai oti ratou lewa tikoga nodratou qele, ratou lai tara vale kina, ratou lai teitei kina, vakadukara tale tiko mai na wai. Keitou raica ni dravudravua na lawa ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula ena tikina oya. Sa qai biuta vata kina na lawa vakaturi qo e dua na tikina me baleta sara ga na kena maroroi na gunugunu ni wai. Kevaka sa lomasoli na Komiti dabe tiko nikua me ratou sa na biuta cake i Paimedi, sa lomasoli nodratou bose lawa me sa vakadonui na lawa vakaturi qo, ena siga tarava vakadonui kina. Ratou na qai laurai na kelikeli tiko qori me sa lako vei ratou na tiki ni lawa koya tiko qo ni tabu ni vakasausataki dua na gunugunu ni wai. Nomu qele, noqu qele se qele ga nei cei, kevaka sa tiko na gunugunu ni wai, sa dodonu me na rokovi tiko. Na musu kau, na teitei, na tara vale, na benu rawa ni soli tale, rawa ni vakaleqa na gunugunu ni wai oya sa taqomaki tiko ena lawa vakaturi qo.

Kena karua, kevaka e yaco na veileti vakoro se veileti vakamataqali, so beka ra yalo kaukauwa tu ga, tauri na isele, lai taya tani se na paipo, sa rawa ni vauci ira talega na lawa vakaturi e tiko qo e matada. Ni na raica tiko qori na Tikina e 26, 33 kei na 57. Tolu na tiki ni lawa vakaturi qo sa buli sara toka ga me taqomaka na nomuni gunugunu ni wai vei kemuni na tiko na taudaku ni koro vakavavalagi. Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Vakabauta ni sa saumi nomuni taro.*

Ni taro mai sa kena gauna donu qo. Keitou tiko mai Nabukadogo na Vakarauwai, na vakasama vata ga ratou a laveta cake mai. Ia sa rai tiko yani na nomuni matanitu, sa raica na veika vakasokomuni tiko — e tolu vakadua na lawa vakatutu qo e kovuta na ulutaga ni kena maroroi na noda vakaso ni wai. Lisi se sega ni lisi na vanua e tiko kina na vakaso ni wai, e tolu na ka bibi e tukuna tiko na wekaqu ya: sa vakatabui mo lai ta kau kina. Curu kina na vakasama qo ni Fiji Pine. Ratou kelikeli se ratou musu kau se cava ga, tabu talega ni caka kina na teitei. Vei ratou sara madaga na taukei ni qele vakatabui ya, na susu manumanu, ira kece ya era sa oka tu ena tiki ni lawa vakatutu koya tiko qo e matada. Vinaka saka vakalevu.

MR. A TUINAYAU.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Tuinayau)

Tikina ga au via tokona na lawa vakatutu koya sa qai vakamacalataka na Turaga Naita mai yasana dua. Au gole tu mai meu mai tokona walega na vakasama sa biuta cake mai okoya. Au sa mai rogoca, au sa vakavinavinaka vakalevu baleta ni qo edua na tikina bibi. Keimami dau lai vakasala tiko vei ira na veikorokoro kei na kabani, ia e sega ni kati rawa tiko baleta ni sega ni dua na kaukauwa e tiko. Ia niu sa mai rogoca, au sa vakavinavinaka ka'u sa tokona sara ga kina vakalevu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka vakalevu na wekaqu ni tokona tiko na vakasama bibi oya. Keitou sa rokova kece na veitaro se na vakatutu se dua na ka ni nanuma me na vukea na kena lai laveti cake na lawatu — 69 na tikina veisautaki ni lawa ni tiko bulabula 1935.

RATU P. SANACEVA.- *Vakavinavinaka vakalevu kina Tabana ni Bula ni ratou kaya mai ke rawa ni tu ga na neimami salasala ni wai, dua e lako yani e lai taya. Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, dua ga na neitou vakatutu me kuria ga na neitou vakatutu na Tikina o Labasa me baleta tikoga na neitou uciwai davo toka qori na mata ni makete levu o Labasa. Qori saka na neitou qoliqoli kei na neitou kanakana. Dua ga na neitou kerekere me vakatututaki talega ena veitalanoa cecere, veitalanoa bibi, me kua ni davo tu ga na neitou qoliqoli, dua e lako yani lai buluta. Eda sa raica rawa tiko ni sa toso tiko ga yani na bulubulu e bati ni wai. Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, sa tu ga na vanua e yaco kina na qele mamaca, lako ga yani dou sa buluta yani i wai e sa kovuti tiko kina na neitou kanakana kei na neitou qoliqoli na Tikina o Labasa, Turaga na Chairman.*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Au gadreva mo vakatututaka mai , qai neitou itavi na Komiti qo na kena vakadewataki na kena tabana koya veiqaravi kina.*

RATU P. SANACEVA.- *Kena karua, Turaga Chairman, ira na industrial area era tu qo. Era kabani lelevu sara, ni da lako yani ena so na yasani koro ena loma ni taoni levu qo e Labasa, da na raica tu ga na nodra benu. Vaka bibi na uciwai koya muria tiko mai qo na yasa ni koro o Nasekula. Ke ratou dau gole kina na dauniveiqaravi, ni da qai dau lako yani na daku ni kabani ni basi, da raica na waiwai, da raica na benu ni kabani sa kau voleka talega yani me sa toso sobu i wai. Au sa vakatura ena matabose qo, Turaga Chairman, ke rawa ni qai laurai mada na tikina oya. Vinaka saka vakalevu*

LEWENIVANUA.- *Sa tokoni.*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Sa tiko na Tabana ni Bula, dou sa na rogoca tiko na veika e tukuni mai ya, tiko sara ga qo na icavacava ni lewa ena Vualiku. Vakavinavinaka vakalevu na nona solia tiko nona gauna me ra mai veiqaravi ena Vualiku, era sa rogoca tiko. Ia, na Komiti e sega ni galala kina baleta ni sa laveti mai vakabose kina*
matabose cecere oqo.

Dua ga na taro, eda veitalanoa tiko qo ena loma ni Yasana o Macuata, dou sa tiko kece qo na Mata ni Tikina? Se so e sega ni tiko rawa?

RATU P. SANACEVA.- *Eso beka e sega ni tiko rawa baleta ni sa veiyawaki saka tiko na vanua.*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Vei keda sa tiko rawa me da na lai vakadewataka na itukutuku levu oqo. E tiko kina noda itavi kece sara, kemudou qo dou sa yaco mai vakabauta, dou sa kacivi ena vuku ni veitalanoa na mataka nikua, na kena lai vakadewataki vakadodonu na itukutuku. Sa tiko talega na website rawa ni ko ni gole kina ena vuku ni nomuni via sarava na lawa vakatutu qo sa tiko e loma. Eda na sega ni rawa ni da cakitaka, ni'u na kerea tiko kevaka eso na ka e lutu yani, me qai vakadodonutaki mada ena written submission. Ratou tiko na neitou veiqaravi na Tabana ni Palimedi me ratou na vukei kemudou ena tabana oya.*

HON. A.BIA.- *Au via vakamatataka ga e dua na ka. Au raica ni levu tiko na kudru me baleta na benuci ni uciwai. Au kila ni tiko qo na Public Health Act, edua talega na lawa e tiko vakatokai na Environmental Management Act. Na Tabana 45 e tukuna sara vakamatata na kena dau benuci na uciwai mai vei dua na kabani, se dua e laurai ni benuca na uciwai. Ira na vei kabani matai ni nona cakava ena totogitaki — tiko na totogi na $250,000. Kevaka e laurai ni sa cakava tikoga na karua ni gauna, e tiko sara na $750,000 nai totogi e dau soli.*

Au kila kevaka sa laurai tiko ni benuci tiko na uciwai, dau tiko na kena gaunisala me muri. Ratou na mai vakadidike na Tabana ni Bula kei na Tabana ni Environment. Kevaka e laurai ni sa benuci dina tiko, qai dau soli na totogi qo vei ira na kabani lelevu e dau laurai ni ra benuca tiko na vei uciwai eso ni noda vanua. Vinaka.

RATU P. SANACEVA.- *Turaga Chairman, vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni sa toso tikoga na nodatou veitalanoa. Tou se tara tikoga qo na loma ni taoni levu qo e Labasa. Turaga Chairman kei kemudou na lewe ni matabose cecere qo, qo sega ni wili tiko kina koya tara tiko na yasana mai Malau, koya davo tiko kina na varo ni kau ni nodratou na Fiji Hardwood. Tiko tale kina qo e dua na local timber me baleta na local needs, na vanua e vakavodori kina na malasese me biu ena waqa. Ena vanua ya e tasova talega kina na vakacaca ni kau, na vanua e vakavodo kina na chips me lako i wai. Ena vanua talega e tasova kina, so na gauna ratou dau kudru mai na wekaqu mai Mali ni gauna e vakacacani kina na nodratou qoliqoli ena benu ni varo ni kau, ka kece ya na plastic, na tavaya ni coke, kei na tikitiki ni benu. Ratou biuta yani na wekadatou, ratou veiqaravi ena loma ni taoni, ratou dau soqona talega na wekadatou mai Mali, koya dusi tiko mai kina na loma ni tikina qo o Labasa. Dou vosoti au ni levu tiko na noqu vakamacala kei na noqu vakatutu qo me baleta na veika sa sotavi tiko ena veiqaravi ena loma ni tikina o Labasa.*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Au na kerei kemudou na Tabana ni Bula ke rawa ni dou raica kece tiko na vakatutu lako tiko qo. Ia na waka tu ni lawa vakatutu sa tiko ena loma ni nodatou lawa, ia au na kerea ke rawa ni dua na survey totolo dou vakayacora me laurai tale mada na nodatou tolo ni wai.*

Dua na tikina tale e Malau, Malau keimami qai sucu mai na tiko e Vanua Levu, sa cici makawa tu mai na Tabana ni Kau ya. Mai veisau na kena itaukei, au vakabauta ni dua na tikina bibi ya na benu sa sega ni maroroi me vaka na kena inaki, koya a declarataki na lawa ni bisinisi kei na ka sa yaco dina tiko.

Ratou na wekaqu mai Mali, na ka kece e lutu yani kina, ratou soqona mai yasana ka dua. Tabana ni Bula, ke dou na raica vakatitobu, na veitalanoa e caka tiko ena loma ni Palimedi, koya na icavacava ni lewa ni kena dau veisautaki na lawa. Kevaka sa yaco mai, kena ibalebale sa tiko nai tavi me qaravi. Au sa nuitaka vei kemudou na Tabana ni Bula ina Vualiku ni na laurai tikoga na tikina bibi ya.

MS. R. RALUNA.- *Tou gole ga na Tabana 54: sega ni matata na lawa ni tiko savasava ena loma ni waqa. Dua saka ga na vakatutu au via kauta cake tiko yani - o keitou i Vanua Levu keitou gole yani i Viti Levu keitou vodo ga ena waqa.*

Me baleta na mate dewa sa tukuni tiko vakatalega kina na kena dau laurai na loma ni waqa ni keimami dau vakayagataka. Dua na ka au sa vakadinadinataka, ka levu vei keimami e vakadinadinataka na veikati tiko ni kutu ni tana. E domica mai na noda dra, kevaka e domica ya lai katia tale e dua, e dewa tale kina na dra, sega ni macala se tauvimate tu se sega. Koya beka ya e dua na vakatutu au kauta tiko mai ena sigalevu nikua, na kena laurai vakavinaka na loma ni waqa keimami vodo kina na pasidia me keimami takoso yani kina i Viti Levu. Sega ni lasu na ka au tukuna, au sa vakadinadinataka, sega ni kati au vakadua, sa vakavica. Koya ga ya e dua na vakatutu au via vakaraitaka tiko ena sigalevu nikua.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Tabana 54 na veiqaravi ni tabana ni waqa. Kerrei rau na Tabana ni Bula me dua nodrau veivakararamataki. Sa okati tiko na lawa vakatutu oqo de rairai yaga me da rogoca mai na vakamacala titobu mai veiratou na Tabana ni Bula.*

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- *Mr. Chairman and Members of the Standing Committee, ni tiko na Mata ni Tikina, qo e dua na tikina e luluqa na lawa tu ena gauna qo. Me vaka na ka au tukuna taumada, na neitou cakacaka tiko ga ena loma ni 90 na yabaki, keitou raica na cava soti e luluqa ena neitou veiqaravi, ka dua talega vei ira qo. Ni da vodo ga ena waqa, sa laurai ga na kokoji nira veiqasiyaki wavoki, na duka ni loma ni waqa. Qo na gauna sa vakananu kina na Tabana ni Bula me dua na tikina qo, koya volai tiko ena Tabana 54 Section 112a, sa ciqi iloma me rawa ni yadrava sara ga na tiko bulabula ena loma ni waqa.*

Kevaka sa kele mai na waqa i Nabouwalu, sa curuma e dua na vakalesilesi i Nabouwalu, raica ni duka tu, sa rawa sara ga ni soli na notisi vei taukei ni waqa me totogitaki ena $200 se $300 ena vuku ni tuvaki ca tu ni waqa, vale ni kuro se vale lailai. E duidui na totogi ena duidui na vanua. So talega na ka e lavaki me na tiko ena loma ni waqa, me vaka na ibenubenu, kavanibenju, me vinaka tiko na wai, na valelailai me savasava, sega ni dua na namu me sucu tiko ena loma ni waqa. Sa rawa ni vakaukauwataki na tikina qo.

Na ka o ni tukuna tiko mai qo sa tiko sara ga ena lawa vakaturi. Na nomuni tikina beka ga ni kua, moni na tokona, moni na vakaraitaka ga na nomuni veitokoni ena lawa vakaturi koya sa tiko iligadratou na noda komiti. Mr. Chairman.

MS. R. RALUNA.- Sa tokona saka.

MR. I. BATIVUAKA.- *(Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Bativuaka) Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, oti tiko na veitalanoa mai Nabukadogo, au sega ni moce vinaka na bogi ya yacova na mataka na noa ni noqu vakasamataka*

na bibi ni ulutaga levu e rawa me vakaiotaka na Matanitu me siro mai na Vualiku na kena mai qaravi na itavi qo, me ciqomi eso na vakatutu me baleta na tiko bulabula se tiko savasava. Oya na vuna au kauwai me tiko tale kina e vica na vakasama me mai tokoni ga e vica na vakatutu sa tiko rawa.

Au vakavinavinakataka tiko ni vaka e tautau dredre na kena qaravi ena veikoro vakaViti na veiqaravi oqo, na kena sega tu ni bibi na ulutaga levu e mai qaravi. Au sa cavuta tiko na vakavinavinaka kina Matanitu ena kena tovolei me vunautaki tiko na cakacaka ni Tabana ni Bula. Au gole tiko ga ena Tabana e 16, au gadreva meu tokona na tikina oqo. Au mai vakaraica toka na veika me baleta na vakarau ni raba ni tara vale, lavaki vei ira na taukei ni vale me ra muria mada na lawa ni tuvatuva e tiko ena Town Planning Act ni bera ni tara e dua na vale.

Au vakadinadinataka na vu ni noqu tokona, Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, kina veikoro vakaViti tu qo. Dua na ka au raica vakalevu ena loma ni vica na yabaki sa oti niu dau caka bose wavoki me baleta na tiko bulabula, na kena tuvai vakaveitalia na vale ka vakavu kama, ka vakavuna sara tiko e levu na veimate dewa. Au marau ka vakavinavinaka kina Standing Committee ena tuvatuva eratou biuta mai na Tabacakacaka ni Bula me rawa ni ratou kauwaitaki ena vuku ni kena tuvai vakavinaka na tuvatuva ni veivale.

Au raica eso na koro au takosova mai qo, eso na nodra sovasova ni benu mai valenilailai e tiko tale yani ena dua na matanikatuba ni dua tale na valenimoce. Au via gadreva kina, Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, na noqu tokona tiko na vakatutu qo ena Tabana 16 me sa dua sara ga na lawa me tudei ena kena dikevi ka vakabulabulataki yani ena vei Tikina kei na vei Yasana, ena kena raici na tuvalaki ni vale, na veivalelailai, vale ni kuro, me rawa ni kauta tiko mai na tiko bulabula, tiko savasava ena loma ni noda veikoro vakaturaga. Au sa nuitaka kevaka sa mani laveti na vakatutu qo, sa tu kina na vakanuinui ena loma ni vei Tikina kei na vei Yasana, ke rawa ni sema mai na matanitu na kena tovolei me vakavinakataki eso na tuvatuva ni veivuvale se na veikoro, me vaka ni ra gole tiko yani na tuvatuva ni kerekere ni veikoro ena loma ni noda veiyasana o Macuata.

Ni tiko saka na Liuliu ni Bose, au kila ni dua beka e vo tale tiko e vica me na qai gole yani vakamalua. Au sa vakavinavinaka ka'u sa vakatututaka tiko na Tabana e 16 ni'u tokona me na qaravi. Vinaka saka vakalevu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Sa tiko na loma ni nodatou lawa vakatutu qo sa ciqomi tale tikoga ni sa tiko rawa ena loma ni nodatou vakatutu.*

MR. I. BATIVUAKA.- *Taro saka ga, Liuliu ni Bose, vei ratou saka ga na noda Tabacakacaka ni Bula. Au raica tiko na vuku ni ka me baleta na vakayagataki ni waigaga se na tavako ena loma ni noda veikoro. Au kila ni dua na lawa a lako mai liu me baleta na kena totogitaki, ka so na koro era sa gole me caka nodra zone na vanua ni vakatavako.*

E dua na ka veivakaleqai vakalevu ena gauna nikua na kena vakayagataki vakaveitalia na tavako ena veivanua eso, era tu kina eso duidui ni vuvale, lotu vakarisito, ka vakatalega na noda loma ni taoni. A vakaukauwataki ga mai vakalailai, sa vaka e mai vakaveitaliataki tiko. Au kila ni sa tiko beka me dua na lawa tudei me kovuta tiko yani na loma ni taoni ka vakatalega kina na veikorokoro.

Na veikorokoro sa lako kina na veivalenikana, valenimoce, vakayagataki ni yaqona kei na veika va ya. Au kila ni oya e dua na ka e veicoqacoqa vakalevu tiko vata kei na kena sagai tiko na tiko bulabula. Au taro saka vei kemudou na Tabana ni Bula.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- *Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, tiko na lewe ni Bose Lawa. Au vakabauta ni sega ni tiko ena lawa vakatutu qo na veika me baleta na vakatavako, e tiko tale ena dua na lawa e qarava ka vakatokai na*

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Tobacco Control Act. Sa vakarau vakavoui ka na kau lesu tale mai vei keda me da na mai solia kina noda vakanananu se cava eda vinakata me na okati ena Tobacco Control Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *E nodratou lawa vakatututaki tiko na Tabana ni Bula. Ni oti qo, sa tiko talega na nodratou tuvatuva me na laurai talega na kena vakavoui, sa ikoya na lawa rabailevu ena kena vakayagataki na tavako. Nodratou tiko na Tabana ni Bula, ratou sa vakadeitaka tiko vei keitou ni oti qo, ratou na laveta cake mai na kena vakatututaki na ka e vauca na lawa ni vakatavako kei na veika e maroroi kina, na vanua me na dau vakayacori kina kena ka vakalawa ena vauca.*

Kena ibalebale, ena dua na gauna lekaleka mai qo, sa na dua tale na timi sa na cawiri tiko mai ena kena vakabibitaki na lawa ni vakatavako ena noda itikotiko ena korolelevu kei na taudaku ni veikorolelevu. Vinaka.

MR. I. BATIVUAKA.- *Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, na vuni noqu kauta cake tiko mai na vakasama qo, vaka me kawakawa tiko mai ni wainimate gaga ni veivakamatenitaki na vakatavako. Oya na vuna au kerea tiko kina. Vakavinavinaka, au nuitaka ni sa na tovolei me laveti kevaka e vinakati me vakavinakataki.*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Vinaka, ratou tiko tale tikoga qo na Liuliu ni tikotiko tou tiko kina qo, ratou na Council. De rairai yaga me da n arogoci ratou mada.*

The Council, we are here to discuss an issue in regard to the Amendment Act of the Public Health in front of us, of 4/26. Is there any concern about the Council in terms of the 69th Clause Amendment Act in front of us? The floor is open for you, Council.

MS. A. KOLI.- Bula vinaka to the Standing Committee, representatives from the Ministry of Health.

(Introduction of Ms. Koli).

I will be presenting a submission on behalf of our acting CEO. We have seven points of submission form the Council.

Our first point is in regard to Sections 5a to 5e of the Bill, and Sections 12, 19, and 39. This relates to institutional clarity and interagency coordination. Our point of argument is on Section 39, where it requires the Minister for Health to consult the Minister responsible for Local Government when making building regulations. Additionally, on Sections 5a to 5e, the Board has been granted extensive supervisory powers to intervene and take over local authority duties in default situations. From the Council's recommendation, the Council suggests that a clear SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) be outlined in relation to our secondary regulations under the Bill, and that the Bill define what exactly constitutes a default by a local authority before the Board exercises its override powers in Sections 5d and 12. This will ensure municipal autonomy is respected and administrative conflicts avoided. That is our first point of submission.

Our second point is in regard to Section 130, focusing on financial feasibility and debt recovery tools. Our point of argument is that the Council strongly welcomes the modernized Section 130, which allows local authorities to recover expenses spent on correcting public health hazards, apply up to a 5 percent per annum interest rate, and place a statutory lien on the property title. This is an invaluable tool for protecting municipal financial positions against negligent ratepayers. However, the Council recommends and strongly endorses this section and further suggests an added clause that establishes an expedited administrative process for registering these liens with the Register of Titles. This would bypass the long-winded court backlogs for councils, enabling councils to recover public funds efficiently.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, may I interject? It is very interesting to see that you endorsed this section, but there are complaints that the Council itself is bogged down with its own bureaucratic processes. The concern is that the Council sometimes does not process matters on time, especially with the current country planning and related planning issues as well. What are your comments on that?

MS. A. KOLI.- Sir, this in regards to generally to..

HON. K.K. LAL.- We are in a public consultation, and this is open to the public as well. You represent the Council, we represent the Legislature, and also the people. The people have raised concerns numerous times about the Council not processing things on time. Their plans are still sitting in your offices. The Council is sometimes delaying, but here we see that your recommendation is to endorse this section with the 5 percent interest rate, and all those things. How would you tell the public to trust your office now with respect to the issues they have highlighted previously?

This is not only your Council, this is municipal councils around Fiji. All municipals, yes. So it is something we have to look at from both sides. We take the concentration on board, but these are some comments that we have found from the ratepayers themselves. I think one of the very good presentations was from Rakiraki Town Council, especially on this. They did a very good presentation. I really liked the aspect where they went into the nitty-gritty.

With respect to Labasa Town Council and your submissions that you have placed here, this morning I did not come in the official vehicle. I walked from my accommodation to this venue. When you come here and present, at the same time you also have to look at our own backyard. The town is filthy. The town is full of rubbish. Along the way from the main street to the Council here, you can see rubbish right now.

Now, remember you are putting a presentation here in the consultation, you have the public sitting on one side, and we are expecting this Public Health Bill to come into effect. You, as a Council, also have a very big responsibility to maintain your town and keep it clean as well. I see that in your presentation you also included something on stray dogs, and I believe you will be coming to that. But this discussion has happened previously as well on stray dogs. And mind you, I am very much against cruelty to animals. We are not going to kill dogs. Basically, we are human beings, right? Most of us are pet lovers. We love dogs. But I understand it has become a nuisance for some, where they—what do you call these?

Destroy the rubbish, garbage bags, and all those things, and cause sanitary problems, health problems, and all those issues. There are some solutions to that. Apart from that, Council, I think there is a responsibility for you here in a very general manner. You can fine people, and we can see that the fines have increased, but how are we balancing it with your Act? If you do not perform your jobs as a Council, should we be fining you as well? Should we be taking you to task when the public is being fined?

You know, these are consultative processes, a general comment, so it is back and forth. So, I am looking forward to hearing your views on this as well. Thank you.

MS. A. KOLI.- Our next point of discussion is on Sections 55, 141, and Schedule 2. It concerns enforcement and local economic impact. Our point of argument is the increase in fines. For example, Section 55 scales from $20 to $1,000, and Section 141 — general penalties — reaches $5,000. This is an excellent deterrent against industrial and corporate polluters. However, applying these flat rates blindly to small-scale vendors, residential tenants, or grassroots operators in our jurisdictions could trigger severe economic distress.

Furthermore, Schedule 2 adds localized micro-businesses, such as cover pounding, to the list of offensive trades. Therefore, the Council recommends pushing for a tiered or scale-based penalty system within the text of the Bill. Penalties should differentiate between corporate or commercial operations and residential or

micro-business entities. This will ensure enforcement remains firm but also socially equitable and realistic for the local economy.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, a follow-up question on that. How would you differentiate rubbish? Rubbish from a corporate, rubbish from a market vendor — how would you differentiate it?

MS. A. KOLI.- In regards to their operation, Sir, in terms of residential, we have our residential garbage. And for commercial, we have commercial garbage, Sir.

HON. K.K. LAL.- When you say commercial garbage, you go to a restaurant — what would be their garbage? Let's say, for example, it would be similar to a household.

MS. A. KOLI.- Because residential areas have a lot of food — waste food products.

HON. K.K. LAL.- What about for a restaurant?

MS. A. KOLI.- For restaurants, Sir.

HON. K.K. LAL.- What about household?

MS. A. KOLI.- Plastics, household garbage.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Would it not be that restaurants also have plastics? So there are similarities. How would you differentiate them then?

MS. A. KOLI.- Maybe in terms of amount, quantity, Sir?

HON. K.K. LAL.- No, what I mean is, you mentioned that we should have different fines for residential and different for commercial, right? But there are some commercial operations which have similar household waste as well. So, what about that?

The second follow-up question would be: as you mentioned that we should have separate fines, how much? Did you do any research, did you do any cost analysis? How much should be for residential? How much should be for commercial? You have recommended this, and it is a very good point, but how much? Is there any fine structure in the Council Local Government Act that you use for this? Do you have any knowledge around that?

MS. A. KOLI.- We only enforce under the Litter Act, Sir.

MS. A. KOLI.- So you do not have Health Inspectors in the Council? They do not go and check the properties around the town.

MS. A. KOLI.- We do, Sir.

HON. K. K. LAL.- So they do not fine businesses if they litter or whatever around them. What are their fines, if I may ask?

MS. A. KOLI.- Sir, currently we are having that $40 penalty under the Litter Act, but soon we will have the increased $200 fine.

HON. K.K. LAL- So it is around $40 to $200. You mean to say, with your recommendation today, that businesses should not get the $1,000 fine - whatever the amount is - but somewhere around $40 to $200 or $500.

HON. MEMBER- They penalise $10,000.

HON. K. K. LAL.- Have you done a cost analysis to the fines that they have proposed? Would you like to present one to us? You can still prepare another written submission. I would recommend that, if you can, please give us a cost analysis from your perspective - what should be the fine?

MS. A. KOLI.- It is on Section 2, "Abbreviations." Under Section 2 of Bill No. 4, Public Health (Amendment) Bill, the definition of animal is amended to include birds, and an extensive definition of birds is provided. However, dogs are noticeably excluded from this revised section.

Uncontrolled and domestic stray dogs represent an immense challenge for municipal councils across Fiji, contributing significantly to community noise pollution, vector risk, and localized sanitation issues. The Council would recommend that dogs be included in the definition, or that a dedicated subclause be added acknowledging them as a potential source of nuisance, with specific regard to noise and sanitation control. This would give municipal officers the legal backing needed to better manage urban nest settings.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Is that all from the Council?

MS. A. KOLI.- We have seven points, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- That is part of your written submission or do you want us to...

MS. A. KOLI.- Sir, it is part of our written submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- What we will do is: can we have access to that written submission through our Secretariat.

MS. A. KOLI.- It is already there, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for the presentation from the Council. What we will do is ask you to give us a very brief update from the Ministry of Health on the overall submission that you have provided to us today, especially the main critical areas. The Committee will actually look into the whole submission, and that will be part of the exercise for us to go back to the office and consider how best we can accommodate those requests based on the Amendment Act or the Bill.

Can the Ministry of Health please just give us an update on how best, when you look at the scope of the issues raised by the Council, the amendment comes into the picture? Overall, it is part of their submission. Just give us a scope highlight of the important areas that have been raised by the Council, Ministry of Health.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, and Honourable Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, Na Vuvale Vanua, a representative from the Labasa Town Council, and of course the Ministry of Learns, who is also here. So I will just respond or clarify the bigger submissions, the first one being Sections 5(a) to (d), which talk about the local authority and the powers of supervision of the Board.

What the Council needs to understand is that, for the purpose of the Public Health Act, the powers first lie only with the Minister for Health and Medical Services. The Minister, with these powers, then appoints a

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Central Board of Health. The Central Board of Health facilitates or administers the Public Health Act. Without the Board, there is no administration of the Public Health Act.

Now, the Board then delegates its powers to local authorities: the urban local authority, which is, of course, you — the municipal council — and the rural local authority, which is under the Ministry of Health, to carry out works as prescribed under the Public Health Act.

Now, Section 5 talks about the Board. Even though they have delegated duties to urban and rural local authorities, the Board maintains that oversight responsibility of supervising both urban and rural local authorities. We are not talking about the Local Government Act or other Acts here; we are just talking about the Public Health Act.

So, all your roles and all your duties that you perform are prescribed under the Public Health Act. You are still doing them because the National Board of Health delegated you the powers. It is not your own powers; it is the powers of the Central Board of Health. The Central Board of Health maintains the responsibility of oversight.

If there is any work prescribed to you under the Public Health Act that you could not perform or did not perform within the time specified in the Act, that is where the Board steps in. That is where Section 5(d) comes in. For example, the Board may say: "Labasa Town Council, under the Public Health Act, you are supposed to clear that drain. You are not clearing that drain? I am writing you a letter to direct you to clear that drain within seven days."

And if you still could not do it because you did not have caterpillar or digger machines available in Labasa, then after that seven days the Board will say: "Since you have not done it, look for someone with a digger and caterpillar, have them clear the drain, and then the cost will be forwarded to your Council office for clearance of payment."

So that maintains the power of supervision of the Board. Remember, you are still a part of the Board in terms of the Public Health Act, in terms of the powers and duties prescribed. You have a responsibility to align yourself with the Central Board of Health.

In addition to that, Part 2 of the Amendment presents a dilemma, as the existing Public Health Act had no provision for the keeping of chickens and roosters, and in some places, geese and ducks. In the preliminary section, where it defines animals, the description of what an animal is has now been amended to insert birds. Birds are later described as including ducks, geese, chickens, and roosters.

Previously, when it stated "no keeping of animals within town boundaries," you were limited in terms of what an animal actually was. The existing Act only referred to cows and goats. So, if someone was keeping chickens, it was difficult to enforce. We have now made it easier for your town council by including birds and then defining birds to cover chickens, fowls, and geese.

For example, if you go to Namara, a residential area, and someone is breeding chickens there, once this amendment is passed in Parliament, you can issue a notice requiring them to keep the birds in a way that is not injurious to health, or, if the number is excessive, to remove them. They would then need to move to farmland or commercial land to keep that number.

As for dogs, which you referred to, they are not captured under animals because dogs are not generally kept as animals in the same sense as cows or chickens. Perhaps in iTaukei communities they are used as hunting

animals, but for the general public, dogs are kept as pets. Therefore, they fall under the definition of pets rather than animals. This is also covered in the definition under Section 2(c).

I believe this clarification will help you align your written submission. Think of the Council not as separate from the Board, but as an embodiment of the Board here in Labasa, carrying out the duties prescribed under the Public Health Act. With that alignment, it will be easier for you to submit your recommendations on what additional powers and duties you would want under the Act, Mr. Chairman

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope the municipal councillor here is very clear, and that everyone understands. We also agree with your written submission. In case you need to submit any further lapses or gaps within that perimeter, please feel free to come back to us in a written submission through our Secretariat. Hopefully, that will wrap up what we are supposed to do and agree upon in our public submission today.

Sa koya saka ya na veika eda veitalanoa kina ni kua.

The Committee adjourned at 12.26 p.m.

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VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT YAROI VILLAGE, SAVUSAVU, CAKAUDROVE, ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH JULY 2026 AT 11.09 A.M.

Present

1. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu - Chairman
2. Hon. A. Bia - Member
3. Hon. A.T. Nagata - Member
4. Hon. K.K. Lal - Alternate Member
5. Hon. S. Kumar - Alternate Member

Apologies

1. Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure - Deputy Chairperson
2. Hon. V. Pillay - Member
3. Hon. P.K. Bala - Member

Submittee: Turaga ni Koros and Health Care Workers - Cakaudrove
In Attendance:

1. Ms. Tamarisi Lekutu - CHW Loa Village
2. Ms. Asenaca Vosarogo - CHW Jerusalemi Village
3. Ms. Miliakere Dimanoa - Liuliu ni marama – Jeruisalemi
4. Ms. Timaima Bale - Vunivola ni marama – Jeruisalemi
5. Ms. Luse Lewalili - Liuliu ni marama – Nabaci
6. Ms. Tareguci Mele - CHW Nabaci Village
7. Ms. Selai M. Ratulailai - CHW Urata Village
8. Ms. Salome Sigavuce - CHW Keka Village
9. Ms. Miliakere Bainivalu - CHW Vivili Village
10. Mr. Nacanieli B. - Mata ni Tikina Wailevu East
11. Mr. Ilaitia Matalomani - Turaga ni Koro – Jeruisalemi
12. Mr. Eroni Rokotabala - Turaga ni Koro – Bagata
13. Ms. Vaseva M. - ITAB Cakaudrove
14. Ms. Lusia T. - ITAB Cakaudrove
15. Mr. Manoa Yase - ITAB Cakaudrove
16. Mr. Ifereimi Nacaqase - MOHMS Cakaudrove
17. Mr. Manasa Vula - ITAB Cakaudrove
18. Ms. Sereima Cava - AHI
19. Ms. Motea Ulacake - Health Inspector
20. Ms. Taraivini Siva - Health Inspector
21. Ms. Melina Marama - Savusavu Health Office
22. Mr. Asaeli Vatuvatu Saqa - Tukavesi Health Centre
23. Ms. Arieta Naimini - Tukavesi Health Centre
24. Ms. Emali Rokotuvata - Tukavesi Health Centre
25. Ms. Makarita Midra - CHW Tukavesi Health Centre
26. Mr. Laisenia Sauleka - Turaga ni koro Vuinadi
27. Mr. Jone Fatiyaki - Mata ni tikina Koroalau

28. Mr. Joseva Rawa - Turaga ni Vanua – Yaroi
29. Mr. Taniela Nayasi -

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Good afternoon to all those who are present here. The Advisory Council, the public members of Savusavu, town council, business representatives of Savusavuu who are present here this afternoon. It is an honour and privilege to be here in regard to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 4 of 2026

(Introduction of the honourable Committee Members and the representatives of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will take you through over the overviews. The Bill to amend the Public Health Act of 1935, which we all understand is 90 years aged to today's modern upbringing. We have to update policy procedures and improve compliance.

We also aim to modernise Fiji's public and environmental health framework by introducing updated definition, strengthening institutional arrangement, at the same time enhancing the enforcement power and increasing penalties to reflect the current public health risks. The amendments respond to evolving challenges such as disease outbreak, environmental pollution waste management as well as water safety. The key objectives of the Bill are strengthening public environmental health governance, improve monitoring and enforcement mechanism to enhance preparedness and respond to commendable diseases.

To ensure we have a safe water sanitation, waste management system. We have to update penalties to deter non-compliance and to align the law with the modern public health practices. In a nutshell, this Bill was enacted from 1935, so it is currently 90 years old.

The review of the Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 of 2026, I believe we have access to the copy with all our guests who are here this afternoon. Hopefully the centre of our discussion will be based on the 69 Clause in front of us. If you have handout with you, there are 69 Clauses which need the amendments from various stakeholders involved, likewise the community at large. We are here to get your ideas, collect all your recommendations before we table this Bill back to Parliament through the Committee. On that note, I will ask honourable Lal to lead us on our discussion this afternoon.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, again, a very good afternoon to you all. Thank you very much for taking out your time to be present in this consultation.

As Mr. Chairman has briefed you on the particular Bill, this is a very old Act. An old Act meaning the first time this Act came to life was in 1935. After 90 years, the Government or the Ministry of Health is reviewing this Act. There is a lot of changes in this Act, from linguistic changes to increase in fines to new powers given to the health inspectors, and the reintroduction of the rural local authority. In 2018, the former Minister of Health removed the

local rural authority. Now the Ministry of Health is requiring that that particular department is brought back in to ensure that there are certain responsibilities given to them in the outside town boundary areas.

So if you look at the particular paper that has been given to you, from Clauses 1 to 69, you will see the changes that are happening in the current Act. These are the proposed changes. Now these gentlemen here are the representatives of the Ministry of Health.

All the members sitting here are the members of Parliament. What happens is these gentlemen or the Ministry proposes the changes, it comes as a Bill form. The Bill is presented to Parliament.

Now the job of the Parliamentary Committee is to come to the public, ask your opinion, ask your views. What do you think about the increase in fines? Do you think it is right? Do you think it is wrong? Do you think it is too much? Do you think it is too less? What other extra powers do you think should be given to the public health officials? Or do you think that those powers are not enough? It is too much? We need to remove those powers? These are some of the things. Including one of the major changes here is bringing back the Rural Local Authority and the increase in fines.

Some places we went, there were concerns on fines. It went from, I think, somewhere around $5 to $1,000 now. So on the particular point of nuisance. Now nuisance is another word that has been brought into this Act. A nuisance could be the septic tank, the septic waste. A nuisance can be the stray dogs that are bursting garbage bags. A nuisance can be the loud music. A nuisance can be the rubbish you throw around. That is also a nuisance. Some of the fines have increased to up to $1,000. We are here in this consultation process to ask your views on these particular changes. There is no discrimination where you live. You live in the town, or you live in the village. You are rich, you are poor, whatever. The Act does not say that that fine will not be implemented on you. It is equal for everyone. So, I understand that there were some concerns in other parts of the consultations that we went. That in the villages not everyone is rich. The $1,000 may be too much. Not everyone can afford a very expensive septic tank. So the public health officials gave some very good answers where if you are living in the village, you don't have enough money to make a good septic tank.

They have designs which are cheap options that you can make with some materials at home or from the hardware. You do not need to make a full-fledged septic tank, which is going to be very costly. But the public health officials will be sharing more on to that as along we go.

I thank Mr. Chairman and the honourable Committee Members for their presence in Savusavu. I am pleased that many of our Savusavu DAC members are present here, including the members of the committee. At the same time, I think we should open the floor, Mr. Chairman and allow the members to present whatever views they have. You can also recommend changes to the Act. There is a process. If there is something that is not included here, you can move a motion through Mr. Chairman and someone can second. Or you think you want to discuss something, you need some clarification, the members of the Ministry of Health are here. Also our health inspector for the Cakaudrove/Macuata Region is here as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I believe the message is very clear now for everyone. There are 69 clauses amendment Bill to the 1935 bylaws that is in front of us. So feel free, if you want to discuss any clause from 1 to 69, just raise your hand.

The staff from the Parliament will bring over the mic. You have to address us through your name and which area you come from, whether it is town council or the DAC members or even the businesspeople here in Savusavu. You can refer to that clause.

We can even explain it over to you, or if you need some further clarity or recommendation, feel free to do so. The floor is open for discussion today. Remember, this is a public consultation, whereby we need to hear from the stakeholders involved in regards to Savusavu Town and its membership.

We will try to respond back with the Ministry of Health who are here with us. Feel free to talk to us. How do you think about when you talk about penalties, is it too less or too more? The bylaws on the Bill that covers the sanitation part of where we live.

Likewise, any nuisance that is involved. It is all part of that 69 clauses within the Amendment Bill. The floor is open. Hopefully that will be a very fruitful discussion, because the Amendment Bill has come over to Savusavu, so make use of this time. Give us your thoughts, your minds, even a recommendation. Before we wrap it up, back to Parliament after we conclude the public submission. That will be tabled back to Parliament as a Bill to be an Act or legislation. The floor is open now. The councillors are here too?

Do you want to present to us? Can you have the mic for the Council?

MS. I. VULAKORO.- (Introduction of Ms. Vulakoro)

Mr. Chairman, just a few points that need to be clarified. That is Sections 16, 3, 4, and 6. Is there a need for the board to scrutinise all the building plans submitted to council before approval?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- That is a very good question. I will ask the Ministry of Health to highlight and update us on that question, which is Section 16 of the Amendment Bill which talks about the scrutiny of the plan by the Board.

HON. A. BIA.- Section 16. On the amendment, on the amendment, number 16 is, the principal act is amended by deleting section 19 and subjecting the following.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Is that the one? Council? Let us refer back to Section 16 of the Principal Act is amended –subsection 2. That is the right one, No. 16?

MS. I. VULAKORO.- Water sewerage.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ministry of Health?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee, the representative from Town Council and members of the public who are here.

Section 13 is something that we have decided is a concern at the moment for the Ministry of Health. When we look at previous years through outbreaks of typhoid and other sanitation and water-related illnesses, we saw a very big gap. The gap that is there is there is no legislative oversight of any design of septic tank or design of water treatment system to be used in the country.

So, that particular Section is talking about if you want to introduce a new design of a septic tank, if you want to introduce a new water supply treatment system, it has to be vetted and approved by the Central Board of Health. So that we can be sure that what is being used around the country, especially in the rural, does not end up causing disease outbreaks. That is the reason why it's there.

It is not for scrutinising plans but for approving designs for water supply and sewerage treatment.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, I have a question through you. This is to the Ministry of Health's official.

Now, I understand the new public health inspectors will be a registered person from the Ministry Board. They have to be registered. So, if they are particularly in the Council, if they are stationed in the Council as health inspectors, they need to be registered under you people as well, right? So, why would the Board need the plans when they themselves will have to follow the requirements of the new Public Health Act. Wouldn't that make the process more bureaucratic? Because the plans would have to also be sent to you for the septic and wastewater, whatever require approvals and stuff?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, the honourable Members, we are not talking about localised plans that you are going to use here. So, if someone is going to build a house, their plans will go to Savusavu Town Council for approval through DTCP's consent. That is okay, it is fine. We are talking about investors that bring in new designs to be used in the country for the first time. That has to go to Central Board of Health just to ensure that, "okay, when this design is taken and used in some way in Savusavu, it will not cause an outbreak of typhoid".

Yes, and for sewage and water supply. So, it is in that context. It is not talking about every plan that someone wants to build a house, have to send it to CBH, no.

Over the past year or two, we have received only one such, I think, in the last two years. We have received another one within the last two weeks. It is not every time someone comes up with a new design. This also addresses the gap that no one can just amend a design and come up with their own design. This is the reason why there was outbreaks in the Western Division, especially in Ra.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, through you again. I think No. 13 is a bit too broad and too general. Anyone else, just like they are reading it, even I would read it, I would think that it is an approval requirement for every sewage.

Maybe can we have it more simplified, that it is only for large-scale investment projects instead of smaller, like residential blocks, which they would always have? What they are saying is, this is for any new set designs for big-scale projects, right?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Small or big.

HON. K.K. LAL.- But for council, they already have that set of process. But if it is something new, it has to go to the Board for approval, right? Now, I understand, but the language, the way it is written, it is too general. It has to be simplified so that it does not overlap, I mean, in my opinion, it does not overlap with the council's responsibility. For tomorrow, a new person would come and say, "oh, if you go and get the approval from the Central Board," we do not have to worry about the council. That could be another terminology. Everyone is educated to understand law. That is the other thing.

HON. A. BIA.- What about the section about new design?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Okay, let us refer back on that same subject, heading. Number 5, it says the Principal Act is amended after the Section 5 by inserting the following new section. They are from (a) right up to (e). The explanations are there. Ministry of Health?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee, members of the public. Go through it slowly so that everyone is on par. Now, No. 3 is talking about designs that is to be used especially during emergency. Designs of what can be used as a minimum, bare minimum.

Remember, we are not talking about normal times. People are suffering, they need something to use temporarily before they can get back on their feet. No. 4 talks about the approval or temporary approval.

Now, when we get new designs, and if we look for research in global best practices, and we have very limited data on it, what the Board has put there in Section 4, subsection 4, is to allow for a piloting time. That is where the temporary approval will come in. We will say, "okay, we give temporary approval for 6 months, the system is piloted, we conduct tests of the end product to see whether it aligns with the wastewater guidelines that is there".

If it does, then we can issue the three years full approval. After the 3 years, then that is again reconsidered for renewal. Now, No. 5 then talks about the recommendation and approval of the new systems and the relocation of any system that over time may not become relevant and so forth.

This is something, like I said, it is basically based upon the experience of outbreaks, control that we have been conducting. Something that can address the gap as a preventative measure. For there to be an oversight by the Central Board of Health when new designs come in.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- You can continue with your presentation. Are there any more queries that need to be clarified by the Committee?

MS. I. VULAKORO. – There is only one. Section 19. A notice to be given and plan furnished. No. 16. It is a suggestion if penalty for non-compliance should be highlighted as (c)? If penalty for non-compliance should be highlighted as (c). It is only A and B. If penalty for non-compliance should be highlighted as (c).

MR. CHAIRMAN.- What are your recommendations to add what?

(Inaudible)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- So what does it says?

MS. I. VULAKORO.- For (b) it says to give notice in writing to the local authority and must together with the notice. So we recommend if we put penalty for non-compliance should be highlighted as (c). If we can add another subsection.

(Inaudible)

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- The submission from the Council representative, Mr. Chairman, is that we include a (c) for non-compliance with a penalty. So anyone non-compliant with (a) and (b) will face the penalty in (c).

MR. CHAIRMAN.- So what we are trying to say, if that is part of the submission, you can bring it over to the Committee in writing. Take note of that. We're given the opportunity to even submit back to us as a written submission. It's already submitted but the explanation is very important. So that will give us some leeway when we go back and discuss and look at means and how, on how best we can incorporate it to that subsection 16(c) that we are talking about.

HON. K.K. LAL.- I believe what the chair is trying to say is, I can read your submission here. You need to make it more explanatory. You need to elaborate it more so that the Committee understands. Because when you are proposing some changes or some additions to the Bill, it has to come in writing with proper explanations why you want it like that. If you are saying there should be a penalty, is there any separate penalty written in any other Act with regards to this? You have to reference that so that it can be included. Your submission is okay, but it has to be more explanatory manner.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- So that is the submission from the Council. Hopefully we have received the copy. As has been alluded by our colleagues here, the explanation part is very important. To give us a very clear, demarcated amendment which needs to be incorporated in the Bill itself. That was the message from the Council who are here with us. The floor is open to the public, the advisory council, the DAC members, the representative from the business in Savusavu. Feel free to hear your voice out based on those 69 clauses. The mic will be coming around. It will be easy that you refer to which clause you want to talk to. So we are all talking on the same page. If you need clarity or more explanation, feel free to say so. If you need to recommend something apart from what has already been in the amendment Bill, you are also welcome to do so. So, the floor is open for all of us who are here this afternoon.

This is the only opportunity time in Savusavu. I hope it will make use of the good time and be part of this amendment Bill that we are carrying all around Fiji. The floor is open. Elaborate on which clause from 1 to 69.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, if I may, through you. I just want to clarify something from the health inspector from the municipal council.

So at the moment you are doing the building approvals. So, if someone builds a house without approval, do you issue them a notice or do you fine them?

MS. I. VULAKORO.- Our Manager Town Planner will issue the Notice.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- And then they have to submit the plans?

MS. I. VULAKORO.- Yes.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- And failure to submit the plans? If the development carries on?

MS. I. VULAKORO.- I think fines.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- What is the fine?

MS. I. VULAKORO.- I am not sure.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- So if the fine is captured under the Town Planning Act, why do you want it to be captured in the Public Health Act? That is double... is it not?

MS. I. VULAKORO.-Yes.

HON. K.K. LAL.- May I ask, whose submission?

MS. I. VULAKORO.- We sit with our CEO yesterday.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Then she wrote the submission.

MS. I. VULAKORO.- Yes. Actually we are supposed to come together but she is in a meeting at the moment.

HON. K.K. LAL.- She should have been here because she is the main author of this submission. Because you have been caught off guard with regards to all these questions and you are not aware. Is there any other council person who has written this?

MS. I. VULAKORO.- No, Sir.

HON. K.K. LAL.- It is only you and your CEO?

MS. I. VULAKORO.- Yes, Sir.

(Inaudible)

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Yes, because the rural local authority and the urban local authority, they both enforce the Public Health Act. Okay. So, in the absence of the plan, you

issue a notice under the town planning. If they continue to build the house without a plan, have you come across any of the situation where you have to fine?

MS. I. VULAKORO.- No, sir. I haven't come across any situation to fine.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Because if the fine is in the town planning, then why do we have to include here?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, let me just clarify. It is a very good submission because at the moment what we have here is a rule without any penalty. I suggest that maybe the Committee can take it and look at the way and the legal advice. Because if we are to use enforcement in rural areas, then we need to include a section that maybe aligns to what penalties in the Town Planning Act and make reference to that.

So that both they can enforce and in the Ministry of Health, rural local authority can also enforce through the Public Health Act. So maybe there is just a legality to that. But it is a very good submission from the town council.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that the explanation that has been going around gave us some hints to relook at how best we can accommodate those. As has been alluded to, feel free to come back to us if you see fit to submit a written submission again based on what we have discussed here this afternoon.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, thanks to honourable Bia, we were able to take down Section 7 of the Town and Country Planning Act. According to subsection 7, clause (c), obstructs any person who obstructs or interferes with the exercise by the local authority of the powers vested in it by the provisions of the section, shall in addition to any civil liability be guilty of an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $1,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months. And if such contravention, failure to comply, obstruction or interference is continued after the conviction, he or she shall be guilty for further offence and liable on conviction to a fine of $20 for every day on which the contravention, failure to comply, or interference is so continued. So, it is already there.

(Inaudible)

MR. CHAIRMAN.-Let us move forward. Hopefully what I have discussed today will give you some leeway for the Council to relook at their submission again and come back to us through a written submission. You are welcome to do so on that. So the discussion is just based on this. Let me reiterate the importance of the Council's look after the boundaries of the ratepayers. That used to be happening before, from 1935. One of the main purposes of these Amendment Bill is to cover those outside the town area. I am talking about the villages and all these things. That ius where the rural local authority will come into the picture. When I talk about plan, the design, the approval of septic tank, it's all incorporated in that amendment Bill. So by looking at the Council's mandatory task, we all believe that they are only there for the ratepayers. Because they pay the rates. When we talk about approval plan, we have to go to town council. And they have read out the penalties that are being incorporated together.

So it is a lot of thought. Please feel free to come back to us when we have finalised all your intentions and how does it affect your operational deliberations. This is a public consultation. We accept all submissions. Even we can advice to some extent. But hopefully the important part of the Public Health (Amendment) Bill is how best we can look at where we live and how best we can look after the sanitation part of our health. We talk about rubbish, the water source management, how best to re-articulate the use of septic tank as they got some aids that are being given to us. That is how we are here to talk things out, discuss the issue which is relevant to the Clause 69 in front of us. I hope that one is very clear. While we are moving forward, the floor is open for any further discussion.

Are there any representatives from the Advisory Council or the DAC members who are here with us? What about the representative from the businesspeople within Savusavu? Are there any representative from the business houses here in Savusavu? They just joined us lately.

HON. K.K. LAL.- The District Advisory Councillors (DAC), do you have any comments on the particular Bill? Any comments with regards to Bill? I understand the Belego DAC is here as well. Do you have any comments with regards to the Bill?

MR. D. RAM.- (Introduction of Mr. Ram)

My concern is that our area is like a red zone, like a flooding area, which is out of town and country, where we are picking the rubbish and all this. But when a flood is coming, the sewage system is not good, and the waste has been washed away. It is going to the river and the sea. So if something we can include on this submission, so we can do for this rural red zone flooding areas, at least we can manage the waste which is going to our ocean in the tourism areas.

HON. K.K. LAL.- You can also speak in Hindi or iTaukei if you feel comfortable in explaining yourself. (Hindustani)

MR. D. RAM.- (Hindustani) ..

They have dug a hole in the rubbish dump, which is near the river or beside somewhere near the village. When the flood is coming, like big floods, I think it breaks everything.

HON. K.K. LAL.- This is a sewage waste or normal rubbish waste?

MR. D. RAM.- It is a normal rubbish waste.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, what he is trying to explain is where they are located is Belego. Belego is a village just before Savusavu, it is a settlement. It is not a town council boundary. It falls under the rural local authority boundary. So what happens is they are just near the river. Whenever there is a flood, the river breaks its bank. This is a very high farming area. Most of, 90 percent maybe of Savusavu's vegetables may come from this area.

All the vegetable products and goods. So what happens is there is nearby villages as well. They dump their rubbish in big holes. They dump their rubbish. At the same time, they have septic tanks there as well. So whenever there's flooding, this particular waste, they normally travel into their farms, into their communities and their houses.

So how best will this help them?

(Inaudible)

He is asking how does this help them. That is what they are asking. Ministry of Health.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, the honourable Members of the Committee, and members of the public who are here today.

We thank you for the concern that has been raised from the community. This is something that we have been discussing and we have been witnessing for the last eight years. The the proposed Bill is aiming to bring back the rural local authority.

So once the rural local authority is re-established, they can then focus on providing solutions to your waste management problems that you currently have. Because be mindful, the only solution is a provision of a way to discharge of the rubbish. If you do not provide a service, then obviously community members will throw it somewhere.

If not in there, then somewhere else. This is something that the rural local authority will be looking to address. Putting in place waste management strategies to ensure that communities have a service that they can rely on to remove the waste from their communities.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that answers your question, gentlemen. The floor is still open. Feel free to discuss issues of concern based on the 69 clauses in front of us. Even if you need us to further clarify on those clauses, feel free to do that. Before people are making up their mind, I will just take us through very quickly on the rural environment that we are in and how best we look after our water source.

Currently there is nothing covering our water source. When this Bill will be enacted as a bylaw or legislation, I am talking about in the rural areas, where they have a common water source for the community at large. What is stated in these amendment Bill, if you have a common water source, even if the landowners are not allowed to cut down trees or do farming, or even if you want to rear your animals, to the extent if someone actually cut down on the pipe itself, it is covered in the Bill.

The importance of how we look at our water source. So while trying to look at how best the Bill will be enacted, if you talk about our water source in the village, that is where the coverage comes into the picture. No farming, no cut down of trees, no grazing of animals within the water source.

Likewise, if it happens that some people manage to cut down the pipes, you are covered in this law. The penalty is very severe. While looking at this Amendment Bill, the penalties are more like a deterrent, whereby if someone complains, the Ministry of Health will come into the picture.

They will come, do their own inspection, the justification of how severe that water source was, they may say it like they damaged the water source or whatever. And from there, they will give you notice. If that notice was not addressed, then you are fined according to the penalties that are in this Amendment Bill, or else they can take you to court.

I am talking about the rural settlement. I hope that that one is very clear. And we are trying our utmost best to rope in this rural local authority. It was taken out in 2018 to provide that service to those who did not pay rates like what's happening in the council.

I hope that one is very clear when you talk about rural people and settlement within the area that we live in. Any other queries, another question

MR. M. MILLER.- (Introduction of Mr. Moses Miller)

Just a concern that is in my heart is the collection of rubbish. If you are going to be driving from airport down Nukubalavu Road, on the side of the road, most of the places you will be seeing rubbish dumped beside the road. So I' have done my job, I have gone around to families close by, telling them, warning them about throwing up rubbish.

But actually, we do not really know who the one is throwing the rubbish. It can be someone else from somewhere. Since it is not a boundary for town council in terms of the collection of rubbish, just requesting help from the local authority for the picking up of rubbish. Because it is really bad and it is one of the main roads that goes towards our main chief, the Tui Na Savusavu. That is just a concern that I have.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for that concern of yours regarding the place where you are coming from as a DAC member.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Committee, members of the public who are present here today, DAC members.

Thank you for the concern raised by the DAC member from the Airport to Nukubalavu. This is basically what was explained before. Currently the Ministry of Health is limited in terms of providing sanitary services such as waste management and garbage collection.

When we used to have local authorities prior to 2018, we used to have the grants from government for the local authorities to utilise for these sanitary services. It is sort of to pay local authority staff that work for the local authority and also looking at ways, innovative ways that we can tackle this waste management problem. So once this Bill gets passed, we bring back the local authority, we can start looking at solutions to the problem.

Now there is no one-size-fits-all because communities vary. Where other communities are clumped together, your community is stretched along the Hibiscus highway, if I am correct. And as such, different solutions will need to be put in place as well.

So one thing that you can start to create conversation within your communities is the possibility of the community paying a levy, if need be, just like the town ratepayers are paying for their garbage fees for the collection. You can kick-start that conversation and then when the local authority comes back in and can bring this service to the community, of course, at an accorded cost for the household. So for your community along the Hibiscus highway, if there is a truck that comes to collect maybe twice a week, then the household will need to pay

monthly garbage fees or yearly charged garbage fees to the local authority to ensure that the service is sustainable.

To pick from the frontage of your homes or your estates to take it to the dump. I think that is the way forward, Mr. Chairman.

MS. S. WATI.- (Introduction of Ms. Wati)

The major problem in Naqere is the rubbish dump and the flies and the mosquitoes.

So every time people in my community meeting, they just complain about the flies and the mosquitoes. So I just request the rubbish dump to be shifted to somewhere so that because the houses, the rubbish dump is very near.

(Inaudible)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The lady was here, she is from the council. So that is the responsibility of the Council. Hopefully in due course, they are looking at other areas where it will be our dumping site. But by right, they are not supposed to be dumping all your rubbish where people stay. So if people want to call us another council, in terms of rent payers. Probably the same.

(Inaudible)

MS. S. WATI.- We are rent payers too.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Have you raise it with the Council about the issue that we are talking about?

MS. S. WATI.- Every time council meeting, they know.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- What we can do, you can give us a submission right now.

So we can look into it, the Committee. We will take the cue from there.

HON. K.K. LAL.- (Hindustani)

MS. S. WATI.- (Hindustani)

HON. K.K. LAL.- (Hindustani)

So what she is trying to say, Ministry of Health, that area where she is living, Naqere, is a red zone of dengue fever. And all these other mosquito breeding places. Because there is a rubbish dump just beside these formal residential blocks and rate payers. They have been responding, they have been complaining to council for years now. They are not moving the dump or they are not stopping the dumping there. It is causing a lot of public health risk.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ministry of Health, do you want to give us some light on that?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, the honourable Members of the Committee, and members of the public and DAC members.

Madam, thank you for raising your concern. This is basically something that is straight out of the book from Section 5. That talks about the supervision of the Board. With this concern from the community. Maybe the Central Board of Health can initiate a discussion with the town council. To consider relocating their dump to a more suitable place. Where they can then dump the waste as prescribed in Section 5 of the Public Health Bill.

MS. S. WATI.- Because all kinds of rubbish they dump there, every rubbish.

HON. K.K. LAL.- (Hindustani)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The representative from Vualiku is here. Can you give us an in-depth discussion? Especially for shifting the rubbish dump from its current locality. What is your plan moving forward for Savusavu, Na Vualiku?

MR. I. WAQASESE.- Mr. Chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs. Once again, thank you for the invitation a few hours ago for us to be part of the consultation we are having now.

Bula vinaka to the honourable members of the Committee and to the citizens of Savusavu who are here. Before I touch on this issue, I request the media, if for us not to be quoted.

What I will share is information for those who are in the room. Because we are not allowed to speak on anything regarding the project. Because that is the role of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation. I hope that will be respected.

Before I answer the question from a friend from Nukubalavu District Advisory Council. It may be a matter of interest to the Committee.

HON. K.K. LAL.- I should warn you that what you said, that whatever you are going to share, you cannot be quoted. Unfortunately this is a public consultation. This is all recorded for parliamentary public purposes. everything here is being recorded in our recorder there. We have Hansard team. If you want to have a closed-door meeting, you can have a closed door meeting with the Chairman. No, with the Chairman. But here this is a public hearing where everyone is going to hear and use their information. The media is only our media here. But all the record is there. It will go into our verbatim for other members of parliament to see. This is just to warn you before you expose yourself or incriminate yourself. Thank you.

MR. I. WAQASESE.- Sir, I think I will leave it to our superiors for our report to come out. For the citizens, please be attentive to our consultation. I know you are tired of our consultations. That is where you will get the information on the project that is taken under the Vualiku Project. One is wastewater and another is solid waste for Savusavu.

(Inaudible)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- They are working on that one. But it has been alluded to that they need to get the clearance from the hierarchy team so that it can be a public document for everyone. Hopefully when the time is right, we will see improvements, especially for Savusavu.

MR. I. WAQASESE.- Sir, they can follow the progress of our work on our social media page, Fiji Tourism Development Programme.

HON. A. BIA.- I would suggest to create more awareness on rubbish disposal and illegally dumping waste into the river. Just in April, in Parliament, we passed the Littering Act of 2026. Under the Littering Act, anyone caught littering, the fine has been increased from $40 to $200.

And anyone found dumping rubbish into the rivers under the Environment Management Act, Section 45, it states that you can be fined up to $250,000. If you are continuously doing it, after being advice not to, the fine is up to $750,000.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Let us continue our discussion. I believe there is a lot of ideas coming now, and we have already discussed that. DAC members, feel free to raise your hands up. We will try to sort things out here. You can be part of this fruitful discussion here at Savusavu. I hope that we are all on the same page, and we are happy.

MR. S. RAJ.- Sir, like Ministry of Health here, my concern is like, this is coming from drinking water. Like our community, it does not have any sanitising water or good water. It is coming just from the creek, and we have not got any source like we can provide the community. And it is about more than 20 years we are trying, and we are writing the letter to the ministry, and still now we haven't got proper water sanitization in our community.

HON. K.K. LAL.- You d not have direct water supply?

MR. S. RAJ.- No.

HON. K.K. LAL.- So, your water source right now is the river?

MR. S. RAJ.- We just borrow from our neighbour village. A piece of land, they give us the water. It's just a smaller water source. But we can't do the catchment, or we cannot do the reservoir, anything. So many people are getting sick from that water, because people are farming on top, and everything is there. Because every time the health team is coming over to discuss about mosquito, and this disease like dengue, or diarrhoea, because it is coming mostly from the water.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, and honourable Members of the Standing Committee.

The proposed Bill, it has a lot to do with the protection of the water source, and also the water supply. That is something that is new, that we are proposing in this particular Bill, but I will introduce Mr. Ifereimi Waqasese. He is a senior health inspector here, and we can discuss, maybe after this, on how we can work together, and maybe see, test, and maybe some short-term improvement to the water supply, before we do the further discussion with the WAF, Water Authority for the Water Supply.

HON. S. KUMAR.- The residents of Savusavu, the District Officer, the members of town council. I take this time to thank you for your participation in this very important amendment bill consultation that we are here for. I believe that your presence here

this afternoon has enlightened you on the importance of a Public Health Bill, and the need for you to make appropriate submissions now, so that it makes our everyday life easier, when we coexist with people of different culture, people of different class, remote, rural, and town area.

Sometimes there are a lot of issues, and this is a tourist town. We cannot afford to have this town in any how condition. It has to be very neat and tidy, very compliant to all the health requirements, because we receive guests from all over the world into this place.

The Public Health (Amendment) Bill will become very handy for town, for tourist town like Savusavu. I think this is an opportune time for the government to review this Bill, and to remove all those outdated provisions that are here, that are very weak. It is not helping the officials to implement changes and bring about improvement.

So thank you very much for your contributions. You still have a lot of time to send in your written submissions to our secretariat, or through the council, who will reach out to us to give important and valuable submissions that you feel should be included for a unique town like Savusavu. There may be some issues that are unique to this place, which we are not aware of, or which the Bill is not capturing.

But through your written submission, you can always submit. So with these words, thank you very much. Have a blessed afternoon, and safe journey back home.

The Committee adjourned at 3.59 p.m.

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT DOGORU VILLAGE, MACUATA ON TUESDAY, 7TH JULY 2026 AT 10.52 A.M.

Present

Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	-	Chairman
Hon. A. Bia	-	Member
Hon. A.T. Nagata	-	Member
Hon. S. Kumar	-	Alternate Member
Hon. K.K. Lal	-	Alternate Member

Apologies

Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure	-	Deputy Chairperson
Hon. V. Pillay	-	Member
Hon. P.K. Bala	-	Member

Submittee: Dogoru Residence

In Attendance:

1.	Mr. Isireli Rokomina	-	Dogoru
2.	Mr. Savenaca Rasogo	-	Vatulovona
3.	Mr. Napolioni Ravula	-	Nasaqa
4.	Mr. Semi Raqaraqara	-	Yacadigi
5.	Mr. Manoa Ratuvili	-	Dogoru
6.	Mr. Lorosio Salavuce	-	Savusavutaqa
7.	Mr. Joeli Turagalevu	-	Vunikawakawa
8.	Mr. Petero Namoce	-	Dogoru
9.	Mr. Semi Radradra	-	MP.C.
10.	Mr. Epeli Tabuarua	-	Dogoru
11.	Mr. Mataraki Ulacake	-	Nasaqa
12.	Mr. Elia Savenaca	-	Dogoru
13.	Mr. Josevata Ualuvu	-	Vunikawakawa
14.	Mr. Sakeo Tuiwainikai	-	Dogoru
15.	Mr. Keesi Cabealawa	-	Dogoru
16.	Ms. Karolina Ilisabeta	-	Dogoru
17.	Ms. Asinate Lewailagi	-	Dogoru
18.	Ms. Elisabeta R.	-	Dogoru
19.	Mr. Viliame V.	-	Dogoru
20.	Mr. Petero	-	Dogoru
21.	Mr. Nabarieli Sisa	-	Dogoru
22.	Mr. Isala S.	-	Dogoru
23.	Mr. Atunaisa	-	Dogoru
24.	Mr. Sireli Rokomina	-	Dogoru

25.	Mr. Petero Tukidia	-	Dogoru
26.	Mr. Borosio Rokete	-	Dogoru
27.	Mr. Semesa	-	Dogoru

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni sa tiko na veiwekani eda mai tiko rawa ena mataka ni siga edaidai. Sa noqui tavi dokai saka tiko meu cavuta e dua na vosa ni veikidavaki ena vukudra na Sipika ni noda boselawa, era veitalai saka tiko mai ena vuku ni kena kau wavoki tiko e dua na lawa vakatututaki ka mai wili me lawa ni noda matanitu ena 1935. E daidai e sa viavia yabaki 90 tiko ni kua na lawa vakaturi koya e kau wavoki tiko qo. Ni bera ni tou na qai goleva yani na kena matailalai kei na veika e tu vakavolivolita, au na kerei na wekaqu na Turaga na chief health inspector mai Verata me liutaki keda ena dua na masu.

(Prayer)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na sureti iratou nai tokani na lewe ni nomuni Palimedi keitou dabe saka tiko qo, me ratou na vakamacalataki ratou mada.

(Introduction of Committee Members)

(Introduction of officials from Ministry of Health and Medical Services)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dou kalougata nai tikotiko vakaturaga ni rawa ni siro mai na nona veitalai na Turaga na Sipika me keitou mai vakayacora tiko e dua na itavi levu ena kena kau wavoki tiko qo e dua na lawa vakaturi mai na 1935. Na nodratou lawa vakaturi tiko na Tabana ni Bula – ya na vuna e ratou lewe levu tiko na tabana ni bula e ratou na mai veivuke tiko ena kena vakasama ni veivakararamataki kei na kena veisau na lawa tu ya kina lawa vakatututaki e rauta tiko ni 69 na tabana duidui koya e gadrevi me vakatututaki me sa veisau me rauta na gauna vou ni veiqaravi e da sa tiko kina nikua.

Au nuitaka ni na dua na gauna vinaka e da na mai veitalanoataka, na cava o ni gadreva ena vuku ni lawa vakatututaki tiko qo kau nuitaka ni sa tiko vei keda nai lavelave ka toqai toka ena vosa vaka itaukei. Kevaka e se bera tiko na nomuni lavelave, e tiko ya o ratou na dauni veiqaravi yasana mawi vei au, me tou na veitalanoa kina me rawa ni matata na cava na veivakararamataki, ka yavutaki ena vakasama o koya e gadrevi tiko me na lai veisau ena loma ni nomuni Palimedi.

Au na kerea na noqui tokani, honourable Bia me na vakararamataki kedatou mada enai tekivu ni lakolako ni kena veisautaki na lawa vakatutu qo.

HON. A. BIA.- Ni sa bula vinaka tale na turaga na marama, vakakina vei keda kece sara na tiko ena siga vinaka ni kua. Vakalekaleka sara, me vaka sa vakamacala tiko kina na Turaga nai liuliu ni bose. Nai naki ena vuku ni gole saka tiko mai ena siga vinaka ni kua, sai koya na kena vakamacala taumada ena kena tovolei me soqoni se vasokumuni na nomuni nanuma na lewenivanua ena vuku ni dua na lawa ka sa tu mai ena loma ni 90 na yabaki tekivutaki mai ena 1935 me yacova tiko mai qo, sa qai vakanananu na matanitu me veisau. E

rauta ni 69 na tikina e tiko ena lawa oqo sai koya na Public Health Act. Na lawa ena kena qarauni se vaqaqacotaki na noda tiko savasava kei na noda tiko bulabula ena veivanua e da tiko kina, se da tiko e nakoro se da tiko ena tikotiko vagalala voleka e nakoro se vanua cava ga o tiko kina.

Qo e dua na lawa ka ratou sa sasaga tiko kina na Tabana ni bula me mai biu ena loma ni vale ni boselawa me sagai me veisautaki me rawa ni veiganiti kei na bula eda sa tu kina ena gauna oqo. Kevaka o na vakataroga se keu tiko e nakoro, ena okati vakacava o au ena lawa oqo? E dua na veisau e tiko ena kena vakaturi mai na lawa oqo sai koya ena loma ni 90 na yabaki, e sega ni oka vakadua tu na koro ena lawa oqo. Qo e sa sagai me biu I loma na koro me oka ena vuku ni lawa ni kena qarauni na noda tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava.

Kevaka o na taroga se cava na vuna e sa oka kina na koro. E ratou tukuna tiko na tabana ni bula ni dua na gauna balavu e vakayacori tiko mai na veiqaravi ena tabana ni bula ena noda veivalenibula kei na noda veikorokoro, e laurai ni levu na mate dewa vakatotolo me vaka na typhoid, leptospirosis, mi ni manu, dengue fever – e levu na mate vakaoqo e lako tu yani ena noda veivalenibula e levu ga vei keda na koro vakaviti eda kauta tu yani. E oso tu na valenibula ka so na kisi e lako yani sa lai voleka saraga ni kau tani na bula ena vuku ni bibi ni mate.

E ratou qai raica kevaka e vinakati me tarovi me maroroi na noda bula na kawai taukei se o keda na tiko ena koro vakaviti me da bula balavu ka da qarava vinaka nai tavi ni vanua, sa na ganita na lawa qo me na biu yani ena noda veikorokoro me qarauna na noda tiko savasava kei na noda tiko bulabula. Me da qarauna talega o ira na noda kawa era muri tiko mai.

E dua tale na veisau sai koya na kena qarauni na tiko savasava ena loma ni koro. Mo samaka vakavinaka na saula ni nomu vale, se na saula ni koro. Ke laurai ni vakasucu na namu ka tubua tiko na nomu yasa ni vale, vakayacori na vakadidike qai laurai ni namu era vakasucu tiko ena containers se na taya era tiko e nomu vale, vakavuna tiko na veitauvi ni dengue ena loma ni koro. Na lawa oqo e sa na rawa ni kauti iko vakalawa se o totogitaki vakailavo nio rawa ni lulevaka tiko na kena samaki na nomu lomanibai o tiko kina.

Na kenai katolu sai koya na kena laveti nai totogi. Na loma ni 90 na yabaki tu mai kina na lawa qo, so na totogi e tu ena $2 sa toki cake sara kina $100, $500 ka so e $1,000 ka so e $2,000. E so ena tukuna e cava e sa tubu cake kina vakaoqo na totogi – sa vaqara I lavo beka na Tabana ni bula se matanitu. Sega e sega ni kenai naki ya – e dua na kenai naki sai koya na bibi ni mate sa tiko ena gauna oqo kei na veika eda sa sureta tiko mai se na veika ra vakau tiko mai vanua tani, eda vakayagataka tiko na kakana kei na noda draki ni bula, ka so na mate vakaoqo kevaka eda sega ni qarauna na tiko savasava kei na tiko bulabula, sa na rawarawa ni tauvi keda tiko kevaka eda sega ni qaqarauni. Sa qai biu yani e so na lawa vakaoqo me rawa ni vakadeitaka se vaqaqacotaka o iko mo qarauna, na nomu koro, qarauna na nomu matavuvale ena vuku ni tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava.

Ya vakacaca e 69 vakadua na tikina koya e tiko oqori ka gadrevi me veisau, ka vakalekaleka walega na veika au nanuma ni bibi e tiko ena loma ni lawa, ia ena levu tiko na

gauna me da na veitalanoa kina da veitarotarogi ka na liutaki keda tiko yani na turaga nai liuliu ni bose ena vuku ni veitalanoa ena siga ni kua. Mai dua saka tiko na noqu vakamacala lekaleka, va saka tiko oya na kena levu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ya vakacaca na veika e kau tiko mai nikua me tou na mai veitalanoa kina vakarawarawa ga ka vakatotolo. E kau sara tikoga mai ena loma ni nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga ka sa kenai balebale, na gauna ena lai veisau kina na lawa vakatututaki qo, dou na kalougata na nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga ni dou wili ka tiki ni kena veitalanoataki na kena vakacaberi kei na kena vakatututaki na lawatu oqo me lai oka me lai lawatu ni noda matanitu.

Me vaka ni kaya tiko na noqui tokani ni sa 90 na yabaki, ya e sa balavu sara. Na veivakararamataki kedatou na dabe kina nikua, qo e tiki ni kena dau gadrevi me vakavoui se veisau e dua na lawatu me vakatututaki. E dau gadrevi vakalevu ena loma ni noda Palimedi me mai rogo na domoda na lewenivanua, kau nuitaka ni da na veitalanoa sara kina vakavinaka ena yavu e 69 ka tu qori e matada. Keitou na qai veitokoni tikoga ena kena saumi tiko na nomuni vakatataro ena vakasama ni veivakararamataki kau nuitaka ni sa tiko vei kea na tikidua ni 69 na tabana koya e gadrevi tiko qo me veisau mai na lawatu koya a tiko mai na 1935.

Me vaka nio ni sa yadua kece tiko, nio na wilika e tiko kina e 69 taucoko na tikina e gadrevi me na veisautaki ka se vakatututaki tiko me veiraurau kei na veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula ratou tiko qo ena gauna vou eda sa tiko kina nikua. Na ka ena kerei, kevaka o gadreva mo na vosa, ena kau wavoki tiko yani na gusu ni vosavosa se mic ka tiko vei ratou na timi ni veiqaravi. Ni na qai vosa mai ni tukuna na yacamuni, na nomuni koro, kevaka o turaga ni koro, ni rawa ni cavuta nio turaga ni koro se o mata ni bose ni yasana se cava ga. O na qai raica na tikidua mai na tikina e 1 kina 69 se na vanua cava o ni via vosa kina.

Na yavu levu ga e tiko e loma ya, me na rawarawa na vanua tou na veitalanoa toka kina. O na rawa nio tukuna vaqo, au vinakata meu na vosa na tabana e 13 me rawa ni datou na veitalanoa ena tikina e 13 vata kei na lavelave sa tiko qori vei kemuni. Rawa nio ni na taroga mai se cava na vuna sa rui levu kina se lailai na totogi ke donumaka nai totogi. Ia na kena vakamacala e tiko kina kei na kena matailalai e tiko vei keitou koya na vanua e veisau mai kina na Bill ya, me keitou qai sauma yani kina nomuni taro.

Ya ga nai tavi e mai qaravi tiko ena mataka ni kua ena nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga, kau nuitaka ni datou na veitalanoa ga kina vakarawarawa sara ka da na veitalanoa talega ena galala. Na vuna e kau wavoki tiko kina na gusu ni vosavosa qo baleta me katoni kina ka lai maroroi tu na kena vasokumuni nai tukutuku qo ena nomuni loma ni Palimedi. Kevaka talega oni gadreva moni kila na cava e yaco ni kua, ni oti ga na noda bose qo, ni lako ena webpage ni Palimedi e sa tiko kece kina na veika e vakayacori ni kua. Na kena katoni e dau vukei keitou me keitou lai rai lesuva na veika kece sara a veitalanoataki ena loma ni nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga eke.

Keitou sa otivi Viti Levu mai, ka keitou sa tiko qo e Vanua Levu. E nanumi tiko me keitou na qai lele yani ki na Yatu Lau, Lomaiviti, Kadavu ka yaco sara yani ki Rotuma. Qo

na tiki levu ni veiqaravi ni nomuni matanitu ka dau qaravi ke vinakati me veisau se me vakavoui e dua na lawatu sa tiko mai me dau caka na kena vakatututaki – koya saka ya na vu ni neitou mai tiko kina eke ni kua.

Au nuitaka ni sa na via matata toka nai balebale ni neitou yaco mai, na kenai naki ni vasokomuni ni tukutuku me na vukea na rogo ni domomuni na lewenivanua ena gauna sa na lai veisau kina na lawa vakatutu ka tiko qo e matada.

O iratou na taukei ni lawatu oqo, sai ratou na wekadatou ratou dabe tiko qo. Ni sa yaco e dua na lawa vakatututaki ena loma ni noda matanitu se lako ena Cabinet, e qai dau lako ena loma ni Palimedi. Ena gauna sa yaco kina e loma ni Palimedi sa qai dau wase na komiti cava me na kauta wavoki na lawa vakatutu ya. Kenai balebale na veitalanoa ena mataka ni kua, keu kauta mai vakarawarawa mai na kena vakasama, datou sa veitalanoa sara tikoga qo e Palimedi ka ni sa kau mai vei kemudou. Au nuitaka ni da na vakaitavi kece, keda na tiko qo kina kena vakatututaki na lawa vakaturi koya e gadrevi tiko me veisau ka sa tiko qo vei keda na kenai lavelave.

Au sa sureta toka e dua vei ratou na turaga me liutaki kedatou ena kena dolavi na veitalanoa qo. Ni raica ga na naba 1 ki na 69 ena tikina cava o ni via vosa kina.

MR. I. ROKOMINA.- Ni sa tiko na veituraga ni koro, ni tiko na turaga na marama, qo na veika sa vakaraitaka tiko o iratou na gole tiko mai ena noda vale ni boselawa ka ratou mai vakaitavi kina ena mataka ni siga ni kua. Au kila ni siga bibi, siga vinaka baleta na vakatutu qo ena sega ni yaco koso. Ena yaco saraga me lai bosei ena vale ni boselawa. Au kerei kemuni na lewe ni koro, turaga ni koro me da vakaitavi ena vosa baleta na tikidua eda via vosa kina. Au sa mai dolava rawa qo vei kemuni, sa vaka oya na kena levu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Meda raica mada na matai ni draunipepa ena tikina e rua ena section 1(a) ka volai toka ena lawa vakatutu qo ni lawa qo e baleti Viti taucoko. Na vuna e veisau kina na tabana qo me vakadeitaki ni taurivaki na lawa oqo ena veiyasai Viti taucoko. Na kena totogi e volai toka qo e sega. Na kena vakamacala e tukuni toka ni vakadeitaki na veiqaravi e tautauvata ena veivanua. Na tikina ya e toka qo, e kaya toka na wekaqu tiko e yasaqu matau ni lawatu mai na 1935 e a baleti ira ga na tiko ena veikoro lelevu ka sega ni wili tu kina na veiqaravi ena vuku ni taudaku ni veikoro lelevu se noda tikotiko vakoro. E ratou raica tiko na Tabana ni bula, ka sa rogo oti vei keda na kena vosa ni 70 na pasede na tamata tauvimate e lako e valenibula e laurai na kena fika soqoni ni levu taudua o keda na tiko ena taudaku ni koro lelevu. Na veimataqali mate cava ga – koya e vakavuna na namu, na mi ni manu, na coka dra kei na kena veimatalalai e so.

Sa kenai balebale ya, o kedatou ga na tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu baleta ni tou a sega ni ologi tu ena lawa oqo mai na 1935, tou vakasinaita tiko na valenibula. E dua na vosa e talei e toka qo e dakuna – ratou kaya tiko ni da qai yaco yani e valenibula, sa sega walega nio lako yani mo laurai vei nasi se vei vuniwai. Sa kacivi saraga na ambulance. Kenai balebale ya nio keda na tiko ena taudaku ni koro lelevu, e da sega ni maroroya tiko na tiko bulabula, tiko savasava koya e ologi tiko ena vakatutu e 69 ka tiko qo e matada.

Na rai vakarabailevu sa vinakata o iratou na tabana ni bula me sa kau rawa yani nai tukutuku me tukuni rawa vei keda na tiko bulabula, na veika dodonu me caka, na kena vakasavasavataki na loma ni koro, na vanua era dau vakasucu kina na namu, na wai ca ni noda valelailai se na septic tank, na vanua dodonu mera na vakasirovi kina. E wili tale tikoga ena lawa vakatutu qo kevaka e da via tara vale vovou, e nanumi tiko me na vakalesui mai me tiki ni lawatu qo na Rural Local Authority.

E da kila kece tiko ni yabaki 2018 sa mai kau laivi na veiqaravi ni tabana qo vei ratou na Tabana ni bula. O ratou saka na tabana qo e ratou yadrava tiko na veika me baleti keda me vaka na tara vale, ka tiko vei ratou e so na approved plan ka sa vakadinadinataki ni rawa ni vakayagataki ka so talega na veika me baleta na noda septic tanks. Sa tiko e so na kabani koya ratou vakadonuya ni sa yaga me vakayagataki me veiraurau kei na gauna vou eda sa bula tiko kina nikua.

Na railesu totolo ga, sa oti na gauna ni caka dramu 44 na qaloni koya dau nanumi tu me septic tank vei keda na tu e nakoro. Na kena laurai tikoga ni sa totolo sara tiko na mate veidewavi ena loma ni nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga. Ya e so na ka e kovuta tiko na tabana e rua ya, kau nuitaka niu dolava tiko na kena vakasama ya, e kau saraga mai ena vakasama ni veika ka ratou vasokumuna na Tabana ni bula ni sa yaco dina tiko ka sega ni wili tiko kina e so na mate veitauvi koya e tiko, ka da na qai veitalanoa tiko kina kevaka ena levu tiko mai na nomudou taro. Ya e dua na kena sabolo rawarawa ga ya, au nuitaka ni sa via matata toka ya me baleta na 69 na lawa vakatutu tiko qo.

Kevaka e dua e via tomana na vosa ya, ni lave ga na ligamuni me qai kau wavoki yani na nodatou mic koya e cowiri wavoki tiko qo.

HON. A. BIA.- Au via dolava walega vakalailai na nodatou veitalanoa. Ni na vakataroga se cava na vuna sa rui bibi kina na noqu nanuma kei na veika meu cavuta se na veitalanoa me da na vakayacora. Ena gauna a biu kina na lawa qo ena vale ni boselawa, sa qai lewa mai na Turaga Sipika na gauna me kau lesu tale yani kina. Sa qai tukuni mai kina matabose qo, na vula o Seviteba se Okotova me sa biu lesu tale yani kina ena loma ni vale ni boselawa me sa lai dua na lawa o koya.

Kevaka sa dua na lawa o koya, mo na kila na bibi ni nomu oka o iko, me vaka au sa vakamacala oti mai kina. Kenai balebale na benu ca, ke vakayacori tiko na benu vakaveitalia ka vakavuna tiko na tauvimate qai soli na kudru se tabaki iko o Turaga ni Koro qai qiritaka kina Tabana ni bula ni vakayacori tiko na benu ca e ke. E laurai ni vakavuna tiko na tauvimate, ka ratou na qai lako yani, o sa na warning taki, kevaka o vuki cakava tiko, o sa na totogitaki vakailavo ena lawa oqo. Qo na vuna e bibi tiko kina na noda veitalanoa.

Ena gauna sa na lai lawa kina o koya, mo kila tiko ni da sa na vauci kece tiko ena lawa oqo. Me da lesu tale ena kenai naki – e sega ni tukuni me vakabobulataka e dua. E gadreva tiko na Tabana ni bula me da laveta cake nai tagede ni tiko savasava kei na tiko bulabula ena noda veikoro. E dua tale na yasana, kevaka iko raica, e dua na bolebole levu sa tu vua na Tabacakacaka iTaukei, oya na kena tovolei me vakailavotaki na Integrated Village Development Plan me rawa ni talave cake na koro enai tagede e gadreva tiko na tabana ni

bula me da tu kina. Sa da na bolebole talega na lewe ni koro me da sa na laveta nai vakarau ni noda bula na tiko ena loma ni koro, qarauni na veiyawaki ni tara ni vale, qarauni na tiko bulabula, laurai me kua na benu ca, me kua ni vakasucu na namu e loma ni koro, na manumanu me ra vesu vinaka.

Na siga ya, au sa vakasamataka tu na bibi ni lawa qo kevaka ena lako ena Yatu Lau. Nio iratou mai Yatu Lau e cake, na vuaka e karua toka ga ni koli. E tu sara tuga e yasa ni vale. O kedatou na tiko qo, e levu tiko na manumanu ka so na gauna era dau lako mai loma ni koro, era tiko na koli, sa da na qaqarauni nai taukei ni manumanu baleta kevaka e vakadewava tiko na mate, e da sa rawa ni totogitaki. Kevaka o vuki cakava tikoga, sa rawa nio lai vakacagicagi vakalailai e Vaturekuka, ka sa ka bibi kina me da veitalanoa.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, this law is presented by the Ministry of Health. They presented this law to the Parliament. The job of this Committee is to come to the people, ask your views, take your views, take your recommendation back to Parliament, discuss and change the necessary law before it is passed. The process that is here, the consultation, is a very important process. It allows the Turaga ni Koros, villagers, members of the public to give your views.

Once the law is passed, then it is finished. It can only be changed again in Parliament. There will not be another set of consultation process. There would be, but it is going to take a long time. This is the only time you have to present your views to this Committee members. If you want to speak in itaukei, we have members here who will translate for us. We have no problems, but this is the only time for you to speak. You need to open yourself in the manner that we all can discuss.

You can also give recommendations on what you think is right or what you think is wrong. Before the fine was only $2 or $5. Now it is $500 or maybe $1,000 and it is going to affect all of you at some point. This is the time for you to say, no, I do not want that $1,000 as it is too much. This is the time for you to speak to us. We cannot tell you what to say, it is your job to tell us what you want, so that is the perspective I have for you.

MR. S. RADRADRA (Turaga ni Koro Dogoru/Mata ni Tikina o Wailevu) – E dua ga na noqu kauwai me baleta ga na kena mai boko na Rural Local Authority ka dau qarava tiko na tikina dou sa kauta tale mai qo ni sa laurai na veimate lelevu. Au via taroga se cava a boko kina ya ka sa qai mai sagai me yavala tale mai qo.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- E dua na taro vinaka, au na qai sureti rau na Tabana ni Bula ni rau kila vakavinaka na vu ni kena mai boko kina ena 2018 na Rural Local Authority kei na kenai tavi a tu taumada na kena veiqaravi kei na kena nanumi me sa lesu tale mai ka tiki ni lawatu na kena vakatututaki na lawa tou sa veitalanoa tiko kina nikua.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Ni tiko saka na turaga nai liuliu ni bose, ni tiko na lewe ni boselawa, ni tiko na turaga na marama ena loma ni nodatou koro vakaturaga. Au kila na vakatulewa a mai tau ena 2018, ya na vakatulewa ni matanitu. E dua na vakatulewa ka sa vakadavora na matanitu ena 2018 ka sa gazette taki kina na kena sa kau laivi na Rural Local

Authority ka sa na soli na veiqaravi vei iratou na matabose ni tauni me ratou na qarava mai na veika ratou a dau qarava tu na Local Authority.

Au vakabauta ya nai vakamacala lekaleka ga au rawa ni cakava, baleta ni vakatulewa a sa vakatulewa kina na matanitu ena gauna ya, ena 2018 ka sa sega talega ni dua na kaukauwa e tiko vei keimami me keimami na saqata yani na lewa ni sa vakadavora na matanitu ni bera ni kacivaki na budget ena yabaki 2018.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nuitaka ni sa saumi na nomuni taro ya Mata ni Tikina.

HON. K.K. LAL.- It is my understanding that different governments that come in bring in different type of ideas, so the previous government removed it according to their understanding that it was no need for them and they were integrating everything under one office. When there is a new government and when there is a new head in the Ministry, they think that we need to bring local authority back, that is their prerogative meaning that is their job. If a new government is there tomorrow, they might say, oh we are going to change the name of rural local authority to Dogoru Local Authority. That is entirely up to the government.

There is an understanding that different government may have different set of ideas. Why I understand it was sent to the council boundaries and all those things, normally in overseas countries, everything falls under the local government. I believe the previous government may have tried to streamline everything under one roof rather than having two different departments doing the same job. That is my understanding, but I believe that time they closed it, now this Government is there, and they bring it back which I believe is a good thing for this Government.

It is up to the next leader or the next person who is in charge if they want to continue or they want to remove it totally. Bring back the Rural Local Authority is in one way a good thing for the health inspectors. In terms of the COVID response and all these kinds of disease response, it helps the local boundary monitoring.

I also believe that one of the most important aspects is sanitation and hygiene. In rural communities, sometimes we build houses just like that without proper planning, without proper septic tanks. Because these things are not planned properly, it affects our health. For example, your septic tank is just a normal one with rock and tin. As time goes on, that tin rusts so in simple language, the pooh pooh, is going to go to your water source and will make you sick.

The Ministry for Health have simple design for affordable septic tanks which you can make at home and there is hardware which sells plastic septic tanks that can take you for longer period of time. These are the type of things that the Rural Local Authority and the health inspectors will help the communities in terms of ensuring that your hygiene, septic tank, chicken pen, pig pen and all these things are proper. We do not want people to become sick.

If I want your vote, I will say that this is wrong, but this Committee is a bipartisan committee. You have four government MPs, and I am from the Opposition. I may say, this is wrong, but when you look at the bigger picture, we are here together to ask for your permission that we will go ahead with this Bill. If you have recommendations, we are going to change it. If you think something is wrong, we will work together to change it. That is why we are here together.

When we take it to Parliament, we are both from different sides – Government and Opposition. But here, we are trying to tell you that this Bill is very important because it is a very old law from the British time. Now it is modern time, so we have to have modern solutions for it.

MR. SAVENACA.- Au tokona vakalevu na Bill e kau tiko mai qo. Na koro qo a voleka saraga ni red zone, ia na vu ni noqu tokona kina na Bill ni tiko bulabula qo baleta veitalia se da turaga levu vakacava se tamata lailai vakacava, na tauvimate ena lako ga mai me vaka na leptospirosis, na mi ni manu. Ya na vuna au tokona na lawa vakatutu oqo me rawa ni laveti cake ka vakabulabulataki tale na tiko bulabula ena noda vanua lomani qo ko Viti.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Totoka nai vakamacala ya ena vuku ni tiko bulabula. Au na kauti kedatou vakatotolo kina tabana e 57 ena tikidua. E kaya tiko na ulutaga ya, nai vakarau rarama me baleta na meda wai. Au vakabauta o keda na tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu e vuqa vei keda eda gunu wai ena vanua e lako mai kina na vakaso ni meda wai. Au sega ni kila vei kedatou eke, se e tiko kina na vakasama ya se dou gunu wai mai Labasa se evei.

Kenai balebale e tiko na nodatou vakaso ni medatou wai eke ena vanua e maroroi mai kina na medatou wai ni bera ni qai lako mai na nodatou loma ni koro vakaturaga. Na lawa qo e vauca tiko e tolu na ulutaga bibi ni vanua e drodro mai kina na medai vakaso ni wai. Na gauna e sa na wili kina me sa lawatu ni matanitu na lawa vakatutu qo, sa na vakatabui mo lako I teitei ena vanua e lako tiko mai kina nai vakaso ni meda wai. E tabu na teitei ka tabu talega mo susu manumanu kina. E tabu talega ni ta na veikau lelevu e tiko kina. E tabu talega nio vakacacana e dua na tolo ni paipo ka okati kece tiko ena lawa vakatututaki tiko qo. E tiko vata kei na kenai totogi. E sa sega talega ni tiko vei iko e dua na dodonu keo iko o taukei ni qele mo vakayacora tiko ya. Na bibi ni ka qo e vauci keda tiko. Keo na tukuna – sega qo na neitou qele, qo na neitou vanua – nio na lako e mataveilewai sa tiko vata kei na kena totogi.

E via kaya tiko na vakasama levu qo na kena maroroi na wai savasava meda gunuva na tiko ena loma ni tikotiko se na vanua e lako mai kina nai vakaso ni wai. Au vakabauta ena loma ni tolu na macawa sa oti, eratou a veilewaitaki iratou na tabana ni wai o iratou na taukei ni qele mai cake ga qo vei kedatou koya era gunu tiko kina o Labasa. Sa caka e dua na kena veiyalayalati ka ratou sa duavata na kena saumi lesu vei ratou na ka kece me baleta nai vakaso ni wai ya.

Na lawa qo e vauca kece tiko ya. Ena gauna sa tuki kina e Palimedi me sa lawatu, sa sega ni tiko vei iko na kaukauwa. Keo mani taukei ni qele sara seo turaga ni koro, se cava ga

o via cakava ena vanua e lako mai na soso ni wai, o sa vauci vakalawa. Ko na totogi vakailavo ka rawa talega nio na veilewai ka lai vakacagicagi beka me vula ciwa se vula 12 ki Vaturekuka. E biu tiko ya ka sega ni kenai balebale mo ni na totogitaki. E biu tiko na tabana bibi ya me vaka tiko e dua nai sasabai mei vakatatao ni da cakava na yacana vaka Peritania na 'deterrent'. Au dolava tiko na vakasama ena rabailevu ni veika eda dau vakayagataka sai koya na medai soso ni wai.

MS. ASINATE.- Au via vosa ga ena tikina e 20, 21 kei na 22 – na vosa makawa me baleta na valelailai kei na rubu ni benu. Na vosa makawa me baleta na vale lailai kei na rubu ni benu. E tautauvata o iratou na tolu qo.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ko ni vinakata e dua na veivakararamataki?

MS. ASINATE.- Io.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na sureti ratou na tabana ni bula. E sega ni matata tiko vei iratou na balebale ni vosa makawa me baleta na vale lailai kei na rubu ni benu. Na 22 na vosa makawa me baleta na vale lailai kei na rubu ni benu.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Ni tiko na vuvale vanua na siga vinaka ni kua. Taumada na vakavinavinaka levu ena vuku ni vakatataro e gole tiko mai. Tikina e 21 kei na tikina e 22 e dusia tiko e dua na veisau ka dua na yavu levu ni kena nanumi na vakavoui ni nodatou lawa. Me vaka era vakamacala tiko kina na turaga Chairman, na lawa qo se duri mai na 1935, nikua sa 90 na yabaki. Kenai balebale na lawa qo e qase kece vei keda na tiko e loma ni valenisoqo ni kua ka tiko e loma e so na vosa se vakayagataki ena gauna vaka koloni ka sa sega ni qai veiganiti kei na gauna eda tiko kina nikua.

E vica na vosa ya koya e volai tiko qori ena 21 kei na 22. Na vosa me vaka na 'privy'. Na privy e tu ena lawatu ena gauna qo. Kevaka au na tarogi keda na tiko ena loma nikua se cava nai balebale ni privy, eda na sega dina sara ni kila. Na privy ya na vale ni vakavakacegu. Kena balebale me sa boko laivi na privy ka me sa biu e loma na sanitary facility koya e sa yaca ni vale ni vakavakacegu tiko vakavavalagi ena gauna qo.

Vakakina na kava ni benu, se yacana e liu na 'dustbin' ka sa sega ni qai dua na vanua e vakayagataki kina na vosa na dustbin ena gauna ni kua. Keda kila ga ni da se vuli e primary school na dustpan koya keda dau kumuna kina na benu. Na kava ni benu ya na yacana na dustbin ena gauna vakoloni. Ena gauna nikua sa yacana na wastebin. Keitou sa nanuma me boko ya me rawa ni veisau. Ni dua e wilika kina na lawa, e rawa ni kila o koya na cava na balebale ni lawa ya. Ya e so na veiveisau ka tiko ena lawa vakatutu ena 21 kei na 22.

Dua talega na noda septic tank. Keda kila tiko ena gauna qo na septic tank. Na yaca e dau kilai kina e liu ena gauna vaka koloni na cesspit. Koya ya e se tiko ena vola ni lawa ena gauna ni kua. Kena balebale ni lako yani e dua me tukuna I vei nomu cesspit? Sa na dua na tama ni veilecayaki levu ena yacovi keda. Me yaco sara ni sa boko na cesspit ka sa biu na

septic tank. E dua vata tiko ga na ka, io e duidui ga na vosa eda vakayagataka kina mai na gauna ya ki na gauna qo.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nanuma ni sa saumi na nona vakatataro na marama ka dabe tiko mai ra ya. Ni tou tiko ga ena vakasama ni veisau ni lawa, e kaya toka o turaga Tovata ya, sa vosa vaka koloni ena 1935. Na vosa kece madaga keitou rogoca ena neitou wavoki tiko qo e ka vou tale tiko madaga vei keitou na tiko e cake qo. Baleta a sega ni dua vei keda a donumaka mai na kena mai vakadeitaka na matanitu me lawatu na vosa ka vakayagataki tiko ya.

Kevaka e so tale na vosa vovou dou nanuma ena nodatou koro qo me veisau, e rawa ni datou vakacuruma e loma. Ni sa tukuni ga na septic tank sa da na kila ya na vanua e mai maroroi kina na duka kece ni vanua eda tiko kina. Kevaka e mani yaco na septic tank me sega ni caka vakamatau, ka drodro na kena wai ca ka lai vakavuna na tauvimate vei dua tale na wekamu ka drau tiko veivolekati tikoga ka vauci tale tikoga ena lawa qo. O na totogitaki vakailavo mai vei nomu neighbour ni ratou raica ka ratou na qai solia vei iko e dua na notisi. Dou vakavinakataka qo ena loma ni vitu se 21 na siga, ratou na qai taleva lesu tale mai. Na vakasama tiko ga ni kena maroroi tiko na noda tiko bulabula. E so na ka lalai ka da rawa sara ni cakava wale tikoga kevaka madaga e kabasu toka na tolo ni paipo, me veisau ga na tolo ni paipo ya. Lai voli ga mai, sema, coba ka lako vakamatau tale na wai duka ya kina vanua dodonu mera lai vakacegu kina.

E wili talega kina na nomu biuta na wai ka gole mai na vanua ni vakasaqa. Qo na vanua kece era dau bula kina na manumanu koya e vakavuna tiko na tauvimate vei keda. Me buli na lawa me baleta na tamata. A sega ni buli na tamata me baleta na lawa. Me dabe toka e kea na noda vakasama. E kau mai na lawatu vakaturi qo me baleti keda kei na noda tiko bulabula, na noda maroroi ena vuku ni tauvimate ka sa vakadinadinataki vei iratou na tabana ni bula ni yaco tiko ni sega ni qaravi vinaka na noda tiko bulabula vakauasivi tiko na taudaku ni veikoro lelevu.

O ira na tiko e tauni, e vauci ira tiko na council. E ra sauma na kena vakacavacava, me kau na nodra benu, veika me baleta na nodra livaliva kei na wai era sauma. Kedatou na tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu, ya na vuna e kau tiko mai qo vei kedatou na lawa vakatutu qo. Dola tiko na nodatou gauna ni veitalanoa. Dou kua ni laiva na gauna qo me lako siviti kemudou qai sega ni rogo na domomudou e ke.

MR. S. RADRADRA.- Au vakavinavinaka ena veitalanoa nikua. E dua na sasaga levu a tiko ena tikina o Wailevu kei na yaubula ni yasana baleta na kena maroroi na veikoro, au na vosa tiko ena tikina o Wailevu. Na leqa e tiko koya na noqu vakatutu e liu me na laveti cake na Rural Local Authority me na vakabulai tale. Na leqa levu e tiko qo, kevaka dou na lako mai e gaunisala, dou na raica na benu era viritaki e gaunisala, era viritaki e na veiuciwai lalai. Qo keitou via valuta tiko ni vakavuna tale tikoga na tauvimate.

Ni sa kau tani na Rural Local Authority qo, sa sega ni manata na veika keitou nanuma na tabana ni yaubula ni yasana me mai qarava na cakacaka levu qo. Na benu sa qai toso cake ga, na veiuciwai era tu qo sa vakaloloma. Ya nai vurevure saraga ni bula vei keimami na

lewenivanua. Ke rawa ni dua na ka e cakava na matanitu, kau na beitaka na matanitu ni malumalumu baleta ni keitou sa kauta cake tiko ka sega ni dua na ka e caka kina. E sega ni rawa ni tarovi rawa na nodra viritaka na nodra benu o ira na dautei dovu tiko e ra qo. Keitou dau samaka na uciwai qo vakadua sobu ka so na gauna keitou dau tekivu mai ra ka samaka mai. Ia ni sa toso sobu yani, sa sega ni dua na neitou kaukauwa e tiko kina. Koya qo, au via laveta cake kina matanitu nikua, koya na lawa makawa sa mai boko qo me vakaduri, qo sa vakatutu ni tikina o Wailevu ka me toso cake na veiqaravi me rawa ni vauci vakalawa o ira na dau viritaka vakabutako tiko na nodra benu ena veiuciwai kei na veibati ni gaunisala vakabibi ni tiko vei keitou na rara ni waqavuka era na sobu mai kina o ira na vulagi kei ira na saravanua ka matai saraga ni ka era sotava na benu e gaunisala.

HON. S. KUMAR.- Thank you very much Turaga ni Koro. You have raised a very important point. Overall, we have been discussing this for weeks now in Fiji, and what we have established, and you would also agree with is the absence of strict law in our bill and Act that we currently have the Public Health Act that is giving rise to these issues we are facing today. The careless disposal of rubbish, people are disposing anyhow, anywhere, inside the sugarcane field, rivers and streams because they know, who will catch them. No one is watching or even or even if they are caught, they know that hardly anything will happen to them. Or if there is a fine, they know that the fine is very small which is $2, so they chose to pay $2 and dispose their rubbish in someone else's compound which may cause more than $2 to go and dispose it in Labasa rubbish dump or dig the ground or things like that.

The Ministry of Health are the architects of this Bill and they have faced many issues of similar nature over the years including diseases such as leptospirosis, dengue, malaria, typhoid and most of these diseases are found to be spreading or breeding in the informal and communal set up just like the itaukei villages and squatter settlements because for them, nothing is proper. Their houses are not built on plan, their septic tank is not designed properly, it is anyhow – they do it just to start off. Some used to put the 44-gallon drum before to be their septic tank. Over sometime, it starts to have de-foul smell and neighbours start complaining. There is a hole there and from there, the mosquitoes get inside, they breed and come out, so dengue, diarrhea, and typhoid and all these kinds of diseases spread.

The septic wastes and the wastewater, the water from the sink, washing machine is just going on the ground which is free flowing. Slowly, the area becomes boggy and then leptospirosis and all these things are bound to breed there.

Through this Bill, the effort is to bring about or raise the bar of our public health which is costing life and some thousand plus people have died due to leptospirosis in Fiji so far. The statistic is there, the Ministry of Health is there, and they know the condition of the hospital. People are complaining, hospitals are crowding because our rules are very flexible and very simple. It is not scaring; it is not deterring.

One way to deter people from following the rule and doing the right thing is to get sticker penalties and fines which is very much proposed in this Bill here before us. That is why we are taking this around, letting people know so that at the end when the Bill becomes

the Act, they do not complain that the fine is too much. There can be some submissions as to how you want the fine, right now the fine is one for everyone. Those businessmen, or business waste, commercial waste, industrial waste, residential waste and garbage and septic plus the informal settlements are all having same fine. Maybe some of the things we can suggest from the floor there, for the fine to be tiered in steps.

Those in informal settlements, rural and those who are not guided on how to build the septic tank, their fine should be a bit less because in open space, their pollution is not affecting much to the majority of the population. Whereas those in informal settlements, theirs should be different or residential. Where the engineer is coming inspecting and health inspector is coming and inspecting giving them the certificate and occupancy certificate, inspecting everything step-by-step as they build. If theirs is not in order, they should be given more fine than the ones in the village because they have been guided all throughout. It should not go wrong.

If it is giving problem, then their fine should be more compared to the ones who have never guided on how to make the septic tank. Plus, the factories, industry waste and pollution, theirs should be different. It should be in three steps. These are some of the things your villages can make, because when this becomes an Act, and it is imposed on you – it will affect the public. This Bill will be implemented on everyone. It does not exclude the people in government or in Opposition or those in high office. It will affect all of us because we live in this country, and this is about all of us.

HON. A. BIA.- Au sauma madaga vakalekaleka na nomuni taro. E rua saka na lawa e kovuta saka na rua na kudru o ni varaitaka tiko mai. E rua na lawa sa tiko oti – e dua na benu ca vakaveitalia ni dua na lewenivanua. Ena vula o Epereli sa qai oti qo ena yabaki qo, a sa pasitaki ena loma ni vale ni boselawa e dua na lawa ka vakatokai na Litter Act. E sa na rawa ni totogitaki e dua kevaka o raica ni benu ca, sa rawa ni totogitaki ena $200.

Ena vuku ni benu ena uciwai, e sa tiko talega na lawa e kovuta na benu ena noda uciwai vakatokai na lawa e qarava na noda yaubula na Environmental Act na kena wase 45 e tiko sara na totogi kina $250,000. E bibi sara tiko na lawa ni kena benuci na noda uciwai baleta ni levu vei keda eda vakararavi tu ena vuku ni kena rawati na bula ena veisiga ena veiuciwai kei na veivanua eda tu kina. Nai totogi kevaka e matai ni totogi e $250,000, kevaka e vuki cakava tikoga, sa na tau tale e cake e $170,000. E sa tiko na rua na lawa ya ka kovuta na benu ca vaka talega kina na benu ena noda uciwai.

Kena balebale kevaka e dua sa raica, sa nodai tavi ga me da na tukutuku yani vei ratou na kena valenivolavola me ratou lako mai, me ratou dikeva, ka me soli nai totogi vei ira na benu ca se vei ira na benuca tiko na noda uciwai. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, au kerea na nodra vakatutu na Turaga Mata ni Tikina me tokoni. Au kila ni se vakatutu vakavo saka tiko. Vinaka saka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Mata ni Tikina, au na kerea mo na vakatututaka tale mai na ulutaga bibi o ni kaya tiko qori. Na kerei kemuni na lewenikoro me na tokoni. Me na tiki ni neitou na lai raica tale

mada na gagadre titobu dina ni sa vauci tiko vakalawa ena vuku ni Komiti, kei na kena veiqaravi. Au kerea moni na vakatututaka..

MR. S. RADRADRA.- Au sa vakatura tiko na Rural Local Authority me na vakaduri tale. Au sa vakatura.

MR. E. NAVENACA.- Sa tokona

MR. S. RADRADRA.- Dua tale na ka keitou kauwai tiko kina. Sa laveti oti ena bose ni Tikina, sa lai vakarogotaki talega na bose ni Yasana me baleta na benu. Ni keitou sega ni taleitaka tiko na nodra benu tiko qo, dina tiko nomudou vakamacala. Na totogi veitalia na kena toso cake vakacava, ia na benu e caka e loma ni bogi levu. Dou vaqara na Matanitu dua na kena iwali me ratou bo me ra totogi me tini kina na cakacaka qo. Au sa vakatura.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- O ni sa vakatura oti tiko mai liu na vakasama oya, kerea me na tokoni tale madaga. Ke na sega ni na tokoni ena sega ni na pasi na mosoni ya.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka rau tiko qo na vakalesilesi iliu ni veiqaravi na tabana ina Vualiku. Kerea me dua mada nodrau vakamacala raraba na vakasama ni benu koya da goleva tiko qo.

MR. V. CAVUILATI.- Sa tiko saka na Turaga na Chairman, tiko na Komiti ni Boselawa, ni tiko na Turaga kei na marama na leweninodatou koro i Dogoru. Vinaka vakalevu na vuku ni taro sa gole tiko mai. Kila ni dua na kauwai levu e tiko me baleta na benu ca. Sega walega ni nodatou tikina qo i Wailevu, e kovuta sara tikoga na nodatou yasana qo i Macuata, vakabibi na loma ni vanua i Vanua Levu.

Keitou na Tabacakacaka ni Bula, na gauna sa na vakaduri tale na Local Authority, erua na tiki ni veiqaravi e tiko kina me baleta na kena maroroi na benu. E tiko kina edua na neitou tabana dau qarava na sanitation. Ena cakacaka vata kei na lewe ni tikotiko se na lewe ni veikoro me baleta na kena sagai me kau na benu ena taudaku ni veitaoni.

Ia e tiko na noda itavi na lewenikoro. E levu ga vei ira era benuca tiko qo baleta ni sega tiko na veiqaravi na vanua me ra biuta kina na nodra benu. Keitou na cakacaka kina vata kei kedana lewenivanua, e seganiu na kaya ni na *free* na cakacaka qo na kena kau na noda benu. E tiko na ka e lavaki na kena soqoni na noda benu kei na kena kau yani kina i benubenu.

Na kena ikarua, e tiko talega qo edua na kabani koya dau biuta mai na bin lelevu. Keitou sa tovolea tiko ena vica na veikoro. O ni na kila beka mai Wailevu, e yasa ni gaunisala e tiko kina dua na green bin. Ratou a kerea ga mai kina Tabana ni Bula, keitou a lai biuta yani dua na somate a caka mai kina, keitou a sauma na matai ni kena biu. Keitou tukuna vei ratou kevaka e lako vinaka na kena qaravi na maroroi na benu, na biu tarava sa na sauma na lewenikoro. Mai na gauna ya me yacova mai qo, era sa sauma tiko na lewenikoro na kena vakagalalataki tiko na benu mai na koro mai Wailevu.

Au kila na kena leqa e mai tiko baleta ni sega ni dua na tiki ni veiqaravi me qaravi keda tiko mai na tiko ena taudaku ni taoni. E tiko kina na noda itavi. Ira na tiko na loma ni taoni era sauma tiko na kena kau tiko na nodra benu, ra sauma tiko na nodra city rates, garbage fee. E tiko kina dua na ka au mai raica ena noqu veiqaravi ena Vualiku, e cavuka tiko na isema ya ka vakavuna tiko me bogi ga vakaoqo ra lako mai ra viritaka na veidovu baleta ni sega tiko gona na veika me qaravi kina na kena maroroi na benu.

Sa tiko kina na noda itavi, sega walega ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula, tavi talega ni lewenivanua. Kevaka o ni raica edua e benuca ni tabaka, me vaka sa vakaraitaki tiko na member ni komiti ni totogi levu, e sega ni rawa ni gole tiko mai na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ena siga kei na bogi me yadrava. Keda saraga sa na noda itavi na veitikotiko, kevaka eda sa raica edua e benuca tiko, tiko vei keda na

vakadinadina rawa ni gole yani ka vauci ira na lawa me baleta na totogi levu na nodra benu ca tiko ena noda itikotiko.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, sa da rogoca tiko ya. Rau saraga na veiqaravi tiko i Labasa, rau sa vosa tiko ya. Dua vei kemuni via vosa me baleta na ulutaga bibi tou goleva tiko qo? Na tabana o ni vakatututaka, se o ni via vosa kina, se o ni gadreva na veivakararamataki.

MR. S. ROISOGO.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Roisogo)

Au taro walega, vakacava na dovu? Baleta ni tekivu ga yani i cake qo me yacova na neitou uciwai levu, ya o ira na vakaloga ni dovu. Vakacava na manure kei na spray era vakayagataka tiko na gauna e tau kina na uca e drodro ina uciwai, edua na vakacacatalega e yaco tiko ena veika me baleta na dovu. Baleta ni levu na loga ni dovu era voleka sara ena bati ni uciwai. Kena levu saka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, taro vinaka ya. E sega ni okati tiko ena nodatou loma ni veitalanoa koya na lawa vakatutu e tiko qo. Au na kerei rau na Tabana ni Bula me dua nodrau veivakararamataki totolo ena vakasama ni manure, me soli na veivakadeitaki ni levu na veika e vakayacori tiko ena *manure* kei na spray e gole sobu tale kina wai, koya nodra ikanakana tiko na itikotiko qo.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Ni sa tiko saka na Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, tiko na Turaga lewe ni bose lawa, tiko na lig ani veiqaravi, ni tiko na leweni koro nodatou koro vakaturaga. Taudmada vakavinavinaaktaki tiko na kauwai cauraki saka tiko na mataka ni siga ni kua nav uku ni vakayagaki ni wainimate vata kei na manure ena veidovo vakabauta na wili talega kina o keda vakateitei kakana draudrau kei na veika tale eso.

Au kila ni tikina dina o ni vakaraitaka tiko, e sega ni tiko na lawa vakatutu taki tiko ratou kauta wavoki saka tiko mai na lewe ni Boselawa ena siga ni kua. Au kila ni tiko o ira na dau ni vakasala era dau vakasala ena veika me baleta na wainimate. E tiko vei ratou na FSC, tiko vei ratou na Tabana ni Teitei na wainimate koya vakayagataki vata kei na kena iwalewale ni vakayagataki ni wainimate. Na gauna ga ena sega ni vakayagataki na kena iwalewale koya e volai tiko ena tavaya ni wainimate se na ka eda vakasalataki mai kina, koya ya e rawa ni vakavu leqa.

So na gauna eda nanuma me da vakayagataka vakalevu na wainimate me na vakatotolotaka na teitei se na vakamatea vakalevu na co, ia, au kila na ka e bibi tiko na kena vakamuri tiko na vakasala e tiko na kena dau vakayagataki na wainimate. E levu na veika eda na raica kevaka sa tekivu tiko me sa na tiko na revurevu ni wainimate vakayagataki tiko ena veiteitei, kakana draudrau se na veidovu e tiko qo. E dodonu me sa na laurai tiko ke sa mate tiko na ika, eso na veika va ya. Vaka me vakaraitaka tiko ni dua na indicator ni dua na ka e leqa tiko vei na wainimate e vakayagataki tiko. Ya eso na ivakaraitaki.

Levu na gauna eda dau kauwai vakalevu na veika e yaco ena veika wavoliti keda me vaka era sa leqa tiko mai na sasalu se na kakana era tiko ena noda wai, era tiko qo ka da vakanuinui tiko kina ni vuku ni kakana, ka da guilecava tiko o ira na leweninoda vanua o ira era taura tiko na wainimate, era spray taka tiko na wainimate, era vakamirika tiko na masima, ra viri taka tiko na manure, keda eda expose tiko kina. Ni bera ni qai lako i Wailevu na kena drodro me tau mai na uca me drodro i Wailevu, o ira na noda lewenivanua o ira ya era expose tu ena wainimate qo. Au nuitaka ni dou na vakadinadinataka tiko na veika au tukuna tiko qo.

O keda na lewenivanua, o ira na cakacaka tiko qo na veidovu, na veivanua ra tiko qo na teitei kakana draudrau, o ira qo era tara tiko na wainimate, era spray taka tiko ka mix taka tiko. E vakabibitaki tiko kina na ka me baleta na noda dau qaqarauni se na daramaki na PPE me da taura na wainimate, mix taka na wainimate, vakayagataki na wainimate, sava na iyaya ni veiqaravi, qai muri na kena tau mai na uca, drodro e uciwai. Qo eda veitalanoa raraba tiko ga, na gauna ni dua na

lewenivanua e expose vei na wainimate e sega ni expose ga vaka qo, sa na leqai iko. Ena taura na gauna na nomu expose tiko ena veisiga ni nomu bula taucoko ena nomu qarava tiko na cakacaka ya, mena qai cakacaka vei iko na wainimate.

Vakabauta ni veivakararamataki tiko ga qo raraba vei keda, kila ni kau tiko mai na vakasama ni wainimate na kena drodro yani ena noda uciwai, na veivanua eda vakanuinui tiko kina na veika me baleti keda. Au vakararamataki keda tiko ena veika me baleta na kena vakayagataki na wainimate kei na veika e rawa ni yacova na noda bula. Na noda expose tiko vei na wainimate teitei, na wainimate ni coca, na yacana na chronic exposure ni ko na expose tiko kina qo me yacova ni ko qase, na kena itinitini na cancer. Au sa nanuma meu sa na veivakararamataki tiko kina levu ga na gauna eda dau lai vakasamataka vakalevu na nodra bula na veika era tu ena loma ni wainimate, na nodra lai leqa baleta na kena tau mai na uca, drodro sobu i waitui, ka da guilecava tiko ni o keda na lewenivanua, keda da cakava tiko na spray, mix taka tiko na wainimate, na noda bula talega e ka bibi. Au sa vakamacalataka na end result ni chronic exposure ni wainimate kece na cancer. Au nuitaka ni sa sauma tiko na nomuni taro.

MR. P. T. NAMOCE.- (Vcakamacalataki koya o Mr. Namoce)

Dua ga na kauwai, e vaka ni da tiko qo ena yavu ni kauwaitaki tiko na bula ni tamata. Dua ga na kauwai se vakatutu e kau cake tiko yani qo, ni laurai tiko na nomudou statistics na Tabana ni Bula e levu na tauvimate e lako tiko yani ena taudaku ni korolevu. E dua beka na kauwai kau tiko yani qo me baleta tiko na kena qaravi tiko na wai ni gunu e nakoro. Baleta mai na veikoro lelevu vakataoni era marautaka tiko na wai koya vakawainimate. Na taudaku ni koro lelevu e sega tu ni vakawainimate na wainigunu ena koro, koya beka ya na vuna levu e levu tiko kina na tauvimate gole tiko yani ena taudaku ni koro lelevu.

Kevaka e rawa ni dua na veivuke mai na matanitu vata na tabana ni bula, kevaka e rawa ni kau yani eso na gone era tiko e loma ni koro me ra lai vakatavulici ena kena mix taki na wainimate ena loma ni koro kei na vakasokomuni ni wai, me rawa ni lailai sobu kina na mate e lako tiko yani ena loma ni koro e yaco tiko mai ena vuku ni kena gunuvi tiko na wai sega ni vakawainimate. Kena levu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, dua na vakatutu vinaka ya, ia, na kena dina e da na rogoca vei ratou na tabana ni bula. E dina tiko na itukutuku ni levu na tauvimate e vu tiko mai na noda soso ni wai koya eda gunuva. Na vakadidike eratou kaya vei keitou me baleta tikoga na noda tiko savasava. Kerei ratou na tabana ni bula me soli kina na kena vakasama matata. E dina tiko na vakatutu ya: e levu tiko na tauvimate e gole tiko yani ena taudaku ni korolevu e vakavuna tiko na wai era gunuva ni sega ni vakawainimate. Tabana ni Bula.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, lewe ni matabose vakalawa, ni tiko na Turaga Roko, vuvale vanua ena siga ni kua. Taumada, na vakavinavinaka levu vei Turaga ni Mataqali ena vuku ni kauwai e tiko me baleta na gunugunu ni wai ena taudaku ni korolevu. Dina talega na itukutuku ni cauraka tiko ni vuqa sara na mate eda dau veiwekanitaki vata na wainigunu me vaka na mosi ni kete, coka, coka dra, na milamila, na cava soti ga e rawa ni da veiwekanitaka vata na wainigunu. Ia, na lawa vakaturi e tiko qo e matada, kena imatai, bera ni tau lai tara yani na uto ni nomuni taro, na lawa vakaturi e tiko qo e matamuni e lima na tikina sa vakaturi me curu kina loma ni lawa tu koya me taqomaka sara ga na meda gunugunu ni wai.

Kena ibalebale, ni bera mada ni da nanuma me da vakawainimate taka na meda wainigunu, me laurai mada na cava e vakavuna tiko na meda wainigunu. Kevaka eda sa tarova rawa, kena ibalebale na via vakalailaitaki talega na kena sagai me vakawainimatetaki na meda wai ni gunu. Tikina e 26, tikina 32, tikina 48, tikina 57, tikina 60 — qo na tikina taucoko sa vakaturi tiko ena lawa vakaturi me taqomaka sara ga na meda gunugunu ni wai. Sa qai tiko na vakasama, ke sa mani caka taucoko ya, da sa taqomaka, sa sega ni qai musu na kau mai na uluniwai, sa sega ni caka na teitei mai na uluniwai, sa sega ni dua e lai vakasausataka na uluniwai ena kena qolivi se cava tale na cakacaka,

sa sega ni dua e tara vale me voleka yani na vakaso ni wai. Da sa taqomaka rawa ya ena lima na tikina vakacurumi ena lawa vakaturi qo. Sa qai tukuna mai, io vakacava me vakawainimatetaki na meda gunugunu ni wai.

Au kila ni sa tiko na tuvatuva na nodratou master plan ena Department of Water and Sewerage, ka oka tiko iloma na kena vakatetei yani na vanua sa yaco tiko kina na gauna qo na kena vagolei na veiqaravi ni wainigunu savasava vaka kina na sewer line kei na sewerage system. Sa tiko na nodratou master plan me qai toso tiko vakagauna me veidonui na bula vakailavo eda sa lako curuma tiko. Ia, tabacakacaka ni bula e tiko eso na gacagaca e dau cakava me rawa ni da gunuva tiko kina na wai savasava.

Tiko na porokaramu ni vuli era dau cakava na vakalesilesi, e rawa ni caka ena noda veikorokoro, veitikina vakatokai tiko na water safety, security and sanitation planning. Qo e dua na ituvatuva me keimami yadrava kina na maroroi ni meda gunugunu ni wai me rawa ni savasava ka bulabula vinaka. Kena karua na household keep well — kena ibalebale na noda vakasavasavataka na gunugunu ni wai ena loma ni noda veivalevale. Dau tiko na wainimate dau soli, dau vakamacalataki vei ira na marama tina baleta me ra dau vakawainimatetaka na wainigunu vakabibi ena gauna ucauca, na gauna me dau dukaduka kina na meda wainigunu. Salavata ya, dau vakasalataki kina rabailevu vei keda na lewenivanua ke sa mani dukaduka se vuvu na wainigunu me da dau vakasaqara na meda wainigunu.

Au kila ni o ira na noda qase liu era donumaka mai na nodra dau vakayagataka na saqa. Na saqa wai draki vaka oqo eda dau raica ni tuvani toka ena matanisiga na saqa wai. Ya sara ga na iwalewale ni kena vakasavasavataki na wainigunu vei keda. Na kena mataqali me sagai me so ena koro me lai vuli, na kena balavu tiko ena viavia dredre, okoya na gadreva e dua na very technical na kila me na tiko. Kena imatai, na wai e tiko ya e sega ni vaka na Water Authority. Na Water Authority e lako mai, eratou tarova vakadua e dua na vanua, sa qai kilai na levu ni wai e tiko ena loma ni tobu levu oya. Taura mada ke sa dua na 1,000 litre. Mai na 1,000 litre ya sa qai calculatetaki na levu ni wainimate me treat taka na 1,000 litre. Kena balavu ni gauna me tiko kina na wainimate, na gauna sa biu kina, levu ni wainimate kei na balavu ni gauna sa donu vinaka, sa qai pamutaki mai kina reservoir levu, reservoir sa qai supply.

O kedatou na wai e sega ni tao, na wai ya e toso vakadua tiko ga mai. Kena ibalebale, kevaka o na biuta tiko na wai, ena calculatetaki na fluoride ni intake kei na fluoride koya lako ituba me na qai bala tiko na wainimate ena veiaua se na veirua na aua me na veiganiti kaya kei na wai vou e curu tiko mai. Kevaka e sega, ena balata ga yani na wainimate qo lailai vakalailai na wai e curu mai, sosoko sivia na wainimate, dou duvani tale na lewenivanua ena wainimate. Koya e cakacaka technical toka, e control toka nanodra tou cakava na Water Authority baleta sara ga na ka au vakamacalataka toka ya.

Keidatou rawa ni raica ga na rua na walewale au sa vakamacalataka taumada kina — na vuli ratou dau cakava na vakalesilesi kei na household treatment edau solia tiko na Tabacakacaka ni Bula me kena ikuri tiko ena lima na lawa vakaturi koya sa tiko qo ena matamudou na gone Turaga me vakaturi tiko ena noda Bose Lawa. Tiko talega eso na gacagaca ni veivuke tiko taudaku Tabacakacaka ni Bula, vei ratou na tabana ni wai e tiko beka e dua na ka e vakatokai na EPSystem. Tiko beka so ena Vanua Levu qo, o ni sa na raica tiko e tolu na tani: kena imatai biu kina na nuku sand and filter, kena karua biu kina na qereqere me vakamatea na manumanu, kena katolu sa qai dola tu me bula tu kina na lumilumi me kania na duka ni wai ca ni bera ni qai vakadrodroi me da gunuva. Dua beka na unit ya e $45,000 na sau vakailavo, dau kerekere dau gole beka ga na valenivolavola ni Yasana, qai kerekere cake, qai biuta nomudou kerekere vei DO se vei ratou na tabana ni wai ena veivuke ya.

Tiko talega eso na filter, na filter era volitaki tu ga. Na vei kabani ratou qo era volitaka tu na microan filter, rawa ni coba ga na nomu boto ni siqi ena valenikoro, dolava ga na paipo wai, lako mai

na paipo sa wai savasava, sa rawa ni tautauvata na wai ena loma ni taoni. Levu tale tu na kena veigacagaca eso e tiko. E tiko na kena isau lavaki vakailavo. Kena levu, saka Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vakabauta ni sa sauma vinaka nomuni taro yani na wekaqu ena vuku ni vakasama e lako tiko mai ya.

RATU V. MANOA.- Mr. Chairman, au vakamacalataka walega na veika me baleta na dovu – wainimate, na spray e vakararamataka na veidovu, na spray e baleta tiko na masala. Sega ni teivaki na masala ena dua na palat. Na container ni wainimate me vaqarataki ka bulu, me kua ni biu tu vakaveitalia. Safety overall - vaka mask ni ko spray. Kena rogo me taudonu.

MR. J. TURAGALEVU.- Au kerekere ke rawa ni vakamatataki kina na Tikina 41, 42 kei na 43.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tikina e 41, 42 kei na 43. Kerei kemudrau na Tabana ni Bula me dua nomudrau veivakararamataki kina.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.-Tiko na Liuliu ni Bose, lewe ni Bose ni Komiti, ni tiko na Turaga Roko kei kemuni na vuvale vanua ena siga ni kua. Na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula neitou toso tiko mai ena veiqaravi, vica na ka keitou qai raica tiko ni vaka e tataotaka tiko na veiqaravi. Na neitou sagata tiko me oni bulabula ka qaqa vinaka na lewenivanua o Viti. E vica tiko na ka e luluqa tiko iloma koya qo sa qai nanumi me biu vakatutu me so na ka me bonata mai na luluqa ya.

Tikina 41 e vakamacalataki tiko kina na common lodging. Kena ibalebale na common lodging e wili kina na vanua ni veivakacilitaki sau lailai, me vaka na bareki ni musu dovu. Sega tu ni dua na lawa a caka tu me baleta na kena qarauni na kena tuvaki me vinaka tu na kena ituvaki me vaka na valenivakavakacegu, vanua ni nodra moce na wekada era dau musu dovu me rawa ni tatarovi tiko na dewa ni mate. Vica na yabaki sa oti qai dua na veidewavi levu ni mate na typhoid, sa oti na COVID. Oti beka vica na yabaki sa oti qo, veitauvi e Labasa na mate levu na typhoid. Ena vanua gona ni musu dovu, ni bareki ni musu dovu era mai tiko kina veiwekani era musu dovu tiko, e sega sara tu ga ni caka vinaka na vanua ni moce, na qele ga tavuleni ra moce tu kina.

Oni sa kila vinaka na bareki ni musu dovu. Sa mani nanuma na vakalesilesi me vakaturi mai me edua na ka Tabana ni Bula me yadravi kina na tikina ya. Koya buli mai kina na lawa vakaturi qo. Gauna qo, ke dua na taukei ni dovu ni via dua nona bareki ni musu dovu me ra na mai tiko kina na dau musu dovu, na kena tuvaki me na raica rawa na Tabacakacaka ni Bula me sa donu me kilikili vaka kina me tiko kina na tamata qai rawa ni vakayagataki.

Tomana tiko na tikina qori, e wili tale tikoga kina na vale dau redetaki ena veikorolevu. O ira na wekada era dau lai rede tiko qo i Namara ena cakacaka ni veisiga, so dau gole i Suva ra dau lai rede. Sega tu ni dua na lawa e tu me taqomaki ira mai na mataqali vale e vakarautaki me ra rede tu kina. Keitou dau ciqoma so na vakatakukudru, sa dau gole yani ra dau tukuna na vale keitou tiko kina sa karua ga ni ba ni manumanu – na wai ca sa lako tu ga. Keitou dau gole yani, keitou dau lai raica so talega na mataqali vale era tu ya sa sega ni dodonu sara ga me vakayagataki. Sa mani nanumi me dua talega na tiki ni lawa me tagava talega na tikina ya. Na gauna qo kevaka sa loma soli na Komiti qo me sa kauta i Palimedi me sa pasi me sa lawa ena siga ni kua, na lawa vakaturi qo edua sa tara nona vale vinakataka me redetaki, me na raica rawa na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ni veiganiti vata kaya me tawana na tamata qai rawa ni redetaki. Ke sega, ena sega ni rawa.

Levu na informal settlement mai Suva ena gauna ni kua, e redetaki tu na vale ya, ira na tiko ya era rede tale tiko. Ya moni qai kila kina na tagede ni tiko bulabula, era sa rawa ilavo tiko kina o ira na cicivaka bisinisi tiko ka sega ni dua na lawa me taqomaki keda na lewenivanua ni da lai vakayagataka na vanua ni vakaicili vakaoqo. Koya ya sa qai tiko na kena totogi – kevaka edua sa cicivaka ga nona bareki ni musu dovu, cicivaka ga nona vale ni rede, sega ni register ena

Tabacakacaka ni Bula, rau sotava na kena itotogi sa toka qori. Ka sa wili tale tikoga kina na vanua taucoko sara ni vale ni veivakacilitaki me vaka na Airbnb, vale koya dau redetaki yadua na siga. Na lawa vakaturi sa tiko qo, koya kece na mataqali vale ni veivakacilitaki kevaka e vinakati me cicivaki vakabisinisi, me vakadonua taumada na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ni raica na kena tuvaki na veika e vakarautaki ena loma ni vanua ya, e veiganiti kaya me tiko kina na tamata sa qai rawa ni cicivaki. Ke sega, au sota vata kei na totogi ilavo ka levu koya tiko qori. Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vakabauta ni sa na matata toka na kena vakamacala ya. E wili talega kina na veiqaravi ni tiko ena noda koro koya eda tiko kina qo, vanua eda vakasoqoni kina na tamata. Kena ibalebale na tiko savasava na vanua ni vakavakacegu, me ra tuvaki na kena ivakarau koya ratou vakadonua na Tabana ni Bula. Kauta vakavoleka ga mai na vakasama qo me baleta tiko na tikina qo.

Kena ibalebale, e tiko kina itavi levu ena loma ni nodatou itikotiko vakaturaga, sa tara yani na loga ni dovu vei kedana dau ta dovu, yaco sara yani vei ira na tiko ena Airbnb kei na vanua e redetaki. Ya na vuna e vauci tiko kina na lawa qo, sega ni dua na lawa e vauci ira tu. Ka nuitaka ni gauna ni lai tuki kina e loma ni nomuni Palimedi na lawa qo, sa da na vauci kedana na lawa levu koya sa tiko ya.

MR. I. ROKOMINA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Rokomina)

Au na via vosa kina na tikina 69 me na qai dua noqu vakatataro me baleta na vakalatilati vei ira na dauniveqaravi me baleta na bula raraba. Dua ga na vakatataro me baleta na kudru ni veivanua e lako mai kina na ka me baleta na bula rarama. Ena sega ni rawa ni sogota na lawa virikotori tiko mai qo?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tikina 69 – na obstruction. Na lesu tale o cei e vakavuna na duka, e lako na vanua na kena vakamacala na veisautaka ni tabana e rua. E yavu levu ni tikina e 69 na vakalatilati vei ira na dauniveqaravi. E sa vauci tiko eke.

MR. I. ROKOMINA.- E dua ga na ka na vakalatilati na nodra dauniveiqaravi. Vakacava eso na dauniveiqaravi era cakava tiko eso na ka e veicalati ka vakavu veitalanoa. Kevaka sa na vakalawataki, sa na sega sara ga ni dua nomu dodonu mo vosa kina veitalia kevaka e cala tu na ka eratou cakava tiko.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, ni tiko na Honourable Members of the Committee, tiko na Turaga Roko, ni tiko na vuvale vanua ena siga nikua. Taumada, na vakavinavinaka levu ena vuku ni kena laveti tiko mai na lomatarotaro me vakararamataki vei keda ena siga nikua. Au nanuma meu kauti keda na tikina 14 e volai vakamatata tu kina na cakacaka koya dau qarava na vakalesilesi.

Na nona curuma e dua na itikotiko ena gauna e veiganiti me lai cakava kina na veiqaravi me vaka na tauri sabolo ni wai, sabolo ni wainimoli se dua na sulu se mocemoce me lai caka eso na vakadidike ni outbreak ni tauvimate, ni caka eso na inspection ni so na itikotiko — e tiko qo e vitu na itavi ena qarava na vakalesilesi. Ena gauna sa na qai tiko kina na ka ni vakalatilati, kena ibalebale o tarova e dua na vakalesilesi mai na kena vakayacori na nona itavi. Sega ni ko na vakatalevi koya qo.

Taura mada kevaka keitou tiko e valenivolavola, lako yani o Turaga ni Koro, dua na lewe ni vanua sa lai complain yani: “Noqu vale e tiko vaqo, na waica ni valelailai toka mai delana vakalailai sa gole tiko ga mai na noqu compound, na waica sa boica sara ga na neitou mata ni vale.” Keitou sa gole mai na vakalesilesi ena vuku ni tukutuku oya, sa volai na complain, register na yacana, na tukutuku matailalai, ratou gole mai na vakalesilesi ratou mai raica. Ratou gole ga mai, ratou tukuna vei Turaga ni Koro ni dua na complain e yaco yani e valenivolavola me lai laurai, o cei na taukei ni vale qo? Oi yasana ya, keitou veikau sara yani kei Turaga ni Koro na gauna keitou yaco yani kina e matanivale koya na vanua me keitou raica kina na ka qo. Qai duri mai kea o taukei ni vale, tukuna

mai: “Dou lako laivi, dou kua ni lako mai ke.” Ena gauna oya, na ka e vakaibalebaletaki ena vakalatilati — nomu sa lai tarova na vakalesilesi mai na nona qarava na nona itavi.

MR. I. ROKOMINA.- Na ivakamacala. E toka sara ga kina na vakavoui ni lisi. Noqu rai e veicalati tiko kei na nodra itukutuku vata na lewe ni mataqali se na koro, se na cava qai ratou sega ni vakayacora tiko na ka dodonu me vakayacori. E dodonu ga me keimami kua ni vakalatilati.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Io. Vakabauta ni na matata sara tu ga na kena vakamacala. Au na saga meu vakamacalataka sara me rawarawa me rawa ni da taura vinaka. Taura mada e dua na tauvimate, dua sa tauvi typhoid. Na lawa ni cakacaka tiko vei keitou, ke dua e tauvi typhoid, keitou na gole yani ena nona vuvale me keitou lai tauri tukutuku. Dua na soko o ni a gole kina? Dua na tamata a gole mai ke? Baleta na typhoid e rawa ni dewa ga ena ka o ni kania kei na ka o ni gunuva.

Kena ibalebale, laurai sara ga ena loma ni 14 na siga sa oti na vanua e lakova — qo na vakadidike. Sa na laurai o ira kece o ni a tiko vata ena loma ni tinikava na siga ya, era na lakovi talega me ra lai soli na nodra sabolo me na tauri nodra valelailai. Kevaka iko contact naba dua, ke tarogi o tauvimate qai tukuna o koya: “Keirau a tiko mai nona vale.” Keitou gole yani nomu vale me keitou lai tomana na neitou veiqaravi, na kena sagai me maroroi na kena veidewavi na mate ca. O iko qai sereka mai na nomu koli, me cicivi keitou mai, lokata mai na vale, sereka mai na koli — ya sa wili vakalatilati.

Na vakalesilesi, keitou tiko qo na Tabacakacaka ni Bula, e buli sara ga na tiki ni lawa qo me taqomaki keitou na dauniveiqaravi. Sa lako na keitou sele kava, vakacici na koli, laumoku na 4x2 — na kena sagai wale tikoga me taqomaki na bula ni lewenivanua. Sa biu tiko qo na vakalatilati kei na kena totogi me bibi, baleta keitou sega ni lako mai me keitou mai ravuravu ka vakarusa. Keitou sa gole ga mai me keitou taqomaka na bula, me rawa ni rawa vakalevu sara.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vakabauta ni sa via matata na kena vakasama, yani na vakasama ni vakalatilati. Na ka ratou tukuna tiko ya na ka ratou sa donumaka oti — na sere ni koli, na lave ni sele. Na lawa vakaturi koya tiko mai liu e sega ni dua na ka e baleti ratou na vakalesilesi. Sagai tiko ya me vakacurumi mai me rauta na gauna vou eda tiko kina, ena nanumi kina na nodra bula o ira na dauniveiqaravi.

MR. I. ROKOMINA.- Au vakatataro tikoga yani me baleta na Tikina 69. E veicalati toka vei au.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na Tikina 69 e volai toka qo ‘na lisi ni veivakacakacaka e vakavuna na duka se vakasosavo’.

MR. I. ROKOMINA.- Na kena vakamacala ga imuri.koya ga ya au vakataroga me vakamatatataki.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, na lisi tiko qo e sega ni lisi ni qele, qo na list se na tuvatuva ni veika e vakatokai me vakasosavo. Na vakasosavo sa qai lako yani kina na vakalesilesi me lai cakava na vakadidike ena vanua ya, sa qai lako mai kina na obstruction.

HON. A. BIA.- Koya sa vakadodonutaka na vakavakadewa.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Koya na list ni nuisance.

HON. A. BIA.- Koya sa tiko na vosa na vakasosavo. Sa qai tiko na ituvatuva ni veika kece e yaco e rawa ni vakavuna na vakasosavo.

Na veika e kovuta na vosa na ‘vakasosavo’.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- E sega ni lisi ni veiloga ni dovu. Na lisi qo na veika e kovuta na veika me baleta na vakasosavo. Na vosa vakaviti makawa qo e ka vou tiko vei kedatou. Tabana ni Bula na vakasosavo — na cava na kena vakamacala matata ena gauna vou eda tiko kina qo, na vosa ya? Vakasausa?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, na vakasosavo sa tiko beka ena dictionary ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei, e kena ibalebale tiko vakavalagi se kena ibalebale vakaviti — dua na ka e caka tu vakasabalia, se caka tu ga me rawa qai lai vakavu leqa.

R. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, ke sa sega tale ni dua na taro, au nanuma me da sa na yaco toka mada eke. E tiko na tuvatuva ena rua na kaloko, na kena golevi talega na vakasama eda dabe tiko kina qo ena vuku ni totolo ni toso ni gauna. Au vakabauta ena vuku sara ni nomuni Komiti kei na vuku ni veitalai ni Turaga Sipika ni Vale ni Boselawa, sa cavuti tiko na vakavinavinaka levu ena vuku ni veitalanoa matata savasava eda sa veitalanoa kina ena siga nikua. Sa levu na ka keitou sa mai rogoca, levu na ka keitou mai vulica, sa mai kaukaua lesu ena siga nikua na kena vakadeitaki na lawa vakatutu sa tiko qo e matada.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- Mr. Chairman, bera niu tauca na vosa ni vakavinavinaka. Au via dua talega noqu vosa me baleta eso na vakatutu e lako mai vei korokoro me baleta na totogi. E so era tukuna tiko na totogi sara ui levu. Me vaka ni ra tiko vakavanua, tiko vakoro, sega tiko na cakacaka. Dua na totogi e tiko ena tikina 39, toso cake tiko mai na $20 kina $2000. Sega ni macala ke a sa vakamacalataki. Qo e baleta tiko na mate dewa ni veiyacovi, koya sa tiko qo na HIV/AIDS. Ke dua e sa kila tiko, sa dikevi vakavuniwai, vakadeitaki tiko ni sa tauvi koya na mate qo, qai lako wavoki tiko me lai moce tale kei dua, lai vakadewava tale tiko na mate qo, sa tiko kina na kena totogi mai na $20 kina $2000.

Qo sa na oka talega kina o ira era vakadewa tiko ena veikoro lelevu na wainigaga ni veivakamatenitaki — na drugs, vakadewavi tiko qo ena kena pasitaki tiko nai cula. O ira kece era na wili kina kevaka era sa vakadewava tiko na mate qo ena gaunisala ni cula, tarai tiko na dra mai na dua na lewenivanua me rawa ni ra mateni kina. Koya beka ga qo au via wasea.

Kena karua, levu vei keda na vakamacalataka tiko na benu. Na benu koya sa laurai tiko vei korokoro qo levu ga na olo ni kakana voli mai na sitoa. Vei keda ga me da maroroya vakavinaka na noda dui benu, ena vakatalega ena vukea na bula raraba vakauasivi. Baleta niu sega ni kana lewenimanumanu, dua na ka au dau vakamacalataka me da dau kana ga mai na were. Ke o kana mai na were, na benu mai na were o na vakayagataka tale me manure ni nomu iteitei. Ya edua na gaunisala levu vei kemuni na tiko ena veikorokoro taudaku ni veikorolelevu, rawa ni vukei kemuni kina na kena control taki na benuca.

Ena vuku ni Turaga Sipika, vaka kina na Turaga Chairman ni Standing Committee ni Social Affairs, vata kei na lawalawa tiko rawa ena siga levu nikua, mata mai na Tabana ni Bula, taura na gauna vinaka qo meu vakavinavinakataki kemuni na lewenivanua. Au kila ni tiko nomuni dui osooso ena veisiga, na qaravi itavi ena nomuni dui matavuvale, se na qaravi itavi ena veikorokoro. Sa vakagalalataki kemuni mai, rawa ni da mai veiwaseitaka eso na itukutuku e tiko ena lawa qo sa kau wavoki tiko, ena rawa ni vukea kina na noda bula raraba.

Mai dua tikoga na vosa ni vakavinavinaka sa sega ni balavu sa vakasaka tiko ya na kena levu.

The Committee adjourned at 12.09 p.m.

The Committee resumed at 11.30 a.m.

Present

1.	Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	-	Chairman
2.	Hon. A. Bia	-	Member
3.	Hon. A.T. Nagata	-	Member
4.	Hon. K.K. Lal	-	Alternate Member

Apologies

1.	Hon. V. Pillay	-	Member
2.	Hon. P.K. Bala	-	Member

Ministry of Health and Medical Services

1.	Mr. Luke Vonotabua	-	Chief Health Inspector
2.	Mr. Onisimo Sadranu	-	Divisional Health Inspector- Eastern
3.	Mr. Toga Vosataki	-	WASH Co-ordinator

Submittee: Residents of Namuana Village, Kadavu.

In Attendance:

1.	Ms. Ema Anna	-	Nasegai
2.	Ms. Sereana Tabua	-	Nakaunakoro
3.	Ms. Milika Tokoni	-	Lomanikoro
4.	Ms. Kalesi Masi	-	Tiliva
5.	Mr. Sakiusa Drodrolagi	-	Lomanikoro
6.	Ms. Torika Naivuga	-	Nabukelevuira
7.	Ms. Meresivani Vaisaqa	-	Qalira
8.	Ms. Lelea R.	-	Nasau
9.	Mr. Josaia Lala	-	Daviqele
10.	Ms. Nanise Wati	-	Nabukelevuira
11.	Ms. Vinea Ceva	-	Kabariki
12.	Mr. Jorama Duikoro	-	Tiliva
13.	Mr. Apakuki Wakaya	-	Tiliva
14.	Mr. Viliame Matiavi	-	Namuana
15.	Mr. Mitieli Tuinamuana	-	Namuana

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni bera saka ga ni tekivu na noda veitalanoa ena vakasama ni veivakararamataki, au na kerea saka tiko na health inspector Vunisea me liutaki keda ena dua na masu.

(Prayer)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na kerei ratou na lewe ni Palimedi ka ratou tiko qo me ratou na vakamacalataki iratou.

(Introduction of Committee Members and officials from Ministry of Health and Medical Services)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au sa na tauyavutaka saka ga na noda veitalanoa ena vuku ga sigalevu ni kua. Sa tiko saka nai tikotiko vakaturaga e Namuana, Turaga saka na Tui Namuana. Nai tikotiko vakaturaga enai golegole mai Nakasaleka ena loma ni kena tikotiko vakaturaga vaka talega kina o iratou na gole tiko mai Kavala. Au nanuma meu veikidavaki raraba, esa tiko qo e so vei kedatou na gole mai kina, dina ga ni a tiko na porokaramu ena vuku ni siga ni mataka.

Ena nomudou siro sobu mai ena vuku ni veika e da lako curuma tiko me baleta na draki ni sega ni noda. Dou sa yalo rawarawa mo dou sa yaco mai nikua, eda sa mai sota vakadua e Namuana ka sa kalevu saka tiko na vakavinavinaka. Rokovi saka tiko na nomudou lomarawarawa ena nomdou siro mai meda mai duavata ena vakasama ni veivakararamataki kina dua na lawa vakatututaki sa tiko saka qo e matada.

Na neitou tavi me keitou yaco yani vei kemudou e Kavala kei na tikotiko veivolekati. Ena vuku ni kena dredre na veivosaki ni waqa, ya na vuna levu keitou sega ni rawa ni yaco yani kina ena nodatou I tikotiko vakaturaga. E levu talega vei keimami na lako tiko mai qo, e ka vou tiko vei ira na vodo boto. Keitou vodo madaga mai ena waqa levu na bogi me yacova na mataka ni kua, so sa tini qasi sa sega ni lako rawa ka sa taubale vaka na papa e loma ni waqa.

Sa nuitaka ni dou na ciqoma tiko na tabana ya, ni ka vou tiko vei keimami na lako tiko mai qo na vodo ena waqa vakauasivi tiko na idini cavu. E se tikoga ena nodra vakasama na veika ea yaco mai Lakeba ka se bula vinaka sara tuga vei ira ya. Au sa nuitaka na nomudou yaco mai nikua, e sega ni kavou vei kemudou na lako mai lako cake ka ni oqori na nomudou yalava ni veiqaravi. E kilai kemudou beka na waitui, ia keimami vulagi toka ena tabana oya.

Sa nuitaka na noda mai dabe nikua, ni da na mai duavata ena dua na lawa vakaturi ka lave kina noda Palimedi ena 1935. Ya na veitalanoa ena taudaku ni kuila – na kena vakasama rawarawa ga. E lawatu ni noda matanitu ni tabacakacaka ni bula na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava me yacova mai e daidai. Me yacova mai nikua esa 90 na yabaki. Na kenai balebale ya na lawatu ya ena kena gadrevi me sa vakatututaki qo me vakayacori e 69 na veiveisau ka sa toka vei kemuni qori na kena draunipepa, e sa yabaki 90 nikua. Vaka vei au e sega ni dua vei keda na tiko qo e sa yabaki 90. E yaga me na vakadodonutaki ke dua e tiko ka sa yabaki 90, e rau sa na via yabaki vata toka kei na lawa vakatututaki ka vakaturi ena gauna ya, ka se lawa tiko ni noda matanitu me yacova mai nikua.

Na vakatutu mai vei ratou na tabana ni bula, e ratou raica tiko ni sa sega ni veiraurau tiko na gauna vou eda sa tiko kina kei na veika e ologi tu ena loma ni lawatu oya. E ratou tovolea vakavica na tabana ni bula me ratou vakacuruma ena loma ni noda matanitu, yaco ki na Palimedi, sa qai rairai kena madigi beka na yabaki oqo, ka yacana tiko na Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 of 2026. Ya na vuna, keitou tiko kina qo na lewe ni boselawa. Qo na vanua ka dau veisau kina na noda lawa. Ke dua na ka e vakatututaki ena loma ni noda matanitu, ni sa raica na matanitu ni sa yaga me na veisau, ena qai biuta mai kina loma ni boselawa baleta qo ga na vanua ena rawa ni veisau kina e dua na lawa ni noda matanitu.

Na vanua ni buli lawa, vanua e veisau kina na lawa, vakavoui na lawa ka rawa talega ni bokoci kina e dua na lawa ni dua na matanitu. Ya na yavu levu eda tiko kina ena sigalevu nikua. E dua na lawatu mai na 1935 ka sa nanuma o iratou na vakailesilesi ni tabana ni bula me sa veisau ena loma ni 90 na yabaki ka 69 nai lavelave koya e tiko qori e matada, kevaka o ni na vakawilika sobu mai na 1 ki na 69 – ya na clauses e ratou nanuma ni sa yaga me na veisau.

Sa nuitaka ni da na veitalanoa sara kina vakamatata, ka me yaco kina na veivakararamataki mai vei ratou na lewe ni Palimedi ka rau tiko talega na kenadau mai na tabana ni bula mai Suva vakakina vei iratou na veiqaravi tiko ena Wasewase e tiko e Vunisea vakakina na Eastern Division koya eratou tiko vata kei kedatou nikua.

Au nuitaka na veitalanoa qo ena dua na veitalanoa rawarawa ga ka na rogoci kece na domoda. Keitou a tiko mai Navuso nanoa. Dua na ka e talei kina, ena neitou wavokiti Viti tiko qo, ko Navuso duadua e levu na vakatutu e a yaco mai vei ira na marama. Au sega ni kaya kina ni a lailai na turaga. Era a lewe levu talega na turaga ka levu na ka era vakatututaka mai na marama e ka vou vei keitou ka keitou nanuma me na tiki tu ni vakatututaki ni lawatu qo ni bera ni na qai lai tuki ena loma ni Palimedi me sa vakatokai me sa lawatu ni noda matanitu.

Au na dusia ga e vica na ka lelevu e okati tiko ena lawa vakatutu qo. Dua na kena matai koya e ka bibi taudua na kena gadrevi ka vakabibitaki na noda tiko bulabula, tiko savasava. Enai matai ni gauna, na lawatu qo e dau tarai ira ga na tiko ena loma ni veikoro lelevu ena veitauni se city baleta o ira ya era sauma na kenai vakacavacava. E tiko na veika e qaravi ira me vaka na benu, gaunisala, vakalivalivataki kei na veika tale e so.

Na rai ni tabana ni bula tou sa dabe tiko kina ni kua, me sa na wili talega kina o keda na tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu wili kina na noda veikorokoro, veiyanuyanu, tikotiko vagalala kei na vanua ga eda bula kina na tamata kei na vanua eda veiqaravi kina ka yavutaki ena matai ni vakasama bibi sai koya na kena qarauni ka maroroi na noda tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava.

Niu sa tukuna yani na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava, sega ni dua vei keda e loma ni vale qo me na vulagi kina. Na maroroi ni benu, maroroi ni wai ca, vanua ni savasava, valenikuro se septic tank, se vakasosa kei na kena maroroi na nodai gunugunu ni wai, ka tiko vata talega kei na kenai totogi. E ratou na qai vosa kina nai vakalesilesi ena gauna tou sa yacova yani na tabana oya.

Au via talanoa raraba tiko ga qo me matata tiko vei keda na cava e okati tu ena loma ni 69 na lawa vakatutu qo. E dua saka talega na tikina bibi e tiko kina na nodra maroroi nai vakalesilesi ni tabana ni bula ni ra qarava na nodra veiqaravi. E liu, o ira na tabana ni bula era qai dau lai vasokumuna ga na tamata ni sa tauvimate yani e valenibula. E sega ni tiko vei iratou e dua na kaukauwa vakalawa me ratou lako mai me ratou mai tarova me soqo qo, se me vakavoui qo, veisau na taratara ni vale qo, se vakadrodroi vaqo na wai ni benu ni valenikuro se wai ni septic tank. Na lawa vakatutu qo, sa soli vei ratou na kaukauwa ni ratou sa lako ena veikorokoro, me ratou mai raica kevaka e lako yani e so beka na complaint ni yaco tiko qo na kena sega ni maroroi na benu, sega ni maroroi ni kena tuvatuva me maroroi kina, na wai ca, na veiyawaki ni vale ena kena tara, na kena maroroi na meda wai ni gunu kei na ka e vauci kina. E dusia tikoga na vakasama levu ni tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava.

Au na cava toka mada e keya, kau nuitaka o iratou na noqu tokani me ratou na qai vakamatailalaitaka vei keda na veitikina mai na 1 ki na 69. Sa kerei tiko me da na veitalanoa vakasavasava sara. Ke sa lako yani e dua na tikina o ni raica ni sega ni matata vei kemuni, ni laveta na ligamuni me lako yani vei kemuni na mic, mo ni qai tukuna na yacamuni ka tukuna mai na tabana cava o ni via vosa kina. E ratou na qai vosa kina o ira na kenadau vata kei iratou na dau ni buli lawa eratou dabe toka qo.

Ena gauna qo, sa sega ni tiko na kaukauwa vei iratou na tabacakacaka ni bula me ratou veisautaka e dua na ka. Na kaukauwa ya e tiko duadua ga ena loma ni komiti qo, na kena vakacurumi mai eso na vakasama vovou, na kena veiveisau eso, ke sa rui levu na totogi – dou nanuma me levu se me lailai, na kena siga nikua. Au nuitaka ni dou na vakayagataka vinaka na gauna vinaka oqo me da mai veitalanoa kina. Ena gauna sa na cava lesu kina na neitou wavokiti Viti, keitou sa na lai vasokumuna nai tukutuku me baleta na lawa vakatutu qo, me cabe kina loma ni noda Palimedi ka sa vakadonuya na Palimedi me sa na tuki me lawatu, ko na qai tukuna na tiki ni lawatu qori a rogo kina na domoqu mai Namuana. Au a vakatututaka qo, au a duavata kei na kena veisau qo.

Sa sega ni dua na ka e vo baleta ni sa siro mai na matanitu, dou sa siro mai na wekai keitou mai Kavala e Nakasaleka, kau nuitaka ni da na veitalanoa vinaka ka ni tiko tale tiko e dua na neitou porokaramu ena yakavi ni kua, me keitou na rai talega ena nodai tikotiko vakaturaga e Tavuki. Sa dola na noda veitalanoa, au na kerei honourable Tuicolo me na qai kauti keda yani ki na veitalanoa ni 69 na tabana eda na veitalanoa kina ena siga ni kua.

HON. A. TUICOLO.- Mr. Chairman, na tikidua e tiko e matamuni qori, e tiko kina e 69 na veiveisau ena lawatu. Ni na raica tiko mai na matai ni draunipepa mai na 1 ki na 7, e so vei kemuni ena tiko beka na nomuni vatataro. E ratou tiko qo na tabana ni bula, ratou na rawa ni vukei kemuni kina ena kena vamacalataki na veiveisau sa tiko qori.

Na naba 1, 2 kei na 3 ya na veika taumada me baleta na lawa. Nai vakamacala me baleta na yaca kei na gauna a tekivu kina na lawa. E vakamatatataka na vanua e kovuta na lawa vakaturi vata kei nai balebale ni veivosa e so koya e tiko ena lawatu vata kei na lawa vakaturi.

Na kena karua koya e tiko ena matai ni draunipepa qori mai na 4 kina 7 e baleta tiko na lewa ni matabose se na kena setup na Central Board of Health. Na kena veisautaki na lewe ni matabose ni tiko bulabula kei na kena cicivaki na nodra bose. Qo e tiko ena matai ni draunipepa e tiko qori e matamuni. Ke dua e tiko nona taro, rawa ni laveta cake ga na ligana.

Me da sa toso sara kina karua ni draunipepa. Ena 8 kina 13 e tiko kina wasewase ya – the Constitution of Board of Health and local authorities. Ke dua e tiko beka na nona vakatataro, rawa ni o laveta cake na ligamu me baleta na wasewase qo.

Eso talega na lawa vakaturi qo e kavou tiko ka qai vakacurumi vou. Vei kemuni beka ni lomatarotaro tiko me baleta na veika sa vakaturi tiko ya, ni qai laveta ga na ligamuni mo ni taroga mai na nomuni taro ka me ratou na qai vakamacala kina o ratou na tabana ni bula.

Na katolu ni draunipepa mai na 14 kina 19 e tiko ena katolu ni wasewase ni lawatu me baleta tiko na vale. E tiko qo o honourable Bia me na vakamacala vakalailai me baleta na vale kei na kena taratara se na veika me baleta na vale.

HON. A. BIA.- Ena vuku ni taravale ga se na veisau e kauta mai na lawa me baleta na kena nanumi me vakaturi me baleta na kena qarauni na vale eda dui tara se nai walewale ni vale cava eda tara se na vanua eda tara kina na noda vale, e sega ni tukuni ni via veisau kei na lawa vakaturi qo me lai lewa na tabana ni bula se lewa na boselawa se na matanitu na qele kei na veivanua e tara kina na nomuni vale. E tabu vakalawa. E qarauna ga na tabana ni bula ena vuku ni kena veisau na bula raraba sai koya na kena laurai na vanua e tara kina na vale me rawa ni ra tiko kina na lewe ni vuvale se o ira na tawana na vale se na lewenivanua me kua ni dua na vanua e rawa ni veidewavi kina na mate, rawa ni vakaleqa na nodra bula o ira na luveda se o ira na lewenivanua era tiko wavolita na vanua eda via tara vale kina.

E vaka talega kina na kena qarauni me vakamuri na gaunisala dodonu ni kena tara e dua na vale me vaka sa tiko ena lawa vakaturi ka vakatututaki tiko ena siga ni kua. Ni da tiko ga ena 14 kina 19 – o ni raica na tikina e 14 e tiko qori na bibi ni nodra taqomaki o ira na dauniveiqaravi ena tabana ni bula. E ratou vakamacalataka tiko na tabana ni bula ni dua na gauna balavu ena loma ni 90 na yabaki, e so vei ira na nodra vakailesilesi era dau gole yani mera vakayacora na nodra cakacaka ni vakadidike se ra curuma e so na koro – e so era dau cemuri mai ka kenai tinitini e so era dau vosacataki tu mai, sere na koli mera cemuri, eso era vakamavoataki. Ena vuku ni tikina e 14 qori, e sa biu e dua na lawa vakaturi mera qarauni na nodra bula kevaka era sa gole yani, mera cakava na nodrai tavi ena kena qarauni na noda bula na lewenivanua. E ratou dau vakaraitaka tiko ni noda bula e sega ni rawa ni voli vakailavo. Kevaka e sa na takavi keda na mate, e rawa ni vakaleqai keda ia qo na kena gaunisala me rawa ni ra gole yani ka ra vukei keda mera qarauni na luveda, qarauni o keda me rawa ni da qarava vakavinaka na nodai tavi ena vuku ni vanua, matanitu kei na lotu. Meda bula dede talega kina me rawa nida veiqaravi ena vuku ni vanua sa lesia oti tu vei keda na Kalou.

Ia qo, mera qarauni na vakailesilesi mai na tabana ni bula ena nodra lako yani mera lai qarava na nodrai tavi. E tiko talega nai totogi kevaka o vakalatilati ka ko nanuma mo tarovi ira se mo cemuri ira. Nai totogi e vakaturi tiko sai koya na $500 e rawa nio totogitaki kina kevaka o vakalatilati ena nodra cakacaka nai vakalesilesi mai na tabana ni bula ena nodra gole yani ena veikoro mera qarava na nodrai tavi.

HON. A. TUICOLO.- Eda sa na toso sara kina 20 kina 27. Oqo me baleta tikoga na lawa vauci kina na vakasausa se na nuisance. E rau tiko qo o rau na tabana ni bula, ka rau na vakamacala lekaleka sara ena clauses 25 to 32.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee, ni dabe sobu na vuvale vanua e Namuana ena siga ni kua. Na tikina e vakamacalataki tiko ka volai tiko beka qori ena noda tikidua na vakasosavo. Qo e vica na tikina e tiko ena lawa vakaturi qo me yadrava na veika e rawa ni vakavu tauvimate.

Na vakasosavo na vosa vakaviti ka kenai balebale e dua na ka e caka tu ena dua na kenai tuvaki ka rawa ni vakavuna na dewa ni tauvimate. Na wai beka mai na valenisili, siqi ni savasava, valenikuro ka vagolei tu beka ga ena keli ni wai ni uca. Se na nomu septic tank beka e sega ni caka na kena gaunisala dodonu ka dodonu me caka kina. A qai mai talabusese tu na wai ca ena dela ni qele. Qo kece na veika e okati tiko vakasosavo.

E rawa ni na tarai iko na tiki ni lawa koya e sa vakaturi tiko qo. Kevaka o vakaduiduile ena vakasala ni kena sagai me vakavinakataki na veika oya. Na kenai totogi e tiko qori na tikidua ko ni na raica tiko ni kena totogi e lavaki tiko. Na kena tagede duadua e cake e $1,000 not exceeding $1,000. Kenai balebale e rawa ni $100, $200, $300, $400, $500 yaco sara na kena levu taudua me $1,000. E vakatautaki ena mataqali vakasosavo vakacava e tiko, na cava na kena revurevu kina noda bula na lewenivanua.

Na kenai karua e okati tale tikoga kina na vakasama ni cakacaka e gadrevi me vagalalataki kina. Koya saka ya, e raici vata ka sa qai kilai na bibi ni leqa e tiko ka sa qai soli kina na kena totogi me rau veiganiti vata kaya.

HON. A. TUICOLO.- Me vaka sa vakamacalataka tiko na wekadatou mai na tabana ni bula na veitotogi. Ni na raica tiko ni levu tiko na totogi e sa toso cake mai na $10, $20 ki na $100 kei na $200. Au na kerei honourable Ketan Lal me vakamacalataka mada baleta nai totogi se so tale beka na vakasama me baleta tiko nai totogi.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Ladies and gentlemen, the representatives from the Public Health Division and also members of the community – a very good afternoon. First of all, I think the honourable Members have briefly described how important these particular changes are to this particular Act.

As explained by honourable Member, this is a very old law of 1935. Now, after 90 years, this law is being reviewed and amended. So, there are some things in the law that need to be changed to be modernised so that it covers today's problem. As the honourable Members have explained, in those olden days, we never heard the word "COVID, Hantavirus". These are all very new diseases coming in, so for those kinds of diseases, we need modern laws. At the same time when they are reviewing these laws, they are reviewing some fines as well. For example, if you have a particular piggery or chicken pen or dumping area of rubbish and all those – if you do not follow the law. Previously, the fine was somewhere around $5, $10 and now the fines have increased to $100 to $1,000.

This law is made by the Ministry of Health. We, the Parliamentary Committee, because the law comes to Parliament and we pass the law, this Parliament team is here from Government and Opposition to talk to the people in consultation on what you think about these laws. We want to hear your views. This is not approved yet, it is still in consultation phase, it has to go to the people, we hear, we go back to Parliament, we deliberate, we change if we have to and then we take it to Parliament for approval and then it becomes a law.

This is the process we are here visiting our communities. We are here in Kadavu and after that, we are going to other islands as well. Basically, there is an increase in fines as well. For public health, their explanation is a deterrent. Deterrent means, if we increase the fine, people will not do it. If the fine is $2 or $5, we can just pay. If it is $1,000, people will think twice before committing that offence. That is the reason given by Ministry of Health.

During our consultation, we have heard from people the fine is too much. The cost of living is high; some people are not working and all those things. This fine does not discriminate where you are, whether you are in

Kadavu, Savusavu or Suva City. The fine remains the same for everyone. It does not discriminate how rich you are, how poor you are, whether you are living in the village or living in the city, the fine is the same.

At the same time, I understand where the public health is coming from. It is for deterrent purposes. There are some more changes along the way, and you will see in the pamphlet that you have with respect to the local rural authority coming back. At the same time, there are some changes with regards to public health officials can enter villages with some powers. They can come in and instruct you that this is not right or this is right.

During COVID, we have learnt a lesson and COVID was not made in Fiji. It came from outside and we understand that we have tourists coming in, diseases coming from the outside. Recently, the world has seen hantavirus, Ebola and all these kinds of other diseases coming in as well. Australia and New Zealand are the ones that are closer to us, so if tourists are coming from there or our Fijians are going there and coming back, they can also bring those diseases.

So, we are going to be prepared. That Central Board of Health's job is to keep us safe. Some of these laws that are there, I, myself personally support them. But there are some things that I have heard the people from their perspective and their views. We understand that and that is why this Parliamentary Committee will hear all the concerns.

This is the time for you to speak up. After this law is passed, no one will be able to change the law overnight. It will have to go for another consultation process all around Fiji. This law will affect everyone, not only me but you as well, once it is passed.

MR. M. TUINAMUANA.- Dua saka ga na taro ena vuku ni totogi ena tabana e 28. Nai totogi qo, au raica tiko ni keimami sa mai vakatautauvatataki na tu mai Suva vakakina vei keimami na tu vakavanua. E dua saka ga na vakatutu ke rawa ni laurai vakavinaka me baleti keimami na tu vakavanua.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka sara vakalevu na wekaqu na taro bibi ya. E kaya toka na tikina ena tabana e 28 na lailai ni totogi sega ni muria nai vakaro, na kena samaki na duka. O sega ni qarava nai tavi ya, ena taqa e cake e $100 ena veisiga. Na rabailevu ni totogi ya, au na kauti keda ga vakatotolo me baleta na kena maroroi na noda benue.

Keitou a toka mai koronivuli e Vunisea ena mataka ni kua, e a kauta cake tiko mai na vakalesilesi na marama na PA na kena maroroi na benu ena loma saka ni tikotiko ni matanitu e Vunisea. Au vakabauta ni rai kena gauna vinaka me datou veitalanoata na ka qo.

Na qele, e da kila kece ni nomudou na turaga e Namuana na tikotiko ni matanitu mai Vunisea. Na 2018 a mai kau laivi kina e dua na liga ni veiqaravi kaukauwa sara ni noda matanitu ka dau tiko ena tabana ni bula ka yacana tu na Rural Local Authority. O iratou qo e vatabakidua na nodratou veiqaravi na kena laurai na noda tiko bulabula ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu. Ena gauna e kau laivi kina kaukauwa ni veiqaravi ya, e lako vata kei na veika e ratou dau qarava. Dua saka ga vei ira qo, na nodratou lako mai na kena vakalesilesi me ratou mai raica na vanua meda benu kina. E ratou na qai tukuna vata na kenai vakarau mai na vanua e yawa mai nai tikotiko, na kena lai laurai na kena lisi ena vanua me lai maroroi kina. Na kena lisitaki na tiki ni qele ya. Sega walega ni noda benu ni kakana, na veimataqali benu cava ga eda wilika. Kevaka e sa tiko na nomu septic tank, qai lako tiko beka na kena wai ca ka lai vakavuna tiko na boi kei na kena vakasausataki tale e dua tale na vale drau tiko veitaravi ka ra wili kece tiko qo me wili tiko vakabenu.

Me vaka e tukuna tiko o honourable Lal, na totogi ya e tautauvata tikoga keo tiko ena koro lelevu, taudaku ni koro lelevu, o rawa ka se sega, o cakacaka, o lotu se o tawavanua se cava ga – e da ologi kece ena totogi ya.

E levu na vakatutu keitou taura mai vei ira na lewenivanua keitou sa sikovi ira oti mai ka wili kina o Viti Levu kei Vanua Levu, era gadreva me vakaituvatuva nai totogi qo, kaya mada o ira na dau caka bisinisi eso e

tiko volekati kedatou tiko e ke au sega ni kaya rara ni waqavuka e rawa ni wili talega kina baleta o ya e wili vakabisinisi. Kevaka e so na benu e ratou vakavuna me mai vakavuna na mate dewa totolo sara e na loma ni nodatou koro sa na vauci ratou na lawa oqo. E ratou na wili tiko e na $1,000. Kevaka e ratou sega ni na qarava o ya ena taqa tale i cake e $100 e veisiga kevaka e sega e ratou sa na kau ena loma ni noda mataveilewai. E tiko na kena lawa e vauca e bibi sara. Koya e lailai e vula ono. O ya vei ira na dau ni bisinisi ka wili talega kina o kedatou na tiko e na taudaku ni vei koro lelevu. Au a kaya toka mai cake e na kena vakalesui mai na Rural Local Authority qo na nona i tavi ka dau vakayacora tu mai e na gauna kece o ya. Na urban local authority qaravi ira tiko na vei koro lelevu o keda dau qaravi keda tiko na matabose cecere o ya. E sa tiko na vakatutu vei ratou na tabana ni bula e na kena gadrevi me vakalesui tale mai na liga ni veiqaravi ni matanitu o ya ka day qaravi keda vakatabakidua na tiko e na taudaku ni vei koro lelevu se koya na Rural Local Authority kei na kena veiqaravi e wili kina na benu, wai kei na vei ka kece sara me baleti keda na lewe ni vanua o Viti kei na kena veiqaravi.

Au na yaco toka mada i kea. Au gadrevi ratou na tabana ni bula me ratou na vakamatatataka sara mada vei keda na tikina bibi oqo kei na i totogi e toka e na Clause 28.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- E dina taucoko na vakamacala e cakava tiko o Mr. Chairman vei keda. Au kila ni sa matata vinaka tiko. E levu na vakatataro kei na vakatutu e gole tiko mai ke rawa ni vakalailaitaki na i totogi vei keda e na koro ka da sega ni rawa ka vakalevu vakabibi vei ira na tiko i taoni. Ia, e dua na rai au vinakata me keda rai kina na lewe ni tikotiko vakaturaga e Namuana. Na noda bula e dua ga. Kevaka e da tukuna tiko me vakalailaitaki na soli totogi i Namuana na kena i balebale o iko value taka tiko ni nomu bula e sau lailai cake mai na dua na bula ne i dua e tiko mai na koro vakavavalagi. Na kena i balebale ni o via tosoga sobu na totogi i na $20 iko sa biuta sara tu ga na value ni bula ni dua na kai Namuana e $20. Kevaka e na sega ni sauma o koya na nona $20 e tauvimate e dua na kai Namuana e na mate $20 na i sau ni nona bula.

Au ke vakatau vei au, au na biuta me $1 million. Na cava e na qai yaco? E ra sa na qai cakava taucoko na nodra vale, septic tank na ka taucoko e ra sa na qai cakava me daumaka baleta na cava me rawa ni kua ni sauma na i totogi, cava sa qai yaco, sa qai sega na tauvimate e na loma ni nodatou koro i Namuana, kawa ni tamata kaukauwa, qaqa e na vei siga ni mataka e na tubu na nodatou vanua. O ya na rai au vinakata me da tou rai mai kina.

Na vuni kena sagai taumada me kau mai na lawa qo e na vei koro vakaviti na koro vakaviti sara ga e laurai tiko e na veiyabaki taucoko ga e outbreak tiko na dengue, typhoid kei na mi ni manu. Na kena i balebale kevaka e da tou sa via tosoga sobu na i totogi sa kauta laivi sara ga na i naki taumada. Na i totogi toka ya e sega ni dua na ka mo na sauma me vaka na tax. Iko na sauma ga kevaka iko cala. Iko sa kila ni cala o qai vakayacora ga. E ka rawarawa sara. Na wai mai na siqi ni savasava, vale ni sili kei na wai mai valenikuro keli ga dua na qara biu i loma na vatu vuso, vaglei kinana paipo ka bulu vinaka. O koya ka ra biuta tu ga vakasabalia e dela ni qele ra qito na gone karokaro ra vakatatalo kina ra tara na matadra ra tauvi ira na Rheumatic Heart Fever, RHD, ra cula e na vei vula me yacova na nodra mate e na loma ni 15 kei na 16 ni yabaki ni nodra bula e lusi maumau na bula ni dua na tamata. Baleta na cava? Me baleta tikoga na $20 ko ni vinakata me toso sobu kina na i totogi. Au kerekere vei keda me da na rai mai ena rai qo ka.

Keitou tiko qo ka vakatututaki tiko na lawa vakaturi qo e sega ni baleti keitou. Me baleti cei? Me baleti keda na lewe i Viti mo ni taqomaki kina na nomuni bula. E na vakasama o ya e biu tiko kina na i totogi me via sasa no. O keda e tiko kece e na vei koro vakaviti. E da kila ni sa dau toso na gauna e so dau vakadudule. E so e ra dau vakatatao ni sa dau toka e na yasa ni noda vale. Mo qai kaya cake yani na nomu ka qori sa boi tiko mai. Sa keitou sa sega ni kana vinaka. E dau boi levu mai na nomudou septic tank. O rawa ni cakava vakavinaka. Vakadua, Vakarua, Vakatolu lai complain vei nasi ni koro kei turaga ni koro lako vei ratou na vakailesilesi ni tabana ni bula lako mai vakasala caka se sega e sega tikoga. O ya na vu ni kena buli mai na totogi qo ka me dua na ka me sega ni vakatotoganitaki ia me vakauqeti ira o au meu na cakava qo baleta ke sega au na rawa ni totogitaki e na i lavo ke sa sega vei au na i lavo sa rawa niu na lai vakacagicagi valalailai i Naboro. Au vakabauta ni na matata tiko vei keda. Na i sau levu duadua e $1,000 o ya me baleta na kena rivariva bi e dua na leqa levu sara koya rawa ni vakavuna ga na tauvimate ga vakalekaleka vakayali sara na bula.

E na vei yabaki na lewenivanua e ra leqa tiko e na veikorokoro na mi ni manu, dengue e na veiyabaki. Na vu ni kena buli mai qo me vukei keitou me keitou taqomaki kemuni na lewenivanua. Mo ni kawa ni tamata qaqa, ra muri mai na i solisoli e ra na veisosomitaki me ra tamata qaqa e na veisiga ni mataka.

HON. A. TUICOLO.- Au kila ni sa qai matata sara o ya. O keda kece qo e da lako curuma gona mai na vuli i koronivuli. O ira na qasenivuli e ra solia mai vei keda na homework. Kevaka e da sega ni cakava e da na cava? E da na lai totogi i koronivuli. Vaka talega kina qo ka. Kevaka o ni sega ni vakavinakataka na totogi koya toka qori e sa na taqa yani vei kemuni.

MS. SEREANA.- Au taleitaka na vakamacala e lako tiko mai na tabana ni bula me baleta na septic tank vata kei na mate e veitauvi. Au nasi ni koro tiko e na koro. E dua na ka na noqu taleitaka na nona vakamacala baleta sa balavu mai na noqu veiqaravi. Au dau vakamacalataka vakalevu me baleta na kena leak tiko na septic tank. Na noqu vale e veivolekati sara vakalevu me vaka ni o au a vale ni vo sova wai tu ga ia na gauna oqo au sa qai saga tiko me rawa na noqu flush toilet. Au kila ni na kila vinaka tiko na noqu i tokani o Health Inspector i Vunisea. E dua na ka na noqu taleitaka nona vakamacala baleta e levu na gauna au dau vakamacalataka me baleta na septic tank na kena leak tiko o ira e ra sega ni dau tokoni au. Dua na ka na noqu marautaka baleta na bose ni koro tarava meu sa na lai vakaraitaka na veika kece e yaco e na vuku ni totogi me na soli. Vei au mada ga au sa vakadeitaka sara ga i lomaqu meu na lai vakaraitaka e na noqu koro baleta na noqu koro e koro vakabebe toka vakalailai o ya na koro au a veiqaravi kina.

Me baleta na septic tank kei na mate veitauvi dua na ka na noqu taleitaka vakalevu baleta ni sa balavu na noqu veiqaravi tiko kau dau vakaraitaka vakalevu e levu na vuvale e sa sega ni dau via rogoca noqu vosa. Au dau lako i Kavala au lai vakaraitaka na ka ga e ratou kaya vei au cakava ga na nomu i tavi. Kevaka ga e ratoiu sa sega ni via rogoca ia buita mai vei au na koro kei na vuvale sara ga koya vakadredretaka tiko me na qai lako yani na tabana ni bula me na lai vosa vei ratou. Au kila e daidai e sa vakamacalataka toka o Health Inspector ni o koya e sa vaka e screen taka sara tu ga na koro au tiko kina. E kila tu vakamatata e na veika e yaco tiko e tukuni tiko vei koya na vica na vale au veiqaravi tiko kina au sa lako vakavica e na nodra vale e na kena leak tiko na vale ni vakacegu baleta na vanua o ya e vanua e tiko kina na wai. Au vakamacala tiko vei koya qai kaya o koya o iko mo vakaraitaka ga ni u marautaka ni kaya au na lai vakayacora sara ga e na noqu koro au veiqaravi kina me baleta na ka e vakaraitaka tiko na noqu i tokani na tabana ni bula e na mataka vinaka ni kua.

HON. A.N. TUICOLO.- Au kila ni sa tara talega mai na tabana ni bula me baleta na infection disease o ya mai na Tikina 33 kina 37. Ia, o ni na raica tale tikoga e tiko qori e na Tikina 38 kina 39 e tiko kina e dua na i totogi mai na $20 kina $2,000. O qori me baleta tikoga mate dewa mai na veiyacovi. E na 90 na yabaki sa oti e tiko ga qori na i totogi ni $20 ia sa vakatututaki tiko me na toso cake na i totogi qo mai na $20 kina $2,000. Oqo vei ira koya ra nakita tiko e ra sa kila tiko e so sara dikevi vaka valenibula ni vakavuniwai ni sa tiko vei ira na mate ni veiyacovi na HIV beka se so tale na STI. Ke sa qai nakita tiko e dua na tabagone beka me lako wavoki me qai vadewa tiko na mate na kena i totogi sara ga sa tiko qori. E oka tale tikoga kina vei ira koya ra vakadewa tiko na HIV mai na i cula ke dua e kilasamitaki tiko ni cakava tiko na i tovo ca o ya na i tovo lolovira me vakadewataka se nakita tiko na dewa ni mate mai na veiwasei ni cula beka na kena totogi sa toka qori.

Keitou a lako curuma tiko e na siga Moniti e dua na vuli mai vei ratou na tabana ni bula me baleta na HIV o Viti e na yabaki sa oti walega na kisi ni HIV e a kune e na yabaki sa oti 2025 e 2,016 me yacova sara ga mai na macawa qo e sa mate rawa e 90 na pasede ko ira na kisi vovou koya kune. E liu e dau levu taudua tiko mai na yasayasa vaka-ra, qo sa tiko i ra o yasayasa vaka-ra sa levu taudua tiko na Central Division koya wili kina o Suva. E kila kasamitaki tikoga e dua na vuna beka baleta ni ra sa vakayagataki tiko na i cula. Ia, kevaka e dua e kilai tiko ni nakita tiko na nona vakadewa tiko na mate o ya na i totogi sa tiko qori. E so na vanua keitou gole kina ni ra rogoca e ra taroga mai baleta na i totogi qori e lade mai na $20 kina $2,000 ka ra loma tarotaro na cava e sa sivia kina. Ia, na gauna e ra rogoca kina me baleta na cava na vu ni totogi e so e ra vakatututaka sara ga me toso cake tale na i totogi baleta ni ra nakita tiko me dewa kina na mate.

Tikina 40 kina 44, Offensive Trades, na lawa me baleta na veimataqali cakacaka e rawa ni vakavuna na tauvimate kei na lawa e vauci kina na vei vale me baleta tiko na homestay se na BnB. Na veiveisau ni lawa qo e ra na vauci kina o ira na vei bisinisi beka. E tiko beka mai na taudaku ni vei koro vakaviti me vaka talega kina na koro vakaviti.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, na offensive trade o ira na bisinisi e ra dau cakava na mataqali bisinisi koya vaka i koya e vakavuna na noda tiko vaka ca. E rogo levu, boi levu se duka levu na nodra bisinisi. Taura mada na qaqi ni vatu koya vaka e tiko e Makoi na kuvu e dau biu tiko mai. Kevaka e da lako i Tailevu ni da pasi i Wailotua dua na quru vatu e caka tiko i Wailotua No. 1 nodratou na Standard me vaka na vatu lase. Ni caka tiko na qaqi vatu oqo na vunukau sa sega ni qa idrokadroka e sa dravudravu. Na kuvu e loma ni vale e sa sega ni caka rawa. Na vale o koya e dodonu me kala green sa brown na levu ni kuvu. E tiko tale e dua na kena mataqali na susu bai ni toa se bai ni vuaka lelevu e na vuku ni kena boica. Vei keda na dau pasi tiko mai Nakasi e da boica tiko na ka e dau boi tiko mai na abattoir. Na bisinisi e oka tiko vaka offensive trade. E levu tale tu na veimataqali cakacaka e tiko e dua na kena tiki dua na veicakacaka taucoko e vakatoka na offensive trade. Na tiki ni lawa oqo e sa qai vakaturi tiko mai na tabacakacaka ni bula me rawa ni maroroi keda. Me kakua ni da kidacala ga sa dua sa tauyavutaka na mataqali bisinisi va o ya e na yasa ni noda koro.

Sa qai biu tiko na tiki ni lawa qo kevaka e dua via cakava e dua na mataqali bisinisi koya boi levu, duka levu se rogo levu ia me na veivakadonui rawa na tabacakacaka ni bula ni bera ni cakava baleta na kudru e ra dau sotava na i vakailesilesi e ra dau veiqaravi na kudru ni lewenivanua sa tu oti tu na bisinisi sa ra qai vakatakudru tu. Sa soli oti na lisi sa ra qai vakatakukudru. E dua na bai ni toa levu mai Vunivaivai i Tailevu, Nakelo, na lago e tukuni ni ra sa kana mada ga na gauna ni kana rawa ni dua na mata ni raisi e tolu na lago e ro kina e na levu ni lago. Ia, sa tu oti tu na bisinisi sa ra qai kudru ka sa vinakati qo ni bera ni duri e dua na bisinisi me lako rawa na dau ni bisinisi me mai taura rawa na veivakadonui ni tabana ni bula me rawa ni keitou raica me yawa me kakua ni revurevu mai na noda vei tikotiko.

Na i karua ni tikina me baleta na Common Lodging kei na Lodging House, the house that has lodging. E dua talega na ka keitou dau sotava na neitou vaka i lesilesi ni na raica tiko na lawa vakaturi qo e sega ni keitou kauta mai me ucu mai duru se me keitou raica mai dua na vanua mai valagi oqo na ka sara ga e ra sotava tiko na neitou vakailesilesi e na veisiga e ra sa qai nanuma na bolebole o ya me caka e so na lawa me rawa ni botei kina na bolebole. E dua qo, e dua na kudru e dau lako vakalevu mai na vale ni volavola ni tabana ni bula ni ra sa dau tiko e na vanua ni veivakaicilitaki ra qai tukuna ni sega ni kilikili vata kaya me tiko kina na tamata. Oqo na ka vakaloloma. E so na vale e rent taki ni keitou dau gole yani i taba rua ni o tiko vaqo e na loma ni vale i ra o na raica sara tu ga na paipo ni plumbing ni takoso. Ni flush ga mai na vale ni vo i cake e turu tiko mai na wai ni dedratou vei ratou na rent tiko i ra. O ya na dredre e ra sotava tiko na wekada.

Ki vei keda na dau musu dovu e na dua na gauna o ni na kila na bareki ni dovu e ra tu mai na yasayasa vaka ra mai na vualiku e sega mada ga ni vakayagataki na kava ni vale me caka kina na lalaga ni vale. Na dramu 44 e koti, dola, tuki vakarabaraba qai caka kina na vale. E karua tu ga ni dua na bai ni toa na vanua e ra lai maroroi kina na wekada e ra lai vaka i tavi e na cakacaka ni musu dovu. E a qai raici mai na vualiku qai talabusese kina e dua na veitauvi ni mate levu na typhoid fever ka sa ma ni nanumi ke dua e via cakava nona Air BnB, Homestay, vale ni tamata cakacaka, vale me redetaki se cava ga na vale ni veivakaicilitaki me na register taka rawa na tabana ni bula me keitou na raica ni kilikili vata kaya me tiko kina na tamata me vakadonui. Kevaka e sega e na sega ni vakadonui. Me tukuni vua tu sara yani vakavinaka i keri kua ni cakava kina e dua na nomu bisinisi.

Tikina 45 kina 53, me baleta tiko na namu. Mai na Tikina 54 kina 56, baleta tiko na veiqaravi e na loma ni waqa.

HON. A. BIA.- E na vuku ni veika me baleta na namu kei na veiqaravi e na loma ni waqa e dua na usutu levu talega ni kena veisautaki se na 69 na veisau e tiko qori me baleta na veiqaravi nodratou na tabana ni bula e na vuku ni bula raraba sa i koya na kena qarauni me savasava tiko na vanua e da tiko kina me kua ni vakasucu kina na namu e ra dau vakadewa tiko na mate ni dengue. E tiki kece tiko ni lawa oqo. Kevaka e da tiko e na dua

na koro se na dua na i tikotiko qai tukuni na samaki va koro qai so e ra dau lule tiko se ra sega tiko ni dau samaka na nodra yasa ni vale se na vanua e ra tiko kina qai dau tubua tu ga. Na gauna qai kunei kina e da na kisi ni dengue e dikevi vakavuniwai qai mai laurai dikevi ni vale oqo e ra vakasucu sara tikoga kina na namu koya veitauvi tiko kina na dengue e na loma ni koro. E laurai ni tiko kina na taya se na container lala ka ra tawa tiko i loma na wai ka vakavuna na kena vakasucu tiko na namu. E na vuku ni lawa vakaturi oqo e sa rawa ni lewai o koyab na vale koya lulevaka tiko na sasamaki kei na kena maroroi na tiko savasava ka vakasucuma tiko na namu na nona i tikotiko ka vakavuna tiko na tauvi dengue vei ira na luveda se vei ira na lewe ni koro. E sega tiko ni dau samaki na nona vale na gauna e dau vakayacori kina na sasamaki. E na vuku ni lawa vakaturi oqo sa rawa ni totogitaki kina na lewenivanua, lewe ni koro se na lewe ni tikotiko koya ra dau lulevaka tiko na kena samaki na noda sauka ni vale.

Na kena i karua ga sa i koya na veiqaravi e na loma ni waqa. Au kila ni da dau vakayagataka vakalevu na veivakaleleci ni waqa e na noda dau lako yani i Suva se vei ira na dau gole mai se da gole tale e na veiyanuyanu e na vuku ni lawa vakaturi oqo sa qarauni na veiwaqa kece e da dau vakayagataka me qarauni na tiko savasava ka me kua kina na manumanu ka me dau laurai me tu vinaka tu ni da vodo yani me da lai pasidia ni dua na waqa se da lai qaravi e na vuku ni noda vakaleleci i Suva se da gole mai Kadavu. Sa tiko talega e ke na lawa e rawa ni lewai kina o Kavetani ni waqa se o ira na kabani kevaka e ciqomi na kudru mai na matabose e sa tauyavutaki e vakatokai na Central Board of Health se mai vei ratou na tabana ni bula e na nodra totogitaki na kavetani ni waqa se o ira na kabani ni waqa kevaka e ra sega ni samaka vakavinaka na nodra waqa e vakavuna me tiko na manumanu ka rawa ni vakadewa talega kina na nomuni bula na lewenivanua.

HON. A.N. TUICOLO.- Tikina 57 kina 61 me baleta tiko na i gunugunu, water supply na vanua e gole mai kina na wai e na veikorokoro e vaka kina talega na veiqaravi e na laundaries na vanua ni sava i sulu.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, na tikina oqo e dua tale ga na bolebole levu e ra dau sotava na neitou vakailesilesi ka ma ni nanumi me curumaki e dua na kena lawa vakaturi me rawa ni solia e dua na kaukauwa lailai e na tabacakacaka ni bula me rawa ni taqomaki kemuni na lewenivanua. E levu e ra dau gole tiko mai e na neitou vale ni volavola e na vei yasai Viti vakabibi vei kedatou na tiko mai na taudaku ni koro lelevu. E ra dau gole mai sa dau mai vakatakukudru. Na wekaqu keitou mai na koro na neitou vakasoni wai e tiko mai na loma ni veikau. Na mataqali e nodratou na qele o ya e ratou sa lai teitei tale tiko mai cake. E ratou sa susu manumanu tale tiko. E sa na qai sega ni rawa vua na koro me tukuna vei ratou me tarovi. E dua na gauna o ya keitou tiko mai e na dua na koro e sa vakaraitaka mai na i taba o turaga ni koro ni dua tale na i lawalawa mai na dua tale na koro sa ratou labeseu tu e na nodratou dam mai loma ni veikau. E ra sa lai sili tu kina. E sega ni tiko e dua na lawa me kovuta na kena maroroi na i vaka so ni wai.

O koya sa tiko qori e na tiki dua e sa vakamatatataki sara tu ga kina ni sa tiko e dua na i vakaso ni wai ka sa gunu tiko kina e dua na koro, tikotiko ka sa tabu ni o cakava e dua na ka mo vakadukara se o vakaleqa kina na i vakaso ni wai oya. Na kena i balebale na musu kau, taki qereqere, teitei, tara vale, duvaduvani, qoli, cina, cocoka na cava ga o rawa ni o cakava me vakaleqa kina na i gunugunu ni wai e sa rawa ni kovuti ik na lawqa vakaturi qo kevaka e sa nanuma na komiti me sa na vakatututaka e Palimedi me sa lawa.

Na kena i karua me vaka eda rogoca tiko na kena vakamacala ratou veivosaki ga na bose va koro vosataki e dua e cudru, lule tara na nona i sele kave gole i veikau lai taya na paipo se tani ni wai e na vauci koya talega na lawa qo. E lai tini sara kivei ira koya ra sega na medra wai drodro e ra kelia na nodra toevu se takivi mai na wai na borehole me qai dua lai tara tale nona vale se vale ni vo e na loma ni 50 na mita vakarivirivi sa vauci koya na lawa. Oqo me baleta ga na kena taqomaki na memuni wai ni gunu mo ni gunuva na wai savasava ka mo ni tamata bulabula na kawa kei Namuana e na vei siga ni mataka.

Na tiki ni lawa ka tarava au kila na gauna balavu mai na 1939 me yaco mai qo e dua na ka e sa caka e na gauna ni kua se sega ni tu na gauna o ya na vanua ni sava i sulu. Vei kemudou na marama ni Namuana kemudou se ia tikoga na sava i sulu ni vuvale. Vei ira mai Suva-Nausori keimami sa sega ni qai sava i sulu sa kau ga na laundary. La i bala ga yani suka na cakacaka sa kauta lesu mai na nomu i sulu mamaca. E sa tiko talega qo e dua

na tiki ni lawa me na saga me na yadra ni sa raba i levu na vanua ni sava i sulu. Na vei otela era dau savata na nodra i sulu, na vei homestay e ra tiko qo e ra sa vaka laundary talega me dau sava tiko kina na siti, ubi ni lokoloko ka vakabibi me da duka tu mai qai mai veiqiqiyaki vakalevu tiko e na dela ni loga. Mai na kena dau yadravi na wai ca e gole mai e na vei bisinisi va qo me kakua ni qai vaka vu leqa vei keda na lewenivanua. Kadavu sa tubu tiko mai na gauna ni kua. Na bisinisi sa ra na lako mai. Na laundry e na mai caka e na yasa ni nodatou koro de qai vakayagataka i wai nodatou i qoliqoli. Na kedatou kake na cava soti e da dau taleitaka i wai qo lakolako e na qai oti ni sa na lako na wai ca. O ya na tiki ni lawa me na yadrava.

HON. A. TUICOLO.- Au nuitaka ni sa na matata tiko vei keda na vakamacala e lako tiko mai vei ratou na vakailesilesi ni tabana ni bula.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Tikina 64 kina 69, by laws and regulations and legal proceedings. Na i otioti ga ni drau ni veva qori au kila ni o koya duadua beka ga au nanuma me da tou na raica na Tikina 67 e veisautaka e dua na lawa e sa tu e na lawa tu na Tikina 140 me sa boko mai na lawa ni tabana ni bula. E na Tikina 140 e dau volai tiko kina this Act shall not apply to Fijian villages. Na lawa oqo e sa na sega ni oka e na koro vakaviti. Sa keitou vakatura tiko na tabacakacaka ni bula me sa boko tani na tiki ni lawa o ya. Me sa volai na lawa oqo me sa na oka e na noda Viti raraba. Na kena i balebale e sa na wili talega kina na noda koro vakaviti baleta ni laurai na fika ni mate dewa e lako tiko e na vei yabaki o ira na tamata tabu saka yani e ra vakaleqai tiko na nodra bula e na veiyabaki e lako tiko ga mai e na noda vei koro vakaviti. Sa keitou nanuma kina na lawa ni tabacakacaka ni bula me sa ia mada yani e na loma ni koro vakaviti me yaco na veisereki kei na veivakabulai vei ira na veiwekani me ra sereki mai na vau ni mate dewa sa balavu mai na gauna e na kena muloraki keda tiko na tiko e na vei koro vakaviti. O koya saka beka o ya na veisau levu kau vakabauta ni rawa ni u vakamacala e na i otioti ni drau ni veva qori.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka se dola tiko na nodatou veitalanoa kevaka e dua se kauwai tikoga ni bera ni da tou na mai cava na nodatou veitalanoa e na sigalevu e daidai.

MR. V. MATARI.- Mr. Chairman, e dua saka ga na vakasama e na vuku ni veika e da tou sa mai veivakararamataki tiko kina e na nomudou yaco mai na turaga na kena i balebale tiko vei keimami ni keimami rogoca tiko na i vakamacala vinaka e sa mai rogoci tiko e na siga vinaka ni kua na gauna saka oqo kevaka keimami via tara vale na kena i balebale me sa lako curuma yani na system e vaka e caka tu mai Suva me vaka na plan kei na ka kece va o ya me na caka qai tara na vale vei keimami na tu e na vaka na koro. Au vakabauta o ya e na via vinaka cake baleta na vale lailai kei na kece vaka o ya me na caka vakavinaka. Se cava beka na nomudou nanuma?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Taro vinaka. Au a kaya tiko mai liu na tabana o ya e ratou dau qarava tiko na Rural Local Authority. E tavi bibi e sega ni kena i balebale ni ratou na mai lewa na tabana ni bula na vanua e na tara kina nomu vale. Na yavu e tiko i loma e ratou na mai vakasalataki kemuni. Au kaya mada na veiyawaki ni vale, na vanua me na vakadrodroi kina na wai ca e sa tiko vei ratou e so na approve plan ni vale ni matanitu ka tiko vei ratou na kena tabana ratou dauveiqaravi e na taudaku ni vei koro lelevu koya e ra sa vakadinadinataki ni sa yacova Category 5. Ni rawa ni vakayagataka o ya. E ratou na sega ni rawa ni mai tarova na nomuni via tara vale. Na ka e ratou na mai veivakararamataki kina me ratou na gole mai me ratou mai vukea kevaka e dua via tara vale vou e na kena nanumi tikoga na noda tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava kei na kena maroroi na benu koya dau lai vakavuna na mate taka levu e vica koya sa tukuni toka mai ya.

E tiko qori na kena tabana vakamatanitu e Vunisea e ratou rawa ni veivuke kina. Me baleta na septic tank sa tiko talega vei ratou e so na septic tank koya sa vakadinadinataka na matanitu ni rawa ni na vakayagataki e na noda taudaku ni vei koro lelevu mai na vakayagataka tiko na dramu kei na veika tale eso me vaka e da matau kina e na tiko e na taudaku ni koro lelevu. E dina ni na saumi vaka i lavo ka ratou kaya toka e dua na i sau e tiko vei ratou e sau matau me ganita na noda rawa ka na tiko e na taudaku ni vei koro lelevu. Na tabana koya gadreva tiko me na mai qarava na i tavi levu ya e ratou vakatututaka tiko mai ya me vakalesui tale mai na veiqaravi ni Rural Local Authority. Au nuitaka ni sa na via matata vei keda o ya.

Na i lavelave koya tiko e matumuni qori e 69 taucoko. Na veitalanoa ni kua e sega ni cava ga e daidai. E soli tiko vei kemuni na gauna mo ni na lesu e na nomuni vei dui koro, tikotiko ke rawa ni lai veitalanoataka e na loma ni vei koro se i tikotiko. E solia tiko na komiti qo na galala kevaka ni nanuma ni via lesu tale mai kina komiti e yavutaki e na kena vakasama e na so ulutaga vinaka e na qai lai yaco ena gauna ni sa lai veitalanoataka na ka dina o ni sotava tu na nomuni veikorokoro. Na ka beka e veitalanoataki mai Suva e na so na koro vakaviti e na sega ni yaga vei kemudou eke. E sa tu rawa tu vei ira. E so e ganiti ira mai kea e na sega ni ganiti kemudou eke. Na kena i balebale na ka dina ni sotava tiko e na veisiga. E tiko qori o ratou na neitou vakailesilesi mai na loma ni Palimedi. Kemudou na turaga ni koro, nasi ni koro ni vakayagataka na gauna oqo mai na 90 na yabaki sa lako mai vei kemuni na veivakararamataki qo. E rawa ni na qai volavola yani vaka i vola se yacana tu na written submission me na lai vukei kina na veika o ni gadreva me lai tiki tu ni kena lai navuci vakamatau na lawa vakatututaki qo e na noda loma ni Palimedi ni bera ni qai vakabau me sa lawa tu ni noda vanua ko Viti. Keitou vakanuinui tiko ni na yaco tiko na veitalanoa. E tiko o ratou na nomudou vakailesilesi i Vunisea.

Au sa taura na gauna saka qo e na vukudra na i liuliu ni Palimedi Turaga na Speaker ra veitalai saka tiko mai e na siga levu e daidai keitou sa cavuta saka tiko na nodra vosa ni vakavinavinaka levu. Vinaka vakalevu na i tikotiko vakaturaga e Namuana e na nomuni solia saka tiko na galala me mai vakayagataki ni kua na nomudou hall e na kena mai vakatetei tiko na vakasama ni veivakararamataki kei na lawa vakatutu sa tu e matada. Kivei kemudou na gole mai Kavala vaka kina mai Nakasaleka vinaka vakalevu na yaco mai.

Me vaka au sa kaya toka mai cake e dodonu me keitou lako yani. Ia, keitou vulagi toka na veitosoyaki e na nodatou baravi a rairai donu ga na madigi mo dou siro mai me da tou mai sota i ke ni kua. Ia, na i kaukau dou na kauta lesu qori e sa kaya tiko na noqu i tokani e dabe tiko e na yasaqu i matau na bula ni tiko bulabula kei na savasava e sega ni rawa ni voli e na i lavo. Se cava na veika e da na cakava ka da na sega ni maroroya na ulutaga ruarua oqo na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava ke o lai veilewai ke ma ni milioni sega ni rawa ni sauma me vaka e dua na bula sa kacivi ke yaco e dua na mate taka totolo veitauvi vakasauri mate kei na lewenivanua e na nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga. Meu sa tinia na bose qo na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava e tiki ni bula vakalou.

The Committee adjourned at 12.30 p.m.

The Committee resumed at 2.00 p.m.

Present

1.	Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	-	Chairman
2.	Hon. A. Bia	-	Member
3.	Hon. A.T. Nagata	-	Member
4.	Hon. K.K. Lal	-	Alternate Member

Apologies

1.	Hon. V. Pillay	-	Member
2.	Hon. P.K. Bala	-	Member

Ministry of Health and Medical Services

1.	Mr. Luke Vonotabua	-	Chief Health Inspector
2.	Mr. Onisimo Sadranu	-	Divisional Health Inspector- Eastern
3.	Mr. Toga Vosataki	-	WASH Co-ordinator

Submittee: Residents of Tavuki Village, Kadavu.

In Attendance:

1.	Ms. Akeneta Vasu	-	PA Kadavu
2.	Ms. Jojiana Bolakoro	-	Nacolase Village
3.	Ms. Lanieta D.	-	Nacolase Village
4.	Ms. Ana Kaucu	-	Nacolase Village
5.	Ms. Salome Drodro	-	Nacolase Village
6.	Mr. Viliame Uqeuqe	-	Nacolase Village
7.	Mr. Soropepeli N.	-	Nacolase Village
8.	Mr. Ratu Orisi N.	-	Nacolase Village
9.	Mr. Asesela Botei	-	Nukunuku Village
10.	Ms. Tarisi Vinaka	-	Waisomo Village
11.	Ms. Ateca Nanovo	-	Tavuki Village
12.	Ms. Rusila Tabua	-	Natumua Village
13.	Ms. Titilia Adilesuma	-	Solodamu Village
14.	Ms. Lina Naserua	-	Baidamudamu Village
15.	Ms. Latileta	-	Tavuki Village
16.	Ms. Kelera Vuso	-	Nagonedau Village
17.	Ms. Mere Senilolia	-	Tavuki Village
18.	Mr. Lumilote Veibote	-	Tavuki Village
19.	Mr. Apisai Takotavuki	-	Tavuki Village
20.	Mr. Nacanieli	-	Tavuki Village
21.	Ms. Tarisi Marama	-	Tavuki Village
22.	Mr. Sikeli Duladau	-	Tavuki Village
23.	Mr. Apisai Biukoto	-	Tavuki Village
24.	Ms. Timaima Q.	-	Tavuki Village

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni bera saka ni tekivu na noda veivakararamataki ena yakavi vinaka e daidai, au sureta saka tiko na wekadatou e Nacolase ke rawa ni ratou liutaki keda ena dua saka na masu.

(Prayer)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa tiko saka nai tikotiko vakaturaga e Nacolase, vua na Turaga na Vunisalevu saka na Tui Tavuki. Ni tiko na kenai tikotiko era vakarorogo saka tu ena ruku ni kena vakavulewa, eda sa tiko rawa e Tavuki ena vuku ni dua na yakavi talei e daidai. Au vakabauta ni sa oti saka tiko na nodatou veikidavaki vakavanua.

Au na vakaruataka tale, nai lakolako saka e tiko qo – nai lakolako mai na loma ni nomuni boselawa. Era veitalai saka tiko mai na turaga na Sipika kina dua na yavu vakatututaki eda na qai veitalanoa kina ni oti na noqu vakamacala kina vakalailai. Ni bera oya, au na kerei iratou na lewe ni Palimedi me ratou na vakamacalataki iratou ga vakatotolo vakakina vei ratou na wekadatou eratou tiko ena yasa i matau – nai vakalesilesi liu mai na tabana ni bula.

(Introduction of Committee Members and officials from Ministry of Health and Medical Services)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au sa na tauyavutaka na noda veitalanoa nikua kina dua na yavu vakatututaki mai na 1935 me yacova mai e daidai. Ni da rogoca ga na 1935, e sa tiko ena taudaku ni kuila ya. Na veika a lave kina noda boselawa ka lawatu mai na gauna ya me yacova mai e daidai, sa via yacova tiko qo na yabaki 90 na lawatu koya e gadrevi tiko me veisau ka 69 na tabana me vaka sa tiko ena kena tikidua vei keda na tiko ena loma ni vale vakacevaceva qo ena yakavi e daidai.

Na lawa vakatutu qo, a sa lave oti ena noda Palimedi ena vuku saka ni matanitu ka ra veiliutaki kina na bose yaco. Na vanua saka keimami lako mai kina na lewe ni Palimedi dabe tiko qo, qo na vanua ni buli lawa, vanua talega e rawa ni veisau kina e dua na lawa, vanua saka talega e rawa ni mai bokoci kina e dua na lawa.

Na veilawa kece ni noda matanitu e dau lako curuma na loma ni Palimedi, ka dua na kena gacagaca bula ni veiqaravi koya keimami yaco mai kina qo na lewe ni Palimedi. E dau vinakati vakabibi me rogoci na domomuni na lewenivanua, baleta na gauna esa na vakadeitaki me sa lawatu ni noda vanua, na vanua ya sa na oti kina na veitalanoa vaka eda mai tiko kina nikua. Na ka ga sa raica na matanitu, sa sega ni vakamuri ga na lawa, sa na sala vata mai kei na veika e dau lako vata sai koya na totogi se rawa ni da tini sara kina vale ni veilewai.

Na yaca ni lawa vakatututaki qo na Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 of 2026. Au a kaya toka mai cake ni 90 na yabaki. Sa ratou mani nanuma na tabana ni bula me sa lako mai na noda matanitu me mai veisau vakatotolo sara, muria na kena gaunisala koya na tabana e 69 tiko qo, eda na veitalanoa kina ena yakavi ni kua ena vinakati me na mai rogoci na domomudou enai tikotiko vakaturaga saka qo me rawa ni keitou na lesu yani e loma ni Palimedi, keitou sa otiva na noda Viti ena kena kau wavoki na vakasama ni veivakararamataki kei na kena ciqomi talega na nomuni vakatutu kei na so na tabana ko ni nanuma ni yaga me na veisau, se vakavinakataki, se so beka nai totogi e tiko kina e sa rui bibi – yaga me vakalailaitaki se toso cake. Qo na kena veitalanoa eda sa dabe kina nikua.

Na ka bibi taudua e yavutaki tiko ena kena veisau na lawa vakatutu qo sai koya na noda tiko bulabula, tiko savasava ka rau vosa veiwekani. E tiko kina nai tavi, mai na matai ni gauna na lawa vakatutu qo sa golevi keda mai na tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu. Mai na 1935 era okati tikoga kina na tiko ena loma ni noda veikoro lelevu. Kaya mada na maroroi ni nodra benu, na vakadrodroi ni medra wai, na gaunisala, na livaliva, na ka kece ya, ea tiko na kaukauwa vakalawa ena lawatu qo baleta nio ira era sauma na nodrai vakacavacava ena loma ni veikoro lelevu.

Na ka e ratou nanuma na tabana ni bula me sa siro sobu yani kivei keda ena taudaku ni koro lelevu na kena yavutaki ni vakabulabulataki ni noda tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava. Dina ni na qai tiko na kena veitalanoa ena tabana mena veiqaravi kina. Eda na qai goleva ya ena gauna eda sa yaco yani kina.

Na kenai matai - ena loma ni 90 na yabaki me sa tete yani na lawa vakatututaki qo me qaravi keda talega na tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu ka wili kina o keda na tiko ena noda veikoro. E tiko talega kina e dua na kena vaqaqacotaki na lawatu ka salavata kei na so na totogi bibi. E ratou na qai vakamacala kina o ratou na noqu tokani mai na kena dau tiko e liu e $2, $10 – koya sa lako qo sa yaco sara tiko kina $500, $1,000 kei na $2,000. Eda na qai yacova ya ena gauna eda sa veitalanoataka kina na tabana e koto kina na totogi.

Era dau kaya na tabana ni bula e sega nio totogitaki, e biu toka ya me vaka e dua nai vakarere beka. E sega ni tukuni nio sa cala ga nikua, osa sauma sara na veika dodonu mo sauma. E tiko na veika e ratou na lako curuma ka ko ni na qai vakararamataki kina. Kevaka e tiko e dua na mataqali leqa vakaoya, e yaco mai na kena kudru vei ratou, eratou na qai lako mai ka ratou mai dikeva. Kevaka e sega ni matata tiko na wai ca mai na valelailai ka lai vakavuna tale tiko na lai boica tio ena vale kadua ka tiko e yasamu ka lai vakavuna na mate dewa totolo sara. Ya na vuna e lako tiko mai kina na vakatutu qo.

E dua tale na tikina bibi e tiko kina sai koya na kena maroroi nai soso ni meda wai se na vanua eda gunu wai tiko kina vaka tikotiko, vakoro se vatikina. Na vanua e lako mai kina na medai soso ni wai, ena gauna qo na kena bibi – ke lisi se sega, sa na vakatabui vei ratou na taukei ni qele me ratou na lai teitei kina, susu manumanu se kelia na qereqere se ta kau, se ratou lai vakadukadukataka ni soso ni meda wai ka wili talega kina kevaka e dua e taya madaga na tolo ni paipo. Sa na vauci vakalawa oya ka wili kina o ratou na taukei ni qele kei keda na lewenivanua e qaravi keda tiko nai vakaso ni wai eda gunu tiko kina.

E dua tale sai koya na noda benu. Sa ka bibi na noda benu. Au vakabauta o keda na tiko ena veikoro lelevu sa matau tu vei keda na keli qara ka sa sega ni wasei, koya ga sa kilai ni sa benu sa bala kecega yani ki loma. E tiko e dua na kenai tuvatuva vei ratou na tabana ni bula ni rawa ni wasei na benu. Na benu ga koya e dodonu me bulu ena bulu, koya e dodonu me na lesu tale kina vanua ni vakabulabula ni teitei (manure) e rawa ni kau lesu tale ki nai teitei kei na so na benu era nanuma na tabana ni bula ni sa yaga me qai cakacaka kina na tabana koya a dau qaravi keda tu e liu na Rural Local Authority. Na vanua ya ena qai basika mai kina na matabose qo me ratou mai veiqaravi ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu, ka kalouca ni a mai kau tani na nodratou i tavi na Rural Local Authority ena 2018.

Ena gauna qo, e vaka e sega soti sara tiko ni vakaukauwataki na nodratou itavi na tabana ni bula me ratou mai veivakararamataki ga ka se bera ni tiko vei iratou na kaukauwa vakalawa ni veiqaravi ena yasana ya. Dua tale na kena vakasama totolo ga, na noda dau osota na valenibula na tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu. E laurai vaka pasede e 60, 70 ka 80 sara na pasede na tauvimate e gole yani ki valenibula ka levu taudua o keda na tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu. Au vakabauta ni bolei kedatou toka na tiko enai tikotiko vakaturaga qo. E yavutaki na vakasama ni da sega ni dau maroroya na noda bula, sega ni dau maroroya na noda benu, sega ni maroroya na vanua era tu kina na manumanu, sega ni maroroi na sala ni wai ca era basika tu ena loma ni veikoro, o ira saraga na luveda era veiciciyaki tiko ena loma ni koro qo kevaka e tau na uca, na vanua e ra dau tu kina na vuaka, na mi ni manu ka dau vakavuna na karokaro ka lai vakavuna sara na mate lelevu eso me vaka na leptospirosis kei na dengue fever kei na kena ka qima kecega ka ra wili kece tiko ena loma ni lawa vakatututaki qo.

E dua saka tale na tabana, ka bibi na kena laurai na tiki ni lawatu qo me salavata kei na gauna vou eda sa bula kina nikua. Kaya toka na wekaqu o honourable Ketan Lal, na lawa vakatututaki qo e dodonu me sa bulu vakavica ka ni sa yabaki 90 oti. Eda marau ni da donumaka na madigi ni veiqaravi ni nomuni matanitu e daidai ka sa laveti kina me sa vakavoui na tikina e 69.

Dua tale na kena dau maroroi na nodra bula o ira na dau ni veiqaravi mai na tabana ni bula. Sa okati tale tikoga ena lawa qo na veika era dau maroroi kina ni ra lako mai mera mai cakava na nodai tavi kevaka e tiko eso na mate dewa vakatotolo ena loma ni nodatou tikotiko ka ratou dau ivakatatao vei ira na tabana ni bula mera lako mai mera mai qarava na nodrai tavi.

E so na vanua eratou sa kaya oti ni ratou cemuri kina enai selekapa. E dua vei ratou e moku sara ena dua na 4x2 ka tini kina e valenibula. Eso vei ratou e sere mai na koli ka ratou qai vakacemuri. E se bera ni tiko vei

ratou e dua na kaukauwa vakalawa ia na lawa vakatutu qo, eratou maroroi kina na tabana ni bula me ratou lako yani ena galala, lai vakayacora na nodratou i tavi ena vuku ga ni noda tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava.

Au sa na cava e keya, au gadreva me da na qai veitalanoa vakalevu. Me kakua ni levu na neitou vosa tiko yani e cake qo. Keitou vinakata ga me keitou saumi taro vakalevu vei kemuni ena cava o ni vinakata, me veisau se rauta se toso cake nai totogi. Na madigi e nodatou nikua e Tavuki. Sa na kerei honourable Bia me na qai tomani kedatou yani kei na kena vakamacalataki na tabana e 1 kina tabana e 69.

HON. A. BIA.- Vinaka saka vakalevu na vuvale vanua ena vuku noda yaco saka tiko mai ena cakacaka ni veivakararamataki ena yakavi nikua. Sa da na lade sara yani ena vuku ni tikidua sa tiko kece vei keda. Kevaka e dua e se bera ni tiko vua e dua nai lavelave se tikidua ena vuku ni veivakararamataki nikua, kerea mo ni laveta na ligamuni me na qai soli yani vei kemuni na tikidua e vakarautaki tiko. Au vakabauta ni sa tiko kece.

Kevaka o ni na raica ka vakaraitaka tiko na turaga Chairman ni 69 vakadua na vakatutu e kau tiko mai ena tabana ni bula ka nanumi tiko me veisau ena noda vale ni boselawa ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi na Public Health (Amendment) Bill. Nida raica na 69 qo, au vakaraica toka kau nanuma ni rauta ga e ciwa e toka e loma ni veiganiti kei na noda bula nida tiko e lomanikoro sei tikotiko se veivanua eda tiko kina.

Au na vakatomika toka ga yani na ciwa kau na tukuna tiko yani na naba, mo ni na qai cega na drauniveva. E ratou na qai vakamacala tiko kina na tabana ni bula, ia ena sega ni tarovi kemuni kevaka e tiko tale eso na taro ena vuku ni veitikina e tiko qori ka rawa nio ni taro tiko ena loma ni noda veivosaki.

Nai matai ga ni tikina au nanuma meda na veitalanoa kina. Keo raica na naba 14, sai koya na lawa ena vuku ni nodra taqomaki na dau ni veiqaravi ena nodra vakayacora na nodra cakacaka nai vakalesilesi mai na tabana ni bula. Qo e dua na bolebole levu ka ratou raica ena loma ni 90 na yabaki e se bera vakadua ni veisau vakadua kina na lawa qo, e ratou raica ni dua na dredre levu eratou dau sotava nai vakalesilesi ni tabana ni bula ka vuna e vakatututaki tiko mai kina na lawa qo ena nodra taqomaki. E ratou na talanoa na tabana ni bula ena vuku ni veika eratou dau sotava kei na nai naki ni vu ni kena kau mai na tabana qo me vukei ira na veiqaravi ena tabana ni bula.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee. Ni tiko sobu nai tikotiko vakaturaga. Ni dabe saka na vuvale vanua ena nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga e Nacolase ena siga nikua. Na tikina e 14 e tiko qori ena noda tikidua, e volai tiko kina na ka me baleta e dua na tiki ni lawa e vakaturi tiko me sa biu cake ena lawatu ni tabacakacaka ni bula me vukea walega na nodra maroroi na neitou vakalesilesi. Nira dau gole ena veikorokoro, veitikotiko me dau lai caka na nodra veiqaravi ka qai dau tu e so na vakatatao se vakalatilati me vaka era sa vakamacala oti kina na turaga Chairman.

E dua na dredre levu vei ira na neitou vakalesilesi mera veiqaravi tiko ena dela ni ririko kei na domobula. Kevaka o sa bau tovolea oti mo cakava ya, o na raica ni na sega ni taucoko na nomu veiqaravi baleta nio sa sega ni doudou mo lai cakava na nomui tavi nio sa leqataka tiko madaga na nomu bula vakai iko. Na kena sere na koli me cicivi ira na vakalesilesi, era rukaki, era cemuri ena selekava, era vakarerei – eso na mataqali vukivuki vakaoya e sega tu ni dau kovuti vakalawa.

Au vakabauta ni tabacakacaka ni liga ni lawa, o ira era taqomaki na nodra veiqaravi. Keitou nanuma me bau yaco talega vakakina vei keitou, baleta na cakacaka ni tabacakacaka ni bula e dua ga na kenai naki – ma maroroya na nomuni bula na lewenivanua. Kevaka keitou sa sega ni rawa ni qarava na neitou itavi, o cei tale me na qai raica ya na nomuni taqomaki kei na nomuni tiko bulabula ka vaka kina na nomuni tiko savasava na lewenivanua.

HON. A. BIA.- Au vakabauta ni sa matata ya. Kevaka e dua via dua nona taro, qo se gauna ni veitalanoa. Mai na 69, au digitaka toka ga mai e ciwa me da na veitalanoa kina. Kevaka o raica ni dua tale na vanua o via

vakatataro kina, qo se gauna bibi ni kena ciqomi na nanuma ni lewenivanua se na vuvale vanua ena kena lai sagai me vakadeitaki se me tuki me dua na lawa na lawa vakaturi tiko sai koya na Public Health (Amendment) Bill.

Ni da raica vata tikoga na tabana oya, ni oti na 14 nai karua sai koya na 18 – e dua nai totogi e tiko kina qori. E dua na veisau levu e kau tiko mai ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi qo, oya mai na loma ni 90 ni yabaki mai na 1935 me yaco mai nikua, e levu na totogi e tu ga ena $2, $5, ka so e $10.

I will give the floor to honourable Ketan Lal just to explain about the penalties and the difference that is there from the law that is currently there from 1935 and the amendment that is there in terms of penalties.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Once again bula vinaka and a very good afternoon to you all. As the honourable Members have explained that this is a very old law which is from 1935. After 90 years, the Ministry of Health is amending it.

The reason behind that is because the world has changed so much that we have new diseases coming in. To protect our Fijians, our communities, our children, these laws need to change. But there are some amendments that the public health officials are requesting to change with regard to fines. It is like you are driving on the road and you get fined if you are over speeding.

Similarly, there were some fines in the old law like $2, $5. The fines have increased in the amendment to somewhere around $100 to $1,000. That means, for example, if there is a nuisance or if there is something wrong in your vicinity and you are the culprit or you committed that offence, they have the right to come and fine you in villages as well. Before the villages were not included, but now with the new amendment, the villages are included, and they can enter your village and fine you. They will give you a first, second warning, but after that, you will be fined.

Our job here as a parliamentary committee is to bring this amendment to the people and ask for your opinion. Once you give your opinion to us, we will go back and discuss, and we will then recommend changes to the law. This amendment of law is requested by them. It goes to Parliament and then comes to the Committee and then Committee deliberates, consults people, goes back to the Parliament, discusses, debate, it is passed, then this law comes into effect. That means everyone will be affected either if you are rich or poor, whether you live in Kadavu, Savusavu or Suva City. This law applies to each and every one of you. It will not discriminate against who you are. It will fine me; it will fine you if you are the offender.

We have been to some consultations in villages; Fijian communities have suggested that this fine is too much especially for a villager who is not earning $1,000 a month. They are surviving on the resources available. If you have a piggery farm and it is causing nuisance to another person, they complain and they come and inspect. They know that it is causing a lot of diseases like leptospirosis and all those kinds of sicknesses, they will give first and second warning. After that, if you do not comply, they will come and fine you.

Later, you cannot complain that I was not aware of this fine. This is why this consultation process is happening so that you can tell us what you want. This is the reason we have *talanoa* session, and you need to speak up. We will just go according to this Bill, discuss and go back to Suva. This is time for each and every one of you to tell us what you think about the changes.

HON. A. BIA.- Vei keda na tiko nikua, au kila ni sa vakamacalataka tiko ya o honourable Ketan na vuku ni totogi e soli tiko. Nio cega na nomu drauniveva ena naba 26, kei na 27 enai katolu ni noda ulutaga eda na veitalanoataka. Au na solia vei ratou na tabana ni bula me ratou na vakamacalataka na vakasosavu kei nai naki ni totogi ka sa vakamacalataka tiko o honourable Ketan vei keda ena yakavi ni kua.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman and honourable Members of the Standing Committee, sa kidavaki saka na vuvale vanua ena siga nikua. Na vosa na "vakasosavo" e dua na vosa vakaviti ka vakatokai e dua na ka

e caka koya e caka ena dua na kenai tuvaki ka rawa ni vakavuna na tauvimate. Qo e wili kina na kena maroroi na wai ca gole tiko mai na noda veivalevale me vaka na wai mai na valenisili, siqi ni savasava, wai mai valenikuro kevaka e biu tu ga yani me gole ina keli ni wai ni uca ka tu ena veikorokoro, ya e sa vakatokai tiko me vakasosavo. E dodonu me gole ena dua na kena qara ni vatu vuso me vakamalumalumutaki kina ni bera ni curuma na loma ni qele.

Eda raica wavoki tu ena noda veiyasa ni koro, na vanua qai dau tei tale tu kina rourou me bulabula vinaka tu. Dua tale na noda septic tank kevaka e caka tu e dua na kenai cakacaka ka sega soti sara ni caka vakavinaka, sa qai dau vakavuna me dau vuabale mai tuba na kena wai ca ka rawa ni vakavuna na kena veidewavi na mate. Qo e wili tale tikoga vaka dua nai wasewase ni vakasosavo.

Kevaka o susu manumanu ena lomanikoro, lai boica ka vakavuna na tauvimate vei ira era dau takoso beka me lako ina teitei se ki baravi, ya talega e wili vakasosavo. E dua na tikidua era volai kece tiko kina na cakacaka tiko ka okati tiko me vakasosavo. E rawa ni vakavuna na veidewavi ni mate, koya saka ya sa qai tiko na kena totogi ka kenai yala tiko e cake e $1,000. Baleta ni duidui na mataqali vakasosavo, sa duidui talega na totogi vakailavo e salavata kaya. Koya e levu taudua kenai balebale koya ya e bibi saraga ka rawa ni vakavuna mo tauvimate ga nikua ka mate ni mataka. Ya e qai dau biu vua nai totogi levu, koya na kena vo sa qai rawa ni lako mai na $100, $200, $300. E ratou na vakadikeva na vakalesilesi se na cava e tiko kina, na kena revurevu, na kena rivariva bi. Na vanua ya e sa qai cakacakataki kina na totogi cava e dodonu me na lavaki vei koya e vakayacora tiko na cakacaka ka vakatokai na cakacaka ni vakasosavo. Koya saka ya na vakamacala lekaleka me baleta na tikina e 26, 27, 28.

HON. A. BIA.- Na 28 nai kava ni noda ulutaga me vaka sa vakamacala oti kina o iratou na tabana ni bula. Ko ni raica tiko qori na kena vakamacala kevaka o ni sa totogitaki se o ni sa vakasalataki ka sega ni lako tu ga yani me vaka ni sa tukuna o Toga. O ni na vakasalataki rawa mada, kevaka o ni sa lule tikoga ka sega ni dua na ka e vakayacori, sa na qai rawa ni na totogitaki. Kevaka e laurai ni se sega ni dua na ka e caka, sa qai tiko qori na kena tubu tiko nai totogi $100 ena veisiga.

Me da cegu mada vakalailai me lima na miniti au na solia na gauna me da na veitalanoa kina. E bibi na ulutaga oqo ni tiko bulabula ena noda koro, kei na tiko savasava. Na kena qarauni talega o ira na luveda ena vuku ni ulutaga qo. Au na solia na gauna meda na taro, da veitalanoa ni ratou se tiko qo na tabana ni bula ka ratou tiko qo nai tokani mai na vale ni boselawa. Soli saka tiko e lima na miniti me da na veitalanoa se ulutaga cava o ni kauta mai me ratou saumi taro kina na vakalesilesi era tiko nikua.

MR. J. NAWALOWALO.- Ni tiko na turaga nai liuliu ni bose, qaravi tiko na vu ni veitalanoa ena siga vinaka ni kua. Au vakatawa tiko ni koro qo. Na taro ga me baleta tikoga na vuku ni totogi e soli tiko ena vuku ni kena dau lako i tuba na veiwai ca e so e tu ena noda loma ni veikorokoro vakabibi na koro vakaviti. E sega ni dua tu na drainage vinaka ni koro me rawa ni vakaleleci kina na waica me vakaleleci saraga yani kina vakavinaka.

Ni ratou dau lako mai na tabana ni bula ka kila vinaka tiko na turaga mai na tabana ni bula ni sa vakasalataka e vica na veivuvale baleta ni sega tiko ni drain taki vakavinaka tu. Vakacava na kena laveti cake tiko mai na vakasama ni totogi qo, de rawa ni qarai mada vakavinaka na drainage ni veikorokoro me rawa ni matata kina na veika e laveti tiko mai qo me soli nai totogi kevaka e lako e tuba se sega ni yaco sara se lele yani na waica ya kina kena vanua dodonu ka ratou vinakata na tabana ni bula me lele yani kina.

HON. A. BIA.- Ni se bera niu na solia vei ratou na tabana ni bula, au vakamacala madaga vakalekaleka. Eda kila vinaka nio ratou na tabacakacaka itaukei ke tiko qo e dua vei ratou na valenivolavola ni yasana, e ratou qarava tiko e dua nai tuvatuva ena gauna qo ka vakatokai toka na Integrated Village Development Plan (IVDP). E soli tale tikoga e dua na uma ilavo ena kena sagai me vakatoroicaketaki na noda koro se na kena laurai me samaki vinaka tiko na vanua eda tiko kina vakauasivi na veika e cauraka toka ya ena vuku ni kena qarauni na keli ni wai me savasava tiko.

Au vakabauta na kena kau mai na lawa qo, e sa gadrevi talega na valenivolavola ni yasana, Tabacakacaka i Taukei ka me cakacaka vata kei na koro me laveti tale vakalailai na veiqaravi qo. Au na solia na vakamacala vei ratou na tabana ni bula me ratou na sauma vakalailai tale na nomuni taro ena vuku ni nomuni vakatataro.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Ni dabe na vuvale vanua kei na lotu ena siga ni kua. Cavuti tiko na vakavinavinaka vei turaga nai Vakatawa ena vuku ni vakatataro e gole cake tiko mai ka salavata kaya tiko mai na kauwai.

Na kenai matai, e dodonu me da na kila na kena duidui na wai cava e dodonu me gole ena sala cava. Nai keli ni wai taucoko eda rawa ni raica e matada nida lako tayabe voli e lomanikoro qori e vatabakidua saraga me baleta na wai ni uca. Na keli ga ni wai me baleta na wai ni uca.

Na wai ca e lako mai ena veivalevale e duidui na sala e maroroi kina. Na wai dravudravu se grey water qo e wili kina na wai mai valenikuro, valenisili kei na siqi ni savasava – qo e dodonu me vagolei vakadodonu saraga kina dua na qara keli toka ga e yasa ni vale ka biu e loma na vatu vuso. Ni gole yani na wai qo e lai bala i loma ya, vakamalumalumutaki e keya ni bera ni curuma na loma ni qele. Na mataqali qele ka tiko vei kedatou ena koro vakaturaga qo e qele vinaka duadua, qele nukunuku ka totolo na kena curuma sobu.

Na kena karua na wai ka vakatokai na wai loaloa (black water). Koya ya e gole mai ena gauna o tabaka kina na vakasaribariba nio vakayagataka oti na vale ni vakavakacegu. Koya sa qai gole kina loma ni septic tank, ena septic tank sa qai bola rua tiko. Ena lako yani na kena matai ni chamber, lutu na ka mamaca, talave na ka suasua. Nio tabaka na vakasaribariba tiko, e lutu tiko na ka mamaca ka toso cake tiko na ka suasua ka lai yacova nai lati koya e toka ena kedrau veimama, sa qai uabale na ka suasua ina karua ni chamber ni bera ni qai dewa ina dua na kena vaivo sa qai lai gole talega ena dua na qara ni vatu vuso.

E rawa ni rau qara ni vatu vuso vata ga, koya qo e gole ga ena septic tank qai gole kina vatu vuso koya ya e sa direct ga ki na qara ni vatu vuso. Na vuna e sega ni vinakati o ka ya me gole mai yasana qo, baleta na savasava, na sisili vata kei na masi yaya ni kana e vakayagataki kina e so na wainimate koya e vakamatea na manumanu koya e da vinakata me tiko ena loma ni septic tank. Koya e yacana tiko kina na septic tank na veibasai ni vosa na äntiseptic". Na antiseptic e sega kina na manumanu somidi, na septic e vakauqeti kina na manumanu somidi me vorolaka sobu na duka e tiko ena loma ni benu ya ni bera ni kaburaki saka yani kina loma ni qele.

Ena gauna sa na matata kina vei kedatou na kila na kenai wasewase, sa na qai tou kila kevaka e dua e gole tiko na wai dravudravu se wai loaloa ina keli ni wai ni uca, koya saka ya e vakatokai na vakasosavo. Ke lako tikoga na wai ni uca enai keli ni wai ni uca, koya saka qori sa na qai rawa ni curuma na Integrated Village Development Plan (IVDP) se gole vei ratou na Ministry of Waterways me rawa ni dua na kena veivuke me qaravi na nodatou keli ni wai ni lomanikoro me rawa ni kakua ni vakavuna na kena dau tawatawa tu na wai ena nodatou loma ni tikotiko vakaturaga.

HON. A. BIA.- Au vakabauta ni sa matata ya. Dua tale beka via taro? Ni oti saka na taro se na vakatutu oqo, vei keda na kena vo, da raica sara tiko yani nai ka lima ni noda ulutaga na naba 39. E dua nai totogi e tiko qori. E lade tiko mai na $20 kina $2,000 ena vuku ni mate bibi sa tauva tu na noda vanua nikua. Ena qai vakamacala kina o honourable Alipate Tuicolo.

MS. VASEVA.- Au gone ni Ra kau Assistant Health Inspector tiko e Kadavu. Au vinakata me vakamatatataki ga baleta ni ra tiko qo na nasi ni koro ena vuku ni veiqaravi ena loma ni koro. Me baleta ga na nuisance, sa tiko ya na septic tank ena veivanua era qai kina na veiwai ca eso. Au vinakata ga me vakamatatataki ga me baleta nai tei koya era dau tu ena loma ni nodatou koro me vaka tiko na voivoi.

E levu na gauna sa dau tukuni mai me na musu sobu. Au kerea ga ke rawa ni vakamatatataki vei ira na cava beka na vuna me musu sobu kina. Baleta ni so na gauna keitou dau mai vakamacalataka e rawa ni susu kina na luve ni namu, ia e qai tiko nai ulubale baleta ni nodra vurevure ni bula.

HON. A. BIA.- Vinaka vakalevu na taro tabana ni bula ena vuku ni kena vakamatatataki na ulutaga ya.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Ni dabe saka na vuvale vanua ena siga nikua. Cavuti tiko na vakavinavinaka ena vakatataro e gole cake tiko mai. E dina ni sega ni kovuti e na 69 na lawa veisau e tiko e na lawa vakaturi ia qo e dua tale tikoga na tiki ni vakararamataki e dau vakayacora tiko o ira na neitou vakailesilesi e na kena sagai me vakuwai tiko na mataqali kau e na loma ni noda koro se na yasana ni noda veivalevale o koya e sucu tiko kina na namu. E dau kena i vosavosataki au rawa ni vakamacalataka o keda susuga tikoga na keda meca. Na namu vakalekaleka sara meu saga me da rawa ni ciqoma rawa walega na lewenivanua e na siga ni kua. Na namu e kati dra me domica na dra e sagai me rawa ni kena kakana me tubu me ka levulevu koya e katia na tamata me tara na dra me vukei koya e na nona lai vakasucuma na nona yaloka. Oqo na vuna e dau veikati ga na namu yalewa. Ni vosota na marama me rawa ni lai vakasucuma na nona yaloka. Na kena i balebale e vica na ka o rawa ni vakasamataka. Ni sa kati iko ni o dabe tiko e ke ni kua na namu sa o na kila sara qo na namu yalewa e sa kati au me rawata na dra me lai vakasucuma na nona yaloka na kena i balebale sa raica tiko o koya e dua na vanua e yasa ni vale e tawa tiko kina na wai me na lai vakasucuma kina nona yaloka o sa na qai tarogi iko na koli e moce tiko e na varada i tuba?

Na ose e vesu tiko i veikau? Na bulumakau e tu mai na belavu. E tiko talega vei ira na dra. Na cava e qai digitaki keda ga kina na tamata e da tiko e loma ni vale na namu? Baleta sara ga o ya. Ke da e da susuga tiko na keda meca. Na namu e vakasucu e na ka ga e da biuta i tuba e ra qai vuka tale mai me ra mai kati keda me tara na noda dra na kedra kakana na namu keda sa qai teya tale e yasa ni noda vale. Na kena kakana na namu na domodomoni senikau se na flower beka. Na kenai balebale na vanua sa tiko kina na vanua me vakasucu na dra vata na kena o koya e sa sega ni rawa ni qai via lako vakayawa. E sa na tu voli ga e yasamu me na kati iko tiko e na veigauna taucoko. Na kau me vaka na vudi, voivoi o ira kece qo e maroroya na wai. Na kena vakadinadina ni oti ga na nodatou veivosaki qo curu i tuba tara e dua na vu ni jaina vuni vudi se vu ni voivoi kurea na cava e na lako mai tuba na wai. E dua na mataqali namu e dau susu e yacana tiko Aedes albopictus.

Na Aedes albopictus e dua vei rau na namu koya dewadewa levu tiko ni mate qo na dengue. Na kena i balebale ke so na kisi ni dengue e lako tiko mai e na nodatou koro kedatou ga toou susuga tiko na kedatou meca. Me vakalekaleka sara o ya na vakamacala au rawa ni sauma kina na loma tarotaro e na siga ni kua.

MS. G. BOLAKORO.- Mr. Chairman, vakacava vei keimami na marama na tei senikau se greenhouse e dodonu tiko ya? Au kerea ga na nomudou vakasala e na tikina o ya.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, au kila ni kemuni na i tuvaki ni nomuni bula e sa dredre ni lako i loma ni vei coco. Sa rawarawa ga na teitei tu e yasa ni vale. Ni qarauna ga ni teya ga na ka ni kania. Ni kua ni teya na ka me kania na namu. Kevaka me kaveti se bele e totoka tiko qori. Mo teya ga vakavinaka, samaki vakavinaka baleta ni o ira e ra dau taleitaka vakalevu na vanua e veiosooso. Na vanua e sega ni dau samaki me lobu. Na kena vosavosa vaka Vanua Levu na lobu, na vanua oya e ra dau lai vuni kina ni rarama na vanua me qai buto me ra qai vuka mai e loma ni vale. Ia, na voivoi au sa kerei kemudou na marama dou muri ira na tinada o ira na noda Nau era dau solevaki. E dau tiko na siga e ra dau lako e ra dau qai lai taya voivoi mai ra dau qai drekedreke mai. E dau i divi tu ni nodra bula na marama na gauna ya ka sa viavia kena gauna vinaka me da sa lesuva tale na gauna vinaka oqo.

MS. A. NANOVO.- Mr. Chairman, edua beka na vakatutu se na kerekere e rawa ni vakamacalataki vei keimami na lewenivanua na susu manumanu e na loma ni koro ka vakabibi na pet. E levu na koli e ra sa tu qo e na koro. E dua na lawa e rawa ni oka e na kena maroroi na bula ni tamata mai vei keda na manumanu?

HON. A. BIA.- Vinaka saka vakalevu na taro. Na nomuni taro e coka sara tu ga vakadodonu na uto ni noda veitalanoa ni kua.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, au cavuta tiko na vakavinavinaka e na vuku ni loma tarotaro e gole tiko mai. E vidai tiko vaka vica na sau ni taro au kerea na kena veivosoti e na vuku ga ni noda tiko e na kena i naki ni veivakararamataki.

Taumada na i vola ni lawa ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula e na gauna kedatou dabe tiko kina e na siga ni kua e sega ni wili kina koro vakaviti. Na kena i balebale e sga ni rawa ni vakayagataka na lawa ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula me vaqaqacotaki na loma ni koro vakaviti. Ni o kalawa dua e tuba au dau raica ni dau qai soli na notisi o ratou na neitou vakailesilesi vei ira me ra cakava vakavinaka na nodra vale ni cakacaka. E ma ni biu kina e dua na tiki ni lawa vakaturi koya tiko qori e na tikidua qori me sa wili mai e na lawa ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula me wili talega e na koro vakaviti me rawa ni vakavuna na kena sagai me laveti cake vakalailai na tagede ni tiko bulabula e na noda veikorokoro. E na vuku ni susu manumanu e matata vinaka sara tu ga na lawa ni Tabacakacaka ni Taukei e na kena Health by-laws ka tiko e na vei yasana. E volai tiko kina a sa tabu dina sara a susu manumanu e na loma ni koro. na kena i balebale na vusi, koli, ose se manumanu cavfa ga e tabu ni o susuga e na loma ni koro vakaviti e kea sa tiko rawa tiko na lawa ni Tabacakacaka ni Taukei.

Keitou sa na qai cakava mai qo baleta ni sega soti ni vaqaqacotaki tiko na lawa o ya keitou sa nanuma me keitou sa taura mada ga na Tabacakacaka ni Bula e na lawa vakaturi me keitou sa na cakava yani. Na kena i balebale me vaka sa loma soli na nodatou komiti e ratou dabe tiko qo mesa lai pasitaki e na bose lawa me sa lawa. Ke qai dua e susu manumanu e sa vauci koya na lawa qo ka. Ia, na koli vaka taki koya e tiko talega e dua taucoko sara ga na kena vola ni lawa na Dogs Act. Kevaka kemudou via susu pet na Dogs Act e kovuta na kena susugi na pet e vakavo kevaka e dua via susuga na nomudou koli ni lako i veicoco ia qori e sa na qai lako mai vaka na yasana ruarua na Dogs Act kei na Public Health Act.

Na Public Health Act e tukuna ke o maroroi manumanu e na dua na kena tuvaki e vakasavusavu na kena i balebale e vakavuna na tauvimate. E kabuyacara na nomu susugi ira. E sega ni ra maroroi vakavinaka e na dua na vanua e sa na rawa ni tarai iko na tiki ni lawa qo.

HON. A. BIA- Tikina 39 na i ka lima ni ulutaga ni nodaveivosaki e dua na mate levu e sa kuruseta tu e na noda vuravura ni kua vaka kina na noda Viti era sa mosoya tu na kena veitalanoa kei na veigaunisala ni kakaburaki e na vuku ni mona livaliva. Honourable Tuicolo e a tiko talega e na kena vuli e na vica na siga sa oti. Au sa na solia sara vei koya me na vakamacala mada e na i ka lima ni ulutaga Tikina 39 na i totogi tiko o ya lade mai na $20 kina $2000.

HON. A.N. TUICOLO.- Me vaka e sa vakaraitaka tiko o liuliu ni bose e dua na veiveisau levu na totogi. E na 90 na yabaki sa oti e so na totogi e $20, $10 me veiraurau vata kei na bula e da sa lako curuma tiko. Ni na raica na Tikina 39 e tubu mai na totogi ya vaka 100, mai na $20 kina $2,000. Oqo na i totogi vei ira koya ra vakadewa tiko na mate ni veiyacovi me vaka na HIV. E so talega na mate ni veiyacovi vei ira koya sara dikevi vakavuniwai ka sa vakadeitaki tiko ni tiko vei ira na mate qo ka ra sa nakita tiko me ra vakadewa tale vei dua. E na yabaki sa oti e laurai rawa kina e 2,016 na kisi ni HIV i Viti. Mai na macawa sara ga qo sa ra leqa yani e 90 na pasede na levu ni tamata koya ra kunei walega na yabaki sa oti. E liu e dau levu tiko na i wiliwili mai na yasayasa vaka ra ka sa levu taudua tiko qo na Central Division i Suva. E kila kasami tiko ni sa vakadewataka tiko qo na mate na vei wasei ni cula na kena vakayagataki ni wai ni mate ni veimatenitaki na drugs. Ke dua vei ira na lewenivanua e nakita tiko se wasea tiko na i cula kei na kena laurai ni cakava tiko na i tovo beci oqo e sa tiko ya na kena i totogi.

HON. A. BIA.- E ciwa ga na noda ulutaga. Ulutaga No. 6, Tikina 40. Au na solia vei ratou na Tabana ni Bula me ratou na vakamacala. E ulutaga bibi tale tikoga. E robota tiko na vanua e da tiko kina kei na noda koro ke tiko e so na bisinisi se so na kabani e ra va duri bisinisi tiko e voleka kina noda koro.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, na Tikina 40 e na nomuni tiki dua e vakatabaki dua tiko e na mataqali bisinisi ka vakatokai tiko na Offensive Trade. Oqo na mataqali bisinisi e ra cakava na nodra bisinisi vaka i ira e vakavuna na nodra sega ni tiko vinaka se e rawa talega ni vakavuna na kena veidewavi na mate. Oqo na mataqali bisinisi koya rawa ni rogo levu kevaka ni na gole e so na vei taoni e tu kina koya na mataqali tukituki ni yaqona ka lelevu koya cacabolobolo tu. O koya o ya kevaka mo na saga mo na moce e na via dredre sara. Sa qai tiko e so tale na bisinisi koya boi levu me vaka na bai ni vuaka, bai ni toa lelevu, vale ni simede, abbortour me vaka koya gtiko mai Naikaciwa e dau biuta tiko lmai e dua na mataqali boi, boi bonabona vakadua keitou mai Nakasi na veigauna e dau caka kina na cakacaka o ya. O koya na mataqali bisinisi va oya ni caka e dua na

vanua e tarai keda na lewenivanua. E da sega ni na rawata kevaka e sa rui caka vakavoleka vei keda. Oqo na vuna e sa qai nanumi kina me dua na tiki ni lawa vakaturi qo na kena maroroi o keda na lewenivanua mai na mataqali bisinisi va qo. Me da kakua ni kidacala sa dua sa cakava na nona bisinisi va oya e na yasa ni noda vale me vaka na qaqi qereqere koya dau caka kina na gaunisala. E toka vakalailai mai Namalata vakalailai mai na konakona i liu e dua. O koya oya kevaka me dua e cakava e yasa ni nodatou koro qo na koro qo esa kuvu walega. E sa qai biu tiko qori e dua na tiki ni lawa me maroroi keda vakabibi tiko kevaka e dua e via cakava e dua na mataqali bisinisi va o ya me na register rawa e na Tabana ni Bula ka me vakadonuya rawa na Tabana ni Bula baleta me rawa ni vakadeitaki qo e na vaka vu leqa vei keda se sega. Kevaka io, ia me kau tani yani vakayawa. Ka nuitaka tiko kina ka nuitaki tiko kina me da na veitokani tiko vakalevu. Na lawa vakaturi qo e vinakati tiko me rogoci na domomuni ni tokona se sega mo ni na vakaraitaka tiko mai baleta na komiti eratou tiko qo ratou na qai lai cakacakataka oi esega ni tokoni vakalevu sara na tikina oqo mai na kena lai caka tiko na public consultation.

HON. A. BIA.- Na i ka ono ni ulutaga ni da tiko ga e na bisinisi. Na noda i ka vitu ni ulutaga na Tikina e 41. E vaka tale tikoga na bula vakabisinisi e na vuku ni nodatou koro qo e na Yasana o Kadavu e sa toso tiko e na vuku ni nodra sa gole tale tikoga mai na sara vanua.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tabana 41, lavaki me register mada na i taukei ni vale. Au vakabauta e sa tiko vei kedatou na gauna ni kua na AirBnB. Na vale e saumi me ra tiko kina na vulagi. E dua keitou tawana toka mai na mataka me yacova mai ni kua e voleka toka ga i Vunisea. Oqo e wili kina na Homestay, vale rent taki ka vakatalega kina vei ira era caka bisinisi e na butu rara ni otela. Na lawa qo e sa vauci ira ka solia vei ratou na tabana ni bula na kaukauwa kaya mada tou via cakava eke e dua na nodatou Homestay. E sa na yaga mo na lako vei ratou na tabana ni bula me ratou na mai raica o na qai register taka na vale o ya e ratou na qai mai raica vakayalomatua sara na i tuvaki ni vale. A sa vosa oti o ratou na tabana ni bula na veika e dodonu me tiko e na loma ni vale me rawa ni tiko kina na tamata vosa bibi. Na kena i tuvaki. Na levu ni tamata e dodonu me ra tiko i loma. Na kena savasava. Na vei vanua e vagolei kina na wai duka, wai ca kei na veika kece e ologi e na loma ni dua na bure ni vulagi sa tiko e na lawa vakatututaki qo me ratou wilika na tabana ni bula me register.

Au na vosa toka vei keitou mai Vanua Levu na vanua ni ta dovu. E dua na vanua me ra lako yani me ra lai ta dovu na vale kava ga qai wavoki na taga beka me vanua ni nodra moce. E na loma ni vula tolu se rua e ra tiko kina e na vuku ni ta dovu. Na vanua ni nodra vakavakacegu kalougata ke voleka tiko na wai ke sega dou sa na vakayagataka toka ga na ka e ra dau vakayacora na noda qase i liu e veikaukau se veicoco. E sa tiko na lawa vakatutu qo e na kena maroroi na noda tiko bulabula kei na savasava. Mai Vanua Levu e a yaco kina e dua na outbreak levu na mate dewa vakatotolo sara e yavutaki e ena kena sega ni maroroi na i tikotiko me vaka au sa tukuna tiko qo na Airbnb, Homestay, vale rent taki e na vei koro lelevu vakatalega kina vei ira na otela e ra sa tu rawa tu qo. E sa kena i balebale oya kevaka e vakasama tiko se nanuma tiko me na caka e na dua na i tikotiko o ya e na loma ni nodatou tikotiko vakaturaga e sa yaco mai Vunisea. Wale ga qo e sa na toso e na nodatou vei korokoro. E sa na tiko na veika e ratou na lavaka tiko na tabana ni bula me na tiko e na loma ni tikotiko o ya me ganita ka veiraurau me na tiko kina e dua na tamata.

HON. A. BIA.- Ni da veitalanoataka oti na i ka 6 kei na 7 ni ulutaga ka vaka na bisinisi dua via taro se dua na ka me vakamatatataki ka vaka tiko na ulutaga ni noda veitalanoa ni kua ni bera ni da veitalanoataka yani na i ka otioti ni rua ni noda ulutaga No. 8 kei 9. Oqo na gauna veitalanoa e sega ni dua na ka e cala. E sega ni dua na ka e donu e na noda vakatataro kei na noda kerea me vakamatatataki e levu na ka e na vukea na nomuni matabose kei na tabana ni bula e na kena lai biu vata vica vata na i tukutuku me rawa ni vakadeitaki me dua na lawa e na ulutaga e da veitalanoa tiko kina e na siga ni kua.

HON. K. LAL.- Just to reiterate to what I have said earlier. Remember previsouly the Public Health Inspectors do not have any authority to come into your villages and instruct. Now they will have that power. So, this is the time for you speak what you want them to do because some of the laws here which is suggested tells them they can enter the property without permission and some place to be deleted. That means if you are sleeping they can enter ....like we understand there is some protocols in the villages as well. They might say, no. We will have to ask permission but it is not written here. If tomorrow any other Health Ispector who has that arrogant or wants to show he will come without approval. I am tried to talk in logical commonsense manner. Sometimes

some of our Civil Servants want to act smart they will just enter without thinking twice. So, what I have tried to say here this is the time for you to speak because now the Public Health Inspectors will be coming in to your villages to instruct to find to guide you so what do you want from them. They are telling their side of the story that will be coming. You have to make sure that your mosquito breeding places are all clean at all times. Less dogs in one house. They are trying to do a good part and they are trying to save us. What do you want to the law to say to protect you. If they tell you, alright, remove this piggery 100 metre away. I do not about here if the crime rate is high or not but if this is in Savusavu or Suva you put it away from the house your pig will be missing whole night and the same thing in Ba. Sometimes we have to use common sense here. Like you keep the piggery or chicken farm near our house, but no thieves can take it at night. Once you put it far, they will take it but what they are trying to do is safeguard you from the diseases. You have to come to a common ground to understand each other's issues but at the end of the day I just saw in here some of fines have been increased to $2,000. Section 89, penalty was $20 before in the 1935 Act now they have amended it to $2,000.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, au via vakuria ga vakalailai naveika e cauraka o honourable Ketan Lal e na vuku ni nodra gole yani na vakailesilesi. O na kila ga na cava e lai cakava yani na i vakalesilesi kevaka o kina vakavinaka na nomu lawa e toka qori. Kevaka e cakava o koya e dua na ka e lako tani mai e na veika e tiko qori e sa tiko talega i loma qori na matabose o rawa ni vakaraitaka kina na nomu kudru ka sa tiko talega o ratou na tabana ni bula ni sega ni vakamuria dodonu na veika e dodonu me cakava e na vuku ni lawa oqo na i vakailesilesi ni tabana ni bula e gole mai me mai raici iko. E sega ni rawa ni gole tu ga mai me sa mai totogitaki iko vaka i lavo. E na vakasalataki iko. E na solia vei iko na galala mo vakavinakataka naveika o cala kina e sa na qai rawa mo drau na cakacaka vata e na vuku ni kena vakavinakataki na lawa ni tiko bulabula.

Ulutaga No. 8, Tikina 54 kina 55, sa i koya na veika e da dau vakayagataka vakalevu e na tiko i yanuyanu na veivakaleleci se na veilakoyaki ni waqa e na kena qarauni talega na tiko bulabula se na tiko savasava e na loma ni waqa ke da dau vakayagataka.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, e dua na gauna balavu na kena toso tiko mai na veiqaravi ka raica tiko na neitou vakailesilesi e so na bolebole e tiko e na neitou veiqaravi e na kena sega ni tiko na ka vakalawa me vukei keitou na kena taqomaki na nomuni bula na lewenivanua. E dua sara ga qo e na vuku ni veitosoyaki e na waqa me vakatasosoko. Kivei keda na dau gole yani i Suva e da kila vinaka ni da vodo i Vunisea qo na kokoroti kei na duka ni loma ni waqa e so na gauna e da raica e rawa ni na vakavutauvimate vei keda. E sa qai nanuma na tabacakcaka ni bula e dua tiko na cakacaka ni kena dau vakalaisenitaki na veisokoyaki e dau caka e na vei vula ono.

Keitou talega na tabacakacaka ni bula e dau dua na sitivikiti keitou sau solia tiko na ship sanitation certificate. Me keitou na raica ni sa caka ni vanavana ni manumanu, kokoroti, kalavo kei na cava soti baleta ni ketiou raica talega ni sa savasava vinaka ni bera ni qai vakatututaki cake se tukuni i cake ni sa rawa ni soli na nodratou laiseni. E vica na yabaki sa oti keitou tovolea me keitou vesuka e dua na waqa mai Natovi baleta ni tuvaki vaka ca sara tu ga na kalavo, de ni kalavo kei na kokoroti e sega ni caka rawa e na loma ni waqa ka sa ma ni nanumi me keitou vesuka na waqa me kakua ni soko baleta ni ra na vodo na lewenivanua e rivariva bi ni na rawa ni tauvimate. E qai leqa ni sega ni tiko vakalawa e dua na kaukauwa me keitou tarova na waqa e na kena soko tikoga vei ratou na tabana ni matanitu ni dau soko (MSAF) sa ma ni qai veivosaki ga na i vakailesilesi kei ratou na Technical Working Committee ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula e ratou sa qai biuta ga mai e dua na kena i biubiu me sa wili e dua na lawa vakaturi me soko ga na waqa e na kena soko na Tabacakacaka ni Bula e sa vaqaqacotaka ga na lawa ni tiko savasava kei na tiko bulabula e loma ni waqa.

Na kena i balebale ni sa curu ga yani e dua na neitou vakailesilesi taura mada ke sa kele mai o Goundar ni mataka curu yani o Josaia. E curu ga yani e gole i vale ni kuro raica ni duka tu na de ni kalavo sa soli sara ga e dua na notisi ni $200 koya na kabani me na sauma vata na gauna me ratou sa na vagagalataka kina na duka o ya. Ni gole yani cake na rumu pasidia e laurai talega ni tu kina na kokoroti, kutu ni tana e sa soli tale e sua na notisi ni $200. Na veika kece e laurai e rawa ni vakaleqa na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava e loma ni waqa na levu ni $200 na lavaki ma na kabani me na sauma. O ya na ka sa tiko e na lawa vakaturi. Kevaka sa biubiu yani e ke sa qai lai kele tale i Natovi ratou vodo mai na neitou vakailesilesi mai Suva mataqali vata talega o ya e ratou

na cakava. Na kena i karua me sa na sagai me sa na kua ni vula 6 na kena dau vakawainimatetaki na waqa me toso sobu mai me macawa rua se tolu baleta me caka wasoma me rawa ni vakalailaitaka na levu ni manumanu e rawa ni vakadewa na mate. E leqataki tiko o keda na tiko e na veiyanuyanu e na noda vakayagataka tiko na vei waqa koya ra tiko e na noda veisokoyaki saka tiko.

HON. A. BIA.- Ulutaga No. 9, me da raica na vanua e tiko kina na Tikina 57 kina 59 e coka tiko na ulutaga e sa vakamacala oti tiko kina na Turaga Chairman e na vuku ni wai ni gunu, maroroi na i vakaso ni wai ni gunu kau na solia take vei koya me na vakamacala tale vakalailai e na vuku ni bibi ni tikina oqo e na kena kau mai vei ratou na tabana ni bula na bibi talega ni kena taqomaki e na kena vakadrodroi na wai ni gunu savasava vei keda na lewenivanua.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka saka vakalevu au vakabauta au sa wasea e na i tekitekivu ni nodatou veitalanoa e na kena vakabibitaki na vanua e drodro mai kina na meda wai ni gunu. Au vakabauta ni ke e datou ologi tiko e na vakasama qo. E tiko na vanua koya drodro mai kina na meda wai.

MS. A. VASU.- Mr. Chairman, e na vuku saka ga ni taro au via vakaraitaka tiko ga ni kua au via vararamataki talega e na vuku ni nodatou matabose dabe saka tiko e na siga ni kua e na vuku ni wai. Au raica tiko e na Tabana 59, tiko sobu na i totogi ni vakadukadukalitaki ni wai. E dau levu na gauna vei kedatou saka na nodatou i tikotiko au via vakaraitaka tiko ga na kena lawa tu e biu saka tiko qo na kena taqomaki tikoga na i vurevure ni wai se na vanua e drodro mai kina na wai.

Au kila e levu sara na i bolebole e dau yaco yani i valenivolavola au qai raica tiko. Au vakavinavinaka ni sa tiko saka e dua na lawa tu qo e vakabibitaka sara ga se kauta tale mai e na kena okati vakabibi tiko na kena vakadukadukalitaki na wai. Oqo e dua na ka bibi e datou raica tiko na nodatou yasana e ratou dau sotava talega vaka levu na leqa ni wai. O koya saka o ya koya gadrevi tikoga kina me mai vakavinavinakataki kina tabana ni bula na kena vakacokotaki mai se na kena biu se taoqomaki tiko na i vurevure ni wai ka sa vakalawataki tiko qo. Me vaka ni toso tale tikoga kina na leqa. Au nuitaka vei kedatou na dabe tiko ni kua au via kuria tikoga na ka e ratrou vakaraitaka tiko na nodatou lewe ni mata mai na Palimedi, vakailesilesi ni tabana ni bula, nasi ni koro e ratou tiko e na siga vinaka ni kua au kila oqo e so na ka e dau laveti cake tiko mai vakalevu e na bose ni tikina. Dou sa raica saka tiko ni kua sa ratou tiko na tabana ni Palimedi kei na tabana ni bula e veiqaravi tiko e na nodatou wasewase na tokalau vata kei na wasewase levu i Viti. Me vakabibitaki tikoga qo e na kena dau gole tiko yani na complain e na kena maroroi tu na i so ni wai. Au kila o ya sa noda i tavi sara ga o keda me da qarauna. O ratou na tabana ni kena vakalawataki ga mai qo vei keda na tiko e na noda dui veikorokoro me da na yadrayaravaki tiko kina. Me da na yadravaka tiko na veika koya sa vakaraitaki tiko ni kua.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au sa kaya oti mai cake lisi se sega na lawa vakatutu oqo e sa tukuna o koya ni tabu. Ke nomudou mada ga na qele e sa sega ni tiko vei iko na kaukauwa mo vakayacora e dua na veivakatorocaketaki ke kau laivi mada ga na qereqere e na vanua e lako tiko mai kina na meda vakaso ni wai, na kena ta na kau, teitei se ko susu manumanu se o vakadukara mada ga na tobu ni wai. Au vkaabautra na vanua e vosa tiko kina na wekadatou baleta beka se bera ni dua na lawa e vauca vaka me ra tara tu ga vakamama. Ni oti ga o ya vakalailai ga e ra sa ba ci cakava tale. Ia, na gauna qo sa vauci vakalawa. Na kena i balebale sa yaga me da na vakadrayati na taukei ni qele kei keda na lewe ni koro na veika e vakatabuya na lawa e sa na yaco me keitou sa na lai vakadeitaka i Palimedi me sa lawa tu e sa na lawa ni noda matanitu ya. E sa a okati keda kece kina e na tiko e na koro lelevu kei na taudaku ni vei koro lelevu na kena maroroi na i soso se na vanua e caka mai kina na meda wai ni gunu. Au nuitaka ni sa na matata vei keda na tikina o ya baleta ni vauca tale tikoga e dua na lawa levu ni noda United Nation e na kena vagolei mai na wai bulabula, savasava me ra gunuva na lewenivanua.

E na vukudra saka na Turaga na Speaker e na loma ni vale ni boselawa, e tiko saka qo na kena i vakailesilesi ena loma ni vale ni bose lawa, i liuliu ni tabana ni bula e na i wasewase tokalau, vakailesilesi mai Vunisea keimami veitokoni tiko mai e na kau wavoki tiko mai na lawa vakatutu qo ni sa mai rogoci na domoda na lewenivanua vakaturaga e ratou sa tiko rawa ni kua e Nacolase sa cavuti saka na vosa ni vakavinavinaka levu e na nomuni yaco mai vakalewe levu e na nomuni kauwai kei na veitalanoa totoka e makare ka savasava na kena vakasama e da sa veitalanoa tiko kina ni kua. Au rawa ni tukuna ni da kalougata Nacolase ni kua ni sa mai rogo

na domomudou na kena vakatututaki na lawa tu qo e na loma saka ni Palimedi. Na ka kece e tukuni tiko yani e dai e katoni kece tu.

E vica saka na mala ni vosa dravudravua o ya e sa cavuti saka tiko yani na vakavinavinakalevu e na vukurasaka na noda matanitu e na nodra veitalaci na Turaga na Speaker e na noda mai tu vaka lewe levu e na yakavi e daidai e na koro vakaturaga e Nacolase e sega saka ni balavu sa va saka toka o ya na kena levu.

The Committee adjourned at 3.15 p.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT NO 4. 2026

DATE: Wednesday, 12th June, 2026
VENUE: Burebasaga Community Hall, Rewa.

VERBATIM REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE BUREBASAGA COMMUNITY HALL, REWA ON 12TH JUNE AT 2.40 P.M.

Present

1. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu - Chairman
2. Hon. A. Bia - Member
3. Hon. A.T. Nagata - Member
4. Hon. S. Kumar - Alternate Member
5. Hon. K.K. Lal - Alternate Member

Apologies

1. Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure - Deputy Chairperson
2. Hon. P.K. Bala - Member
3. Hon. V. Pillay - Member

Submittee:

1. Mr. Watisoni Vakalutukadi
2. Ms. Ulamila Dirabe
3. Mr. Joeli Kavilo
4. Mr. Ulaiasi Davu
5. Mr. Alipate Vuidreketi
6. Mr. Mitieli Vute
7. Mr. Lemeki Cirikiwasa
8. Mr. Josua Nalewakalou
9. Mr. Amani Naivaluwaqa
10. Mr. Ketesi Waqa
11. Mr. Jovesa Vaileba
12. Mr. Panapasa Tadea
13. Mr. Netava Kabuta
14. Mr. Niko Bukarau
15. Ms. Lite Radakua
16. Ms. Miriama Vui
17. Ms. Miriama W
18. Ms. Laisani Toga
19. Ms. Eta Vakanawa
20. Ms. Litia Mataceva
21. Ms. Iva Vuidreketi
22. Ms. Laisa Senibulu
23. Ms. Verenaisi D
24. Ms. Iva Rokomokoti
25. Ms. Salanieta M
26. Ms. Melaia
27. Ms. Suluia Sei
28. Ms. Loraini
29. Ms. Alesi
30. Ms. Matilda Mary
31. Mr. Eroni Rokoloa
32. Mr. Neumi
33. Mr. Mesake
34. Mr. Iosefo Avimeleki Qionitoga
35. Mr. Iosefo
36. Mr. Biu Vakaloloma
37. Mr. Nemani
38. Mr. Tevita Tabua
39. Mr. Setareki Nasoki
40. Mr. Iliesa Vuidreketi
41. Mr. Joseva Waqa
42. Mr. Manieta Tui

Ministry of Health

1. Mr. Luke Vonotabua - Acting Chief Health Inspector
2. Mr. Toga Vosataki - WASH Coordinator

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tiko nai tikotiko vakaturaga ena loma ni nodatou itikotiko vakaturaga, ka dokai ka rokovi kina nomuni liga ni veiqaravi ena loma ni nomui Palimedi me mai tiko ena nodatou itikotiko vakaturaga ena yakavi vinaka nikua. Na nodra ilakolako na Turaga na Sipika ni Vale ni Boselawa. Keitou dabe tiko qo na leweni Palimedi, keitou dabe veicurumaki tiko – na nomuni matanitu vata na to ni veisaqa.

Nomuni Palimedi e ono na kena Komiti lelevu dauniveiqaravi. Dua vei ira keitou na Komiti sa tiko ena yakavi ni kua. Qo na Komiti ni Bula raraba kei na veika e wavolivolita. Keitou kauta tiko mai e dua na Bill - Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 ni 2026, ka tekivu ena 1935. Ratou tiko talega na yakavi ni kua na itaukei ni lawa qo na Tabana ni Bula. Rau na veivuke ena kena vakamacalataki kei na kena vakararamataki na lawa oqo. Sa vakadewataki vaka vosa vakaitaukei, ka vakabauta ni s ana yadua tiko na copy.

Eda na veitalanoa ka veivakararamataki ena tabana e nanumi me vakavou. Na Bill e yacova ni 69 na tabana duidui, ka yaga me vakavinakataki. Sa yabaki 90 ni kua, ratou kaya na Tabana ni Bula eratou tovolea vakaukauwa me veisau na lawao qo me ganita na gauna vou eda sa bula kina edaidai. Vakabibi ena bula savasava, bula ni cakacaka vakoro, na kena itavi kei na ogaoga e vuqa na ka e tiko ena Bill, ka dau okati tu ga kina na veikoro lelevu.

Sa raica na Matanitu ni yaga me toso na veiqaravi kina taudaku ni veikoro lelevu, me rawa ni da vauci vata ena dua na lawa vakabibi me baleta na bula savasava. Noqu itavi ga meu dolava na kena vakasama, au na kerei ratou na noqu itokani me ratou na vakamacala talega.

HON. A. BIA.- (Vakacamalataki koya o honourable Aliki Bia)

Vakalekaleka ena vuku ni veivakararamataki me kauti keda vata mai me dolava na veitalanoa ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi e kau mai na siga ni kua. Me vaka sa vakamacalataki taumada, sai koya na lawa me baleta na qaravi ni bula kei na tiko savasava ena veikoro, na Public Health Act se Public Health (Amendment) Bill.

Dina na ka e tukuna na Liuliu ni Bose, 90 na yabaki na kena tu na lawa oqo. Ena gauna oya, na veikoro e sega ni oka, ia na veisau oqo sa biu me wili kina na lewenivanua taucoko e Viti. Kevaka o taroga, ena yaga vakacava vei au keu tiko ena koro?

Au kauti keda vakalekaleka na kena gole mai na COVID-19. Mai yaco na COVID-19 na gauna se tiko kina na lawa oqo kei na so na mate dewa vakatotolo dau veitauvi ena noda veikoro, ia e sega ni dau curu vakatotolo na Tabana ni Bula. Na veisau qo e solia na galala ni veiqaravi, vakarawarawataka vei Ministry ni Bula me curu vakatotolo ena koro kevaka e yaco na mate me vaka na typhoid, na mi ni manu, kei na mate dewa totolo eso.

Ena 90 na yabaki sa oti, eratou dau muria na gaunisala ni veiqaravi ena Valenivolavola ni Yasana se Tabana ni Itaukei, waraka na ivola, na Turaga Roko, se na veivakadonui, dina ni sa laurai tiko na mate. Oya e dau vakataotaka na veiqaravi. Ia na lawa oqo e sega ni ovata na lawa makawa, ia e vukei keda ga me da vuli mai na COVID-19, me tu vakarau kevaka e yaco tale na mate dewa vakatotolo.

E dua tale na lawa vakaturi oqo e baleta na taqomaki ni wainigunu. Na ivurevure ni wainigunu, na kena vakadrodroi, me taqomaki vakavinaka. Kevaka e dua e benuca se vakadukara na wainigunu ka vakavuna na tauvimate, e rawa ni vauci ena lawa oqo. E tiko talega na totogi iloma. Ena 90 na yabaki sa oti, na totogi e $2, $50, se $100. Ena veisau qo, sa toso cake kina $500 se $1000. Na totogi qo e deterrent, me vakavuna na kena vakamuri na bula savasava kei na qaravi ni bula ena veikoro.

Meu tinia, dua talega na yasana me da raica kina na kena kau mai na lawa qo: taura ga na yaloyalo – ena vica na yabaki sa sivi, na noda veivalenibula e dau kudruvaki ni dau oso yani ka sega ni vinaka na veiqaravi. So na gauna e sega ni veiraurau na veiqaravi ni Nasi kei na iwiliwili ni lewenivanua, se tukuni ni sega ni veirauti na wainimate. Ia na veika kece ratou vakayacora na Tabana ni Bula, qo na kena iwalewale “they have taken a proactive approach” mai na noda gole yani vakayauyau i valenibula.

Na lawa qo e tarova koso na kena dewa eso na mate eda rawa ni tarova ena noda veikoro ena vuku ni kena qarauni na tiko bulabula kei na savasava. Vakabauta ni sa matata, tiko tale oratou na noqu itokani me ratou na qai vakamacala kina. Au vakavolekataka me rawa na noda veitalanoa ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi e kau mai na siga vinaka ni kua. Vinaka vakalevu.

. HON. K.K. LAL.- (Vakamacalataki koya o honourable Ketan Lal)

I believe Honourable Aliki Bia has explained the importance of this Bill. As I mentioned earlier in the community today, there is nothing bad in this Bill. It is for the benefit of our people.

The previous Act we had was from around 1935. It is a very old Act, and the Bill before us — Bill No. 4 of 2026 — is a very modernised Bill. By "modernised," I mean it contains the latest rules and regulations that will help us, help your children, and help your community members to be safe from diseases and public health issues.

For example, the previous Act had no restrictions or enforcement on certain health issues in our village communities or settlements. This new Act now gives public health officials the chance to come and help you. It will help us become a healthier and safer society.

For instance, the way we build septic tanks, dispose of rubbish, or manage chicken pens will now be done in a more organised manner. In the past, when you were young, you never heard the word "COVID." There was no COVID, no Hantavirus, no swine flu, no bird flu. These diseases are new to our modern world. This Act, or Amendment, is designed to protect us from such diseases.

At the same time, it helps us create safer neighbourhoods, a safe environment, and clear regulations so that you can build better, more organised facilities for yourself, your family, and future generations. This is what the Bill is all about.

I understand you have a document written in the iTaukei language. Apologies — I can understand a little iTaukei but cannot speak it, so please forgive me. However, after the session I will be available if you have any questions, and I will be happy to answer them.

Thank you very much.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o honourable Nagata)

Vakabauta ni sa vakamacalataka vakavinaka na Bill o honourable Bia ena yakavi ni kua, vaka kina o honourable Ketan Lal. Au na sega ni taura na noda gauna, au na vakamacalataka ga na Public Health Act, edua na lawa makawa sa oti beka e 90 na yabaki. Na vakatutu e kau mai kina me vakavinakataka na lawa sa tu, me rawa ni veiraurau ena bula eda sa tiko kina nikua, vakauasivi ena totogi.

Eso na totogi ni veilawa era saqata na lewenivanua sa toso cake, me vaka sa vakamacalataka oti o honourable Bia mai na $20 kina $2000. Au kila ni tiko eso na lomatarotaro vei kemuni ena yakavi ni kua, ena soli na gauna moni taroga mai na Komiti vaka kina vei ratou na dauniveiqaravi mai na Tabana ni Bula.

Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Chairman)

(Vakamacalataki na mata mai na tabana ni bula)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na gauna qo au sa solia kina na gusu ni vosavosa me da veitalanoa. Au kerekere Ratu medatou veitalanoa na rarama ni ulutaga ni lawa vakaturi oqo me veisautaki. Na gauna keitou na vakasokomuna wavoki e Viti, Rotuma, Rabi kei Kioa, na veika e gadrevi me vakararamataki kina na lewenivanua, ka ciqomi talega na nomuni vakatutu kei na taro. Kevaka oni vinakata moni cau kina veitalanoa ena yakavi ni kua, laveta ga na ligamuni me na kau yani na gusu ni vosavosa.

Matai ni ka, ni tukuna na yacanamuni kei na koro ni cavu tu mai kina kevaka e lako mai na loma ni tikina se yasana. Ni tukuna mai ke yavutaki ena lavelave, kevaka oni vinakata moni vakamacala, vakatutu se taro, ena vakasama levu ni veivakararamataki.

Ena taura e tolu na vula na neitou wavoki e Viti ena vuku ni lawa qo. Sa katolu ni siga nikua keitou vakila na veiqaravi kei na veika keitou sotava. Au sa kaya vei ira na itokani na saluwaki ni lakolako qo, ka yaco mai mo ciqoma, na kena cakacakataki kei na veika eso mai taudaku, baleta ni da mai qarava na itavi ka nuitaki keda mai na Turaga na Sipika ni Vale ni Boselawa.

Sa dolava na noda veitalanoa raraba.

RATU W. VAKALUTUKADI.- Dou tiko na vakalesilesi vaka kina vei kemudou na lako mai na Tabana ni Bula. E dua ga na vakatataro: ke rawa ni vakamacalataki me ra kila na lewenivanua na cava e bibi kina me mai rogoci na domoi keimami na tu ena koro?

Kena ikarua, sa oti e 90 na yabaki me qai raica na Matanitu ni sa dodonu me dua na veisau. Au kila ni sa curu mai eso na mate vou kei na ka e basika. Na taro levu: cava e 90 sara kina na yabaki? Cava sa qai lako mai kina qo na galala me mai rogoci na domoi keimami?

Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ena rairai yaga me da rogoca na domodrau na Tabana ni Bula. Tabana ni Bula kerea moni sauma mai rua na taro oqo. Kena dede, cava dou kauta mai kina ena itikotiko tiko na taudaku ni korolelevu?

Vinaka vakalevu.

. MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Tiko na Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, tiko na lewe ni Bose yaco ni noda Palimedi, tiko na turaga kei na marama. Sa vakamacalataki tiko na Public Health Act, sa oti beka e 90 na yabaki. E rua na sasaga a vakayacori: ena yabaki 2001 kei 2002, ni sagai me veisautaki na lawa oqo. Vakayacori na consultation, ia e sega ni vakacavari ena loma ni Vale ni Boselawa.

Na yabaki 2010, 2011 kei 2012 a dua tale na sasaga me vakavoutaki na Public Health Act. A caka wavoki na consultation, ia e sega ni vakacavari ena loma ni Vale ni Boselawa. Na vanua dodonu me kau kina na vakatutu me veisautaki na lawa.

Au kila ni sa caka tiko na consultation ena siga nikua, ka na tomani ena loma ni rua na vula mai oqo. Vakabauta ni tiko na process ni kena caka na lawa: consultation mai na Tabana ni Bula, na veika e gadrevi me veisautaki, kei na vakatutu mai na Non-Government Organisation (NGO). Eso na ka e volai ena loma ni Bill, sa biu cake yani i Cabinet me vakadonui na veisau. Ni oti, ena kau yani ki Palimedi, ka soli vei na Standing Committee on Social Affairs.

Ratou sa tiko ena yakavi ni kua me ratou kauta wavoki e Viti taucoko, me rogoci na domo ni lewenivanua, na ka eda nanuma me vakatutu, me veisautaki se me wili ena lawa. Sa vakatututaki nikua me da veitalanoa kina.

Au kila ni na taroga tiko se cava e sa kau mai kina na koro ena siga nikau? Me vaka sa vakamacalataka na lewe ni Komiti ni Boseyaco, e dua na tiki ni lawa e tiko ena Public Health Act, na Section 140, e sega ni okati kina na koro vakaViti. Oya keitou sa vakatututaka me veisautaki, me kovuti kina na veikorokoro kece e Viti.

Levu na gauna e levu na kudru, levu na complaint e yaco yani ina Valenivolavola ni Tabana ni Bula: bai ni vuaka e tiko ena yasani koro, manumanu e tiko ena loma ni koro, waica ni valelailai lako yani ena dua tale na vale. Eso na kauwai se kudru e lako yani ina valenivolavola ni Tabana ni Bula, ia e dredre me keitou curuma na loma ni koro baleta ni sega ni vakatara na lawa me curuma na Tabana ni Bula na lomanikoro me lai enforce-taka na Public Health Act.

Kila ni tiko na lawa nodratou na Tabana iTaukei, na iTaukei Affairs Act, kei na bylaws ni veiyasana taucoko. Ia au kila ni tiko eso na malumalumu, keitou sa nanuma kina na Tabana ni Bula me vakatututaka cake na application ni lawa qo, na Bill, me da okati kece kina na lewe iViti: veikoro, veitikotiko vakagalala, loma ni taoni, wili kina o ira na informal settlement.

Na veika me baleta na veitauvi ni mate dewa ena noda vanua e Viti, dau vakarautaki ena veivula na tukutuku vakasokomuni me baleta na mate dewa e tauvi keda tiko. E laurai ni levu na itaukei era tauvi dengue fever, typhoid, kei na mi ni manu. Oti dua na vula, e laurai ni 70 na pasede nai taukei era tauvi dengue, 60 na pasede ni tauvi typhoid era taukei, kei na 80 na pasede ni tauvi mi ni manu e taukei. E laurai talega ni levu na itaukei era dau kau yani i valenibula levu ni sa bibi tu na mate, ka vakatautauvatataki vata kei ira na vo ni kawa tamata.

Na kauwai levu e tiko ena Tabacakacaka ni Bula, oya na kena vakasamataki me okati na veikorokoro vakaitaukei ena loma ni Public Health Act. Na yavu ni lawa qo oya na kena maroroi na noda veiyasana kei na bula ni lewenivanua. E laurai ni levu na ka e wavoliti keda e vakavuna na mate dewa: kevaka e sega ni samaki vinaka na vanua, ena sucu kina na namu, vuka mai na namu ka kati keda tale na lewenivanua. Kevaka e sega ni maroroi vinaka na manumanu kei na benu, ena rawa ni vakavuna na mi ni manu. Na benu e sega ni vakasavasavataki vinaka ena rawa ni vakavuna na lago me qitora na kakana ka vakavuna na tauvimate. Na vakaso ni wai e sega ni maroroi vinaka ena rawa ni contaminatetaka na wai gunu ka vakavuna na tauvimate.

Na lawa ni Public Health Act e tiko mai na 1935, e vakaraitaka ni kevaka e raica e dua na vakalesilesi ni sa tiko na container e vakatubura na luveninamu, e rawa ni soli na fine lailai. Ia na Bill vou e vakasaqarai tiko oqo, e vakalevutaka na totogi me vakavulica na lewenivanua ena kena bibi na maroroi ni vanua. Kevaka e raica na vakalesilesi ni sa tiko na wai ena container, ena soli na notice me maroroi. Kevaka e sa tiko na luveninamu, ena toso cake na totogi. Na inaki levu oya me taqomaki na bula ni lewenivanua mai na veimate dewa.

Na Tabacakacaka ni Bula e vakayagataka vakalevu na ilavo ena nodra qaravi na tauvimate. E tiko talega na veimate e sega ni dewa, ka vakavuna mai na draki veisau, vakayagataki sivia ni yagona, tavako, kei na kakana sega ni bulabula. Ia na veimate dewa e rawa ni tarovi kevaka e samaki vinaka na noda tikotiko. Oya na sasaga levu ni matanitu, me vakatautauvatataki na lawa vou me okati kina na veikoro vakaitaukei, me taqomaki kina na bula ni lewenivanua.

MR. CHAIRMAN- Nuitaka Ratu ni sa saumi na nomuni taro oya?

RATU W. VAKALUTUKADI.- Dua na lewa cecere na kena kawaitaki tiko mai na bula ni turaga, marama se lewenikoro yadudua. Na taro levu ga ena muria tiko na gaunisala qo ena veigauna kece, vinakati me vakacurumi mai se ratou sa bose ga na lewe ni Palimedi era sa kila ni sa dodonu qo, me sa biu sobu ga mai. Na kena bibi me keimami mai vakatulewa kina, sai koya na kena vakadeitaki. Dua na cakacaka levu na veilakoyaki ena loma ni tolu na vula, ka levu na cost ni veilakoyaki.

Na taro levu talega e tiko: kevaka sa va qo na Tabana ni Bula, vakacava tale eso na ka ena rawa ni basika mai muri, me vaka na veika e yaco tiko ena veiyasai vuravura ena siga ni kua, me soli na galala vei ira na gonevuli (cauravou se goneyalewa) ena curriculum vou e biu sobu vei ira. E laurai ni levu na itubutubu era sa loma tarotaro tiko ena kena vakatarai mai koronivuli na kena vakacurumi na lesoni vaka oqo. Na taro levu oya: ena veigauna kece e vinakati me dua na lesoni vaka oqo, se dua tale na kena lako curumi na mataqali lakolako vaka oqo?

HON. A. BIA.- Ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi, e dau kau mai ena loma ni Boselawa. Na gauna vata qo vei keimami na lewe ni Boselawa, keimami dau wasei tale tiko ena ono na Komiti e tiko ena loma ni Vale ni Boselawa. E tiko na Komiti e qarava na bula raraba - na Social Affairs; e tiko na Komiti e qarava na tabana ni lawa; e tiko na Komiti e qarava na veika e tu wavoliti keda. E vica na Komiti e gole wavoki tale tikoga qo ena kena kau wavoki tiko na lawa vakaturi.

Me vaka na veika ni vuli, eratou sa wavoki mai na Komiti ni Justice, Law and Human Rights ena vica na macawa sa oti, ka ratou kauta mai na Education Bill, na lawa vakaturi me baleta na vuli ena noda vanua. Na veitalanoa eratou vakayacora e wili kina na nodra qaravi na gone, na nodra ka ni vuli, kei na veika me baleta na koronivuli. Eratou sa vakasokumuna oti na itukutuku, ka sa vakalesui tale i Vale ni Boselawa me rawa ni vakadikevi na nanuma ni lewenivanua.

Ia kevaka e tu na leqa ka nanuma na Matanitu me vakatotolotaka e dua na lawa, e vakayagataki kina na Standing Order 51. Keda na lewenivanua eda oka ena vuku ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa 2013. Vei keimami na lewe

ni Boselawa, ni gauna o vosa bubului o lako kina Vale ni Boselawa, o sa kaya ni o na muria na lawa ni Vale ni Boselawa, ka vakatokai na Standing Orders. Ena loma ni vola oya e tiko kina na Standing Order 51, e rawa ni vakatotolotaki kina eso na lawa kevaka e gadrevi me vukea na veiqaravi ni Matanitu. Ia kevaka e gadrevi me tauri na nodra nanuma na lewenivanua, keimami dau talai na Komiti me vakasokumuna na itukutuku. Vakabauta ni sa matata vinaka na kena vakamacalataki, Ratu.

MR. J. NALEWAKALOU.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, dou dabe saka tiko na lewe ni Matabose, dabe saka tiko na Ministry of Health. Dua ga noqu taro vei kemudou na Ministry of Health: na cava dou raica tiko ena lawa sa tiko qo me baleta na monitoring kei na enforcement? Oya ga noqu taro. Baleta ni levu na lawa e tu, sega ni kemudou ga na Tabana ni Bula, ia na veitabana kece vakamatanitu, e tu na lawa e sega ni enforcetaki ka sega talega ni monitortaki. Buli ga mai na lawa, sega na monitoring kei na enforcement. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka vakalevu na veivakadeitaki. Au kerekere me da veitalanoa tikoga ena vuku ni loma ni lawa kovuta tiko na Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 ni 2026. Kevaka e dua na vakatutu e tiko taudaku ni veitalanoa vuku ni vakasama keitou kauta tiko mai ena yakavi ni kua, koya ya e rawa ni lako mai me vakatutu. Kevaka edua e tokona, keitou na qai kauta lesu na gauna keitou sa lesu tale ki Suva, me keitou qai vakauta kina na tabana dodonu me sauma na taro oqo. Kevaka sa donu, rawa ni dua e tokona mai?

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni na raica na ilavelave kau wavoki tiko yani qo na vosa vaka-iTaukei, kevaka e dua na tabana o vinakata mo vosa kina, e lima tiko na drauniveva. O na tukuna mai e dua na kena vakaraitaki, me vaka na No. 4, na setup ni Central Board of Health, vata kei na kena ivakamacala. Oya me rawa ni da veitalanoa tiko ena dua na vakatagedegede eda raica kece tiko na vanua o ni vosa tiko mai kina.

MR. L. CIRIKOVERATA.- Tiko saka na Turaga Liuliu ni Bose e vica saka tiko na Public Health Act?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kerekere da vakamuria tiko madaga na veika e gadrevi tiko yani. e katoni kece tiko na veitalanoa oqo.

MR. L. CIRIKOVERATA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Cirikoverata)

Na Public Health Act edua ga koya vinakati me veisau se so tale tiko e vinakati me veisau?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 ni 2026 koya tiko imatada qo, sai koya ga na veisau ni ilavelave ena vosa vakaViti. Na ka dina e veisau oya na kena vakamacala, na vosa vakaperetania e tiko vei keitou. Keitou sa tovolea ga me vakarawarawataki vei kemuni na nomuni vinakata moni vosa kina, koya lako tiko yani kina na kena ilavelave, me rawa ni ko ni wilika. Keitou na qai tomana yani na kena vakasama rabailevu e tiko vei keitou, me vukea ga na nomuni taro mai.

MR. L. CIRIKOVERATA.- Vinaka saka vakalevu.

HON. A. BIA.- Ena vuku ni ka sa vakamacalataka oti o Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, qo na lawa taucoko e tiko ena Public Health Act. E 69 taucoko na lawa vakaturi me na veisau. Oya na 69 na veisau keitou sa vakamacala tiko kina

MR. K. RAIBEVU.- Me da vakavinavinaka na tiko vakanakoro ena lewa e vakayacori mai Palimedi, ni rawa ni mai vauci talega na veikorokoro. Ni da sega ni vauci tu ena dua na lawa, e dua ga e via cakava e dua na ka ena cakava ga ena nona lewa, ni sega ni kaukauwa tu na lawa me rau veiwekanitaki vata na Tabana ni Bula kei na Tabacakacaka iTaukei. Kevaka e vakakina, eda vakavinavinaka tiko kina. Turaga na Liuliu ni Bose.

HON. A. BIA.- Dua na vakaraitaki: sa vakamacalataka na Tabana ni Bula na sasamaki ena noda loma ni koro. Na siga Vukelulu keitou tiko mai Serea, e vakayacori na veitalanoa ena nodra vale ni bose vakoro, sa qai cavuti na vosa qo: “eso na gauna ni sasamaki ena loma ni koro, eso na vale sa sega ni rawa ni sasamaki.”

Ia na kena biu mai na lawa vakaturi oqo, kevaka o sasamaki vakavinaka ena nomu loma ni bai, ia e tiko kina na tyre kei na container e tawa toka iloma na wai, ka vakasucu tiko kina na namu, ena rawa ni vakavuna na tauvimate. Ni vuka mai na namu, mai kati kemudou na tiko savasava, ka vakavuna na mate na dengue. Eratou na lewai kevaka eratou sega ni sasamaka vakavinaka na nodratou lomanibai.

Oya na vuna e bibi kina na lawa ni tiko bulabula, me tara tokaga na noda bula vakoro, ka vakadeitaka na qarauni ni tiko savasava ena noda veikoro. Vinaka vakalevu.

. HON. A.T. NAGATA.- Na lawa vakaturi oqo, levu na lawa sa tiko rawa ena Principal Act. Na lawa vakaturi oqo e levu na totogi sa revisetaki, eso mai na $20 ka sa toso cake me $2000. Ena Tikina 39, e tiko kina e dua na totogi sa toki mai na $20 kina $2000. Na tikina oqo e baleta na veneral disease, oya na mate e vakadewataki ena veiyacovi. Kevaka e dua e sa tiko vua na mate qai nakita me vakadewataka tale vei so tale na lewenivanua, na totogi iliu e $20. Ia ena gauna oqo, kevaka e pasitaki na lawa qo, ena $2000 na totogi vei koya e nakita me vakadewataka na mate.

MR. K. RAIBEVU.- Vakananumi tikoga na veiqaravi ni koro - Mata ni Tikina kei na Turaga ni Koro. Dua na vanua keitou dau veicalati kina kei na Tabana ni Bula, oya na gaps ena vuku ni veiqaravi. E kila na lewe ni koro ni rabailevu na noda mandate ena iTaukei Affairs Act: na good governance kei na wellbeing (na nodra tiko vinaka na lewenivanua).

So na gauna, ni tara na vale ena koro, e dredre na nona curu yani na Tabana ni Bula me lai veivakasalataki. E dredre talega na kena vagolei yani na building code me tara na vale, na salasala ni wai, baleta na lawa. Tou raica na Tikina 16, vakabibi na 16 ena ivakarau raraba ni tara vale, tolo ni vale, me ra muria na lawa tuvatuva (Town Planning Act).

E dua na sabolo: lima na vale kama mai Naduria. Kama ga e dua, yaco yani na tabana ni boko buka, sa lai suiva na ka ono kei na ka vitu. Ena gauna va qo, ni yaco na leqa, keitou mai veibeitaki tale kina na vakalesilesi, ia na ka e yalani keitou tiko kina oya na vuku ni lawa.

Oya na vuna me da vakatura, me da tokona na kena qaravi, baleta me vakarawarawataka na veiqaravi ena vuku ni noda mandate ena iTaukei Affairs Act — wellbeing (na nodra tiko vinaka na lewenivanua). Ia e gadrevi vakalevu na kena curu yani na Public Health Act. Na Tabana ni Bula me vakaqaqacotaka na ituvatuva oya ena noda veikoro. Dua na gauna balavu gole tiko yani na Tabana ni Bula, ka yaco tikoga ena vuku ni tikina oqo. Vakatura tiko naTikina 16, Turaga Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa vakatura tiko mai na Turaga Roko na Tikina 16.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MS. U. DIRABE.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Ms. Dirabe)

Au kauwai tiko ena Tikina 39, ena kena vakatuburi na totogi mai na $20 kina $2000. Na noqu taro: cava e vakavuna na tubu levu vaka qo? Me vaka ni sa vakamacalataki tiko baleta na kena via tarova na basulawa. Ia, au vakabauta ni keimami na sega ni lai curu ivaleniveivesu kevaka keimami totogi. Keimami na tu vakavanua, sega ni tu vei keimami na ilavo, ia na ririko e tiko oya na levu ni talaidredre ena qai vakalevutaka na neimami kau yani ivaleniveivesu. Keimami nuitaka me dua tale na totogi rawarawa e soli toka ena tabana qo.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kerei rau na Tabana ni Bula me rau na veivakararamataki ena Tikina 39 koya na kena lawa 89 mai na $20 kina $2000.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose kei kemuni na lewe ni Boselawa, vinaka vakalevu na vakatataro. Na tikina qori koya sa qai vakamacala oti kina o honourable Nagata. Na totogi lavaki tiko qori mai na $2 kina $2000. Na tikina qori e kovuta tiko na mate dewa mai na veiyacovi. Kena ibalebale kevaka sa tukuna mai o Vuniwai ni sa tiko vei au na mate dewa ni veiyacovi, au sa kila tiko, au lai mocera tale beka edua na

goneyalewa ikeri, gole tale dua na vale lai mocera tale dua na goneyalewa, ka na rawa ni vakavuna na nodra mate kei na nodra vakayalica nodra bula na lewenivanua. Iliu e dau $20 tu ga na kena totogi, ni $20 au rawa ni kitaka ni kua, au kitaka ni mataka, ia, au sauma e $20 sega soti ni na tarova na leqa. Na gauna qo o Viti na HIV kei na AIDs e kacabote sara tu ga ena noda vanua na kena sagai me sabai na nodatou vanua sa nanumi me biu e dua na totogi levu va qo - $2000 ke sega me ono na vula lai vakacagicagi tu mada i Naboro se i Korovou ena vuku ni tovo ca ni ko sa kila o qai cakava ga. Koya saka beka ya na sau ni taro, Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nuitaka vua na marama e taro tiko mai ni sa matata na sau ni taro oya. E rabailevu sara na ka e tukuni tiko kina. Ratou a taroga mai Nasigatoka na taro vata ga oqo, ia, ni sa saumi vakadodonu, sa ratou via kila tale ga me solia mai na Tabana ni Bula kina veitikotiko se Yasana se Tikina o cei era oka tiko na vuni tauvimate oqo. Sa titobu sara, vakabauta vei ratou na Tabana ni Bula vaka dau tukutuku maroroi, baleta ni sa tarogi tiko, sa na sauma tale ga na Komiti qo ena vukudratou na Tabana ni Bula. Au kila na kena sagai tiko ga na tiko savasava, tiko bulabula ena loma ni nodatou veikoro. Oya na takete naba dua tiko.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, au via tarogi marama Dreu e vica e vinakata okoya me kena totogi okoya e vakadewava tiko na mate?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na taro e taroga tiko na wekaqu qo, noqu rai qo madaga e lailai baleta na bula ni dua na tamata e sega ni rawa me sauma na $2000 ke sa kaci na dauniveibuli. Vakamacalataki, ke lewe vitu se lewe walu sa oka kece tiko iloma ya, ke dou nanuma me vakatututaki me toso cake na kena katuba eda sa veitalanoa tiko kina qo.

MS. U. DUIRABE.- Au sa taura rawa na kena vakatuburi na itotogi, ia, dua ga na taro tale: kevaka sa tiko e dua i loma ni koro, keimami na lai ripotetaka vei cei? Kevaka keimami nanuma me sa lai ripotetaki.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kemudou na tiko ena koro, sega vei kemudou na kaukauwa mo dou kila o cei e tiko vua. Oya na vuna au a kaya kina mai Nasigatoka me solia mai na Tabana ni Bula na yacadra. Ena loma ni tikotiko, ko ira sa tiko ena lomanibai sa tiko vei ira na tauvimate qo. Kemudou na sega ni kila, au kaya tiko kina ni yaga me lako mai vei ratou na kena Tabana eratou sa dikeva, ratou sa vakadinadinataka. Kaya mada, nodatou koro e Burebasaga sa tiko e rua, yacadrau qo, kevaka e donu noqu nanuma, dau maroroi vei ratou na Tabana ni Bula me da kila tiko na taudaku ni koro lelevu. Na vuni kena tarogi, ni sa tiko na Komiti qo, sega vei ratou na kaukauwa vei keitou me keitou lai kerei ratou se vakatututaka na Tabana ni Bula mo dou solia na information koya vinakati qo. Nuitaka ni sa na via matata vakalailai ya.

HON. A. BIA.- Dua na taro ya me ra na repote ivei kevaka sa kilai?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, honourable Member, vinaka saka vakalevu na vakatataro. Na gauna e tekivu mai kina na mate qo ena noda vuravura, qai laurai ni ra biliraki vakatikitiki o ira na wekada, koya tauvi ira na mate qo. Eso e sega ga ni kila, eso e dewa mai ena icula, eso ena vuku ni veiwekani e cakava nona lewenivale, sa qai mai tauvimate kina okoya. Ia, ni sa vakadeitaki, sa qai vaka me ra biliraki tu se stigma. Ni caka na soqo, ni via lako mai okoya, cemuri laivi, lako lai tu vakadua, ke tiko vei iko na mate ca. Ena vuku ni ka ya, sa qai buli kina e dua na lawa - HIV Act, koya vakatabui kina me dua e tukuna ni sa tiko vei koya.

O Vuniwai, ni sa tara ga na vakadidike ni nona dra, sa raica ni sa positive, koya na tukuna vua: “Kemuni sa lesu mai na macala ni nomuni dra, kemuni sa positive tiko ena mate ni veiyacovi ni HIV.” O Vuniwai kevaka na lai veitalanoataka ena vanua ni gunu yaqona, ena vauci koya na lawa. E tabu sara ga ni dua e vakadewataka tale, koya ya e bibi tiko kina na totogi oqo. Koya ga sa kila tiko ni tauvimate, qai vakadewataka wavoki tiko.

Koya na vakatutu, koya vakamacalataka tiko o honourable Member, ratou sa vakatututaka mai Nasigatoka me sa veisau na lawa, me sa wili ena Public Health Act me tukuni mai, me vakadewataki madaga mai vei Turaga ni Koro se vei Nasi ni Koro kevaka e dua sa tiko ena loma ni koro e tauvimate tiko. Koya ya e drakidrakita tiko ena vuku ni kena sagai tiko me taqomaki okoya, kena karua sagai tiko me taqomaki o keda. Vinaka saka vakalevu.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, kerekere saka ga ke rawa ni semata vakalailai na veitalanoa. Tiko na leweni bose kila na veitalanoa e tukuni tiko qori: kevaka e dua sa tauvimate ena mate ca ni veiyacovi, ena lako yani i valenibula ena gauna e lai tauri kina nona itukutuku. Na yacana ena investigatetaki, ena qai tarogi vei koya o cei rau a veiyacovi vata. Na vanua ya, ena qai laurai kina koya sa tukuni tiko ni tauvi koya, qai vakadewataka tiko, na qai lako mai kina na veitalanoa ni rawa ni totogitaki okoya.

Na veigauna kece o na lako yani i valenibula, ena tarogi vakamatailalai vei iko o cei drau a tiko vata, se cava na itukutuku ya. E tukutuku bibi vei keitou na gauna ke dua e lako yani. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. I.A. QIONITOGA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Qionitoga)

Na Tikina 14, sega ni tiko edua na lawa matata me baleta na nodra taqomaki na dauveiqaravi. Au vosa tiko ena vuku ni Komiti ni Yadrayadravaki na Crime Prevention Committee (CPC). Ni vakayacori na vakasausa ena loma ni koro, era lako yani o ira era sa digitaki me ra yadrava na kena maroroi na koro, qai yaco tale mai na vakalatilati mai yasana ka dua, qirita na ovisa. Na nona siosio me tarai koya e vakasausa tiko.

A yaco na tikina qo mai Dreketi, yaco talega mai Waivou, noqu koro, ena vica na macawa sa oti. E sega ni dua na lawa me taqomaki ira na dauveiqaravi. Au raica toka na Tikina 16, au kerea, kau vakatura ke rawa ni dua na lawa me ra taqomaki kina na dauveiqaravi era sa digitaki ena noda veikoro me ra yadrava na veitikina sa dodonu me ra yadrava.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, na ka beka ga au rawa ni tukuna, ke rawa ni dou veisautaka walega nomudou rai na Crime Prevention Committee. Dou kakua ni cakava na cakacaka ni ovisa, ia dou tuvana ga eso na tuvatuva ena koro me vakalailaitaka walega na vakasausa. Me caka eso na vuli, sikovi so na vuvale, dou vakamacalataka na lawa ni koro, na gone tabu ni cakava qo. Me lako eso na focus group baleta ni itavi ni ovisa ena dua tikoga, kemudou na sega ni rawata ni cakava na veivesu mo dou lai mokuta e dua, ena vauci kemudou tale na lawa. Dou moica ga vakalailai na nomudou walewale, ni dou focus vakalailai ena nona prevention.

Dua na marama ni ovisa, dau vosa tiko totoka nona dau vakamacala. Vakamacalataka okoya na vakasausa ena koro, eso na ka ni lawa vei ira na tabagone, na ka va ya. Ena vinaka me na kau mai okoya. Vinaka vakalevu Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

RATU W. VAKALUTUKADI.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Ratu Vakalutukadi)

Na Tikina e 23 me baleta na septic tank. Na taro ga e tiko: kevaka e vinakati me veisau koya na lawa sa buli rawa tu, e vei beka na vanua me keimami kauta mai kina me keimami mai vakayagataka?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, Ratu, vinaka vakalevu na vakatataro. Me vaka e vakamacalataka tiko o honourable Member ena gauna sa qai tekivu vakamacala kina, e veiveisautaki na lawa baleta ni sa 90 na yabaki. Eso na vosa era tiko ena loma ni lawa qo, ni dua mada ga e wilika ena gauna qo, sa sega ni kila tale na cava na kena ibalebale. E tiko i loma eso na vosa me vaka na "cesspit". Me boko na "cesspit" me curu na "septic tank". Iliu na "cesspit" dau kacivi tu na "septic tank". Keitou sa nanuma me boko na "cesspit" me biu na "septic tank", me dua e wilika ga vakaoqo ena gauna ni kua sa kila ni tukuni tiko na "septic tank".

Ia, meu sauma na nomuni taro: na design ni "septic tank" koya sa approvetaka na Central Board of Health, era tu i Valenivolavola. Kevaka e dua e gole yani i Suva, taba tolu ni Namosi House, rawa ni lai raica. Ke sega, qai qiri yani na naba 2903675. Io, e tiko talega na design koya sa approve, vata kei na vanua o rawa ni kunea kina na design. Vaka e tiko e dua vei Roto Mold, me vaka na 500 litres, sa lako rawa tu na kena paipo, kau ga mai, dabe ira kece ya sa approve tiko. Au kerekere vei kedatou me da vakayagataka ga na design koya sa approvetaka na Central Board of Health. Baleta ni koya ya sa vakadeitaki ni na mai vakayagataki ena sega ni vakavu leqa vei keda. Kena levu saka, Turaga Liuliu ni Bose

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na tomana vakalekaleka ga na ka e vakaraitaka tiko na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula, vei kemuni na via tara vale vou. E tiko na loma ni lawa qo, kevaka o via cakava nomu septic tank, mo na lai vaqara mai koya sa vakadonua na Central Board of Health. Kevaka e dua na ka ena yaco, ke mani vakacalaka na paipo se cava, ena vakavu tauvimate tale vei ratou na vuvale tarava. Ratou kauta cake nodratou kudru, na mai laurai tale kina na mataqali septic tank o vakayagataka. E ka vou, eratou sa vakadonua oti na Tabana ni Bula se se bera? De na rairai yaga me sa cakacaka tu vakadodonu, caka vakavinaka me da veiqarauni baleta ni da tiko ena loma ni koro qo, eda dua tikoga na vuvale levu.

Eso walega na ka lalai vaka oqo, me vaka na manumanu, na kena sa dau maroroi na bulumakau, keitou sotava mai Serea. Mai Serea, ena siga, o sega ni raica e dua na bulumakau me lako e yasa ni koro. Ni bogi, sa lailai na lewe ni koro, sa levu na bulumakau era sa tiko i loma. Oya e dua na italanoa e rogorogo bibi vei keda. Cava na vuna? Na kena iwali, au qai kaya vei ratou: o kemudou sara ga na vakabulumakau. Na bulumakau koya e sega na yalona, tiko noda veiwekani, tiko na keda isema, nomu itavi kevaka o sa via vakamanumanu mo maroroya. Ke sega ni caka na kena bai, dodonu me vesu. Ke sa na yaco me lako yani, na kena kudru, ratou na basika mai kina na Tabana ni Bula koya vaka sa tiko iloma qo. Wili kina na bai ni vuaka, vaka kina na bai ni toa. Vinaka.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Ministry of Health, according to the law, is it required to have the same standard septic tank as approved, or can people also purchase the already-made ones from hardware stores?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, honourable Member, thank you very much for the question. Yes, the Principal Act states that any new design of sewer treatment must be approved by the Central Board of Health. The ones that are sold in hardware stores have, in most cases, already been approved by the Central Board of Health.

HON. K.K. LAL.- So, compared to the septic tank design you have, would it be more expensive than the already-made ones sold in hardware stores?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- No, we have concrete designs. They are working on models that are cost-effective for rural communities as well. One of these is the Roto Mold septic tank, which is 500 litres and comes with a connection.

HON. K.K. LAL.- The coral one is only for water, if I am correct. Coming from an engineering and construction background, the coral type that they use is only for urine passage. However, the waste or solid waste goes into the main septic tank for storage, and there is a slipway leading to the soak pit.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Yes, the treatment of sludge and wastewater is done in the septic tank, and the filtered wastewater then flows into the soakage pit for further treatment before it is released.

HON. K.K. LAL.- There is another problem with the soakage pit: you cannot just take coral out of the ocean. You still have to collect dead coral, and then you must pay the royalty fee and handle all those requirements separately.

MR. T. VOSATAKI- Honourable Member, now even river stones can be used. It mirrors what happens naturally when we cross a river or a creek—we feel something slimy on top of the rocks, and that is basically what we are trying to replicate in the sewer system. That slimy layer is actually a medium where bacteria live, and they feed on contaminants such as ammonia compounds in the wastewater. So, we are simply trying to reproduce that natural process in the system. Vinaka vakalevu, Mr. Chairman.

MR. A. VUIDREKETI.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Vuidreketi)

Taumada, vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni sa rogo tiko e dua na ivakaraitaki vinaka mai na nodatou koro mai Naduria. Au raica talega ni tiko na Clauses 14, 15, 16, 24 kei na 49. Na tara ni vale qo me da vakarurugi vei ira na local authorities se na voleka kina. Noqu trade, au dustman, au tiko talega ena koro qo, au taura rawa talega ni neimai dui korokoro e se bera sara ni subdivide me vaka e caka tu mai na koro vakavavalagi.

E dua na bolebole levu vei keimami ni dau lai reject tiko mai na droini mai na local authorities kevaka e fail tiko na site plan. Na taro ga e tiko, e vei na vanua erau na veitali vata kina kei na lawa vei ratou na Tabacakacaka ni iTaukei ena vuku ni tara ni vale vou ena noda veikorokoro? Au taura rawa ni vakaturi tiko mai na Clauses 15, 16, 24 kei na 49 e dua na vakavuvuli vinaka ni vakanadakui keda o Winston. Koya ya au kila ni dau vakaturi tiko mai kina na vei clause kece qo. Ena levu ni noqu duavata kina, au nuiqawaqawa tiko, kau loma taro: keimami na vakarurugi talega ena veikorokoro me vaka na lawa eratou na vakatura mai na local authorities se sega?

Kevaka keimami sa tara e dua na vale vou ena koro, caka yani na kena droini, na caka vakacava na site plan ya? Na site plan, keimami kila ni tiko na kena DP number, tiko talega na kena CP number.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, vinaka vakalevu na taro. Qo e dua na ka e raica tiko na Tabacakacaka ni Bula, ni gadrevi me keitou vakavinakataka na kena supervisetaki kena matai, me vaka au sa vakamacala oti kina, me kakua ni veicagilaba kecega e ravuta tikoga na veikoro vakaViti baleta ni sega ni *up to standard* na vale eda tara.

E tiko na design vei ratou na Rural Housing, koya sa droinitaki oti tu, sa sitaba tale tu ga vaka idinia, koya eda rawa ni vakayagataka. Kena karua, e tiko talega na veivuke vei ratou na Rural Housing, na valenivolavola ni Turaga PA kei Turaga DO. Keda sega ni vakayagataka vakalevu tiko na tiko vakanakoro, de na lakolako ni sa vaka oqo sa na qai rawa ni da vakayagataka na veivuke ya.

Vei yabaki taucoko, era tukuna tikoga ni *under-utilise* tiko na funding ni Rural Housing. Na plan sa tiko, na sitaba ena vakaraica ga o Turaga ni Koro e dua na vanua e rawa ni allocate, biu ga yani na plan ena local authority, sa rawa ni mai supervisetaki sara tiko na kena tara na vale.

MR. A. VUIDREKETI.- Kena ibalebale ya sa na vakarawarawataki na approval ena kena soli mai sega tale ni vaka mai na korovavalagi?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Sega ni na gole tale i Town Planning. Na Town Planning ena sega ni lako mai ena loma ni koro vakaViti. Na Public Health Act ga e nanumi tiko me gole mai, me rawa ni maroroi ga na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava, vaka kina na kena caka vakavinaka na noda vale me kakua ni vakavu tauvimate.

MR. A. VUIDREKETI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose sa vakatura saka tiko na vei Clauses oya.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. N. BUKARAU.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Bukarau)

Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, tiko talega na lewe ni Boselawa dou tiko rawa, vakavinavinaka vakalevu na nomuni sa gole sobu tiko mai ena veivanua e Rewa ena veivakararamataki eso sa kau tiko mai qo. Ena macawa qo e lako mai vei keitou o honourable Sashi Kiran mai Vunisinu, vaka talega kina o ratou na Tabana ni Legal Aid ena vuku ni Constitutional Review Commission.

Ni kua, e tiko na Tabana ni Bula, dua na tikina bibi qo. Na ka ga keimami kawaitaka tiko qo, au sa mai raica tiko ena veivanua, kila ni keimami qai biuta yani na neimami vakatutu ena vuku ni onosagavulu vakacaca na ulutaga ni sa soli tiko mai qo. Vakavinavinaka ni soli kina vei keimami me keimami qai biuta yani na neimami vakatutu, ka sega ni sogo walega ni kua. Qai rawa ni taura toka eso na gauna me keimami qai rawa ni vakawilika tale vakavinaka ni da mai sota toka ena dua na gauna lekaleka vaka oqo, da veivosakitaka sara. Ia, sa vakavinavinaka ni sa vakaturi tiko eso na ka.

Noqu taro: tikoga na mate dewa levu koya tiko qo ni kua. Koya sa vakalawataki tiko qo, tou veivosakitaka oti tiko na tubu cake ni totogi ni mate dewa. Au raica tiko na Tikina e 33 : vakarau ni veiqaravi raraba me baleta na mate dewa. Edua na mate dewa levu tiko na gauna qo koya kacabote tiko qo tukuna tiko na Turaga Naita na HIV kei na AIDS koya kacabote tiko qo. Eda veivosakitaka tiko qo na nodatou saga me controltaki na mate dewa

koya kauta mai na namu vata kei na wai koya vakaleqai. Ia, koya na mate dewa koya tiko qo koya vakatubura tiko na wainimate ni veivakamatenitaki, koya kacabote tu qo na kena revurevu kina neimami veikoro.

Keitou bose tiko na mataka ni kua keiratou na Tabana ni crime prevention mai veiratou na Tabana ni Ovisa. Sa rogo tiko mai kina ni ratou rawa ni vakaraitaka mai vei keitou; dina ni sa rogo tiko ike ni na sega ni rawa, ia, ratou na vakaraitaka ga mai vei keitou na wiliwili ni tamata era HIV kei na AIDS tiko ena loma ni Tikina, ratou na sega ni rawa ni vakaraitaka okoya tiko ena loma ni koro. Ia sa rogo na vakamacala sa vakaraitaka mai o Turga Naita ena vuku ni international law e kovuta tiko na tikina oya. Me vaka o ni sa tukuna oti keimami dua tiko na vuvale levu. Koya nanumi tiko na stigma ya e rawa ni ka vulagi vei keimami. E tiko na na lotu, tiko na neimami mataqali, tiko na neimai tokatoka me ia na veitaqomaki ena vuku ni tikina qo.

Kena ikarua saka ga au na via vakaraitaka na nuiqawaqawa ga e tiko saka vei keimami. Na controltaki ni wainimate ni veivakamatenitaki. Keimami raica tiko na nodratou sasaga tiko na ovisa kei na mataivalu me ratou vakalailaitaka, keimami qai raica tale tiko na nodra talaci tiko ko ira sa chargetaki, keimami loma leqa tiko kina. Ena vuku ni sagai me controltaki na mate dewa koya tukuni tiko oqo. Na wainimate ni veivakamatenitaki e kauta tiko na mate dewa. Na icula koya ra wasea tiko na neimami, ko keda ga na itaukei eda leqa tiko kina, sa oso tiko kina na bakava, oso na valenibula ena vuku ni mate oqo, qai sega ni vakayacori tiko vakavinaka. Keimami loma tarotaro vakalevu na neitou crime prevention ena Tailevu South vata kei Rewa East na kena sega ni vakayagataki. Vakabauta sa ulabaleta sara tiko na ulutaga, au kerea tiko kina na veivosoti, ia, na kerea tikoga meu na vakaraitaka na nuiqawaqawa e tarai keimami tiko ka sema vata tiko kei na mate dewa vata kei na Public Order Act ko ni sa vakaraitaka tiko qo. Keimami tokona tiko e levu na ka oni sa vakaraitaka tiko mai, ia, keimami nanuma ga me rawa ni kovuta talega na ka levu koya keimami nanuma tiko qo me da vakaitavi taucoko kina saga tiko qo na matanitu vata kei keimami na lewenivanua na kena vakalailaitaki na mate dewa qo.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au kerea ga mo ni biuta mai vakatutu baleta na nomuni vakamacala e tiko na taudaku ni veitalanoa ni lawatu koya vinakati tiko qo me veisau. Ni vakatura mai me sa na tokoni me na tiki ni neitou veiqaravi levu ena vakasokomui me kau veiratou na kena tabana.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. P .TADEA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Tadea)

Ena vuku saka tikoga ni bula. Au kila ni vakasama saka qo e gadrevi meu mai vakaraitaka ena vuku ni veika sa wavoliti keda tu na gauna qo. Na sitoa era sa vakaraitaka saka tiko e vica na rairai vinaka ni ka era taleitaka na gone me vaka na lolly, totoka ni ka era raica sa kauwai tiko na lomadra.

Na kena karua saka na veivalenibula. Kila ni tiko saka qo na valenibula iNausori. Cava saka nomudou rai me baleta na canteen sara tu ya? Nomudou rai na Tabana ni Bula sa vakadeitaki saka tu vaka lawa ena vuku saka ni veikakana eso sa volitaki saka tu me baleta na nodra dau gole saka yani na tauvimate ena vuku ni nodra lai qaravi, ra dabe saka tiko na veiqaravi me baleta na nodra vakarautaka tu na canteen vata na ka era volitaki tiko ena loma ni sitoa.

Na ka saka au via vakabibitaka tiko ena vuku ni ka levu sa yaco tu na gauna qo, eda beitaka tiko na veiyacovi, so e vu saraga na mai na kakana vovou sa lako tiko ena noda vanua me vaka na lolly pauta, koya eda sa raica tu ena veisitoa ena gauna oqo. Cava saka nomuni rai kei na nomudou vakadidike na Tabana ni Bula me sa vakadeitaki tu me volitaki ena noda vanua? Kena levu saka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au sa na vosa tikoga yani me vaka nai tutu vaka Chairman e sega ni tiko ena loma ni lawatu vinakataki tiko me veisautaki qo, na kena cakacaka ga mo ni laveta mai me vakatutu, tokoni keitou na qai lai vakacukelea na tabana e veiqaravi kina me baleta na nomuni vakatutu.

MR. P. TADEA.- Sa vakatura saka tiko.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

HON. A. BIA.- Au veivuke toka madaga na saumi taro ena vuku ni dua na veitalanoa erau vakayacora na Ministry ni Vuli kei na Ministry ni Bula ka sa vakalawataki na kena qarauni na canteen ena veiloma ni veikoronivuli. Na kakana edau volitaki vakauasivi na kakana talega dau vakasaqari vei ira na noda gonevuli ka ra dau voli vakasigalevu e koronivuli. E sa tiko na list ni veika e dodonu me na volitaki ena vei canteen kei na vei kakana eso e dodonu me volitaki ikoronivuli, e sa vakalawataki tu, sa tiko talega na totogi kevaka eratou cawiri yani nai vakalesilesi ni dau rai vuli se ratou na Tabana ni Bula ratou raica ni voroki na lawa ni veikakana bulabula eso e dodonu me volitaki vei ira na gonevuli kei na vei kakana e tabu ni volitaki ena vei canteen era tiko ena veikoronivuli.

E sega ni dua na kaukauwa e tiko vua na Matanitu me lewa okoya e volivolitaki ena loma ni siti. E lewa ga okoya na leseni e soli vei ira na daunibisinisi yadudua. Me vaka ikeda na dau via caka bisinisi e nakoro, da tiko ena veitaudaku ni koro lelevu e tikoga na leseni ni o vakacicivaki canteen, tiko na leseni ni o volitaki ika, tiko na leseni ni ko via cakava eso na bisinisi ka sa tiko vata mai na yalayala se na ikovukovu ni veika ga e dodonu mo volitaka. Ia e tikoga na lawa qori na loma ni koronivuli me baleti ira na luveda ena vuku ni kena qarauni na nodra bula kei na tiko bulabula esa tikoga na veika e dodonu me volitaki ena canteen era tiko ena noda veikoronivuli taucoko. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. I.A. QIONITOGA.- Rau tiko na Tabana ni Bula, na vuku saka ni bucabuca qo ka ni gauna e taubi kina na uca sa totolo saraga na kena cere cake mai na wai. Na valelailai e tu vei keimami qo sa makawa, cere cake mai na wai kena ibalebale sa lako talega mai tuba na waica ni valelailai. Vakauasivi ni caka na somate ira na marama era vakayagataka na valelailai era vinakata ga me flush, flush, flush, vicasagavulu na marama curu iloma, qai oti na somate ya sa tiko vinaka dua na vale lailai ni vale ya ena levu ni wai sa curu iloma qai tau na uca sa lako mai tuba na waica.

Kerei tikoga na Tabana ni Bula ke rawa ni dua na walewale me cakava ke rawa ni biu toka me vaka toka i Luvuluvu se dua na bucabuca qo me voleka vei keitou ike me rawa ni kau mai kina na benu, lai biu vata ga vakadua, lako mai na lori mai bailtaka ituba se caka vakacava na loma ni bucabuca qo ko Rewa baleta na wai ni lako yani e lako ena vurevure ni bula iuciwai, lai caka tale kina na qoli, e tagavi mai na kakana, mai laukana, ira na gone lai sili kina, na mate dewa e veitauvi talega kina.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka dua na taro vinaka ya, vosota na wekaqu sega ni tiko na ulutaga levu eda veitalanoa tiko kina ni kua, ka ga keitou nanuma me rawa ni keitou vukei kemuni kina mo ni biuta ga mai vakatutu.

MR. I.A. QIONITOGA.- Au sa vakatututka saka.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na cavuta tiko na vosa ni vakavinavinaka. Turaga Ratu taumada keimami sa cavuta na neimami vosa ni vakavinavinaka levu na vuku ni nomuni veiciqomi na gauna lekaleka keimami basika mai kina na wekamudou mai na loma ni nomuni Palimedi kei na tabacakacaka ni veiqaravi ni matanitu ratou tiko talega na Tabana ni Bula.

Ni bera ni na qai vakayacori na neitou vakavinavinaka au gadreva meu vakaraitaka ga erua na ka leleka sara, na cawiri wavoki tiko ena via taura tiko e tolu na vula ena qai yacova na nodatou Yasana e tinikava ena vuku ni vakasama levu ni veiqaravi kau wavoki tiko qo. Kevaka ni nanuma ni dua na tikina e lutu koto, ni qai lai vakawilika vakamatailalai na lavelave sa tiko qori ka o ni nanuma me na mai tiki ni kena veisau na lawa tu oqo sa tiko oratou na neitou vakalesilesi, tiko na nodratou number ni talevoni, na email, viber na ka kece rawa ni qai vakasokomuna qai lave yani vei keitou i Palimedi me vaka tu na nomuni vakatutu, keitou na qai lai raica talega me tiki ni veitalanoa eda sa vakayacora tiko edaidai. Au nuitaka ni sa matata sara tiko ya. Au kerei honourable Bia me na cavuta na vosa ni vakavinavinaka ni Palimedi ni sa mai cava toka na itavi na yakavi edaidai.

HON. A. BIA.- Tiko sobu saka na Turaga ni vanua, sa tiko sobu saka na turaga, marama, cauravou kei na goneyalewa kei keda saka na lewenikoro, era sa tiko saka nai vakalesilesi ni nodatou Valenivolavola ni Yasana, taumada ena vukudra na Sipika ni vale ni Boselawa ni noda vanua sa taura saka na gauna vinaka qo ena vuku ni nodra veitalai na Turaga Sipika ni Vale ni Boselawa, vosa ni vakavinavinaka levu ni rawa ni cioqmi saka tu nai lakolako; au rawa ni kaya e curu botoilevu saka toka mai na gauna ni vakasigalevu ena sigalevu vinaka ni kua. Kere veivosoti talega de vakatotolotaki saka beka na vakasigalevu so beka era sega ni vakasigalevu vakavinaka sa kerea saka tiko na nomudou veivosoti.

Vakavinavinaka ena vuku ni veivakaturagataki dina ni tiko tale tu na oga e qaravi ena loma ni koro, tiko beka na oga ni veivuvale, tiko beka na oga dodonu me da na vakaitavitaki keda kina ni kua ia ni bau tikici toka na nomuni gauna ni nanuma mo ni cauraka na nomuni nanuma ena vuku walega ni kena sagai na Viti vinaka ena veisiga ni mataka vaka talega kina na kena qarauni na nodra bula oira na veisosomitaki vei keda ena veisiga ni mataka. Ni mai va qo na kena rairai sa ka levu na vakavinakvinaka.

Ena vukudra saka na Liuliu ni Bose era sa dabe na siga ni kua, na vukudra saka na lewe ni mata mai Palimedi, eratou sa dabe saka talega na vakailesilesi mai na Tabana ni Bula eratou dabe saka talega na vakailesilesi mai na Valenivolavola ni Yasana mai dua saka tikoga na vosa ni vakavinakvinaka lekaleka sara sa vakasaka tiko ya na kena levu. Vinaka saka vakalevu.

The Committee adjourned at 4.05 p.m.

VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT NO 4. 2026

DATE: Saturday, 13th June, 2026

VENUE: Korovou Primary School, Korovou.

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT KOROVOU PRIMARY SCHOOL, KOROVOU, ON SATURDAY, 13TH JUNE 2016 AT 10.00 A.M.

Present

1. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu - Chairman
2. Hon. A. Bia - Member
3. Hon. A.T Nagata - Member
4. Hon. K.K. Lal - Alternate Member
5. Hon. S. Kumar - Alternate Member

Apologies

1. Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure- - Deputy Chairperson
2. Hon. V. Pillay - Member
3. Hon. P.K. Bala - Member

Submittee: Korovou Residence

In Attendance:

1. Mr. Seet Kumar Singh - District Advisory Councillor, Korovou
2. Mr. Leone Tagi - School Manager
3. Mr. Suliasi Verevodi
4. Mr. Watisoni Balevacaga - Farmer
5. Mr. Timoci Ravutaumada - Teacher
6. Ms. Salanieta - DO Korovou

Ministry of Health and Medical Services

1. Mr. Luke Vonotabua - Acting Chief Health Inspector
2. Mr. Toga Vosataki - WASH Coordinator

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I take this opportunity to welcome you all honourable Members, the Ministry of Health officers and the staff from our Parliament, people who are here with us from these areas, especially the District Advisory Councils and part of our greater wide support service within our vicinity.

I hope that we are all in good health. We have to start off with our normal programme of the day. We are all aware of what Saturday always is, this is the outcome. If you want to go out and do a public submission on a Saturday, majority of them are always committed, especially the public at large, but that will not stop us from continuing our tasks, which we are here for, for the sake of the Parliament that we are a Members of. Before we start off on that note, I will ask honourable Bia to lead us with a word of prayer.

(Prayer by honourable Aliki Bia)

I believe we need no introduction this morning, because we are here for a couple of days. On the far left, there is a team from the Ministry of Health, who is the author of this Public Health (Amendment) Bill of 2026, Bill No. 4 of 2026, which we are taking around to the public for their opinions. We are representing Parliament, the Speaker of Parliament. Anything that has to go through the Bill, this is a challenge which we need to go through. I believe today we will not be long. I am not sure what is the time scheduled for us here, but hopefully it is not more than 12 o'clock, because we need to go back and do our leisure business, which we are all aware of.

First of all, our friend here (Mr. Seet K. Singh), thank you very much for your presence from Nausori Town Council. You are not new to the discussion today. In a nutshell, it is a Public Health (Amendment) Bill. The actual legislation was way back in 1935 – the Principle Act – and there are about 69 amendments. This is

our focal point for discussion this morning. During our elaboration and presentation from the Committee here, feel free to intervene, if you want to contribute or say something, which will affect the Bill in front of us.

On the amendment of the Bill, there are a lot of changes involved. I will give a brief objective of the Bill, which is to strengthen our public environmental health governance. When we talk about the Bill, the key area that we always look at is, how best the Government fit into that Bill, as we are still in a process stage. This is how they look at it – the importance of how we can strengthen the public, and the environmental health and the governance that has been provided to deal with the environment that we are in. The area of concern is to improve the monitoring and enforcement mechanism.

I believe there are fines included from 1935. If you look at the Bill, some simple fines were from $2, $5, $10 and above. However, on the amendments, there are a lot of improvements when you talk about penalties. Some range from $2 to $200 to $500, right up to $1,000 and $2,000. The explanation for that is stated in the Amendment Bill. Other area of concern is how we can enhance preparedness and respond to communicable disease. This is very common where we are staying nowadays. The environment has changed, the way we do things have changed, and we have to be on par with the atmosphere and we are to deal with any communicable diseases outbreak.

One of the objectives of this Bill is to ensure that our preparedness is always up. Another area that is very important is to ensure safe water sanitation and the waste management system. When we talk about rural, this is one of the important areas – our water source. The importance of how it was built for the public's consumption and how best we can protect that water source from any other interference, for example, grazing of animals, plantation where the water source is and if there is any disturbance, which might have a negative effect on the public at large.

We look at penalties to determine compliance in this Bill itself. There are penalties which we have already discussed. This is to do with compliance. We believe this Bill was meant for the urban area, but we are trying to bring it right up to the rural area so that we have a standard and compliance too. Especially, when you build a new house, you have to go through the Ministry for the approval. Even if you have a septic tank, the latest model, there are approved models, which need to be registered under the Ministry of Health in order for you to facilitate building your house at the rural level.

Lastly, how to align the law with the modern public health practises. Remember we are in 2026, and 1935 is almost 90 years from now. This amendment is very important to meet the needs and the demands of the current situation that we are in – the changes, the new people who are coming on board and the infrastructure that are in places. How we utilise them, that is the reference in this Bill, which had been already emphasised – how best the law with modern public health practises can give them the power to align all the key objectives to be part of our way of living now. That is basically in a nutshell – the key objective of the Bill. On that note, I will now open the floor to the honourable Members to kick start our discussion this morning to give a simple logic explanation to the point that I have already alluded to this morning.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, thank you. *Bula vinaka, namaste, salaam alay akum* to everyone present here. A very good morning. I believe Mr. Chairman has briefly explained the importance of this Bill. I thank the members who are present here. It is unfortunate, and I understand there is a funeral in the community. Condolences to the family. I thank those who are present here for taking out your time and being part of a very important consultation process. This is why the Parliament has this platform to raise and address issues which relate to your rights.

Coming back to the Bill. This is a very important Bill for our country and as Mr. Chairman has said, the current Act was made somewhere in the 1930s. There were some improvements done along the way, however as we modernise and the country moves forward, we need to bring in laws and regulations which are standardised

to the international standard. For example when you were young, you never heard the word COVID-19, you never heard the word hantavirus, swine flu and bird flu, because the population was less and we were able to distance or space ourselves when we were living in society. Now when the population is increasing at the same time there are public health risks and these regulations need to be brought in for the safety and security for you, your family and our future loved ones.

The Bill that is before us, has some suggestions and some very important changes, such as fines, the Local Authority, which is now going to be brought back in, so that our rural communities can be monitored, when there is a public health crisis. At the same time, we need the views of the people, that is why this consultation process is happening, so that we can hear what else do you need this Bill to cover. What else do you think in this Bill should be there, so that we can improve, and we do not have to come back later and say that we forgot about this. That is all from my end.

We had a very interactive session with the Nausori Town Council on Thursday, and I believe the Council also looks after the Korovou Town. They look after the rubbish picking and all those things. There were a lot of discussions around the Waituri rubbish dump and the rubbish collection. Your Advisory Councillor was also present in the meeting. There were some suggestions from the Nausori Town Council, which I think the Committee will be deliberating on later on. However, we would like to hear from the people of Korovou and this area, so that we can also go back and discuss and deliberate.

HON. S. KUMAR.- The Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026 that is before us, as you have already heard, is one of the oldest Bills in Fiji. Over 90 years so many things have changed in Fiji, that includes the types of diseases, and one such was COVID-19 that we all know about how it came and what we went through. Apart from COVID-19 there are some older diseases that continue to affect us. Even if we do not realise, we are party to it, and we are the contributing factors. This Public Health (Amendment) Bill looks at the communal village set up and how they will be affected if this Bill becomes an Act.

It talks about the comprehensive modernisation of the some 1935 laws, specifically, some of the terms that are in the current Act has become very old and archaic and does not make sense, whereby people are not able to relate it to the modern day. The Bill specifically addresses the non-communicable diseases and climate related health challenges that the 1935 law could not handle. The key impact is the disease burden. The *iTaukei* villages account for 70 percent of national leptospirosis and dengue fever cases. Now they will be also included in the Bill, meaning, the health inspectors are able to enter the village and find those who are lazy or irresponsible.

The data for leptospirosis speaks that there were 13 deaths reported in 2026 – six in the Western, six in the Northern and one in the Central Division. How does this leptospirosis spread or breed? It is because of carelessly keeping animals, and the waste that is discharged from the pig pens, poultry farms and the dairy farms, are not properly disposed or no one bothers about it. People want to do farming and once they harvest they forget about the impacts it has on the other human beings life.

In overseas, it is very strict for you to keep one rooster at home. If you have a pet dog, you keep it, you manage it, you take him for a walk, even if they poop you have to pick it up. That is how strict the public health rule is. However, in Fiji, so many things are anyhow and when the disease spreads, it gets out of control, and no one takes the responsibility. That is why Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026 is coming to safeguard the people from getting sick unnecessarily from diseases that continue to breed from this irresponsible behaviour.

In 2026, we have 1,245 total cases throughout the year for leptospirosis so far, and there are 2,033 total cases of dengue fever for the year 2026 so far, and 2026 has not ended yet. Where does this dengue fever start from? It starts from blocked drains, improper wastewater discharge, sanitary water and the septic tank discharge. The condition of septic tank and the structure by which it should be, people are using the 44 litre drum, 200 litre drum to make their septic tank. After some time, it starts to give foul smell and the water starts to leak. The old corrugated water tanks are being used and some are just digging the hole and putting the logs and covering it with

soil. Inside, there is no protection for the discharge or any filtration or anything that protects the harmful bacteria from coming out and affecting people.

This is how this Bill has been in the last 90 years. Why people are not afraid of this Bill is because the penalty is very small. You find it cheaper to pay $2, $5 or $10 fine for your poor state of septic tank than to spend a few thousand dollars to get a proper septic tank installed. In the rural and village setup when we go, sometimes we see the water running in the tap. Maybe the water is coming from the hill, it is the community water system and no one bothers to stop that leak or no one bothers to close that tap. It keeps on going on and on and it creates swamp areas, and it allows leptospirosis to breed because the dogs are there, the *bulumakau* is there, we have the pigs and pig pen right beside the road, which creates hazard to people's health.

That is why to bring some controls and improvements over these diseases such as dengue, malaria, leptospirosis, which is becoming a killer now, the Government is coming with this Bill so that we create awareness at the same time, educate people and try to improve all these small things that have a big impact on people's health.

These are some things that affect the public, especially the fines. We can talk about it in this forum, the type of fines. As it is, it looks like everyone will have the same fine. We can consult and discuss and receive submission as to what the fines are. It should be tiered or a flat fine for industrial or villages to have a separate fine. Those who have property leases, there are some conditions that are not met by people – how to dispose rubbish, how to keep their dogs, and where to put their weekly rubbish. People are dumping anyhow, anywhere. We have so many dumping sites upcoming now, for example in Lakena and Waituri.

I believe there must be some around here in Korovou as well, where people must have found isolated area and have started to dump their waste, or their general rubbish. Some are throwing rubbish along the way on their way to Nausori. They see any bush idle, no one is watching, so people throw their rubbish there. All these things are contributing to poor public health and spreading of diseases. Disposable of cans, tins and bottles, are all contributing to breeding mosquitoes. That is where it all starts – the careless disposal of empty cans, tinned fish, the tinned mutton, the *bulmakau* tinned. All these things need to be disposed carefully.

When we were in primary school, in our elementary science, basic science classes, we were taught which materials or which rubbish to be burned, which ones to be buried. Keeping the tyre unnecessarily everywhere, water inside the tyre, the mosquito breeds from there. With so many things around our houses, we are contributing to the breed of this disease. That is why this Bill is here, so that everyone becomes responsible and act in a manner to dispose their rubbish and waste and keep their compound clean, neat and tidy so that we are able to have a very good public health.

Public health is costing the Government, people get sick, they flood the hospital, we run short of medications, doctors and nurses. We do not have maybe enough to treat each and every one the way they should. The ratio gets out of control, people start complaining and the burden comes back on the Government. If we have a very good environment where everything is clean, there is less chance of people becoming sick and running to hospital. That is why some fines are suggested here. You have read it and we will discuss more about it.

If you feel that those fines should be reduced to some extent or there should be some controls, you need more education and awareness. You want more health centres in the nearby vicinities, the dispensaries, the villager dispensaries, if they are not empowered much, all these things can be requested in this kind of forum and that will be recorded and taken for our analysis and implementation in the Act. With these words to the people of Korovou, thank you very much and we hope to had a very good discussion here this morning. Though we have a small number, but we can have a very effective consultation.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, since you have all spoken in English at length about the Bill, please allow me to address the Bill in *iTaukei* for our *iTaukei* listeners who are here.

Ni sa bula vinaka, taumada e gole tiko mai ni kua na Komiti e qarava tiko na bula raraba, lesi mai vua na Sipika ni Boselawa ni noda vanua. Me kauta wavoki na itukutuku ena vuku ni kena vakararamataki na lewenivanua ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi eda veitalanoataka tiko qo na Public Health Act. *Me vaka ratou sa vakaraitaka tiko vakaperetania na noqu itokani vakacakacaka* - 1935 *na gauna a kau mai kina na lawa vakaturi oqo, sa oti e* 90 *na yabaki, mai sagai tale me vakavoui me biu eso na ka vou me veiganiti na draki ni bula eda sa tu kina qo. Mai na* 90 *na yabaki oya sa qai sagai me vakavouitaka e rauta ni* 69 *na tabana e tiko ena loma ni lawa qo me rawa ni veiganiti kei na nodra veiqaravi na tabana ni bula.*

Edua na ka bibi e saga me vakavinakataka na lawa qo sa ikoya na nodra veiqaravi na tabana ni bula na gauna e yaco kina edua na mate dewa vakatotolo se dua na mate veitauvi. Au dau vakaraitaka tu ga na ibalebale se na kena vakaraitaki se na iyaloyalo ni COVID-19. *Edua na ka vou talega e kauta mai na lawa vou qo, mai n*a 90 *na yabaki eda lako tu mai kina na lawa qo, e sega ni da oka tu kina na tu ena koro vakaviti, era oka tu ga kina o ira era tu ena veikoro lelevu. E qaravi ira tu na lawa qo, ia na veisau vou qo e vakatututaki kina me oka kece na koro vakaviti, se tiko na tikotiko vagalala se tikotiko taudaku ni koro lelevu se koro. Na kena lai pasitaki na lawa qo e Palimedi esa na okati vakadua kece kina o keda, sega ni dua e vakuwai mai na lawa qo. Kevaka o na vakataroga, ''Okay, kevaka au tiko ena koro, na lawa qo au na lai oka vakacava kina?'' Edua na ka e tiko vei na lawa qo sa ikoya na qarauni ni noda tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava ena loma ni koro.*

Mai Waikalou, Serea keitou rogoca tiko kina ni lako tiko na kudru me vaka ni sa kacivaki na sasamaki vakoro, so na vale se so na tamata sa sega ni sasamaki tiko. Ia na lawa qo, kevaka o samaka vinaka tiko na nomu sauka ni vale, qai tubua tiko na vale mai yasana ka dua, oti ya na vale mai yasana ka dua e tiko kina na tyre se container lala, ra vakasucu tu kina na namu, vuka mai na namu mai kati kemudou na sasamaki tiko, veitauvi na dengue se mate cava ga e dewa mai kina. Na lawa vou qo ena lewai o koya e tubua tiko nona vale ka sega ni samaka vinaka tiko.

Dua tale: sa ikoya na kena qarauni na tara ni noda valenivakacegu. Na gaunisala ni kena vakadrodroi na waica me maroroi vakavinaka. Sa tiko vei ratou na vakalesilesi ni tabana ni bula eratou dabe tiko ni kua na design ni kena vakayacori edua na septic tank me maroroi kina na waica kei na benu dau gole mai na valenivakacegu.

*Vei keda talega na tiko ena veikoro, na gauna qo sa tekivu me kauwai tiko na Matanitu ena kena sa toso cake tiko na wiliwili ni kena dewa na mateca ni veiyacovi se n*a HIV/AIDS. *E vakatabaki dua saraga na lawa oqo sa ikoya kevaka edua sa tauvi koya tiko na mate oqo, qai tiko ena noda koro se tikotiko se koro vagalala, sa kila ni tauvi koya tiko, qai nakita tiko o koya me vakadewa wavoki tale ena loma ni koro se na tikotiko e tiko kina. E vauci ira tikoga na lawa oqo vei ira era tovolea me ra nakita na nodra vakadewa na mate ni veiyacovi oqo.*

Ia eso tale na tikina bibi e tiko ena lawa oqo oya me vaka na noda qarauna o keda na vakamanumanu ena loma ni noda koro. Ke tiko na bai ni vuaka se da susu bulumakau tiko se toa, edua na lawa e tiko eke e vakatokai na "nuisance". *Kevaka o tara bai ni vuaka voleka ena koro, qai tekivu me boi tiko mai baleta ni sega ni sava tiko na bai ni vuaka. Na gauna ena vakaraitaka kina nona kudru e dua na lewenikoro ni sa tekivu me boi ka sa oti e vica na siga, vanua ya ratou sa na qai cakacaka kina na tabana ni bula ka o sa na mai oka ena lawa qo.*

Edua talega na tikina bibi sa ikoya na kena vakatuburi na itotogi. Mai na 90 *na yabaki, e levu na totogi e tu ga ena* $2 *se* $10, *ia na* $2, $10 *kei na* $50 *sa tubu kece, eso sa lai* $500, $1000, *ka so sa* $2000. *Eso na tukuna, 'E cava, sa vakaqara ilavo beka na Matanitu koya sa vakatubura cake na totogi?' Ia sega ni kena inaki ya, na kena inaki me vakarautaki keda tu ga ena kena qarauni na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava ena loma ni koro.*

Dua ga na iyaloyalo meu tinia kina mo raica va qo na lawa qo: ena veivalenibula eratou veiqaravi tiko kina na tabana ni bula, e laurai ni dua na wase ni mate dewa vakatotolo kei na mate veitauvi e ra gole yani ivalenibula o ira na tu ga ena koro me vaka na TB, *mi ni man*u, Typhoid. *Qo e so na mate era gole vakayauyau*

tu yani na tu ena koro se na tiko vagalala me ra lai laurai ivalenibula. So na gauna eda kudruvaka ni sa lailai na nasi, lailai na vuniwai, sa sega na wainimate e valenibula. Ia qo edua na gaunisala eratou sa cakava na tabana ni bula — 'they have taken a proactive approach' — *mai na noda gole vakayauyau yani ivalenibula, sa biu mai na lawa qo me sa tarova koso sara ga ena loma ni koro na kena veitauvi na mate dewa vakatotolo eso. Ia vakacaca eda na qai veitalanoa tiko yani ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi kau tiko mai na mataka vinaka ni kua.*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and my apologies to you Sir, I was just translated the Bill in *iTaukei* just for the benefit of our *iTaukei* listeners that are here, vinaka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I believe that is the introduction – very important objective of what we are supposed to discuss here today at Korovou. I believe that you have a fair idea what the Bill is about, the amendments, the criteria that lies within, and the importance of it. If you look at the other areas, those are part and parcel of the Bill that need to be addressed, especially from the public.

When you talk about urbans, this Bill has already covered them for the last 90 years. For us, the beauty of this Bill is the extended boundary right up to the rural community. What they have discussed has actually given us some very in-depth importance of how we can look after the well-being of each other and your surroundings. If you intend to have a new building, the requirements are there that you need to put into place so that you are in compliance with the regulations set by the rural local authority, which covers the body and looking after the rural environment that we are in. That is what we are trying to send as the message to all of us who are here this morning. The Ministry of Health is always on standby. I will open the floor now.

If there is any clarity, you can either talk in *iTaukei*, in Hindi, or in English, because we can facilitate that for you. If you find it difficult to talk in English, we all believe that. This is not our mother tongue. Feel free to express your view in your own dialect. If there is any submission, which needs to be included in the Bill, the floor is always open. You have to submit your motion, there should be a second to that motion. We will take that as part of our public submission. If you want to use the microphone, the criteria is that you have to say your name, where you are coming from, and your question, or any motion. The very reason is that because everything is recorded, and it will give us an ample time to go back to the office to round up our reports We will also look at our *Hansard* on the reports, on how best we can consolidate based on what the public has given us during this public submission. On that note, the floor is open now.

MR. W. BALEVACAGA.- I am from Namulomulo Village, Vugalei. I, 100 percent agree with the increase in penalty. Is there any plan or Government initiative on rural waste management, especially on plastic bottles and tin? Or, do we have to follow the old tradition, just dig the hole and put all the tins inside? Our places are all filled up with houses, and sometimes when we dig footing for one house, all the rubbish come up, from years ago. Why am I asking this question, because I think we have to make plans together for this one, especially on rural areas.

In the cities, the rubbish truck comes around. However, for us here, sometimes during the village meeting, the *Nasi ni koro* will ask the villagers, if we have big rubbish like large tins and old fridge, old refrigerators, we have to contact the health here in Korovou, so they will supply the truck, when we ask. However, we do not know when the truck will come. I am asking for this initiative for all rural areas, especially villages. The handling of this could go to the *Turaga ni koro*, but we have to have a scheduled time – monthly – (this is my opinion) to come and collect all these, especially bottles and plastics. I know the environmental impact, we cannot burn all this plastic around the house, because of the poisonous gas they produce. We cannot bury every tin. If you go around all the villages here, you will see the tins flying around the villages. Is there any government plan or initiative to address the problem of too much rubbish, especially bottles and tins

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Taro vinaka ka taro bibi e vakairataki tiko qo. Edua na ka dina ni sotava tiko ena taudaku ni koro lelevu vakauasivi na nodatou veikorokoro. Tou na veitalanoataka mada, au na qai kerea mo ni*

na qai vakatura imuri. Kerea na tabana ni bula me dua madaga nomudou vakamacala totolo ga eke, na kena rogorogo e sega ni tiko ena nodatou loma ni Bill. *Au na qai kerea mo na vakatututaka mai, me qai dua e tokona me qai oka tu kina neitou porokaramu ni veiqaravi me na lai wili kina na* Bill *koya e veitalanoataki tiko qo.*

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, part of the Amendment Bill is the reintroduction of the Rural Local Authority. If you were aware, I think, prior to 2018, there used to be a Korovou Rural Local Authority. That usually ran the business centre before it was taken over by Nausori Town Council now also looking into sanitary services. One proposed change that we want to see in this Bill is the bringing back of the Rural Local Authority. With that comes waste management and sanitary services for rural communities. Looking into garbage collection. The Korovou Rural Local Authority used to have garbage contractors going to Deepwater and Suvasuva and then collect all the waste. This is something that we can continue once the Bill is passed by Parliament. We can bring this back to ensure that there is no accumulation of waste. Once wastes like plastic bottles and things accumulate, this is basically where pests breed and then contribute to the disease burden. This is something that we can look forward to, not directly linked to the Bill itself, but the reintroduction of the Rural Local Authority through the Bill should see those services come back.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Au rogoca toka na bibi ni nomuni taro sa rui rabailevu, ka sa titobu sara na vakasama ni Tabana ni Bula ena kena vakarautaki na veiqaravi. Ena 2018 a kau laivi na veiqaravi qo ena vuku ni nodatou matanitu veiqaravi sa oti. Sa oti na gauna ya, ia qo sa dua na gauna vou eda sa saga vakaukauwa me vakalesui tale mai na Rural Local Authority, me vaka sa tukuna tiko na vakalesilesi mai na Tabana ni Bula. Vakabauta ni dua na vakatutu ni kena veisau na lawa qo me rawa ni lesu tale mai na veiqaravi ya.*

Ni da rogoca na nona vakamacala na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula, e dua na veiqaravi vakatabaki dua vei ira na tiko taudaku ni koro lelevu, vakauasivi ena vakasama titobu ni benu. Ia me da raica talega na yasana ni veitalanoa oqo: na benu eda vakavuna na tamata, kena ibalebale e tiko kina na noda itavi kece. Sa saga tiko na Matanitu me cakava na nona itavi, me kakua ni vakatatao vei ira na veikorokoro na ka era rawa ni cakava, me wasei vinaka kina na benu—koya dodonu me bulu, koya dodonu me kama, koya dodonu me lako vei ira na dau qaqia na kaukaumea kei na veika qima. Sa tu rawa na veika kece qo.

Na kena sagai na veitokoni ni kena veisautaki na Bill qo, me vaka sa kaya tiko na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula, sa na kerei kina mo vakatututaka mai qai dua na wekadatou me tokona. Sa na qai rawa ni wili ena process ni kena vakacurumi tale, ka na vakadeitaki me vaka ni tukuna mai qori e ka dina taucoko. Ke donu na neitou nanuma, qo sa ika va ni vanua keitou tiko kina, ena tolu na vula keitou na cawiri tiko kina. Na ulutaga vata ga qo keitou namaka me keitou donumaka, ka keitou sa donumaka oti mai ena vica na koro vakaViti me vaka o Naitasiri, Rewa, ka keitou sa tiko qo i Tailevu. Sa ka dina taucoko na ka o ni tukuna. Au kerei kemuni ga mo vakatututaka mai me dua me tokona na kena vakalesui tale mai na lawatu oqo.

MR. W. BALEVACAGA.- *Au sa vakatura saka tiko noqu vakatutu.*

LEWENIVANUA.- *Sa tokona.*

MR. S. VEREVODI.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Verevodi)

Au se bera ni wilika na lewe ni nomuni dusidusi, ia e dua ga na noqu vakatutu. Keitou tikoga e bati ni sala levu, tekivu na yabaki qo sa dau biu tiko e bati ni gaunisala na koli (manumanu susu). Noqu vale e tiko sara ga e bati ni gaunisala, ena veisiga me dua na koli e mai tiko ena mata ni noqu vale.

Kevaka e tiko e dua na lawa se Bill, kerekere me vakabibitaki na dau susu koli. Na vuna, ni levu vei ira na koli qo era sa tauvimate, eso sa voleka ni cava na nodra bula, ia era biu ga e tolo ni sala. E dodonu me vakadewataki vakavinaka na ituvatuva me dua na kena totogi me taqa, kevaka e sega ni rawata na susu a manumanu, me kua ni vakamanumanu. Kevaka e sega tagtaki ka me rawa ni qiriti na naba. Vinaka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, anyone wants to say something about the stray dogs?

HON. K.K. LAL.- I think a similar discussion came about in the town areas, where many stray dogs became a problem and nuisance for rubbish. When people put rubbish outside for collection, the dogs come and bust the garbage bags and all those things. Then many people start to put poison and all those things. The world has changed so drastically that animal rights have become something which is a concern for many.

While you were talking, I was reading all these signboards in this school. This is a school where we are teaching children. The signboard there says, 'kindness and caring, be kind to animals.' This is the first sign we are teaching our children. I understand that these animals are God's creation, they are not created by us. We do not create animals, but by God. We are all religious people. However, we cannot just go and start killing stray dogs.

What I suggested to the Nausori Town Council when they brought up the issue to apply for traps and all those things, I said, rather than killing them with poison or something like that, why do we not take them and leave them somewhere in the jungle, meaning far away from here. The Ministry for Agriculture can catch them, desex them, meaning they will not be able to reproduce, and put them in an environment where they naturally die or they naturally survive, rather than we killing them.

Now the animal cruelty laws are so strong, we cannot just go and harm an animal or cut their leg or cut their tail or whatever. The stray dogs is a problem and we understand, and especially these retired ones, they come and put them here. What I am saying is, put them somewhere in the interior where there is no village or town, or 10 kilometres, 20 kilometres, and they can survive on their own there. Or we can start to work with organisations which take these dogs into their custody.

Dogs which are about to expire can be taken to SPCA and laid down. There is a process for that. If these dogs have diseases that cannot be cured, there is a process for that. However, we have to go through an animal SPCA process. For example, if a dog is very sick and its hairs are falling off, they have skin disease, they cannot be solved, those kinds of dogs can be put down mutually. However, if there is a healthy dog, I just saw one cat was roaming around here, a stray cat, you cannot put that cat down because that cat is not harming anyone, even though it is looking for food. However, if that cat was really sick, one leg not working or two legs not working, we cannot see the pain, we can put that cat down. There is a case-by-case scenario here.

For stray dogs, the other problem is that owners are not looking after their own dogs. Owners are not taking responsibility. If you cannot feed your dog, do not keep a dog. Simple as that. I have a dog and a cat at home, and I look after them very well. Some people just keep it for the sake of keeping a dog for security at night, but they cannot feed their dogs. Then what the dog does, go and look for those rubbish where the foods are found, all those things.

I believe that we have to come to the stray dog situation at a very understanding level, that we cannot just go and kill them or euthanise them with the injection. You cannot do that. That is only for animals which are bearing extreme pain, like cows when they are really down, or horses. We can do that to the dogs and cats, but only if they are in a worse scenario, worse situation, but not like that. I am totally against it, and many people in Fiji are totally against it. We have so much love for animals. We are teaching our kids to be kind to animals. We cannot have laws against those kinds of cruelty.

HON. S. KUMAR.- I think the concern here raised by the brother, is about people who are leaving their dogs along the way when they are travelling. We are after some laws that what do we do to those people, or some types of identification in the dogs that you are after – tags, numbers or licences, so that we can track who is the owner of the dog. In the Dogs Act 1968 all these things are there, that you must have a licence and have it displayed on your dog, so that it is easy to identify who is the owner of this dog, so that we can solve this problem, whereby people from Western going to Suva leave their dogs along the village, because they think that there are a lot of houses with a lot of food and this dog will be able to live a little longer. It is a good point that has been raised.

Those dogs become problematic in the community. They spread diseases or scatter the rubbish from the rubbish dump, especially in town areas. Dogs are so sensitive that if you put them somewhere closer, they will come back to your house. These dogs that are coming to the villages here in Tailevu, are coming all the way from Rakiraki and beyond. We need some identification, and this thing to be enforced. The Act is there. We need to enforce that, so that every dog owner has a dog licence, and that licence will tell who is the owner of the dog. That is how we can catch. The Ministry of Agriculture departments here have become a bit slack in implementing all these.

In entire Fiji, we will find dogs at every house, but how many of them have the licence, and who is supposed to check and enforce all those things? I think there are some loose ends to it. Once we start doing that, we will be able to solve the issue of stray dogs and people dumping their retired dogs in the villages. That is a public health issue as well. While we love animals, we love dogs. We are not against them. We do not want to be cruel, but that is cruelty in itself, you get your dog and then drop them along the way and run away. We need to get down to those people who are doing through enforcing the licence more.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Just to add on to what honourable Shalen said. Going down to people and start making licence for everyone is going to become a hectic thing, because you have to go to every Fijian house to get that dog licence done. The other solution is create a safe space where dog owners can come and drop off their pets if they cannot look after them. We can work with NGOs like SPCA and there is Animals Fiji. We provide them a land, a big land, like we provide the fencing for goat farming and cows. We fence that place up and all these dogs can end up there, looked after by these NGOs because they also receive funding from other sources to feed these animals.

If there are some good pets which they want to put them in the SPCA office in Suva to sell it off, that is up to them. However, to go down to every person in Fiji, for example, you go to Labasa, then you have to go to Wailevu, because everyone in Labasa may have a dog at home. May be everyone in Savusavu, Manuweni and Nakasi have a dog at home. How many people are we going to force to get this dog licence? The dog licence is only workable if your house is secured. If your house is secured with a fence, you have a dog licence, and you enter and the dog bites you, then I think you will not be able to take the owner to task. If the dog comes out and bites you, then there is an issue there. There is a dog licence regulation as well. That is why we get a dog licence. There are some situations here where we have to think about this logically. We just do not go and throw them in the jungle maybe, but we fence it up, like we fence up our cattle farms and all those things, and we put the dogs there, and let them die peacefully. If there is a worse scenario, we inject them,

What I am trying to say is, the stray dog is a problem, we human beings are problems as well. If we cannot feed the dog, we want to keep dogs at home, because of our children, because of the love and the security et cetera. I am trying to say is, we cannot bring up laws which harm animals and humans at the end of the day. When it comes to the disease part, this is where the Public Health Act comes. If there is a dog which is spreading disease or something like that, then definitely they can go and take action against the dog, inject the dog, take them to SPCA or agriculture, desex et cetera. Because of the stray animal issue with the rubbish, we cannot say all the dogs are bad. My dog has not done that. Maybe there are the ones who are roaming outside, but not all dogs can be taken to task for that. The animal cruelty is a very sensitive thing. We have to plan very carefully around that area.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- A lot has been discussed on this. I believe by looking at the Bill, it will be good to hear it from the Ministry of Health and how important they are covered. If I am right, there is a part covered when you talk about animals.

HON. A. BIA.- Just for clarity, for his case, if the dog living in the village, continuously enter his premises or the boundary of his house, and it becomes a nuisance, can it be covered under the Public Health Act?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- To answer the honourable Member's question, whether it can be covered as a nuisance, I think in this particular scenario, it would fall out of the scope of a nuisance. This is more of an issue

on abandonment. The owner abandons the dog and if there is a way to track the dog back to its owner, then maybe we can look into something in the sense of reckless abandonment of animals that may be resulting in a nuisance, and the Committee considers that to be a good clause to be included in the nuisance section.

I think this links very closely to the submission from Serea, considering the cow. The owner of the cow, through reckless abandonment and not due care, the cow now ends up in the village and is becoming a nuisance. I think that can be covered for dogs as well. If they make a motion to that, then there is a way forward.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Na wekaqu sa via matata na veitalanoa e vakaraitaka tiko na vakalesilesi mai na Tabana ni Bula. E sega ni covertaki taucoko baleta ni sa generalise tiko na ka e tiko ena loma ni Bill, ka sa kerei kina na nomuni vakatututaka me rawa ni dua e tokona, me keitou na lesu tale me na lai wili ena Bill qo.*

E dua na ka bibi ni vakaraitaka tiko mai, ni dua e taukena, qai biuta tu ni sa oti nona gauna vinaka ni veiqaravi, sa qai mai soqoni vakadua ka wili vaka benu. Au kerea mo vakatututaka me dua na wekada me tokona, ka na qai wili ena lawa na kena veisau, koya na lawa sa tiko rawa qo e matada.

MR. S. VEREVODI.- *Au sa vakatura.*

MR. W. BALENAGAGA.- *Sa tokoni, saka.*

HON. K.K. LAL.- Since the motion has already moved and seconded, it will still go for parliamentary deliberation and all the things. I have one question. Nuisance is a word which technically says anything which is being done wrong by someone, either it is an animal or a human being. A public throwing rubbish recklessly will be seen as a nuisance as well? As much as we are treating dogs and cows as a nuisance, will we treat human beings as a nuisance as well? It is a question to the Ministry of Health. Would you say that as well? Human beings are nuisance throwing rubbish recklessly? It is a question.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Honourable Member, thank you so much for the question. In that scenario, I think the rubbish would be the nuisance and the human would be the one who is causing the nuisance by throwing the rubbish recklessly. The human will be charged for creating the nuisance by throwing the rubbish.

HON. A. BIA.- Just for clarity, it is the same case, the nuisance is not the dog, but the owner of the dog creating that nuisance. In case of a village, this dog belongs to that house. If it continuously enters your premises, then it is not the dog that is the nuisance, it is the owner.

HON. K.K. LAL.- No, but then the argument fails there because they are stray dogs who have no owners. Basically, dogs having a relationship outside has kids. Those dogs have no owners. My dog goes to your dog, makes a baby, that baby is already grown up. There is no owner for that dog.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Honourable Member, the point raised by the gentleman is that the owners are the ones who are abandoning the dog on the roadside and it is ending up in this compound and creating a nuisance. If you are able to track it back to the owner, then the owner can be charged under the new section if it is included.

HON. K.K. LAL.- In my opinion, we have to be practical. We have a police force who cannot catch criminals on time, and we will try to track dog owners.

HON. A. BIA.- Police Force has a K9 Unit.

HON. K.K. LAL.- What will the dog unit do? Sniff the dog?

HON. A. BIA.- There can be discussions to enforce that so that they can look up … because they have a lot of numbers.

HON. K.K. LAL.- The K9 Unit cannot look after the dogs because there is a specific breed of dog that they require to do the canine work.

HON. A. BIA.- What I am suggesting is that, they have a lot of workforce units … because they have the cage at the back of the…

HON. K.K. LAL.- I think the enforcement part comes back to the Ministry of Agriculture Ministry, not the Police Force.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Ketan Lal, my apology. The motion has already been submitted. We are not here to discuss and debate the issues of concern. Remember, the main purpose of why we are here by petition. What we are trying to know now is what they are facing to help us get the Bill done, incorporate other areas of the need of the public. What you are doing now, will be a part of our back office when we return to office. I hope I made myself clear.

MR. W. BALENACAGA.- One last motion from us, in terms of waste management, on illegal dumping places. If the Ministry of Local Government could provide those skip bins on highly populated areas, for example, on our highway from here to Nausori, in Drekenakelo. It is a big settlement and they usually throw their rubbish at the riverbank there. I have been to Waituri a few times, and the rubbish dump over there … I suggest if the Ministry of Local Government could provide skip bins for those large and highly populated areas, because we cannot control that. People come at night in their car, and they throw rubbish. That is one way I think we could minimise illegal dumping.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- That is a very important area. As part of the Bill amendments, first we have to have these people back on board – the Rural Local Authority. That will be part and parcel of their duties when they go out to provide the service. Since we have gone to the stage that we are talking about all, this work had to be done before, as alluded by the Ministry of Health, but it was taken. When we talk about rural areas, they play a very critical role on this. When we try to repolish our policies in terms of amendments of this Act to get the Rural Local Authority back, this is one of their major functions which they have to play. Coming back to this, I believe we are already in the second stage of our discussion.

E rawa ga ni ko ni vakatututaka mai, dua me tokona ka keitou na qai lai vakacukulea ni keitou sa lesu tale ivalenivolavola.

MR. W. BALENAGAGA.- *Sa vakaturi saka tiko.*

LEWENIVANUA.- *Sa tokoni*

MR. L. TAGI.- (*Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Tagi*)

Au tokona tiko na vakanananu levu qo ni Matanitu. Ena loma ni Yasana qo e tiko e dua na NGO *mai Dawasamu, ka ratou vunautaka na maroroi ni rua na benu—plastic kei na tini. Sa vakaraitaki ena veitikina ni veikorokoro ni sa tiko na veivale, ka sa maroroi tiko kina na benu. Na leqa e yaco, ni sa vakau na benu me lai biu ena benubenu, qai cala na veitalanoa ni kena kau me maroroi ena veivula.*

Au tokona na vakatutu e vakaraitaki tiko: me raica na local authority me cakacaka vata kei ira na NGOs ena maroroi ni benu, me biu ena vanua dodonu. Na vuna e mai sega ni rawarawa kina na vakasama ya, ni sa via gole na NGO *me kau na benu mai na veikorokoro. Sa qai kacivaka na Turaga ni Koro me basuki na taga ni benu ni sa kabuwacara na kava, keimami sa qai keli qara vou me maroroi kina na benu.*

Na vakanananu e tukuna tiko na Turaga mai Mulomulo e ka dina taucoko. Keimami sa keli qara wavoki ena veiyasani ni vale, ka sa yaco me malumalumu sobu na qele ena levu ni qara. Qo na vuna sa kerei kina na Matanitu me vakadeitaka na maroroi ni benu. Sa levu na vakayagataki ni tavaya plastic kei na ka e tawani kava ena gauna qo, ka sa dodonu me yadrava na Matanitu na tikina ya, me cakacaka vata kei na NGOs *ena kena maroroi ka biu ena vanua dodonu.*

Kena karua, na vuku ni septic tank. Ke rawa ni vakayacori na enforcement mai na Tabana ni Bula vei ira na Turaga ni Koro kei na Nasi ni Koro, me vakayacori na plan ni septic tank ena veivale ena loma ni koro. Na vuna, ni sa levu na water waste ena veikorokoro, yaco na gauna me boi baleta ni ni caka tu ga ena kava. Sa dodonu me vakalesui mai na lawa qo me vakaqaqacotaka na tikina ya

MR. CHAIRMAN.- *Au kerea me matata na yaca ni NGO e tiko mai Dawasamu, baleta ni na tolu na vula keitou na cawiri tiko. Kevaka e so na vakatutu ni nanuma ni yaga ka veiraurau, sa tiko na kena tabana me ratou ciqoma na vakatutu ya. Ena lesu tale mai na Rural Local Authority, ka na vakayacora na nona itavi bibi me raica na veika kece qo.*

Ratou a mai lapse ena 2018, ka sa walu na yabaki, rauta me vakatiko qo na veika eda sa sotava tiko edaidai. Na takete levu ni lawa qo me lesu tale mai nodratou veiqaravi na Rural Local Authority. Qo na veika dodonu me ratou na mai cakava ena vanua eratou na mai tiko kina. Ena qai lako mai kina na budget ni matanitu, ka ratou na vaqara na NGOs me ra mai veitokoni, ka cakacaka vata ena itavi levu qo.

Sa tiko ena loma ni neitou vakatutu ni Bill, ka keitou vakavinavinakataka vakalevu na nomuni vakamacala, baleta ni keitou sa rogoca oti mai ena vica na koro keitou sa lesu mai kina. Ke so tale na ka e lutu ena noda veitalanoa qo, sa dodonu mo ni veitalanoataki na kena bibi.

E dodonu me da lewe levu me da tiko ena bose, me da rogoca ka vakadonuya, baleta ni kevaka e vinakati me rogo na domo ni lewenivanua ena kena veisau na lawa, keitou na qarava na kena cakacakataki. Keitou na vakalesua tale i Palimedi, ka lai caka na kena veiba me yacova na gauna e vakadonuya kina na veisau ni lawa. Qo na kena vakavoui eso na tiki ni lawa mai na 1935 me yacova mai edaidai.

Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. S. K. SINGH.- *Bula*. I am a District Advisory Councillor for Suvasuva Deepwater and Korovou Town. First of all, I want to thank today's Government for bringing this Bill for the safety or our people here. One request or may be a small suggestion, when this Rural Local Authority comes back, if the Government can support them with some funds. These rural areas, very poor people are here, and for building toilet or septic tank, they need money. If any kind of assistance they get, maybe two-third, one-third system like that, it would be better.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- That is a very important issue that you raised, Sir, because everything now is concerned about money. You can have the Rural Local Authority back into the picture, but we need *paisa* at the back to support them. In this case, it is more or less like a motion. I need you to take it up as a motion and then someone else to second that motion.

HON. S. KUMAR.- You want the Rural Local Authority to be funded or you want the people to be funded for safety tank?

MR. S.K. SINGH.- Local authority to fund our people, to build a septic tank.

HON. S. KUMAR.- It can come in the public health. What if people, they cannot afford the safety tank? Do we still let them like that to discharge the waste water in the... It make sense, whatever he is saying. If someone is not able to have a proper septic tank, what do we do? Who is responsible? Who should assist? In order to have the public health Bill making sense, we need to help them. We cannot stop them from going to toilet and not discharge the wastewater.

We may go and fine them, but if he is not in a position to have a standard septic tank, then I think the gentleman here is asking for some assistance in the rural and villages. It is not only the first one, but all the villages will have this issue, because once the Act will be enforced, it comes harshly on the villagers, because theirs are the ones that are not up to date. Many are on drums and many without anything inside, it is just the tin

that is covering on the logs. You put *baba* and then put the soil and some old roofing in. What happens to them? How do we assist?

MR. S.K. SINGH.- This is my motion and I move it.

MR. S. VEREVODI.- I second.

HON. K.K. LAL.- It is going to be on the subject matter, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday the Ministry of Health advised with regards to the cost of septic tanks that they have designs already. Cost efficient designs, which is not going to cost a poor person that much. Am I right? You have two or three designs for that. Maybe you can also explain that to the gentleman, because he was not there yesterday, that there are designs available to the public health office where it is more cost effective for any person who is earning below the average income. The problem here is, if I may, and this is my opinion, that if the Ministry of Local Government starts to fund one-third on this, every individual Fijian villagers from around Fiji will ask for it.

Let us be logical here. I am not in Government, but in the Opposition, this is a bipartisan Committee. I can say, very good, go and ask the Government, but the Government does not have money. Beneficial to the Government, like the Rural Local Authority have the tank situation, they give the tank on the one-third cost-sharing basis, because everywhere you cannot find the water, but you can still dig up and make your own septic tank. That is a normal thing. The ground is still there, but tank water is something which is very rare. That case is okay. However, when it comes to septic tank, I think they already have some solutions, which they will explain now. Which I would want you to explain to them.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Yes, we have cheaper designs that can be accessed through the Rural Local Authorities and health office.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- That answers your question. Any last question. This is the only opportunity for us to be here, as have been alluded to and I reiterate the importance. If something is left behind, for the next three months on our public submission, feel free to get that issue back to us in Parliament through writing, through our Secretariat. If there is no other submission from the community at large, then on that note, remember, we are representing your Parliament. From the Speaker to us, that is why we are going around to facilitate this task for the betterment and the living of our standard whereby the Ministry of Health is involved in this Amendment Act.

We are very much concerned with it, and in future, if you have some other inputs from those who are not here today, so when you try to go out and share the message across, and you see it fit to be included on the Amendment Bill, feel free to do that. Our numbers are always open and our Secretariat is always there. If need be, some of us have their own business card, they can relay it over to you, so that no one is left behind on these Amendment Bill.

The government has sacrificed a lot to your Parliament, and when we report to Parliament, whatever is discussed today, will be part of our submission during those tabling period. On that note, I declare this meeting closed.

The Committee adjourned at 11.26 a.m.

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT NO 4. 2026

DATE: Wednesday, 12th June, 2026

VENUE: (1) Nasigatoka Community Hall, Rewa.
(2) Burebasaga Community Hall, Rewa.

VERBATIM REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE NASIGATOKA COMMUNITY HALL, REWA ON 12TH JUNE AT 10.46 A.M.

Present

1. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	-	Chairman
2. Hon. A. Bia	-	Member
3. Hon. A.T. Nagata	-	Member
4. Hon. K.K. Lal	-	Alternate Member
5. Hon. S. Kumar	-	Alternate Member

Apologies

1. Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure	-	Deputy Chairperson
2. Hon. P.K. Bala	-	Member
3. Hon. V. Pillay	-	Member

Submittee:

1. Ms. Keresi Moala	2. Mr. Petero Bai
3. Mr. Maikali Vuloko	4. Mr. Vereniki Naulu
5. Ms. Vasiti Senileba	6. Mr. Apete Natunivalu
7. Mr. Kitione Raibevu	8. Mr. Salesi Logavatu
9. Mr. Jonetani Naituku	10. Mr. Robert Silatolu
11. Mr. Tomasi Nuku	12. Mr. Anare K Rauka
13. Mr. Alipate Senikuta	14. Mr. Waisale S.R. Lalanabaravi
15. Mr. Malakia Raoma	16. Mr. Vakalolo
17. Mr. Peniaisi Dobui	18. Mr. Malakai R
19. Mr. Peniame Silatolu	20. Mr. Lisala Kurusiga
20. Mr. Kini Vorakitaki	22. Mr. Apenisa Rabuka

Ministry of Health

1. Mr. Luke Vonotabua	-	Acting Chief Health Inspector
2. Mr. Toga Vosataki	-	WASH Coordinator

MR CHAIRMAN.- Sa tiko na itikotiko vakaturaga e Lomanikoro, vakabibi nai tikotiko e Nasigatoka. Ena vukudra na nomuni Palimedi, na kena veiliutaki — Turaga na Sipika, yaco tiko mai na liga ni veiqaravi, na mataka vinaka ni kua.

Ni na rai tiko mai na itikotiko vakaturaga e Lomanikoro, keitou dabe tiko na lewe ni nomuni Palimedi. Ni na raica tiko mai, keitou veicurumaki tiko, keitou matataka tiko mai na Matanitu vaka kina vei ratou na to ni veisaqa. Ena loma ni nomuni Palimedi e tiko kina e ono na Komiti lelevu, era veiqaravi ena vuku ni Palimedi. E tiko na nodratou itavi, keimami dau qarava na kena laurai na Annual Reports ni tabana kece ni cakacaka vakamatanitu, wili talega kina o ira na stakeholders era veiqaravi vaka kina.

Dua talega na tiki ni veiqaravi levu, ni da rogoca ga na Palimedi, sa da kila ni oya na vanua ni buli lawa, vanua talega ena rawa ni veisau kina na lawa, ka rawa ni vakavoui kina na lawa kece me baleta na lawatu ni noda Matanitu. Oya na tabana ni Matanitu e tolu, ratou veiqaravi vakatabaki dua na kena qaravi na veika me baleta na lawa ni noda vanua.

Keitou tiko qo ena dua ga na vakasama, ka yacana na “bipartisan” — na vakatutu ni veika keitou mai qarava baleta tiko e dua na lawa a vakacurumi ena loma ni Palimedi ena vuku ni veivakadonui ni Matanitu kei na kena veiliutaki sa kau mai veikeda na lewenivanua.

E rau tiko qo na taukei ni lawatu mai na Tabana ni Bula, yacana tiko na Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4/2026. Au na qai tara vakalekaleka yani ni bera ni keitou na vakaitavi kece na nomuni lewe ni Palimedi sa dabe tiko yani i cake qo.

(Vakamacalataki na lewe ni Bose kei ratou na mata mai na Tabana ni Bula).

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au sa na dolava mada na nodatou veitalanoa raraba me baleta na lawatu e veikauyaki tiko oqo. Vakabauta ni tiko vei kemudou e dua na lavelave ka volai tu ena vosa vaka-iTaukei. Na lawatu oqo e yavutaki ena kena veisau na Principal Act ka tekivu mai ena 1935. Sa kena ibalebale ni sa 90 na yabaki na nona cici tiko mai na lawa oqo me yacova mai na gauna qo, ka sa nanumi me veisau eso na tabana lelevu. Na lavelave o ni taura tiko e via yacova tiko e 69 na tikina e yaga me veisau.

Na kena italanoa mai vei Tabana ni Bula, e dua na gauna balavu na nodratou nanuma me veisau na tabana lelevu qo, kei na kena vakavakadewa me rawa ni donu kei na gauna vou ni veiqaravi eda sa tiko kina nikua. Ena cici ni 90 na yabaki ya, oya na vuna e levu kina na dredre e sotavi. Sega ni rawa ni da vakararavi tiko ena lawa makawa, e dodonu me dua na lawa vou e pasitaka na Palimedi me da cakacaka kina ena gauna vou. Oya na vuna levu e veisau kina e levu na tikina e yacova ni 69 e yaga me veisau.

E tiki ni veisau ni lawatu oqo na kena dau vakasokomuni, vakararamataki na veivanua ena noda Viti, vakauasivi vei keda na tu ena taudaku ni korolelevu. E vica na veisau e tiko, okati kina na veisau mai na loma ni korolelevu, ka tara talega na veiqaravi ena taudaku ni korolelevu. E tiko kina na veisau lelevu, na takete e ono na tabana lelevu me veisau. Tiko na kena vosa vakaperetania, ia e rauti keda na kena e tiko e matada ni kua.

Na gauna keitou na vosa kina, e tiko talega na microphone kevaka ni vinakata mo ni vosa ena vakasama ni veivakararamataki se dua na nomuni vakatutu. Kevaka e dua e via vakatututaka me oka ena veisau ni lawatu, e dau cakacaka ni sa dua e vakatutu ka tokona. Oya na tiki ni neitou ikaukau lesu me keitou raica tale i Palimedi. Ena tolu na vula na neitou wavoki tiko qo, sa katolu ni siga nikua, keitou via vakila na cava na veiqaravi ni da lako mai ena taudaku ni korolelevu. E talei baleta ni da curuma na koro vakaViti e tiko na kena itovo kei na kena ivalavala, me vaka keitou sotava tiko nikua. Keitou vakavinavinaka vakalevu na nomudou maroroa tiko na itovo kei na ivalavala, ni oya e tiki ni veiqaravi ni lakolako oqo.

E tiko na gusu ni vosavosa, na gauna o ni via vosa se taroga, na matai ni ka au kerea mo cavuta na yacamuni. Kevaka e tiko na Turaga ni Koro, na koro ni gole tu mai kina. Na vuni kena vakayagataki na gusu ni vosavosa oya baleta ni sa recordtaki tiko na ka kece. Ena yakavi, o na lesu ena page ni Parliament, e live tu ga. Kevaka o vakaitavi nikua, ena rawa ni o raica tale na ka o a taroga se vakatututaka.

Na kerea ga na yacamuni kei na nomuni tutu — Turaga ni Koro se lewenivanua — e vukea na neitou lesu tale i Palimedi me keitou raica lesu na veika kece a veitalanoataki. Oya na veivakararamataki, e vukea na kena vakasokomuni nai tukutuku ena loma ni Komiti ni Bula Raraba. Keitou na vakatututaka talega na siga donu me laveti cake tale kina i Palimedi. Na laveti ya ena vakadonui ena loma ni Palimedi, ena soli mai na siga me keimami veiba kina ena vuku ni vakatutu oqo. Oya na process e lako curumi tiko.

Ia na Bill, me vaka au sa tukuna oti na veika e tiko kina, dou kalougata ni rau tiko qo na itaukei ni lawatu mai na Tabana ni Bula. Na veika keitou rawa ni sauma yani e cake qo, na kena matailalai, rau na qai sauma na vakalesilesi. Oya vakacaca tikoga na irairai levu ni veitalanoa ena siga nikua.

Au sa na kerei ratou na lewe ni Palimedi era dabe tiko qo me ratou vakaitavi vakalekaleka ena vakasama ni veivakararamataki, ni bera ni da na qai veitalanoa vakamatata ena veika e vinakati me cauraki mai kei na kena isau. Vakauasivi kevaka e dua e via vakatututaka edua na ka me curuma - dua me vakatututaka, ka dua me tokona. Oya na yaco mai vei keitou me tiki ni vakatutu ni keitou tiko ena nomudou itikotiko vakaturaga.

HON. A. BIA.- Au na tovolea meu kauta vakavoleka mai vei keda me rawarawa na noda kelia vakatitobu na lawa vakaturi tiko imatada qo. Vakalekaleka me vaka sa tukuna na Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, mai na 1935 me yacova na gauna eda veitalanoa tiko kina qo, sa voleka ni 90 na yabaki e sega ni vakavoutaki na lawa qo me ganita na draki ni bula eda sa tiko kina nikua. Ena loma ni 90 na yabaki ya sa qai nanumi me vakaturi tale mai na lawa oqo me vukei na Tabana ni Bula ena iwalewale ni nodratou veiqaravi, me vakarawarawataka na noda taqomaki na lewenivanua mai na veimate e dau veitauvi ena loma ni koro, se na itikotiko eda tiko kina, se da tiko vakavuvale. Oya na vuna e yaga kina na lawa vakaturi oqo.

Kevaka o na taroga se cava ena kauta mai na lawa qo: vei keda na tiko ena koro se na itikotiko vakagalala, ena loma ni 90 na yabaki sa oti, e sega ni kovuti keda na tiko ena koro. Ia na kena mai veisau oqo, eda sa na oka kece kina na lewenivanua e Viti. Se o tiko ena koro, se Suva, se siti, se tiko vagalala — na lawa vakaturi qo ena okati kece kina me qarauni na noda tiko bulabula kei na bula ni lewenivanua ena vanua cava ga eda tiko kina.

Dua na vakaraitaki: me da rai lesu ga ena COVID-19. Ni gole mai na mate ya, yaco mai noda vanua, na lawa qo e sega ni vakatara na Tabana ni Bula me ratou gole vakadodonu kevaka e kune e dua na COVID-19 ena dua na koro. E dredre me ratou gole vakadodonu, eratou na muria lesu na gaunisala ni Turaga Roko se Valenivolavola ni Yasana, sa qai lako vei Turaga ni Koro. Sega ni tukuni na lawa qo me beca na ituvatuva ni Valenivolavola ni Yasana, ia e veivuke walega ena gauna e yaco kina na mate veitauvi me vaka na TB, se mate dewa totolo. E soli na galala vei ratou na vakalesilesi me ratou gole vakatotolo me tarova na kena dewa na mate vei ira na tiko ena loma ni koro.

Dua talega na ka e kauta mai na lawa qo, oya na taqomaki ni wai ni gunu, na ivurevure ni wai ni gunu, kei na kena vakadrodroi. Na lawa qo e vauca vakaukauwa na kena taqomaki na wai ni gunu kei na ivurevure ni wai. E so na gauna eda raica ni vakasauri ga sa benuci na wai eda gunuva, ka so e tauvimate kina. Na lawa qo ena vauci ira na dau vakayacora na kena benuci se vakacacani na ivurevure ni wai ni gunu, se na gaunisala ni kena vakadrodroi mai kina na wai vei keda ena veikoro.

Na lawa qo e ciqoma talega na kena sa tiko na lawa ni koro. Au kila ni sa cakacaka tiko na Valenivolavola ni Yasana kei na Ministry ni Tabacakacaka ni Taukei ena kena vakarautaki e dua na lavelave vakatokai na Integrated Village Development Plan (IVDP) — nai lavelave ni veivakatorocaketaki ena loma ni yasana kei na veikorokoro. Ia na lawa oqo, ni sa pasitaki ena loma ni Vale ni Boselawa, ena gadrevi na veika kece oqori me vakayacori. Vakananumi tiko kina na veika e yaga ena kena qaravi, na kena nanumi, kei na kena taqomaki na noda bula bulabula — se na noda bula ni loma ni koro, se na tikotiko, se na vuvale eda dui tiko kina.

E dua na ka bibi na kena vakamuri na lawa se na kena ciqomi, baleta ni levu na totogi e tiko mai na 90 na yabaki sa oti, totogi lavo e tu ga mai na $2 se $5. Ia, ni sa tovolei me qarauni na bula kei na kena tarovi na mate me kakua ni dewa ena veikoro, sa toso cake na totogi mai na $2 me yacova na $200, eso sa yacova na $1000 — ena vuku ga ni kena tovolei me qarauni na bula bulabula, na tiko savasava ena veikoro, me tarovi na mate.

Na kena otioti, o raica talega e dua na yasana oqo, mai na gauna balavu ratou veiqaravi tiko kina na Tabacakacaka ni Bula. Eda kila vinaka ni dau veisiga e veitalanoataki tu, sega ni ka vou na noda valenibula, e tiko ga ena veivanua. E dau veitalanoataki tu, eso na gauna sa oso tu na valenibula, sega ni veiraurau na veiqaravi ena loma ni valenibula vei ira na lewenivanua, ni da gole yani ena vuku ni mate eso eda kauta yani. Ni o raica na yasana ya, o qai raica ni lawa oqo sa cakacaka tiko kina na Tabana ni Bula. Ena vosa vakaperetania, e proactive vakalailai. E sega ni tarova na nodra gole yani na lewenivanua me ra oso tu ena valenibula ena vuku ni mate eso, ia sa biu ena lawa qo me laveti cake vakalailai, me tarova na kena dewa na mate. Vinaka ni sa tarovi mai na nodra yaco yani na lewenivanua i valenibula, ni so na gauna e yaco kina na leqa. Na lawa qo ena vukea vakalailai na veiqaravi, me da taqomaki rawa ni bera ni da yaco i valenibula, se bera ni da tara na veiqaravi mai valenibula me vukei kina na mate eda kauta yani.

Qo e dua na ka vakacaca me vukei keda ena vuku ni noda tiko bulabula, se na taqomaki ni noda lomanikoro, se na noda itikotiko, ena vuku ni mate eso e rawa ni dewa ena noda itikotiko**.**

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, through you, before us today is a very important Bill concerning the Public Health Act, which Parliament will be required to debate later on. I believe there is something here that may interest most of you, because it touches on building standards and sanitation. When we come to rural communities, there is a different way of life, a different setting — how we build our houses, how we install septic tanks, and how our buildings are approved. Previously, we had to go through councils and a different process. Now, there may be a local rural authority that will oversee these processes. Citizens may face difficulties, and that is why this consultation is being held, with the Committee present alongside public health officials, so that we can also hear your side of the story and your experiences.

I know this is a challenging time, and there may be increases in fines that could affect you if you are penalized in the future. This is the time for you to speak up. The Committee and Members of Parliament will go back, deliberate, discuss, and table responses during our debate in Parliament. I hope you have read the Bill that is here. If I am correct, you have also been given the iTaukei version. Please read through it carefully. Even after this consultation is done, you will still have the opportunity to write back to the Committee in a written submission. We will consider that, and we will consider your views — you have that right as well. That is all from my side, and I am keen to hear your views too.

HON. S. KUMAR.- *Bula vinaka* once again. After attending this week's session in Vunidawa and in Nausori yesterday, I have developed an interest in this Bill — particularly why we are taking the Bill to villagers and communities, what its purpose is, and what we want to achieve. As you all know, the Public Health Act 1935 is already in place. It has been there before us, but it does not directly affect or benefit communal *iTaukei* villages because of Section 140, which explicitly exempts this Act from being applied to communal villages. This means that anything within village boundaries — how you set up your septic tank, pig pen, chicken shed, or any other structure — there is no law governing you, stopping you, or fining you. You are essentially your own authority, with your own system of looking after the village. In fact, there is a system in all villages, such as the *cakacaka ni koro* every Monday, where cleaning and maintenance are carried out. That has been the practice since 1935.

Mr. Chairman, Section 140 legally exempts iTaukei villages, and that is true. But from here onwards, the effort is to ensure that all iTaukei villages are also covered, so that they are required to abide by the Act. There is currently an enforcement gap in the Act. Health Inspectors cannot directly access Fijian villages, even when they receive complaints. If there is a complaint in the village, Health Inspectors cannot enter and take action on issues that may be harmful or spread disease. For example, if there is a septic tank issue in the village, you cannot complain to the health department or ask a Health Inspector

to solve the problem or speak to the house owner whose septic tank is creating disease, breeding mosquitoes, or producing foul smells.

That is why you have already heard from my fellow colleagues that this is a very old Act — from 1935 — and now we are in 2026. Some of the fines that were in place then, although they did not apply to villagers, were very small, such as $2, $5, or $10, as explained by Honourable Bia. People outside the villages sometimes do not worry about these fines; they preferred to leave things as they were, and if fined, they could easily pay the $2 penalty. However, diseases that originate outside the villages often end up spreading into the villages. So how do we tackle this? Whom do we hold responsible?

That is why the proposed fines have been increased — what was once $2 has now become $200, and in some cases up to $2,000. This acts as a deterrent. It discourages people from being careless and encourages them to maintain their surroundings, keep them clean, dispose of rubbish properly, and manage drains and wastewater, so that we are not exposed to unnecessary diseases caused by neglect.

The exemption under Section 140 became problematic when Fiji was affected by COVID-19. During the pandemic, Health Inspectors were unable to legally enter villages to enforce public health standards. This was a serious issue, as the Ministry of Health could not enforce proper standards despite rising outbreaks. If there was a disease outbreak, the Ministry could not require villages to meet public health standards — for example, ensuring septic tanks were properly built with concrete, rather than using drums or plastic tanks. It was all left to chance, with no enforcement, and no one could enter villages to set or enforce standards.

So, the Bill will soon extend to all parts of Fiji, including the villages. The new Act that we are trying to amend — once passed in Parliament — will cover the villages as well. Health Inspectors will be able to enter villages, conduct inspections, and if people in the village are affected and no one is listening or improving, you will have the opportunity to lodge a complaint with the health department or the health office in Nausori. The Health Inspector will then be able to come and inspect.

Why do we need to include the villages? Because in the village setup, diseases are prone to spread very quickly. People live closely together, and there is no one supervising them. Officials from the iTaukei Affairs have warned that over 50 percent of villages could be penalized if this Act comes into play. Why? Because of the standard of their water sanitation and the way they live. That is one danger. In summary, the current Act provides no direct benefit to villages due to the exemption. The proposed amendment aims to bring public health protection to villages, but it requires careful implementation while respecting customary structures.

So, while we are here, you must understand the potential impact of this Bill if it becomes law. How might you be affected directly? One way is through fines. If standards are not met, villages may have to pay fines. But you can also request provisions in the Bill — for example, to have health centres near you, where you can access public health officials who can guide you and check from time to time. If there is a nursing station or health centre nearby, at least someone will make regular visits to the village to check standards, so that you are up to date and not fined unnecessarily.

These are some of the things you can ask for during public consultation. We can discuss them, and they can be included in the Bill and taken to Parliament for acceptance. These are some of the reasons why there is a need to take the Public Health Amendment Bill to rural, maritime, and remote areas, as well as towns and city boundaries — because it concerns the people, it concerns the population, and wherever people reside, diseases are prone to originate. So let us discuss this Bill today, take some recommendations, and receive submissions from this beautiful village. Thank you.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- Au vakabauta ni ratou sa vakamacala oti kina na noqu ilawalawa na veika e tiko ena lawa vakaturi oqo. Eso ga na veisau lalai e tiko ena lawa vakaturi oqo, me vaka na vosa makawa baleta ni sa voleka ni 90 na yabaki na nona cici, eso na vosa makawa sa veisautaki. Vaka kina na totogi — au kerea vakabibi vei kemuni na lewenivanua mo ni raica vakabibi na itotogi sa laveti tiko mai. Eso beka ena tukuna ni levu, ia na gauna ni sa pasitaki na lawa sa na qai vakadeitaki kina. Ena gauna oqo, kevaka e tiko eso na nomuni nanuma me baleta na totogi — kevaka e levu se tiko na amount vakatutu — ni rawa ni vakauta yani nomuni vakatutu vei ratou na neitou Vunivola me rawa ni raica vakavinaka na Komiti na nomuni vakatutu na lewenivanua. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka vakalevu vei kemudou na lewe ni Palimedi dou tiko qo. Au vakabauta vei kedatou na tiko ena loma ni nodatou itikotiko vakaturaga, sa via tukuna vakacaca na veika me baleta na lawa oqo sa nanumi tiko me veisau. Na ka bibi e tiko mai dakuna, oya na veika dou na vakatutu mai kina nikua. Me vaka na totogi — e lailai tiko, ia sa tiko vei kemudou na kaukauwa mo ni kaya ni $500 se $1000 e rui lailai, me toso cake vakalailai se me lutu sobu. Qo na vanua eda rawa ni veitalanoataka kina na totogi.

Na kena veiveisau ena vuku ni lawa oqo, sa tiko vei kemudou na kena ilavelave, vakabauta ni na via lima tiko beka na drauniveva. Na gauna ni na via vosa kina, kevaka e vosa vakaViti se vaka-vavalagi, e base mai na vanua o via vosa kina. Ena page vata kei na naba e tiko ena itikina imawi, ena rawarawa kina na veitalanoa ena ulutaga gadrevi me vakararamataki — na veika e baleta na bula raraba ena loma ni nodatou itikotiko. Oya na ka bibi taudua, na noda maroroi na lewenivanua ena tiko savasava kei na tiko bulabula.

Ni rawa; o rau na rua ya ena qai bulia e dua na koro se itikotiko bulabula ni veiqaravi ena loma ni nodatou itikotiko vakaturaga. Au se bera ni dolava na nodatou veitalanoa, ia vakabauta ni sa levu na lewenivanua era kauwai tiko. Au na solia tale mada na gusu ni vosavosa qo vei na wekaqu dabe tiko iyasaqu imawi.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, I just want to highlight something very important. This Bill is not something bad, so please do not take it as a restriction on you. I know that most of you are very experienced and senior, while I am a younger person from the latest generation. During your time, you had not heard of COVID-19, hantavirus, bird flu, swine flu, and all these kinds of outbreaks. But in today's modern world, we are facing new dangers and diseases which require us to introduce laws like this.

Some restrictions are necessary — for example, where you put your chicken fence or chicken shed, where you build your septic tank, and what kind of septic tank you should use. These regulations are needed now for the sake of you, your children, and your loved ones. That is the whole purpose of this Bill — to improve public health. As the honourable Member said, this is a very old Act from 1935. Now it is 2026, and the world has changed so much that we require changes in this Act to help our villages and our people.

The previous Act excluded villages, but once this amendment comes into play, experts from the Ministry of Health will be able to come into villages to help you. It is not only about penalising you — they are there to educate you. Most of our children are now educated, and they will understand how public health officials can help. In our primary schools, we already have health science and health education. But in villages, health education has not always reached people because there was no support. Now this Act will bring that support to you.

Yes, there will be fines, but the purpose is to encourage you to work harder to improve your villages, make them safer for our people, and especially for our children. This Bill is not about infringing on your rights. That is why this consultation is happening — so we can hear your views. It is also an opportunity for public health officials to share their perspectives. Perhaps you are not aware of the latest issues they are facing, and they can advise you with regards to this Act. That is all from my side.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au vakabauta ni sa matata vei keitou na tiko yani e cake qo nomuni liga ni veiqaravi, na uto ni veika e kau mai nikua. Au sa dolava na veitalanoa ena gauna oqo, au kerekere tikoga na matai ni ka — kevaka o ni via vosa mai ena gusu ni vosavosa, ni tukuna mada na yacamuni, ni cavuta mai na koro cava se na nomuni tutu vaka Turaga ni Koro, ni bera ni laveta cake na drauniveva cava, se na tabana cava o ni vinakata mo ni vosa kina. Ena vakarawarawataka na nodatou veitalanoa, ni na cavuta ga mai, keitou sa na raica sara na vanua o ni vosa tiko mai kina, me da qai veitalanoa kina. Sa dola tiko na gauna qo na veitalanoa

MR. W. LALANABARAVI.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Lalanabaravi)

Dua na ka keitou gadreva vakalevu me kau laivi na sewer mai Kinoya. Au vosa tiko qo ena Tabana 12. Au sucu mai, au sa rogoca tiko na vakacaca e cakava tiko na sewer mai Kinoya. Sa kau vakavica ena Bose ni Yasana, Bose Vakoro, Bose ni Tikina, sa voleka tale ga ni caka na Bose ni Yasana o Rewa ena vula mai qo. Sa na baci kau cake tale yani ena siga nikua.

Au via tarogi kemudou na lewe ni Palimedi, ke sa yaco beka vei kemudou na kudru qo se sega? Ra lako mai na NGOs, ratou lako mai na Tabana ni Matanitu, na Ministry of Environment, me ratou vakamacalataka ni sega ni dua na side effect ni sewer mai Kinoya. Ia, ke sega ni dua na side effect, cava e yali kina na noda mineral resources eda vakararavi kina ena veisiga? Oya na vuna keitou sa vakatututaka me kau laivi na sewer mai Kinoya me tokitaki ki na dua na vanua tale. Baleta sa vakayabaki mai qo na kudru e caka tiko, ia e sega ni dua na ka e caka kina. Ratou lako mai na marine biologists mai USP, ratou mai cakava na nodra research na EIA, ia sega ni dua na result. Cava dou rawa ni cakava kina? Vosota vakalailai ni kaukauwa na noqu vosa, baleta keitou sa nanamaki me kau laivi na sewer mai Kinoya baleta sa vakacacana na veika e tu veidogodogo. Sa yali na qari lelevu, na dairo, na dio — na ka keitou dau vakararavi kina. Au marau ni dou lako mai mo dou rogoca na leqa levu qo.

Dou sa tukuna ni lako mai na lawa qo mai na 1935, na lawa ni Tabana ni Bula. Ia na sewer koya dabe tiko mai Kinoya, se sega ni dua na ka e caka kina. Keitou mai Vutia, mai Nadilo, ke rawa ni veisautaki na sewer ya se tokitaki ki na dua tale na vanua. Baleta ni sa sega na vurevure ni lavo vei keimami, na neimami qase era dau vakararavi kina. Ia, sa tukuna tikoga o ratou ni na qai yaco na result, ia keitou se waraka tikoga. Sa vakayabaki mai qo, sa levu sara na kena dredre.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ulutaga bibi toka ya, ia, ni da raica lesu na Bill qo, e sega ni kovuta tiko na sewer mai Kinoya. Ratou na qai vakamacala kina na Tabana ni Bula. Baleta ni da tiko ena vakasama ni veivakararamataki me baleta na septic tank — e volai tiko ga vei ira na tiko ena taudaku ni veikoro lelevu, na noda yadudua. Oya e matata tiko na lawatu oqo, vinaka me veisautaki. Kevaka e basika na vakasama me baleta na sewer mai Kinoya, e sega ni kovuti tiko ena loma ni Bill oqo. Nomuni Komiti ena cakava: ni sa na biuta mai e dua na vakatutu, e dua me tokona, me keitou na qai vakadewataka ki na Tabana e qarava tiko na ka me baleta na sewer mai Kinoya.

Au na kerei kemuni mo ni biuta mai na nomuni vakatutu me tokoni, baleta ni sega ni tiko ena lawa sa veitalanoataki tiko oqo. Oya ga na ka keitou rawa ni vukei kemuni kina. Vakavo kevaka e dua vei ratou na honourable Members e tiko qo, au na qai kerei ratou na Tabana ni Bula me ratou na vakamacala kina. Eda veitalanoa tiko qo ena loma ni Bill kau wavoki tiko qo. Au kerea me na base toka eke na nodatou veitalanoa. Kevaka e lade ena taudaku ni veitalanoa oqo, na kena gaunisala sa toka — ni

vakatututaka mai, e dua me tokona, ka tiko na neitou Vunivola me ratou na record-taka. Ena soli vei keitou e dua na gauna me keitou kauta lesu na vakatutu qo me laurai na vanua sa yaco tiko kina, se na tabana e veiqaravi kina. Ena qai dua tale na kena tukutuku lesu vei kemuni. Au vakabauta ni sa na matata tiko ya?

MR. W. LALANABARAVI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose sa vakatututaki tiko yani, ia, keitou sa gagadre vakalevu kina baleta na Tabana ni Bula talega.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Me ratou na vakamacala kina. Eda veitalanoa tiko qo ena loma ni Bill kau wavoki tiko qo. Au kerea me na base toka eke na nodatou veitalanoa. Kevaka e lade ena taudaku ni veitalanoa qo, na gaunisala sa toka — ni vakatututaka mai, e dua me tokona, ka tiko na neitou vunivola me ratou na record-taka. Ena soli vei keitou e dua na gauna me keitou kauta lesu na vakatutu qo me laurai na vanua sa yaco tiko kina, se na tabana ni veiqaravi. Ena qai dua tale na kena tukutuku lesu vei kemuni. Au kerea talega, ni se tiko ga na veitalanoa me baleta na Kinoya, me rogoci vakadodonu na domodratou na Tabana ni Bula ena rarama ni veitalanoa me baleta na kena vakayagataki se na kau laivi na sewer e tiko mai Kinoya.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, honourable Members of the Standing Committee, ni tiko saka na turaga kei na marama. Taumada, na vakasama ni kena kau laivi na iqaqi e tiko mai Kinoya, sa dua na vakasama sega ni rawarawa, vakabibi ni da veidutaitaka vata na rabailevu ni veiqaravi e vakayacori tiko ena iqaqi mai Kinoya.

Na leqa e rawa ni yaco kevaka e sega ni dua na vanua e vakamalumalumutaki kina na waica ni bera ni biu ki tuba. E tiko na standard se na ivakarau dodonu me yacova na wai e qaqi ena mataqali vanua va qo ni bera ni biu ki tuba. E tiko talega na tabana e dau yadrava na kena dau test-taki na wai ni bera ni biu ki tuba. E tiko na wastewater standards, na levu ni tagede dodonu me yacova na wai ni bera ni biu ki tuba. Kevaka e sega ni yacova na tagede ya, dau yaco na veitaratara me vakavinakataki na veiqaravi me rawa ni yacova na tagede ya.

Na gauna qo, na vakasama e tiko ena vuku ni bibi ni veivakatorocaketaki ena nodatou koro. Ratou tukuna na kena dau ni o Kinoya ni sa via vuabale vakalailai. E tiko na vakanananu me laveti cake vakalailai na nodatou vanua ni veiqaravi e Luvuluvu, me rawa ni tara mai e dua na iwase me relieve-taki vakalailai. Au kila ni tekivu mai Nakasi me sa gole i Luvuluvu, e dua sa nanumi me biu talega mai Veisari, me tara yani na muani Walu Bay ka gole yani vakadodonu. Au vakabauta ni na yaco na gauna ni nodratou ituvatuva na Department of Water and Sewerage, sa na vakamamada vakalailai na ka dou vakila tiko na wekaqu ena nomudou baravi.

Io, ena vakasama ni veivakatorocaketaki kei na toso ni veivakavaletaki, ena gadrevi me dua na wastewater treatment me vakamalumalumutaki kina na waica ni bera ni biu ki na uciwai se waitui. Au vakabauta ni koya qo sa rawa ni veivakararamataki, dina ni sega ni kovuti tiko ena lawa vakaturi me vaka sa vakamacala tiko kina na Turaga Chairman. Au nuitaka ni vakamacala au sa vakayacora qo sa rawa ni veivakararamataki ena ka eda rawa ni namaka ni oti na nodratou master plan me relieve-taki vakalailai na pressure mai Kinoya, me vakalailaitaka na kena revurevu ena nomudou yaubula na gone Turaga. Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

HON. A. BIA.- Dua ga na taro tiko oqori, ni ko raica na Tikina e 12 ena kena volavolai. Iliu eratou solia tiko nodratou kudru, ia e sega ni rogoci. Na kena volavolai na Tikina e12 qo, eratou vakaraitaka kina na nodratou kudru ena gauna ni sa pasitaki na lawa qo. Sa rawa ni okati kina na Tikina e 12 se sega.?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, honourable Members, vinaka vakalevu. Ena gauna qo na Tikina 12, me vaka e vakamacalataki taumada kina na Turaga Chairman, e kovuta ga na vale yadudua — na noda septic tank — ka sega ni kovuta na sewer system lelevu. E vakamacalataki tiko ena Bola No.3 ni volai kina "on private premises."

Na vuna, baleta ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula e tiko tale na nona lawa, e yalana tiko na neitou lawa, sega ni kovuta na veika kece. Keitou nai tikotiko yadudua, e kovuta na lawa ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula. Ia, ni ko sa lako ki tuba, ena qele rabailevu se na public spaces, sa kovuti ena nodratou lawa na Ministry of Environment — na Environment Management Act, na Litter Act — baleta ni ratou taukena na vanua rabailevu, na public spaces. Keitou, vakatabaki dua ga ena private premises. Kena ibalebale, na vale yadudua, nomu septic tank, kevaka o vakagolea tu ga na kena waica talabusese ena dela ni qele se gole ki na ikeli, koya ya e vauci tiko ena Vakatutu No.12, na ka e volai tiko kina. Turaga Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN- Me vaka au sa kaya oti, keitou sa ciqoma oti me vaka sa vakatututaki oti mai, sa tokoni, keitou na qai lai vakadewataka kina na tabana e veiqaravi kina me na raica tale mada..

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, just to share as you are mentioning the Kinoya treatment plant, I have done some research. This plant was built in 1970 and was designed to serve a capacity of 60,000 people. By 2017, the population had increased to 120,000, so the plant is currently operating over capacity. I believe there is a report from the ADB indicating that upgrades are planned, and steps are being taken in that direction.

However, the challenge is that I am an engineer by profession, and I know it will be very difficult to move the treatment plant away from its current location. The sewer lines have already been laid and redirecting them elsewhere would be extremely difficult. What I believe will happen is that the facility will be upgraded and improved so that it does not harm resources or damage marine life. The water discharged from the plant will be treated to safe standards before being released into the ocean, while the solid waste can be repurposed into soil fertilizer or manure. That is my understanding based on the report, which I can share with you.

Coming back to public health, when you talk about septic tanks, Sir, this is something that affects our communities. For example, I am from Savusavu, where we do not have a sewer plant. We use concrete septic tanks, but after some time they fill up like a pool. Then we have to bail them out, and the bail trucks take the waste to Suva, where it is processed at the Kinoya plant. We cannot just discharge it into the sea or onto the land, because that would cause disease and other problems. There must be a safe place where all this waste can be treated properly. But I understand your concern whereby the resources are being polluted and I think will take that on board and have deliberations along that line.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au vakabauta ni da tiko ena ulutaga qo, e sega ni tiko ena Bill. Au kerea me sa cava eke na kena veitalanoa. Me da veitalanoataka ga na ka bibi e tiko ena loma ni Bill. Kevaka e vo na gauna, keitou na qai lesuva tale na tikina qo na wekaqu. Au sa kaya oti ni sega ni tiko ena loma ni lawa vakaturi qo. Na veivuke keitou rawa ni cakava, sa kau oti mai vakamosoni, sa vakadonui. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. A. SENIKUTU.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Senikutu)

Au vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni sa nanumi tiko me sa vakatarai na veiqaravi ni Tabana ni Bula me curuma na veikorokoro, ka na vukei vakalevu na nodra cakacaka na Turaga ni Koro vakatalega kina na Nasi ni Koro. Ia, e dua ga na ririko e tiko, kevaka eda raica na Bola No.27 me baleta na itotogi. Toka ena Bola iloma qo na vosa "vakadukadukali."

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Rawa ni ko ni wilika mai me rawa ni tautauvata na vanua eda tiko kina. Wase 27: lailai ni totogi se na fixed penalty ni vakasosavo.

MR. A. SENIKUTU.- Cava beka na kena ibalebale?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vei kemudou na Tabana ni Bula, e vaka e dua na misinterpretation tiko ena kena vosa vakaViti. Au kerei kemudou ke rawa ni dou vakamatatataka mada: e "vakasosavo" se dua na vosavosa vakaViti? Na vu ni noqu taroga tiko vei ratou baleta ni nodratou na Bill, me ratou vakamatatataka mada na cava dina na ibalebale ni vosa qo. VakaViti vei keitou, au sega ni wilika rawa na cava na "vakasosavo" se "vakaosooso" se "vakasosa."

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, na Tikina 27 e tukuna tiko na totogi me baleta na nuisance. Qo e dua na vosa vakaViti buli me saga me vakadewataka na vosa "nuisance." E vakabibitaki tiko na dravudravua ni vosa vakaViti ni da vakadewataka na vosa vaka-valagi. Au vakabauta ni da kila tiko na vosa vaka-vavalagi qo na "nuisance," ia ni da vakaVititaka, e rawa ni dua se rua na yatu vosa. Mani biu kina na vosa buli me veisosomitaka na "nuisance."

Na totogi e volai tiko, ni raica na Mata ni Tikina, e kaya "me laveti na itotogi me yacova na $1000." Kena ibalebale, not exceeding $1000. Kena ibalebale talega, kevaka e dua na cala lailai, e rawa ni dua na totogi veiganiti vata kaya me vaka na $50 se $70. Ni toso cake na tagede ni cala, ka laurai ni rivarivabitaki ni rawa ni vakavuna na tauvimate se na vakayali ni bula ni tamata, sa na toso cake talega na itotogi me veiganiti vata kaya.

E biu tiko na fine not exceeding $1000 ena regulation, me muria mai na kena matai lalai ni tuvatuva ni cala vata kei na kena totogi, me rau veiganiti vata kaya. Me da nanuma tiko ni kena vakalevutaki na totogi qo e dua na inaki bibi, me veisautaka na noda vakasama ena koro vakaViti, me rawa ni da laveta cake na tagede ni bula vinaka ena noda veikorokoro.

Me vaka e vakamacalataka tiko na Turaga Chairman ena tekivu ni noda veivosaki, ni dau tu iliu na totogi e $2 se $5. Kena ibalebale, kevaka e dua e vakagolea tu nona waica ka vakavuna na tauvimate, keitou gole yani, keitou kauti koya vakaveilewai, rawa ni tolu na vula nona veilewai, sa soli vua na totogi, taura tu ga mai e dua na $5, solia, qai gole tale ki vale, lai vakayacora tale na ka vata ga oya. Sa toso tiko na tauvimate, sa toso tiko o ira na lewenivanua, rawa ni vakayali na nodra bula. Oya na vuna e nanumi kina me biu e dua na totogi me bibi sara, me bera mada ga ni lako yani na Tabana ni Bula. Sa raica ga na totogi, sa veisautaka sara ga na leqa e tiko.

MR. A. SENIKUTA.- Turaga Liuliu Ni Bose na katolu saka ni bola.

HON. A. BIA.- Rawa ni ko ni vakadewataka mada na veisau. Na vosa e tukuni tiko na "nuisance." E levu na vanua e rawa ni vakayagataki kina, ia kevaka e kauta mai na Tabana ni Bula ena vuku ni lawa eda veitalanoataka tiko qo, okoya e dua na ka e yaco ena loma ni vanua, koro se tikotiko, ka rawa ni vakavuna se vakaleqa na noda bula vinaka se vakaleqa talega na noda tiko vakaduavata na lewenivanua. Kena ibalebale, ni o kauta mai na lawa qo, e tukuna tiko: taura mada na sasamaki ena koro, qai raica ni sa vuki benuci ga na vanua sa sasamaki oti — benu, benu.

Keitou a tiko mai Naitasiri, e dua na kudru e kau mai kina, sa tukuni ni sa yaco vakaoqo: na sasamaki vakoro, eso na lewenikoro sa sega ni via sasamaki. Ia, ni cavuti na "nuisance," koya ena oka sara ga ena lawa qo. E so na ka se so na itovo e vakayacori ka rawa ni vakaleqa na noda bula vinaka. Taura mada na rorogo: kevaka e vakasausa vakalevu ka rawa ni vakaleqa na noda bula vinaka se na noda tiko vakamataveiwekani, okoya e oka ena vosa qo na "nuisance" kevaka e kauta mai na lawa vakaturi qo. Au vakabauta ni sa matata

MR. A. SENIKUTA.- Sa matata tiko na ibalebale ni “nuisance.” Au vakatura me wase rua na itotogi qo. Dua me ra okati kina o ira na dau ni bisinisi — who is the nuisance to us. Qo na nodra industrial waste e lako tiko mai ena vei industrial area tekivu mai Vatuwaqa ka yaco cake i Laucala Beach. Na benu kece qo e vakaleqa na neimami bula, na tiko ena gusu ni wai. Oya na vuna me laveti cake na totogi me tau vei ira.

Mai vei keimami na tiko ena koro, au kerea na totogi me biu vei keimami na koro, me keimami qai bosea vakoro, ka me qai biu na Tabacakacaka ni iTaukei, me laveti cake ena neimami Bose ni Tikina, Bose ni Yasana, sa qai kau cake vei kemudou na lewenikomitī me baleta na itotogi.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka, sa ciqomi tiko na nomuni vakatutu. E tikina dina ni tukuna, ni na vanua kece keitou gole kina e kerei tiko na vanua me laurai na totogi vei ira na dau caka bisinisi kei ira na tiko taudaku ni veikoro lelevu, me wase na kena bibi kei na kena lutu sobu. Sa ciqomi tiko na nomuni vakatutu, moni na biuta mai vakatutu me tokoni, me na tiki ni neitou lai raica na ripote me baleta na tabana ya. Ia, ni vakacuruma toka mai me rawa ni vakadeitaki vakabose..

MR. A. SENIKUTA.- Au sa vakatura saka tiko.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, au vinakata ga meu veivakararamataki ena vuna e biu tiko mai kina na totogi lavaki.

Na bibi Turaga Chairman, ni da raica e 90 na yabaki na kena gole tiko mai na lawa, e laurai ni veivanua e qarava na lawa oqo e lako kina nai totogi, e talave na nodra tagede ni bula na tiko ena veikoro vakaViti. Au kere veivosoti kevaka e tonotono mata toka na itukutuku. Sa laurai tiko na mate ni veiyabaki me vaka na Dengue, taifote (Typhoid), ni laurai na kisi e 95 na pasede se 100 na pasede e gole tiko mai na veikoro vakaViti. Kevaka eso era vakaleqai na nodra bula, o ira era tiko ena koro vakaViti, sega ni o ira na tiko ituba, era sa totogitaki tiko ka nanumi ni vuni nodra tauvimate baleta na nodra sa wele tiko na koro vakaVviti.

Qo na vakasama e lako tiko mai na Tabacakacaka ni Bula: sega ni totogitaki, sega ni tukuni mo totogitaki. Kevaka o sega ni vinakata mo totogitaki, e rawarawa na kena caka na ka mo kua ni totogitaki kina, me vaka na vagolei vakavinaka na wai mai na siqi ni savasava, valenikuro, valenisili, qara ni vatuvuso. Kevaka o vagolea tikoga ena ikeli, e gole tiko kina na wai ni uca, ra qito na gone, ra karokaro, ra milamila, veitauvi tiko na mate.

Sa basika tale na Rheumatic Heart Fever (RHF) kei na Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD). Sa vakaleqai kina na bula ni isolisoli, kemuni na itubutubu ni na kila vinaka na veicula e caka vei ira na luveda, qo na mate vu mai na kena lutu sobu na tagede ni bula ena noda koro vakaViti. Sa nanumi kina me lavaki vua na tamata taucoko me sauma na $1,000, vakatautaki na cakacaka gadrevi me caka vata kei na rivarivabi, baleta na tauvimate se na vakayalia na bula ni lewenivanua.

Na kena bibi me kakua ni dua e leqa qai tukuni ni a sega ni raica na Tabana ni Bula ni a lako tiko na leqa, qai sega ni tu vua na lawa me cakacaka kina. Qo na vuna me vakararamataka na dabe ni siga ni kua, ni kena navuci mai na veisau ena lawa vakaturi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula.

MR. A. SENIKUTA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, au sega ni tukuna ni’u sa ciqoma tiko nai totogi baleta ni’u vosa tiko kevaka keimami bosea vakoro..

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au sa na takoso meu vakalekalekataka. Na vakatutu ni bose vakoro e sega ni tiko ena loma ni lawa qo. Kevaka o vinakata me wili, keitou na raica na kena gaunisala mo vakatututaka mai.

MR. A. SENIKUTA.- Au sa vakatututaka saka yani.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na veitalanoa me tiko ena loma ni veika eda veitalanoa tiko kina qo. Kevaka e tiko na taudaku, au kerea me vakatututaki mai, me qai wili ena neitou na raica na tabana cava, eratou rawa ni lesu mai me ratou vakamacalataka vei kemuni. Me dua me tokona na nomui vakatutu. Baleta na loma ni lawa qo e sega ni tiko kina na ka me baleta na nomudou lewa na itotogi. Era sa cakava oti na kena dau, sa vakadinadinataki ni sa yaco na veisau ena bula savasava kei na bula ni noda veimaliwai ena veisiga. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. K. RAIBEVU.- (Vakacamacalataki koya o Mr. Raibevu)

Na ulutaga eda veivosaki tiko kina oya na vakasosa. Me vaka na vakamacala i Mata ni Tikina, au kerekere ke rawa ni vakamatatataki baleta ni tiko eso na "nuisance" ena loma ni koro, ka gadrevi me vakadodonutaki vei ratou na Tabana ni Lawa. Ke rawa ni vakamatatataki na tagede ni nuisance, e okati vei ratou na veiqaravi ena Tabana ni Bula, me vaka na mateni vakasosa vakacaca kpya au vakabauta ni vakadodonutaki vei ratou na Tabana ni Lawa ni sa basuka na lawa levu ni noda matanitu.

Au kerekere Turaga Chairman ke rawa ni vakamatatataki na tikina me baleta na vosa rabailevu tiko na nuisance. Na cava na nuisance e okati ena Tabana ni Bula? Baleta ni tiko talega me vakadodonutaki vei ratou na Tabana ni Lawa ni sa via voroka na lawa levu ni noda matanitu. Kena levu saka.
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MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au kerea mo vakatura mai baleta ni sega ni okati tiko ena lawa qo. Ke da wilika na Lawa Levu, na kena lavelave vei keitou e sega ni vauca. Na veitalanoa kece ena taudaku e sega ni tiko ena loma ni lawa qo ni veisau me biu mai vakatutu. Kevaka e dua e tokona, keitou na qai tagava mai Palimedi na vanua me vakamacalataki kina.

MR. K. RAIBEVU.- Au sa vakatura saka tiko.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. M. RAOMA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Raoma)

Na No. 12: na kaukauwa raraba me baleta na duka se takavi ni mate. Dua na kerekere vei Tabana ni Bula, e vaka na kena isau: "ke sega ni muria nai vakaro, ena rawa ni beitaki vakalawa na tamata oya?"

Dua tale na kerekere me baleti keimami na Turaga ni Koro kei na Nasi ni Koro. Na veika oqo e tarai keimami, ni sa dau oso na valenivacegu ena neimami koro, keimami sa tukuna me sogo ni sa sinai, ia era taura ga na nodra ile. Keimami lokataka na katuba me vakavinakataki, ia era basuka ga. Ke rawa ni laurai na tikina oqo me totogi, me vukei keimami na Turaga ni Koro, Nasi ni Koro, kei na komiti ni veikorokoro. Sa vakatura tiko.

LEWENIVANUA.- Tokoni.

MR. R. SILATOLU.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Silatolu)

Tiko na Tikina 12: na kaukauwa raraba me baleta na duka se takavi ni mate. Au via taro vei Tabana ni Bula ni da raica ena neimami veikorokoro na kena qaravi na susu manumanu. Da kila vinaka ni manumanu e levu na mate e kauta mai, me vaka na susu vuaka kei na bulumakau. Dua qo na vuaka, sa levu na kudru ni sa kauta mai na tauvimate, na boi ni kena sega ni vakasavasavataki na bai kei na vanua e vakadrodroi kina na wai.

Na taro: sa vica na kisi au sa qarava oti, sa veitaratara vei Turaga ni Koro, keimami veivolekati koro, sa vakadewataki vei taukei ni vale me baleta na mate ca ni sega ni maroroi vinaka na benu. E tiko na lawa me vauci ira era saqata tiko ga me ra tiko, baleta da kila vinaka na yalayala ni bainivuaka kei na vanua e dodonu me tara kina. Sa kau vakavica na kena vakatutu, na veivale e kudru tiko, sega ni dua na ka e saumi rawa mai.

. MR. CHAIRMAN.- E tiko ena loma ni lawa oqo na veitalanoa o ni tukuna. Au kerei Tabana ni Bula me vakamacalataka. Na tiko bulabula ena vuku ni manumanu e susu ena loma ni koro, vakabibi na vuaka, tou sa rogoca na kena vakamacala. Eso beka era via susu toa, se susuga tale eso na manumanu, ka rawa ni kauta mai na tauvimate ena loma ni koro.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, donu vinaka na Tikina 12 e vauca na vakasama me baleta na vakasosavo. Vakasosavo na "nuisance" oya na cakacaka e rawa ni vakavuna na mate se vakayali ni bula. Sa tiko ena gauna qo na Section 140, e okati ena lawa ni Tabana ni Bula me veiqaravi ena veikoro vakaViti, ia e vakayagataki ena taudaku ni koro vakaViti. Kevaka e dua e susu manumanu, me kakua ni lailai mai na 200 fiti se 80 mita mai na vale, valenilotu, garaji, sitoa, se vale vakaitaukei. Ia na bylaws ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei e tukuna: "sa tabu na susu manumanu ena loma ni koro vakaViti."

Kena ibalebale, ena loma ni koro vakaViti taucoko e sega ni dodonu me caka kina na susu manumanu. Keitou raica ni luluqa na kena vaqaqacotaki na lawa ni Tabacakacaka iTaukei, keitou vinakata me caka ena lawa ni Tabana ni Bula. Me rau sema na rua: ena taudaku ni koro vakaViti me kakua ni lailai mai na 200 fiti, ena loma ni koro vakaviti me tabu na susu manumanu. Kevaka na vakatutu qo e ciqomi, au vakabauta ni na rawa ni vakayacora na veisau na Komiti, ka vakaqaqacotaka na lawa vakaturi qo. Vinaka vakalevu Turaga Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au sa kerea mo ni na vakatututaka mai.

MR. R. SILATOLU.- Au sa vakatututaka yani. Baleta ni kaukauwa na bula yadua ni tamata na nona dodonu (kaukauwa sara), sa rauta me kau ena kena lawa. Vinaka vakalevu.

LEWENIVANUA.- Tokoni.

MS. V. SENILEBA.- (Vakamcalataki koya o Ms. Senileba)

Dua ga na noqu taro ena Tikina e 16, 23 kei na 33…

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kerekere Nasi ni Koro, tou na tara yadudua. Tou tiko ena vakasama ni kena vakavoui na lawa. Tou tara yadudua me rawarawa na nodatou vakamacalataka. Ni tauri umauma, ena sega ni matata na veika e tukuni cake. Tou liu mada ena Tikina 16.

MS. V. SENILEBA.- Au via vakamacalataka na Tikina 16 me baleta na vakarau ni tara ni vale. Au vakaraitaka me baleta na septic tank ena veivolekati ni vale, ni tiko ena yasa ni nodra vale. Eso na outlet ni septic tank e gole tikoga ena ikeli ena yasa ni vale, eso tale e gole sara tiko iwai na vanua keimami dau taga moci kina se dau siwa kina.

Kena karua, au via vakamacalataka na gauna ni waluvu. Ni dau waluvu mai na loma ni koro, e dau yaco eso na mate ni oti na waluvu. Na matai oya na typhoid, kei na mate ni milamila vei ira na gone ni ra dau qitora na wai ena veikorokoro. Au vakaraitaka e tiko na lawa me baleta na septic tank ena loma ni koro. Eso na septic tank, me vaka na noa na siga ni rai koro vei keitou, eso e simede ia e leak tiko mai na wai ni valelailai. Eso tale na septic tank na kena outlet e gole tikoga ena veikeli ena yasa ni vale.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Marama Nasi ni Koro, tukutuku dina na ka o ni kaya tiko, okati tu ena lawa. E tiko ena loma ni Lawa Levu oqo. Au kerei Tabana ni Bula me vakararamataki keda ena vakasama ni tara vale, na septic tank, kei na wai lako mai valenikuro. Sa vauci kece tu ena loma ni lawa oqo, ena yaga me da rogoca na domo ni taukei ni lawa e veitalanoataki tiko.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, vakabauta ni sa sauma vinaka na Turaga Liuliu ni Bose na nomuni vakatataro.

Na lawa oqo e tiko ena Tabana ni Bula, ka sega ni rawa ni cakacaka ena loma ni koro. E tiko na tikina e tukuna ni sega ni cakacaka ena loma ni koro. Oya na vuna e vakatututaki kina na lawa vakaturi me boko na tikina oya, me kau mai na koro vakaViti na lawa ni Tabana ni Bula, me rawa ni keitou yadrava na tara ni vale me veiyawaki vinaka, na caka ni septic tank, na vale ni vavacegu, kei na veika kece. Ena qai rawa ni keitou cakacaka ni sa vakadonui na lawa vakaturi.

Na gauna oqo keitou na mai veivakasalataki, ia laurai ni sega ni cakacaka baleta ni sa buli me lawa. Ni sa lako mai vakalawa, e rawarawa na kena vakamuri, totolo na kena laveti cake na tagede ni tiko bulabula.

Koya na mataqali me kacabote, lako mai kina na tikina e taroga o Mata ni Tikina me baleta na vakasosavo. Vakasosavo kena ibalebale kevaka e dua na gacagaca sa talabusese ka rawa ni vakavuna na tauvimate. Oya na totogi e kerea o Mata ni Tikina me toso cake vakalailai.

. MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tikina e 26?

MS. V. SENILEBA.- Me baleta tiko na Tikina e 22.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tikina 12 me baleta na vosa makawa ni valelailai kei na rubu ni benu. Vakabauta ni ulutaga oqo sa tara na veika kece e tukuna na Tabana ni Bula, me vaka na rubu ni septic tank kei na veika e baleta. Se vinaka me toso tale na vakamacala?

Na itotogi qo sa laveti me $1000, ena vakatau na leqa e yaco. Taura mada na septic tank: kevaka e simede vinaka, me patchtaki, yaco kina na veitalanoa. Ratou na qai yadrava ni sa lako mai na kudru, ia ni sega ni cakacakataki na veika ratou lavaka me vakayacori. Matai ni gauna ratou mai rai, sega ni caka; karua, sa bulu oti na tabana, ratou sa cava kina.

E biu qo me itatarovi ni sega ni rokovi na lawa, ka vinakati me tautauvata na noda qaravi. Qo beka e dua na tiki ni vakasama ni Tikina 22.

Dua tale na tabana o gadreva, Nasi ni Koro?

MS. V. SENILEBA.- Dua noqu taro. E dua saka na lawa e tiko ikea me baleta tiko na benu vakaveitalia?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Qori Saraga e wili kece tiko ena vosa o ni cavuta tiko mai ya.

MS. V. SENILEBA.- E tiko beka dua na lawa me baleta tiko nai benubenu e loma ni koro?

MR. CHAIRMAN.-E tiko, era oka kece tiko kina. Na tiko bulabula, na maroroi ni benu, keli na kena vakaso me maroroi kina na benu, e tiko na kena matailalai, koya dodonu me kama, koya dodonu me bulu, koya dodonu me kau veiratou na recycling e tiko kece ena loma ni Bill kece qo. Ke tiko nomuni gauna ni na vakamuria vakamalua era oka kece tiko iloma.

MS. V. SENILEBA.- E tiko beka na lawa e vauci ira na dau biu benu vakaveitalia? Dua tiko noqu vakatutu kevaka eso era biuta vakaveitalia na nodra benu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tiko ena loma ni lawa oqo, sega tale ni vakatututaki.Baleta ni repote e tukuna mai na vanua, ratou na qai cakacaka kina na Tabana ni Bula. Ratou lako yani me raica. O cei e cakava, na ka bibi oya na kena maroroi na noda tiko bulabula kei na noda tiko savasava vakaveiwekani.

MR. A. RAIBEVU.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, na veiveisau vakaturi (propose changes) e tiko ena bola 2, keimami rawa ni vakatura?. Vakatura tiko na Tikina 16 me baleta na kena vakamuri na koro, vakauasivi na vuku ni tara ni vale (Town Planning Act). Dua na vakaraitaki, e lima na vale e kama mai Naduria: kama ga e dua na vale, sa vakama vakadua e lima na vale. Na kena veivolekati, au vakatura tiko kina na Tikina 16.

LEWENIVANUA.- Tokoni.

MR. W. LALANABARAVI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, au vakasamataki ratou na Nasi ni Koro me vaka e vosa tiko e dua na Nasi ni Koro.

Dua na vakatutu: me ra upgradetaki na nodra skills. Me ra lai vuli baleta ni levu na gauna sa kau cibaciba tu mai na koro na tamata. Me ra kila na veicula, taura na pressure ni dra, me ra vulica eso na ka va ya, me vaka na First Aid.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- E taro vou qo, ena rairai yaga moni vakatututaka mai.

MR. W. LALANABARAVI.- Sa vakatututaka saka tiko.

LEWENIVANUA.- Tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na vosa vakamatata ena vuku ni tavi vaka Nasi ni Koro, rau na qai vosa kina na kena dau.

Na Tabana ni Bula e tiko na vakatagedegede ni kila kei na cakacaka e wasei vei ira na kena dau, o ira era vulica ka cakacaka mai valenibula kei na health centres, vata kei ira na ligani veiqaravi ena veikorokoro se Nasi ni Koro. Ena sega ni rawa ni kauta mai na veicula baleta ni ra sega ni kila tu. Oya na vuna era semati kedatou walega ena loma ni koro me lako yani kina vanua ni veiqaravi, o ira na Tabana ni Bula, na kena dau dina me vaka na nasi kei na vuniwai. Sega ni tiko ena tuvatuva oqo, kevaka e vinakati me vakatututaki, rawa ni katuba eda tiko kina nikua.

(Inaudible)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na matai ni ka, na Tabana ni Bula e tiko vei ira na competency level: vakatagedegede ni vuli kei na kila vakavuli. Ratou vakarawarawataka ga na veiqaravi me sema kina. Kevaka e dua sa ciba, sega ni dodonu me kau vei Nasi ni Koro baleta ni na sega ni vakabula. Vosota na noqu vakavakadewa, sa kau sara kina na vanua dodonu me qaravi kina. Sa tiko na mortuary kei ira na

vuniwai era kila vinaka. Kevaka e kau vei Nasi ni Koro, ena sega ni vakabula. Oya na vuna e sema mai vakaoqo, tou qai cici tale vakaoqo. Ena vakalevutaka ga na gauna, na bonati ni taga, na veikauyaki. Qo na noqu vakavakadewa, kakua ni tauri cala. Na gauna tou sotava tiko qo…

Vakavo kevaka ratou via vosa kina na Turaga mai na Tabana ni Bula. Vakabauta ni sa na matata na kena vakadewa

MR. R. SILATOLU.- Tikina e 52. Au kerea saka ga ke rawa ni vakadewataki ga vakamatata na cava na "sika namu".

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vakayagataki na vosa makawa, vakayagataki na vosa vou?

MR. R. SILATOLU.- Tiko sobu na totogi me baleta na basulawa ni sika namu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Duatani na namu tou kila tiko o kedatou?

MR. R. SILATOLU.- Au na dei ena vuku ni basulawa. E vica na kisi e qaravi ena veikorokoro, e yacovi ira na yabaki 16 kei na 17. Era basulawa ena ka rerevaki, ia ni sa lailai na nodra yabaki, sa biu vakalawa, kau ina mataveilewai, qai vakasukai tale mai. Na cala era cakava e bibi, sa qai mai tiko tale ena koro ka vakalevutaka na leqa. E vinakati me dua na lawa e vauci ira, me ra bau lai vakavulici, baleta ni sa bibi na cala.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Taro vinaka ya ia e sega ni okati tiko na loma ni nodatou lawa koya kau wavoki tiko qo.

MR. R. SILATOLU.- Au sa vakatura tiko.

LEWENIVANUA.- Tokoni.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, bera ni dua tale na taro se vakatutu, au veivuke ena vakadewa ni Tikina 52. Na basulawa ni sikanamu oya na "breeding of mosquito," na kena susugi na namu, na kena laurai ena nomu tikotiko, na wai e tawa tu ka sucu kina na namu. Mataqali va qo e dau vakavuna na dengue.

Dredre tiko na matanitu o Viti me kureitaka na dengue, ni veiyabaki ga e dau yaco kina na dengue outbreak. E vakalailaitaka na rawaka ni matanitu oya na lailai ni saravanua era gole tiko mai noda vanua, vakalevutaka na revurevu ni kena veitauvi tiko na veiyabaki. Na lawa qo e buli me vakatautauvata: kevaka e laurai na nona tikotiko ni biuta vakaca tu na benu ka susu kina na namu, ena kovuti koya na tiki ni lawa oqo, Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

HON. A. BIA.- Au a vakamacalataka mai liu na sasamaki ena loma ni koro. Kevaka o sasamaki tiko, o raica na vale e yasa ni dua tale e sega ni sasamaki, levu kina na container kei na tyre e susu kina na namu. Oti, vuka mai na namu, mai kati ira na sasamaki tiko, ka vakadewa na mate ni dengue. Oya na vuna e lewai kina ko ira na lule tiko ena vuku ni kena sagai na tiko bulabula ena loma ni koro. Vinaka.

MR. P. BAI.- Au na kuria na itukutuku ni Turaga ni Koro i Lomanikoro. Au vakatututaka ni veigauna e biu na bainivuaka, sa tiko na kena itukutuku vei Tabana ni Bula. Vakaevei kevaka e volekata na gaunisala e vakayagataka na lori?

Noqu koro - loma ni Yavusa o Nakabakaba. E voleka na gaunisala ni lori, era tuva kina na bainivuaka. E dua beka na lawa e vauca? Kevaka e sega, au vakatututaka me tau talega na totogi vei ira na gone era biu bainivuaka i bati ni gaunisala.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vaka e ka vou tiko vei keitiou na nomui vakatutu. Au kerekere me dua e tokona. Sa lewe ni noke ni lakolako lesu baleta e vakabibitaki tiko ena loma ni lawatu oqo na lomanikoro. Kevaka sa yaco i igaunisala e via ka vou ya, me na dua e tokona na vakatutu ya.

LEWENIKORO.- Sa tokoni.

MR. M. RAOMA.- Dua na vakatataro me baleti keimami na Turaga ni Koro. Kevaka e sega ni tiko na lawa vei kemudou, rawa ni noqu vakatutu me baleti keimami na Turaga ni Koro. Baleti ira na lewenikoro, ni dau kacivi na bose vakoro se cakacaka vakoro, era tu ga me vaka ni ra tu ena dua na freehold. Kevaka e rawa, me biu e dua na lawa me vauci ira. Au vakatututaka tiko yani.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ia tiko nomudou village bylaws ni koro? Koya lako curuma na Tabacakacaka ni iTaukei?

MR. M. RAOMA.- Koya qo e sega ni muri tiko. Sa ra veivakararamataki na valenivolavola ni yasana. Eso era taura tu ga na nodra dodonu me vakasausataki na dodonu qo.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na ka keitou rawa ni vukei kemudou kina me sa vakatututaki mai.

MR. M. RAOMA.- Sa vakaturi saka tiko.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

HON. A. BIA.- Vei kemudou na Tabana ni Bula, ena vuku ni veivakararamataki vei ira na lewenikoro. Keitou tiko mai Nausori ena noa, dua na iyaloyalo e boroi ena dua na taro. E tukuni kevaka e dua na leqa ena loma ni bai ni town boundary e Nausori, na veivalevale e tiko iloma. Kevaka e tolu na kudru e soli vei Matabose ni Koro e Nausori, qai laurai ni sega ni caka e dua na ka, sa na lako cake na kudru ena matabose e qarava na lawa. Kevaka ratou gole mai me vakavinakataka na leqa, na isau ni cakacaka ena sauma na Matabose ni Koro e Nausori. Ia, e vakaraitaki ena iyaloyalo ni tiko vakoro.

Kevaka sa lako yani na kudru vakatolu vei Bose ni Yasana, se vei Turaga ni Koro, se vei Turaga Roko, sega ni caka e dua na ka, gole yani na kudru vei Tabana ni Bula. Dou qai gole mai, dou cakava na cakacaka vinakati. Na taro: kevaka me vakavinakataki na septic tank se dua na keli, o cei ena sauma na kena isau?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, honourable Members kei kemuni na veiwekani. Dua na taro momona e gole mai qo. Vakabauta honourable Member qo sa rawa ni kuria na vakatutu ni Komiti, na kena ciqomi ni oti na Clause veivosakitaki mai Nausori. Me dua ga: "In case of Fijian villages, any works undertaken to be covered by o cei dou vinakata me covertaka?" O koya e nona na leqa se Matabose Vakoro. Baleta ni Matabose Vakoro e sega ni yadrava, me biu toka me covertaka na costing.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa ciqomi tiko na vakasama oya baleta keitou sa rogoca oti mai na noa sa na wili tiko me neitou kaukau lesu na vakasama ni vakatutu kei na kena tokoni. Vinaka saka vakalevu.

MR. M. RAOMA.- Tiko sobu Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, dou tiko na lewe ni Komiti ni Palimedi kei na Tabana ni Bula. Na Tikina 63: "tiko sobu na totogi raraba ni basu bylaws." Dua na kauwai ena tikina makawa qo e Rewa, na Bose ni Tikina sa oti mai Tavuya vaka e veicalati tiko na ka e tukuna na

Tabacakacaka ni Ovisa kei na veika keimami maroroya ena neimami koro me baleta na kena vakaduri na village bylaws.

Dua na leqa: na gunu e curumaki mai ena loma ni koro. Na neimami lawa ni veikorokoro voleka ni tautauvata tu, me kakua ni curumaki na gunu ena loma ni veikoro, baleta ni levu na kalelevu e yaco kina. Ratou na Tabacakacaka ni Ovisa ratou tukuna : "e rawa ni kauta mai, mai gunuva, kua ga ni vakasausa." E veicoqacoqa na tikina oqo. Rawa ni dua na kena vakamacala ena tikina oqo.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ena via gole mai na tabana ni bula na "obstruction", se me vakatututaki mai me dua na kauwai ni Komiti qo. Tabana ni Bula rawa ni vosa madaga baleta na obstruction na tabana oya?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, honourable Members kei na veiwekani. Na lawa vakaturi oqo e nanumi me kau mai ena vanua ni veiqaravi, vakataoni se koro vaka-vavalagi. Kevaka e dua e vakatakukudru, lai complain i Valenivolavola e Nausori, gole mai na vakalesilesi me cakava na inspection. O taukei ni vale e vakasavi koya, se sereka na koli me ciciva na vakalesilesi. Oya e oka tiko vaka obstruction ena lawa ni vakalatilati se vakatatao ena veiqaravi ni vakalesilesi.

E vauci iko kina na lawa, rawa ni totogitaki e $500. Kevaka o vakalatilati ena vuku ni mate veitauvi me vaka na COVID-19, ka o vakalatilati vua na vakalesilesi me kua ni veiqaravi ko na totogi ena $10,000. Vinaka ni rawa ni dou sauma $10,000 na veiwekani. Na lawa oqo e kovuta na vakalesilesi kei na nodra veiqaravi, kevaka e dua e vakatatao se vakalatilati, ena vauci koya na totogi oya.

HON. A. BIA.- Au kila ni Turaga Roko ena kila vakavinaka na vakamacala oqo, ia me vakamacalataki tale ga na village bylaws sa vakamatanitutaki. Na ka e rawa ni vakayacori, e dina na ka e tukuna na ovisa ena vuku ni lawa e qaravi ira. Io, sa vakamatanitutaki na village bylaws, na koro ga e rawa ni vakaqaqacotaka se vakaukauwataka na kena nanumi me vakamuri. Kevaka o sega ni vakamuria vakarua se vakatolu, sa rawa ni vakagalalataki mai na koro.

Ena vuku ni lawa ni iTaukei Affairs Act, e tiko na dodonu me rokovi na vakatulewa ni veiliutaki ena noda koro, yasana se itikotiko e biu vakalawa. Sa itavi ni lewenikoro na kena vakaqaqacotaki se vakaukauwataki na lawa me vakamuri vakadodonu. Vinaka.

MR. A. SENIKUTA.- Suka lesu tale kina vosa e vakadewataki tiko na "nuisance." Qo e dua na health hazard. Dau veiqaravi ena loma ni Tebara na kabani ni basi na Lutui kei na vo ni kabani ni basi e qaravi keimami. Na kubou ni basi sa vakaleqa na neimami bula. Oya au tukuna ni sega ni nuisance, sa health hazard. Au vosa ena itotogi, au vakatura me laveti cake na itotogi vei ira qo.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. R. SILATOLU.- Tiko vei na lawa e vakaraitaka tiko na Vukevuke ni Minisita ni sa vakadeitaki vakalawa na village bylaws. Ena neimami veikorokoro keimami sa vakaduria na Komiti ni Yadrayadravaki ena kena yadravi na basulawa. Dua na leqa e sotava na Komiti ni ratou vesuka e dua na tamata. Kevaka e mateni se sauma lesu mai, e caka vua na vakarau kaukauwa me veiganiti kei na kaukauwa e solia mai. Ia, na cala vakalawa ni biuta vakalawa, vesu tale kina na Komiti ni Yadrayadravaki.

HON. A. BIA.- Na iTaukei Affairs Act e sega ni solia edua na lawa se kaukauwa vua na Komiti ni Koro me vakayaco tovo kaukauwa se veivakasauraratakí kevaka e dua e cakava na cala. Erua na vosa au vakayagataka: na vakamatanitutaki sa ciqoma na matanitu ni village bylaws me tiki ni veiqaravi ena

loma ni koro; ia na kaukauwa ni veivesu e soli ga vua na Tabacakacaka ni Ovisa. Ratou vauci vakalawa, e oka ga vei ratou na lawa ni veivesu se na kena kau na lewenivanua ena mataveilewai.

Vei kedatou na komiti ni koro, kevaka e yaco e dua na leqa, tou lesu ga ena lawa ni matanitu, na kena kau na cala ena siteseni ni ovisa. Keda na Komiti ni Koro, kevaka e tiko e dua na tamata tubu ni dra, qarauna na yalomu me kakua ni yaco na kisi e tukuna tiko o Turaga ni Koro. Vinaka vakalevu.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- Mr. Chairman, Tikina 39 qo edua na totogi e toso cake mai na $20 kina $2000. Na ulutaga ni bula raraba oya na veneral diseases, na mate e dewa ena veiyacovi. Kevaka e dua e tiko vua na mate qo qai nakita me vakadewa tale vua e dua, na totogi mai na $20 sa toso cake me $2000.

Na gauna keitou se tubucake tiko mai kina, dua na marama sa tiko vua na mate qo dau mai tiko vei keitou. Sa veisau, sa lotu, keitou nanuma ni sa veisau. Ia ni oti vica na bogi, sa sneakout mai vale, sa lako tale i taoni, lai veiyacovi se moce vata kei na so tale. Na mataqali va qo, ni sa kila ni tiko vua na mate, na totogi mai na $20 toso cake me $2000.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na vakamacala raraba ni Tikina 39 na kena laveti cake na itotogi. Kevaka e dua sa vakadinadinataki vakavuniwai ni tiko vua na mate HIV se AIDS ena loma ni itikotiko, sa tukuni mai na Tabana ni Bula me tiko vakadua ena loma ni 14 na siga. Kevaka e voroka na veiyalayalati, wavoki, vakadewa tiko na baca, oya na ka bibi e tiko ena loma ni lawa.

Na Tabana ni Bula e tiko vua na kaukauwa me lako mai me laurai, ka rawa ni totogitaki se biu valeniveivesu. Baleta ni gauna qo sa dewa vakatotolo na mate ni veiyacovi yavutaki ena HIV kei na AIDS, sa lako curuma tiko na noda vanua. Oya na vanua e lako mai kina na lawa e vakamacalataka tiko o honourable Tuicolo ena Tikina 39.

MR. R. SILATOLU.- Na Tikina 55. Keitou kila vinaka na neitou bucabuca e Rewa, na gaunisala ni veitosoyaki ena neitou uciwai, na taxi ni Rewa dau veigoleyaki i wai. Au vakatautauvatataka kei na loma ni taoni: ni ra cici na lori ka over speed, totolo na tabana ni lawa me qauqauraki. Vakacava na neitou uciwai, na veitosoyaki ni waqa? Sega ni dua na lawa e vauci ira tu.

HON. A. BIA.- O na kila vakacava ni over speed dua na waqa?

MR. R. SILATOLU.- Keimami sotava tiko ena so na gauna sa vuka saraga vaka na waqavuka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au tomana walega na vakamacala nei Turaga ni Koro, e tikoga qo na veitosoyaki ena delanivanua mamaca. Kevaka ko nanuma me wili me waka tu ni lawa qo ni sa na vakatututaka mai.

MR. R. SILATOLU.- Sa vakatututaki saka yani.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. M. RAOMA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, na taro a taroga na Turaga ni Koro mai Lomanikoro me baleta na vakau waqa, ke rawa ni biu talega kina na neimami kauwai. Na Bose ni Tikina sa oti qo e vakamacalataka na rorogo ni basi mai taoni, sa vaka ga e dua na valenidanisi sa toso tiko. Na rorogo ni vakatagi e lako tiko ena basi. Sa tiko talega na neimami waqa, ke rawa ni biu kina eso na lawa vaka talega oqo. Kerekere, sa vakatura tiko

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. A. SENIKUTA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, da lesu tale ena mate dewa sa vakamacalataki oti. Sa toso vakatotolo ena bucabuca qo na mate dewa ni veiyacovi. Dua na leqa keimami kunea ena veiqaravi vei ira na lewenivanua, na Turaga ni Koro kei na Nasi ni Koro, ni sega ni soli na dodonu me vakadewataki mai o cei e tauvi koya na mateca vei ira na dau veiqaravi ena koro. E kauwaitaki vakalevu na nona dodonu e tauvi koya na baca.

Au vakatura kevaka e lako mai na koro e dua sa tauvimate, me vakadewa na mate qo ena koro. Kevaka e rawa, me soli talega na kaukauwa vei Turaga ni Koro kei Nasi ni Koro, ni sa tauvi koya tiko na mate ni veiyacovi na HIV.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, ni tiko na lewe ni bose kei na lewenivanua. Au duavata kei na kauwai e lave tiko mai na siga vinaka ni kua. Au kila ni tiko e dua na tiki ni lawa e qarava na nodra taqomaki o ira sa laurai ni tauvi ira na mate. Na HIV and AIDS Act e maroroi ira na tauvi AIDS, me kakua ni dusi se vakuwai.

Au vakabauta ni yaco ena loma ni koro na outbreak HIV and AIDS, ka sa dodonu me sagai me kilai na yacadra baleta ni ra lako wavoki tiko. Na lawa vakatutu qo e vauci ira kevaka sa kilai ni tauvi ira na mate ka vakavuna na veiyacovi, sega walega na HIV and AIDS, ia eso tale na mate e vakadewa ena loma ni koro.

Au vakabauta ni yaga me veisau na HIV and AIDS Act me dolavi, me rawa ni kila na Nasi ni Koro se Turaga ni Koro o ira sa tauvi ira tiko na mate qo.

MR. P. BAI.- Na Bose ni Tikina e vakayacori mai Narocivo, Tavuya. Au a kauta cake kina na vakatutu me dua na vale ni wawa (mortuary) me tiko ena neitou valeniwai, me baleti ira na lewenivanua era dau leqa mai na tai ni wai e Rewa. Keitou dau yaco sara i Korovou ena gauna ni nodra kau na wekai keimami. Kevaka e rawa, me dua e tiko voleka ga me vakarawarawataka vei keimami na kai Rewa. Sa vakatura tiko. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka ya edua na vakatutu e sega ni tiko na kena kau wavoki tiko na lawatu qo. Au kerea me dua e tokona.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. P. DOBUI.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Dobui)

Au via taro saka ga vei rau na Tabana ni Bula ena Tikina 41 – sega ni matata na lawa me baleta na maroroi vulagi ena veivale madaga. Ke rawa saka ga ni vakamatataka na ibalebale ni tikina qo. Vinaka saka.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, tiko na lewe ni matabose kei na lewenivanua. Vakavinavinakataki na taro e tarogi mai. Laurai ni lawa e vakayagataki tiko qo na lawa ka buli ena 1935 me baleta na itikotiko. Eso na ka e sega ni wili iloma, ni sa yaco mai na 1939 kei na gauna eda sa tiko kina qo. Me vaka na Airbnb, na veimataqali itikotiko sa soli me renttaki, e sa wili iloma.

Levu na complaint e ciqomi ena Tabana ni Bula baleta na itikotiko dau soli me renttaki ka sega ni tuvaki vinaka na vale, standard ni vale, se vale lailai. Oya na vuna sa vakaukauwataki kina na lawa me ra register kece na vale era vinakata me renttaki, ena loma ni taoni kei taudaku, me laurai vinaka na tutu

ni vale ni bera ni soli me renttaki. Wili kina na itikotiko vaka na Vualiku ni vanua, Mua-i-ra ni vanua, o ira na mai musu dovu.

Na nodra itikotiko e temporary, ia e wili iloma baleta ni dau ciqomi na complaint mai Vualiku ni vanua ni ra tauvi typhoid na mai tiko ena vale vakarautaki me ra tiko kina ena gauna ni cakacaka. Me tuvaki vinaka na vale, valelailai me vakarautaki, kei na veika kece me baleta na nodra tiko kina, se temporary.

Na lawa vakatutu oqo e wili kece me tuvaki vinaka na veitikotiko ni bera ni soli me tawani. Vakabauta ni sa matata na sau ni taro.

MR. M. RAOMA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, tiko na lewe ni bose kei na Tabana ni Bula. Dua na kerekere vakabibi me baleta na neitou vale ni vakasucu e Nausori. Macawa rua sa oti, a usa noqu goneyalewa me lai vakasucu, ratou saga e Nausori qai sega ni rawa, tukuna ni levu na gone. Mani cicivaki i Suva, tukuni me lai sele, ia lai vica na aua sa sucu e normal delivery noqu goneyalewa.

Tukuna ni levu na vakawelewele vei ratou na Nasi ena vanua ni vakasucu i Nausori. Kerei me vakavinakataki na veiqaravi. Na gauna e tiko kina i Nausori noqu goneyalewa, rua tale nona itokani eratou davo vata tiko ka sa mosi tale tikoga. Na valenibula mai Nausori e baba Iloilo, rai yani o goneyalewa vica na marama Nasi eratou taba talevoni, qai vosa ca e dua vei rau na goneyalewa tkoya mosi. Kerei me vakavinakataki na veiqaravi ena tikina qo. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kerea ke rawa ni biu mai vakatutu sega ni tiko na nodatou veitalanoa na ulutaga bibi qori.

MR. M. RAOMA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose au sa vakatura saka tiko.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ratou sa rogoca tiko, ka rau tiko e rua nai cavacava ni lewa ni veitalanoa oqo. Na veisau ni lawa oqo e sega kina na nodratou kaukauwa, tiko ga ena ligai keitou na Komiti ni sa yaco yani kina matanitu. Sa ciqomi.

Kerei honourable Bia me na cavuta na vosa ni vakavinavinaka ena vukudra na Sipika ni Vale ni Bose Lawa.

HON. A. BIA.- Sa tiko sobu na Turaga ni Vanua, Turaga Roko Tui, kei na lewe ni koro na marama kei na turaga ena siga vinaka ni kua. Taumada, sa lesia na iLiuliu ni Bose vei au meu tauca na vosa ni vakavinavinaka ena vukudra na Turaga na Sipika ni Vale ni Boselawa ena noda vanua, ena vuku ni veiciqomi. Keitou ciqomi nai vakalesilesi mai na Vale ni Boselawa, ratou i na Tabana ni Bula, ka tiko talega na veiqaravi mai na Vale ni Boselawa me keitou veivakararamataki ena nomudou dela ni vanua vakaturaga.

Me vaka sa tukuni oti, ena neitou veiqaraqaravi vakavanua, e dina ni tubu eso na vanua dodonu moni gole kina, tiko na itavi vakoro, osooso vakavuvale, ia ni ko ni digitaka moni gole mai, moni mai vakarorogo, ni cau ena veitalanoa me tarai cake na Viti vinaka ena veisiga vinaka ni mataka. Sa ka levu na vakavinavinaka. Ni mai tiko mai dua saka tiko na vosa ni vakavinavinaka lekaleka sara, sa vakasaka tiko ya na kena levu.

The Committee adjourned at 12.47 p.m.

VERBATIM REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE BUREBASAGA COMMUNITY HALL, REWA ON 12TH JUNE AT 2.40 P.M.

Present

2. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	-	Chairman
6. Hon. A. Bia	-	Member
7. Hon. A.T. Nagata	-	Member
4. Hon. S. Kumar	-	Alternate Member
5. Hon. K.K. Lal	-	Alternate Member

Apologies

4. Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure	-	Deputy Chairperson
5. Hon. P.K. Bala	-	Member
6. Hon. V. Pillay	-	Member

Submittee:

1. Mr. Watisoni Vakalutukadi	2. Ms. Ulamila Dirabe
3. Mr. Joeli Kavilo	4. Mr. Ulaiasi Davu
5. Mr. Alipate Vuidreketi	6. Mr. Mitieli Vute
7. Mr. Lemeki Cirikiwasa	8. Mr. Josua Nalewakalou
9. Mr. Amani Naivaluwaqa	10. Mr. Ketesi Waqa
11. Mr. Jovesa Vaileba	12. Mr. Panapasa Tadea
13. Mr. Netava Kabuta	14. Mr. Niko Bukarau
15. Ms. Lite Radakua	16. Ms. Miriama Vui
17. Ms. Miriama W	18. Ms. Laisani Toga
19. Ms. Eta Vakanawa	20. Ms. Litia Mataceva
21. Ms. Iva Vuidreketi	22. Ms. Laisa Senibulu
23. Ms. Verenaisi D	24. Ms. Iva Rokomokoti
25. Ms. Salanieta M	26. Ms. Melaia
27. Ms. Suluia Sei	28. Ms. Loraini
29. Ms. Alesi	30. Ms. Matilda Mary
31. Mr. Eroni Rokoloa	32. Mr. Neumi
33. Mr. Mesake	34. Mr. Iosefo Avimeleki Qionitoga
35. Mr. Iosefo	36. Mr. Biu Vakaloloma
37. Mr. Nemani	38. Mr. Tevita Tabua
39. Mr. Setareki Nasoki	40. Mr. Iliesa Vuidreketi
41. Mr. Joseva Waqa	42. Mr. Manieta Tui

Ministry of Health

3. Mr. Luke Vonotabua	-	Acting Chief Health Inspector
4. Mr. Toga Vosataki	-	WASH Coordinator

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tiko nai tikotiko vakaturaga ena loma ni nodatou itikotiko vakaturaga, ka dokai ka rokovi kina nomuni liga ni veiqaravi ena loma ni nomui Palimedi me mai tiko ena nodatou itikotiko vakaturaga ena yakavi vinaka nikua. Na nodra ilakolako na Turaga na Sipika ni Vale ni Boselawa. Keitou dabe tiko qo na leweni Palimedi, keitou dabe veicurumaki tiko – na nomuni matanitu vata na to ni veisaqa.

Nomuni Palimedi e ono na kena Komiti lelevu dauniveiqaravi. Dua vei ira keitou na Komiti sa tiko ena yakavi ni kua. Qo na Komiti ni Bula raraba kei na veika e wavolivolita. Keitou kauta tiko mai e dua na Bill - Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 ni 2026, ka tekivu ena 1935. Ratou tiko talega na yakavi ni kua na itaukei

ni lawa qo na Tabana ni Bula. Rau na veivuke ena kena vakamacalataki kei na kena vakararamataki na lawa oqo. Sa vakadewataki vaka vosa vakaitaukei, ka vakabauta ni s ana yadua tiko na copy.

Eda na veitalanoa ka veivakararamataki ena tabana e nanumi me vakavou. Na Bill e yacova ni 69 na tabana duidui, ka yaga me vakavinakataki. Sa yabaki 90 ni kua, ratou kaya na Tabana ni Bula eratou tovolea vakaukauwa me veisau na lawao qo me ganita na gauna vou eda sa bula kina edaidai. Vakabibi ena bula savasava, bula ni cakacaka vakoro, na kena itavi kei na ogaoga e vuqa na ka e tiko ena Bill, ka dau okati tu ga kina na veikoro lelevu.

Sa raica na Matanitu ni yaga me toso na veiqaravi kina taudaku ni veikoro lelevu, me rawa ni da vauci vata ena dua na lawa vakabibi me baleta na bula savasava. Noqu itavi ga meu dolava na kena vakasama, au na kerei ratou na noqu itokani me ratou na vakamacala talega.

HON. A. BIA.- (Vakacamalataki koya o honourable Aliki Bia)

Vakalekaleka ena vuku ni veivakararamataki me kauti keda vata mai me dolava na veitalanoa ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi e kau mai na siga ni kua. Me vaka sa vakamacalataki taumada, sai koya na lawa me baleta na qaravi ni bula kei na tiko savasava ena veikoro, na Public Health Act se Public Health (Amendment) Bill.

Dina na ka e tukuna na Liuliu ni Bose, 90 na yabaki na kena tu na lawa oqo. Ena gauna oya, na veikoro e sega ni oka, ia na veisau oqo sa biu me wili kina na lewenivanua taucoko e Viti. Kevaka o taroga, ena yaga vakacava vei au keu tiko ena koro?

Au kauti keda vakalekaleka na kena gole mai na COVID-19. Mai yaco na COVID-19 na gauna se tiko kina na lawa oqo kei na so na mate dewa vakatotolo dau veitauvi ena noda veikoro, ia e sega ni dau curu vakatotolo na Tabana ni Bula. Na veisau qo e solia na galala ni veiqaravi, vakarawarawataka vei Ministry ni Bula me curu vakatotolo ena koro kevaka e yaco na mate me vaka na typhoid, na mi ni manu, kei na mate dewa totolo eso.

Ena 90 na yabaki sa oti, eratou dau muria na gaunisala ni veiqaravi ena Valenivolavola ni Yasana se Tabana ni Itaukei, waraka na ivola, na Turaga Roko, se na veivakadonui, dina ni sa laurai tiko na mate. Oya e dau vakataotaka na veiqaravi. Ia na lawa oqo e sega ni ovata na lawa makawa, ia e vukei keda ga me da vuli mai na COVID-19, me tu vakarau kevaka e yaco tale na mate dewa vakatotolo.

E dua tale na lawa vakaturi oqo e baleta na taqomaki ni wainigunu. Na ivurevure ni wainigunu, na kena vakadrodroi, me taqomaki vakavinaka. Kevaka e dua e benuca se vakadukara na wainigunu ka vakavuna na tauvimate, e rawa ni vauci ena lawa oqo. E tiko talega na totogi iloma. Ena 90 na yabaki sa oti, na totogi e $2, $50, se $100. Ena veisau qo, sa toso cake kina $500 se $1000. Na totogi qo e deterrent, me vakavuna na kena vakamuri na bula savasava kei na qaravi ni bula ena veikoro.

Meu tinia, dua talega na yasana me da raica kina na kena kau mai na lawa qo: taura ga na yaloyalo – ena vica na yabaki sa sivi, na noda veivalenibula e dau kudruvaki ni dau oso yani ka sega ni vinaka na veiqaravi. So na gauna e sega ni veiraurau na veiqaravi ni Nasi kei na iwiliwili ni lewenivanua, se tukuni ni sega ni veirauti na wainimate. Ia na veika kece ratou vakayacora na Tabana ni Bula, qo na kena iwalewale “they have taken a proactive approach” mai na noda gole yani vakayauyau i valenibula.

Na lawa qo e tarova koso na kena dewa eso na mate eda rawa ni tarova ena noda veikoro ena vuku ni kena qarauni na tiko bulabula kei na savasava. Vakabauta ni sa matata, tiko tale oratou na noqu itokani me ratou na qai vakamacala kina. Au vakavolekataka me rawa na noda veitalanoa ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi e kau mai na siga vinaka ni kua. Vinaka vakalevu.

. HON. K.K. LAL.- (Vakamacalataki koya o honourable Ketan Lal)

I believe Honourable Aliki Bia has explained the importance of this Bill. As I mentioned earlier in the community today, there is nothing bad in this Bill. It is for the benefit of our people.

The previous Act we had was from around 1935. It is a very old Act, and the Bill before us — Bill No. 4 of 2026 — is a very modernised Bill. By "modernised," I mean it contains the latest rules and regulations that will help us, help your children, and help your community members to be safe from diseases and public health issues.

For example, the previous Act had no restrictions or enforcement on certain health issues in our village communities or settlements. This new Act now gives public health officials the chance to come and help you. It will help us become a healthier and safer society.

For instance, the way we build septic tanks, dispose of rubbish, or manage chicken pens will now be done in a more organised manner. In the past, when you were young, you never heard the word "COVID." There was no COVID, no Hantavirus, no swine flu, no bird flu. These diseases are new to our modern world. This Act, or Amendment, is designed to protect us from such diseases.

At the same time, it helps us create safer neighbourhoods, a safe environment, and clear regulations so that you can build better, more organised facilities for yourself, your family, and future generations. This is what the Bill is all about.

I understand you have a document written in the iTaukei language. Apologies — I can understand a little iTaukei but cannot speak it, so please forgive me. However, after the session I will be available if you have any questions, and I will be happy to answer them.

Thank you very much.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o honourable Nagata)

Vakabauta ni sa vakamacalataka vakavinaka na Bill o honourable Bia ena yakavi ni kua, vaka kina o honourable Ketan Lal. Au na sega ni taura na noda gauna, au na vakamacalataka ga na Public Health Act, edua na lawa makawa sa oti beka e 90 na yabaki. Na vakatutu e kau mai kina me vakavinakataka na lawa sa tu, me rawa ni veiraurau ena bula eda sa tiko kina nikua, vakauasivi ena totogi.

Eso na totogi ni veilawa era saqata na lewenivanua sa toso cake, me vaka sa vakamacalataka oti o honourable Bia mai na $20 kina $2000. Au kila ni tiko eso na lomatarotaro vei kemuni ena yakavi ni kua, ena soli na gauna moni taroga mai na Komiti vaka kina vei ratou na dauniveiqaravi mai na Tabana ni Bula.

Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Chairman)

(Vakamacalataki na mata mai na tabana ni bula)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na gauna qo au sa solia kina na gusu ni vosavosa me da veitalanoa. Au kerekere Ratu medatou veitalanoa na rarama ni ulutaga ni lawa vakaturi oqo me veisautaki. Na gauna keitou na vakasokomuna wavoki e Viti, Rotuma, Rabi kei Kioa, na veika e gadrevi me vakararamataki kina na lewenivanua, ka ciqomi talega na nomuni vakatutu kei na taro. Kevaka oni vinakata moni cau kina veitalanoa ena yakavi ni kua, laveta ga na ligamuni me na kau yani na gusu ni vosavosa.

Matai ni ka, ni tukuna na yacanamuni kei na koro ni cavu tu mai kina kevaka e lako mai na loma ni tikina se yasana. Ni tukuna mai ke yavutaki ena lavelave, kevaka oni vinakata moni vakamacala, vakatutu se taro, ena vakasama levu ni veivakararamataki.

Ena taura e tolu na vula na neitou wavoki e Viti ena vuku ni lawa qo. Sa katolu ni siga nikua keitou vakila na veiqaravi kei na veika keitou sotava. Au sa kaya vei ira na itokani na saluwaki ni lakolako qo, ka yaco mai mo ciqoma, na kena cakacakataki kei na veika eso mai taudaku, baleta ni da mai qarava na itavi ka nuitaki keda mai na Turaga na Sipika ni Vale ni Boselawa.

Sa dolava na noda veitalanoa raraba.

RATU W. VAKALUTUKADI.- Dou tiko na vakalesilesi vaka kina vei kemudou na lako mai na Tabana ni Bula. E dua ga na vakatataro: ke rawa ni vakamacalataki me ra kila na lewenivanua na cava e bibi kina me mai rogoci na domoi keimami na tu ena koro?

Kena ikarua, sa oti e 90 na yabaki me qai raica na Matanitu ni sa dodonu me dua na veisau. Au kila ni sa curu mai eso na mate vou kei na ka e basika. Na taro levu: cava e 90 sara kina na yabaki? Cava sa qai lako mai kina qo na galala me mai rogoci na domoi keimami?

Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ena rairai yaga me da rogoca na domodrau na Tabana ni Bula. Tabana ni Bula kerea moni sauma mai rua na taro oqo. Kena dede, cava dou kauta mai kina ena itikotiko tiko na taudaku ni korolelevu?

Vinaka vakalevu.

. MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Tiko na Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, tiko na lewe ni Bose yaco ni noda Palimedi, tiko na turaga kei na marama. Sa vakamacalataki tiko na Public Health Act, sa oti beka e 90 na yabaki. E rua na sasaga a vakayacori: ena yabaki 2001 kei 2002, ni sagai me veisautaki na lawa oqo. Vakayacori na consultation, ia e sega ni vakacavari ena loma ni Vale ni Boselawa.

Na yabaki 2010, 2011 kei 2012 a dua tale na sasaga me vakavoutaki na Public Health Act. A caka wavoki na consultation, ia e sega ni vakacavari ena loma ni Vale ni Boselawa. Na vanua dodonu me kau kina na vakatutu me veisautaki na lawa.

Au kila ni sa caka tiko na consultation ena siga nikua, ka na tomani ena loma ni rua na vula mai oqo. Vakabauta ni tiko na process ni kena caka na lawa: consultation mai na Tabana ni Bula, na veika e gadrevi me veisautaki, kei na vakatutu mai na Non-Government Organisation (NGO). Eso na ka e volai ena loma ni Bill, sa biu cake yani i Cabinet me vakadonui na veisau. Ni oti, ena kau yani ki Palimedi, ka soli vei na Standing Committee on Social Affairs.

Ratou sa tiko ena yakavi ni kua me ratou kauta wavoki e Viti taucoko, me rogoci na domo ni lewenivanua, na ka eda nanuma me vakatutu, me veisautaki se me wili ena lawa. Sa vakatututaki nikua me da veitalanoa kina.

Au kila ni na taroga tiko se cava e sa kau mai kina na koro ena siga nikau? Me vaka sa vakamacalataka na lewe ni Komiti ni Boseyaco, e dua na tiki ni lawa e tiko ena Public Health Act, na Section 140, e sega ni okati kina na koro vakaViti. Oya keitou sa vakatututaka me veisautaki, me kovuti kina na veikorokoro kece e Viti.

Levu na gauna e levu na kudru, levu na complaint e yaco yani ina Valenivolavola ni Tabana ni Bula: bai ni vuaka e tiko ena yasani koro, manumanu e tiko ena loma ni koro, waica ni valelailai lako yani ena dua tale na vale. Eso na kauwai se kudru e lako yani ina valenivolavola ni Tabana ni Bula, ia e dredre me keitou curuma na loma ni koro baleta ni sega ni vakatara na lawa me curuma na Tabana ni Bula na lomanikoro me lai enforce-taka na Public Health Act.

Kila ni tiko na lawa nodratou na Tabana iTaukei, na iTaukei Affairs Act, kei na bylaws ni veiyasana taucoko. Ia au kila ni tiko eso na malumalumu, keitou sa nanuma kina na Tabana ni Bula me vakatututaka cake na application ni lawa qo, na Bill, me da okati kece kina na lewe iViti: veikoro, veitikotiko vakagalala, loma ni taoni, wili kina o ira na informal settlement.

Na veika me baleta na veitauvi ni mate dewa ena noda vanua e Viti, dau vakarautaki ena veivula na tukutuku vakasokomuni me baleta na mate dewa e tauvi keda tiko. E laurai ni levu na itaukei era tauvi dengue fever, typhoid, kei na mi ni manu. Oti dua na vula, e laurai ni 70 na pasede nai taukei era tauvi dengue, 60 na pasede ni tauvi typhoid era taukei, kei na 80 na pasede ni tauvi mi ni manu e taukei. E laurai talega ni levu na

itaukei era dau kau yani i valenibula levu ni sa bibi tu na mate, ka vakatautauvatataki vata kei ira na vo ni kawa tamata.

Na kauwai levu e tiko ena Tabacakacaka ni Bula, oya na kena vakasamataki me okati na veikorokoro vakaitaukei ena loma ni Public Health Act. Na yavu ni lawa qo oya na kena maroroi na noda veiyasana kei na bula ni lewenivanua. E laurai ni levu na ka e wavoliti keda e vakavuna na mate dewa: kevaka e sega ni samaki vinaka na vanua, ena sucu kina na namu, vuka mai na namu ka kati keda tale na lewenivanua. Kevaka e sega ni maroroi vinaka na manumanu kei na benu, ena rawa ni vakavuna na mi ni manu. Na benu e sega ni vakasavasavataki vinaka ena rawa ni vakavuna na lago me qitora na kakana ka vakavuna na tauvimate. Na vakaso ni wai e sega ni maroroi vinaka ena rawa ni contaminatetaka na wai gunu ka vakavuna na tauvimate.

Na lawa ni Public Health Act e tiko mai na 1935, e vakaraitaka ni kevaka e raica e dua na vakalesilesi ni sa tiko na container e vakatubura na luveninamu, e rawa ni soli na fine lailai. Ia na Bill vou e vakasaqarai tiko oqo, e vakalevutaka na totogi me vakavulica na lewenivanua ena kena bibi na maroroi ni vanua. Kevaka e raica na vakalesilesi ni sa tiko na wai ena container, ena soli na notice me maroroi. Kevaka e sa tiko na luveninamu, ena toso cake na totogi. Na inaki levu oya me taqomaki na bula ni lewenivanua mai na veimate dewa.

Na Tabacakacaka ni Bula e vakayagataka vakalevu na ilavo ena nodra qaravi na tauvimate. E tiko talega na veimate e sega ni dewa, ka vakavuna mai na draki veisau, vakayagataki sivia ni yagona, tavako, kei na kakana sega ni bulabula. Ia na veimate dewa e rawa ni tarovi kevaka e samaki vinaka na noda tikotiko. Oya na sasaga levu ni matanitu, me vakatautauvatataki na lawa vou me okati kina na veikoro vakaitaukei, me taqomaki kina na bula ni lewenivanua.

MR. CHAIRMAN- Nuitaka Ratu ni sa saumi na nomuni taro oya?

RATU W. VAKALUTUKADI.- Dua na lewa cecere na kena kawaitaki tiko mai na bula ni turaga, marama se lewenikoro yadudua. Na taro levu ga ena muria tiko na gaunisala qo ena veigauna kece, vinakati me vakacurumi mai se ratou sa bose ga na lewe ni Palimedi era sa kila ni sa dodonu qo, me sa biu sobu ga mai. Na kena bibi me keimami mai vakatulewa kina, sai koya na kena vakadeitaki. Dua na cakacaka levu na veilakoyaki ena loma ni tolu na vula, ka levu na cost ni veilakoyaki.

Na taro levu talega e tiko: kevaka sa va qo na Tabana ni Bula, vakacava tale eso na ka ena rawa ni basika mai muri, me vaka na veika e yaco tiko ena veiyasai vuravura ena siga ni kua, me soli na galala vei ira na gonevuli (cauravou se goneyalewa) ena curriculum vou e biu sobu vei ira. E laurai ni levu na itubutubu era sa loma tarotaro tiko ena kena vakatarai mai koronivuli na kena vakacurumi na lesoni vaka oqo. Na taro levu oya: ena veigauna kece e vinakati me dua na lesoni vaka oqo, se dua tale na kena lako curumi na mataqali lakolako vaka oqo?

HON. A. BIA.- Ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi, e dau kau mai ena loma ni Boselawa. Na gauna vata qo vei keimami na lewe ni Boselawa, keimami dau wasei tale tiko ena ono na Komiti e tiko ena loma ni Vale ni Boselawa. E tiko na Komiti e qarava na bula raraba - na Social Affairs; e tiko na Komiti e qarava na tabana ni lawa; e tiko na Komiti e qarava na veika e tu wavoliti keda. E vica na Komiti e gole wavoki tale tikoga qo ena kena kau wavoki tiko na lawa vakaturi.

Me vaka na veika ni vuli, eratou sa wavoki mai na Komiti ni Justice, Law and Human Rights ena vica na macawa sa oti, ka ratou kauta mai na Education Bill, na lawa vakaturi me baleta na vuli ena noda vanua. Na veitalanoa eratou vakayacora e wili kina na nodra qaravi na gone, na nodra ka ni vuli, kei na veika me baleta na koronivuli. Eratou sa vakasokumuna oti na itukutuku, ka sa vakalesui tale i Vale ni Boselawa me rawa ni vakadikevi na nanuma ni lewenivanua.

Ia kevaka e tu na leqa ka nanuma na Matanitu me vakatotolotaka e dua na lawa, e vakayagataki kina na Standing Order 51. Keda na lewenivanua eda oka ena vuku ni Yavu ni Vakavulewa 2013. Vei keimami na lewe ni Boselawa, ni gauna o vosa bubului o lako kina Vale ni Boselawa, o sa kaya ni o na muria na lawa ni Vale ni Boselawa, ka vakatokai na Standing Orders. Ena loma ni vola oya e tiko kina na Standing Order 51, e rawa ni vakatotolotaki kina eso na lawa kevaka e gadrevi me vukea na veiqaravi ni Matanitu. Ia kevaka e gadrevi me tauri na nodra nanuma na lewenivanua, keimami dau talai na Komiti me vakasokumuna na itukutuku. Vakabauta ni sa matata vinaka na kena vakamacalataki, Ratu.

MR. J. NALEWAKALOU.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, dou dabe saka tiko na lewe ni Matabose, dabe saka tiko na Ministry of Health. Dua ga noqu taro vei kemudou na Ministry of Health: na cava dou raica tiko ena lawa sa tiko qo me baleta na monitoring kei na enforcement? Oya ga noqu taro. Baleta ni levu na lawa e tu, sega ni kemudou ga na Tabana ni Bula, ia na veitabana kece vakamatanitu, e tu na lawa e sega ni enforcetaki ka sega talega ni monitortaki. Buli ga mai na lawa, sega na monitoring kei na enforcement. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka vakalevu na veivakadeitaki. Au kerekere me da veitalanoa tikoga ena vuku ni loma ni lawa kovuta tiko na Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 ni 2026. Kevaka e dua na vakatutu e tiko taudaku ni veitalanoa vuku ni vakasama keitou kauta tiko mai ena yakavi ni kua, koya ya e rawa ni lako mai me vakatutu. Kevaka edua e tokona, keitou na qai kauta lesu na gauna keitou sa lesu tale ki Suva, me keitou qai vakauta kina na tabana dodonu me sauma na taro oqo. Kevaka sa donu, rawa ni dua e tokona mai?

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni na raica na ilavelave kau wavoki tiko yani qo na vosa vaka-iTaukei, kevaka e dua na tabana o vinakata mo vosa kina, e lima tiko na drauniveva. O na tukuna mai e dua na kena vakaraitaki, me vaka na No. 4, na setup ni Central Board of Health, vata kei na kena ivakamacala. Oya me rawa ni da veitalanoa tiko ena dua na vakatagedegede eda raica kece tiko na vanua o ni vosa tiko mai kina.

MR. L. CIRIKOVERATA.- Tiko saka na Turaga Liuliu ni Bose e vica saka tiko na Public Health Act?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kerekere da vakamuria tiko madaga na veika e gadrevi tiko yani. e katoni kece tiko na veitalanoa oqo.

MR. L. CIRIKOVERATA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Cirikoverata)

Na Public Health Act edua ga koya vinakati me veisau se so tale tiko e vinakati me veisau?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na Public Health (Amendment) Bill No. 4 ni 2026 koya tiko imatada qo, sai koya ga na veisau ni ilavelave ena vosa vakaViti. Na ka dina e veisau oya na kena vakamacala, na vosa vakaperetania e tiko vei keitou. Keitou sa tovolea ga me vakarawarawataki vei kemuni na nomuni vinakata moni vosa kina, koya lako tiko yani kina na kena ilavelave, me rawa ni ko ni wilika. Keitou na qai tomana yani na kena vakasama rabailevu e tiko vei keitou, me vukea ga na nomuni taro mai.

MR. L. CIRIKOVERATA.- Vinaka saka vakalevu.

HON. A. BIA.- Ena vuku ni ka sa vakamacalataka oti o Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, qo na lawa taucoko e tiko ena Public Health Act. E 69 taucoko na lawa vakaturi me na veisau. Oya na 69 na veisau keitou sa vakamacala tiko kina

MR. K. RAIBEVU.- Me da vakavinavinaka na tiko vakanakoro ena lewa e vakayacori mai Palimedi, ni rawa ni mai vauci talega na veikorokoro. Ni da sega ni vauci tu ena dua na lawa, e dua ga e via cakava e dua na ka ena cakava ga ena nona lewa, ni sega ni kaukauwa tu na lawa me rau veiwekanitaki vata na Tabana ni Bula kei na Tabacakacaka iTaukei. Kevaka e vakakina, eda vakavinavinaka tiko kina. Turaga na Liuliu ni Bose.

HON. A. BIA.- Dua na vakaraitaki: sa vakamacalataka na Tabana ni Bula na sasamaki ena noda loma ni koro. Na siga Vukelulu keitou tiko mai Serea, e vakayacori na veitalanoa ena nodra vale ni bose vakoro, sa qai cavuti na vosa qo: “eso na gauna ni sasamaki ena loma ni koro, eso na vale sa sega ni rawa ni sasamaki.”

Ia na kena biu mai na lawa vakaturi oqo, kevaka o sasamaki vakavinaka ena nomu loma ni bai, ia e tiko kina na tyre kei na container e tawa toka iloma na wai, ka vakasucu tiko kina na namu, ena rawa ni vakavuna na tauvimate. Ni vuka mai na namu, mai kati kemudou na tiko savasava, ka vakavuna na mate na dengue. Eratou na lewai kevaka eratou sega ni sasamaka vakavinaka na nodratou lomanibai.

Oya na vuna e bibi kina na lawa ni tiko bulabula, me tara tokaga na noda bula vakoro, ka vakadeitaka na qarauni ni tiko savasava ena noda veikoro. Vinaka vakalevu.

. HON. A.T. NAGATA.- Na lawa vakaturi oqo, levu na lawa sa tiko rawa ena Principal Act. Na lawa vakaturi oqo e levu na totogi sa revisetaki, eso mai na $20 ka sa toso cake me $2000. Ena Tikina 39, e tiko kina e dua na totogi sa toki mai na $20 kina $2000. Na tikina oqo e baleta na veneral disease, oya na mate e vakadewataki ena veiyacovi. Kevaka e dua e sa tiko vua na mate qai nakita me vakadewataka tale vei so tale na lewenivanua, na totogi iliu e $20. Ia ena gauna oqo, kevaka e pasitaki na lawa qo, ena $2000 na totogi vei koya e nakita me vakadewataka na mate.

MR. K. RAIBEVU.- Vakananumi tikoga na veiqaravi ni koro - Mata ni Tikina kei na Turaga ni Koro. Dua na vanua keitou dau veicalati kina kei na Tabana ni Bula, oya na gaps ena vuku ni veiqaravi. E kila na lewe ni koro ni rabailevu na noda mandate ena iTaukei Affairs Act: na good governance kei na wellbeing (na nodra tiko vinaka na lewenivanua).

So na gauna, ni tara na vale ena koro, e dredre na nona curu yani na Tabana ni Bula me lai veivakasalataki. E dredre talega na kena vagolei yani na building code me tara na vale, na salasala ni wai, baleta na lawa. Tou raica na Tikina 16, vakabibi na 16 ena ivakarau raraba ni tara vale, tolo ni vale, me ra muria na lawa tuvatuva (Town Planning Act).

E dua na sabolo: lima na vale kama mai Naduria. Kama ga e dua, yaco yani na tabana ni boko buka, sa lai suiva na ka ono kei na ka vitu. Ena gauna va qo, ni yaco na leqa, keitou mai veibeitaki tale kina na vakalesilesi, ia na ka e yalani keitou tiko kina oya na vuku ni lawa.

Oya na vuna me da vakatura, me da tokona na kena qaravi, baleta me vakarawarawataka na veiqaravi ena vuku ni noda mandate ena iTaukei Affairs Act — wellbeing (na nodra tiko vinaka na lewenivanua). Ia e gadrevi vakalevu na kena curu yani na Public Health Act. Na Tabana ni Bula me vakaqaqacotaka na ituvatuva oya ena noda veikoro. Dua na gauna balavu gole tiko yani na Tabana ni Bula, ka yaco tikoga ena vuku ni tikina oqo. Vakatura tiko naTikina 16, Turaga Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa vakatura tiko mai na Turaga Roko na Tikina 16.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MS. U. DIRABE.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Ms. Dirabe)

Au kauwai tiko ena Tikina 39, ena kena vakatuburi na totogi mai na $20 kina $2000. Na noqu taro: cava e vakavuna na tubu levu vaka qo? Me vaka ni sa vakamacalataki tiko baleta na kena via tarova na basulawa. Ia, au vakabauta ni keimami na sega ni lai curu ivaleniveivesu kevaka keimami totogi. Keimami na tu vakavanua, sega ni tu vei keimami na ilavo, ia na ririko e tiko oya na levu ni talaidredre ena qai vakalevutaka na neimami kau yani ivaleniveivesu. Keimami nuitaka me dua tale na totogi rawarawa e soli toka ena tabana qo.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kerei rau na Tabana ni Bula me rau na veivakararamataki ena Tikina 39 koya na kena lawa 89 mai na $20 kina $2000.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose kei kemuni na lewe ni Boselawa, vinaka vakalevu na vakatataro. Na tikina qori koya sa qai vakamacala oti kina o honourable Nagata. Na totogi lavaki tiko qori mai na $2 kina $2000. Na tikina qori e kovuta tiko na mate dewa mai na veiyacovi. Kena ibalebale kevaka sa tukuna mai o Vuniwai ni sa tiko vei au na mate dewa ni veiyacovi, au sa kila tiko, au lai mocera tale beka edua na goneyalewa ikeri, gole tale dua na vale lai mocera tale dua na goneyalewa, ka na rawa ni vakavuna na nodra mate kei na nodra vakayalica nodra bula na lewenivanua. Iliu e dau $20 tu ga na kena totogi, ni $20 au rawa ni kitaka ni kua, au kitaka ni mataka, ia, au sauma e $20 sega soti ni na tarova na leqa. Na gauna qo o Viti na HIV kei na AIDs e kacabote sara tu ga ena noda vanua na kena sagai me sabai na nodatou vanua sa nanumi me biu e dua na totogi levu va qo - $2000 ke sega me ono na vula lai vakacagicagi tu mada i Naboro se i Korovou ena vuku ni tovo ca ni ko sa kila o qai cakava ga. Koya saka beka ya na sau ni taro, Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nuitaka vua na marama e taro tiko mai ni sa matata na sau ni taro oya. E rabailevu sara na ka e tukuni tiko kina. Ratou a taroga mai Nasigatoka na taro vata ga oqo, ia, ni sa saumi vakadodonu, sa ratou via kila tale ga me solia mai na Tabana ni Bula kina veitikotiko se Yasana se Tikina o cei era oka tiko na vuni tauvimate oqo. Sa titobu sara, vakabauta vei ratou na Tabana ni Bula vaka dau tukutuku maroroi, baleta ni sa tarogi tiko, sa na sauma tale ga na Komiti qo ena vukudratou na Tabana ni Bula. Au kila na kena sagai tiko ga na tiko savasava, tiko bulabula ena loma ni nodatou veikoro. Oya na takete naba dua tiko.

HON. A.T. NAGATA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, au via tarogi marama Dreu e vica e vinakata okoya me kena totogi okoya e vakadewava tiko na mate?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na taro e taroga tiko na wekaqu qo, noqu rai qo madaga e lailai baleta na bula ni dua na tamata e sega ni rawa me sauma na $2000 ke sa kaci na dauniveibuli. Vakamacalataki, ke lewe vitu se lewe walu sa oka kece tiko iloma ya, ke dou nanuma me vakatututaki me toso cake na kena katuba eda sa veitalanoa tiko kina qo.

MS. U. DUIRABE.- Au sa taura rawa na kena vakatuburi na itotogi, ia, dua ga na taro tale: kevaka sa tiko e dua i loma ni koro, keimami na lai ripotetaka vei cei? Kevaka keimami nanuma me sa lai ripotetaki.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kemudou na tiko ena koro, sega vei kemudou na kaukauwa mo dou kila o cei e tiko vua. Oya na vuna au a kaya kina mai Nasigatoka me solia mai na Tabana ni Bula na yacadra. Ena loma ni tikotiko, ko ira sa tiko ena lomanibai sa tiko vei ira na tauvimate qo. Kemudou na sega ni kila, au kaya tiko kina ni yaga me lako mai vei ratou na kena Tabana eratou sa dikeva, ratou sa vakadinadinataka. Kaya mada, nodatou koro e Burebasaga sa tiko e rua, yacadrau qo, kevaka e donu noqu nanuma, dau maroroi vei ratou na Tabana ni Bula me da kila tiko na taudaku ni koro lelevu. Na vuni kena tarogi, ni sa tiko na Komiti qo, sega vei ratou na kaukauwa vei keitou me keitou lai kerei ratou se vakatututaka na Tabana ni Bula mo dou solia na information koya vinakati qo. Nuitaka ni sa na via matata vakalailai ya.

HON. A. BIA.- Dua na taro ya me ra na repote ivei kevaka sa kilai?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, honourable Member, vinaka saka vakalevu na vakatataro. Na gauna e tekivu mai kina na mate qo ena noda vuravura, qai laurai ni ra biliraki vakatikitiki o ira na wekada, koya tauvi ira na mate qo. Eso e sega ga ni kila, eso e dewa mai ena icula, eso ena vuku ni veiwekani e cakava nona lewenivale, sa qai mai tauvimate kina okoya. Ia, ni sa vakadeitaki, sa qai vaka me ra biliraki tu se stigma. Ni caka na soqo, ni via lako mai okoya, cemuri laivi, lako lai tu vakadua, ke tiko vei iko na mate ca. Ena vuku ni ka ya, sa qai buli kina e dua na lawa - HIV Act, koya vakatabui kina me dua e tukuna ni sa tiko vei koya.

O Vuniwai, ni sa tara ga na vakadidike ni nona dra, sa raica ni sa positive, koya na tukuna vua: “Kemuni sa lesu mai na macala ni nomuni dra, kemuni sa positive tiko ena mate ni veiyacovi ni HIV.” O Vuniwai kevaka na lai veitalanoataka ena vanua ni gunu yaqona, ena vauci koya na lawa. E tabu sara ga ni dua e vakadewataka tale, koya ya e bibi tiko kina na totogi oqo. Koya ga sa kila tiko ni tauvimate, qai vakadewataka wavoki tiko.

Koya na vakatutu, koya vakamacalataka tiko o honourable Member, ratou sa vakatututaka mai Nasigatoka me sa veisau na lawa, me sa wili ena Public Health Act me tukuni mai, me vakadewataki madaga mai vei Turaga ni Koro se vei Nasi ni Koro kevaka e dua sa tiko ena loma ni koro e tauvimate tiko. Koya ya e drakidrakita tiko ena vuku ni kena sagai tiko me taqomaki okoya, kena karua sagai tiko me taqomaki o keda. Vinaka saka vakalevu.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, kerekere saka ga ke rawa ni semata vakalailai na veitalanoa. Tiko na leweni bose kila na veitalanoa e tukuni tiko qori: kevaka e dua sa tauvimate ena mate ca ni veiyacovi, ena lako yani i valenibula ena gauna e lai tauri kina nona itukutuku. Na yacana ena investigatetaki, ena qai tarogi vei koya o cei rau a veiyacovi vata. Na vanua ya, ena qai laurai kina koya sa tukuni tiko ni tauvi koya, qai vakadewataka tiko, na qai lako mai kina na veitalanoa ni rawa ni totogitaki okoya.

Na veigauna kece o na lako yani i valenibula, ena tarogi vakamatailalai vei iko o cei drau a tiko vata, se cava na itukutuku ya. E tukutuku bibi vei keitou na gauna ke dua e lako yani. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. I.A. QIONITOGA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Qionitoga)

Na Tikina 14, sega ni tiko edua na lawa matata me baleta na nodra taqomaki na dauveiqaravi. Au vosa tiko ena vuku ni Komiti ni Yadrayadravaki na Crime Prevention Committee (CPC). Ni vakayacori na vakasausa ena loma ni koro, era lako yani o ira era sa digitaki me ra yadrava na kena maroroi na koro, qai yaco tale mai na vakalatilati mai yasana ka dua, qirita na ovisa. Na nona siosio me tarai koya e vakasausa tiko.

A yaco na tikina qo mai Dreketi, yaco talega mai Waivou, noqu koro, ena vica na macawa sa oti. E sega ni dua na lawa me taqomaki ira na dauveiqaravi. Au raica toka na Tikina 16, au kerea, kau vakatura ke rawa ni dua na lawa me ra taqomaki kina na dauveiqaravi era sa digitaki ena noda veikoro me ra yadrava na veitikina sa dodonu me ra yadrava.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, na ka beka ga au rawa ni tukuna, ke rawa ni dou veisautaka walega nomudou rai na Crime Prevention Committee. Dou kakua ni cakava na cakacaka ni ovisa, ia dou tuvana ga eso na tuvatuva ena koro me vakalailaitaka walega na vakasausa. Me caka eso na vuli, sikovi so na vuvale, dou vakamacalataka na lawa ni koro, na gone tabu ni cakava qo. Me lako eso na focus group baleta ni itavi ni ovisa ena dua tikoga, kemudou na sega ni rawata ni cakava na veivesu mo dou lai mokuta e dua, ena vauci kemudou tale na lawa. Dou moica ga vakalailai na nomudou walewale, ni dou focus vakalailai ena nona prevention.

Dua na marama ni ovisa, dau vosa tiko totoka nona dau vakamacala. Vakamacalataka okoya na vakasausa ena koro, eso na ka ni lawa vei ira na tabagone, na ka va ya. Ena vinaka me na kau mai okoya. Vinaka vakalevu Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

RATU W. VAKALUTUKADI.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Ratu Vakalutukadi)

Na Tikina e 23 me baleta na septic tank. Na taro ga e tiko: kevaka e vinakati me veisau koya na lawa sa buli rawa tu, e vei beka na vanua me keimami kauta mai kina me keimami mai vakayagataka?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, Ratu, vinaka vakalevu na vakatataro. Me vaka e vakamacalataka tiko o honourable Member ena gauna sa qai tekivu vakamacala kina, e veiveisautaki na lawa baleta ni sa 90 na yabaki. Eso na vosa era tiko ena loma ni lawa qo, ni dua mada ga e wilika ena gauna qo, sa sega ni kila tale na cava na kena ibalebale. E tiko i loma eso na vosa me vaka na "cesspit". Me boko na "cesspit" me curu na "septic tank". Iliu na "cesspit" dau kacivi tu na "septic tank". Keitou sa nanuma me boko na "cesspit" me biu na "septic tank", me dua e wilika ga vakaoqo ena gauna ni kua sa kila ni tukuni tiko na "septic tank".

Ia, meu sauma na nomuni taro: na design ni "septic tank" koya sa approvetaka na Central Board of Health, era tu i Valenivolavola. Kevaka e dua e gole yani i Suva, taba tolu ni Namosi House, rawa ni lai raica. Ke sega, qai qiri yani na naba 2903675. Io, e tiko talega na design koya sa approve, vata kei na vanua o rawa ni kunea kina na design. Vaka e tiko e dua vei Roto Mold, me vaka na 500 litres, sa lako rawa tu na kena paipo, kau ga mai, dabe ira kece ya sa approve tiko. Au kerekere vei kedatou me da vakayagataka ga na design koya sa approvetaka na Central Board of Health. Baleta ni koya ya sa vakadeitaki ni na mai vakayagataki ena sega ni vakavu leqa vei keda. Kena levu saka, Turaga Liuliu ni Bose

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na tomana vakalekaleka ga na ka e vakaraitaka tiko na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula, vei kemuni na via tara vale vou. E tiko na loma ni lawa qo, kevaka o via cakava nomu septic tank, mo na lai vaqara mai koya sa vakadonua na Central Board of Health. Kevaka e dua na ka ena yaco, ke mani vakacalaka na paipo se cava, ena vakavu tauvimate tale vei ratou na vuvale tarava. Ratou kauta cake nodratou kudru, na mai laurai tale kina na mataqali septic tank o vakayagataka. E ka vou, eratou sa vakadonua oti na Tabana ni Bula se se bera? De na rairai yaga me sa cakacaka tu vakadodonu, caka vakavinaka me da veiqarauni baleta ni da tiko ena loma ni koro qo, eda dua tikoga na vuvale levu.

Eso walega na ka lalai vaka oqo, me vaka na manumanu, na kena sa dau maroroi na bulumakau, keitou sotava mai Serea. Mai Serea, ena siga, o sega ni raica e dua na bulumakau me lako e yasa ni koro. Ni bogi, sa lailai na lewe ni koro, sa levu na bulumakau era sa tiko i loma. Oya e dua na italanoa e rogorogo bibi vei keda. Cava na vuna? Na kena iwali, au qai kaya vei ratou: o kemudou sara ga na vakabulumakau. Na bulumakau koya e sega na yalona, tiko noda veiwekani, tiko na keda isema, nomu itavi kevaka o sa via vakamanumanu mo maroroya. Ke sega ni caka na kena bai, dodonu me vesu. Ke sa na yaco me lako yani, na kena kudru, ratou na basika mai kina na Tabana ni Bula koya vaka sa tiko iloma qo. Wili kina na bai ni vuaka, vaka kina na bai ni toa. Vinaka.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Ministry of Health, according to the law, is it required to have the same standard septic tank as approved, or can people also purchase the already-made ones from hardware stores?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, honourable Member, thank you very much for the question. Yes, the Principal Act states that any new design of sewer treatment must be approved by the Central Board of Health. The ones that are sold in hardware stores have, in most cases, already been approved by the Central Board of Health.

HON. K.K. LAL.- So, compared to the septic tank design you have, would it be more expensive than the already-made ones sold in hardware stores?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- No, we have concrete designs. They are working on models that are cost-effective for rural communities as well. One of these is the Roto Mold septic tank, which is 500 litres and comes with a connection.

HON. K.K. LAL.- The coral one is only for water, if I am correct. Coming from an engineering and construction background, the coral type that they use is only for urine passage. However, the waste or solid waste goes into the main septic tank for storage, and there is a slipway leading to the soak pit.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Yes, the treatment of sludge and wastewater is done in the septic tank, and the filtered wastewater then flows into the soakage pit for further treatment before it is released.

HON. K.K. LAL.- There is another problem with the soakage pit: you cannot just take coral out of the ocean. You still have to collect dead coral, and then you must pay the royalty fee and handle all those requirements separately.

MR. T. VOSATAKI- Honourable Member, now even river stones can be used. It mirrors what happens naturally when we cross a river or a creek—we feel something slimy on top of the rocks, and that is basically what we are trying to replicate in the sewer system. That slimy layer is actually a medium where bacteria live, and they feed on contaminants such as ammonia compounds in the wastewater. So, we are simply trying to reproduce that natural process in the system. Vinaka vakalevu, Mr. Chairman.

MR. A. VUIDREKETI.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Vuidreketi)

Taumada, vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni sa rogo tiko e dua na ivakaraitaki vinaka mai na nodatou koro mai Naduria. Au raica talega ni tiko na Clauses 14, 15, 16, 24 kei na 49. Na tara ni vale qo me da vakarurugi vei ira na local authorities se na voleka kina. Noqu trade, au dustman, au tiko talega ena koro qo, au taura rawa talega ni neimai dui korokoro e se bera sara ni subdivide me vaka e caka tu mai na koro vakavavalagi.

E dua na bolebole levu vei keimami ni dau lai reject tiko mai na droini mai na local authorities kevaka e fail tiko na site plan. Na taro ga e tiko, e vei na vanua erau na veitali vata kina kei na lawa vei ratou na Tabacakacaka ni iTaukei ena vuku ni tara ni vale vou ena noda veikorokoro? Au taura rawa ni vakaturi tiko mai na Clauses 15, 16, 24 kei na 49 e dua na vakavuvuli vinaka ni vakanadakui keda o Winston. Koya ya au kila ni dau vakaturi tiko mai kina na vei clause kece qo. Ena levu ni noqu duavata kina, au nuiqawaqawa tiko, kau loma

taro: keimami na vakarurugi talega ena veikorokoro me vaka na lawa eratou na vakatura mai na local authorities se sega?

Kevaka keimami sa tara e dua na vale vou ena koro, caka yani na kena droini, na caka vakacava na site plan ya? Na site plan, keimami kila ni tiko na kena DP number, tiko talega na kena CP number.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, vinaka vakalevu na taro. Qo e dua na ka e raica tiko na Tabacakacaka ni Bula, ni gadrevi me keitou vakavinakataka na kena supervisetaki kena matai, me vaka au sa vakamacala oti kina, me kakua ni veicagilaba kecega e ravuta tikoga na veikoro vakaViti baleta ni sega ni *up to standard* na vale eda tara.

E tiko na design vei ratou na Rural Housing, koya sa droinitaki oti tu, sa sitaba tale tu ga vaka idinia, koya eda rawa ni vakayagataka. Kena karua, e tiko talega na veivuke vei ratou na Rural Housing, na valenivolavola ni Turaga PA kei Turaga DO. Keda sega ni vakayagataka vakalevu tiko na tiko vakanakoro, de na lakolako ni sa vaka oqo sa na qai rawa ni da vakayagataka na veivuke ya.

Vei yabaki taucoko, era tukuna tikoga ni *under-utilise* tiko na funding ni Rural Housing. Na plan sa tiko, na sitaba ena vakaraica ga o Turaga ni Koro e dua na vanua e rawa ni allocate, biu ga yani na plan ena local authority, sa rawa ni mai supervisetaki sara tiko na kena tara na vale.

MR. A. VUIDREKETI.- Kena ibalebale ya sa na vakarawarawataki na approval ena kena soli mai sega tale ni vaka mai na korovavalagi?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Sega ni na gole tale i Town Planning. Na Town Planning ena sega ni lako mai ena loma ni koro vakaViti. Na Public Health Act ga e nanumi tiko me gole mai, me rawa ni maroroi ga na tiko bulabula kei na tiko savasava, vaka kina na kena caka vakavinaka na noda vale me kakua ni vakavu tauvimate.

MR. A. VUIDREKETI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose sa vakatura saka tiko na vei Clauses oya.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. N. BUKARAU.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Bukarau)

Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, tiko talega na lewe ni Boselawa dou tiko rawa, vakavinavinaka vakalevu na nomuni sa gole sobu tiko mai ena veivanua e Rewa ena veivakararamataki eso sa kau tiko mai qo. Ena macawa qo e lako mai vei keitou o honourable Sashi Kiran mai Vunisinu, vaka talega kina o ratou na Tabana ni Legal Aid ena vuku ni Constitutional Review Commission.

Ni kua, e tiko na Tabana ni Bula, dua na tikina bibi qo. Na ka ga keimami kawaitaka tiko qo, au sa mai raica tiko ena veivanua, kila ni keimami qai biuta yani na neimami vakatutu ena vuku ni onosagavulu vakacaca na ulutaga ni sa soli tiko mai qo. Vakavinavinaka ni soli kina vei keimami me keimami qai biuta yani na neimami vakatutu, ka sega ni sogo walega ni kua. Qai rawa ni taura toka eso na gauna me keimami qai rawa ni vakawilika tale vakavinaka ni da mai sota toka ena dua na gauna lekaleka vaka oqo, da veivosakitaka sara. Ia, sa vakavinavinaka ni sa vakaturi tiko eso na ka.

Noqu taro: tikoga na mate dewa levu koya tiko qo ni kua. Koya sa vakalawataki tiko qo, tou veivosakitaka oti tiko na tubu cake ni totogi ni mate dewa. Au raica tiko na Tikina e 33 : vakarau ni veiqaravi raraba me baleta na mate dewa. Edua na mate dewa levu tiko na gauna qo koya kacabote tiko qo tukuna tiko na Turaga Naita na HIV kei na AIDS koya kacabote tiko qo. Eda veivosakitaka tiko qo na nodatou saga me controltaki na mate dewa koya kauta mai na namu vata kei na wai koya vakaleqai. Ia, koya na mate dewa koya tiko qo koya vakatubura tiko na wainimate ni veivakamatenitaki, koya kacabote tu qo na kena revurevu kina neimami veikoro.

Keitou bose tiko na mataka ni kua keiratou na Tabana ni crime prevention mai veiratou na Tabana ni Ovisa. Sa rogo tiko mai kina ni ratou rawa ni vakaraitaka mai vei keitou; dina ni sa rogo tiko ike ni na sega ni rawa, ia, ratou na vakaraitaka ga mai vei keitou na wiliwili ni tamata era HIV kei na AIDS tiko ena loma ni Tikina, ratou na sega ni rawa ni vakaraitaka okoya tiko ena loma ni koro. Ia sa rogo na vakamacala sa vakaraitaka

mai o Turga Naita ena vuku ni international law e kovuta tiko na tikina oya. Me vaka o ni sa tukuna oti keimami dua tiko na vuvale levu. Koya nanumi tiko na stigma ya e rawa ni ka vulagi vei keimami. E tiko na na lotu, tiko na neimami mataqali, tiko na neimai tokatoka me ia na veitaqomaki ena vuku ni tikina qo.

Kena ikarua saka ga au na via vakaraitaka na nuiqawaqawa ga e tiko saka vei keimami. Na controltaki ni wainimate ni veivakamatenitaki. Keimami raica tiko na nodratou sasaga tiko na ovisa kei na mataivalu me ratou vakalailaitaka, keimami qai raica tale tiko na nodra talaci tiko ko ira sa chargetaki, keimami loma leqa tiko kina. Ena vuku ni sagai me controltaki na mate dewa koya tukuni tiko oqo. Na wainimate ni veivakamatenitaki e kauta tiko na mate dewa. Na icula koya ra wasea tiko na neimami, ko keda ga na itaukei eda leqa tiko kina, sa oso tiko kina na bakava, oso na valenibula ena vuku ni mate oqo, qai sega ni vakayacori tiko vakavinaka. Keimami loma tarotaro vakalevu na neitou crime prevention ena Tailevu South vata kei Rewa East na kena sega ni vakayagataki. Vakabauta sa ulabaleta sara tiko na ulutaga, au kerea tiko kina na veivosoti, ia, na kerea tikoga meu na vakaraitaka na nuiqawaqawa e tarai keimami tiko ka sema vata tiko kei na mate dewa vata kei na Public Order Act ko ni sa vakaraitaka tiko qo. Keimami tokona tiko e levu na ka oni sa vakaraitaka tiko mai, ia, keimami nanuma ga me rawa ni kovuta talega na ka levu koya keimami nanuma tiko qo me da vakaitavi taucoko kina saga tiko qo na matanitu vata kei keimami na lewenivanua na kena vakalailaitaki na mate dewa qo.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au kerea ga mo ni biuta mai vakatutu baleta na nomuni vakamacala e tiko na taudaku ni veitalanoa ni lawatu koya vinakati tiko qo me veisau. Ni vakatura mai me sa na tokoni me na tiki ni neitou veiqaravi levu ena vakasokomui me kau veiratou na kena tabana.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. P .TADEA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Tadea)

Ena vuku saka tikoga ni bula. Au kila ni vakasama saka qo e gadrevi meu mai vakaraitaka ena vuku ni veika sa wavoliti keda tu na gauna qo. Na sitoa era sa vakaraitaka saka tiko e vica na rairai vinaka ni ka era taleitaka na gone me vaka na lolly, totoka ni ka era raica sa kauwai tiko na lomadra.

Na kena karua saka na veivalenibula. Kila ni tiko saka qo na valenibula iNausori. Cava saka nomudou rai me baleta na canteen sara tu ya? Nomudou rai na Tabana ni Bula sa vakadeitaki saka tu vaka lawa ena vuku saka ni veikakana eso sa volitaki saka tu me baleta na nodra dau gole saka yani na tauvimate ena vuku ni nodra lai qaravi, ra dabe saka tiko na veiqaravi me baleta na nodra vakarautaka tu na canteen vata na ka era volitaki tiko ena loma ni sitoa.

Na ka saka au via vakabibitaka tiko ena vuku ni ka levu sa yaco tu na gauna qo, eda beitaka tiko na veiyacovi, so e vu saraga na mai na kakana vovou sa lako tiko ena noda vanua me vaka na lolly pauta, koya eda sa raica tu ena veisitoa ena gauna oqo. Cava saka nomuni rai kei na nomudou vakadidike na Tabana ni Bula me sa vakadeitaki tu me volitaki ena noda vanua? Kena levu saka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au sa na vosa tikoga yani me vaka nai tutu vaka Chairman e sega ni tiko ena loma ni lawatu vinakataki tiko me veisautaki qo, na kena cakacaka ga mo ni laveta mai me vakatutu, tokoni keitou na qai lai vakacukelea na tabana e veiqaravi kina me baleta na nomuni vakatutu.

MR. P. TADEA.- Sa vakatura saka tiko.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

HON. A. BIA.- Au veivuke toka madaga na saumi taro ena vuku ni dua na veitalanoa erau vakayacora na Ministry ni Vuli kei na Ministry ni Bula ka sa vakalawataki na kena qarauni na canteen ena veiloma ni veikoronivuli. Na kakana edau volitaki vakauasivi na kakana talega dau vakasaqari vei ira na noda gonevuli ka ra dau voli vakasigalevu e koronivuli. E sa tiko na list ni veika e dodonu me na volitaki ena vei canteen kei na vei kakana eso e dodonu me volitaki ikoronivuli, e sa vakalawataki tu, sa tiko talega na totogi kevaka eratou cawiri yani nai vakalesilesi ni dau rai vuli se ratou na Tabana ni Bula ratou raica ni voroki na lawa ni veikakana

bulabula eso e dodonu me volitaki vei ira na gonevuli kei na vei kakana e tabu ni volitaki ena vei canteen era tiko ena veikoronivuli.

E sega ni dua na kaukauwa e tiko vua na Matanitu me lewa okoya e volivolitaki ena loma ni siti. E lewa ga okoya na leseni e soli vei ira na daunibisinisi yadudua. Me vaka ikeda na dau via caka bisinisi e nakoro, da tiko ena veitaudaku ni koro lelevu e tikoga na leseni ni o vakacicivaki canteen, tiko na leseni ni o volitaki ika, tiko na leseni ni ko via cakava eso na bisinisi ka sa tiko vata mai na yalayala se na ikovukovu ni veika ga e dodonu mo volitaka. Ia e tikoga na lawa qori na loma ni koronivuli me baleti ira na luveda ena vuku ni kena qarauni na nodra bula kei na tiko bulabula esa tikoga na veika e dodonu me volitaki ena canteen era tiko ena noda veikoronivuli taucoko. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. I.A. QIONITOGA.- Rau tiko na Tabana ni Bula, na vuku saka ni bucabuca qo ka ni gauna e taubi kina na uca sa totolo saraga na kena cere cake mai na wai. Na valelailai e tu vei keimami qo sa makawa, cere cake mai na wai kena ibalebale sa lako talega mai tuba na waica ni valelailai. Vakauasivi ni caka na somate ira na marama era vakayagataka na valelailai era vinakata ga me flush, flush, flush, vicasagavulu na marama curu iloma, qai oti na somate ya sa tiko vinaka dua na vale lailai ni vale ya ena levu ni wai sa curu iloma qai tau na uca sa lako mai tuba na waica.

Kerei tikoga na Tabana ni Bula ke rawa ni dua na walewale me cakava ke rawa ni biu toka me vaka toka i Luvuluvu se dua na bucabuca qo me voleka vei keitou ike me rawa ni kau mai kina na benu, lai biu vata ga vakadua, lako mai na lori mai bailtaka ituba se caka vakacava na loma ni bucabuca qo ko Rewa baleta na wai ni lako yani e lako ena vurevure ni bula iuciwai, lai caka tale kina na qoli, e tagavi mai na kakana, mai laukana, ira na gone lai sili kina, na mate dewa e veitauvi talega kina.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka dua na taro vinaka ya, vosota na wekaqu sega ni tiko na ulutaga levu eda veitalanoa tiko kina ni kua, ka ga keitou nanuma me rawa ni keitou vukei kemuni kina mo ni biuta ga mai vakatutu.

MR. I.A. QIONITOGA.- Au sa vakatututka saka.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na cavuta tiko na vosa ni vakavinavinaka. Turaga Ratu taumada keimami sa cavuta na neimami vosa ni vakavinavinaka levu na vuku ni nomuni veiciqomi na gauna lekaleka keimami basika mai kina na wekamudou mai na loma ni nomuni Palimedi kei na tabacakacaka ni veiqaravi ni matanitu ratou tiko talega na Tabana ni Bula.

Ni bera ni na qai vakayacori na neitou vakavinavinaka au gadreva meu vakaraitaka ga erua na ka leleka sara, na cawiri wavoki tiko ena via taura tiko e tolu na vula ena qai yacova na nodatou Yasana e tinikava ena vuku ni vakasama levu ni veiqaravi kau wavoki tiko qo. Kevaka ni nanuma ni dua na tikina e lutu koto, ni qai lai vakawilika vakamatailalai na lavelave sa tiko qori ka o ni nanuma me na mai tiki ni kena veisau na lawa tu oqo sa tiko oratou na neitou vakalesilesi, tiko na nodratou number ni talevoni, na email, viber na ka kece rawa ni qai vakasokomuna qai lave yani vei keitou i Palimedi me vaka tu na nomuni vakatutu, keitou na qai lai raica talega me tiki ni veitalanoa eda sa vakayacora tiko edaidai. Au nuitaka ni sa matata sara tiko ya. Au kerei honourable Bia me na cavuta na vosa ni vakavinavinaka ni Palimedi ni sa mai cava toka na itavi na yakavi edaidai.

HON. A. BIA.- Tiko sobu saka na Turaga ni vanua, sa tiko sobu saka na turaga, marama, cauravou kei na goneyalewa kei keda saka na lewenikoro, era sa tiko saka nai vakalesilesi ni nodatou Valenivolavola ni Yasana, taumada ena vukudra na Sipika ni vale ni Boselawa ni noda vanua sa taura saka na gauna vinaka qo ena vuku ni nodra veitalai na Turaga Sipika ni Vale ni Boselawa, vosa ni vakavinavinaka levu ni rawa ni cioqmi saka tu nai lakolako; au rawa ni kaya e curu botoilevu saka toka mai na gauna ni vakasigalevu ena sigalevu vinaka ni kua. Kere veivosoti talega de vakatotolotaki saka beka na vakasigalevu so beka era sega ni vakasigalevu vakavinaka sa kerea saka tiko na nomudou veivosoti.

Vakavinavinaka ena vuku ni veivakaturagataki dina ni tiko tale tu na oga e qaravi ena loma ni koro, tiko beka na oga ni veivuvale, tiko beka na oga dodonu me da na vakaitavitaki keda kina ni kua ia ni bau tikici toka na nomuni gauna ni nanuma mo ni cauraka na nomuni nanuma ena vuku walega ni kena sagai na Viti vinaka ena veisiga ni mataka vaka talega kina na kena qarauni na nodra bula oira na veisosomitaki vei keda ena veisiga ni mataka. Ni mai va qo na kena rairai sa ka levu na vakavinakvinaka.

Ena vukudra saka na Liuliu ni Bose era sa dabe na siga ni kua, na vukudra saka na lewe ni mata mai Palimedi, eratou sa dabe saka talega na vakailesilesi mai na Tabana ni Bula eratou dabe saka talega na vakailesilesi mai na Valenivolavola ni Yasana mai dua saka tikoga na vosa ni vakavinakvinaka lekaleka sara sa vakasaka tiko ya na kena levu. Vinaka saka vakalevu.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 4.05 p.m.

VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT NO 4. 2026

DATE: Wednesday, 11th June, 2026
VENUE: Nausori Town Council Chambers.

(1) Nasinu Town Council
(2) Nausori Town Council

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS AT THE NAUSORI TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBER ON THURSDAY, 11TH JUNE, 2026 AT 10.00A.M.

Interviewee/Submittee: Submittee/Interviewee: Nasinu Town Council

In Attendance:

1.	Mr. Rajesh Kumar	- Acting CEO
2.	Ms. Setaita Qalilawa	- Health Manager and Community Service
3.	Mr. Mosese Halofaki	- Acting Director Planning and Development
4.	Ms. Fazleen Ziya Ali	- Legal Officer
5.	Ms. Sahista Ali	- Clerical Officer
6.	Mr. Niyaz Mohammed	- District Advosiry Council (DAC) member
7.	Mr. Sujen Prasad	- DAC member, Tailevu
8.	Mr. Sachida Rao	- Chairman Tailevu District Advisory Council
9.	Mr. Kamlesh Mohan	- DAC member, Vuci South Nausori
10.	Mr. Nehoray Azan Al-Nazir	
11.	Mr. Sachin	- DAC member

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I would like to thank you very much honourable Members for your presence this morning, and the Secretariat with us. The members of the Nausori Town Council, as well as the Advisory Councils from the Central Division, mostly from the Rewa, Tailevu, and perhaps from the interior of Naitasiri.

I welcome you all to our very important meeting for today. The Standing Committee on Social Affairs is here, as you are also aware of the importance of the Bill that is ahead of us. Before we start our formality, I will ask honourable Bia to lead us with the word of a prayer.

(Prayer by honourable Aliki Bia)

(Introduction of Committee Members and the officials from Ministry of Health)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I believe there is a lot of interaction this morning. It would only be wise to know each other before we can start the presentation from the Nausori Council. Maybe I will ask the Advisory Council and the team from the Nausori Town Council to introduce themselves too, so that we will be mingling around as we move along to know each other well.

(Introduction of representatives from Nausori Town Council)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I believe the atmosphere is a bit healthier now. Before we get our public consultation, I believe there will be a change of programme this morning. There will be a public submission presentation from the Nausori Town Council. On that note, first I will introduce what the Bill is, in a very meaningful way, in terms of how the Bill goes. From there onwards, we will give an opportunity to the Nausori Town Council team to brief us on their public submission on a PowerPoint presentation, and I need to be corrected on that.

MR. R. KUMAR.- It is not a presentation, but a document.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Let us start with the purpose why the teams are here, or the Committee from the Parliament. We are the Members of Parliament. Even though we hold two hats, from the Government side and the Opposition side, but when we come as a Committee, where we form one of Parliament's six Standing Committees.

This Committee plays a very critical role in terms of how the transparency, the oversight of the Government roles, and its objectives on all ministries, the statutory organisation, inclusive of the Council, need mandatory to look at its annual reports. We are aware that when we talk about Parliament, this is where all the legislative works are done for the arms of the Government. This is where we script, renew and change the Bill. Other forms of the Bill that comes into picture have to go through Parliament. On that note, that is why we are here.

The Public Health (Amendment) Bill is in front of us. This is the Bill that was legalised or came to the picture from 1935. It is almost 90 years now, down the line. For the last Parliament, it was tabled in Parliament for the review of this Bill – the Public Health (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 4 of 2026). It was in place from 1935. If we talk about 90 years, there is a lot to be done.

The purpose of the Committee is to take this Bill around. We have done a bit of public submission in Suva two weeks ago, whereby, relevant stakeholders were asked to come and present to the Committee on how best they align to the Ministry of Health's amendment Bill, which is in front of us, that needs to be addressed, reviewed and revised. Holistically, there are about 69 clauses that need to be addressed. It is quite a huge task for us. Nevertheless, we have been tasked to do the work for the betterment of our people, the people whom we serve, the nation of Fiji and the future leaders of tomorrow who are coming, to take it from us, when we finish up there. That is the contingency in place that we are working on it.

When we look at the Bill, I hope that you have read the Bill and have some ideas about it. The Council may have both copies, the Principal Act plus the amendment Bill. The objective of this Bill is to strengthen public and environmental health governance. It is always the case, if we start with something, governance has to come to the picture first and foremost. How the governance will run on the basis of this Bill.

Secondly, to improve monitoring and enforcement mechanism in place. Remember, the time that you are in, and I am talking about 90 years back, you cannot align what is current on the ground. We talked about this legislation way back in 1935. At present, how we do things, how we do business, there are a lot of things that need to be changed.

Thirdly, to enhance preparedness and respond to communicable diseases. We talk about diseases, that is why we are here with this Bill, which is the Ministry of Health. There is a lot of interference when we talk about diseases that are coming on board. A very classical example is COVID-19. We all understand that. This is where they base their ideas – the objective on how best this Bill can accommodate any further interference if there is any other outbreak that needs to be addressed with urgency from the Ministry.

The area that we have to look at is to enhance preparedness and to respond, and the other one is to ensure safe water sanitation and waste management system. Here, we are talking about the people who are at the rural level. How they look after their safety water sanitation and manage their waste management system. The area that is in the Bill to update penalties to deter

noncompliance, if you look at the amendment, there are penalties that rise from $2 to $200, from $5 to $500, even up to $1,000. I hope that the Advisory Council plus the team from the Nausori Town Council are aware of all these penalties.

The last one on my list is to align the law with modern public health practises. That is the overall of what is inside the Bill. I hope our understanding on this is that will give us a very clear demarcated responsibility from the Ministry, the Government, stakeholders, the Council and the Advisory Council. We have a critical role to play. It is part of our agenda, that is why we are here this morning. Hopefully, after our discussion this morning on the Bill, it will become clearer to the people that we come and discuss it.

Another area that we need to discuss is the distribution of the information from here to the grassroot level. Hopefully, the Council will take that into consideration for the people whom we serve. The importance of the Bill is to get it down to the grassroot level and likewise the Advisory Council is here with us. Due to the essence of our time, hopefully, whatever is inspired today, will have some takeaways for everyone. While going around for another three months or so, if anything that you may seem deep to be incorporated in the Bill, not discussed here this morning, feel free to come back to the Secretariat or to the Committee through your written submission. That is an open exercise. This is a process to kick-start how we will go towards this Bill.

On that note, I will not take much of your time. I will give the opportunity to the Council CEO to brief us on what is in front of us. We might intervene to ask questions during the presentation.

MR. R. KUMAR.- We warmly welcome the honourable Members of Parliament, the DAC members and the Nausori Town Council team. We are very pleased and we welcome this opportunity to provide submissions to the Parliament Standing Committee on Social Affairs regarding Public Health (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 4 of 2026. We are honoured to be providing our submission, from Nausori Town Council.

The municipal authority is responsible for urban management, environmental health, sanitation, waste management, public spaces, community well-being within the Nausori municipal boundary. The Council recognises the importance of modernising Fiji's public health legislation to address emerging environmental and health challenges. For the information of the team, the boundary of Nausori Town Council spans from the Rups Big Bear bridge towards Lakena, whole of Nakasi, Nausori, Korovou Town, and we also service the public convenience at the Natovi Jetty as well.

The proposed amendments are timely and necessary, particularly in light of increasing urbanisation, climate change impacts, diseases, outbreaks, something similar to COVID-19 that we had, the illegal dumping that municipal councils face, not only for the township of Nausori, for the other 30 municipalities as well, pollution of waterways, one of the major concerns that we have seen flooding the drains of the municipalities across the country and growing pressure on public infrastructure and environmental resources. Two days back, we had the Ministry of Environment visiting us to provide us with the insights in the Council's contribution towards the assessments of the Environment Bill as well. We were also very fortunate to be part of that.

The general support for the Bill: The Nausori Town Council supports the overall objectives of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2026, particularly in its intent to:

(1) Modernise the Public Health Act of 1935. As we are all aware that this law dates well back and it is not of substance in the current environment and we are on towards 2026. There are a lot of changes in terms of environment, health, the compliances part and the regulations WHO, UNDP and the international area that, we, councils have to comply with.
(2) Strengthen environmental health management system is one of the major issues that the Council proposes.
(3) Improve coordination among public agencies, and we also call for the collaboration between the relevant agencies such as Health, Environment, Municipal Council, Legislative councils and the Government agencies to foster a relationship towards achieving such goals in terms of an amendment.
(4) We also propose that we have enhanced enforcement mechanism that we have seen that is not of relevance in the current years. We have changed quite a lot of things in terms of the municipality, health and environmental compliances, and the current Act of 1935 does not cater for the current situation.
(5) Increased penalties for offences that threaten public health. Two days back we had a meeting with the Ministry of Environment, where there is a proposal on the litter fines. I think it was well debated in Parliament, respectfully from the Nausori Town Council. We had also submitted to the Ministry of Environment for the increase of the litter fees from $40 to $200 through our Director of Community Services, Mr. Jitendra Singh. He had a very strong voice there in the Environment in terms of the increment of the Litter Bill.
(6) Address contemporary public health risk and promote greater community responsibility and compliance.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, what I have heard so far is, the Nausori Town Council is happy with the Bill itself overall and on the penalty aspect. We have a mindset that by having higher penalties, problems will be solved. This is in relation to the offender. However, I want to ask the Ministry officials here, do you not think it is also the responsibility of the municipalities. For example, if there are lesser rubbish bins around, why do you want to victimise the offenders? This is the time, because now there is an amendment Bill in front of us. I do not think, unless the Town Council can come up with some other opinions. By having higher penalties will solve the problem, I do not think so. It goes parallel.

At the same time the authorities in concern should also provide the necessary facilities as well. I have seen in the municipal councils in recent days, the absence of rubbish bins. So where are they going to throw the rubbish? You have to take this into consideration, how you are going to, as the municipal councils react to it. You have mentioned about the area. What is the current population of Nausori?

MR. R. KUMAR.- Approximately 60,000, but we have yet to come up with the census that will be coming in 2027. This is the census report of 2027. Just a response to the honourable Member, as far as the bins are concerned for Nausori Town Council, last year we had approximately 20 bins assigned to the municipality CBD area. This included Korovou as well. One of the biggest challenges that the Council faces is vandalism. We had eight substandard bins. The bins were all put up in Korovou, but if you go and see the current situation there might be hardly about two bins or three bins. We do maintenance, but over and over again the vandals is an issue.

HON. K.K. LAL.- You mentioned you allocated 20 bins. Out of the 20 bins how many were in Korovou?

MR. R. KUMAR.- No, it is apart from the 20 bins. This is for Nausori area. We had eight for Korovou and it was all installed on the main street. It is colour green. I think the DAC committee members would verify that we had put in bins there. The unfortunate part is, the day we had installed, the second day two were damaged. There were trucks that reversed onto it. The issue that we face in terms of the challenges is, we do maintenance, but the unfortunate part is, it is a recurring problem that we face. It is not only confined to Korovou, but also in Nausori, where we also had a situation where one of the segregated bins, that was sponsored by Tebara Festival was burnt. Someone threw in the cigarette bud inside. These are the certain things that we have to endure in terms of the safekeeping of this ...

HON. K.K. LAL.- If I may just add onto what the honourable Bala mentioned. Bins are not only required in towns. You can have bins in residential areas as well. I hope you may remember the previous matter which I raised regarding Nakasi. The place where the pile of rubbish was, you people picked it up after the social media chaos. Again, people have thrown rubbish there. There is no skip bins placed there. People come and throw it. They have no other option but to just throw it on the side of the road and then you will increase the fines.

Where is the Council's responsibility? If it is a recurring matter, those big bins can be allocated by the Council to counter that problem. Coming back to the town bins, are there options of having different types of bins for different places? Maybe the same bin in Savusavu Town is looked after very well, but in Korovou it is vandalised. Maybe you can have a different kind of bin, maybe a concrete structure bin that is not damaged.

MR. R. KUMAR.- Well noted, Sir. I think it is a very good opinion in terms of the structure of the bins, and very much appreciated. As far as the rubbish collection, as highlighted by honourable Lal, it is a reoccurring problem, and we are countering it with the solar surveillance cameras. We have currently installed five, we are looking at another five as well, on hotspot areas. We are targeting these hotspot areas in terms of the compliance part. Time and again, one of the challenges is that, we can issue a $40 fine, and it can reoccur three times or four times in a month with business people, when they throw trade waste. This is just an example I am giving.

You can fine them once, they pay $40, the next week they do the same problem, they pay another $40. The reason why we are suggesting that the increased penalty would be a deterrent.

(a) Promote greater community responsibility and compliances that we are currently holding. We are having awareness programmes and sessions with the community in terms of garbage collection and scheduled garbage collections. Anything that is coming apart from the schedule becomes an eye sore.

I think we will all agree that we have removed most of this garbage from the Nakasi area, but overnight it comes back. The compliance team goes out trying to find out who puts up this waste on the side of the road. The biggest challenge we face is, who is going to own up that we have done it. The very first day, as soon as we removed the load of garbage, the second day I did an inspection, there were two or three pawpaw trees lying down. When we tried to find who those people were, they did not own up. These are the things that the Council actually faces.

The Council believes these reforms will contribute significantly towards healthier, safer and more resilient communities throughout the country. Specific comments and recommendations that the Nausori Town Council suggests are:

1. Strengthening environmental health enforcement. The Council supports strong enforcement provisions for environmental health offences. Municipal Councils regularly counter challenges including:

    (a) Illegal dumping of household and commercial waste. This is a classical example that I have spoken earlier. Nakasi is a hotspot area. When you look at the bus stand from the bridge and towards Nakasi, you will find on a daily basis, there will be people irresponsibly dumping garbage along the bus stop areas. We collect it daily and it happens daily. These bins are not meant for these larger garbage bags, but you will basically find it almost every day, and it is usually done during the night. What we have noticed and we do surveillances, we also have found that these are vehicles from outside the municipal boundaries. We are trying to counter these issues with putting in more surveillance cameras.

    (b)Littering of public spaces and waterways. One of the major flooding issues that Nausori Town Council faced was the blockages at the back of the market, Waicuku Creek. We have done the desilting work and it is almost completed. It is just part of it. We found thousands of bottles in the creek. That shows the mindset of the people, the citizens, that needs to be changed. We saw cans, so we have a Return and Earn Strategy, where the Council buys back the bottles the cans at five cents and sells it to Coca-Cola at 10 cents. It is an incentive for the people not to throw these cans and bottles into creeks, even the drains.

    The FRA contractors, a month ago, had jetted the whole town drainage system and they found thousands of bottles and cans. We have pictures to substantiate this in our Facebook page. This is quite a worrying situation. It is the mindset of the people who has changed and we are trying to educate people that putting these bottles, plastics into the drainage system, it clogs the system, and it is a big challenge to the Council. We had just cleaned the whole CBD area with the FRA through the jetting process. It is a very costly process at the same time, but we managed to do the whole CBD area.

    HON, K.K. LAL.- How do the bottles enter into those systems?

    MR. R. KUMAR.- It is through the inlet of the drainage system. We are working with the FRA in trying to put in a grating system where this big residue does not seep into the drainage system.

    HON. K.K. LAL.- Basically mesh or something like that.

    MR. R. KUMAR.- In progress, Sir, with FRA and our team.

    MR. K.K. LAL.- Will that solve the problem?

    MR. R. KUMAR.- We cannot 100 percent say it will solve the problem because the larger drains like Waicuku, would not be able to cover it.

HON.K.K. LAL.- The Ministry of Climate Change, I believe, is starting with the trash boom project.

MR. R. KUMAR.- We already have one installed at Syria Park. The funny science is 27 kilogrammes of residue was collected in one month. The first month it was cleaned with 27 kilogrammes – that is a huge amount with plastic bottles, cans and other residue that was dumped. It is going to be a challenge in terms of Waicuku Creek because it is quite a wide creek, and for us to cover it, I think it is beyond the Council.

HON. K.K. LAL- Coming back to the problem, what is the immediate solution? If you are looking at public awareness as one of the solutions, nowadays it does not work.

MR. R. KUMAR.- Getting back to schools.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Getting back to schools or we need to upskill our game. If i walk out of this office right now, how many bins will I find along this street?

MR. R. KUMAR.- It is cleaned regularly on the far left...

HON. K.K. LAL.- How many bins will I find as a passer-by walker if I have a bottle in my hand to throw it in the nearby bin?

MR. R. KUMAR.- There is one in the corner at the junction. We placed these bins at hot spot areas where the foot traffic is more. When you look at this traffic in front of the Council, it is very little. Strategically, we placed these bins at the places where there is foot traffic.

(a) Improper disposal of construction waste. We had encountered a situation, where the dumping was done by one of the former mayors of the Council at Rewa River and this was highlighted by the Ministry of Environment at one particular point of time last year. We can see that people from the Council did not have that initiative. My apologies on that, Sir, I needed to highlight this problem. It was at the Rewa River site that became an issue that the Council faced at one particular time where we had to send a Compliance Team to have it removed immediately.

(b) Overgrown vacant properties are another area, where the vacant properties are not serviced by the owners. Sometimes these owners are overseas or in other districts and they leave their properties in a very deplorable manner. When the Council goes and trying to find the owners, they are not there. It becomes a challenge because of the overgrown mosquito breeding grasses, filth and a lot of things happening at these vacant properties.

HON, K.K. LAL.- To counter that usually councils can step in and cut the grass and then charge the resident.

MR. R. KUMAR.- We do that, Sir. It is a challenge because identifying the ownership becomes a problem. The Council recommends that the amended legislation clearly empowers municipal councils and authorises officers to:

(a) Issue infringement notices. We currently have litter officers across the municipal – approximately 18 trained litter officers for Nausori Town Council and they are based at the

bus stand, the market area and the CBD area. These litter officers book you in terms of how you dispose your rubbish. We have seen major changes in terms of their visibility in the Council vest or invest.

(b) Undertake immediate remedial action where public health risks exist. This is one of the proposals.

(c) Recover costs from offenders as honourable Ketan Lal has suggested, on the vacant properties.

(d) Suspend activities posing imminent health risks. We also have come across situations where residents together with commercial building owners discharging grey water, waste water into the drainage systems. We have come across some of these challenges as well, and we immediately issue compliance notice from the health sector and get a remedy, a rectification as soon as possible. Grey water is discharged from the sink and waste water as well. Leakage of sewage due to ageing infrastructure – we have found that the township needs a major overhaul in terms of utilities from WAF as well, Sir.

(e) Prosecute, repeat offenders efficiently. As I had mentioned in the term of CBD, where one particular business owner has been fined several times in a month just because of the $40, and it is a continuing thing. We suggest that if we increase the rate to $200 as per the Bill of the Ministry of Environment, I think that would be a deterrent for him to reoccur.

2. Increased Penalties. The Council strongly supports the increase in penalties. Current penalties under the Public Health Act 1935 no longer reflects the seriousness of public health offences and are often insufficient to deter non-compliances. The Council recommends that penalties be proportionate to:

(a) the severity of the environmental damage;
(b) risks posed to public health;
(c) repeat offending behaviour; and
(d) commercial gain derived from unlawful activities.

Higher penalty will encourage greater compliance and accountability.

3. Waste management and illegal dumping: Waste management remains one of the most significant...

HON. K.K. LAL.- I have a question. When you give notices to businesses, do they take you seriously?

MR. R. KUMAR.- Yes, Sir.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Do they pay on time?

MR. R. KUMAR.- Yes, up till date they have been paying on time.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Or have there been situations where they just let it go and let the arrears come up?

MR. R. KUMAR.- Not with businesses. They are compliant, Sir.

HON. K.K. LAL.- You mean, the first Town Council which has businesses compliant?

MR. R. KUMAR.- Once we give them a notice, a time frame, we revisit their businesses to find that there is compliance. Once we give them a compliance notice, we monitor them on the time frame of seven-day 7 notice or 21-day notice, we revisit them to see that there is compliance. I think that is a major way forward.

The Council recommends penalty to be proportionate in terms of the environmental damage. According to the Ministry of Environment, they also have penalties. We had a discussion two days ago with the team from the Ministry where they proposed on the first offender, second offender and the third offence. The penalties have increased and I think that would also be a deterrent if we work in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment.

In terms of the waste management, the Council recommends that the legislation should include provisions to:

(a) Address illegal dumping on public and private land. There are some hotspot areas. One is identified as Waituri, this is outside the town boundary. Also, Koronivia, as soon as you leave the bridge. These are all serviced by extended boundaries with the Council. We also have requests from outside boundaries to have surveillance cameras. It becomes a major challenge when we are currently servicing the municipal boundary. We also have requests from outside the boundary coming in. As far as practical, we as the Council try to assist, but we have limitations out there as well.
(b) Regulate waste transportation and disposal practises. We might have to understand, one of the biggest challenges for Nausori Town Council is taking up their waste from Korovou and Nausori right to Naboro on a daily basis. Ageing infrastructure, our trucks break down, the fuel cost, it is adding up to the Council's operating cost, but we are managing well there.
(c) Hold waste generators accountable for improper disposal. I think we have done that. The compliance and the notices have been given by our health team.
(d) Enable councils to recover cleanup costs. We have also discussed this opportunity where, if we do cleanup, we can give that cost back to the community, but the difficult part is identifying who these people are. What we learned from this irresponsible waste disposal is, people do not own up who threw the rubbish. If it is a neighbour, sometimes there is another neighbour who has the CCTV camera to substantiate, but on the other times, we do not have evidence. Unless we have evidence, then only we can find the person.

(e) Promote waste minimisation, recycling, resource recovery initiatives. Nausori Town Council has taken the initiative of Return and Earn, where we have given an initiative to the ratepayers, the community and the business-people. The opportunity to retain pet bottles and cans. We are also looking at an option of waste segregation prior to dumping at the Naboro landfill, where we will sort out the waste in four wards. This is the plan for the Council. We will sort out the waste through skip bins, segregated bins as recommended by honourable Lal. We have already that in place and working on that. Then our disposal to the landfill will be much lesser, that will also reduce our operating costs.

Once we have seen the pet bottles and cans being removed, there is a huge difference. Even our loading boys on the depot, who are servicing this garbage collection on a daily basis, also collect and separate these bottles and cans on a daily basis.

Special consideration should be given to protecting waterways, the drainage system, environmentally sensitive areas from pollution. As we all know, there is a Rewa River across us and there are streams and smaller drains in the vicinity of the municipal boundary.

4. Water safety and drainage management: It is another area. Nausori is particularly vulnerable to flooding due to its geographic location and proximity to the river system. We are all aware that Rewa River is just next to the municipal CBD area. Blocked drain, indiscriminate disposal of waste, pollution of waterways contribute significantly.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Normally, we get complaints from residents in regard to the blocked drain within the municipality, which comes directly under the responsibility of the Municipal Council. Where is the law where councils can be given notices by the Ministry of Health? Is there any such clause or provision? At the moment, we are talking about residents. What about councils? Do not take me wrong, I am not trying to signal Nausori Town Council. It is general ... Most of the time, we have complaints from residents in terms of blocked drains where breeding of mosquitoes take place. How do or are they exempted?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- The Bill is enforced by the town councils in the Municipal Council area. I hope that you understand that local authority and the urban local authority enforce the law. This Bill is enforced by the town councils in the town council area.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, through you. I know that. I had been through that. What I am saying is that, we are currently dealing with the amendment of the public. This is the time.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Honourable Member, can you allow me to finish. If you go back to the powers of the Board, it is mentioned there that the Board can oversee or supervise or issue or come and act on behalf of the Municipal Council. There are rules for the Boards, that is where when the Municipal Councils or the urban local authority and rural local authority do not enforce the law, that is where the Board will come in. I think it is in clause 5(c) and (d).

The Board may, in addition to the powers and authority, confer to it to exercise the powers and the authority vested on the local authority, to act within the district of the local authority. If the Board sees that the rural local authority or the council is not performing, the Board will come in.

HON. P.K. BALA.- How does the Board come in? How would they know that there is a blocked drain in that residential area? How would they know?

MR. T. VONOTABUA.- It is a complain that will come to the Board

HON. K.K. LAL.- How do they come to the Board?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- There are also complaints that comes up to the Central Board. Sometimes, they complain once, twice, but the third, they are cc'd up to the Minister for Health or the Permanent Secretary. That is where the Board will be informed that something is happening in that municipal council that is not addressed by the local authority. That is where the Board will come in.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Do you mean to say there is a separate budget for that Board to act on that issue?

MR. T. VONOTABUA.- No. They will come and discuss. As mentioned by the CEO, the Board will instruct the councils or the local authorities to institute the intervention that needs to be done.

HON. P.K. BALA.- When the Board has the overall power?

MR. T. VONOTABUA.- When the local authorities and the municipal councils are not enforcing the law.

HON.P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, through you, CEO, and the health officers here, are you aware of that Section? That the Board has overall authority, even though you have local powers at the municipal level. However, if you fail, there is someone sitting there who can direct you to clean that blocked drain. That is what we want to know.

MR. R. KUMAR.- Yes, Sir. To add on to the honourable Member's comments, when you look at section 12 amended (clause 12(3)), where the local authority fails to perform the duty outlined in subsection (2) within the time specified, the Board may –

(a) appoint a person to perform the duty;

(b) institute proceedings or take any action the local authority could have taken under this Act; and

(c) recover the local authority any expenses incurred in doing so, provided the expense is not recovered from another party or spent on an unsuccessful procedure.

We are aware of that, Sir. For the information of the team, since I have joined in, we have sent in a request to JICA, and I think it has been facilitated currently, for a backhoe digger and loader for the drain cleaning purpose. It would be utilised for the drain cleaning because the Council does not have any of that equipment currently. We had requested this last year, and I had been told that it is approved.

HON. P.K. BALA.- All fine and good Mr. Chairman, through you. I do not have any problems. What I am saying is that, it is only written here. There has to be a wider consultation so that ratepayers do not suffer. That is my point.

MR. R. KUMAR.- Noted, Sir.

HON. A. BIA.- To add on to what honourable Bala said, this Bill requires us, as local authorities, to up our game. If the public knows that within the amended laws, they have the power to complain further, if you do not do your job, then they have that avenue.

MR. R. KUMAR.- Well respected, Sir.

MR. T. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, I think that is also where we have the Director of the Ministry of Local Government, a member of the Central Board of Health so that he or she is also informed the councils are not ... However, if there is an issue then they will address with the council.

HON. K.K. LAL.-Mr. Chairman, coming back to clause 12(3), where the Local Government fails to perform the duty outlined in subsection (2), within the time frame, the Board may appoint a person to perform the duty. Does that mean not the council, someone else?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- That refers to the actual works that need to be done. In this case, the cleaning of the drains, you can then get the contractor in to clean the drain, and then get the municipal council to cover the cost after the work is completed. That is what the section is talking about.

HON. K.K. LAL.- So basically, you will do the job of the council and then charge the bill on them?

HON. A. BIA.- It comes under nuisance, under the new Bill.

HON. K.K. LAL.- The Central Board thing, the complaint that goes to the Central Board is very new to me personally, because I did not know that we can raise this to the Central Board Committee until I read this. I thought we can directly raise it to the council or to the Minister. Now it is there. There needs to be more awareness on this to the public. If the council is not performing when they are paying rates to them, they can come to the Board. Am I right?

HON. P.K. BALA.- I want to give one example. We need to be honest with what we are saying. Fiji Roads Authority – maintenance of street lights. Ratepayers expect the town councils to have that responsibility. However, when they come to complain to council, they refer to the Fiji Roads Authority. Who suffers? The ratepayers suffer. This is where I am coming from. In this one, I think there has to be a hell of awareness that if any municipalities in the country, fail to carry out such work where this nuisance is, you can complain to the Board.

MR. R. KUMAR.- Well respected, Sir. The Council recommends provision that:

(a) strengthens control against pollution of rivers and drainage system;
(b) improve interagency collaboration on drainage maintenance;
(c) support regular inspection of water sources,;
(d) enable prompt action against activities that compromise water quality; and
(e) strengthen preparedness for waterborne disease outbreaks following flooding events.

As far as this is concerned, we have a special team through the Commissioner Central Division where the Ministry of Waterways and the FRA health team is also invited and we regularly meet on a monthly basis to discuss issues of blocked drainages and floodings and how we can well counter through the relevant agencies. That is one way we managed to get the jetting of CBD, the Waicuku Creek clearance after we all worked together to see the real issues.

5. Institutional Coordination: The Council supports strong institutional arrangements under the proposed amendments. The public health management requires coordinated action between:

(a) Ministry of Health and Medical Services;
(b) Ministry of Local Government;
(c) Municipal Councils;
(d) Water Authority of Fiji;
(e) Fiji Roads Authority,
(f) Ministry of Environment and Climate Change;
(g) National Disaster Management Office; and
(h) other relevant stakeholders that can include the DAC and the members of the public as well.

The legislation should clearly define roles, responsibilities, information sharing, arrangements and enforced coordination mechanisms as well.

Climate Change and Emerging Public Health Risks: The Council recommends that the amended legislation recognise the growing impacts of climate change on public health including:

(a) increased flooding;
(b) vector-borne diseases;
(c) heat-related health risks;
(d) water contamination; and
(e) waste management challenges during extreme weather events.

The legislation should provide a framework for preventive action and resilience planning at national and local government levels.

Community education and public awareness: While enforcement is important, long-term success requires public awareness and behavioural change. The Council recommends that the legislation support:

(a) public health education campaigns;
(b) community cleanup initiatives;
(c) school-based environmental health programmes;
(d) public-private partnership; and
(e) community participation in environmental management.

As far as Nausori Town Council is concerned, we are currently in talks with the Ministry of Education to take up littering and solid waste management issues directly to the schools and create an awareness on a daily basis. This is one way we are tackling because what we have noticed, we can clean the bus stand three times in a day, but at 3 p.m. ending of school, there is a challenge that rebuilds by 4.30. It is like a war-torn zone, to be very honest. Three times a day, we clean the bus stand. The staff collect the rubbish. There are ample bins placed at the bus stand, but as soon as the school breaks, it reoccurs and we face the same issues.
Greater public awareness will reduce enforcement burdens and improve compliance outcomes.

Amendments to the Bill:

(a) For Section 19 amended part (a) to also include section 27 of the Town Planning Act. This is for the town boundaries because in section 7 of the Town Planning Act, it is for rural boundaries only. We also need it to be covered on both sides. Part (b) to clarify if it is for a full detailed plan.
(b) For section 30 amended part (d) to also include commercial and industrial buildings. I think it is not there.
(c) For section 92 amended (1A) pursuant to subsection (1) to also include to provide the approved building plan and to be vetted by the National Fire Authority and Occupational Health and Safety.

Support for local government authorities: To effectively implement the proposed amendments, the local authority will require:

(a) additional environmental health personnel;
(b) capacity building and training;
(c) access to modern enforcement tools and technologies;
(d) adequate operational funding; and
(e) improved data collection and reporting systems.

The Council recommends that implementation arrangements consider resource implications for Municipal Council and provide appropriate support mechanisms.

In conclusion, the Nausori Town Council fully supports the intent and direction of the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 4 of 2026. The proposed reforms represent a significant opportunity to modernise Fiji's public health framework and strengthen environmental health protection for present and future generations. The Council particularly supports stronger enforcement powers, enhanced institutional coordination, increased penalties, improved waste management provisions, and measures addressing emerging public health risks associated with urbanisation and climate change. The Nausori Town Council remains committed to working collaboratively with Government, stakeholders, communities to achieve healthier, cleaner, safer and more resilient municipalities throughout Fiji.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much CEO for the very in-depth presentation this morning. I believe you have discussed a wide portion of your presentation. Further moving forward, while we are still around, I believe there are other areas to address this morning on your business area. From the honourable Members, if there is any supplementary question to cover what we have discussed here this morning, because we have to give the opportunity to exit. The floor is open.

MR. N. MOHAMMED.- Thank you, Sir. This Waituri dumping, particularly if you speak about Nausori, because we are discussing about national, it is over a 30-year-old issue. Up till today, why it has not been stopped, and who is the person who is supposed to be stopping that? No one is bothering about it to stop that. Though people are going looking at it and complaints are there, but I do not know what is happening.

Secondly, it is the most important, where 50 percent of this issue is raised by stray dogs. That is not mentioned in your report, Sir. The stray dogs or wild dogs are culprit (I am sorry to say this). They are distributing the rubbish here and there. They open the bucket, they tear the plastic bags and are the ones who are supposed to be mentioned in the report. They are the problem creators in terms of putting rubbish here and there, because of cans in the bags and bins and the diapers.

Another thing, I have seen near the market where the large bins are kept, they are overloaded. I stayed there for two hours one day, I saw an undersized truck coming to carry the bin. He tried about 6 times or seven times blocking the driveway of the market, even then he could not lift up the bin and he went away. Where will people put the rubbish when the bins are overloaded? It will definitely come down, and beside that there is a creek. That rubbish will go in the creek. That is where the pile of rubbish will be collected, as the CEO has said 27 kilogramme of rubbish was collected. That rubbish is going to the creek when overloaded bin is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We have to do it one by one. Let us clear this question first. Answerable is the CEO, because we are talking about the Council here. If we need to come back to the Ministry of Health to see how it is aligned to this Bill, then we will do so on the way.

MR. R. KUMAR.- For the information of the team, it is the contractor that is removing the skip bins.

MR. N. MOHAMMED.- The first issue was Waituri dumping.

MR. R. KUMAR.- Waituri dumping, I think it is a national issue. A 30-year issue is a 3-decade issue that cannot be blamed on the current administrators. We are fully aware of this Waituri dumping. Time and again, Nausori Town Council has cleared the place and it reoccurs. We are looking at placing surveillance cameras. It is not an easy task moving outside the town boundary to get services to the rest of the citizens. It is a big challenge to the Council, but we definitely have removed that on a number of occasions.

There was a priest who last week, recommended that whether we can put a surveillance camera. The issue would be, if we put up a surveillance camera in Waituri, there will be 50 other places demanding for the surveillance camera. It is the mindset of the people that needs to be changed. If we can start off to deal with one place, the recurrent part would be another place. You can put a surveillance camera here, 50 metres further up, there can be another dumping site. It has happened. As soon as we placed in five cameras, this is one of the challenges we have noted, Mr. Chairman, as far as Waituri dumping is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I believe there is a huge responsibility for you outside your boundaries. We are all aware of that. This is one of the opportunities why this Bill is coming to the picture to cover all those loose areas. I will ask the team from the Ministry to give us some light on that.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- We are quite familiar with the Waituri dumping. Back in early 2018, the Nausori Local Authority has spent about $48,000 clearing the dump, but people tend to continue dumping because once they see that it had been taken away, they feel that "oh if we keep on putting, they will keep on taking. Unfortunately, at the end of 2018, the dissolving of the Local Authority, and this is in the amendment that the Local Authority is intended to be brought back and should take some load of the Nausori Town Council.

In terms of waste management in rural areas, clearing that area is not the solution. The solution is putting in place a waste management system that people do not tend to throw rubbish everywhere. If we provide the service, there will be no illegal dumping present. I think the Town Council is quite burdened with the extended boundary given that they look after the existing rate payers and the extended boundary. This is something that is proposed in the Bill. Once the Local Authority comes back, then we can address the issue by putting in place a rural garbage service to Waituri, Vuci and other residential areas that are there and that should be a more permanent solution.

MR. N. MOHAMMED.- I am contributing to this issue that if you see that rubbish over there, or other places dumping of illegal rubbish, it is mostly from the backyard garages and the small shops who cannot burn their curtains or whatever waste they have in that area, the residential area. They will find a place to dump that rubbish elsewhere. We have to go and see the people

who are operating garages in residential areas and shops, canteens, all these people are going to dump rubbish. We have seen that rubbish is related to those garages and the shops.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- On that subject matter areas, if we really go through this amendment Bill, there are huge penalties abided by when it will be approved. To categorise the part of the penalties. Which is in the Bill, we already discussed, we have some categories in terms of the business people, plus the normal public who are there at present. That is why if you look at the penalty areas, there are huge increases from $20 to $2,000, based on the categories of the people who are dumping rubbish over the site. If we talk about the commercial entities, then the penalty goes up.

To cover that and to improve that or to make it a permanent solution, that is why it is included in the Bill to cater for that. It is not only in here in Nausori. This is our second day going out, it happened when we were in Naitasiri yesterday. I believe this is a national issue all around Fiji, especially outside the boundaries of the council. That is where the Bill actually comes into the picture to address that area. I hope that when the Bill is passed in Parliament, this is a second area that we are discussing. We are looking at the processes. Who is involved? What are the solutions in place? When we summarise all these, there will be part of the submission to be tabled back to Parliament, and that is covered under the penalty codes. Otherwise the Ministry of Health wants to add some more to what we discussed.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, to clarify limitations to the Public Health Act or the Public Health (Amendment) Bill. Please note that the Public Health Act or the proposed Bill focusses more on your property. If you are dumping within your compound, beside your house, the Public Health Act will be enforced by our officers for creating a nuisance, for accumulation of waste, and you can be fined and taken to court for that. The moment you step out of your compound and you put the waste or accumulate waste there, it moves out of the Public Health Act and into our legislation with the Ministry of Environment. That is where the Litter Act or even the Environment Management Act comes in. It is very difficult for us to step into public places when the Ministry of Environment has the two major legislations that look after that as well. We will try and just complement each other with that.

MR. M. HALOFAKI.- Mr. Chairman, a recommendation, since we are dealing with the waste management, we have also recommended to the Ministry of Environment in regards to the subdivision, the places that are outside the town boundary, if there can be conditions or something in the Bill for them. The Government has brought in the municipal elections, inclusion of the villages. During our consultations, villages are willing to pay their garbage fees because they know their rubbish will be picked, and even some of the settlements are willing to pay. If there can be something in the Bill to address the condition, if any leaseholder is given a lease, he pays the yearly garbage fees, so that the collections can be done on areas. If we are speaking about Waituri, to cover for the costs, that is one thing that we recommended to the Ministry of Environment if, supposedly, it can also be included in the Bill, in regard to the collection of the wastes, just the normal garbage collections for the areas. This is probably the issue in all of Fiji.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Is that a submission then you need to take it up to us as part of our processing, someone must second that motion.

MS. S. QALILAWA.- Mr. Chairman, I second the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Secretariat, take note of that. It will be part of our exercise because you had brought up as a motion, and it had been seconded by the staff. We are talking that on board.

MR. R. KUMAR.- May I respond to Mr. Mohamed's issue on the stray dogs. This is facilitated through the Ministry of Agriculture. We had already spoken to them. In a fortnight's time, Nausori is taking up this campaign where we will be putting up these dog traps in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture. That is my assurance. We will be starting this programme in a fortnight's time.

As far as the market skip bins are concerned, it is serviced by the contractor. We have also requested a skip bin facility from JICA, alongside with our backhoe and shredder machine. The reason being is, when the market would have its own skip bin operation, it will lower the cost. Secondly, we are placing up a programme at the Manoca Eco site where we will take up all the green waste for composting. What the Council would do is, turn this green waste into compost rather than taking it to Naboro. We have strategies in place but it is just a matter of time that we need.

I do agree that the scattering done by the dogs in the CBD area, we have noticed quite a lot of things. We have special workers who are devoted at night shift, who would tie up this rubbish placed on the side of the segregated bins, and next morning, they will come to discover it had been scattered. We agree to that. Stray dogs is an issue that the Council is currently working on.

HON. P.K. BALA.- I raised this with Nasinu Town Council in regard to stray dogs. I do not know after how many years, the Ministry of Agriculture has basically come on board to carry out the campaign. Maybe they must be in a good mood, that is why. However, while we are discussing this important issue – stray dogs – it is really a nuisance, I want to know from the Ministry of Health, is there any provision? I know there is nuisance, but it is not specifically mentioned about stray dogs. Then again, it overlaps with Ministry for Agriculture. There is a provision of law. While we are dealing with this amendment, can we get somewhere so that there is a regular campaign on stray dogs? I am surprised to hear, after how many years you are going to have campaign here?

MR. R, KUMAR.- It is seven years.

HON. K.K. LAL.- I may disagree with some of the honourable Members here with regards to how we are solving the problem of stray dogs. Are you going to kill them at the end of the day? Is that the solution we are talking about here.

MR. R. KUMAR.- I think we need to be mindful of cruelty to animals as well.

HON. K.K. LAL.- When you talk about campaign, you need to be very careful, because I understand right now in Fiji, many people have a soft spot for animals. There was a campaign on social media when a particular dog was brutally murdered by a drunken man in Lautoka. I understand honourable Rinesh Sharma made a havoc out of it previously. As a council, as a Parliamentary Committee or as MPs, we need to be very careful that their sentiments are there now that there is protection for animals. My suggestion is, that if there is a campaign on stray dogs, they need to be desexed and taken to a space where they do not find their way back to municipal boundaries. They can survive in the jungles, they can survive in the outskirts, but killing them or poisoning them, that is something which I am not supporting.

HON. S. KUMAR.- No, it is not that.

HON. K.K. LAL.- No, I am just putting my comments there. So, please ensure that it is not done. I understand, previously this was done by the Ministry of Agriculture and the council where they were putting some traps and poisons. We received complaints for Nasinu Town Council, I guess. They did it previously as well. It is my comment to the Committee and please have it noted as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Just to make it short on the subject area, I prefer you put it up as a motion. Let the Committee go back and deal with it to be incorporated the Bill and how best we can articulate that in our problem and solution at the same. If you really think it is very important, then you have to make it up as a motion. The formality of the Committee is sch.

MR. R. KUMAR.- I move that the motion to dog trapping.

MS. S. QALILAWA.- I second the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Secretariat, take note of that. That will be part of our discussion on the Committee.

MR. K. MOHAN.- My apologies for my voice. We Advisory Councillors are from rural side. The major problem is our rubbish. We have heard a lot from here that the Bill is coming, $200 fine is coming, and Council is doing their jobs, but what about our rural areas? Our population in Nausori is growing rapidly. People are moving in overnight. Our rubbish capacity is growing. If you go from here to Vuci Road till the cemetery, you will still find rubbish there. Even the Town Council is picking, but the trucks are short. The rubbish comes every day. People, do not know which day the rubbish collection is done, but they bring it every day.

What my brother has said about the dogs. My brother has also said about the shops and the garages, and I do agree on that. I have a shop too, but what I do, I collect all my rubbish, I bring one 4.5 Waste Clear, put the rubbish in there, pay $220 and it is picked up after seven days. Now, what these villagers are doing, they are bringing their rubbish and putting at the junctions of Naduru Road and at the Waituri junction. We have informed them that this is illegal, but people do not fear that. For the concrete solution, we have to look, how can we solve this problem? The national issue, it has to be solved, for example, putting of rubbish bins, extending your town boundaries or charging the rate payers, so that people can pay and the rubbish can be collected. If you go to Vuci South, the drainage work has been done, and you can see plenty of bottles there. It is the mindset of the people. We cannot stop them, but they will definitely do it.

HON. A. BIA.- It is $220 for only one pickup?

MR. K. MOHAN.- Yes, only one pickup. It will be there for seven days. It is done by Waste Clear, Manoca.

HON. S. KUMAR.- I want to endorse some discussions that are happening here, in regard to rubbish dumping, rubbish collection, stray dog, and so forth that we have been discussing here. This problem is not only unique to Nausori, but it is a national problem. Almost everywhere we go, we hear that people are complaining about rubbish, and what can we do about it?

Before this, I think, through my Ministry, we tried to solve the problem of rubbish at Lakena, and we were going round and round, meeting with the communities, creating awareness, community engagement, but I think none of the solutions seem to be working. Some things that we try to put in place, it does work for only a few weeks, but after some time it goes back to normal, because people are not taking ownership.

We spoke about camera, we spoke about fines, we spoke about certain ways where they can privately provide this service to that particular community, because it is out of town boundary. People are not paying their subs, someone has to go every week around the community to collect $1 per household, still people are not paying that $1, so that it can be paid to the Waste Clear to come and pick the skip bin. People are dumping the rubbish, not in the skip bin, but outside. There was a big mess created, and I think now it has been improved due to the concentrated effort of the community and the Town Council. I think that is where this deal is coming into, to create awareness and make some noise about the fines. At least when people hear about the fine, they start acting responsibly.

Another issue here is the new subdivisions that have come about, that restricts people from disposing or burning their own rubbish. Before, there were bigger blocks, people lived in their own compound, which was very big, and they had their own backyard rubbish disposal, rubbish dump, and all those things were there within their stay. But now, blocks have become smaller and people are moving in town boundaries, so it makes it difficult. Some of these subdivisions that we see, do not have any provision for a central place where people can keep their rubbish and someone will come and pick it up. All these things, I think there are various loopholes that we see in various systems that we have in place. Through laws and rules that we are trying to amend and change, and public awareness, we should be able to tackle this issue and see that we have a very clean and safe environment around us.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Advisory Council and the team from the Nausori Town Council and honourable Members, are there any supplementary questions to cater for this subject matter that we were discussing?

MR. S. RAO.- We have been discussing about the boundaries. As the Chairman for the District Advisory Council, Tailevu, I agree that the population is quite huge compared to the municipality. The construction of houses and the development outside the town boundary is not well supervised. What I am trying to say is, the public health issues, such as people use drums and other things for septic, and Vuci area is quite low, so water is always seeping out of it. Who normally supervises this, there should be a law and an authority, which should supervise. There should be a huge awareness regarding this type of development.

I am sure there should be fines also for illegal building of houses. There should be a proper plan, like architectural plans, and the authorities must approve that. I know it is costly, but this kind of awareness is very important so that gradually people know their roles. When we compare with other countries, you cannot get extra posts to your house without the consent of the council. In Fiji, we do not have that. I personally, as the Chairman, receive a lot of complaints, such as, my neighbour is doing this and it is affecting the other neighbour. We do not have an avenue where we take our concerns. Sometimes we make complaints but the response is quite slow, and repeatedly we cannot be going because there are some restraints also. What I am trying to say in short, there should be a law which should supervise the construction sector of the rural areas. It is

not that anyone can come with few corrugated irons and build a house. Maybe this is harsh, but we will have to begin somewhere.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for that question and concern regarding the Tailevu Rural Authority. On the Bill it is all there. To get some clarities further on that, i will ask the Ministry of Health to elaborate on that.

MR. L. VOVOTABUA.- I think 2018 Budget amendment that was done, it took away the local authority and some parts of the Public Health Act that was done by the local authority including the building and the sanitary services. That portion was taken away and was given to town councils. May be the Town Council should brief us now on how they are looking at the rural area in terms of the building submission. Nausori Town Council currently, is looking after Korovou, right up to Wainibuka and Dawasamu and up to Naitasiri. That is the new arrangement after 2019 in terms of building and sanitary services.

MR. M. HALOFAKI.- Mr. Chairman, for developments the Council looks after all the lease lands that are within the three Provinces – Rewa, Tailevu and Naitasiri. All your leases on the title, you have to get consent first before you do any constructions. All the constructions that are done in rural areas that have the leases, it comes to Council. Once the approval is done, we do inspections starting from the footing till the roof, and we have certification given to us by the plumbers in regard to the septic tanks.

Some septic tanks that we have now, are being done by Humes. Those designs that are submitted to us, we usually check with the Central Board of Health if the validity of the septic tank is still valid. I have seen the new amendment, it states three years. Usually when we assess plans that, with regards to legal developments, once we receive complaints we attend to it. First we have to ensure if it is a leased land. The councils during 2018 did not have powers in iTaukei land or land given to a family friend to build.

If it is leased agriculture, commercial or industrial that is where Council can enforce with regards to development. With regards to health, that falls under Nausori rule, but we usually go together for inspections if complaints are raised to us.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much Council for that in-depth summary. When you talk about out or the rural boundaries, especially those with lease, they have that provision with them.

MR. N. MOHAMMED.- One thing I want to put into my comment is the stray dog matter, when you want to get the cage for stray dogs, you have to get a police report. I request to put in submission that we should not get a police report to apply for dog trapping. There are community areas where communities are coming to complain and then we can go to Agriculture and ask them to provide a dog trap. We have to go and report to the police, police will give you the report number and then you have to go and submit to the Agriculture and Vet and they will provide the trap. I want this to be done through community leaders.

MR, CHAIRMAN.- The case of the stray dogs is already the motion, and that has been addressed, it is with us now, because it is second by the Council. The detailed part of that will be for the Committee to take into it. Thank you for bringing it up again. Remember the area of concern when we talk about the Ministry of Agriculture. They have their own bylaws to with regards to

the stray dogs. That will be part of our research. We have to align ourselves to what the Ministry of Agriculture says, the process in place for them to follow, and whether you will still have to go by police. If it is mandated, then you will have to do so. We are trying to improve the situation here on how best we can

MR. K. MOHAN.- This is my personal view. If it is possible for the Government of the day or any Ministry, now the Council is taking the rubbish from here to Naboro. They are charging about $29.54 a tonne. If I am not wrong. Now if you see the global crisis, the cost will go up. If the Government of the day can negotiate and see – it will be a very big task – to look for a land somewhere in Tailevu? There are big areas in Tailevu where we can have a landfill. It will be more easier and near.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- It is a very sensitive issue. We will take that on board. Currently, that is the task of the municipalities, those in Tailevu. Locating an area, which needs to be a dump site, there are a lot of regulation covers. A lot of checklists have to be aligned. First, if you have already identified a space, that is good enough. You can bring it up to the Council.

However, it is not a 10-acre land. The one that we have in Naboro, it is almost covered up. If I am correct, it is almost 200+ acres. Just for a short time, it is already filled up. However, if you propose that as an Advisory Council in your area, if we can locate a place, it can be part of our submission. However, as I have said, a lot of processes has to go through – the Ministry of Environment, the iTaukei Affairs Board, the approval from the landowners, all these things.

It could be a part of our long-term strategy in place. As I have said, if you have identified one, why do you not come to the council and discuss that further and see, but it needs the approval from the Government and from the relevant stakeholders. Long-term plan, we agree with you, Sir.

MR. K. MOHAN.- I think the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Health and Town Council, should be working together. If we want to solve this problem, we have to work together. We have to meet often every month, having meetings, suggestions, what are your problems, dealing with this, then we can solve this.

HON. A BIA.- Mr. Chairman, to address part of the question with regard to the illegal disposable waste or rubbish. In terms of what Government has done, I believe a lot of initiatives have come into place from the last government, including this Government, of how we can dispose our rubbish. One of the awarenesses that need to be done is, what avenues are there. One of the ideas is that previously, a few years back, the government had allowed FDB to partner with Pacific Recycling Foundation. One of the major partners to that agreement is Waste Recyclers Fiji. What Pacific Recycling Foundation does, Government has approved FDB as one of its implementation partners. Now they go out to communities, provide training, and provide three separate bins for waste disposal.

What Waste Recyclers Fiji does is that, it picks up that rubbish and Pacific Recycling Foundation educate communities of how you can recycle rubbish. We have different rubbish bins for plastic, food waste, so we have different bins for every waste that you dispose of. That is available. Maybe the Council can reach out to Pacific Recycling Foundation, they are based in Koronivia. They can provide education and awareness to every other community as to how you can dispose your rubbish.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- It looks to me that we are all exhausted. Any other last suggestion regarding the subject matter ahead of us?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Just a final clarification. I wanted to clarify Submission 3.8(c) in regards to 1A amendment propose to include vetting by NFA and OHS. This is something that has been addressed by the bypass amendment earlier done by the Town Planning Act. It deals with the building application and the building requirements. We do not need to duplicate that in the Public Health Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- If there are no other supplementary questions we will wrap it up now for the day. Thank you very much the host team from here, especially the Nausori Town Council, the advisory from three big Provinces, Tailevu, Naitasiri and Rewa. On behalf of the Speaker and the team who are here with us, honourable Members from your Parliament, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for accommodating us this morning.

I believe there is a new task ahead of us, and despite the fact, that we will be moving around on the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 4 of 2026, what we have discussed here today, is an eye-opening for everyone. This is our second day on our public submission all around Fiji. What I am trying to say is, we have a huge task ahead of us, the Council, the Advisory Council and the team from Parliament, are trying to collate all relevant information, which is relevant to the Bill's amendments. For the Committee that is here with us, after our tour in terms of our deliverables to get all the consultation across the 14 Provinces, we will go back to the office. From there, we will reconsider all what had inspired today. That is why I said to use the microphone because everything is recorded. That is for our further information.

When we go back, we will try to recall actually what had happened at Nausori on the 11th of this time. Whatever needs to be addressed from there onwards, we will see what the national issue Fiji is facing. We will try to put it in a matrix, the importance from number one right down to the bottom level. On that note, I thank you very much for accommodating us, especially the team from Parliament. Hopefully, you can give us any other further written submissions if you my have, that we did not cover today, feel free. We have our Secretariat here who are our commission link to the relevant stakeholders so that will be part of our exercise after a compilation of what we have gathered around Fiji only then we can table this to Parliament.

We are still at the process level, feel free to come back to us at any time. If we missed some areas that need to bridge the gap, hopefully that it will be covered in your written submission. Thank you very much Sir and Madam for providing us a beautiful boardroom to do our presentation this morning, and hopefully this is not the first and the last, we will be around sometime to come back. If need be, we will come back to look at your Annual Reports feel free, the team is always there to discuss it.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 11.34 a.m.

The Committee resumed at 3p.m.

Interviewee/Submittee: District Advisory Council – Nausori Town Council
Venue: Nausori Town Council Chamber

In Attendance:

1.	Mr. Brij Deo	-	District Advisory Council (DAC), Verata
2.	Mr. Abinesh Kumar	-	DAC member, Vunivivi, Manoca and Irrigation
3.	Mr. Rajeshwar Lal	-	Advisory Councillor, Lakena 1 Lakena 2, Buiduna
4.	Mr. Seet Kumar Singh	-	DAC member, Deepwater and Korovou Town
5.	Mr. Satya Nand	-	DAC member
6.	Mr. Naren Prasad	-	DAC member, Upper Waidalice

Ministry of Health

1.	Mr. Luke Vonotabua	-	Acting Chief Health Inspector
2.	Mr. Toga Vosataki	-	National WASH Coordinator

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable members, the members from the District Council's representative, likewise those who are representing from their own district, and other people involved when you talk about the people at large. Since we are caught up with time, we have to start with the meetings, supposed to be happening at 3p.m. Before we start, I will ask the honourable Members to introduce themselves.

(Introduction of Committee Members)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will ask the representatives from the Ministry of Health to introduce themselves.

(Introduction of the officials from Ministry of Health)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will give the opportunity now to the District Advisory Council to introduce themselves before we start our meeting.

(Introduction of representatives from the District Advisory Council, Nausori)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, District Advisory Council members who are present here with us this afternoon. I believe you are aware why we are here, on the public consultation on the Bill in front of us. It is the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 4 of 2026. Hopefully, you do have a copy of that in front of you. It can be in English or in Hindi too. Our discussion area will be based on the amendments area.

Currently, there are about 69 clauses which need to be addressed through public consultations. We will also be looking forward to your input on this Bill. If you miss out some important areas that need to be addressed, always feel free to come back to us with your written submission through our Secretariat. That will be incorporated with the amendments that are already with us. Feel free to air whatever you see fit to the amendments of the Bill itself. It will give some up-hand information to the Committee in order to get this tabled back. We are here as a bipartisan Committee. There are six Standing Committees in Parliament and we are one of those – Standing

Committee on Social Affairs, taking this Public Health (Amendment) Bill, out to the public for public consultation.

We respect your views and contributions. In order for us to hear from the grassroot level, this is the only forum. As has been alluded to, if you need to further clarify this through the written submission, we will be out in the field for another three months. Whatever is not covered here, if you feel that there are certain areas that are within the gaps that really need the contribution from the people under your command, this is the only area that you can come back to us through your written submission. In a nutshell, I highlighted the key objectives of the Bill in English. Unfortunately, our honourable Members are not here. They will be able to translate this in Hindi if you do not understand English.

However, our friend here from Savusavu, honourable Ketan Lal, may be able to facilitate that on our behalf. We are all educated people who understand English and we can talk in English. The key objectives of the Bill are to:

(1) strengthen public and environmental health governance;
(2) improve monitoring and enforcement of mechanisms in place;
(3) enhance preparedness and response to communicable diseases that may arise if there is an outbreak;
(4) ensure a safe water, sanitation and waste management system. This covers all areas – urban and rural communities;
(5) update on penalties to deter non-compliance; and
(6) align the law with modern public health best practises.

That is in a nutshell, the objective of why we are here to get this Bill updated and review those 69 laws that need to be addressed. Hopefully, your contribution this afternoon will give us an in-depth understanding of what you faced on the ground. I will ask honourable Bia to give us some lights on the importance of this Bill.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, members of the Advisory Council who are here, the representatives from each community. As Mr. Chairman had alluded to earlier, the Public Health Act, has been there from 1935. For about 90 years, there had not been any amendment to this Act. A good example of how this Act will help us living in communities, settlements, whether in Koro, or whether you are living in informal settlements, is COVID-19. When COVID-19 happened, no one expected it to happen. With the health officials who are here, including all the health officials around the country, what they experienced during COVID-19, what was the hindrance or the struggle of providing services to communities far out in the rural areas and villages, with this Public Health Act, it modernises the way the health workers do their work.

It will make work easier for them if there is another pandemic or outbreak of typhoid, dengue, and other diseases that we are vulnerable to. We are living in informal settlements and communities, and we are prone to this kind of disease, because, one, the way we dispose of our rubbish, and two, the way we build our houses – we do not follow proper plans in the settlements.

Unfortunately, for us and those who live in the urban areas, come through the town council. They have plans. If you want to build something, you need to submit a plan first, then you build a house. However, that is different from us living in the informal settlements and the rural areas. You can just go to someone who owns the land, you pay $500, and build a house. There is nothing

within the law to say that you need to build your house this way. When you build your septic tank, your restroom, it needs to be in a certain way so that when there is a disease breakout, it does not easily get to you. This is where the amendment is done to the Public Health Act to help the health officials when there is an outbreak, they can easily reach out to you and stop the disease or the outbreak from reaching other families out there.

The most important part in the amendment of this Act are the penalties that are there. Within that 90 years, some penalties in the Act are $2 and $10, which do not clearly reflect how modern we are living in at the moment. Some of the penalties have been increased, not to penalise people living in these areas, but to protect us, to ensure that we continue to follow what is in the Act so that we do not allow disease easily to come to those living within our families and the communities.

You being here today as advisory councillors, just like us, we are also relying on you to be our legs and hands on the ground in taking this information to your community. That is why it is very important you being here today. I think the health officials who are here will be detailing it to you if you have questions and any other issues you want to ask about the Public Health Act that is in front of you.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will now give the opportunity to the honourable Members if they want to add some more into what has been discussed so far. There will be a change of contingency according to our plan this afternoon, compared to what we have already faced in the morning, because there was a live presentation from the Council. Today, we will go straight to the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 4 of 2026, which is the centre of our discussion. Before we give the floor to the District Advisory Councillors to give their opinions, it will be always good to give an opportunity to the Ministry of Health. They are the author of this Bill. They will give us some more in-depth objectivity of the Bill – how we go about the penalties, the warning, and other relevant subject topics that we need to discuss.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- First of all, thank you so much for turning up, it shows your interest in the changes that are being proposed in the proposed Bill. The amendments are in the document that is in front of you. The intention from the Ministry of Health, why we want to have these changes in, is due to the years of work that we deliver and some challenges that we face. We feel that it can be improved by putting in some of these amendments. I think one very big one is the inclusion of this legislation into the *iTaukei* community. That is one of the biggest changes proposed for the Public Health Act to also be enforced in *iTaukei* communities, so that the standards of living conditions are up to par in all our local communities.

There is a notable increase in fines, as alluded to by the honourable Member. Again, there is a deterrent. If you abide by the legislation, then you should not be worrying about the fine. However, if you are someone who is breaking the regulations and creating the offences, then the fines will be bothering you. This is something that we feel that over the years, you would know the disease burden in your community – dengue, leptospirosis and typhoid, year after year after year. This is something that we want to put in place in order to address this annual pandemic of communicable disease.

We also have the inclusion of types of accommodation. I believe in Deepwater, due to the lack of accommodation for civil servants in Korovou, some of the houses in your area in Deepwater are rented. Sometimes they complain that the condition is not up to par with the rent that they are

paying. However, we have no control because currently, it is not covered under the Public Health Act. The proposed amendment is that, before you can put a house out for rent, it has to go through the Ministry of Health to do the assessment. If it is conducive for a human to occupy that particular premises, then we give you registration and then you can go ahead and put the house for rent.

The inclusion of the labourers' quarters also in Tailevu is quite common. The milking labourers, the level of condition of their living standard is currently not captured. This is something that we wanted to improve. Not to put burden on the farm owners, but lift the standard to a state that it does not pose a health risk to the labourers doing the hard work of milking cows every morning.

One notable change is the protection of water sources. We did not have that before, but now we have it. That means that if there is a water source in a particular community, for example, in the Baulevu area you have a water source that is shared with a nursing station – if someone goes in the bush and starts putting anything into that water source, now he/she can be taken to task. Anyone doing any farming and fishing in the catchment area, now can be taken to task. This is to protect the community that is consuming the water supply.

The last point is the notable change in the strengthening of our infectious and venereal disease section. Due to the current crisis of HIV, we want to be very strict that if someone knowingly has this illness and is willingly and knowingly spreading it around, they can be taken to task under the new Amendment Bill. Those are the main points for discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that the message has come over to the DAC team who are present here this afternoon. That is a brief summary of what the Bill is all about. This afternoon, we are ready to listen to you on your submission based on the Amendment Bill. I hope that I have made myself clear on that. Anything that covers the amended Act, we will look at about 69 clauses. If you see fit from your perspective that there are certain clauses which need to have some more input in terms of your experience on the ground and the people whom you serve at your district level, this will give us some sense of humour, so that will be part of our public submission today at Nausori as a means of takeaway for the Committee.

Remember, if you want to use the microphone, always go to address, your name, plus the DAC area that you come from. Every discussion in progress now is recorded through our media centre from Parliament. That is for our documentation purposes. If you need to recap on something that was left during the discussion, that is why we have our *Hansard* here to help us on those notes. The DAC team from Nausori areas, Tailevu, Rewa and Naitasiri, the floor is open for discussion. We believe that it will be a very good discussion this afternoon.

MR. S.K. SINGH.- Mr. Chairman, one request from me is, regarding our area in Deepwater in Suvasuva, where our landowners have bigger lands. In town areas, the houses are side by side and the compound is very clean and they have small area to clean. However, in our area, people are owning big lands with bushes. So, spraying of the mosquito chemicals is very important. It is a request to the Ministry of Health.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that you understand the Bill and its content. Anyway, this is part of the area that you can bring up your motion. It has to be seconded by any of the team around you. Or else, I will give the opportunity to the Ministry of Health to give us some in-depth on that subject matter, especially the densely populated, plus the breeding of mosquitoes in those areas.

MR. K.K. LAL.- *Jon aaj ke* discussion *hai, ee hai* with regards to the Bill No. 4 of 2026. *Hum log zyada kar ke iske upar baat karega. Aap jon* suggestions *deta hai, koi tarah ke* issues *aap batata hai, aap sakta hai bataye lekin ek* motion *ki tarah. Aap bolega ki hum ee* motion move *karta hai, aur koi aur ke* second *kare ke padi.* Basically, Ministry of Health *aap ke batai ki konchi uh log kar dis hai ee* law *ke. Hum log* try *karta hai ee* law *ke upar zyada baat kare ke. Aap ke* suggestion *sahi hai, lekin* try *karna* link *kare ke ee* law *ke upar*.

[Today's discussion here is with regards to Bill No. 4 of 2026. It is the Public Health Act Bill. We will be mostly talking about this Bill. The suggestions that you give, the issues that you raise, you can do so, but you can move it as a motion that has to be seconded. You will say that you move the motion and someone else has to second it. Basically, it is the Ministry of Health that will tell you what they have done with this law. Your suggestion is right, but we will try to link it to this law.]

MR. S. LAL.- *Hum janta hai aap* meeting *mein aaya hai, lekin aap log ke maloom nahi hai ki Bill kis vishay par hai.* Public Health (Amendment) Bill, *abhi* Bill *ke* form *mein hai.* Bill *jab* Parliament *mei jaaye ke* pass *hoi tab ek kanoon ban jayi. Is* Bill *mei bahut dher cheez hai jiske vishay mein aap log ke maloom nahi hai.* Last minute notice *mila hai, tab aap log aaye ke* meeting *mein bhaag liya hai. Ee* Bill *ke acha se samjhe ke zaruri hai ki Bill kis vishay mei hai aur iske* pass *kar ke* Government *aur hum log konchi mangta haasil kare, kis ke hum log mangta hai* safeguard *kare aur konchi ke liye hai.* First of all, Public Health Act 90-year old *hai. Uh* time $2 fine *bahut bhari* fine *raha. Uh* fine *se log darte the aur badmaasi nahi karte the* – $20 *raha ya* $10 *raha.*

Ab, after 90 years, $2 *ke vishay me koi* bother *nahi kare hai. Log bole hai ki* $2 *toh* fine *hai aur bhar diya jaayi. Koi ke agar* sewer line leak *kar ke koi aur ke* compound *mei jaaye hai, usmei se macchar paeda hoy, bimari hoy hai, jaise* Lakena *mein* rubbish dump *raha, uske* fine $2 *raha.* If you are found dumping rubbish, the fine was $2 and people found it cheaper to pay the fine rather than disposing the rubbish at a proper disposal rubbish bin. *Toh uh* attitude *raha* overtime. *Ab ee* Bill *mei hum log sansodhan laaye ke* try *karta hai.* Public Health issue *mei dher cheez aaye hai, jaise,* health inspectors *the pahele aur* rural authority *tha, lekin weh abhi nahi hai.*

Through Bill try *kara jaye hai ki* health inspectors *ke fir se* power *mein laya jaye,* so that town area *se bahar jaha-jaha basti hai, waha agar koi* issue *rahe toh aap sakta hai jaye ke bataye, aur* health inspectors *ke kaam hai aaye ke* action *lo. Kareeb-kareeb* Bill *yahi ke vishay mein hai aur iske* amend *kare ke koshish kara jaaye hai. Jaise ki, hum bataya hai usme ek mudda* fine *hai, jiske badhaya jaaye hai.*

Jon $2 *raha uske ab* $200 *kara jaye hai,* so that *ki log daraye, aur laparwahi aur dhilwai nahi kare jisse samasya aur bimari paeda hoy, log ke* disturb *hoy aur* nuisance *hoy, ki maila gaanj ke rakha hai, chuha aur* cockroaches *paeda hoy hai, kutta aaye hai*. Waituri aur Lakena *ke vishay mein savere yaha baat bhay, jon* Lakena Hill no. 2 *pe hum log* try *karta raha* solve *kare ke,* jaha *koi bole* camera *lagaye doh. Uh sab cheez ke rok thaam ke liye ee* Bill *hai. Iske vishay mein aap kabhi sunana toh jaan jana ki ek kanoon aisan bane jaaye hai ki jon laparwahi hai, log baat nahi sune hai, chuppe se raat ke laye ke* rubbish *beege hai, apan kutta nahi* control *mei rakhe hai, toh uh sab ee* Bill *mei hum log* try *karta hai* capture *kare ke.*

Aur kanoon hai, kutta ke liye Ministry of Agriculture *ke kanoon hai, uske maare – peete wala bhi kanoon hai. Toh ee* Bill *mei kaafi kuch hum log* try *karta hai* fir *se laye ke. Koi sawaal agar rahi toh aap log Hindustani mei bhi sakta pucche, tab hum log* translate *kar ke batayega,* aur Ministry of Health *sake fir se* explain *kare.*

[I think you have come to the meeting, but you do not know what the subject matter is. The Public Health (Amendment) Bill is in the form of a Bill currently, but when it is passed in Parliament, it will become an Act, meaning it will become law. There are a lot of things in this Bill that you may not know about. You may have received the notice at the last minute, that is why you came to the meeting. It is very important to understand the subject matter of this Bill, that what the Government wants to achieve through this Bill and whom or what they want to safeguard. First of all, it a 90-year old Act and at that time, the $2 was a very heavy fine. People were scared of the fine – the $20 or $10 fine.

Now, after 90 years, no one is bothering or talking about that $2 fine. People say that it is just a $2 and they will pay it. Suppose, someone's sewer line is leaking and goes into someone else's compound, or mosquitoes breed out of it and diseases are born out of it, they pay a fine of $2 only. For example, if you are caught dumping rubbish at Lakena, you pay a fine of $2. People found it cheaper to pay the fine, rather than taking the rubbish and disposing it at a proper disposal area. So, that was the attitude. Over time, it becomes a problem.

So, now, we are trying to make amendments to this Bill. So that, to a large extent, issues related to public health are addressed. For example, the Health Inspectors used to be there, and the Rural Authority was there. The Rural Authority used to come and check. Now, they are not there. So, through this Bill, we are trying to bring them back to power. They can go out of the town area, to the settlements. If there is an issue, you can raise with them and it is their job to come and take action.

We are trying to make amendments to it. As I said, there is one issue, the fine has to be increased – $2 has to be increased to $200, so that, people get scared and do not become careless, which leads to problems such as diseases and disturbances through nuisance, for example, rats, cockroaches, dogs, and improper rubbish disposal.

We spoke about Lakena and Waituri earlier this morning, the issue we tried to solve at Lakena No. 2 Hill and someone said to install the camera, but that has not happened. So, to stop all these, there is this Public Health (Amendment) Bill. Whenever you hear about it, you should know that a law has been made for those who dump rubbish secretly at night, do not control their dogs and so forth. There are other laws too, for example, Ministry of Agriculture has its own law for dogs. If you have any questions, you can ask the Ministry of Health in *Hindustani*, we will translate it to them and they will be able to explain it to you].

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We will have some in-depth discussion from the Ministry of Health regarding the on-ground diseases spread by mosquitos.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Thank you so much for raising the issue. This is something that we are seeking to address in the proposed Bill as well. Looking into the Act into informal settlements where we can supervise housing construction to ensure that there is at least enough minimal spacing between the houses to also allow proper ventilation, proper wastewater disposal, and that itself is the contributing factor to the rising mosquito population. When you do not discharge your

wastewater properly, it accumulates and mosquitoes breed and then come back and affect you. We are proposing amendments that will help us help you in enforcing these legislations in terms of sanitary conditions and wastewater disposal.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that you understand the question that was raised. The floor is still open. I need to hear from all the DAC members this afternoon. All the questions are very important to us.

MR. B. DEO.- I have one motion. In my area, there is an incomplete subdivision. How can I work on that? The Nausori Town Council and the Nausori Health refused that. I have all the evidences. I am the District Advisory Councillor for Verata. I have big issues, and if I start, it will be 8p.m. However, I will not do that as I respect this session. My motion is, how can I put this under Town and Country Planning?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- There is a motion. We need someone to support it to second the motion.

MR. S.K. SINGH.- I second the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- That motion has been taken on board. Secretary, take note of that. We will ask some follow-up questions, then we will discuss your case.

HON. A. BIA.- Sir, when you say incomplete subdivision, what is incomplete in that subdivision?

MR. B. DEO.- In my area, the bus is not running. It had been already three years now. I went to LTA they said there is no route for the bus because minibus is operating there. Another thing, the Fiji Roads Authority says they do not want to grade the road. My wife died in March, and I received no support from the Government. I hired a machine and graded the road. I am very sorry to say this in this Parliament session here. I had to pay Amras Hire Plant Limited. I have to say it because I had to pay Amras, $350 for the fuel, and the funeral was on 18th March. Incomplete subdivision is Verata. The Health and Town Council refused. They cannot take any action there. I f you want to build a house, your title is showing like this, you can build here on the edge. Three buildings have already started, I kept on complaining, and they went there and they came back, saying they cannot do.

HON. A. BIA.- Just for clarity, when you say subdivision, it is divided up into lots already?

MR. B. DEO.- Yes, but why it is an incomplete subdivision, for 57 blocks, they do not have the title. It is like an informal settlement.

HON. A. BIA.- There is something wrong with the discussion of that subdivision. I think there is an issue. Let me put it into clarity. For subdivision, usually in the *iTaukei* lands, the initiative introduced by the Government is that for all the freehold land that used to be owned by the *iTaukei* land owners before and were bought during the colonial era, what happens now is the land buyback scheme. The discussion will be from the *iTaukei* land owners and the freehold owners now. When they discuss that the land owners want to take back that freehold property, then Government will be the third party coming in and buying it from the freehold owner and giving it back to the land owners. The deal is, when they give it back to the land owners, it is not

for free. For 30 years, they need to develop that land, and for that 30 years, they will pay back the money to the Government, in which Government bought that land from the freehold property owners. That is where you have a proper subdivision in *iTaukei* land. However, for that it is still regarded as an informal settlement.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I understand your question. We will take this as a motion. That will be part of our secondary dealing when we go back to Parliament. I hope that answers your question.

MR. A. KUMAR.- In my area, Lakena and Irrigation, people are throwing rubbish illegally. I think better solution is a higher fine, so that people can stop throwing rubbish illegally.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much for that sensitive information. When you talk about throwing rubbish carelessly, it covers all the areas that we already approach. It is part of the health, in terms of nuisance and the capacity building from the Ministry, and the upbringing of catering for the rubbish that had been lying. When you talk about the rural posting area, there are bylaws in this Bill that covers that. We talk about urbans, it is also covered. For that question when you talk about rubbish and the penalties, I will ask the Ministry to give us an in-depth of that. It covers in the Bill, but it will be good to discuss it further.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Thank you, DAC member for the question. In terms of the waste dumping in Waituri and Lakena Irrigation backroad, yes, this has been noted. While short-term measures can be done to remove it, it needs a permanent solution, which is the provision of garbage services to the area to ensure that people do not dump their waste elsewhere. In the proposed Amendment Bill, it is proposing the return of the Nausori Rural Local Authority.

With the return of the Local Authority, we should be able to go back to the services that used to be provided before. There is garbage services outside of the town council area, or a system that we do employ under the rural setting, as maybe the DAC member is aware of from Lakena Hill No. 1 and Lakena Hill No. 2, whereby we engage community collection schemes that we initiate and is run by the community. The main point is that the proposed Bill is intending to bring back the Rural Local Authority that will then put in place long-term solutions to the waste management issues that you currently face. At the moment, the Council is quite overburdened with their rate payers and looking after the extended garbage service area.

HON. K.K. LAL.- *Aap log samjha konchi* Ministry of Health explain *karis hai*? Ministry of Health *batais hai ki* Public Health (Amendment) Bill *ke mutabik*, Local Authority *ke wapas leke aayi*. Local Authority *fir aap log ke* issues *ke* look after *kari*, with regards to rubbish collection town *se bahar*. *Dusra cheez hai, ee* Parliamentary Committee *khali ee* Bill *ke baare mein baat kare hai. Aap ke* subdivision *wala ek alag* issue *hoy jaye hai,* because *aap mangta jaane …*

MR. B. DEO.- Health *ke vishay mei hi toh hum aya hai.*

HON. K.K. LAL.- Health *ke konchi* problem *hai?*

MR. B. DEO.- *Dui ghar hai waha pe aur uh log ke liye* toilet *nahi hai, aur uh log ke dui ladkan hai. Ek* boundary *ke* quarter acre *mein teen ghar hai. Aage wala* three-quarter *mein ghar banaye lis pura* boundary *mein, aur* black and white *mein hai ki kiske kitna* block *hai lekin dono*

ke ghar mein toilet *nahi hai. Hum gay raha uspe* fight *kare* because *machhar hai aur gandhaye hai sab.*

HON. S. KUMAR.- Mr. Chairman, what he is explain is, the motion he spoke to earlier on, there was an issue of the subdivision where two properties were built without toilet. He had raised it to Health, but Health is not actioned anything yet. *Jab tum log ghar banata hai waisan jagah par tab* plan approval *ke liye kis ke paas jata hai?*

MR. B. DEO.- *Jab hum ghar banaya toh sab* Nausori Town Council *deta raha.* But, *abhi* Council *bole hai ki uh log ke* area *nahi hai. Abhi jon jaise maange waise banaye le. Hum kaafi dhyaan lagata hai lekin kuch hoy nahi hai.*

HON. K.K. LAL.- He is saying is that after reporting it to the Council, the Council had gone back to him and said, that it is not under their jurisdiction to go and stop the work.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- It seems like that is more like an informal settlement.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Is that subdivision under *iTaukei* land?

MR. B. DEO.- *Haa pahele raha.*

HON. K.K. LAL.- *Abhi konchi hai?*

HON. A. BIA.- That is why I wanted to know, if you build a new house to whom they got to?

HON. K.K. LAL.- In a estate development, where do they go?

HON. S. KUMAR.- Right now I think they are not going anywhere.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- It is an informal settlement arrangement. That question is only answered by the Ministry of Health, the Rural Local Authority, that was taken out by the last government in 2018. One of the main reasons of this Bill is to get that back into the Act. While we are still reviewing it, as we know, in that case, it is more like an informal settlement. That is why these people do not have any power to deal with it. Currently, it is the dealing between you and the land owners, either to build a house or the land that is given to you, it is between you two. We call it an informal settlement arrangement.

In terms of looking at the importance of getting the cleanliness of that area, in terms of rubbish and collection, when the Rural Local Authority comes into the picture, they will be the right body to address all these things. We have already noted this part of the solution, because you brought it up as a motion. That will be up to the Committee to handle that.

MR. S. NAND.- Mr. Chairman, I want to move a motion, to establish the health inspector like before. Before we used to drink from the well and rivers, and we did not get sick. I know the climate has changed now and it is supposed to be changes also. With the presence of a health inspector, he/she used to guide us and the rural areas, mostly the toilets. We used to have pit and water sealed toilets and later it changed to septic tank. Their advise will help us. Secondly, is the enforcement of penalties.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- If that is a motion, then you will have to bring it up to the Committee as a motion and we need someone to second it.

MR. R. LAL.- I second the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Secretariat take that onboard, that will be part of our analysis when we go back to the office. When you talk about the penalties, there is a huge penalty gaps, if you look at the Bill itself, when you are not very careful and eager to be part of the community, in terms of how you handle your waste. We will give an opportunity to the Ministry of Health to explain us the waste system of waterways, whether it goes to others compound or goes to the main tank, or if it is leaking, these all are covered from rural right up to the urban centre.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, the current Bill that we are discussing today, covers a lot on the protection of water supply. You have mentioned about the source of water that the communities are drinking, this proposed ill strengthens the protection of the source of water. It also has other things, for example, penalising people who intends to damage the water system, including those who want to contaminate the water source. That is included in the current Bill as we speak. With the current Bill, we are also proposing to bring back the Rural Local Authority so that Health Inspectors can do the inspections too in the rural areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that that answers your question. It is all proposed in the Bill under the revised copy.

HON. S. KUMAR.- Mr. Chairman, I wanted to enlighten DAC in the *Hindustani* Language about the contents of this Bill so that they can go back, take a copy and read. *Ee Bill mein dher cheez* covered *hai, jaise murgi-batak kaise paalo, sakta paale ki nahi,* drain *kaisan hai, koi ke* drain *dusre ke* compound *mein jaaye, koi ke* septic tank leak *hoy ke dusre ke* compound *mei jaye hai, kitna dur pe maange* septic facility *rahe koi ke* water source *se, agar kahi par kuwa hai aur tum wahi par* septic tank *banaya. Ee khali* town area *nahi* cover *kare hai, lekin pura* Fiji – rural *aur* town area *aur* town *ke nazdik, sab* cover *kare hai.*

Ee samasya jon 90 years *se hum log* face *karta hai, ke karan hai ki ee* Bill bahut purana hai, aur log bother *nahi kare hai, jaise hum pahele bataya ki* $2 fine *hai tab log bole bhar do sasta pade. Kutta kaise paalo,* rubbish *kaha rakho,* drain *koi ke* block *hai, maela kaha pe log beege, koi apan ghare maela gaanj ke rakhe hai, ee sab* Bill *mei kaafi* widely covered *hai. Aap log ke ek* copy *diya jayi ki aap log sakta baith ke dekhe ki is mei konchi hai. Jitna* Advisory Councillors *hai aap log ke liye bahut kaamil hai.*

Once *ee* Bill Act *hoy jayi, aur aap log jaan gaya ki koi* community *mei badmaashi kare hai, toh isme kanoon hai aur ee kanoon ke dwara uske sake saza mile ki uh dobara uh cheez nahi kare. Dher log hai halla kare zor se aur,* music *zor se bajaye, ee bhi sake isme aaye jaaye, ki koi ke agar* pressure *ke bimari hai aur koi bagal mei* music *bajaye hai, toh ee bhi* Bill *mein* cover *hoy hai. Kanoon jab ban jayi tab aap log ke kaam kaafi sahaj hoy jayi. Hum ek* copy *dega, aap log sakta iske padh ke* understand *kare, aur ee* meeting *ke baad aap log sakta* written submission *bhi de ki ee* Bill *mei ee cheez hoy ke chahiye*. You can take this Bill back to the community. *Waha sakta jaye ke baat kare aur* written submission *likhwae ke hum log* ke Secretariat *ke bheje, tab usme hum log dekhega ki ee* submission *aais hai Nausori se aur hum log sochta hai ee wala isme* include *kare ke chahiye. Shayad kuch aur hoi jon* Bill *mei nahi hai abhi.*

It is a very handy tool for all the Advisory Councillors in Fiji. *Dher cheez hai isme, jaise, kon rakam ghar hoy ke chahiye, ek ghar mei kitna log rahi aur kaise, kon* condition *hai. Koi ke agar* quarters *hai, ya koi* rent *kare hai tab usme kis tarah ke* facilities *aap log deta hai, kis tarah ke* toilet-bathroom *hai,* compound *kis tarah ka hai, ghar mei paani toh nahi aaye hai, baadh to nahi chadhe hai aur* overflow *toh nahi hoye hai* drain, *jon sab* health issue *hai. Zyada kar ke isme* fine *badhaya jaaye hai jisme ki log sudhare aur* right way *se sab cheez kare jisse ki* problem *aur bimari nahi paeda hoy aur log zimmedar bane. Ee bahut bada topic hai.* Public health practitioner *bhi rahe* health centres *mei.* Public health *se* related *kaafi diseases hai, jaise ki,* typhoid aur dengue *hai. Ee sab* disease *laparwahi se* community *mei paeda hoy, jaise machhar hoy tab* dengue *bimari paeda hoy. Iske liye ee kanoon hai.* Cans *hai, machari ke* tin *kaise* dispose karo, bury *karo gaddha khod ke,* tyre *ke baare mei, sab ee* Bill *mei hai.*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much honourable Members for that in-depth discussion in Hindi.

MR. R. LAL.- In Lakena there are 99 informal houses which do not have a proper sanitation, such as septic tanks and sink water discharge. How can we improve that? The house are very near and there is no space to build a septic tank. How can we control that? It is a major issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- It is an informal sector too?

MR. R. LAL.- Yes, it is an informal settlement in Lakena Hill No. 1. It is a 65-year old settlement.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- We will ask Ministry of Health to give us some light on that.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Health is working closely with the organisation that is known as Revitalising Informal Settlements and Environments (RISE), and they engage very closely with Ministry of Health and Ministry of Housing. This in particular is one of the main areas that they focus on – the sewerage treatment for informal settlements. They are currently engaged informal settlements improving waste water treatment and those that be connected to sewerage are being connected, for example Wailea and Manuvatu.

Those that are unsewered, far away from the sewerage system, they put in place a localised sewerage treatment system with wet lands for the treatment. For example, the Tamavua-i-wai and I think Vunibua in Muanikoso. Slowly once they are completed they will hand over to the Ministry of Health for monitoring in-valuation and maintenance of the system, while they move onto another batch. There are lots of informal settlements around, but slowly and surely we will get to you. This is something that can be boosted with the return of the Rural Local Authority. We can surely invest more into improving infrastructure especially for waste water treatment in informal settlements.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that answers your question.

MR. N. PRASAD.- Mr. Chairman, I fully support these amendments, provided, that the relevant authorities are also taken to task if they do not provide the services, such as, water. In my area, since I have been living there, there is no water source, neither piped water and nor a borehole. While amending this Bill there are certain clauses where citizens can be penalised for not having

the proper sanitation and dumping ground, and then the law also says that the necessity of life must be provided by the Government of the day. Water is a necessity and that is my request if it can be taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Just on the Bill, the issue that is coming up, since it is not part of the Bill, I will prefer for DAC member to bring it up as a motion so that it can be added and someone to support the motion.

MR. A. KUMAR.- I second the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Secretariate, take note of that.

MR. S. NAND.- Mr. Chairman, I have another motion. I think it concerns the health – people selling cigarette rolls. People selling rolls, their fine is very less. They pay the fine and again they sell the rolls. They say they make a lot of profit and they do not care about the health. What can be done on that?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- That comes under Tobacco Control Act. In the Bill there is nothing on that. There is an Act already in place and it is active, and we have a proper authority to report all those grievances to them .

MR. S. NAND.- My concern is that I think the fine is very less that is why people are not bothered about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I will ask the Ministry of Health to give their in-depth information on that.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, as mentioned by Mr. Chairman, the selling of the rolls is covered under the Tobacco Control Act and Regulations. That is also administered by the honourable Minister for Health and enforced by the environmental health practitioners. We are also in the process of reviewing of the Tobacco Control Act and Regulations. Maybe when we come around for that review, then you can make submission on the increase in the fines for those selling and those who are reoffending.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that will cover your queries and clarity. It I already covered under Bill and regulations. On the amendment part of it, once they come into the picture like what we are doing now, that may be the forum for you to discuss that. However, that does not stop the idea as a motion and it is already noted with the Committee.

MR. S.K. SINGH.- Mr. Chairman, I have a question, any control of diapers? It is a major concern and everywhere people are suffering. Even in my area, there are 1800 people, but if someone complains, then the same person is going to put the rubbish at the next door. This was happening, I have some photos. Any help on this?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- The Bill does not cover anything on diapers. The centre for discussion should be based on the Bill, because that is covered by the Environment Management Act 2019, like the Tobacco Act, that you heard just now. When you talk about throwing rubbish carelessly, that is under this review Act, and it comes up with penalties. A lot of discussions were done on that when we were in Naitasiri yesterday. They brought up the same idea about the diapers. However, holistically when we talk about throwing rubbish carelessly, that can be part of that,

which is in the Bill, that comes up together with the penalties and a process that need to be addressed by those responsible.

HON. K.K. LAL.- Mr. Chairman, from my end, I understand many issues have been raised earlier on as well. The Bill itself is a testament that we need to allow them time to have a read through and write a submission directly to the Secretariat. If not, then we will be going back and forth because most of the things are already in the Bill. That is all from my end and I am happy to conclude from my side. I do not have any other questions, but if they have any other issues apart from the Bill, we are happy to raise them separately and we can help them through our parliamentary processes.

HON. S. KUMAR.- *Bahut dhanyevaad aap log ke.* Bill *ke* copy *hum diya hai. Dheere se padhna aur agar nahi toh koi roj saathe baith ke hum sakta aap log ke* explain *kar de ki usme konchi hai, Uske baad aap sakta hai* written submission Secretariate *ke de ki* Bill *mein ee kanoon bhi hoy ke chahiye jon ee* Bill *se* related *hai. Aap log kaafi cheez jon bataya hai, isme hai, lekin aap log abhi janta nahi hai ki isme konchi hai*. *Kafi* information *aur* laws already Bill *mein hai, jaise* drainage, sewer, *murgi-batak aur kutta ke vishay mei hai. Jitna cheez se bimari sake paeda hoy, jaise ki murgi darba koi banaye lis hai aur gandhaye hai. Khali ek* quarter acre block *ke* problem *nahi hai, jon* one acre *mein bhi rahe hai, uske liye bhi kanoon hai*. Bill *ke jab aap log padhega tab dekhega ki kafi* protection hai, *aur sar dard shanti hoy jayi, jab ee* Bill *paas hoi* Parliament *mein. Abhi koi baat nahi sune,* because *kanoon nahi hai.* Ministry of Health *ke paas bhi koi* power *nahi hai. Jab* Rural Authority *aaye jayi tab ee log apne daudi*. *Ek* complain *leke aayega tab ee log jaye ke uske* attend *kari.*

MR. CHAIRMAN.- I hope that we are all on the same page, when we talk about the Amendment Bill in front of us. Your questions are taken on board by the Committee. Feel free, as alluded to by our honourable Members, if you have any further queries based on the Bill, you can do your own written submission through our Secretariat. Another request from the Committee, I believe you handle a lot of people under designation, so fill out the information, right to the people down there so that they understand.

There will be an awareness programme coming over on the importance of the Bill. We are still at the processing stage. The transfer of knowledge from DAC representatives who are here to the area that you cover, in terms of the population that is under your responsibility. During your grog discussion, try to get these messages across to them, so that the message is clear. If they see some areas need to be further clarified on the Bill, come back to us in Parliament. We have three months ahead of us to submit those written submissions. This is just the interpretation of what the honourable Members had already alluded to, and you understand it better when they talk in Hindi.

So, on that note, if there is no more question this afternoon, then my intention is to wrap up our meeting this afternoon. Honourable Members, and DAC team presence this afternoon, at the very outmost property that we are in, given us by the Municipal Market Nausori, we take this opportunity to thank you very much for your time. Remember, we are here on behalf of Mr. Speaker of the Parliament. Whatever inspired through this afternoon, all those questions are rated as very important to us.

The Committee will be working on all the motions that had been seconded, and that will be part of the area to see whether they are being considered in the Bill or need to redirect those questions to the right Ministry involved. The team this afternoon, honourable Members, the team

from the Ministry of Health and our support staff, who play a very critical role in our moving here and there, I now declare this meeting closed.

The meeting adjourned at 4.09 p.m.

VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT NO 4. 2026

DATE: Wednesday, 10th June, 2026

VENUE: (1) Veitalacagi Hall, Vunidawa.
(2) Waikalou Hall, Serea.

VERBATIM REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE VEITALACAGI HALL, VUNIDAWA ON 10TH JUNE AT 10.30A.M.

Present

1. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu - Chairman
2. Hon. A. Bia - Member
3. Hon. P.K. Bala - Member
4. Hon. V. Pillay - Member
5. Hon. S. Kumar - Alternate Member

Apologies

1. Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure - Deputy Chairperson
2. Hon. A.T. Nagata - Member

Submittee:

1. Ratu Meli Nakasavu
2. Mr. Tevita Verebasaga
3. Mr. Isimeli Cagica
4. Mr. Josateki Baleisuva
5. Ms. Wata Qiboni
6. Ms. Rosa Tiko
7. Mr. Sekove Ravua
8. Ms. Kelera Kuli
9. Mr. Sairusi Qaranivalu
10. Mr. Asivurusi Taganeredina
11. Ms. Lusiana Ravu
12. Mr. Malakai Namakadru
13. Ms. Luisa Lewa
14. Mr. Samisoni Roko
15. Mr. Jobe Dara
16. Mr. Solo Vuki
17. Mr. Misiwata Rainima
18. Ms Susana R

Ministry of Health

1. Mr. Luke Vonotabua - Acting Chief Health Inspector
2. Mr. Toga Vosataki - WASH Coordinator

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, honourable Members. The people of Naitasiri who are present here, especially in the District Office. Whether the PA comes on board, otherwise the Roko Tui who is present here this morning, I welcome all who are here; in case I miss some, if there are representatives from the Turaga Ni Koro, I also take this opportunity to welcome you all.

I believe today is a very important day for us, especially the Committee that is representing your Parliament who are present here, staff, likewise the team from the Ministry of Health. We welcome everyone who is here, and we hope that our public submission this morning will be of great help, especially for the Bill is in front of us - Public Health (Amendment) Bill. We have had it all the way from 1935, so it is almost 90 years with us.

Before we start, I would like to ask honourable Bia to lead us in a word of prayer.

(Prayer)

(Sevusevu).

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ena vuku ni vakasama ga ni da veiwaraki tiko, e yaga na gauna qo me da veitalanoataka eso na ulutaga bibi e dodonu me gole vei keda ena siga ni kua.

Au nuitaka ni'u sa vakamacalataka oti, kevaka e dua e sega ni kila na vosa vaka-iTaukei, rairai e yaga me da qai vakacuruma na vosa vaka-vavalagi. Me vaka au sa tukuna tiko, na lawa e tu qo e matada e baleta tikoga na Public Health mai na 1935.

Au na vakararamataki keda vakatotolo ena veika e vakacuruma tiko na Komiti, yavutaki tiko ena vakasama ni veiveisau levu — ni kena mai veisau kei na vakavoui na yavutu ni lawa oqo. Na kena kau wavoki tiko ena veiyasai Viti, sa tekivu ena loma ni yasana vakaturaga o Naitasiri.

Au cavuta tiko na vosa ni vakavinavinaka levu ena vuku ni veitalai ni Turaga na Sipika ena mataka ni kua. Rairai beka ni sa qai tekivu sega ni ka vou vei keimami na dau lako curuma na tuvatuva ena veiyasai Viti. Dau tekivu vakaoqo, dau via sukasuka vakalailai, yaco yani i loma, sa qai dau taucoko na kena vakasokomuni tiko na i tukutuku me baleta na Bill se lawa tu.

Vakacaca sara na lawa tu e tiko e matada ni kua, ratou tiko qo na kena iTaukei. Nodratou tiko na Tabana ni Bula, ka rau tiko qo na kena vakalesilesi liu, ka rau na mai veitokani tiko ena neitou ilakolako kece sara. Na vuni kena vakararamataki tiko sai koya na ulutaga bibi e tiko qo e matada.

Au gadreva meu vakadeitaki keda ena Bill oqo, sa via taura tiko qo e 90 na yabaki mai na 1935 na gauna a vakadonui kina ena loma ni noda Palimedi. Na veiveisau lelevu e lako tiko mai qo, kevaka e donu noqu nanuma, ena via 69 na tabana era na veisau, me ra vakavoui me rawa ni donumaka mai na gauna ni veiqaravi eda sa tekivu kina nikua - 90 na yabaki sa balavu sara ga.

Na veiveisau ni lawa tu ni noda matanitu dau rairai yaga me laurai ena vei tolu se lima na yabaki, na veilawatu eso me laurai na tikina me vakavinakataki. Ia kevaka dou raica 90 na yabaki yani ki muri, au vakabauta levu ni ka sa tu ena loma ni lawa tu qo, kevaka e donu noqu nanuma kei noqu vakasama, sa rairai yaga me overall na lawatu oqo. Me na qai donu vei keda na gauna vou me rawa ni veiraurau kina na veika e gadrevi, na gauna e caka kina, na tabana me na veisau me rawata noda bula ena veisiga kei na cakacaka levu ni veivakatorocaketaki ni matanitu eda sa lako curuma tiko.

Qo e bibi kina na kena kau wavoki na lawa oqo, kena wavokiti Viti ena via taura tiko beka e rua se tolu na vula na kena kau wavoki tiko. Na gauna eratou lesu tale kina na lewe ni Komiti, eratou na qai lai taleva tale na veika eratou sa vakasokomuna mai ena loma ni 14 na Yasana.

Na ka e bibi tiko eke na nomuni vakatutu na lewenivanua. Na cava o ni vinakata se gadreva me tiki ni nomuni vakatutu ena kena veisau na lawa tu oqo. So na gauna, sa pasi, keitou sa lako sara, ni na qai kaya, "uu, keimami sa calata na nodratou lako mai na Komiti ni Palimedi ena vakasama ni veivakararamataki." kevaka ni vinakata na lewenivanua me rogo na

domomuni ena kena veisau na lawatu oqo, na gauna sara ga keitou sa tiko kina nikua i Vunidawa.

Kena ibalebale, na rogoci ni domuni na lewenivanua, se vei keda na cakacaka vakamatanitu tiko qo e Vunidawa, keitou na vakasokomuna kece na i tukutuku oqo. Ka bibi na kena rogoci na nomuni nanuma kei na nomuni vakatutu.

Na vuna levu e toso wavoki kina na nomuni Palimedi, sai koya na kena vakasama ni kena mai veivakararamataki, vunautaki vakadodonu, vakamatatataki na dina e vinakati me veisau se vakavoui me tiki ni lawa oqo, ni bera ni qai lako curuma na noda Palimedi me ra veitalanoataka na lewe ni Palimedi na kena vakadeitaki.

Kevaka e donu noqu nanuma, au vakabauta ni sa tiko vei ratou na Valenivolavola ni Yasana na kena vakadewataki ena tolu na vosa — oya na vosa vaka-iTaukei, na vosa vei ira na wekada na vasu, kei na vosa vakaperetania. Oqo na ka levu keitou sa kauta wavoki tiko mai.

Qo vakacaca na veika ena mai veitalanoataki ena mataka nikua. Ena rabailevu sara na veitalanoa kevaka eda na vakasokomuna na i tukutuku mai vei ira na lewenivanua, ka vakakina vei keda sa tiko rawa ena mataka nikua.

Au sa na dolava tiko na wa ni vosavosa qo me da na veiwasei kina. Au na gadreva talega meu solia na gauna vei ratou na iTaukei ni lawatu oqo, ke rawa talega ni dua nodratou veivakadreti ena vuku ni lawa e kau wavoki tiko mai oqo.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Sa tiko saka na Turaga Chairman, tiko saka na Lewe ni Boselawa, ni tiko saka na veiwekani ena siga vinaka nikua. Taumada, na lawa e okati tiko ni tiko bulabula. Na lawa ni tiko bulabula oqo e yavutaki sara ga mai na cakacaka e qarava tiko na Tabacakacaka ni Bula mai na gauna e tauyavutaki kina ena 1935 me yacova tiko na gauna eda donumaka nikua. Kena ibalebale ni toso tiko na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula, keitou raica tale na cava soti na bolebole ni neitou veiqaravi ka drakidrakita tiko kina na kena sagai me laveti cake na tuvaki ni bula ni lewenivanua, me rawa ni ra cakacakataki ira vakataki ira, ka vakakina na kena toro cake na rawaka ni vuvale, ni tikotiko, kei na noda matanitu o Viti.

Ena vei yabaki eda sa sotava tiko mai, sa dewa tikoga na veimataqali mate me vaka na Leptospirosis, Taifote (Typhoid), Dengue kei na vica tale na mate dewa eso. Ka vaka me sa vakatale tu na draki, sa veiyabaki ga eda donumaka tiko na kena lako mai na baca, e vica oqo ka tarai keda rabailevu tiko na lewe i Viti.

Sa qai nanuma na Tabacakacaka ni Bula me cakava eso na veisau ena lawa ni tiko bulabula, me vukea na neitou saga me keitou bonata se tarova na kena vadewai tiko na mate au sa vakamacalataka oti. Oti, sa qai tiko eso na vuli lelevu me vaka na COVID-19, ka kauta mai vica na vakavuvuli mai na cagilaba lelevu eda donumaka. E tadolava na mata ni veiqaravi na kena curuma eso na tiki ni lawa, ka nanumi kevaka me na vakaqaqacotaki vakalailai oqo, ena rawa ni vakavinakataki sara na veiqaravi eda tiko kina.

Oya na usutu levu ni kena nanumi me biu mai na mata komiti ni Boselawa na lawa vakaturi ni tiko bulabula, me rawa ni vukea na Tabacakacaka ni Bula ena neitou veiqaravi me taqomaki kemuni na lewenivanua i Viti. Koya saka beka ga ya vakacaca na vakamacala taumada rabailevu ni lawa vakaturi e kau tiko mai me da na veivosaki kina ena siga nikua.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni bera ga ni toso na noda veitalanoa ena mataka nikua, ni na rai tiko mai me vaka sa tukuni oti na vosa ni sevusevu. Keitou dabe tiko qo, keitou gole mai Palimedi — na nomuni Palimedi. Matata vei keda na cava nai tavi ni Palimedi.

Keitou veicurumaki tiko mai — matanitu kei na to ni veisaqa. Na nomuni Palimedi e tiko kina e ono na Standing Committee. O ira qo era qarava tiko na veiqaravi lelevu, ka dau laurai ena annual reports ni veitabana kece vakamatanitu, wili kina o ira na statutory organisations ni matanitu, ka so talega na itavi era dau cakava me vaka e tiko qo.

Eda sa kila tiko ni Palimedi na vanua ni buli lawa, me veisau kina na lawa, me vakavoui talega kina na lawa. Eso na gauna, e dau repealtaki kina na lawa. Ni gole tiko mai va qo na Komiti keimami lako kece mai ena itavi ni Palimedi, ka veitalai tiko mai kina na Turaga na Sipika.

Na veika kece ena mai vakayacori e biu tani vakatikitiki na neimami sala ni cakacaka ni tabana ni matanitu kei na to ni veisaqa (bipartisan). Keimami lako tiko mai ena dua ga na yavu — me keitou rogoca na cava o ni gadreva, kevaka keitou duavata kina ena kena laveti cake na lawatu e tiko qo e matada, me vaka rau sa vakamacala kina na kena iTaukei mai na Tabana ni Bula. Rairai yaga me keitou na vakamacalataki keitou mada.

HON. V. PILLAY.- (Vakamacalataki koya o honourable Viam Pillay)

Mr. Chairman has already explained to you about our visit and why we are here. We look forward to your views and also to your contribution during the submission.

(Vakamacalataki ratou na lewe ni komiti kei rau na vakalesilesi mai na Tabana ni Bula)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vakabauta ni sa matata tiko nai tukutuku e kau mai kei na veitaratara e vakayacori tiko mai ena Valenivolavola Liu. Keitou wavoki tiko mai ka keitou sa tiko ena nomudou itikotiko.

Ena vuku ni vakasama kei na kena vakararamataki tiko na lawatu. Sa keitou vakayacora na isevusevu kei na lotu, ka keitou sa tiko qo ena introduction phase ni kena vakamacalataki tiko na Bill oqo.

Vakabauta ni sa tiko talega vei kemudou na Valenivolavola ni Yasana na kena vakamacalataki na lawatu oqo ena noda vosa vaka-iTaukei. Kevaka se bera ni vakadeitaka mai, ena rawa ni vukei keitou ena neitou lako kina karua ni koro, me rawarawa kina vei ira na lewenivanua na nodra wilika kei na veika e tu me veitalanoataki ena kena vakararamataki tiko na lawa oqo.

Gadreva kina na nomudou veivakadeitaki ena tabana oya, me vukei keitou ga ena neitou logistics, na kena lai laurai talega na vanua e yaco tiko kina. Baleta ni ka e tiko mai dakuna, keitou kece qo tou raw ani veitalanoa vakavavalagi, ia e matata vei kedatou. O ira na wekada, dodonu me rogo na domodra — o ira na lewenivanua.

Na kena vakadewataki vei ira me rawarawa na nodra wilika ena vosa vaka-iTaukei, baleta ni nodatou yasana qo e levu sara kina na wekadatou na iTaukei. Kevaka me ra tiko o ira

na nodatou vasu, ena rawa ni keitou qai veitalanoataka yani. Rau tiko qo, rau na ciqoma nai tukutuku ya mai Palimedi.

Au nuitaka tiko ni oni na tuberi keda yani kina, ena vica na aua sa tu me tou na veitalanoa kina nikua.

Sa dolava raraba tiko na vakasama ni lawatu e kau mai. Au gadrevi honourable Aliki Bia me solia mada e dua nona vakamacala ena vosa vaka-iTaukei ena yasana oya, ni bera ni qai soli vei ratou na wekadatou keitou dabe vata tiko nikua.

HON. A. BIA.- Taumada vei kedatou na vakalesilesi ni Valenivolavola ni Yasana, ratou tiko vakakina na Turaga Roko, ni bula vinaka.

Vakalekaleka sara, meu kauti kedatou mai vakalekaleka me rawa ni tadola na nodatou veitalanoa ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi e kau mai ena mataka vinaka nikua. Rau sa vakamacala oti kina na vakalesilesi mai na Tabana ni Bula. Ia, dua na ka me datou nanuma — na lawa vakaturi e kau tiko mai nikua- oya na ka e dodonu me da veitalanoataka na Public Health (Amendment) Bill oqo e dua na lawa ka yavutaki ena kena taqomaki na bula ni lewenivanua — sega walega o ira na tiko mai na veitaoni kei na veikoro lelevu, ia e wili talega kina na veikorokoro lalai kei na taudaku ni veikoro. E wili talega kina na lewenivanua ka ra tiko ena so na tikotiko vagalala ka ra se bera ni oka tu me dua na koro. Na lewenivanua taucoko era oka ena lawa vakaturi oqo.

Kevaka eda raica eso na veika e oka kina na lawa vakaturi oqo, dou na taura rawa ni gauna qo e vakayacori talega na Integrated Village Development Plan (IVDP). Eso na itovo kei na draki ni bula e bulataki ena koro kei na veiyasana eda tiko kina, e oka sara ga kina na lawa vakaturi oqo.

Na ka e bibi tiko vakalevu, na veitalanoa kei ira na lewenivanua kei kemudou na vakalesilesi mai na Valenivolavola ni Yasana. Baleta ni gauna ena lai pasitaki kina e Palimedi, sai koya sara ga na lawa oqo keitou na kauta tiko ena vuku ni kena qarauni na bula se na taqomaki na nodra bula na lewenivanua era tiko ena noda veikorokoro.

Ratou vakamacala tiko na Tabana ni Bula, oya na kena sagai me kua ni dewa vakatotolo e dua na mate veitauvi ena loma ni noda koro. Na vuli mai na COVID-19 e dua na inaki levu ni lawa oqo — sai koya na kena vakarawarataka kevaka e yaco e dua na mate, me kua ni vakadewa totolo. E vakarawarawataka na nodratou curu yani ena loma ni noda yasana kei na noda veikoro na vakalesilesi mai na Tabana ni Bula. E solia vei ratou na galala me ratou gole yani me ratou lai veiqaravi ena vuku ni kena tovolei me tarovi na mate dewa se na leqa e tiko ena loma ni koro, ena vuku ni kena sagai me taqomaki na nodra bula na lewenikoro.

Ia, e tiko na noda lawa ni veikorokoro, e tiko na gaunisala ni noda veiqaravi na vakalesilesi ena Valenivolavola ni Yasana. E sega ni tukuni ni kena pasitaki na lawa qo me na tarova na veika kece oya. Ena dua tikoga na walewale ni noda veiqaravi, tikoga na lawa ni veikoro. Ia, qo ena vakaqaqacotaka ga se na kena tovolei me vakacokataki na nodra bula na veiqaravi ni Tabana ni Bula, me rawa ni ra lai tarova vakatotolo kevaka e mani yaco tale e dua na mate dewa eda sa lako curuma oti mai.

E tiko tale e levu na veika e uasivi — me vaka na kena tara na vale ena noda veikoro, na veiyawaki ni vale, me laurai tiko na noda loma ni koro me kua ni osooso vakalevu,

vakauasivi na tabana ni bula. Wili talega kina na kena tara na vale ni valevakacegu ena veivale, na vakacava na kena veiyawaki, vakauasivi na kena maroroi na nodra vakacegu o ira na qase era tiko ena noda loma ni koro me vaka na vakosakosa beka. Eso na noda veilawa ni koro, ena gauna ni pasitaki kina na lawa vakaturi oqo, e dodonu me da raica me veidutaki vata kei na lawa e tiko ena kena taqomaki na nodra bula na lewenivanua. Ia, vakacaca na veika e tiko ena lawa vakaturi e kau mai qo.

Dua tale na ka bibi e tiko e loma, sai koya na kena taqomaki na wai ni gunu — na vurevure ni wainigunu me taqomaki vakavinaka. E dodonu me ra raica na lewenikoro na ituvatuva ni matanitu e tiko ena gauna oqo, sai koya na Tabana ni Wai, ni cakava na ituvatuva ni veivakatorocaketaki ni wainigunu ena veikoro. E lako mai qarava na gauna e lako kina, sa tiko na Komiti ni Wai ena koro me qarava na cakacaka oya. Ia, qo ena vakaukautaka vakalailai me ratou laveta cake na nodratou veiqaravi na Komiti ni Wai ni koro, me ratou raica ni sa tiko na lawa. Sega ni ka vou, ni sa oti na 90 na yabaki, ia e sagai ga me laveti cake na veiqaravi me laurai ni taqomaki na nodra bula na lewenivanua.

Na wainigunu, na kakana e laukana ena loma ni koro, vakauasivi na tiko bulabula ena loma ni koro, na kena qarauni na biu ni benu ni kakana se benu cava ga e tiko ena loma ni koro — qo e qarauni kece ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi oqo. Oya me matata vei keda me rawa ni dolava na noda veitalanoa.

E dua talega na ka bibi e kau mai qo, sai koya na kena laveti cake se tosoi cake na totogi vakailavo e tiko ena lawa virikotori qo. Eso na totogi mai na 90 na yabaki sa oti, eso e tiko ena $2, eso e $5. Ia, na lawa virikotori vakaturi oqo e sa toso cake — eso na totogi sa yacova na $500, eso sa $1000. Kena ibalebale, e dodonu me vakararamataki na lewenikoro kevaka e mani yaco e dua na leqa tubukoso, ra qai lako yani na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula, qai laurai ni sega tu ni vinaka na ka. Ia, e sega ni tukuni me lako ga yani, sa yaco na totogi.

E tiko vei na lawa vakaturi oqo na veigaunisala eso me sagai kina na kena vakavinakataki na leqa. Nai otioti ni ka, sai koya na kena lavaki na totogi vakailavo. Ia, na veika ena sagai iliu, sai koya na kena tovolei me vakavinakataki na leqa e yaco. Nai otioti sara ga ni ka, na kena lavaki na totogi vakailavo e tiko ena lawa vakaturi oqo. Au vakabauta ni sa na via rarama toka, me rawa ni dolava na noda veitalanoa ena mataka vinaka ni kua.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vakabauta ni sa na viavia taucoko toka na vakasama ni veika me da veitalanoa kina nikua. Kevaka e sega ni matata vei kemudou na vosa vakaViti se na vosa vaka-iTaukei, rawa talega ni da veitalanoa vaka-vavalagi. Oya ena qai matata sara vei keda na tiko rawa qo.

Ia, na ka dina e tiko mai dakuna, o ira na lewenivanua. Oya na vanua e takete tiko kina na Komiti qo — na nodra vakatutu. Na cici ni matanitu ena gauna qo, eda sa duavata kece tiko ena kena vakavoui na lawa oqo.

Se tikoga na vakasama ni noda veitalanoa, na kerei rau tale mada na Tabana ni Bula, baleta ni nodratou na lawa oqo. Ena rairai yaga me rau vakacukelea tale vakamatailailai eso na tikina se na yasana e sega ni matata, ka vukea tikoga na kena totolo na noda veitalanoa nikua. Kevaka o via vosa mai vaka-vavalagi, se cava e tadola tu na veitalanoa kece oqo, sa dola kece tu na siteseni. E tolu na siteseni e vakatakilai kina na kena vosa matata vei keda.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Chairman, dua na veisau me vaka e vakamacalataka tiko na lewe ni Komiti ena mataka vinaka nikua, sai koya iliu na lawa e volai tiko ni sega ni oka na koro vakaviti. Na veisau sa vakatura tiko na Tabacakacaka ni Bula me sa boko na tikina oya, me sa volai ga ena tabana taumada ni lawa me sa na okati Viti raraba.

Kena ibalebale, na lawa e dau vauci ira na tiko ena taudaku ni koro vakaViti, sa na sagai me toso talega yani kina nodatou koro vakaViti. Na kena inaki, me vaka sa vakamacalataki tiko, laurai ni veivanua ena taudaku ni koro vakaviti era toso baleta ni tiko e dua na tagede me yaga me ra na yacova. Me vaka sa vakamacalataka tiko na lewe ni Komiti — na tara ni vale, na vale ni vakacegu, kei na veika kece oqori.

Kedatou, sa tiko sara ga na nodatou tagede, sega ni dua na standard me sagai me da na yacova tiko. Oya na vuna e nanuma kina na Tabacakacaka ni Bula me sa na okati kina na koro vakaViti. Laurai tiko na tauvi mate dau basika ena veiyabaki, levu tikoga vei ira na wekada tiko ena koro vakaViti, e tauvi ira tiko na mate dewa eso.

Dua na ka keitou sa qai nanuma, baleta beka ga ni duidui tiko na kena biu tiko na lawa. Oya e dua na vakaraitaki ni veisau e nanumi tiko me na vakayacori

Na kena karua: na kena vakamatataki ga na lawa ni veivakavaletaki. Ena 1935, e sega ni tiko kina na mataqali vale ni vakavaletaki me vaka na Airbnb kei na so tale na mataqali ka vou sa lako tiko mai qo. Nanuma na Tabacakacaka ni Bula me vakalawataki vakauasivi o ira na vale era dau rede taki tu. Dau levu na kudru dau gole mai vei ira na lewenivanua ni ra kudruvaka na vale era tiko kina, ni ra sa saumi rent tiko ia e tuvaki vakaca tu na vale.

Dina ni keitou sa qai lai vakaqaqacotaka na lawa imuri, io, na rivariva bi e sa yaco tiko ena dua na gauna balavu. Na veisau keitou sa nanuma me caka, ni bera ni dua na vale va qo me rede taki, ena taumada me vakadonui na Tabacakacaka ni Bula. Me caka rawa na inspection, me register taki, ka nanumi ni sa daumaka me na tawana e dua na vuvale se cei ga me lai vakaicili kina, sa qai yacova yani me soli na kena veivakadonui.

Oya na via maroroi ira vakalailai na noda era dau gole yani me ra lai cakacaka ena veikoro vakavavalagi ena vuku ni nodra rede. Wili talega e loma o ira na noda era dau gole me ra lai musu dovu, ena nodra vale na tamata cakacaka ni musu dovu me vaka e so vei keda qo, sa bau lesu mai na vanua ni dovu, ena taura vakavinaka sara ga na vakamacala au tukuna tiko yani qo.

Na tagede ni nodra lai vakacilitaki na wekada era dau lai musu dovu — na vanua me ra moce kina, na vale ni vakacegu e vakarautaki — keitou nanuma me na dua toka na tagede me maroroi ira ena gauna era dau moce kina. Oya e vica na veiveisau e tiko ena lawa vakaturi. Dola tiko kina na noda veivosaki ena siga vinaka nikua.

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MR. CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much to the Ministry of Health. I will now give the microphone to one of our Members of Parliament, who is present here on my right or left, to provide us with some understanding on the opening of this subject matter before us for deliberation. Hopefully, they will help us gain clarity and open our discussion here this morning.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, this amendment Bill is very important, especially for the villages, and that is why the Committee has decided to come here today to get your

views. This is the first time that villages have been included in the amendment, and once it is passed, it will become law. Before it becomes law, as citizens, you must understand what this law will do and how it will affect you.

There are fines and penalties, and you may ask during the discussion whether those fines are reasonable or too high. This is the time for you to share your views, and whatever your views are, they will be taken on board by this Committee when we prepare the final submission. It is very important for you, and this opportunity is given so that you can contribute to this Amendment Bill.

On the other side, this Amendment Bill is going to strengthen the health and safety of all Fijians. This is very important, as you are all aware of what happened during COVID-19. In the absence of laws and by-laws, people were affected, people got sick, and people died. Taking all of that into account, the Ministry of Health has introduced these amendments.

It is now your chance to make your views known to the Committee, so that we can take them on board.

MR. S. QARANIVALU.- Dou sa tiko saka na nodatou lewe ni Boselawa, ni tiko talega na itokani vakalesilesi. Taumada, kerei saka na veivosoti ena mataka vinaka nikua. Nai tukutuku ni nomudou yaco tiko mai e ciqomi tiko ena macawa sa oti, sa veikauyaki na kena itukutuku vei ratou na Mata Ni Tikina kei Turaga ni Koro era voleka tiko ena loma ni tikotiko oqo.

Ni vaka tiko oqo nai rairai ni noda tiko, vaka e malumalumu toka, sa kerei kina na veivosoti. Sega ni kena ibalebale ni beci na nomudou yaco tiko mai ena mataka edaidai. Kila na loma saka ni tiko oqo, e dua na ka keitou vulica tiko — na liga ni veiqaravi ni dau kacivi na veivakararamataki. Era dau vakaulubaletaka tiko mai o ira na nodra ivodovodo, na refreshment ena vakarautaki se sega? Na cava keimami na saumi kina kevaka keimami na lako yani ena veivakararamataki? Ni ra raica vata ena dua na siga, e rawa ni vakayagataki tale ena nodra bula ni veiqaravi. Dua na gauna lekaleka qo, ni veitarataravi tiko mai na veivakararamataki, sa tukuni tiko yani na veivakararamataki ka sa tarogi tiko mai vakaoqo.

Era kerea tiko mai kevaka mai muri, me dau lako mai na itukutuku ni veivakararamataki, dou vakarautaka vata na transport, na ivaqa beka, se cava me ra na mai vakatalai lesu kina na nodra mai tiko ena gauna ni veivakararamataki.

Dua na gauna lekaleka qo ena loma ni nodatou Yasana, sa veitarataravi tiko mai na cawiri ni veivakararamataki se na consultation. E sega ni ca, baleta ni neitou itavi tiko o keitou na kauta tiko nai tukutuku. Levu na gauna ni va mai qo na suka lesu ni veika e lako yani, kerea saka tiko nomudou veivosoti.

Nai tukutuku sa vakadewataki, era osooso beka, ia keimami sa tiko nai vakalesilesi me keimami vakamacala tiko yani ena vukudra, ena vuku ni lawa vakaturi sa kau tiko mai ena mataka edaidai.

Au kila vei keitou mada ga e Valenivolavola ni Yasana ena loma ni macawa oqo, ni vakavakarau tiko na neitou Bose ni Yasana, tiko neitou Subcommittee ni Tabana ni Bula, ka dua na ka keitou lai vakaraitaka tiko sai koya na lailai ni neitou Health Inspector e Naitasiri.

Na kila vinaka tiko o mataqali Luke na ituvaki kei Namosi. Namosi e dua na Yasana lailai, ia e vica vata tu na nona Health Inspector. Keitou i Naitasiri, e dua na Yasana levu, ia e dua tikoga ga na neitou Health Inspector.

Na yasana cava beka vakalawa ena rawa ni wali kina na kerekere oqo, me vakalevutaki na neitou Health Inspector ena yasana o Naitasiri, vakatautauvata kei na Yasana vakaturaga o Namosi.

Na kena karua: eratou sa veitalanoataka tiko na Komiti ni Tiko Bulabula ena neitou Yasana, sai koya na nodra vakaukauwataki se na nodra empowertaki o ira na Nasi ni Koro ena veikoro. Kila ni dua na gauna e lako mai e dua na matanicagi sa oti, e vakamalumalumutaki na nodra kaukauwa kei na nodra veiqaravi na Nasi ni Koro. Dua beka na vanua qo e tagavi kina na nodra tokoni tale, me ra vakaukauwataki, me ra empowertaki na Nasi ni Koro e ra veiqaravi tiko ena loma ni koro.

Koya beka ya mai vei keitou, kerei tiko na veivosoti. Kemudou na tiko i cake oqo, sega ni dou dau waraki keimami, ia keimami dau waraki kemuni. Ena mataka qo, sa veitaratara tiko yani na Turaga Roko, ni dou sa tiko na Turaga Vakalesilesi Lelevu. Sa kerei tiko na veivosoti ni ko ni sa tiko rawa ena mataka qo, keimami qai yaco tiko mai. Vinaka saka vakalevu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka vakalevu nai talanoa totoka, Turaga Roko. Sa ciqomi tiko na nomuni kere veivosoti. E sega ni ka vou na neimami dau lako ena veikorokoro, dau vakagata tu ga ni toso ni veika keimami dau sotava.

Na gauna edau tekivu kina, dau vaka ga oqo na kena irairai me vaka au sa kaya oti ena gauna au a vosa kina ena mataka nikua. Dau via drakidrakitaka toka na toso, ni sa na qai matata vei ira na lewenivanua, eso na gauna sa voleka sara ni cava na neimami wavoki, ra qai kidava mai na lewenivanua na bibi ni veivakararamataki e gole tiko yani.

Keitou sa ciqoma tiko na vakatutu kece oqori kei na veika e lako curumi, baleta ni keitou na liga ga ni veiqaravi. Na veika o ni kauta tiko mai, au na kerei rau na Turaga mai na Tabana ni Bula, me rau veivakararamataki ena vuku ni ulutaga bibi lako tiko mai oqo.

Na kena laurai vakavinaka na veiyasana kei ira na liga ni veiqaravi, vakabibi vei ira na Health Inspector. Na kena karua: au ciqoma rawa na bibi ni veiqaravi, ra qarava tiko na Nasi ni Koro. Rau tiko qo na ivakalesilesi liu mai na Tabana ni Bula, au na kerei rau me rau veivakararamataki. Vinaka sara vakalevu.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Mr. Chairman, ni tiko na lewe ni Komiti ni Bose Lawa, ni tiko na turaga kei na marama na lewe ni Yasana o Naitasiri, ni tiko na Turaga PA kei na Turaga Roko. Sa vakavinavinakataki tiko na kauwai, laveti cake tiko mai ena siga vinaka edaidai. Au vakabauta ni dina taucoko tiko na kauwai e biu tiko mai ena vuku ni veiqaravi.

Nanuma meu vakararamataka vakalailai na vuku ni veiqaravi ni Tabana ni Bula — na Health Inspectors ena loma ni Yasana o Naitasiri. Au kila ni Lower Naitasiri e yaco tiko mai Naqali, ka qaravi tiko ena Valenivolavola mai Nausori. Tiko na liga ni veiqaravi era veiqaravi tiko ena yasana o Tailevu kei Rewa, ia era qarava vakalailai eso na veikorokoro ena loma ni

nodatou Yasana. Wili kina na gaunisala mai Kasavu kei na veikorokoro kece e Naitasiri, e yaco tiko mai na tikotiko ni veiqaravi e Naqali.

Na veikorokoro kece ena loma ni Yasana o Naitasiri ka tiko ena loma ni Koro Turaga, qaravi tiko mai Suva. Wili kina o ratou na noda mai Kalabu kei na veitikotiko kece era tiko mai Tamavua Koro, ni ra wili tiko ena loma ni Yasana o Naitasiri.

Na yabaki vakailavo oqo, au kila ni sa mai laveti tiko vakalailai na itukutuku ni nodatou dauniveiqaravi ena loma ni Yasana, ka tiko ena loma ni nodatou tikotiko ni veiqaravi e Vunidawa. Kila ni dou na tauri au rawa tiko; mai laveti vakalailai nai tutu me sa subdivisional na Health Inspector, ka me sa na dua tale tikoga na kena karua — e dua na marama me na veivuke tiko ena veiqaravi, me na mai tiko ena nodatou tikotiko ni veiqaravi e Vunidawa.

Oya me rawa ni qaravi kina na nodatou vei tikotiko, koya era wili tiko i Vunidawa se na valenibula. E wili tiko na veiqaravi, cokovata kece ena loma ni tikotiko ni veiqaravi qo e Vunidawa. Oya na veika me baleta na Health Inspectors

Na lawa vakaturi ni Tiko Bulabula sa tiko oqo, e tiko talega kina na kaukauwa me rawa ni soli vua edua na liga ni veiqaravi me rawa ni enforcetaka na lawa oqo. Oya e dua na vakatutu sa laveti cake mai vei ira na tiko ena yanuyanu me vakataki Lakeba kei Kabara.

Ni sa tiko na Health Inspector, me vaka na tiko mai Lakeba, me soli na kaukauwa vei ira na liga ni veiqaravi — o ira na Nasi kei na Vuniwai era tiko ena yanuyanu oya — me rawa ni ra enforcetaka na lawa. Ia, oya e dua na appointment e caka, ka sa tiko oqo ena lawa vakatutu. Tiko na kaukauwa vua na Turaga Minisita me appoint-taka e dua na liga ni veiqaravi me rawa ni enforcetaka na tiki ni lawa qo**.**

Au vakabauta ni okoya talega na ka e rawa ni qaravi ena loma ni nodatou yasana. Ratou na qai appoint-taki na neitou Nasi eratou tiko mai Nasoqo, na Vuniwai eratou tiko mai Naboubuco, kei ratou tale ga na tiko mai Nakorosule. Kevaka e sega ni yaco tiko yani kina na Turaga Health Inspector kei na nona vakalesilesi, ena re-empower-taki na marama Nasi se na Turaga Vuniwai me rawa ni enforcetaka na lawa oqo.

Au vakabauta ni okoya ya na veika me baleta na ka e tiko ena loma ni lawa vakaturi — na kena rawa ni empowertaki se soli na kaukauwa ni veiqaravi me enforcetaka na lawa ni Tiko Bulabula vei ira na liga ni veiqaravi. Vei ira na nodatou Nasi ni Koro se nodratou Community Health Officer, e tiko ga na scope ni nodra veiqaravi. Tou na sega ni expect-taki ratou me ratou raici tauvimate, se soli vuanikau, se veicula, baleta ni nodratou cakacaka oya na Nasi kei na Vuniwai.

Au kila ni sa tiko ga na nodratou scope na Nasi ni Koro, eratou sa kila vinaka tiko na nodratou veiqaravi. Sa dau caka tiko na vuli me laveti cake na nodra veiqaravi ena veigauna taucoko. Dua na ka me na yaco, me ra vakavulici tiko kina na Nasi ni Koro, me ra update-taki tiko na nodra kila ena veiqaravi e tiko ena loma ni nodratou scope ni veiqaravi.

Au vakabauta ni na via matata vakalailai, ni sa dua nai tuvatuva sa sagai me laveti cake, me dua tale me veivuke mai.

Tiko talega na gauna keitou dau deploy-taki ira mai kina na vakalesilesi mai Suva kei Nausori, me ra dau veivuke mai ena veiqaravi e Naitasiri. Oya me rawa ni sa vakalevutaki na liga ni veiqaravi, me tolu se va beka na liga ni veiqaravi vaka Health Inspector, ka me na tiko ena loma ni nodatou valenibula e Vunidawa, ka na qai tara yani na veivanua tale eso ena loma ni nodatou yasana.

Sa ikoya beka ga ya nai tukutuku, Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka vakalevu na itukutuku mai na Tabana ni Bula. Koya rua na tikina lalai, rau toka ena tikina levu, me rau veitalanoa vata kei na lewenivanua, nodra ivodovodo vata kei na refreshment.

Au vakabauta ni na neitou kaukau lesu, keitou na qai veitalanoataka na vanua dau cava kina na neimami lai reporting. E tukutuku dina oqori sega ni ka vou. Ia, ni rau lako mai na rua oqo, koya tiko mada ga ena soqo, se cava e rogoca ga, cavu ivuvu mai me mai tiko na veivakararamataki vakaoqo. Au vakabauta ni na vanua ga me yavalati kina ena loma ni tolu na yabaki sa oti, na mataqali issue vata ga oqo e vakalesui tale mai vei ira na lewenivanua.

De rairai yaga na matanitu ena gauna qo me tekivu vakacakulea vakamalua na bibi ni nodra tiko o ira dodonu dina me rogo kina na domodra. Baleta kedatou na tiko qo, tou tiko ga ena dua na vuvale levu ni veiqaravi. Sa tukuni ga me da tiko, da vinakata se sega, sa da na dui kauti keda mai baleta ni noda itavi me da mai veiqaravi.

Vinaka vakalevu Turaga Roko na veika e cauraki tiko mai. Me vaka au sa kaya oti, ena tiki tiko ni noke ni lakolako lesu me na lai laurai mada na tikina bibi qo. De koya beka na vuna e sega ni levu na wekada era tiko rawa vakabibi, o ratou na Mata ni Tikina kei na vei Turaga ni Koro, o ira e tarai ira tiko na lawa bibi ni veiqaravi qo.

Tiko talega na vakanuinui kei na vakabauta kina nomudou Bose ni Yasana. Na veika ena cauraki tiko nikua, sa tiko na ligamudou na kena vakamacala. Me vaka au sa tukuna oti, ena rawa ni vakayagataki na vosa vakavulagi, vosa vaka-iTaukei, kei na nodratou vosa na vasu, ke rawa ni qai lai tiki talega ni nomudou ituvatuva na kena vakatetei na ituvatuva ni noda Palimedi, kevaka keitou sa tiko kina na Komiti ena mataka nikua.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Mr. Chairman, I would just like to add to what has already been said regarding the Bill. I see that the *Turaga ni Koro* are present here, along with other representatives of the community, especially those representing villages whose voices have not previously come before the Committee.

This Bill, once passed, will apply to all villagers and all living situations — the housing conditions, the wastewater management systems. We need to be very honest with our people when giving views to the Committee. Once this Bill is passed, the situations we know, our people are living in, especially in informal settlements and villages — the conditions of the

houses, the piggery sheds, the poultry sheds, the drainage — all will fall under this new amendment. The law carries heavy penalties.

The Ministry of Health officials have discussed the role of health inspectors. They will need to employ more inspectors because these inspectors will have greater powers. They will have powers to enter villages, powers to enter homes, powers to vacate, and powers to demolish houses. Those who obstruct will face heavy penalties.

This comes at a time when people are already struggling with the high cost of living, food prices, and other expenses. The penalties attached to the amended laws are severe. Leaders representing the people here should be very mindful and should honestly inform the Committee whether such penalties are fair to be imposed on ordinary Fijians. As soon as this Bill is passed, it will apply across Fiji — whether in settlements, villages, businesses, or hotels.

Previously, if someone entered a village, they would go through the Provincial Council. Under this law, health inspectors will have the power to enter villages directly through the Ministry of Health. They will also have the power to enter homes, and if there is any obstruction, penalties and fines will apply, and people could even face imprisonment.
I do not think you have a copy of the Bill. You need to review it carefully and rightfully inform the Committee on behalf of the people whether these penalties are right, or whether there should be some changes, the Committee needs to be in a position to make an informed decision. When we return to Parliament, we will have to make our decision. Thank you.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, before you give the floor to honourable Kumar, I just want to ask Roko — have you received the translated version?

MR. S. QARANIVALU.- Yes, Sir.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Are the villagers aware of the amended law?

MR. S. QARANIVALU.- Yes, Sir. We had the Mata ni Tikina and the Turaga ni Koro meeting last Friday. We did informed them about...

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa tiko vei ira?

MR. S. QARANIVALU.- Io, saka. So sa ciqoma tiko so se bera saka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ia kemudou sa tiko vei kemudou dua na copy ni Bill?

MR. S. QARANIVALU.- Sa tiko saka vei keitou.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ena rawarawa ni dou na lai vakadewataka?

MR. S. QARANIVALU.- Io, saka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au vakabauta ni sa levu sara na itukutuku keitou sa vosa tiko yani kina. De na rairai yaga me sa kena gauna me da veitalanoa mada vakavuvale ni da sa tiko rawa.

Tiko talega na vakanuinui ni tiko i loma oqo na vakasama ni veiqaravi ena vanua vakaturaga o Naitasiri. Na ka o rogoca nikua au kerekere me lai vakadewataki yani. Keitou sa

kerekere tiko ena Valenivolavola ni Yasana me ratou cakava talega vakakina, me dua na tiki ni nodratou gauna ena veitalanoa ni Bose ni Yasana, me curu kina na veitalanoa ni kena vakararamataki na lawa sa tu qo.

Yaga meu vakadeitaka ni Bill oqo e tamata levu toka. Kevaka o vakawilika vakamalua, e levu na veika e baleti keda sara ga na tiko ena veikorokoro. Ni sa na yaco me sa tuki mai Palimedi, me sa vakadeitaki, me sa vakabau na lawa qo, sa cava kina na veitalanoa. Na gauna oqo sa dola tiko na vakasama ni veitalanotaki kei na vakatutu. Ena loma ni tolu na vula keitou na wavoki tiko kina, kevaka eso era gadreva me ra volavola yani ena vakasama ni nodra vakatutu, e dola tu na veitaratara se written submission.

Ke so era gadreva na veitikina e tiko volekati kedatou, era sega ni rawa ni lako mai, era nanuma me dua mai nodra ilavelave ni vakatutu me vakaivolataki, sa tiko o ratou na neitou Secretariat, tiko vei ratou na communication link, me na qai vakadewataka yani vei Turaga Roko — e dola tu na tabana oya. Kena ibalebale, sa tiko talega oqo na tolu na vula keitou na cawiri tiko kina, se tiko na gauna, au nuitaka ni na yaco sara nai tukutuku vei ira na tiko ena nodatou veikorokoro.

Na itukutuku oya e nodra kece baleta ni tiko kina na itavi levu me da qarava. Kevaka keitou sa yaco i valeniveilewai, sa na tau ga kina na lewa vakalawa. Oya nai otioti ni ka, ia e ka bibi na matai ni ka me yaco mada nai tukutuku vei ira, me ra lai raica, me vakasamataki, me ra solia mai na nodra nanuma. E bibi na nomu solia mai na nomu nanuma kei na vakatulewa, baleta ni na gauna sa na lai tuki kina i Palimedi me sa lawa, sa na tiko vei iko na vakasama ya: "Au a vakatutu ena kena veisau na lawa ya. E okati au, e tiko kina noqu itavi, tiko na itavi ni vanua, itavi ni matanitu, vaka kina nai tavi ni lotu."

Au gadreva meu dolava na gauna ni nodatou veitalanoa vakavuvale vei keda sa tiko rawa, ena rarama ni kena veitalanoataki na lawa sa tu e matada. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. I. CAGICA.- Dou sa bula saka na Turaga, cavuti tiko na vakavinavinaka ena mataka vinaka ni kua ena vuku ni tukutuku sa mai vakasavui tiko vei keimami me baleta na Public Health (Amendment) Act ka sagai tiko na kena veisautaki.

Vica ga noqu vakanananu e tiko:

1. Kila ni dua na wase levu, me vaka dou sa rogoca, me baleta na ilavelave e tiko, ke rawa ni dau vakarautaki talega na vei-consultation. Me kau tiko mai me wase vei ira na ivakalesilesi dina ni sa tiko iValenivolavola ni Yasana, ka rawa ni dua ga na copy e photocopy me kau tiko mai nakoro.
2. Vakarogoca tiko na ivakamacala baleta na lawa qo ni sa na oka talega kina na veikorokoro. E dau biu tiko beka ga ena noda veitaoni, ia me biu talega ena noda veikoro. Sa dua na ka vinaka na kena vakasama, baleta ni na qai laveta cake na ivakarau ni bula, na vakasama ga ni tiko bulabula.
3. Kila ni vica na gauna keitou dau lako wavoki tiko kina kei ratou na Tabana ni Bula, ena kena valuti tikoga na mate e tolu oqo: na Dengue, Typhoid kei na lLptospirosis. Au dau tukuna tiko vei ira ni rua tale na mate e tiko vei keda na iTaukei: matai, na noda vucesa; kena karua, na noda sa vakadonui keda tu vakataki keda. Ni vinakati me qaravi na sasamaki, sa da sega ni vakayacora. Au kila ni na vukea na lawa oqo na nodra vakaukauwataki kei na nodra vakabulabulataka na tiko savasava.

4. Ia e vica na ka e tiko kina: na kena matai, e duidui tiko mai taoni vata kei na noda veikorokoro. Ira na tiko ena koro, era tiko vakavanua, na ka era rawata e rawa ga mai na nodra iteitei. Me vaka na tiko mai taoni- levu era cakacaka. Na kerekere beka ga, kevaka e tiko eso na ka e lavaki me rawa ni baleta na lawa oqo, me kakua ni vakatautauvatataki na penalties se na cava me ra sauma mai taoni vata kei na noda veikorokoro, baleta na rawa ka e tiko kina.
5. Kevaka e sa tautauvata, kena ibalebale, au kerea me raica na matanitu me laveta talega na vakatagedegede ni bula ena koro me tautauvata vata kei ira mai Suva se na veitaoni, ena rawa ni qai tautauvata na ivakacavacava era sauma kevaka e sa vakadonui. Oya e vica na ka au nanuma ni na veivuke. Na lawa qo ena vukei ira na tiko ena koro, ena laveta cake na vakatagedegede ni nodra tiko bulabula, ka na kautani kina na mate e tolu.
6. Kevaka eda raica na wai ni gunu, era gunu tikoga mai na source ga ena koro. Kena ibalebale, ena sega ni vakatauvatataki ira na tiko mai Suva. Oya ga au nanuma ni na rawa ni veivuke vei ira. E lawa vinaka baleta ni na vukea na nodra toso, me laurai walega na cava soti eda rawa ni cakava me rawa ni vakatautauvatataki na draki ni bula eda tiko kina — vei ira era cakacaka kei ira na tiko vakavanua. Vinaka vakalevu.

HON. A. BIA.- Mr. Chairman, just briefly on what Mr. Cagica mentioned. He is currently asking the Committee that whenever we come out for consultations like this, he understands that translated copies have been sent to the Provincial Office. However, if possible, when we come out for the benefit of the villagers and our Fijians who are here, we should bring copies with us so that they each have one. This way, whenever we discuss the Bill or any matter during consultation, they will have a fair idea and understanding of what we are discussing.

HON. V. PILLAY.- That should have been done.

HON. A. BIA.- About the Bill, it is mainly about the penalties.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Yes, what he said about the penalties?

HION. A. BIA.- It is the same point that you have raised: the penalties should differ between those living in urban areas and those living in villages, because their income levels and ways of earning are different in the village.

HON. V. PILLAY.- You are absolutely correct. That is what I have said — you need to be very honest, because you are representing the people. The Turaga ni Koro is here, while the rest of the villagers remain in the village. Just state the village conditions that you are aware of.

From fines of $10 or $20, they have now increased to $500, $1,000, $2,000, and even $5,000. At the same time, you will also need to ratify that issue. Imagine how the villagers are living now — their living conditions, their cost of living — and then they will be penalised with such large amounts. They also need to ratify, otherwise they will be taken to court, and some may even end up in prison.

It has been very rightly pointed out in regard to the penalties. You only need to honestly represent your people when putting forward your views.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kauta mai na vakasama e lako cake tiko mai vei Turaga PA, e ka dina taucoko. Keitou sa veitalanoa vakabibi kina na Komiti ena gauna era dau lako yani kina na stakeholders kece, koya e tolusagavulu vakacaca na veitabana e sema kina na lawa oqo, wili kina o ratou na iTaukei Affairs kei na veitabana tale eso. Keitou sa veitalanoa oti kina na kena wasewasei vakabibi tiko na "penalties". De rairai yaga me da rogoci ratou na Tabana ni Bula ena nodratou vakamacala ena tikina oya. Vinaka vakalevu

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, since the Ministry's officials are here, I want to highlight that this is a very sensitive issue regarding the penalties. It will not just take effect immediately. The officials are here, and I think they need to clarify that time will be given to ratify if there is an issue. But if nothing is done, then only will the penalties take effect. If the Ministry of Health officials can explain this, I believe it is important.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, vinaka vakalevu na vakasama e biu mai. Na Tabacakacaka ni Bula na vu ni kena biu tiko na veiveisau ni kena lavaki tiko eso na tubu ni totogi ni lawa ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula:

1. **Keitou na totogi sega ni dodonu me affordable**. Penalty should not be affordable. Kevaka e affordable na penalty, ena sega ni dua e muria na lawa. Sa dodonu na penalty me vakavuna mo kakua ni via cakava na cala. E dua na ka me ivakarere se me deter. Na lawa lalai me vaka na kena vakagolei vakavinaka na wai ca, na kena savasava vinaka na ituvaki ni vanua wavolita na nomu vale. Kena ibalebale kevaka eda na sega ni nanuma me da vakabibitaka na tikina qo, eda na tukuna tiko me vinaka ga qori. Na tuvaki dou tiko kina oqo e vinaka tiko, oya na vakasama e lako tiko mai kina na vakamacala oqo.

   Koya sega ni vaka edua na vakacavacava, me dua ga na ilavo e lavaki vakatautauvata. Koya e vakatautaki ena cala cava e laurai ni caka. Taura mada edua e vagolea tiko nona wai mai valenikuro kina keli ni wai ni koro, koya dau vakavuna na kena boi, vakavuna na nodra tauvi karokaro se milamila na luveda. Ena duidui na kena totogi mai vei dua e vagolea sara tikoga nona vaivo ni vale lailai se nona sewer kina keli vata ga oya. Ni na duidui vakalailai na vakatagedegede ni rivarivabi ni mate e rawa ni vakavuna. Kena ibalebale, ena bibi vakalailai koya e vagolea gole mai na wai ni valelailai se na vale ni vakacegu me vakatautauvatataki vei koya na wai e gole mai valenikuro.

2. **Ena tiko edua nai dusidusi.** Nanumi tiko ni na cava na kena cakacakataki na lawa vakaturi qo me na qai dua tale tiko mai na veiveisau ena Public Health Regulation. Ena wili mai loma koya na viavia vakatoka na lawa ni voroki ni vakau lori ena gaunisala. Tiko na cala ka tiko vata kei na kena itotogi. Kevaka e mamada na totogi, ena sega ni yaga. Sa dodonu me bibi na totogi me rawa ni yaga. Na kena vakasama ni revurevu kina bula raraba.

3. **Na itikotiko vakaviti kei na itikotiko vakavalagi.** Dua na ka keitou nanuma tiko na Tabana ni Bula, ni so na noda koro vakaviti e tiko ravita ga na veivanua e oka tiko vaka koro vakavavalagi. Ena savasava tiko na itikotiko ena veivanua e koro vakavavalagi, ia na koro vakaViti e tiko kina na kena tagede. Na ka sa qai yaco, sa qai susugi kina na manumanu ni tauvimate, sa qai vakadewa vakatautauvata iloma vaka kina ena vanua e tiko kina itautuba. Na manumanu e susu kina, sa qai viritaki tale yani - e ka wale kina na nona sasamaki, o koya e tiko ena vale yasana ka dua ni leqa tiko na ituvaki ena yasana qo. Oya eso na ka keitou nanuma na Tabana ni Bula ni na veisautaki oqo ena

laveta vakatautauvata na tagede ni tiko bulabula ena nodatou loma ni vanua o Viti. Keitou nanuma tiko ni sa balavu mai na kena malumalu sara tiko kina na tagede ni tiko bulabula ena veikoro vakaviti. Oya gona na vuna e kau tiko mai kina.

Na totogi vakailavo oqo na yaga me dua na vosa vakaViti me keitou na kunea, baleta ni sega ni kena inaki me totogi, ia na kena inaki beka me dua na vosa vakaViti me vakayagataki. E dodonu me vosa vakavavalagi na deterrent (ivakarere), me rawa ni kila na tamata ni tabu,

Kevaka sa na pasitaki na lawa vakaturi qo, ena qai taura ni dua na yabaki na kena sagai me veivakararamataki ena bose vakoro, Bose ni Tikina, Bose ni Yasana, na lako ena raitio, raitio yaloyalo, ena kena sagai me vakararamataki. Me ra kila na noda ni oqo e dua na ka sa na vakarau cakacakataki me rawa ni laveta kina na tagede me tautauvata kei na ka e sa gadrevi tiko oqo. Oya ga na kena veivakararamataki.

HON. V. PILLAY.- He has spoken about the regulations and the changes in the fines that will apply. However, those changes do not appear in this Amendment Bill — they will happen afterwards, as he was saying. That is why I raised the question, and we need to take heed, as the Committee also picked that up. We will be discussing this through you, Mr. Chairman, because it is very important for our people to understand. They do not openly speak about the practice, since the regulations being referred to are not in this amendment, and we have received that.

As Members of the Committee, what we have in front of us is what we are discussing. Once it is passed, it will apply to the people on the ground — whether in town or in the villages, even in the interior. The drainage there, or even under nuisance, if you have a quarry company, the penalty is the same as for someone pumping kava in the *tabili*. If he is charged, the amount is the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au sa na dolava tikoga na nodatou veitalanoa raraba. Na veitalanoa kece qo e sa recordtaki tiko, oya na vuna eda vakayagataka tiko na gusu ni vosavosa oqo. E ganita talega na gauna eda na vosa kina, tukuna mai na yacamu, koro cava o lako mai kina ke o Turaga ni Koro mai vei. Baleta ni na vukei keitou, ni keitou rawa ni lai raica lesuva nai tukutuku kece ni veitalanoa nikua, e sa recordtaki tiko vei ratou na nodatou lewe ni timi ni Palimedi eratou tiko oqo (Hansard).

HON. A. BIA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, via veivakadeitaki tale me vaka e cavuti taumada, na lawa oqo e sega ni dua na lawa vou. E se tu mai ena loma ni 90 na yabaki. Koya ya e mai biu walega eso na kena ilavelave me veisautaki, me rawa ni veivuke ena kena taqomaki na nodra bula na lewenivanua.

Vakaraitaka tiko o ratou na vakalesilesi mai na Tabana ni Bula i liu na lawa oqo e sega ni oka tu kina o ira na tiko ena noda veikoro. Ena veisau vakaturi vou qo, e sa oka kina na lewenivanua kece i Viti. Vakaraitaka talega o Turaga PA ni dua talega na mate dewa e tiko oqo - koya na vucesa. Vakaraitaka o koya ni sa tukuni na sasamaki eso e sega ni vakayacora. E veitudaitaki vata ga kei na veika e vakamacalataka na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula.

Tukuna o koya ni na lawa vakaturi tiko oqo, kevaka e sega ni sasamaki nona vale ena yasana ya, ena uqe tale tikoga na yalona ni tiko ena yasana oqo, nona vale me sasamaki, ni sa

kila vinaka o koya kevaka ena sega ni sasamaki. E sa tiko na kaukauwa vei na Tabana ni Bula se vei ira na vakalesilesi me ra na biuta se na solia na totogi oqo. Dina ni na sega ni soli, sega ni tukuni ni tiko na totogi vakailavo mo sa kune ga vakaoqo mo sa na totogitaki ena totogi vakailavo oya. E soli tiko na galala mo vakaqaqacotaka na veika e dodonu mo vakavinakataka, me rawa ni kau mai na vakatagedegede koya tiko ena lawa vakaturi, koya e kau tiko mai na Vale ni Bose Lawa. Oya me matata vinaka ga vei kedatou.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au raica tiko qo eso na nodatou marama ena loma ni nodatou Yasana o Naitasiri. Qo na veitalanoa ni vuvale ka okati keda kece. E sega ni mai kilai kina o marama se turaga, se uabula, se cauravou, se goneyalewa. Na ka bibi, keitou via rogoca tikoga eke na domomuni na lewenivanua.

Kevaka e tiko eso e lako tiko mai ena tutu vaka Turaga ni Koro, ena daumaka sara me da rogoca na domodra ena mataka nikua. Da veitalanoa tikoga vakavuvale oqo, na kena tabei cake kei na kena vakadeitaki tiko na lawa qo. Koya au kaya tiko, kevaka o na sega ni cau mai, kena ibalebale o sa tu vakarau mo sotava na ka ena yaco. Kevaka o cau mai, ena vukea na Komiti na neitou na lai dabe, keitou na lai raica tale mada na ka sa tu oqo, me raici kevaka e yaga me veisautaki eso na tikina.

Na gauna oqo, e sega ni tiko vei ratou na Tabana ni Bula na kaukauwa me veisautaka na lawa oqo. Na kaukauwa e tiko vei na Komiti oqo. Gauna sa yaco mai kina i Palimedi na lawa qo, na Komiti duadua ga e rawa ni veisautaka. Oya na yavu ni veika me na tukuna mai na lewenivanua me veisautaki. Nuitaka ni sa matata tiko qori. Vinaka vakalevu.

MS. W. QIBONI.- Au dauniveiqaravi talega ena Tabana ni Bula, ia, au vakaitikotiko ena dua na itikotiko e vakatokai na settlement mai Lomaivuna.

Dua ga na noqu vakatataro se na noqu kauwai me baleta na lawa e virikotori oqo, baleta ni keimami na vakaitikotiko mai Lomaivuna keimami tauri lisi. E tiko talega na poultry farming. Na kauwai e tiko, kevaka e dua e applytaka se vinakata me tauyavutaka nona poultry farming, na vanua e vakadaberi kina na bai ni toa se na poultry farm. Baleta keimami mai Lomaivuna e sega vei keimami na paipo ni wai. Keimami vakayagataka ga na taqe, ena qai vakatau tu na rawaka ena veivale yadudua, e dua e rawata rua se tolu nona tani. Ia, ni sa mamaca na tani, sa resort ga na tamata ena veiwailalai era tu wavoliti keimami mai Lomaivuna.

Ena itikotiko au vakaitikotiko kina, keimami tiko vaka-sector. E dua na uciwai lailai e tiko kina. Au kauta lesu mai qo me baleta na leptospirosis. E dua na kisi a yaco ena neitou itikotiko ena loma ni vica na yabaki sa oti, e qai vakadikevi ni ratou a tiko voleka ga ena uciwai oqo. Io, na cava e vauci ira na poultry farming? Baleta ni dua na poultry farm e tiko kina, ni gauna e wash up kina na nona farming, e lako sara tikoga ena uciwai koya era sisili kina ka ra savasava kina na tamata. Ni ko takosova na uciwai qo, o raica sara tu ga na vuvu kei na duka ni wai. Oya na noqu kauwai. Au vosa tiko yani qo me vaka e dua na lewenivanua vakaitikotiko mai Lomaivuna. Vinaka.

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MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dua na italanoa totoka dina ya. Vakabauta ni na vakavulici ira na itikotiko era tiko kina. Au sa na kerei ratou na Tabana ni Bula me dua mada na nodratou veivakararamataki ena tabana ya. Au tiko talega mai Lomaivuna, au kila vinaka sara ga na ka oni kaya tiko mai qori. Au sega ni tiko kina vakaitikotiko, ia e tiko talega kina na noqu farm. Na ka oni tukuna tiko mai qori e matata sara vakasigalevu. Vinaka vakalevu na nomuni kauta cake mai.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Vinaka vakalevu na vakatataro e gole tiko mai. Na kena dau vakayacori na mataqali bisinisi e vakavuna na rivarivabi kina Tabana ni Bula e vakatokai tiko na lawa ena Tabacakacaka ni Bula me offensive trade. E tiko na lawa e vauca na offensive trade oqo, edua na ka e vakatututaki tiko ena noda lawa vakaturi oqo.

Na kena sagai me ra register taucoko ena Tabana ni Bula o ira kece era via tauyavutaka edua na mataqali bisinisi vaka oqo. E tiko na list ni bisinisi kece e oka ena mataqali offensive trade. Na gagadre e tiko vei na lawa ni bera ni dua e tauyavutaka edua na bisinisi, me na yaga me na lako taumada ena Tabana ni Bula me register, me vakadonui ni bera ni qai mai caka. Oya na gaunisala keitou rawa ni raica kina na vanua me maroroi kina na levu ni vanua mai na veimataqali bisinisi.

Qo na bisinisi e boi levu, se rogo levu, se na kena caka na bisinisi e rawa ni vakavuna edua na tauvimate. Wili tiko kina na vale ni simede, vale ni buli kaukaumea, vale ni buli kuta (dau vakayagataki ena gaunisala), kei na levu tale na veimataqali bisinisi sa oka tiko kina. Dua talega qo na vanua ni susu manumanu commercial. Sa toso cake talega na totogi kevaka e dua e tauyavutaka nona bisinisi vakaoya ka sega ni taura taumada na veivakadonui me register kina Tabana ni Bula.

Keitou rai tikoga ena rai vata ga qori: na kena maroroi na nodra bula na lewenivanua, me kua ni dua e gole mai me tauyavutaka nona bisinisi ka vakavu leqa vei ira na lewenivanua era tiko ena vanua oya. Au vakamatatataka tale ga oqori edua na ka ena walia na lawa vakaturi oqo, koya au kauta mai ena mataka nikua.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka vakalevu na vakamacala mai na Tabana ni Bula. E dua tale tiko na vakatataro, na ulutaga vata ga e lako tiko mai oqo. Vakacava o ira sa tu rawa tu na nodra vale ni toa, ba ni vuaka, e tiko talega na lawa e vauci ira ena lawa qo?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Chairman, na lawa vakaturi e dei tikoga kina na nodra gadrevi me ra register. Kena ibalebale, e sa tiko rawa oqo vata kei ira kece na caka vou. Na duidui ga vakalailai e tiko ena kena walewale vei ira sa tu rawa, baleta ni sa rawa beka ni caka eso na walewale me mitigatetaki kina na vakacaca ena bula ni tamata era tiko wavolita na bisinisi sa tauyavu tiko ya. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Nuitaka ni sa matata tiko na vakamacala ni kauwai e lako mai oqo. Au taura na gauna vinaka qo meu kidavaki kemudou sa qai yaco mai. Vinaka vakalevu vei kemudou na turaga kei na marama dou sa yaco mai ena vuku ni veitalanoa ni Bill oqo. Nuitaka ni dou na mai veitomani kei keimami ena ulutaga bibi e lako curumi tiko oqo.

Au wasea tiko na lawa tu e tiko qo e matada, ka vakaraitayaloyalotaki tiko na veika me gadrevi kina na nomuni vakatutu mai na lewenivanua. E sega ni dua na ka, dou sa yaco rawa mai, kevaka e tiko eso na taro raraba dou gadreva mo dou vakaitavi kina, dou sa donumaka

sara tu ga na gauna ni veitalano. Kerekere, moni tukuna mai na yacamuni, kei na koro dou lako mai kina, baleta ni sala vata ga na kena komuni tiko na itukutuku oqo ni sa recordtaki tiko.

Ena vukei keitou ena neitou lesu yani me keitou raica tale vakamatata na veika sa veitalanoataki oti ena veiyasana kei na itikotiko keitou sa lako curuma oti mai. Vinaka vakalevu. Ke tiko qo eso vei kemudou na lako mai ena itutu vakaturaga ni koro, eso beka e lako mai mai na koro e voleka ga i Vunidawa?

MS. K. KULI.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Ms. Kuli)

Vica tikoga na taro kei na kena veivakararamataki. Tukuni tiko ena mataka nikua, au mani vakawilika na lawa levu se na Principal Act me baleta na Public Health. Dua na vakanananu e basika, au kila ni sa matata tiko na tikina e 5, 6 kei na 11. Mai na lawa levu, me vaka na sanitary service, nuisance kei na vakawabokotaki na vanua e vakasucu kina na namu se na mosquitoes. Lako vata kei na kena penalties. Kevaka o raica na ilavelave, na veiveisau ena basika tiko, vuqa na totogi e gole mai na $10 me yacova na $1,000, $500. Au rogoca na nomudou vakamacala na kena vakatautauvatataki kei na lewenivanua taucoko.

Na matai ni noqu vakatutu, kevaka e rawa ni wasei me vaka na vakatutu sa gole oti tiko: tiko o ira na dau vakabisinisi ena taudaku ni koro lelevu se na vei-settlement me vaka e rogo tiko nikua; kei ira na susu manumanu se ira na rawa ilavo ena veigauna; tiko o ira na dau teitei, o ira na business farmers; qai tiko na veivuvale yadudua, na vei-settlement kei na veikoro vakaViti. Mai na lawa levu eda raica tiko se na Principal Act, $10, $20 na fine. Kevaka e rawa ni biu tale ena matabose cecere oqo me wasewasea, taura mada ga $100 ena veikoro vakaViti se na veivuvale yadudua, koya laurai ni basuka na lawa. Baleta niu kila ni veikoro vakaViti sa dua na ka dredre mo tara na $100, mo vakalusia tale ena dua na ka, baleta ni sa tu oti na ituvatuva ni vuvale. Ia vei ira na vakabisinisi kei na so tale era rawa ilavo ena veigauna, oya na matai ni noqu vakatutu.

Na kena ikarua, niu wilika tiko na Tikina e 10, au kila ni vakamacalataka tiko na Turaga mai na Tabana ni Bula ni tiko na lawa me ra na empower taki eso. Raica na ilavelave ena tikina e 10, na ituvatuva makawa ni kena digitaki na vakatutu ena veivanua iTaukei, toka vata kei na kena vakatutu e basika tiko mai. Qo era na wili kina o ira na Nasi ni Koro se na digitaki tale e dua me qarava na cakacaka oqo, se o ira ga na ivakalesilesi me vaka oni sa vakamacalataka oti, me vaka o ira na Nasi ena vei Health Centres, se na veivanua era sa tiko rawa kina na itikotiko ni Nasi. Ena lutu vakacava na veikorokoro ena vakasama oqo, ni Nasi ni Koro sa tiko taucoko ena veikorokoro. Na vakatutu ga vei kemudou na Turaga, kevaka e rawa ni dua na ilavelave me ratou kila na Valenivolavola ni Yasana ni veiqaravi, o ratou na neitou Roko Veivuke e tiko na gauna me ratou qarava kina na village inspection. Kevaka e tiko na Health Inspectors, ena rawa ni ra qarava vata. Io, vakacava ke sa oka vakalawa me biu edua na ituvatuva, me na laurai na veika kece me vaka e vakamacalataka tiko na lawa oqo, me na laurai ena veivula. Kevaka sa na laurai ni voroki na lawa, kila ke rawa ni vakatagede na itotogi ena koro vakaviti. Me kua ni umani vakatautauvata me vaka e basika tiko ena vakatutu ena lawa eda raica tiko oqo.

Noqu vakatutu, kevaka e rawa ni biu edua na ilavelave, dina ni sa na caka na veivakararamataki, me biu talega e dua na ilavelave me vaka ni laurai tiko ena veigauna, oka tiko kina na tiki ni nona cakacaka o Nasi ni Koro se o Turaga ni Koro. Me qai biu vakatagede na itotogi: kevaka e matai, karua se katolu, qai rawa ni biu vei koya me sauma na $1,000 se na $2,000. Me tiko ga ena lawa vakatututaki o, ena siga vinaka nikua.

HON. A. BIA.- Just a translation to the honourable Members who are here, Sir. This was raised by Mr. Cagica in regard to the penalty that is currently in the proposed Amendment Bill. He asked if it could differ between those in the urban areas and those in the villages.

HON. V. PILLAY.- As a Member of the Committee, that has been my personal view regarding the law. Even when we were having submissions in Parliament, we asked the Ministry how these penalties could be categorised. For example, a businessman earning about a million dollars is charged the same penalty as a villager residing in one of the villages. A big hotel under nuisance obstruction is charged the same amount as a small tourism housing or an individual. All along, I have been asking that this is not fair in my view, and that these penalties need to be categorised. Everyone wants a good water source, good drainage, and a proper wastewater management system, but we all know the realities of how people live in rural areas and villages. The same penalties cannot be applied across the board in court. Thank you, Madam, for raising that.

HON. A. BIA.- Another point of clarification, Sir, is regarding the village nurses who usually conduct inspections and take care of their villagers. I am seeking clarification for the businesses that are here: are the village nurses also empowered to carry out their role, or is it only Health Inspectors or Health officials appointed by the Ministry of Health?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, tiko na lewe ni Komiti ni Palimedi, tiko na siga vinaka edaidai. Au sauma vakalekaleka na taro me baleta na lawa vakaturi oqo. Na gauna sa na qai vakadonui ena loma ni nodatou Palimedi, sa na rawa ni caka e dua na veivakararamataki vei ira na Nasi ni Koro me baleta na veika vou sa tiko ena loma ni lawa. Me tiki tiko me vaka na nomudou checklist, na gauna dou na rai koro kina, dou na raica tale tikoga na veitikina ni ka sa vakadonui ena loma ni lawa vakaturi qo. Oya beka ga na rawa ni dua na checklist mai muri ni sa vakadonui, me vukea na nomudou veisiko wavoki tiko.

Ia na kena soli ga na kaukauwa, oya beka ga na dredre vakalailai, baleta ni tiko tale eso na veitiki ni veiqaravi. Ni na yaco ena mataveilewai, ena tiko na inspecting officer, ena tiko o koya me prosecutor, na kena prosecutetaki na kisi. Vakabauta ni sa tiko talega na scope ni veiqaravi ni Nasi ni Koro ena vanua ga edatou na veivakadonui tiko kina.

Sa tiko kina na vanua ni veiqaravi, sa vakadonui ira tiko na liga ni veiqaravi se na community health workers. Ia, na ka au sa vakamacalataka oti tiko yani, oya na qai caka na veivakararamataki vakabibi ena Tabacakacaka ni Bula kei ira na veiqaravi, wili talega kina na lewenivanua kei na Nasi ni Koro. Na veivakararamataki me rawa ni da kila vata kece na cava sa yaco tiko ena noda matanitu. Mr Chairman, oya beka ga na vakamacala me baleta na kena soli tiko na kaukauwa.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vinaka vakalevu na ivakamacala totoka mai vei rau na Tabacakacaka ni Bula.

Au na kuria vakalailai ga na wasewasei ni penalty koya eda sa rogoca tiko. E umaumani tu ga mai ni da wilika tiko na Principal Act kei na Amendments Bill. Sa tiko talega na neitou liga ni veiqaravi me vaka sa kau cake mai. Oya na talei ni veitalanoa qo. Qo se lako curuma tiko na process, se bera ni vakadeitaki e dua na ka. Dau cava na veitalanoa vaka oqo me rogoci

kina na domomuni na lewenivanua kei na nomuni vakatutu. Mai kea, keitou na qai vakadeitaka kina na Komiti, qo na veika dodonu me veisau se me curu cake, se sega.

Me vaka au sa cavuta oti mai cake, na kaukauwa sa tiko ena liga ni Komiti, keitou na cakacaka kina. Ratou na Tabana ni Bula kevaka eratou vinakata e dua na veisau, eratou na lai volavola mai vei keitou. Na qai vakatautaki na Komiti oqo, keitou na vakalesilesi mai na nomuni Palimedi. Au sa tukuna oti na vanua eda dau veisau kina na lawa, vakavou kina na lawa, se repeal talega kina na lawa. Oya na neitou itavi. Na ka talei duadua, keitou mai rogoca na domomuni, na ka dina e lako curumi kemuni na lewenivanua. Oya keitou kerea kina na bibi ni noda dau lako mai na lewenivanua me mai rogoci na domodra.

Au na tukuna tale na gauna ena qai lako mai kina na lawa me sa tuki, me sa lawa ni noda vanua o Viti. Ena gauna oya, o iko na dua vei ira na tukuna, "O au a vakatututaka ya," se "O au a vica na dodonu koya lai veisau kina na tikina ya." Mai na Principal Act kina Amendment Bill sa tu qo e matada. E sega ni dua na vakatutu e cala. E dodonu kece me ciqomi, me lai tavuloni, qai neitou itavi na lewe ni Komiti qo ni bera ni qai vakadeitaki me sa lawa ni noda matanitu. Kevaka e so tale na nanuma vei kemudou na turaga, keitou kerea vakabibi na nomudou vakatutu.

MR. M. NAMAKADRE.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Namakadre)

Cavuti na vakavinavinaka levu ena mata Komiti ni dabe ena siga nikua, ena vuku ni veivakararamataki me baleta na gadrevi ni bula veisau kei na toso ki liu ena kena gadrevi na tiko savasava kei na tiko bulabula ena noda vanua lomani o Viti. Ka levu na vakavinavinaka, niu vakarogoca vakamalua na veitalanoa ena siga nikua, au vakabauta ni sa rauti keda vakavinaka me vakadeitaki na lawa sa virikotori tiko oqo, ena vuku ni kena laurai na noda bula kei na veika kece eda lako curuma ena veisiga.

Me vaka era sa tukuna oti na Turaga Roko Veivuke ni Tikina o Matailobau, na levu ni vucesa kei na levu ni sega ni cakacaka vakavinaka ena noda veikorokoro ena siga nikua. Sa vakadinadinataki tiko na rai sa rai kina na noda matanitu ena vuku ni mate veitautauvi sa basika tiko e Viti nikua, ka sa vakatautaki duadua ena vuku ni kena sega ni maroroi vakavinaka na bula ni tiko savasava. Au vakanuinui ni siga nikua, ena veika sa mai veitalanoataki, ena nanumi me biu na lawa vou ena vuku ni kena tarai cake na bula savasava e Viti. Vakavinavinaka vakalevu vei kemudou na liga ni veiqaravi ena siga nikua, ni sa yavalati na vakasama kei na bula ena kena gadrevi tikoga na toso ki liu kei na bulabula vinaka ena veisiga ni mataka, me cabe mai na noda kawa bula ena siga ni mataka, me cabe mai e dua na Viti savasava. Me da vakadeitaki keda na tiko oqo, me da vakavulici rawa ena ilakolako vou sa tu e matada.

Ni tiko na lewe ni Komiti digitaki ena vuku ni veivakararamataki ena siga nikua, dua ga na cau lekaleka ka tokoni tiko kina na vakatutu, sa cabe tiko ena siga nikua ka vakadinadina na kena bibi.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa rogo levu nomuni vakamacala, keimami sa rogoca vakavinaka. Vinaka vakalevu na nomuni tukuna vakamatata na bibi ni lawa sa kau wavoki tiko mai qo. Keitou sa vakavinavinakataka vakalevu na nomuni kauwai, ni kauwai tiko ena vuku ni vanua ena nodatou Yasana o Naitasiri..

MR. S. QARANIVALU.- Tiko na iliuliu ni Bose. Ena vuku ni levu ni kakana sa yaco tiko mai ena veikorokoro me vaka na noodles. Tiko talega ena lawa na kena vakaukauwataki na volitaki ni kakana bulabula, ni sa sagai tiko me vakaukauwataki na bula bulabula. E tiko e dua na lawa ena loma ni lawa vakatututaki me voli mai na kakana bulabula me volitaki? Ia, e sega ni tarai ira na canteen operators ena veika era volitaka, baleta ni vauci talega ena lawa vakatututaki tiko oqo?

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Tiko na Turaga na Liuliu ni Bose, dou tiko na lewe ni Boselawa. Vinaka vakalevu na taro e tarogi tiko mai.

Na veika me baleta na volitaki ni kakana kei na kena tiko savasava. Food safety se na hygiene e tiko tale ena dua na lawa e vakatokai na Food Safety Act kei na Food Safety Regulation. Sa tiko talega na tuvatuva ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula ena kena sagai me veisautaki na lawa oqo. Sa na qai lako tale e dua na kena ilakolako, oya na consultation vata ga qo me na veitalanoataki kina na veika me baleta na kakana kei na kena maroroi.

Ia, na veika me baleta na kakana bulabula eso kei na veika kece va oya, na ivakasala sa lako tiko ena veikorokoro mai na Tabana ni Bula, vakatokai na dietician, e dua na mata timi mai na valenibula. Era dau lai veivakasalataki tiko ena digi ni kakana bulabula, baleta na veimate sega ni dewa ka vu mai na veisau ni veika eda dau cakava, se na lifestyle diseases (Non-Communicable Diseases – NCDs). Oya na ivakasala sa tiko, ia e sega ni wili ena veika me baleta na NCDs ena gauna qo, ni sega ni tiko ena Public Health Act, ia e tiko ena Food Safety Act kei na Food Safety Regulation koya e qarava vakatabaki dua na kena savasava, na food safety kei na hygiene.

Oya beka ena qai tarai, wili kina na kakana me baleti ira na dau volivolitaki ena canteen se na sitoa ni veikorokoro kei na veivanua kecega. E rawa tiko kina na vanua ni volitaki kakana e Viti. Au vakabauta ni sa matata beka qo.

MR. S. QARANIVALU.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, ena vuku ni tiko bulabula ena veikoro kei na lawa ni veika vakaitaukei, e sa dau matata tu vei ira na qase na keli ni qara ni benu, na vidai tolu ni benu ena koro, kei na kena kau ena bai ni vuaka me qai bulu. E dua na gauna lekaleka ga qo vaka e mai yali kina. Ia na lawa mai vei ira na qase, na lawa ni veika vakaitaukei, era kila tu na veiyawaki ni vale ni lomanikoro, na maroroi ni benu, na maroroi ni vakaso ni wai — kece oqori e tiko ena nodra bula na qase. Ena dua na gauna lekaleka qo sa vaka me waicala se luluqa beka. Oya na yasana vinaka kina na kena lako mai na lawa me vakavulici keda. O ira na qase taumada era kila, dou na donumaka tiko, savasava tiko ena nodra bula.

Na maroroi ni benu, e tiki ni cakacaka vakoro na keli qara ni benu. Na vanua me sova kina na wai ni kakana, e tiki ni nodra bula na qase. Na vanua me sigani kina na iyaya ni kana ni sa sava oti, kece oqori e tiki ni nodra bula na qase. Na cakacaka lalai kece va qo e tiki ni nodra maroroi na savasava ena veikoro. Vaka mai e dua na gauna lekaleka oqo e waicala se luluqa na kena yadravi. Ia, sa vakavinavinaka na nomuni Valenivolavola ni Yasana ni sa curu tiko mai na Matanitu me bonata mai na vanua ya. Rairai sa kena gauna talega me curu mai kina eso na lawa vaka oqo me veivakayadrati tiko vei keda. Vinaka vakalevu.

RATU M. NAKASAVU.- Dua ga na vakatutu kei na vakatataro me baleta na nodratou curu mai na FCCC ena nodatou veikorokoro. E dua na gaunisala e rawa ni ra dau curuma

vakasauri, ni ra kidacala na nodatou lewe ni koro, ratou sa dau yaco yani ena veikorokoro. Kena levu ga oya.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na sauma vakalekaleka na tabana oya. Ena gauna oqo, na lawatu e tiko vei Tabacakacaka iTaukei, ni da via curu ena dua na koro. Matata vei keda, vica na katuba: da lako ki na Valenivolavola ni Yasana, qai lako sobu ki na district, qai lako vei Turaga ni Koro — oya na noda lawatu ni tikotiko vakaitaukei ena gauna oqo. Ia na lawa vou sa lako mai oqo sa ulabaleta (supersede). Me ratou lako mai na Tabana ni Bula, keitou sa veitalanoa tiko kei ratou na nomuni Valenivolavola iTaukei. Sa tiko vei ratou na kaukauwa ya kevaka e yaco e dua na mate dewa totolo vakasauri, me vaka na typhoid, leptospirosis, kei na so tale me vaka na diarrhoea ni tubu vakasauri. E tiko talega ena lawa qo. Honourable Bia, dua mada nomuni vakamacala taumada, oti da qai lade yani vei rau na iTaukei ni Bill oqo.

HON. A. BIA.- Ia na vuku walega ni FCCC, na tabana e ratou dau qarava na kena vakalawataki na noda veivoli. Ni ratou gole mai, e rua na yasana e ratou gole tiko mai kina: ratou gole mai ena vuku ni ka e qarava na bisinisi, kei na vuku ni lewenikoro era veivoli tiko ena veika era volitaka. Ratou vakarurugi talega ena FCCC Act 2010 na lawa ni veivoli. E tiko na dodonu ena vuku ni lawa e tiko vei ratou kevaka eratou ciqoma eso na kudru.

E dina ni da tiko vakavanua, ia mo nanuma ni o sa vakayaco bisinisi ena loma ni dua na koro se na loma ni tikotiko, o sa na oka tiko ena lawa ni Tabana ni Veivoli ni noda vanua. Oya na kena laurai na sau ni veika o volitaka kei na kena tuvaki vinaka na iyaya o volitaka ena loma ni sitoa se bisinisi cava o via vakayacora. Qo na vanua eratou dau curu mai kina. Ni dau gole yani e dua na kudru, e tiko na totogi vei ratou se na lawa e tiko vei ratou me ratou gole mai, me ratou vakayacora na nodratou vakadidike. E wili talega ena vuku ni nodra qarauni na bula ni lewenivanua ena vuku ni veika eda volitaka, eda vakabisinisi tiko ena veikorokoro me vaka na sitoa se bisinisi cava ga e qaravi tiko ena loma ni koro. Vinaka vakalevu.

MR. L VONOTABUA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, tiko na lewe ni Komiti ni Boselawa. Na Principal Act kevaka eda na wilika vakamalua, sa tu makawa sara mai na 1935 na gauna e caka kina na lawa. Na Proposed Bill se na lawa vakaturi tiko oqo sa qai vakamatatataka vakamatailalai na cava me caka: curu yani me tauri sabolo, curu me kauta mai e dua e tauvimate dewa me kau i valenibula, se me lai isolatetaki se quarantinetaki. Oya sa vakamatatataka vakalailai ena loma ni lawa na itavi me qaravi ni sa curu yani.

Au kila na lawa vakatutu oqo, me vaka sa vakamacalataka oti na Komiti kei na noqu itokani, ni na apply to the whole of Fiji, me kovuti keda kece. Oya na veika me baleta na kena qaravi na itavi ena loma ni koro mai liu me yacova nikua, ni ra lako mai na vakalesilesi, era lakova na Turaga ni Koro. Era lako ga vei Turaga ni Koro, sa tiko na neitou mata ni katuba na Tabacakacaka ni Bula — oya na Nasi ni Koro, sa digitaki ena veikorokoro, oya na gaunisala e curumi kina na valenivolavola.

Dina ni sa tiko na power of entry, na ka kece va ya e dau lakovi ga mai o Turaga ni Koro vata kei na Nasi ni Koro. Keitou sema vakavoleka tiko kina na Tabacakacaka ni Bula, ni gadrevi eso na itukutuku me vakasokomuni me baleta na status ni bula raraba, se me baleta e dua na tauvimate e tiko ena loma ni koro. Ena vanua ya keitou dau veitaratara kina vei ratou na Nasi ni Koro. Vakabauta ni sa na sauma tiko beka na taro**.**

HON. V. PILLAY- Through you, Mr. Chairman, what is the fine for obstruction upon entry, if you could also explain it to them?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, honourable Member, vinaka vakalevu na nomuni point. Vakamatatataki ga ni tiko e dua na tikina e vakatokai na obstruction — oya na kena tarovi na vakalesilesi mai na nodra cakava na nodra itavi. Taura mada na ivakatatao: kevaka e dua na complaint mai na vale ni sa sova tu ga mai tuba na wai ni vavacegu, sa gole yani na vakalesilesi me lai raica, qai gole yani o taukei ni vale ka vakasavi koya laivi, e sega ni vakatarai koya me raica. Oya sa wili me vakaitatao ni nona lai qarava na itavi.

Kevaka e lai sereka mai na koli me cicivi koya, se lokataka na bai, koya kece oqori e wili tiko me obstruction. E tiko na kena totogi ena lawa vakaturi, ka vakalevutaki tale ga baleta ni laurai ena vica na yabaki ni veiqaravi ni sa dua na ka na rerevaki ni veiqaravi. Ni keitou lai raica na bai ni vuaka, sa lave selekava mai o taukei ni bai ni vuaka. Oya na veika era sotava tiko na neitou vakalesilesi, ka mani biu kina e dua na tiki ni lawa me maroroi ira. Sa biu na ceiling ni penalty e $1,000 vei koya e vakatatao ni sa tarova na kena qaravi na itavi. Vakabauta ni sa matata tiko vei keda. Vinaka vakalevu.

MS. K. KULI.- Dua tale na taro vei rau na Turaga mai na Tabana ni Bula.

Au kerea na nomudrau veivakaramatatataki me baleta na rural sanitary districts. Au vakaraica, au kila ni 18 na districts e tiko, me vaka o Naitasiri e wasei tiko vaka tolu na district — o Korovou, Nausori kei Suva. Au vakasamataka ena mataka nikua na vakanananu e tukuna o Turaga Roko, ni sa rauta me dua na Health Inspector ena Yasana o Naitasiri. Kevaka ena rawa ni dua na district vakataki koya? Me vaka keitou raica na kena iwasewase — Korovou, Nausori kei Suva. Ni vica na Health Inspector eratou veiqaravi mai ena wasewase o Naitasiri. Ke rawa beka me dua na noqu vakatutu, me dua ga nona district vakataki koya o Naitasiri, me baleta na nodra veiqaravi ena veikorokoro e tiko ena loma ni vanua.

MR. L. VONOTABUA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, tiko na lewe ni Komiti ni Boselawa. Au a vakamacala taumada ena yabaki vakailavo qo, sa laveti cake kina na SO2 na Turaga e veiqaravi tiko e Vunidawa me sa Subdivision Health Inspector, sa qaravi oti. Sa tiko talega na ituvatuva ena loma ni lawa vakaturi oqo, na kena sagai me kau lesu tale mai na local authority. Ni sa kau lesu tale mai, sa na rawa ni dua na local authority ena loma ni nodatou Yasana o Naitasiri. Ena kila tiko na Turaga Roko ni ira na lewe ni local authority era wili talega kina na Turaga PA, Turaga Roko, kei na Vuniwai Liu ni loma ni Yasana. Ena vanua ya ena dau veitalanoataki vakalevu kina na veika me baleta na qaravi ni loma ni koro, na tiko bulabula, kei na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula ena loma ni nodatou itikotiko ni veikorokoro.

Ia na veika au vakamacala tiko kina, oya na kena upgrade walega na nona position na Turaga oqo, me dua tale mai me vukei koya. Na lawa vakatututaki tiko oqo e tiko kina na kaukauwa vei Turaga Minisita se na Central Board of Health me vakaduria cake e dua na nodratou. Oya na ka e tuvatuvakataka tiko na Tabana ni Bula. Me vaka na veisubdivision kece e Viti, au vakabauta ni vo tiko ga e vica na vanua se bera ni tiko kina na local board, me vaka i Naitasiri.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Nanuma ni sa rauti keda vakavinaka na veitalanoa sa mai vakayacori ena sigalevu nikua.

Ni tiko na itikotiko vakaturaga o Naitasiri kei na Valenivolavola iLiu e Vunidawa, Turaga Roko, Turaga PA, kei na Turaga liuliu ni veiqaravi ena veitabana, e tiko rawa na sigalevu nikua. Tiko talega na lewenivanua dou cavu tu mai ena veikoro, Turaga dou tiko rawa nikua, ena vukudra na Turaga Sipika ni Vale ni Boselawa e veitalai tiko mai kei ira na liga ni veiqaravi. Keimami dabe tiko ena sigalevu nikua, sa cavuti na vakavinavinaka levu, vakavinavinakataki na nomuni kauwai, nomuni solia na nomuni gauna, nomuni yau, na takoso mai ena vodo tolili kei na veika tale eso. Au cavuta tiko na vakavinavinaka levu ena vuku ni veika eda sa mai veitalanoa kina ena sigalevu nikua.

Yaga me keitou vakadeitaka vei kemuni na sigalevu nikua na ka kece sa vakasokomuni nikua, na domomuni ena lai rogo i Palimedi. Au kaya oti mai cake, ratou na Tabana ni Bula sega ni dua na ka eratou na veisautaka. Ratou tiko nikua me ratou mai veivuke walega ena veivakararamataki. Na veika keitou rogoca na Komiti kei na veivakatutu lelevu se lalai, sa wiliki kece ena loma ni repote sa mai caka ena sigalevu nikua. Koto na vakanuinui kei na vakabauta ni na lai vakadewataki na veika eda rogoca nikua mai vei ira na lewenivanua kei ira na lako mai na Bose ni Yasana. Vakabauta ni tiko na itavi levu ena Bose ni Yasana me vakadewataki vakamatata na lawa eda veitalanoa tiko kina nikua.

Keitou vakanuinui ke mani tiko eso era sega ni tiko rawa, ka ra nanuma me ra volavola yani, me veitaratara tikoga mai kina na Valenivolavola ni Yasana kei na Valenivolavola mai Palimedi. Ena veitaratara tiko yani kina, keitou vakanuinui ni na so tale na lewe ni noda Yasana se bera ni yaco mai. Ena gauna ni na yaco nai tukutuku vei ira, au kerekere vei kemudou na cakacaka tiko ena Valenivolavola ni Yasana me vakaleleci sara yani vei keitou i Suva, me rawa ni keitou okata na vakatutu ya me tiki ni veivakararamataki eda vakaitavi tiko kina nikua.

Dua na ka au vinakata meu vakananumi keda kina: na buli ni lawa e tiko imatada qo e caka me baleta na tamata, e sega ni caka na tamata ena vuku ni kena buli na lawa. Sa koto kina na vakanuinui vinaka vei keda kece, ni na lai vakadewataki vakadodonu na veika e tiko ena loma ni lawa qo. Au nanuma meu sa cava, ka nuitaka ni na tiko tale e dua na gauna me na rogoci tale kina na domomuni. Sa tiko na website, sa tiko na talevoni, sa sega ni leqa na veitalanoa ena gauna oqo. Ena vukudra na lewe ni nomuni Komiti, Turaga na Sipika ni Vale ni Boselawa, kei keimami na ivakalesilesi, keimami sa tiko rawa ena sigalevu nikua. Sa mai sogo tiko na noda bose, ka keimami vakabauta ni sa mai rawati na itavi ena loma ni nodatou itikotiko e Vunidawa, ena Yasana o Naitasiri. Vinaka vakalevu.

The Committee adjourned at 12.29 p.m.

VERBATIM REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE WAIKALOU COMMUNITY HALL, SEREA, NAITASIRI ON 10TH JUNE AT 2.50 P.M.

Present

2. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	-	Chairman
3. Hon. A. Bia	-	Member
4. Hon. P.K. Bala	-	Member
6. Hon. V. Pillay	-	Member

Apologies

3. Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure	-	Deputy Chairperson
4. Hon. A.T. Nagata	-	Member

Submittee: Tikina o Soloira Communities

1. Mr. Seremai Naqama	2. Mr. Akuila Tuinasau
3. Mr. Leveni Tuicina	4. Mr. Maciu Rakoro
5. Mr. Venitatai Vasu	6. Mr. Ulaiasi Qaraleka
7. Mr. Mosese Labaibure	8. Mr. Sevanaia Nate
9. Mr. Talaiasi Mualiwa	10. Mr. Josaia Kuru
11. Ratu Iliki Tuisese	12. Mr. Sairusi Qaranivalu – Roko Tui
13. Mr. Pita Vakalolo	14. Adi Mereani Gasau
15. Mr. Ananaisa K	16. Mr. Sikere Kanavakatini
17. Ro Iva Tuinasau	18. Mr. Rupeni Koroi
19. Ms. Asena Volivoliwaca	20. Ms. Tamalesi Kalokalo
21. Ms. Saini Donu	22. Ms. Raijile Raqaqasi
23. Mr. Aseri Masivou	24. Ms. Aritema Vakalolo
25. Ms. Merewalesi L	26. Ms. Ana Keteivalu
27. Ratu Meli Nakasau	28. Ms. Litia Qoronaviti
29. Ms. Olivia Maramayaga	30. Mr. Ronavala Tuisese

MR. CHAIRMAN. – Nodra ilakolako na Turaga Na Sipika, keimami cabe tiko mai kina na veiwekani, keimami dabe saka tiko ena loma ni valenivanua ena yakavi ni kua. Ni tukuni ga na vosa qo na 'Sipika', sa da kila na veika e maroroi kina: na vanua ni buli lawa, na vanua e rawa ni veisautaki kina na lawa, rawa ni vakavoui kina na lawa, ka rawa talega ni vakavoui kina eso na ituvatuva lelevu vakalawa ni matanitu eda donumaka edaidai.

Keimami marau vakalevu ni keimami yaco mai na itikotiko vakaturaga – ni tawa tu na itikotiko. Sa kena ibalebale ni keimami bolea tiko na itavi e qaravi tiko ena loma ni nodatou itikotiko vakaturaga kei na kena ogaoga ena veisiga. Keimami raica ni ko ni bulabula vinaka vakauasivi vei ratou na tiko mai muri, keimami sa vakavinavinaka kina vakalevu. Au cavuta saka tiko na vosa ni veikidavaki ena vuku ni nona veitalai tiko mai na Turaga Na Sipika.

Ni na rai mai keitou tiko qo na lewe ni Palimedi – na yasana ni Matanitu vaka kina na To ni Veisaqa. E ono tiko na Standing Committee ni nomuni Palimedi – levu koya dau yadrava tu na veika kece me baleta na kena qaravi na noda matanitu me vaka na kena veitabana yadua, statutory organizations, vaka kina eso na tuvatuvaka lelevu me vaka keitou yaco mai kina ni kua. Keitou kauta tiko mai qo e dua na lawatu. Au vakabauta ni sa yaco oti beka mai na kena

ilavelave ena itikotiko vakaturaga, na kena vakadewataki ena noda vosa vakaitaukei, ka tiko talega na ilavelave me baleti ira na noda vasu kei na kena vakadewataki vakaperitania.

Ni bera ni tekivu na noda veitalanoa ena vuku ni ulutaga bibi oqo, au na kerei ratou na lewe ni Palimedi me ratou vakamacalataki ratou mada.

[I take this opportunity to ask honourable Members to introduce themselves**]**

[Vakamacalataki na lewe ni Komiti kei rau na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula**]**

MR. CHAIRMAN. – Ni sa tiko saka na Roko Tui Waimaro, koya saka ya na neitou veikidavaki vei keda ena yakavi ni kua.

E dua na lawatu keitou kauta wavoki tiko mai qo na vakasama ni veivakararamataki. Sa oti mai Vunidawa na mataka lailai, keitou sa sirovi kemudou mai qo i Waimaro Levulevu. E nodratou lawatu na Tabana ni Bula. Na kena ivakadewa rawarawa – na lawatu qo e tekivu na 1935 (vakacaca sa via yabaki 90 na lawatu qo) ka sa qai mai donumaka na nomuni matanitu qo me veisautaki e 69 na tabana, e yaga me veisau me kauti keda yani kina vuravura bolebole ni veiqaravi eda sa donumaka edaidai.

Au vakabauta ni sa cawiri tiko yani qori na kena ilavelave, kei na kena ivakadewa e tiko kina. E levu na ka bibi e kovuti tu ena loma ni lawatu qo. Kena ibalebale na lako mai ni komiti qo ena yakavi ni kua, me da mai veitalanotaka ka vakauasivi na veika e baleti kemuni na tiko ena taudaku ni koro lelevu ena loma ni noda tinikava na yasana iViti, Rotuma, Rabi kei Kioa.

Keitou marau na siga ni kua ni madigi e donumaki keitou me keitou curuma saka mai nomudou itikotiko vakaturaga. Tiko na vakanuinui ni da na veiwasei sara kina—na kena rarama, na taro, na veika e gadrevi me da veitalanoa kina—ni keitou na vosa yani, dou vosa mai. Kevaka dou vinakata me rogo na domomudou ena kena veisau na lawa tu oqo, gauna sara ga tou sa dabe kina na yakavi edaidai. Kevaka e dua na ka e bera ni dou raica ena nodatou dabe tiko qo, se soli tiko na gauna me rawa ni qai yaco yani e dua nomudou vakatutu, ke rawa ni dou vola yani vakaivola, me lai lewe talega ni neitou komiti lai vakadikeva vakamalua na lawa sa tiko qo e matada. Au sa dolava rawa na kena veitalanoa; gauna qo au na kerei honourable Bia me na vakamatatataka vei keda e vuqa na ka e ologi tu ena lawa titobu bibi oqo, dodonu me da veitalanoa kina ni kua.

HON. A. BIA.- Ni sa tiko saka sobu na wekaqu ena nodatou koro vinaka qo, era sa tiko na Turaga ni Vanua vaka kina vei ratou na marama, rau na vakalesilesi mai na Tabana ni Bula kei ratou talega na vakalesilesi mai na Vale ni Bose Lawa ni noda vanua.

Vakalekaleka me vakavolekataki mai vei keda na veitalanoa me rawa ni rawarawa na noda ciqoma na lawa vakaturi e kau tiko mai ena siga ni kua. Dau matai ni taro eda dau taroga ena gauna ni veitalanoa vaka oqo, ni gadrevi me ciqomi na nomuni nanuma se nomuni vakanananu na lewenivanua ena dua na lawa e sagai me vakaturi ena Vale ni Bose Lawa—dau matai ni taro o ni dau taroga: ‘E yaga vakacava vei au na lawa qo?’ Ni’u tiko ena koro, au vakarurugi ena Valenivolavola ni Yasana, e tiko na lawa ni koro, e tiko talega na veika se na ituvatuva keimami dau vakayacora me rawa ni toso kina na koro, mataqali, yavusa ena nomuni veiqaravi ena loma ni dua na siga, dua na macawa, dua na vula se dua taucoko na yabaki.

Matai ni ka me da kila: na lawa vakaturi qo sai koya na Public Health (Amendment) Bill se na Public Health Act. Na lawa qo e qarauna na nomuni bula kei na nomuni tiko bulabula, na kena qarauni ka wanonovi na nomuni bula na lewenikoro. Na lawa qo e sivia na 90 na yabaki na kena cici tu mai, ka sega ni wili tu kina o keda na tiko ena veikoro. Na kena qai mai veisau qo, sa sagai me vakaturi me pasitaki ena Vale ni Bose Lawa na lawa ni kena qarauni na tiko bulabula ni lewenivanua, na nodra tiko vinaka na lewenikoro, ka me oka kina na lewenivanua kece e Viti. O tiko ena veikorokoro, koro vagalala, taudaku ni veikoro lelevu mai Suva, se tiko ena loma ni taoni—na gauna e pasitaki kina na lawa qo ena kovuti keda taucoko na lewe ni vanua.

O na taroga: 'Cava e bibi kina vei au na lawa oqo?' E coka sara tu ga na uto ni lawa qo na noda bula vakoro. Me baleta na noda tiko bulabula: me kua ni veiosoosoti na kena tara na vale ena noda koro; me qarauni na vanua e biu kina na benu; me laurai na tiko savasava. E oka talega kina o ira na ivakalesilesi era veiqaravi ena Valenivolavola ni Yasana kei ira na lesi me ra taura na itutu vakaveiliutaki ena koro—na marama Nasi ni Koro, na Turaga ni Koro. Na ka kece oqo e dodonu me veitalanoataki vakoro me laurai ni qarauni na lawa qo, baleta ni dua na ka e tiko vua na lawa qo sai koya na kena laveti cake na totogi ni ilavo kevaka ko voroka e dua na lawa ni bula e tiko kina.

Mai na loma ni 90 na yabaki, eso na totogi e tiko ga ena $2, $20, eso e $500. Qo sa laveti cake kina: na $500, eso na $10 sa $500, na $100 sa $1,000, na $2 sa toso cake kina $1,000—me baleta tikoga na kena qarauni na tiko bulabula ena noda veikoro.

E vakayacori na veitalanoa mai na nodatou Valenivolavola ni Yasana. E dau tukuni ni so na koro era sega ni dau sasamaki. Ia na kena biu mai na lawa vakaturi oqo, ni sa virikotori me pasitaki ena Vale ni Bose Lawa, ena qarauni na kena cuqeni tiko so na lawa vaka qo me qarauni ga na tiko bulabula ena noda veikoro.

Dua tale na tikina: eda sa vuli mai na kena lako mai na mate na COVID-19. Na lawa talega qo e vakarawarawataka vei ira na nodatou vakalesilesi mai na Tabana ni Bula ni yaco edua na kena dewa na mate levu vakaoya me vaka na typhoid, COVID-19, na kena sagai me tarovi na vakadewa totolo ni mate ka solia na kaukauwa me ratou lako yani na gauna cava ga me ratou qarauna me ra taqomaki na lewenivanua. Iliu e sega tu ni da oka na veikoro, dau dua na cakacaka levu tu vei ratou me ratou kerekere kina Valenivolavola ni Yasana, lako mai na ivola vei Turaga Roko, sa qai dua na wawa balavu ratou waraka tu ni tabu vei ratou ena vuku ni lawa qo ena loma ni 90 na yabaki sa oti me tu ga vei ratou, ratou lako mai – e tabu. Ia na lawa qo na kena mai vakavou taki qo e vukei ratou na Tabana ni Bula, ka da sa vuli mai na COVID-19 ni yaco edua na leqa tubu koso va ya sa tiko vei ratou na dodonu me ratou tu ga ratou lako yani, ratou raica na nodra taqomaki na lewenivanua se o keda na lewenikoro.

Oka tale tu ga ena vuku ni lawa qo na kena qarauni na tara na vale ni vakacegu ena loma ni koro, na kena veiyawaki (kevaka sa tiko ike me laurai me yawa tiko yani kina vale ka tarava). Me kakua ni vakaleqa na ikeli se na kena lako tiko yani na wai ca qo me kua ni lai vakaleqa tale eso na veivalevale era tiko tale ena loma ni koro se so tale era tiko sobu yani ena vanua e drodrova tiko yani na wai ca. Qo e sagai tikoga na ena laveti cake na noda tiko bulabula.

Veitalanoa e lako tiko eso era nanuma tiko sa rui sivia na totogi e soli tiko. Ia me da nanuma tiko na totogi qo e sega ni tiko me da totogitaki saraga kina na lewenivanua se na lewenikoro. Okoya e tu ga baleta me uqeti keda me da vakayacora tiko nai tavi ni tiko bulabula ena noda veikoro. Sa ratou cakacaka tiko mai na Valenivolavola ni Yasana - Integrated Village

Development Plan (IVDP) kena ibalebale na kena lai pasitaki na lawa virikotori qo ena Vale ni Boselawa sa dodonu na noda ituvatuva vakoro, Turaga ni Koro nona ituvatuva, keda na lewe ni koro me sa vakanamata na kena laurai ni vakamuri tiko e vica na lawa ka sa nanumi me kau cake mai qo me qarauni na noda tiko bulabula.

Ya vakalekaleka me dolava walega na noda veitalanoa. Dau tukuni na kena vosavosa VakaViti na kena voci vakavudi e tiko vei ratou na Tabana ni Bula me ratou na qai tomani keda yani.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni bera ni na gole noda veitalanoa vei ratou na Tabana ni Bula, au na kerei honourable Bala me dua saka nomuni veivakararamataki in English.

HON. P.K. BALA.- At the outset, I would like to acknowledge the village elders and all those who are present here.

This Bill was introduced by the honourable Minister for Health in the last Parliament session. As stated by Mr. Chairman, the Speaker has mandated our Standing Committee to deal with this Bill. Based on that, today is our first day for the public consultation. This is our second meeting, and as a Committee Member, I am happy to see the large number of people who are present here.

I also believe that you have received the copy of the Bill in the translated version. It is nothing new; we had the Public Health Act before, but there have been some amendments to the Principal Act, and for the first time, the villagers have been included in the Act. We should take that as a positive step, but as individuals and as villagers, in some way it affects you as well—not only you but every individual. If you look at the Bill itself, what this Bill is going to do is strengthen the health and effectiveness of our people. We do understand that there have been some proposed penalties and fines, which I know will be an opportunity for all of you to put forward your views so that the Committee can take them on board. It would be wrong if we just go ahead with the Bill approved in Parliament and make that into law. An opportunity has been given to all the Fijians of this country because this is a very important Bill that we are here for you this afternoon.

There has been a lot of talk about penalties and fines, but one must understand—and we have officials from the Ministry of Health here—they will guide you. They will let you know that if there is a defect, an issue, or a nuisance, no one will come and give you a ticket or fine you immediately, even after it becomes law. They will first give you letters to make improvements. If there is no improvement, they may give another letter for improvement. But if you do not attend to it, then the penalty will kick in.

So, in other words, what this is trying to do is to take our people to another level. As stated by my colleague, I understood a bit of what you are saying. During COVID-19, it was a very good example for us. In the absence of laws, I remember we had to have emergency Parliament sittings to bring in laws. This Bill will address situations like COVID-19 because there were no such laws before. Now, having gone through those difficult times, the Ministry of Health has come up with this Bill.

This is the time for Talanoa. This is the time for you to give your views. We, as the Committee, will take them on board. Now it is only the Committee who can make changes to this—not the Ministry of Health, not the Minister, not the Solicitor General. This is the

opportune time for you to bring up issues that you think are not right. Do not just oppose for the sake of opposing. This Bill, as I have stated, is for the betterment of everyone. With those few words, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much, and we hope we will have a very good Talanoa session here this afternoon.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Our village elders, ladies and gentlemen, *bula vinaka* once again. As the honourable Members has alluded to earlier, this Bill is a very good Bill. But my only concern, which I have been raising all along—even during submission time—is that if you have read the Bill carefully, the penalties are very high. Some have increased from $10 to $500, some penalties have increased from $20 to $1,000, and some are up to $5,000.

Once this Bill is passed in its current form, I was thinking that the majority of houses and individuals in this village could be charged. It is about the wastewater system, the structures, and it allows powers to vacate families and powers to demolish houses with high penalties. If people do not comply, they can also end up in court and even in prison, to be honest and frank with you.

This is also your time. The Bill is very good in how it will keep us all healthy, but it also talks about huge penalties associated with it and the powers given to the Ministry of Health. Before, the Health officials used to come through the Ministry of iTaukei. Once this Bill is passed, they will come in directly, they will have the powers to go into any village, enter any premises according to law if things are happening there. These are some of my comments, and I have also stated back in our Committee that some of the penalties need to be changed and should be lowered. Once the penalties are charged to a resident here, the same will be applied to a resident in Suva, or in a city, or in a village, or in a settlement. Sir, those are some of my observations, and I have suggested to the Committee that we need to categorise these penalties so that our rural communities are not charged with the same penalties as those people whose lives are better than those who are in informal settlements and villages.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vakabauta ni ko ni sa rogoca na nodrau vakamacala na lewe ni komiti.

Sa ra kidavaki tiko o ira sa qai lako tiko mai. Vinaka vakalevu na talairawarawa vei na kaci malumalumu e gole tiko yani, me da mai sota eke me mai rogo na domomuni vaka-matavuvale, vaka-itikotiko ena veika eda sa rogoca oti vei ira na kena dau baleta tikoga na lawa sa tiko qo imatada. Nuitaka ni sa tiko vei kemuni na kena ilavelave. Ka kece e tukuni tiko kina sega ni macala ga, e vakayacori tiko ena vosa VakaViti se vaka Peretania.

LEWENIVANUA.- VakaViti.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa na rawarawa sara na nomuni na goleva na tabana qori. Bera ni toso nodatou veitalanoa, sa na sureti rau na itaukei ni lawa oqo mai na Tabana ni Bula me rau na vakamacala vakalekaleka vei keda ni bera ni tekivu na noda veitalanoa. Lako yani me lako mai.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Ni sa tiko saka na Vunivalu, tiko saka na Turaga kei na marama ena yakavi vinaka ni kua. Mai na Tabacakacaka ni Bula vakacaca, me vakamacalataka ga eso na veisau lelevu ni na raica tiko na lawa vakaturi tiko qo. Na veisau e vica e tiko qo, e laurai mai na balavu ni gauna e toso tiko mai kina na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula. Keitou raica tiko mai eso na bolebole ni itatao tiko ni neitou vakataucokotaka na noda bulabula na

lewenivanua i Viti. Ka nanumi ni na kau cake mai na veisau oqo me veisautaki ena lawa vakaturi, ena rawa ni vaqaqacotaka na sasaga ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula me da kawa tamata kaukauwa, da bulabula, ka da rawa ka vakalevu ena noda vuvale, loma ni noda koro, vakauasivi ena noda vanua o Viti.

Matai, me vaka ratou sa vakamacala oti tiko kina na lewe ni Komiti mai na Vale ni Bose Lawa, na lawa qo sa nanumi me sa kovuti keda vakatautauvata, mai wili kina o ira na tiko ena koro VakaViti. E laurai ni duidui tiko na lawa e tauri ira na tiko ena taudaku ni koro VakaViti vata kei keda na tiko ena koro VakaViti, dua na duidui levu keitou raica. Qo e basika tiko ena veiyabaki taucoko, sa vaka me "normal" tale tu ena veiyabaki, veiyabaki na leptospirosis, typhoid, dengue. Sega ni kureitaka rawa tiko o Viti na tolu na mate qo ena dua na gauna balavu.

Ena veiyabaki binibini lewenivanua era leqa tiko, era vakasa ivalenibula. Na cakacaka levu e qarava tiko na Tabana ni Bula me saga me tamusaka na kena dau veidewavi na tolu na mate lelevu qo. Ia e drakidrakita vakalevu baleta ni duidui tiko na tagede me na rua—keda na tiko ena koro VakaViti vata kei ira na tiko ena taudaku. Keitou raica, dina ni kovuti keda tiko na By-laws e tiko na Tabacakacaka ni iTaukei, ia e dua na malumalumu e tiko kina ni keitou sega ni rawa ni cakacakataka na Tabacakacaka ni Bula. Vei kemudou na veiqaravi tik oi Vunidawa se Nausori, dou gole yani kina neitou complaint register, dou na raica na levu ni vakukudru e gole tiko yani na koro VakaViti ena vuku ni veika e so e basika tiko ena koro VakaViti, sega ni rawa ni keitou lai cakacaka kina na Tabana ni Bula baleta ni sega vei keitou na kena lawa. Qo na vuna keitou sa nanuma kina na tikina e volai tiko ena vola ni lawa qo: "me kakua ni oka ga ena koro VakaViti" - sa boko, me biu ga kina lawa qo me okati Viti taucoko. Kena ibalebale, sa na dua ga na tagede eda na tubu vata cake kina na koro VakaViti kei ira na tiko ena taudaku ni koro VakaViti. Qo na inaki e nanuma tiko na Tabacakacaka ni Bula me kovuti kina na koro VakaViti. Dina ni na tiko kina so na totogi me vaka eda sa rogoca tiko, e sega ni kau mai me totogitaki keda, ia me vakarere, me da kila kevaka e sega ni cakacaka vinaka, ena rawa ni yaco me kau vakaveilewai, lavaki na ilavo levu meu sauma, se meu kelia na qara ni noqu vatuvuso meu cakava vakavinaka. Au nanuma kina ni matata sara tu ga.

Kena karua: na lawa vakaturi e tiko qo e bolea tiko na tadolavi vakalailai ni lawa vakatutu taumada me keitou kovuta na noda igunugunu ni wai. Dua na ka vakaloloma vei ira na tiko ena taudaku ni koro vakavavalagi na medra wai ni gunu. Ratou na taukei ni qele eratou via cakava na ulu ni vakaso ni wai me vaka na qoli ena vakaso, se duvaduvani mai cake, teitei kei na susu manumanu. Sega na ka vakalawa e tu ena Tabacakacaka ni Bula me maroroi kemuni.

Na lawa vakaturi qo sa volai ni kevaka e dua e vakadukara na wai ni gunu ena teitei se duvaduvani, sa na kau vakaveilewai, sauma na ilavo levu, ke sega vakacagicagi vakalailai i Naboro lai veivutunitaka na cakacaka levu e vakayacori ena kena vakadukari na wai ni gunu. Nanumi tiko ni veiyabaki e tubu tiko na mate veitauvi ena wai ni gunu me vaka na coka. Qo na gaunisala ena Tabacakacaka ni Bula me vaqaqacotaka kina na veiqaravi.

Dua tale na kena vakaraitaki- na vale ni vakaicili. Ena 1995 se sega kina na Airbnb, se sega ni levu na vale e tiko ena taoni me da dau lai rede kina. Vei kemudou na gone Turaga dau gole yani ena koro turaga lai qaravi na vuli, dou lai rede se saumi vale. Levu na gauna keitou ciqoma na kudru, dua sa rede tiko qai laurai ni vale e vakasisila na kena tuvaki, e tuturu tu na wai ca ni valenilailai ka lako mai loma ni vale. Na gauna keitou curu yani, keitou soli notisi vei

taukei ni vale, ka ratou qai vakagalala na dau rede. Sa qai dua na cakacaka levu me ratou tau tale ituba na vuvale.

Na lawa vakaturi sa tiko qo e kaya ni bera ni dua na vale me rede taki, me curuma rawa na Tabacakacaka ni Bula me vakadonui na kena ituvaki, savasava, tagede me bula kina na tamata. Qo na gaunisala me tagutuva kina na rivariva bi ni mate. E vica tale na veitikina lalai au vakabauta ni oni sa wilika tiko, keirau sa tu vakarau na vakalesilesi me keirau na vakamatatataka kevaka eso na tikina e sega ni matata.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nanuma na vakamacala sa lako tiko yani qo ni sa matata na kena vakadewataki kei na lavelave e tiko qo e ligamuni. Keitou sa dolava na kena vakasama. Na ibalebale ni neimami siro mai qo me mai rogoci na domomuni na lewenivanua, na cava oni via tukuna, se cava oni via vakaraitaka kevaka e so na vakatutu e yaga me veisau kina na veika sa tiko qo ena yakavi edai. Keitou sa na vakanadaku, sa oti na nomudou gauna ena loma ni tikotiko vakaturaga qo. Au kerea me da vosa kece na tiko qo, ni laveta ga na ligamuni mena qai kau yani vei kemuni na wa ni vosavosa, ni tukuna na yacamuni ena rawarawa na veika keitou na vakasokomuna. Na vuna levu, ni veitalanoa kece e caka tiko qo e recordtaki tiko.

Na gauna keitou na lesu tale kina i Palimedi keitou na qai lai lesuva tale na repote, na veika o tukuna mai ena lai maroroi tu i Palimedi.Na kena itukutuku eso e rawa ni yacova sara me 10 na yabaki ka na wili tale tu me archives se me reference. Ni via laurai na lawa qo ena qai raici lesu tale ivei na otioti ni gauna a caka kina na veitalanoataki ni Bill qo. Ya na vuna e bibi tiko kina me da vakayagataka na wa ni vosavosa baleta na ka kece ena katoni tiko.

Sa dola noda veitalanoa, na levu ni nomuni vakatutu kei na nomuni vakamacala ena vukei keitou vakalevu kina. Na kena lai vakatavuloni vakamatau sara na lawa vakatutu oqo ni bera ni qai lako i Palimedi me qai lai vakadonui kina. Kemuni saka na Turaga Vunivalu sa dola saka tiko qo na noda veitalanoa.

MR. A. TUINASAU.- Vinaka vakalevu, Sir, na nomudou kauwai saka tiko mai ena vuku ni bula ni lewenivanua ena loma ni tikina o Soloira, ena yasana o Naitasiri. Vinaka vakalevu saka kemudrau na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula drau dabe rawa tiko ena siga ni kua kei na vakalesilesi kece sara era dabe rawa ena sigalevu ni kua, vakalesilesi ni Valenivolavola ni Yasana o Naitasiri– Roko Veivuke Iliu.

Ena vuku saka ni vanua o Waimaro, keitou cavuta saka tiko na vakavinavinaka vei kemuni. Ka vou saka vei keimami na itukutuku sa mai qaravi qo. O au madaga qai ratou vakamacala tiko na Turaga, sa dua na ka na noqu marau. Na itukutuku dou kauta mai e vinaka saraga ke toso cake tale vakalailai baleta na levu ni sakuca e tu qo ena veikorokoro.

Au cavuta tiko na vakavinavinaka na siga ni kua na vakasama vinaka e kau mai qo. Na kena kau mai na vakatautauvatataki ni bula mai na loma ni taoni kina taudaku ni taoni. Au Turaga ni Koro saka tiko; sa dua na ka na tomi diaper au cakava tiko qo e loma ni koro. Na kena biu vakaveitalia tu na diper ni gone. So era lai viritaki, kauta tale mai na koli e loma ni koro. Vei keimami saka mada na tu vaka nakoro, keimami gadreva talega me keimami vukei, me keimami nanumi ia keimami vakavinavinaka ni keimami sa nanumi rawa.

Na koro o Waikalou kei na koro tolutolu qo iliu keimami dau keli qara ni benu e yasa ni koro, ia, na gauna qo sa cemuri keitou tiko na sisi ni qele. Baleta ni keitou kelia na valelailai sova wai, qara ni benu me biu kina na benu, oti ga e vica na vula sa sinai – sisi, sa lako tani

saraga. Koya ya sa toso vakatotolo tiko mai kina na sisi ni qele. Iliu na ka era kaya na qase - Na Wainimala e sega ni dau laurai, e dau rogoci tu ga ni vakere tu. Ya saka e so na ka sa tara saka tiko na loma ni koro.

Kena karua na kena yaco saka mai na wai ni paipo kina vanua edau vakadrodroi kina na wai ca ni paipo, septic tank sa via levu tiko na septic tank ena loma ni koro. Koya saka edua na leqa levu e tarai keimami saka tiko.

Me vaka au sa kaya oti, keitou dau keli qara ni benu. Gauna qo sa sega tale ni dua na vanua keimami benu kina. So sa vakama nodra benu me vaka na pepa kei na plastic. So sa biu benu sara tikoga e bati ni wai se na yasa ni koro. Au marau vakalevu ni sa kau mai na vakatauvatani ni bula mai taoni kina tu vaka nakoro. Na koro o Serea sa kerea saraga na veivuke ni Tabana ni Bula kei na veika sa tarai keimami tu.

Kena karua na bula osooso ena loma ni koro. Na tara vale sa sega ni rawa ni toso. Na vale sa toso iyasana qo. So na wiliwili ni lewenikoro levu era sa toki kina koro vagalala i veikau. Dua na wiliwili ni koro levu ka lailai na wiliwili e tiko inakoro e levu e tiko na vanua vakagalala. E vitu tiko nodra valenilotu o ira na tiko na vanua vagalala ka ra sa lai dabeca tiko na nodra tiki ni qele. Lewe levu vei ira ya na luvedra sa sega ni veikilai mai loma ni koro baleta na dede ni nodra lai tu.

Ena vuku saka ga ni sa tatara tiko mai na sisi ni qele kei na lailai ni vanua keimami sa tiko kina na gauna qo. Kila ni talei sara na itukutuku e kau cake mai na sigalevu ni kua. Keitou marautaka sara vakalevu na itukutuku kei na kena vakacilavi cake na vakanananu qo me sa tarai keimami mai. I liu dau lai vakilai tiko e loma ni makete na levu ni benu e sovari tiko yani ena vei korokoro. Dua na gauna ratou sa svakaukauwataka saraga na Suva City Council (SCC) na kena qarauni na benu ena loma ni taoni. Sa biu wavoki ga na kava ni benu ena loma ni makete baleta na levu ni volivolitaki, na iolo ni usana, na taga kei na cava soti e kau yani qai lai biu tu ena loma ni makete. Ya saka gona na irairai e laurai saka tiko ena loma ni koro baleta ni ra sega ni kawaitaka tiko na bula savasava e tiko ena loma ni taoni. Ia kevaka sa na kau mai na bula savasava ki loma ni koro vakabauta sa na talave na bula ka sa na lailai sobu na mate veitauvi.

Dua na ka e kauta tiko mai na mate veitauvi oya na benu – benu ni tamata, benu ni manumanu kei na duka saraga ni loma ni koro. Ya saka ga edua na vakamacala lekaleka au rawa ni vakaraitaka, ra tiko sobu noqu itokani, dabe saka tiko na Mata Ni Tikina, vica na Turaga ratou na vakadewa tiko, tiko neitou Nasi ni Koro, tiko na Liuliu ni Marama Ni Tikina, ratou na Liuliu ni Marama ni tolu na koro ratou dabe tiko qo, rawa ni ra soli tukutuku me ra vakadinadinataka na ka au tukuna tiko qo. Ke so tale na ka au sega ni tukuna e rawa ni ra qai vakadewataka. O au madaga na noqu rogoca nai tukutuku dou gole mai kina na Turaga, sa dua na ka na noqu vinaka levu. Vinaka saka vakalevu na veikawaitaki, vinaka vakalevu na veinanumi. Mai dua tikoga noqu itavi lekaleka sa vaka saka ya na kena levu.

MR. P . VAKALOLO.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Vakalolo)

Dua saka ga na taro vei rau na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula. Na vuku saka ni sa vakalawataki eso na ka me maroroi kina na tiko savasava. E tiko saka edua na lawa me baleta na susu manumanu? Keitou susuga tiko e 30 na bulumakau, keitou kauta kina Tabana ni Teitei – sega ga ni rawa. Qai mataka sa laurai ga na benu. Au ririkotaka tiko na mi ni manumanu, na vakacaca e lako i lomanikoro.

Kena karua: so na koli era susugi tiko, sa leqa saraga ni sa sega ni kawaitaka o taukei ni koli. Ni mate; sa lai mate tu e ruku ni floor. E sega ni dua na lawa e vauca na tikina oya?

Kena katolu: me baleta na benu. Kevaka ni da sa vakatautauvataki ira na tiko na mai taoni kei na tiko vakanakoro. Kevaka edua na ka keitou kerea, keitou kerea edua na ka ni benu kaukaumea me mai biu kina eso na kani yaya makawa me vaka na washing machine. Sa lai makawa sa sega na vanua e biu kina sa biu ga yani e bati ni wai se sa biu ga na vanua era biuta kina. Na kena maroroi na benu.

Na ka me baleta na manumanu. Sa bogi mai va qo sa lai friend tale na koli kei na bulumakau. Sa lai normal tale vei koli.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- E rua toka na taro bibi e tarogi tiko ya me baleta na benu kei na ka baleti ira na manumanu – vei ira na vakamanumanu kei na veika era sa mai cakava tiko ena loma ni koro. Kerei rau tiko na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, na wekaqu vinaka saka vakalevu na taro na sigalevu ni kua. Kevaka ni raica tiko nai lavelave – Na veisau No. 26. Na veisau No. 26(g):

> "keeping or rearing animal or bird of any description so kept as to be injurious to public and environmental health".

Kena ibalebale na kena susu na manumanu se manumanu vuka ena kena walewale koya raw ani
vakavuna na tiko ca se na tauvimate. Koya saka s ana kovuti tiko ena lawa vakaturi. Kevaka sa na mani curuma na komiti eratou sa nanuma me ratou s ana vakatura me sa kau i Palimedi sa lai pasitaki, na solia tiko beka viavia dua na yabaki na kena lako curumi tiko na bose vakoro, bose ni tikina, bose ni yasana, vakararamataki kina na lawa qo. Kena ibalebale kevaka edua sa tiko non aba ni manumanu eloma ni koro, dou vakatubu leqa tiko, koya sa dodonu ena loma ni gauna ya koya sa dodonu me na cakacakataki koya rawa sara tiko. Na oti na gauna ni veivakararamataki sa na tarava mai na veivakasavasavataki koya s ana qai lako mai kina na kena vakaqaqacotaki na lawa. Koya saka beka ya, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dua ga na taro vei kemudou na lewe ni tikotiko vakaturaga i Soloira. Keimami dau rogoca tiko mai Suva ni levu nomudou bulumakau. Lakolako era vaqara katakata mai ni sad raki kudukudua main a vanua.

(Veidredrevaki)

Kevaka ko sa via vakamanumanu, mo raica nomu manumanu me vakabai, me maroroi, na manumanu e sega na yalona. Keda ga na dabe tiko qo e tiko vei keda na yalo ni kauwai me da maroroa na noda manumanu.

Na ka eratou sa tukuna tiko na tabana ni bula qo, ke mani ratou vakatara me dua ga na yabaki na veivakararamataki, na vei vakasavasavataki sa na ciciva na lawa. E sega ni tiko na neimami vakanananu na lako mai qo me dou sa yacova sara yani ya. E tiko ga na vakasama ni kauwai na kena maroroi na noda bula vakaitikotiko, na kena maroroi na manumanu kei na maroroi na bula savasava, bula veilomani, na cakacaka vata, kei na duavata me tuberi keda yani me da rawa ni yacova vata dua na vakatagedegede era sa yacova tiko mai na tiko na noda veikoro lelevu. E tuvatuva rawarawa; na ka bibi e tiko mai dakuna na kena cakacakataki. Rawa

ni vosa tiko o Turaga ni Koro siga kei na bogi, ia na yasana dredre taudua na noda itavi okeda na lewe ni koro se lewe ni tikotiko.

Au sa kerekere tiko baleta qo ga na vanua e rawa ni rogo kina na domomuni. Ke o ni sa duavata se o ni sa vinakata me veisau, na veiveisau na yaco na yakavi edaidai eratou sega ni lewa mai na tabana ni bula. Sa tiko na ligai keitou na komiti qo, sa vakadonui mai Palimedi, na itavi ni nomuni komiti qo me vakayacora na veivakararamataki, lesu yani keitou lai raica na veika ni sa vakatutu mai kina na lewenivanua ni bera ni qai kau cake i Palimedi me sa lai tuki me sa lawa ni noda matanitu.

MS. A. KETEIVALU.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Ms. Keteivalu)

Dua saka na kauwai me vaka sa vosa tiko o Turaga Ni Koro me baleta na benu. Sa sega ni rawa, ia, qai biu tale na benu ena ibenubenu baleta ni sa sivita na kena vanua. Dua saka ga na kerekere keitou kauta tiko yani baleta na kena koya vakayagataki tiko mai taoni kei na bula vakanakoro. Ke rawa ni kau saka mai na container lelevu ni benu. Me mai biu saka kina na benu, me vaka saka dau caka tu mai taoni. Gauna ga sa sinai kina mai kau. Au kila ni rawa ni na vinaka kina na bula vakanakoro.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa ciqomi na vakatutu. Ia keimai mai taoni keimami sauma nai vakacavacava ni tu ena koro lelevu. Kemudou sa via saumi vakacavacava na tiko ike? Au rawa ni lai vakatututaka vei Turaga Minister ni Vuli me na sauma mai me baleti kemudou ga na wekaqu i Soloira. Vakasama dina e gole saka tiko mai. Au vosa tiko yani qo me rawa niu vakarawarawataka tiko na veitalanoa. Me keitou qai lako ike keitou sa lako na galala, ke dou qai veicudruvi tiko mai ya qai nomudou tiko mai,keitou sa mai qarava oti na neitou itavi.

MR. A. TUINASAU.- Au taroga saka ga na noqu itukutuku. Au sa vakatututaka saka tiko yani kevaka sa mani kau mai na bula mai Suva me kau mai nakoro. Keitou kerea saka tiko na Tikina o Soloira ke rawa ni mai caka na veivakavaletaki, drainage, sewer line e loma ni koro me rawa ni vukei keitou ka taqomaki keitou mai na sisi ni qele.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Turaga Ni Koro, ratou na tabana ni bula e tiko veiratou edua na tikina ka yacana tiko na registration. Au na sega ni na vakamacala kina; kau kerei rau na vakalesilesi me rau qai vakamacala kina baleta ni rau kena dau.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Ni vola saka toka mada ga na 2903675. Ni qai veitaratara yani. Dina e sega ni tiki ni nodatou consultation, e tiki ni porokaramu au veiqaravi kina me datou na qai veivosakitaka na ka me baleta na kena kau mai na vuli, kena sagai na veivakatorocaketaki qori ka vaka talega kina me baleta na benu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au kaya tiko mai Vunidawa, qo gona na vanua na rogo kina na domomudou i Soloir. Na gauna na qai lai tuki kina, ona qai raica na nomu vakatutu ni sa lai pasitaki, au a cau kina mosoni ya kei na kena veisau na lawa tu. Vakasamataka tiko e 90 na yabaki na kena cici tiko mai na lawa levu oya koya vauci keda tiko, sa qai donumaka na madigi oqo me sa qai mai veiveisau kina e 69 na tabana.

MR. A. MASIVOU.- Dua saka na vakatataro. E rawa ni curu saka ike na neimami dau gole tiko yani ivalenibula? Rawa ni laveti ike na neimami dau gole tiko i Valenibula i Vunidawa? So na gauna era sa dau vakawelewele saraga na tabana ni bula. Sega ni dua na time dodonu era dau vakayagataka. So era dau gole tu na mataka lailai, ra lai wawa tu waraki tu na

vuniwai kei na nasi. Era dau vakayaco lomadra tu ga qai vakatau ga vei ira. Ke rawa ni dua na vakatutu me dua ga na gauna me rawa ni keimami kila me rawa ni solia vei keimami na vakacegu?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Rau tiko qo na kena tabana dina. E sega ni salavata tiko na ulutaga tou goleva tiko ni kua baleta ga ni sa basika na kena vakasama, e kauwai saka tiko. Au na kerei rau me rau na qai vakamcala kina. De rairai vaka vei au e levu tiko na gone ra tiko mai Vunidawa ena tabana ni bula era gone ni Naitasiri. Na kaukauwa ni Komiti qo erawa ni ra veiveisautaki e so kevaka dou vinakata. I ke ga ki na tabana ni vuli, sa lewe levu tiko mai kea, sa berabera na veiqaravi rawa ni veisau eso. A sa caka oti ena so na vanua; e rawa ni caka talega i Vunidawa.

MR. L. VALETABUA.- Sa tiko na Turaga na Chairman, tiko na lewe ni matabose yaco, tiko na Turaga ni Vanua, turaga kei na marama, taumada sa ciqomi tiko nai tukutuku, kauwai e kau saka tiko mai ena vuku ni veiqaravi, keirau na qai saga me keirau na vakaleleca na kena ituktuku vei ratou na veiliutaki ena Wasewase iloma. Me baleta na vakavinakataki ni veiqaravi ena nodatou valenibulai Vunidawa. Kevaka na vinakati tale me dua na kena veitalanoa ena dua na gauna imuri vakabauta ena rawa ni na qaravi oya, rawa ni keirau na qai veitaratara tikoga mai vua na Turaga Roko kei na Turaga DO me datou na mai dabe vata me datou na veitalanoataka na gaunisala cava e rawa ni da vukei kina me vakavinakata na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula e tiko ena nodatou gauna ni veiqaravi.

MR. R. KOROI.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Koroi)

Vica na yabaki noqu veiqaravi tiko vaka Nasi ni Koro ena koro o Waikalou, neitou repote e biu sobu veiratou na Nasi i Vunidawa ke rawa ni ra mai sikovi ira na lewenikoro era davo tu ivale (bedridden). Sa karua ni yabaki era sega ni lako tiko mai na Nasi mai Vunidawa. Vuqa na gauna keitou gole yani i Vunidawa me keitou lai kere wainimate eratou tukuna mai ni sa oti na wainimate, me keitou na qai gole tani yani na gauna ka tarava.

Kena katolu: na vakatutu e gole tiko mai baleta nodra ivakarau na Nasi i Vunidawa ena nodra qaravi na lewenivanuna. E dina taucoko, keitou sa vakadinadinataka na Nasi ni Koro, so na gauna keitou gole yani vaka keitou sega ni lai kawaitaki tu, lako yani biu na repote, keitou kere wainimate ratou tukuna, " Na wainimate e out of stock, dou qai gole tale mai ena vula ka tarava".

Kena ka va: na rai ni Nasi ni Koro – loma ni koro kevaka e rawa ni ra vakavinakataki mada na neitou drain baleta na dengue e veitauvi tiko mai qo, levu neitou drain e block tu, keitou vakatututaka tikoga yani kina tabana ni bula.

Kena ka lima: Na benu – na vanua e biu kina na benu. Sa biu umaumani vata tu ga yani me vaka na kava kei na diaper (koya kama kei koya e sega ni rawa ni kama).

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Rau sa vakarorogo tiko na vakalesilesi ni tabana ni bula ena tikina oya. Na via wili vata tiko na vakasama koya sa lako mai liu baleta na bibi ni tamata dauveiqaravi mai Vunidawa me yaco mai vei kemudou na tiko i ra qo.

MR. U. QARALEKA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Qaraleka)

Dua saka ga na taro me baleta na tikia e 39 e tiko kina na totogi e $20 laveti cake me $2000. Dua e tiko qo na sau ni leseni e $10 laveti me $500. Rawa ni drau vakamatatataka na tikina ya?

TABANA NI BULA.- Na naba vica?

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Tikina 39 kei na tikina 40. Ke rawa ni drau vakamatatataka na tikina e 39 – Na itotogi ena Tikina e 89 e tiko ena $20; vakatututaki tiko me laveti kina $2,000.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni wilika madaga mai cava na kena vakamacala.

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Na itotogi ena Tikina 89 e tiko ena $20; laveti na totogi me $2,000.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Rau se vakaraica tiko na tabana ni bula na tikina oya, e dua na ka bibi e tiko ena loma lawatu qo na itotogi. Eda sa rawa ni raica saraga dua na kena vakaraitaki totoka oya mai na $20 kina $2,000. Ni nanuma tiko na lawa qo e vauci keda kece i Viti, Rotuma, Rabi kei Kioa.

Au na taura madaga vakalekaleka na lawatu qo na kena ibalebale ni vakatiko qori na duidui e tiko walega ikea me i sasabai ni da na qai yacova yani na penalty se deterrent me vukei keda me da raica tiko yani me caka na ka ratou vinakata na tabana ni bula me caka rawa ka na qai tiko na gauna me soli vei kemuni.

Dua na kena vakaraitaki qo: kevaka e kacabote tiko na nomu tolo ni septic tank. Sa lako yani dua na complaint, ratou lako mai na kena tabana ratou mai raica, ratou sa mai vakadinadinataka ni dodonu me vakavinakataki, ratou na qai solia vei kemudou e rua na macawa se dua na vula, keitou na lesu tale mai, lako mai ratou mai raica kevaka e se bera tiko ni caka ratou na lako tale mai na karua ni gauna, kena ikatolu dou sa na veitalanoa kei na totogi.

Na ka bibi ga e tiko kina vei keda me solia na gauna me da vakavinakataka kina na veika e leqa tu. Eda na kauwai tiko baleta ni na lako mai na penalty se na totogi ena rawa saraga ni ko tini ena veilewai. Kevaka o sega ni sauma nomui totogi sa tiko na kaukauwa vua na tabana ni bula; ena lawa vakaturi qo o rawa ni ko veilewaitakai. Ya na iotioti kece ni ka tou vinakata me datou na yacova yani. Ia kevaka eda cakacaka vata tiko, da talairawarawa kina veika e dodonu me vakayacori baleta na rarama ni noda bula ni tiko savasava, tiko sautu, kei na veilomani e dodonu me vakavinakataki na veika sa ca tu. Na vanua madaga e lako kina na wai ca ni vakasasaqa e ra wili kece talega ena loma ni lawa levu ya. Ni kua ni lai vakasosataka tale edua drau tiko veivolekati ena vuku ni boi, vakasuasuataka beka nodratou matani vale, ka kece ya era ologi tiko ena lawa levu era tiko oya. Oya so na kena vakasama.

MR. L. VALETABUA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, lewe ni bose yaco, ni tiko na turaga kei na marama, vakavinavinakataka tiko vakalevu na taro e tarogi tiko. Na tikina 89 e vakatokai tiko na venereal disease se na mate veitauvi e vu mai na veiyacovi.

Na tikina 89 e tiko kina "kevaka edua na turaga se marama sa tauvi koya tiko na mate ni veiyacovi" kila ni sa yacova tiko na gauna bolebole na noda Viti na gauna qo na veidewavi tiko na mate ni HIV kei na AIDS. Kena ibalebale ke dua sa tauvi koya tiko na mate ca okoya sa vakadewa wavoki tiko. Ya e toso cake sara mai kina na fine e tiko qo mai na $20 kina $2,000; ya vaka mo wilfully transmitting.

Qo edua na bolebole levu e yacovi keitou na gauna ni COVID-19. Na gauna sa dua kina na lewe ni vanua sa positive ena COVID-19 tukuni vua, "me tiko vakadua nomu vale me 14 na siga,kua ni veitosoyaki me rawa ni contain na mate". Dau mai laurai tiko na vei ya rua na siga se qiriti tiko mai. Oti ya qai tukuni tale yani ena loma ni 14 na siga koya tiko tale dua na koro se tiko i taoni. Na gaunisala ya sa vakadewavi tiko kina na veimata dewa eso. Ia qo na tikina 89 na ka saraga me baleta na mate veitauvi sexual transmitted disease. Qo na kena veimataqali taucoko, ko raica vakamalua ena lawa - Part 10 – Venereal disease na ka ga e biu saraga vakalevu kina i cake na itotogi baleta okoya sa kila ni tauvi koya tiko na mate qai sega ni vakayagataka na itatarovi sa qai nona cakacaka tiko okoya na vakadewava (intentionally transmitting the disease). Koya ya na vuni kena biu cake tiko.

Au nuitaka ni sa matata ya, sa rauta vakavinaka saraga na kena totogi kevaka ena donu vei kemuni baleta eso sa kila ni tiko vei ira na mate, era vakayagataka tiko na tatarovi – gunu vuanikau. Eso sa tiko vei ira na mate sa ra qai vakadewataka tiko na mate sa qai levu cake tikoga kina na wiliwili ni mate. Koya beka ya na vakamacala Turaga Chairman. Na tikina 89 kena tarava na offensive case.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Koya na tikina tarava qori koya tubu tiko mai na $10 kina $500 qori me baleta na cicivaki ni bisinisi koya dau vakatubu kauwai se vakatubu leqa vei keda ka wili kina na quarry (na vanua ni qaqi vatu), vanua ni buli simede (cement factory), vanua ni dau buli kuta koya dau vakayagataki igaunisala na Asphalt, tiko na manufacture abattoir (na vanua ni vakamate manumanu), wili kina na susu manumanu lelevu me vaka na bai ni toa ni Crest kei Rooster dau boilevu, tiko so na steel mill rogolevu, vakosakosa rawa ni vakavuna na didivara na veimataqlai mate vaka koya.

Na tabana ni bula na kena sagai me vakagalalataki keda mai vua edua e lako tu ga mai me mai tara dua na mataqali bisinisi qori ibati ni wai qai vakavu leqa vei keda. Keitou sa tagava me vakalawataki ni bera ni dua e cakava ya me na register rawa vei na Tabacakacaka ni Bula; kevaka e sega na totogi e tiko qori. Kevaka e lako tu ga mai vakaloa mai cakava dua na bisinisi, e tiko na list ni bisinisi e vakatokai na "offensive trade" e tiko na daku ni lawa imuri. Kevaka o ni na raica na Public Health Act koya tiko na regulation imuri sara – offensive trade. Ira koya sa tiko ya tabu ni dua me mai vakaduria vakailoa dua na mataqali bisinisi vaka koya yacova ni sa dikeva na tabana ni bula me vakagalalataki keda mai na lewenivanua sa na qai rawa. Kevaka ena cakava; kena totogi e tiko qori.

HON. A. BIA.- Kevaka me ra taro - o ira na vakaba ni vuaka tiko voleka mai na loma ni bai vakoro, oti ya qai boi tiko, so na gauna sa sega ni sava tu beka me dua na siga se rua na siga gole tu na kena itaukei, lako beka dua na soqo se lako vakacakacaka oti ya vakavuna tiko mai nai boi ena loma ni koro. Vakacava na kena oya ke rawa ni vakamatataki ga.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Koya ya e kovuti tiko ena "nuisance" vei ira na bisini yadudua se tamata yadudua ni o cakava edua naka e vakavuna nai boi ka lai tiko vakaca kina na lewenivanua. Na kena lelevu sa qai yacana na "offensive trade", na nuisance sa qai votai tiko vakavica - bibi ga ni cakacaka koya e caka ka rawarawa ni vakavuna na tauvimate - sau levu na totogi. Kena lailai sobu - lailai sobu talega na itotogi.

Na kena matai ko ni a taroga mai na tikina 38 ni raica tiko qori na kena toso cake mai na $1,000. Oqori o ira na spreadtaka na misinformation. Dua na vakatatao ni veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula na false information. Taura mada na gauna ni vaccination. Ni keitou saga tiko

me ravuti na COVID-19 qai so era vosa tiko ena mona livaliva me ra tukuna tiko, " qori na cakacaka ni tevoro, qori na vakavuna noda mate" ira na parofisai ya se tukuni mai vica na yabaki sa oti ia keda se bula tikoga qo. Sa qai vakadredretaka na neitou rawata na nodra vakabulai na lewe i Viti ena vaccination. Yaco sara na kena revurevu vei ira na luveda lalai era dau cula na cula ni polio, na cula ni misila, levu na itubutubu na gauna qo sa sega ni qai kauta tiko yani na luvedra baleta na itukutuku koya vakadewataki tiko mai na gauna ni COVID-19.

Dua na outbreak ni typhoid e yaco mai Labasa, sa caka na veiqaravi sa dredre me bonati; sa kau yani na typhoid vaccine e volia mai na Matabose kei Vuravura e 20 percent ga ni population era vakatarai me ra cula; na vo ni 80 percent era bese. Ya na revurevu ni false information. A sega ni tu na gauna ya, qo edua na ka sa vakaturi tiko ena lawa vakaturi me na totogitaki kina ke dua e tukuna wavoki tiko dua na ka e lasutaki, vakaleqai keda tiko, ka vakavuna tiko na dredre ni veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula - lavaki vei koya e $1,000 me rau sota.

MR. L. VALETABUA.- Turaga Chairman, ni tiko talega na lewenivanua, kila ni gauna ni COVID-19 ni bera ni yaco tiko na veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula sa liu tale tiko dua na mata timi koya ratou vunau wavoki tale tiko -ni na kila tiko. Dua na gauna keitou a lako cake sara i Naboubuco keitou qai yaco yani sa tukuni sa lesu talega ikea na mata timi ya. Koya ra vakacacana tiko na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula. Qo e ka vou baleta me rawa ni taqomaka tiko na veiqaravi.

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Dua saka tale na taro. Baleta na tikina 27 me vaka saka na lailai ni totogi ni vakasosavo e yacova e $1,000. Ke rawa ni vakamatatataki ga vei keimami na cava na totogi ni $1,000?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Chairman, sai koya saraga qori, koya a laveta cake mai o honourable Bia me baleta na ka boica (nuisance) se dua na ka e rawa ni lai vakavuna na tiko vakaca se na tauvimate. E rawa ni lailai me vaka na wai mai valenikuro (na wai ni masi yaya) me vagolea tu ga kina ikeli ni wai, koya lai vakavuna sara tiko na sisi ni qele. Ia ni bera ni lai sisi na qele era cici na gone, ra qito, karokaro se milamila ena waica koya gole tiko mai ya.

Sa qai tiko gona na ceiling ni totogi ni nuisance e $1,000 volai tiko ya me yacova na $1,000 kena ibalebale ena sega ni sivita na $1,000. Sa na qai tiko na ituvatuva me vaka na waica mai valenikuro koya rawa ni lailai toka beka me biu toka na $50, koya e bibi koya lako mai na septic tank sa direct saraga kina dua na yasa ni vale koya y ana via bibi sara toka me $1,000.

Na kena vakamatailalai e nanumi tiko me na qai muri mai edua na kena Public Health Regulation koya me na qai biu vakamatata mai kina. Na Act sa mentiontaki ga kina - na cava e kovuti vei na nuisance vata na kena totogi me yacova tiko na $1,000. Kena ibalebale koya na ca levu taudua koya rawa ni caka me $1,000 kena vo ena vakatautaki na rivarivabi kina bula ni tamata. Vakabauta ni sa na matata vei keda?

MR. A. TUINASAU.- Lailai na totogi ni sega ni muria na ivakaro na kena samaki na duka. Tubu na totogi kina $1,000 - $100 ena veisiga ke sega tiko ni samaki. Qo saka beka me baleta na cakacaka vakoro? Au taro saka.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Na cakacaka vakoro me na caka rawa. Ni sa taura rawa tiko? Qo kevaka sa tiko dua na nuisance sa laurai tiko vei iko.

Taura mada ke dua na vale e tiko mai Nadawa, yasa ni nona vale sa gole tiko kina wai ca mai nona septic tank. Keitou gole yani sa soli vua na notisi ni sa basuka tu na lawa koya au vakamacalataka tiko qori. Me na rairai kina mataveilewai ke sa mani vakadonua o Turaga ni Lewa na ceiling ni totogi e $1,000, kevaka mani tukuna okoya, " au sega ni cakacaka, au tikoga ivale" Turaga ni Lewa na qai rawa ni tosoa sobu mai. Ena vaka ga na normal mitigation so na gauna dau soli tu ga e $200 se $300. Io, sa na qai solia mai kina na order me vakagalalataka okoya na leqa oya. Kena ibalebale kevaka e gole tiko na wai ca mai na septic tank koya me na vakavinakataka nona septic tank me kua ni gole tiko na wai ca. Kevaka e sega ni cakava na Order ya sa na qai totogitaki tiko okoya ena $100 ena veisiga ena kena se gole tikoga na waica. Baleta ni sega ni cakava na cakacaka koya gadrevi me cakava. Oya na ibalebale ni veisau e tiko oya.

MR. J. KURUMALUA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Kurumalua)

Tiko saka na tabana ni bula, ni tiko saka na Turaga lewe ni Bose lawa. Au via muria saka ga edua na itukutuku sa lako oti mai vei kemuni me baleta saka na nodra vakacaca tiko na manumanu ena loma ni koro vaka talega kina vei keimami.

Ena vuku saka ni manumanu e kilai ni so vei ira na manumanu qo e tauvimate me vaka na Brucellosis, TB e tiko na kauwai ena tikina oya ni ra dau basu bai mai era butuka na lomanibai, era benu, ke rawa ni ra vakasalataki talega oira na taukei ni manumanu. Levu era vakaloma ni bai tu voleka tiko yani ena yasa ni neimami tikotiko ke rawa ni ra maroroi na manumanu me rawa ni tarovi kina na kena vakadewai tiko na mate era vakavuna tiko na manumanu kina neimami tikotiko.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, vinaka vakalevu na vakatataro. Sir, sa rawa ni nodratou submission saka ga i Waikalou me include ko ira na animal owners baleta na lawa vakaturi tiko qo e kovuti ira na susu manumanu koya vakavuna na boica. Ke sa rawa ni nodratou submission, ke rawa ni drau vakatututaka ga mai me sa nomudou submission me kovuti ira talega na taukei ni manumanu koya sa tasere ka mai vakavu leqa ena loma ni nodatou koro.

MR. J. KURUMALUA.- Sa vakatura saka tiko.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kerea me dua e tokona.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Donu, vakaveitalanoa kevaka dou sa vakatututaka mai, keitou na lai raica na komiti. Sega ni tiko vei ratou na tabana ni bula na kaukauwa me ratou veisautaka. Sa tiko na ligai keitou na Komiti me sa tiki ni nomudou vakatutu, sa na lai wili me weka ni vuvale ni lawatu koya vakamacalataki tiko ya.

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Na vakatutu baleta saka tikoga na veitotogi. Au raica tiko ni kua ke rawa ni lutu tale vakalailai vei keimami na tu vakanakoro mai vei ira na tiko itaoni. Dua saka tale na taro na kena soli.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kerea me da na taura yadudua na vakatutu. Ni tukuna mai na kena matai me tokoni me qai lako vakaivola.

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Au vakatututaka tiko e vica na lawa. Me baleta na tiko vakagalala mai na veikoro lelevu vata kei keimami na tiko na veikorokoro ke rawa ni wasei toka na keimami totogi.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Me wasei vakacava? Me lutu se me tubu cake?

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Me lutu vei keimami na tu vakanakoro.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Cava na mata ni fika ni nanuma tiko?

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Sir, ke rawa ni lutu mai me vaka ni lewe levu qo e tiko ena $100, $1,000. Koya tiko na $100 rawa ni lutu me $50, koya e $1,000 rawa ni lutu mai me $200 se $300. Vakatutu saka tiko.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dua e tokona?

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Karua ni nomuni mosoni?

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Karua saka ni noqu vakatutu me baleta saka na kena saumi na fine. Me vaka saka na tiko vakanakoro, mai taoni e saumi saka tiko vei ratou na Administration ni town council. Na tiko vakanakoro edua saka na taro kevaka sa na totogitaki dua na lewenikoro, na ilavo e rawa ni gole tale mai vei na koro baleta na kena saumi na totogi e rawa ni dua nai lavo me tikici ki na koro se gole taucoko vei ratou na tabana ni bula?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni vakatututaka mada mai qori?

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Au sa vakatututaka ke rawa ni gole saka na totogi ilavo kina koro.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dua e tokona?

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Qo gona na bibi ni veitalanoa. Na kena soqoni - keitou na lai vakacakulea vakamatailalai sara, qo a lako mai na koro vakaturaga qo, ke keitou raica ka duavata ni yaga me lutu se tubu cake vanua ya na qai lai basika kina. Vinaka madaga ni ko ni sa vakatututaka mai. Sa wili vaka written submission vei keitou mai vei kemuni na lewenivanua.

MR. S. KANAVAKATINI.- Na kena maroroi na manumamu iloma ni koro. E dau ka beci vei keimami ira na koli era tu wavoki tu qo. Ke rawa ni lako mai loma ni koro? Vakacava me katia dua na gonelailai, nai wali cava e rawa ni dou cakava na tabana ni bula? Noqu rai tiko me sa vakaleseni mada na koli era bula tu e lomanikoro ko ira na susu koli tiko.

Kena karua: vakacava saka mo raica vakarua me dua e benu ca e lomanikoro. Nai wali cava saka dou na cakava?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tabana ni bula dua nomudrau vakadewa? Dina ni tiko na taudaku ni lawatu, rawa ni dua mada nomuni vakasala raraba.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, tiko na veiwekani. Io na lawa me baleta na manumanu e tiko veiratou na tabana ni teitei na Animal Health. Vei kemuni na via susu manumanu, manumanu susu dodonu me vakaleseni vakabibi na koli. Kena leqa koya sa tiko qo vei kedatou vakatokai tiko na kena vosa vakavavalagi " stray dogs", ia na lawa talega ni manumanu sa tiko na gauna qo tabu ni ko vakamatea dua na manumanu. Sa rawa ni vauci iko tale na lawa kevaka o kitaka vakakina ena vuku ni lawa "cruelty to animals".

Kena karua: na benu ca. Ia na benu ca e vakatautaki tu, kevaka e benu ca tikoga ena yasani vale rawa ni kovuti koya na lawa ni tabana ni bula - na vuku ni duka ni nona itikotiko; kevaka e benu ca ena dua na vanua taukeni raraba (public place) se dua na vanua e sega ni kovuti koya - na nodratou lawa na tabana ni environment – Litter Act ni benu vakaveitalia. Kena ibalebale e rua tiko kevaka e benu tikoga e yasa ni nona vale kovuti koya na lawa ni Tabacakaaka ni Bula ena vuku ni dukaduka ni nona itikotiko in sanitary condition kevaka benu taudaku ni nona itikotiko sa kovuti koya na lawa ni Environment na Litter Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dua nai otioti ni nanuma se vakatutu ni bera ni tou sa na vakaotia yani nodatou veitalanoa? Keitou kila ni tiko tale na porokaramu ni oti qo me keitou kua ni vakatatao. Gauna mada ga qo sa via 90 pasede na veika keitou vinakata me keitou rogoca sa tiko qo na neitou noke, me neitou kaukau lesu.

MS. S. DONU.- Tikina e 23 – Vosa makawa me baleta na duka kei na dauveiqaravi. Vakayagataki na vosa vou me baleta na "septic tank" kei na "environmental health practitioner." Cava saka na kena ibalebale?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Oya na kena vakavoui ga eso na vosa e tiko vei na lawa koya se dau vakayagataki ena gauna makawa koya sa sega ni qai veiganiti vata kei na gauna eda tiko kina qo. Au vakabauta na "septic tanks" dau yacana tu na "soak pit" iliu. Vakatutu tiko qori me boko na "soak pit" me biu na "septic tank". Kevaka o ni na wilika tiko na lawa ni wilika na "soak pit" gauna ni kua sa sega ni dua e kila na cava na kena ibalebale. Na vakatutu tikoga qori me veisau na vosa vakavavalagi oya.

MR. V. VASUVANUA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Vasuvanua)

Dua saka na taro ena tikina e 32 me baleta saka tiko na wai ni gunu. Vakadinadinataka ni wainigunu e yaga raraba vei keda na lewenivanua. Da raica saka na totogi e tiko e $500, so saka na totogi e dau solia saka na matanitu me vakarere sara vei keimami na lewenivanua. So dau soli tu me $10,000 me baleta beka eso na veivuke ni solia saka na matanitu. Na wainigunu e ka bibi saka vei keimami. So na gauna keimami qai dau rogo talanoataka saka tiko na vukivuki ni kena dau vakasausataki tiko na wainigunu. Kerei saka tiko na matanitu me dikevi tale saka vakavinaka. Me biu saka mai dua na uma ilavo me rawa ni vakarere tu vei ira na tamata era dau lako tu ga ra dau lai vakayagataki wainimate ena vakaso ni wainigunu me rawa ni vakarere ka ra dau lai vakacacana tu na vakaso ni wainigunu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dua na ulutaga bibi ya. Sa tiko ga na wainigunu, sa kovuti keda kece baleta eda tiko dua nai tikotiko da gunu kece tiko. Au kerekere mo vakatututaka me toso cake tale na totogi se me lutu vakalailai?

MR. V. VASUVANUA.- Me toso cake saka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vica na mata ni fika o ni nanuma me toso cake kina?

MR. V. VASUVANUA.- Me $2,000 saka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na cava e kaya tiko na lawatu vakavoui?

MR. V. VASUVANUA.- $500

MR. CHAIRMAN.- $500 kina $1,000? Au kerea mo ni vakatututaka mai.

MR. V. VASUVANUA.- Sa vakatura saka.

LEWENIVANUA.- Tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kevaka e vakatau vei au, ke a $10,000 vei kemudou ike mo dou yadrava tiko cava na bibi ni wainigunu kina noda bula.

MR. P. VAKALOLO.- Au kerekere saka tiko yani kina Komiti dou gole tiko mai na yakavi ni siga ni kua - me vaka ni sa tubu saka tiko nai vodovodo. Na nodra dau qaravi o ira na matenisuka, tubu ni dra kei na cula ni gone. Ke rawa ni sa vakatututaki yani ke rawa ni dua na vula me gole saka mai kina vei tikina me ra mai qaravi saraga inakoro. Dau levu saka tu na buinigone ra lako saka yani, oso na basi era dau saumi lori, na veiveisau ni tubu ni vodovodo sa tiko saka qo. Sa vakatutu saka tiko ke rawa saka ni lako mai na tabana me mai veiqaravi ena neitou tikina.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni sa vakatututaka mai ya?

MR. P. VAKALOLO.- Sa vakatura saka.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni saka.

MS. A. VAKALOLO.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Ms. Vakalolo)

Dua saka na kerekere ena Tabacakacaka ni Bula. Au lewena tiko na Komiti ni Tiko Bulabula vei ena neitou koro o Waikalou. Na kerekere saka ke rawa ni vakalevutaki saka mada na neimami dispensary baleta saka na nodratou veiqaravi na Nasi ni Koro. So na gauna sa dau levu na wai sa sega ni rawa ni keimami lako yani ivalenibula me ra sa qaravi ga na tauvimate ena dispensary. Vata kei ira na vakalesilesi e rawa saka ga ni ra gole mai me ra mai veiqaravi ga ena neimami dispensary.

MR. L. VOSATABUA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, tiko na Lewe ni Bose yaco, tiko na turaga kei na marama, cavuti tiko na vakavinavinaka ena vuku ni kauwai kau cake saka tiko mai.

Au kila sa ciqomi saka tiko na kauwai nei Nasi ni Koro, na kauwai ni Komiti ni Tiko Bulabula baleta na veiqaravi. Kila ni ra sa dau lako tiko mai na timi ni veiqaravi na yacana tiko na “safe clinic”. Ra lako mai na mata timi me ra mai qaravi, au kila ni ko ni na qaravi vakadua se vakarua ena dua na yabaki ena vuku ni wiliwili ni koro e tiko ena loma ni nodatou

yasana. Ia me vaka na vakatutu sa caka vei ratou na komiti sa na sagai me na vakalevutaki na outreach kei na veiqaravi ena veikorokoro.

Na dispensary au kerea me noda itavi na lewenivanua. Au sa kerekere vakabibi, sa itavi tiko madaga ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula na kena vakavinakataki na veiqaravi, na valenibula, na kedra isau na Nasi ni Koro vata kei na nodra vuli na Nasi ni Koro. Sa kerea me nodatou itavi tiko na veikorokoro. Baleta kevaka e qaravi kece na vei vale ni dispensary kece na vei korokoro, au sega ni kila ena qaravi rawa se sega. Da dui qarava madaga na noda dui dispensary na veikorokoro.

RO I. TUINASAU.- Dua saka ga na vakatataro. Na vuku saka ni benu. Eda sa veitalanoataka tiko na benu. Taro saka qo vakacava saka na nodra benu na business men era vakayagataka tiko na taudaku ni veikorokoro – nodra benu me vaka na vakamakama, na vanua me ra kauta kina nodra benu. Yasa ni nodra sitoa ga ra vakama benu. E donu saka tiko ya?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Taro vinaka. Au nanuma ni da sa taura oti na tikina ya. Na kena veisau na lawatu qo na tikina o ni kauta tiko mai qori. Sa wili tiko iloma. Vinaka saka vakalevu na taro.

MS. A. KETEIVALU.- Dua saka tiko na ka au a vakaraitaka saka tiko yani baleta na tabana tikoga ni bula vei ira na disability. Levu na gauna era sa sega ni dau kawaitaki tu. So na gauna me ra sa dau lako yani me ra lai kere wheelchair na veika me ra bula kina qai sega saraga. So sa ra davo sara tu ga, e levu sara tikoga na kisi ni disability era vinakata na wheelchair qai sega ni vakarawarawataki mai vei ira. Au sa kerekere saka tiko vei kemuni ke rawa ni rau cakacakavata na tabana ni bula vata kei ratou na Social Welfare na kena vakarautaki na veika vei ira na disability.

Kena karua: na nodra valelailai. Levu saraga na gauna sa lako cake saka tiko na kerekere baleta na nodra valelailai kei na valenisili me rawa ni sema ga mai. Ia na gauna qo e sega sara tikoga ni dua na ka e caka tu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ulutaga rabailevu toka ya; vakabauta ni tiko kece kina noda itavi, tavi ni loma ni tikotiko kei nai tavi ni matanitu. Au kerea mo ni biuta mai vakatutu keitou na qai lai semata vua na kena Ministry.

MS. A. KETEIVALU.- Au sa vakatura saka tiko.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na kerei Turaga Roko me na qai dua tale nona vakamacala ena tikina qo ni bera ni da na mai vakacavara noda veitalanoa ena yakavi talei edaidai.

MR. S. QARANIVALU.- Sa tiko saka ga na Liuliu ni Bose, Lewe ni Bose lawa, drau tiko na vakalesilesi mai na tabana ni bula, au sa gusui keimami saka tikoga ena vakavinavinaka levu kina veika taucoko sara.

Au kila ni bera niu vakaotia yani noqu itukutuku ni vakavinavinaka, au vakatura saka tikoga na Public Health Act qo me vakacurumi saraga vei na nodra curriculum na gone (au guilecava meu cavuta mai Vunidawa). Me tekivu saraga mai na primary, secondary me yaco sara na tertiary.

Me ra qai tubu cake tiko mai na luveda, era sa kila tiko oira e tiko na lawa ni savasava. Kila vei keda na taba qase sa matau tiko na maroroi ni savasava. Vakamacalataki tiko mai Vunidawa na mataka lailai sa tiki saka tiko ni noda bula na maroroi ni benu, na tara ni valelailai, na maroroi ni vakaso ni wai, ka kece ya sa tiki tikoni bula. Dua saka ga na gauna qo via mai waicala vakalailai, ia, koya ya ena vinaka me sa tiki ni nodra ka ni vuli na luveda ena tagede kece saka ni vuli.

Ena vuku saka ni neimami vanua saka qo o Soloira, sa cavuti saka tiko na vakavinavinaka levu ena vuku ni nomudou siro saka tiko mai nakoro, au kila vei kemuni talega na lewenikoro o ni sa vakavinavinakataki tiko vakalevu. Ena vuku ni Valenivolavola ni Yasana na nomuni tiko. Dua na ka bibi na nomuni gauna, keitou vakila toka na kena irairai ni kua mai Vunidawa. Dua na gauna lekaleka qo na matanitu e siro tiko mai me mai rogoca na domomuni. Na lawa lelevu va qo e vica na gauna sa oti na matanitu sa vakatulewa ga sa cakava nona lawa sa toso. Na gauna vou eda sa tiko kina qo, e mai rogoci tiko na domoda, koya e ka bibi saka tiko kina. Sega ni kena isevu qo, e levu tale era na muri mai, ena mai rogoci tiko na domomuni.

Na kerekere ga me ra kakua ni ra mai tale lala oira na liga ni noda veiqaravi. Era sa nanumi keda mai, o keda me da nanumi ira. Kila dua na irairai keitou raica tiko mai Vunidawa ni kua, bolei keitou vakalevu na liga ni veiqaravi, ratou tiko na Lewe ni Bose lawa; na lawalawa dodonu me keimami tiko yani ikea, keimami qai sega ni tiko yani. Sa cawadru na gauna ya, ia keitou vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni keitou lako mai Soloira na yakavi qo o ni lewe levu tiko, kila sa na sinai vakavinaka sara tiko na nodratou noke na liga ni veiqaravi.

Kerekere saka ga, mai muri ni tukuni mai dua nai tukutuku ni veivakararamataki da lakova mai. Koya ya e mai rogoci kina na domoda, ena taudaku ni gauna qo ya sa oti. Me vaka sa tukuna tiko na Liuliu ni Bose – gauna ga qo se rogoci kina domoda, ia, na taudaku ni gauna ya sa nodratou tiko vata kei ira na dau ni buli lawa. Koya saka beka ga ya na vakavinavinaka mai cavuti tiko vei kemuni, dina ni donumaka tiko na osooso ni koro, ni solia tiko na gauna me curu tiko mai na ituvatuva sa cavuti saka tiko na vakavinavinaka levu.

Vei kemudou na lewe ni timi, sa gusu tale tikoga ni Valenivolavola ni Yasana kei keimami na lewenivanua na vakavinavinaka na kena kau saka tiko mai na rarama ena neimami veikoro, au kila ni a via luluqa toka mai Vunidawa, ia, na loma saka talega ni tikina qo o Soloira e tiko talega kina edua na Vunidawa. E sega ni koro ni matanitu na koro ni veiqaravi. Au kila ni sa na bonata vakavinaka ya na levu ni taro o ni sa mai bulagoci saka tiko kina ena yakavi ni ni kua. Ni tiko saka nai tokani, mai dua saka tiko na vosa ni vakavinavinaka ena vuku ni tavi sa vakasaka tiko ya na kena levu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni bera ni cava ga na noda veitalanoa, au kerea na tikina bibi ya me lesu tale na lawatu me lai tiki ni vuli. Au kerea mo ni vakatututaka mai.

MR. S. QARANIVALU.- Sa vakatura saka tiko Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

LEWENIKORO.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa mai cava noda veitalanoa na yakavi ni kua. Tiko saka na Turaga Na Vunivalu, tiko na loma ni nodatou Tikina, loma ni nodatou koro vakaturaga i Soloira, au cavuta na vakavinavinaka levu, vakavinavinakataka vakalevu na nomudou yalovinaka, nomudou vakatara me keitou curu mai na lewe ni nomuni Palimedi veiqaravi tiko ena gauna bibi qo. Veika kece sa veitalanoataki ni kua, ni yalo vakacegu sa na kau cake nomuni vakatutu

kece, keitou na lai digova, keitou na lai tavulona ka vakamatailalaitaka me keitou lai raica ivei koya na ka dina e yaga me lewe ni kena veisautaki na yavu tu qo.

The Committee adjourned at 4.30 p.m.

VERBATIM REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE WAIKALOU COMMUNITY HALL, SEREA, NAITASIRI ON 10TH JUNE AT 2.50 P.M.

Present

3. Hon. I.S. Vanawalu	-	Chairman
4. Hon. A. Bia	-	Member
5. Hon. P.K. Bala	-	Member
7. Hon. V. Pillay	-	Member

Apologies

5. Hon. Ratu R.S.S. Vakalalabure	-	Deputy Chairperson
6. Hon. A.T. Nagata	-	Member

Submittee: Tikina o Soloira Communities

2. Mr. Seremai Naqama	2. Mr. Akuila Tuinasau
3. Mr. Leveni Tuicina	4. Mr. Maciu Rakoro
5. Mr. Venitatai Vasu	6. Mr. Ulaiasi Qaraleka
7. Mr. Mosese Labaibure	8. Mr. Sevanaia Nate
9. Mr. Talaiasi Mualiwa	10. Mr. Josaia Kuru
11. Ratu Iliki Tuisese	12. Mr. Sairusi Qaranivalu – Roko Tui
13. Mr. Pita Vakalolo	14. Adi Mereani Gasau
15. Mr. Ananaisa K	16. Mr. Sikere Kanavakatini
17. Ro Iva Tuinasau	18. Mr. Rupeni Koroi
19. Ms. Asena Volivoliwaca	20. Ms. Tamalesi Kalokalo
21. Ms. Saini Donu	22. Ms. Raijile Raqaqasi
23. Mr. Aseri Masivou	24. Ms. Aritema Vakalolo
25. Ms. Merewalesi L	26. Ms. Ana Keteivalu
27. Ratu Meli Nakasau	28. Ms. Litia Qoronaviti
29. Ms. Olivia Maramayaga	30. Mr. Ronavala Tuisese

MR. CHAIRMAN. – Nodra ilakolako na Turaga Na Sipika, keimami cabe tiko mai kina na veiwekani, keimami dabe saka tiko ena loma ni valenivanua ena yakavi ni kua. Ni tukuni ga na vosa qo na 'Sipika', sa da kila na veika e maroroi kina: na vanua ni buli lawa, na vanua e rawa ni veisautaki kina na lawa, rawa ni vakavoui kina na lawa, ka rawa talega ni vakavoui kina eso na ituvatuva lelevu vakalawa ni matanitu eda donumaka edaidai.

Keimami marau vakalevu ni keimami yaco mai na itikotiko vakaturaga – ni tawa tu na itikotiko. Sa kena ibalebale ni keimami bolea tiko na itavi e qaravi tiko ena loma ni nodatou itikotiko vakaturaga kei na kena ogaoga ena veisiga. Keimami raica ni ko ni bulabula vinaka vakauasivi vei ratou na tiko mai muri, keimami sa vakavinavinaka kina vakalevu. Au cavuta saka tiko na vosa ni veikidavaki ena vuku ni nona veitalai tiko mai na Turaga Na Sipika.

Ni na rai mai keitou tiko qo na lewe ni Palimedi – na yasana ni Matanitu vaka kina na To ni Veisaqa. E ono tiko na Standing Committee ni nomuni Palimedi – levu koya dau yadrava tu na veika kece me baleta na kena qaravi na noda matanitu me vaka na kena veitabana yadua, statutory organizations, vaka kina eso na tuvatuvaka lelevu me vaka keitou yaco mai kina ni kua. Keitou kauta tiko mai qo e dua na lawatu. Au vakabauta ni sa yaco oti beka mai na kena

ilavelave ena itikotiko vakaturaga, na kena vakadewataki ena noda vosa vakaitaukei, ka tiko talega na ilavelave me baleti ira na noda vasu kei na kena vakadewataki vakaperitania.

Ni bera ni tekivu na noda veitalanoa ena vuku ni ulutaga bibi oqo, au na kerei ratou na lewe ni Palimedi me ratou vakamacalataki ratou mada.

[I take this opportunity to ask honourable Members to introduce themselves**]**

[Vakamacalataki na lewe ni Komiti kei rau na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula**]**

MR. CHAIRMAN. – Ni sa tiko saka na Roko Tui Waimaro, koya saka ya na neitou veikidavaki vei keda ena yakavi ni kua.

E dua na lawatu keitou kauta wavoki tiko mai qo na vakasama ni veivakararamataki. Sa oti mai Vunidawa na mataka lailai, keitou sa sirovi kemudou mai qo i Waimaro Levulevu. E nodratou lawatu na Tabana ni Bula. Na kena ivakadewa rawarawa – na lawatu qo e tekivu na 1935 (vakacaca sa via yabaki 90 na lawatu qo) ka sa qai mai donumaka na nomuni matanitu qo me veisautaki e 69 na tabana, e yaga me veisau me kauti keda yani kina vuravura bolebole ni veiqaravi eda sa donumaka edaidai.

Au vakabauta ni sa cawiri tiko yani qori na kena ilavelave, kei na kena ivakadewa e tiko kina. E levu na ka bibi e kovuti tu ena loma ni lawatu qo. Kena ibalebale na lako mai ni komiti qo ena yakavi ni kua, me da mai veitalanotaka ka vakauasivi na veika e baleti kemuni na tiko ena taudaku ni koro lelevu ena loma ni noda tinikava na yasana iViti, Rotuma, Rabi kei Kioa.

Keitou marau na siga ni kua ni madigi e donumaki keitou me keitou curuma saka mai nomudou itikotiko vakaturaga. Tiko na vakanuinui ni da na veiwasei sara kina—na kena rarama, na taro, na veika e gadrevi me da veitalanoa kina—ni keitou na vosa yani, dou vosa mai. Kevaka dou vinakata me rogo na domomudou ena kena veisau na lawa tu oqo, gauna sara ga tou sa dabe kina na yakavi edaidai. Kevaka e dua na ka e bera ni dou raica ena nodatou dabe tiko qo, se soli tiko na gauna me rawa ni qai yaco yani e dua nomudou vakatutu, ke rawa ni dou vola yani vakaivola, me lai lewe talega ni neitou komiti lai vakadikeva vakamalua na lawa sa tiko qo e matada. Au sa dolava rawa na kena veitalanoa; gauna qo au na kerei honourable Bia me na vakamatatataka vei keda e vuqa na ka e ologi tu ena lawa titobu bibi oqo, dodonu me da veitalanoa kina ni kua.

HON. A. BIA.- Ni sa tiko saka sobu na wekaqu ena nodatou koro vinaka qo, era sa tiko na Turaga ni Vanua vaka kina vei ratou na marama, rau na vakalesilesi mai na Tabana ni Bula kei ratou talega na vakalesilesi mai na Vale ni Bose Lawa ni noda vanua.

Vakalekaleka me vakavolekataki mai vei keda na veitalanoa me rawa ni rawarawa na noda ciqoma na lawa vakaturi e kau tiko mai ena siga ni kua. Dau matai ni taro eda dau taroga ena gauna ni veitalanoa vaka oqo, ni gadrevi me ciqomi na nomuni nanuma se nomuni vakanananu na lewenivanua ena dua na lawa e sagai me vakaturi ena Vale ni Bose Lawa—dau matai ni taro o ni dau taroga: ‘E yaga vakacava vei au na lawa qo?’ Ni’u tiko ena koro, au vakarurugi ena Valenivolavola ni Yasana, e tiko na lawa ni koro, e tiko talega na veika se na ituvatuva keimami dau vakayacora me rawa ni toso kina na koro, mataqali, yavusa ena nomuni veiqaravi ena loma ni dua na siga, dua na macawa, dua na vula se dua taucoko na yabaki.

Matai ni ka me da kila: na lawa vakaturi qo sai koya na Public Health (Amendment) Bill se na Public Health Act. Na lawa qo e qarauna na nomuni bula kei na nomuni tiko bulabula, na kena qarauni ka wanonovi na nomuni bula na lewenikoro. Na lawa qo e sivia na 90 na yabaki na kena cici tu mai, ka sega ni wili tu kina o keda na tiko ena veikoro. Na kena qai mai veisau qo, sa sagai me vakaturi me pasitaki ena Vale ni Bose Lawa na lawa ni kena qarauni na tiko bulabula ni lewenivanua, na nodra tiko vinaka na lewenikoro, ka me oka kina na lewenivanua kece e Viti. O tiko ena veikorokoro, koro vagalala, taudaku ni veikoro lelevu mai Suva, se tiko ena loma ni taoni—na gauna e pasitaki kina na lawa qo ena kovuti keda taucoko na lewe ni vanua.

O na taroga: 'Cava e bibi kina vei au na lawa oqo?' E coka sara tu ga na uto ni lawa qo na noda bula vakoro. Me baleta na noda tiko bulabula: me kua ni veiosoosoti na kena tara na vale ena noda koro; me qarauni na vanua e biu kina na benu; me laurai na tiko savasava. E oka talega kina o ira na ivakalesilesi era veiqaravi ena Valenivolavola ni Yasana kei ira na lesi me ra taura na itutu vakaveiliutaki ena koro—na marama Nasi ni Koro, na Turaga ni Koro. Na ka kece oqo e dodonu me veitalanoataki vakoro me laurai ni qarauni na lawa qo, baleta ni dua na ka e tiko vua na lawa qo sai koya na kena laveti cake na totogi ni ilavo kevaka ko voroka e dua na lawa ni bula e tiko kina.

Mai na loma ni 90 na yabaki, eso na totogi e tiko ga ena $2, $20, eso e $500. Qo sa laveti cake kina: na $500, eso na $10 sa $500, na $100 sa $1,000, na $2 sa toso cake kina $1,000—me baleta tikoga na kena qarauni na tiko bulabula ena noda veikoro.

E vakayacori na veitalanoa mai na nodatou Valenivolavola ni Yasana. E dau tukuni ni so na koro era sega ni dau sasamaki. Ia na kena biu mai na lawa vakaturi oqo, ni sa virikotori me pasitaki ena Vale ni Bose Lawa, ena qarauni na kena cuqeni tiko so na lawa vaka qo me qarauni ga na tiko bulabula ena noda veikoro.

Dua tale na tikina: eda sa vuli mai na kena lako mai na mate na COVID-19. Na lawa talega qo e vakarawarawataka vei ira na nodatou vakalesilesi mai na Tabana ni Bula ni yaco edua na kena dewa na mate levu vakaoya me vaka na typhoid, COVID-19, na kena sagai me tarovi na vakadewa totolo ni mate ka solia na kaukauwa me ratou lako yani na gauna cava ga me ratou qarauna me ra taqomaki na lewenivanua. Iliu e sega tu ni da oka na veikoro, dau dua na cakacaka levu tu vei ratou me ratou kerekere kina Valenivolavola ni Yasana, lako mai na ivola vei Turaga Roko, sa qai dua na wawa balavu ratou waraka tu ni tabu vei ratou ena vuku ni lawa qo ena loma ni 90 na yabaki sa oti me tu ga vei ratou, ratou lako mai – e tabu. Ia na lawa qo na kena mai vakavou taki qo e vukei ratou na Tabana ni Bula, ka da sa vuli mai na COVID-19 ni yaco edua na leqa tubu koso va ya sa tiko vei ratou na dodonu me ratou tu ga ratou lako yani, ratou raica na nodra taqomaki na lewenivanua se o keda na lewenikoro.

Oka tale tu ga ena vuku ni lawa qo na kena qarauni na tara na vale ni vakacegu ena loma ni koro, na kena veiyawaki (kevaka sa tiko ike me laurai me yawa tiko yani kina vale ka tarava). Me kakua ni vakaleqa na ikeli se na kena lako tiko yani na wai ca qo me kua ni lai vakaleqa tale eso na veivalevale era tiko tale ena loma ni koro se so tale era tiko sobu yani ena vanua e drodrova tiko yani na wai ca. Qo e sagai tikoga na ena laveti cake na noda tiko bulabula.

Veitalanoa e lako tiko eso era nanuma tiko sa rui sivia na totogi e soli tiko. Ia me da nanuma tiko na totogi qo e sega ni tiko me da totogitaki saraga kina na lewenivanua se na lewenikoro. Okoya e tu ga baleta me uqeti keda me da vakayacora tiko nai tavi ni tiko bulabula ena noda veikoro. Sa ratou cakacaka tiko mai na Valenivolavola ni Yasana - Integrated Village

Development Plan (IVDP) kena ibalebale na kena lai pasitaki na lawa virikotori qo ena Vale ni Boselawa sa dodonu na noda ituvatuva vakoro, Turaga ni Koro nona ituvatuva, keda na lewe ni koro me sa vakanamata na kena laurai ni vakamuri tiko e vica na lawa ka sa nanumi me kau cake mai qo me qarauni na noda tiko bulabula.

Ya vakalekaleka me dolava walega na noda veitalanoa. Dau tukuni na kena vosavosa VakaViti na kena voci vakavudi e tiko vei ratou na Tabana ni Bula me ratou na qai tomani keda yani.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni bera ni na gole noda veitalanoa vei ratou na Tabana ni Bula, au na kerei honourable Bala me dua saka nomuni veivakararamataki in English.

HON. P.K. BALA.- At the outset, I would like to acknowledge the village elders and all those who are present here.

This Bill was introduced by the honourable Minister for Health in the last Parliament session. As stated by Mr. Chairman, the Speaker has mandated our Standing Committee to deal with this Bill. Based on that, today is our first day for the public consultation. This is our second meeting, and as a Committee Member, I am happy to see the large number of people who are present here.

I also believe that you have received the copy of the Bill in the translated version. It is nothing new; we had the Public Health Act before, but there have been some amendments to the Principal Act, and for the first time, the villagers have been included in the Act. We should take that as a positive step, but as individuals and as villagers, in some way it affects you as well—not only you but every individual. If you look at the Bill itself, what this Bill is going to do is strengthen the health and effectiveness of our people. We do understand that there have been some proposed penalties and fines, which I know will be an opportunity for all of you to put forward your views so that the Committee can take them on board. It would be wrong if we just go ahead with the Bill approved in Parliament and make that into law. An opportunity has been given to all the Fijians of this country because this is a very important Bill that we are here for you this afternoon.

There has been a lot of talk about penalties and fines, but one must understand—and we have officials from the Ministry of Health here—they will guide you. They will let you know that if there is a defect, an issue, or a nuisance, no one will come and give you a ticket or fine you immediately, even after it becomes law. They will first give you letters to make improvements. If there is no improvement, they may give another letter for improvement. But if you do not attend to it, then the penalty will kick in.

So, in other words, what this is trying to do is to take our people to another level. As stated by my colleague, I understood a bit of what you are saying. During COVID-19, it was a very good example for us. In the absence of laws, I remember we had to have emergency Parliament sittings to bring in laws. This Bill will address situations like COVID-19 because there were no such laws before. Now, having gone through those difficult times, the Ministry of Health has come up with this Bill.

This is the time for Talanoa. This is the time for you to give your views. We, as the Committee, will take them on board. Now it is only the Committee who can make changes to this—not the Ministry of Health, not the Minister, not the Solicitor General. This is the

opportune time for you to bring up issues that you think are not right. Do not just oppose for the sake of opposing. This Bill, as I have stated, is for the betterment of everyone. With those few words, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much, and we hope we will have a very good Talanoa session here this afternoon.

HON. V. PILLAY.- Our village elders, ladies and gentlemen, *bula vinaka* once again. As the honourable Members has alluded to earlier, this Bill is a very good Bill. But my only concern, which I have been raising all along—even during submission time—is that if you have read the Bill carefully, the penalties are very high. Some have increased from $10 to $500, some penalties have increased from $20 to $1,000, and some are up to $5,000.

Once this Bill is passed in its current form, I was thinking that the majority of houses and individuals in this village could be charged. It is about the wastewater system, the structures, and it allows powers to vacate families and powers to demolish houses with high penalties. If people do not comply, they can also end up in court and even in prison, to be honest and frank with you.

This is also your time. The Bill is very good in how it will keep us all healthy, but it also talks about huge penalties associated with it and the powers given to the Ministry of Health. Before, the Health officials used to come through the Ministry of iTaukei. Once this Bill is passed, they will come in directly, they will have the powers to go into any village, enter any premises according to law if things are happening there. These are some of my comments, and I have also stated back in our Committee that some of the penalties need to be changed and should be lowered. Once the penalties are charged to a resident here, the same will be applied to a resident in Suva, or in a city, or in a village, or in a settlement. Sir, those are some of my observations, and I have suggested to the Committee that we need to categorise these penalties so that our rural communities are not charged with the same penalties as those people whose lives are better than those who are in informal settlements and villages.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vakabauta ni ko ni sa rogoca na nodrau vakamacala na lewe ni komiti.

Sa ra kidavaki tiko o ira sa qai lako tiko mai. Vinaka vakalevu na talairawarawa vei na kaci malumalumu e gole tiko yani, me da mai sota eke me mai rogo na domomuni vaka-matavuvale, vaka-itikotiko ena veika eda sa rogoca oti vei ira na kena dau baleta tikoga na lawa sa tiko qo imatada. Nuitaka ni sa tiko vei kemuni na kena ilavelave. Ka kece e tukuni tiko kina sega ni macala ga, e vakayacori tiko ena vosa VakaViti se vaka Peretania.

LEWENIVANUA.- VakaViti.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa na rawarawa sara na nomuni na goleva na tabana qori. Bera ni toso nodatou veitalanoa, sa na sureti rau na itaukei ni lawa oqo mai na Tabana ni Bula me rau na vakamacala vakalekaleka vei keda ni bera ni tekivu na noda veitalanoa. Lako yani me lako mai.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Ni sa tiko saka na Vunivalu, tiko saka na Turaga kei na marama ena yakavi vinaka ni kua. Mai na Tabacakacaka ni Bula vakacaca, me vakamacalataka ga eso na veisau lelevu ni na raica tiko na lawa vakaturi tiko qo. Na veisau e vica e tiko qo, e laurai mai na balavu ni gauna e toso tiko mai kina na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula. Keitou raica tiko mai eso na bolebole ni itatao tiko ni neitou vakataucokotaka na noda bulabula na

lewenivanua i Viti. Ka nanumi ni na kau cake mai na veisau oqo me veisautaki ena lawa vakaturi, ena rawa ni vaqaqacotaka na sasaga ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula me da kawa tamata kaukauwa, da bulabula, ka da rawa ka vakalevu ena noda vuvale, loma ni noda koro, vakauasivi ena noda vanua o Viti.

Matai, me vaka ratou sa vakamacala oti tiko kina na lewe ni Komiti mai na Vale ni Bose Lawa, na lawa qo sa nanumi me sa kovuti keda vakatautauvata, mai wili kina o ira na tiko ena koro VakaViti. E laurai ni duidui tiko na lawa e tauri ira na tiko ena taudaku ni koro VakaViti vata kei keda na tiko ena koro VakaViti, dua na duidui levu keitou raica. Qo e basika tiko ena veiyabaki taucoko, sa vaka me "normal" tale tu ena veiyabaki, veiyabaki na leptospirosis, typhoid, dengue. Sega ni kureitaka rawa tiko o Viti na tolu na mate qo ena dua na gauna balavu.

Ena veiyabaki binibini lewenivanua era leqa tiko, era vakasa ivalenibula. Na cakacaka levu e qarava tiko na Tabana ni Bula me saga me tamusaka na kena dau veidewavi na tolu na mate lelevu qo. Ia e drakidrakita vakalevu baleta ni duidui tiko na tagede me na rua—keda na tiko ena koro VakaViti vata kei ira na tiko ena taudaku. Keitou raica, dina ni kovuti keda tiko na By-laws e tiko na Tabacakacaka ni iTaukei, ia e dua na malumalumu e tiko kina ni keitou sega ni rawa ni cakacakataka na Tabacakacaka ni Bula. Vei kemudou na veiqaravi tik oi Vunidawa se Nausori, dou gole yani kina neitou complaint register, dou na raica na levu ni vakukudru e gole tiko yani na koro VakaViti ena vuku ni veika e so e basika tiko ena koro VakaViti, sega ni rawa ni keitou lai cakacaka kina na Tabana ni Bula baleta ni sega vei keitou na kena lawa. Qo na vuna keitou sa nanuma kina na tikina e volai tiko ena vola ni lawa qo: "me kakua ni oka ga ena koro VakaViti" - sa boko, me biu ga kina lawa qo me okati Viti taucoko. Kena ibalebale, sa na dua ga na tagede eda na tubu vata cake kina na koro VakaViti kei ira na tiko ena taudaku ni koro VakaViti. Qo na inaki e nanuma tiko na Tabacakacaka ni Bula me kovuti kina na koro VakaViti. Dina ni na tiko kina so na totogi me vaka eda sa rogoca tiko, e sega ni kau mai me totogitaki keda, ia me vakarere, me da kila kevaka e sega ni cakacaka vinaka, ena rawa ni yaco me kau vakaveilewai, lavaki na ilavo levu meu sauma, se meu kelia na qara ni noqu vatuvuso meu cakava vakavinaka. Au nanuma kina ni matata sara tu ga.

Kena karua: na lawa vakaturi e tiko qo e bolea tiko na tadolavi vakalailai ni lawa vakatutu taumada me keitou kovuta na noda igunugunu ni wai. Dua na ka vakaloloma vei ira na tiko ena taudaku ni koro vakavavalagi na medra wai ni gunu. Ratou na taukei ni qele eratou via cakava na ulu ni vakaso ni wai me vaka na qoli ena vakaso, se duvaduvani mai cake, teitei kei na susu manumanu. Sega na ka vakalawa e tu ena Tabacakacaka ni Bula me maroroi kemuni.

Na lawa vakaturi qo sa volai ni kevaka e dua e vakadukara na wai ni gunu ena teitei se duvaduvani, sa na kau vakaveilewai, sauma na ilavo levu, ke sega vakacagicagi vakalailai i Naboro lai veivutunitaka na cakacaka levu e vakayacori ena kena vakadukari na wai ni gunu. Nanumi tiko ni veiyabaki e tubu tiko na mate veitauvi ena wai ni gunu me vaka na coka. Qo na gaunisala ena Tabacakacaka ni Bula me vaqaqacotaka kina na veiqaravi.

Dua tale na kena vakaraitaki- na vale ni vakaicili. Ena 1995 se sega kina na Airbnb, se sega ni levu na vale e tiko ena taoni me da dau lai rede kina. Vei kemudou na gone Turaga dau gole yani ena koro turaga lai qaravi na vuli, dou lai rede se saumi vale. Levu na gauna keitou ciqoma na kudru, dua sa rede tiko qai laurai ni vale e vakasisila na kena tuvaki, e tuturu tu na wai ca ni valenilailai ka lako mai loma ni vale. Na gauna keitou curu yani, keitou soli notisi vei

taukei ni vale, ka ratou qai vakagalala na dau rede. Sa qai dua na cakacaka levu me ratou tau tale ituba na vuvale.

Na lawa vakaturi sa tiko qo e kaya ni bera ni dua na vale me rede taki, me curuma rawa na Tabacakacaka ni Bula me vakadonui na kena ituvaki, savasava, tagede me bula kina na tamata. Qo na gaunisala me tagutuva kina na rivariva bi ni mate. E vica tale na veitikina lalai au vakabauta ni oni sa wilika tiko, keirau sa tu vakarau na vakalesilesi me keirau na vakamatatataka kevaka eso na tikina e sega ni matata.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au nanuma na vakamacala sa lako tiko yani qo ni sa matata na kena vakadewataki kei na lavelave e tiko qo e ligamuni. Keitou sa dolava na kena vakasama. Na ibalebale ni neimami siro mai qo me mai rogoci na domomuni na lewenivanua, na cava oni via tukuna, se cava oni via vakaraitaka kevaka e so na vakatutu e yaga me veisau kina na veika sa tiko qo ena yakavi edai. Keitou sa na vakanadaku, sa oti na nomudou gauna ena loma ni tikotiko vakaturaga qo. Au kerea me da vosa kece na tiko qo, ni laveta ga na ligamuni mena qai kau yani vei kemuni na wa ni vosavosa, ni tukuna na yacamuni ena rawarawa na veika keitou na vakasokomuna. Na vuna levu, ni veitalanoa kece e caka tiko qo e recordtaki tiko.

Na gauna keitou na lesu tale kina i Palimedi keitou na qai lai lesuva tale na repote, na veika o tukuna mai ena lai maroroi tu i Palimedi.Na kena itukutuku eso e rawa ni yacova sara me 10 na yabaki ka na wili tale tu me archives se me reference. Ni via laurai na lawa qo ena qai raici lesu tale ivei na otioti ni gauna a caka kina na veitalanoataki ni Bill qo. Ya na vuna e bibi tiko kina me da vakayagataka na wa ni vosavosa baleta na ka kece ena katoni tiko.

Sa dola noda veitalanoa, na levu ni nomuni vakatutu kei na nomuni vakamacala ena vukei keitou vakalevu kina. Na kena lai vakatavuloni vakamatau sara na lawa vakatutu oqo ni bera ni qai lako i Palimedi me qai lai vakadonui kina. Kemuni saka na Turaga Vunivalu sa dola saka tiko qo na noda veitalanoa.

MR. A. TUINASAU.- Vinaka vakalevu, Sir, na nomudou kauwai saka tiko mai ena vuku ni bula ni lewenivanua ena loma ni tikina o Soloira, ena yasana o Naitasiri. Vinaka vakalevu saka kemudrau na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula drau dabe rawa tiko ena siga ni kua kei na vakalesilesi kece sara era dabe rawa ena sigalevu ni kua, vakalesilesi ni Valenivolavola ni Yasana o Naitasiri– Roko Veivuke Iliu.

Ena vuku saka ni vanua o Waimaro, keitou cavuta saka tiko na vakavinavinaka vei kemuni. Ka vou saka vei keimami na itukutuku sa mai qaravi qo. O au madaga qai ratou vakamacala tiko na Turaga, sa dua na ka na noqu marau. Na itukutuku dou kauta mai e vinaka saraga ke toso cake tale vakalailai baleta na levu ni sakuca e tu qo ena veikorokoro.

Au cavuta tiko na vakavinavinaka na siga ni kua na vakasama vinaka e kau mai qo. Na kena kau mai na vakatautauvatataki ni bula mai na loma ni taoni kina taudaku ni taoni. Au Turaga ni Koro saka tiko; sa dua na ka na tomi diaper au cakava tiko qo e loma ni koro. Na kena biu vakaveitalia tu na diper ni gone. So era lai viritaki, kauta tale mai na koli e loma ni koro. Vei keimami saka mada na tu vaka nakoro, keimami gadreva talega me keimami vukei, me keimami nanumi ia keimami vakavinavinaka ni keimami sa nanumi rawa.

Na koro o Waikalou kei na koro tolutolu qo iliu keimami dau keli qara ni benu e yasa ni koro, ia, na gauna qo sa cemuri keitou tiko na sisi ni qele. Baleta ni keitou kelia na valelailai sova wai, qara ni benu me biu kina na benu, oti ga e vica na vula sa sinai – sisi, sa lako tani

saraga. Koya ya sa toso vakatotolo tiko mai kina na sisi ni qele. Iliu na ka era kaya na qase - Na Wainimala e sega ni dau laurai, e dau rogoci tu ga ni vakere tu. Ya saka e so na ka sa tara saka tiko na loma ni koro.

Kena karua na kena yaco saka mai na wai ni paipo kina vanua edau vakadrodroi kina na wai ca ni paipo, septic tank sa via levu tiko na septic tank ena loma ni koro. Koya saka edua na leqa levu e tarai keimami saka tiko.

Me vaka au sa kaya oti, keitou dau keli qara ni benu. Gauna qo sa sega tale ni dua na vanua keimami benu kina. So sa vakama nodra benu me vaka na pepa kei na plastic. So sa biu benu sara tikoga e bati ni wai se na yasa ni koro. Au marau vakalevu ni sa kau mai na vakatauvatani ni bula mai taoni kina tu vaka nakoro. Na koro o Serea sa kerea saraga na veivuke ni Tabana ni Bula kei na veika sa tarai keimami tu.

Kena karua na bula osooso ena loma ni koro. Na tara vale sa sega ni rawa ni toso. Na vale sa toso iyasana qo. So na wiliwili ni lewenikoro levu era sa toki kina koro vagalala i veikau. Dua na wiliwili ni koro levu ka lailai na wiliwili e tiko inakoro e levu e tiko na vanua vakagalala. E vitu tiko nodra valenilotu o ira na tiko na vanua vagalala ka ra sa lai dabeca tiko na nodra tiki ni qele. Lewe levu vei ira ya na luvedra sa sega ni veikilai mai loma ni koro baleta na dede ni nodra lai tu.

Ena vuku saka ga ni sa tatara tiko mai na sisi ni qele kei na lailai ni vanua keimami sa tiko kina na gauna qo. Kila ni talei sara na itukutuku e kau cake mai na sigalevu ni kua. Keitou marautaka sara vakalevu na itukutuku kei na kena vakacilavi cake na vakanananu qo me sa tarai keimami mai. I liu dau lai vakilai tiko e loma ni makete na levu ni benu e sovari tiko yani ena vei korokoro. Dua na gauna ratou sa svakaukauwataka saraga na Suva City Council (SCC) na kena qarauni na benu ena loma ni taoni. Sa biu wavoki ga na kava ni benu ena loma ni makete baleta na levu ni volivolitaki, na iolo ni usana, na taga kei na cava soti e kau yani qai lai biu tu ena loma ni makete. Ya saka gona na irairai e laurai saka tiko ena loma ni koro baleta ni ra sega ni kawaitaka tiko na bula savasava e tiko ena loma ni taoni. Ia kevaka sa na kau mai na bula savasava ki loma ni koro vakabauta sa na talave na bula ka sa na lailai sobu na mate veitauvi.

Dua na ka e kauta tiko mai na mate veitauvi oya na benu – benu ni tamata, benu ni manumanu kei na duka saraga ni loma ni koro. Ya saka ga edua na vakamacala lekaleka au rawa ni vakaraitaka, ra tiko sobu noqu itokani, dabe saka tiko na Mata Ni Tikina, vica na Turaga ratou na vakadewa tiko, tiko neitou Nasi ni Koro, tiko na Liuliu ni Marama Ni Tikina, ratou na Liuliu ni Marama ni tolu na koro ratou dabe tiko qo, rawa ni ra soli tukutuku me ra vakadinadinataka na ka au tukuna tiko qo. Ke so tale na ka au sega ni tukuna e rawa ni ra qai vakadewataka. O au madaga na noqu rogoca nai tukutuku dou gole mai kina na Turaga, sa dua na ka na noqu vinaka levu. Vinaka saka vakalevu na veikawaitaki, vinaka vakalevu na veinanumi. Mai dua tikoga noqu itavi lekaleka sa vaka saka ya na kena levu.

MR. P . VAKALOLO.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Vakalolo)

Dua saka ga na taro vei rau na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula. Na vuku saka ni sa vakalawataki eso na ka me maroroi kina na tiko savasava. E tiko saka edua na lawa me baleta na susu manumanu? Keitou susuga tiko e 30 na bulumakau, keitou kauta kina Tabana ni Teitei – sega ga ni rawa. Qai mataka sa laurai ga na benu. Au ririkotaka tiko na mi ni manumanu, na vakacaca e lako i lomanikoro.

Kena karua: so na koli era susugi tiko, sa leqa saraga ni sa sega ni kawaitaka o taukei ni koli. Ni mate; sa lai mate tu e ruku ni floor. E sega ni dua na lawa e vauca na tikina oya?

Kena katolu: me baleta na benu. Kevaka ni da sa vakatautauvataki ira na tiko na mai taoni kei na tiko vakanakoro. Kevaka edua na ka keitou kerea, keitou kerea edua na ka ni benu kaukaumea me mai biu kina eso na kani yaya makawa me vaka na washing machine. Sa lai makawa sa sega na vanua e biu kina sa biu ga yani e bati ni wai se sa biu ga na vanua era biuta kina. Na kena maroroi na benu.

Na ka me baleta na manumanu. Sa bogi mai va qo sa lai friend tale na koli kei na bulumakau. Sa lai normal tale vei koli.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- E rua toka na taro bibi e tarogi tiko ya me baleta na benu kei na ka baleti ira na manumanu – vei ira na vakamanumanu kei na veika era sa mai cakava tiko ena loma ni koro. Kerei rau tiko na vakalesilesi ni Tabana ni Bula.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, na wekaqu vinaka saka vakalevu na taro na sigalevu ni kua. Kevaka ni raica tiko nai lavelave – Na veisau No. 26. Na veisau No. 26(g):

> "keeping or rearing animal or bird of any description so kept as to be injurious to public and environmental health".

Kena ibalebale na kena susu na manumanu se manumanu vuka ena kena walewale koya raw ani
vakavuna na tiko ca se na tauvimate. Koya saka s ana kovuti tiko ena lawa vakaturi. Kevaka sa na mani curuma na komiti eratou sa nanuma me ratou s ana vakatura me sa kau i Palimedi sa lai pasitaki, na solia tiko beka viavia dua na yabaki na kena lako curumi tiko na bose vakoro, bose ni tikina, bose ni yasana, vakararamataki kina na lawa qo. Kena ibalebale kevaka edua sa tiko non aba ni manumanu eloma ni koro, dou vakatubu leqa tiko, koya sa dodonu ena loma ni gauna ya koya sa dodonu me na cakacakataki koya rawa sara tiko. Na oti na gauna ni veivakararamataki sa na tarava mai na veivakasavasavataki koya s ana qai lako mai kina na kena vakaqaqacotaki na lawa. Koya saka beka ya, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dua ga na taro vei kemudou na lewe ni tikotiko vakaturaga i Soloira. Keimami dau rogoca tiko mai Suva ni levu nomudou bulumakau. Lakolako era vaqara katakata mai ni sad raki kudukudua main a vanua.

(Veidredrevaki)

Kevaka ko sa via vakamanumanu, mo raica nomu manumanu me vakabai, me maroroi, na manumanu e sega na yalona. Keda ga na dabe tiko qo e tiko vei keda na yalo ni kauwai me da maroroa na noda manumanu.

Na ka eratou sa tukuna tiko na tabana ni bula qo, ke mani ratou vakatara me dua ga na yabaki na veivakararamataki, na vei vakasavasavataki sa na ciciva na lawa. E sega ni tiko na neimami vakanananu na lako mai qo me dou sa yacova sara yani ya. E tiko ga na vakasama ni kauwai na kena maroroi na noda bula vakaitikotiko, na kena maroroi na manumanu kei na maroroi na bula savasava, bula veilomani, na cakacaka vata, kei na duavata me tuberi keda yani me da rawa ni yacova vata dua na vakatagedegede era sa yacova tiko mai na tiko na noda

veikoro lelevu. E tuvatuva rawarawa; na ka bibi e tiko mai dakuna na kena cakacakataki. Rawa ni vosa tiko o Turaga ni Koro siga kei na bogi, ia na yasana dredre taudua na noda itavi okeda na lewe ni koro se lewe ni tikotiko.

Au sa kerekere tiko baleta qo ga na vanua e rawa ni rogo kina na domomuni. Ke o ni sa duavata se o ni sa vinakata me veisau, na veiveisau na yaco na yakavi edaidai eratou sega ni lewa mai na tabana ni bula. Sa tiko na ligai keitou na komiti qo, sa vakadonui mai Palimedi, na itavi ni nomuni komiti qo me vakayacora na veivakararamataki, lesu yani keitou lai raica na veika ni sa vakatutu mai kina na lewenivanua ni bera ni qai kau cake i Palimedi me sa lai tuki me sa lawa ni noda matanitu.

MS. A. KETEIVALU.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Ms. Keteivalu)

Dua saka na kauwai me vaka sa vosa tiko o Turaga Ni Koro me baleta na benu. Sa sega ni rawa, ia, qai biu tale na benu ena ibenubenu baleta ni sa sivita na kena vanua. Dua saka ga na kerekere keitou kauta tiko yani baleta na kena koya vakayagataki tiko mai taoni kei na bula vakanakoro. Ke rawa ni kau saka mai na container lelevu ni benu. Me mai biu saka kina na benu, me vaka saka dau caka tu mai taoni. Gauna ga sa sinai kina mai kau. Au kila ni rawa ni na vinaka kina na bula vakanakoro.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa ciqomi na vakatutu. Ia keimai mai taoni keimami sauma nai vakacavacava ni tu ena koro lelevu. Kemudou sa via saumi vakacavacava na tiko ike? Au rawa ni lai vakatututaka vei Turaga Minister ni Vuli me na sauma mai me baleti kemudou ga na wekaqu i Soloira. Vakasama dina e gole saka tiko mai. Au vosa tiko yani qo me rawa niu vakarawarawataka tiko na veitalanoa. Me keitou qai lako ike keitou sa lako na galala, ke dou qai veicudruvi tiko mai ya qai nomudou tiko mai,keitou sa mai qarava oti na neitou itavi.

MR. A. TUINASAU.- Au taroga saka ga na noqu itukutuku. Au sa vakatututaka saka tiko yani kevaka sa mani kau mai na bula mai Suva me kau mai nakoro. Keitou kerea saka tiko na Tikina o Soloira ke rawa ni mai caka na veivakavaletaki, drainage, sewer line e loma ni koro me rawa ni vukei keitou ka taqomaki keitou mai na sisi ni qele.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Turaga Ni Koro, ratou na tabana ni bula e tiko veiratou edua na tikina ka yacana tiko na registration. Au na sega ni na vakamacala kina; kau kerei rau na vakalesilesi me rau qai vakamacala kina baleta ni rau kena dau.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Ni vola saka toka mada ga na 2903675. Ni qai veitaratara yani. Dina e sega ni tiki ni nodatou consultation, e tiki ni porokaramu au veiqaravi kina me datou na qai veivosakitaka na ka me baleta na kena kau mai na vuli, kena sagai na veivakatorocaketaki qori ka vaka talega kina me baleta na benu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au kaya tiko mai Vunidawa, qo gona na vanua na rogo kina na domomudou i Soloir. Na gauna na qai lai tuki kina, ona qai raica na nomu vakatutu ni sa lai pasitaki, au a cau kina mosoni ya kei na kena veisau na lawa tu. Vakasamataka tiko e 90 na yabaki na kena cici tiko mai na lawa levu oya koya vauci keda tiko, sa qai donumaka na madigi oqo me sa qai mai veiveisau kina e 69 na tabana.

MR. A. MASIVOU.- Dua saka na vakatataro. E rawa ni curu saka ike na neimami dau gole tiko yani ivalenibula? Rawa ni laveti ike na neimami dau gole tiko i Valenibula i Vunidawa? So na gauna era sa dau vakawelewele saraga na tabana ni bula. Sega ni dua na time

dodonu era dau vakayagataka. So era dau gole tu na mataka lailai, ra lai wawa tu waraki tu na vuniwai kei na nasi. Era dau vakayaco lomadra tu ga qai vakatau ga vei ira. Ke rawa ni dua na vakatutu me dua ga na gauna me rawa ni keimami kila me rawa ni solia vei keimami na vakacegu?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Rau tiko qo na kena tabana dina. E sega ni salavata tiko na ulutaga tou goleva tiko ni kua baleta ga ni sa basika na kena vakasama, e kauwai saka tiko. Au na kerei rau me rau na qai vakamcala kina. De rairai vaka vei au e levu tiko na gone ra tiko mai Vunidawa ena tabana ni bula era gone ni Naitasiri. Na kaukauwa ni Komiti qo erawa ni ra veiveisautaki e so kevaka dou vinakata. I ke ga ki na tabana ni vuli, sa lewe levu tiko mai kea, sa berabera na veiqaravi rawa ni veisau eso. A sa caka oti ena so na vanua; e rawa ni caka talega i Vunidawa.

MR. L. VALETABUA.- Sa tiko na Turaga na Chairman, tiko na lewe ni matabose yaco, tiko na Turaga ni Vanua, turaga kei na marama, taumada sa ciqomi tiko nai tukutuku, kauwai e kau saka tiko mai ena vuku ni veiqaravi, keirau na qai saga me keirau na vakaleleca na kena ituktuku vei ratou na veiliutaki ena Wasewase iloma. Me baleta na vakavinakataki ni veiqaravi ena nodatou valenibulai Vunidawa. Kevaka na vinakati tale me dua na kena veitalanoa ena dua na gauna imuri vakabauta ena rawa ni na qaravi oya, rawa ni keirau na qai veitaratara tikoga mai vua na Turaga Roko kei na Turaga DO me datou na mai dabe vata me datou na veitalanoataka na gaunisala cava e rawa ni da vukei kina me vakavinakata na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula e tiko ena nodatou gauna ni veiqaravi.

MR. R. KOROI.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Koroi)

Vica na yabaki noqu veiqaravi tiko vaka Nasi ni Koro ena koro o Waikalou, neitou repote e biu sobu veiratou na Nasi i Vunidawa ke rawa ni ra mai sikovi ira na lewenikoro era davo tu ivale (bedridden). Sa karua ni yabaki era sega ni lako tiko mai na Nasi mai Vunidawa. Vuqa na gauna keitou gole yani i Vunidawa me keitou lai kere wainimate eratou tukuna mai ni sa oti na wainimate, me keitou na qai gole tani yani na gauna ka tarava.

Kena katolu: na vakatutu e gole tiko mai baleta nodra ivakarau na Nasi i Vunidawa ena nodra qaravi na lewenivanuna. E dina taucoko, keitou sa vakadinadinataka na Nasi ni Koro, so na gauna keitou gole yani vaka keitou sega ni lai kawaitaki tu, lako yani biu na repote, keitou kere wainimate ratou tukuna, " Na wainimate e out of stock, dou qai gole tale mai ena vula ka tarava".

Kena ka va: na rai ni Nasi ni Koro – loma ni koro kevaka e rawa ni ra vakavinakataki mada na neitou drain baleta na dengue e veitauvi tiko mai qo, levu neitou drain e block tu, keitou vakatututaka tikoga yani kina tabana ni bula.

Kena ka lima: Na benu – na vanua e biu kina na benu. Sa biu umaumani vata tu ga yani me vaka na kava kei na diaper (koya kama kei koya e sega ni rawa ni kama).

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Rau sa vakarorogo tiko na vakalesilesi ni tabana ni bula ena tikina oya. Na via wili vata tiko na vakasama koya sa lako mai liu baleta na bibi ni tamata dauveiqaravi mai Vunidawa me yaco mai vei kemudou na tiko i ra qo.

MR. U. QARALEKA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Qaraleka)

Dua saka ga na taro me baleta na tikia e 39 e tiko kina na totogi e $20 laveti cake me $2000. Dua e tiko qo na sau ni leseni e $10 laveti me $500. Rawa ni drau vakamatatataka na tikina ya?

TABANA NI BULA.- Na naba vica?

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Tikina 39 kei na tikina 40. Ke rawa ni drau vakamatatataka na tikina e 39 – Na itotogi ena Tikina e 89 e tiko ena $20; vakatututaki tiko me laveti kina $2,000.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni wilika madaga mai cava na kena vakamacala.

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Na itotogi ena Tikina 89 e tiko ena $20; laveti na totogi me $2,000.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Rau se vakaraica tiko na tabana ni bula na tikina oya, e dua na ka bibi e tiko ena loma lawatu qo na itotogi. Eda sa rawa ni raica saraga dua na kena vakaraitaki totoka oya mai na $20 kina $2,000. Ni nanuma tiko na lawa qo e vauci keda kece i Viti, Rotuma, Rabi kei Kioa.

Au na taura madaga vakalekaleka na lawatu qo na kena ibalebale ni vakatiko qori na duidui e tiko walega ikea me i sasabai ni da na qai yacova yani na penalty se deterrent me vukei keda me da raica tiko yani me caka na ka ratou vinakata na tabana ni bula me caka rawa ka na qai tiko na gauna me soli vei kemuni.

Dua na kena vakaraitaki qo: kevaka e kacabote tiko na nomu tolo ni septic tank. Sa lako yani dua na complaint, ratou lako mai na kena tabana ratou mai raica, ratou sa mai vakadinadinataka ni dodonu me vakavinakataki, ratou na qai solia vei kemudou e rua na macawa se dua na vula, keitou na lesu tale mai, lako mai ratou mai raica kevaka e se bera tiko ni caka ratou na lako tale mai na karua ni gauna, kena ikatolu dou sa na veitalanoa kei na totogi.

Na ka bibi ga e tiko kina vei keda me solia na gauna me da vakavinakataka kina na veika e leqa tu. Eda na kauwai tiko baleta ni na lako mai na penalty se na totogi ena rawa saraga ni ko tini ena veilewai. Kevaka o sega ni sauma nomui totogi sa tiko na kaukauwa vua na tabana ni bula; ena lawa vakaturi qo o rawa ni ko veilewaitakai. Ya na iotioti kece ni ka tou vinakata me datou na yacova yani. Ia kevaka eda cakacaka vata tiko, da talairawarawa kina veika e dodonu me vakayacori baleta na rarama ni noda bula ni tiko savasava, tiko sautu, kei na veilomani e dodonu me vakavinakataki na veika sa ca tu. Na vanua madaga e lako kina na wai ca ni vakasasaqa e ra wili kece talega ena loma ni lawa levu ya. Ni kua ni lai vakasosataka tale edua drau tiko veivolekati ena vuku ni boi, vakasuasuataka beka nodratou matani vale, ka kece ya era ologi tiko ena lawa levu era tiko oya. Oya so na kena vakasama.

MR. L. VALETABUA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, lewe ni bose yaco, ni tiko na turaga kei na marama, vakavinavinakataka tiko vakalevu na taro e tarogi tiko. Na tikina 89 e vakatokai tiko na venereal disease se na mate veitauvi e vu mai na veiyacovi.

Na tikina 89 e tiko kina "kevaka edua na turaga se marama sa tauvi koya tiko na mate ni veiyacovi" kila ni sa yacova tiko na gauna bolebole na noda Viti na gauna qo na veidewavi tiko na mate ni HIV kei na AIDS. Kena ibalebale ke dua sa tauvi koya tiko na mate ca okoya sa vakadewa wavoki tiko. Ya e toso cake sara mai kina na fine e tiko qo mai na $20 kina $2,000; ya vaka mo wilfully transmitting.

Qo edua na bolebole levu e yacovi keitou na gauna ni COVID-19. Na gauna sa dua kina na lewe ni vanua sa positive ena COVID-19 tukuni vua, "me tiko vakadua nomu vale me 14 na siga,kua ni veitosoyaki me rawa ni contain na mate". Dau mai laurai tiko na vei ya rua na siga se qiriti tiko mai. Oti ya qai tukuni tale yani ena loma ni 14 na siga koya tiko tale dua na koro se tiko i taoni. Na gaunisala ya sa vakadewavi tiko kina na veimata dewa eso. Ia qo na tikina 89 na ka saraga me baleta na mate veitauvi sexual transmitted disease. Qo na kena veimataqali taucoko, ko raica vakamalua ena lawa - Part 10 – Venereal disease na ka ga e biu saraga vakalevu kina i cake na itotogi baleta okoya sa kila ni tauvi koya tiko na mate qai sega ni vakayagataka na itatarovi sa qai nona cakacaka tiko okoya na vakadewava (intentionally transmitting the disease). Koya ya na vuni kena biu cake tiko.

Au nuitaka ni sa matata ya, sa rauta vakavinaka saraga na kena totogi kevaka ena donu vei kemuni baleta eso sa kila ni tiko vei ira na mate, era vakayagataka tiko na tatarovi – gunu vuanikau. Eso sa tiko vei ira na mate sa ra qai vakadewataka tiko na mate sa qai levu cake tikoga kina na wiliwili ni mate. Koya beka ya na vakamacala Turaga Chairman. Na tikina 89 kena tarava na offensive case.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Koya na tikina tarava qori koya tubu tiko mai na $10 kina $500 qori me baleta na cicivaki ni bisinisi koya dau vakatubu kauwai se vakatubu leqa vei keda ka wili kina na quarry (na vanua ni qaqi vatu), vanua ni buli simede (cement factory), vanua ni dau buli kuta koya dau vakayagataki igaunisala na Asphalt, tiko na manufacture abattoir (na vanua ni vakamate manumanu), wili kina na susu manumanu lelevu me vaka na bai ni toa ni Crest kei Rooster dau boilevu, tiko so na steel mill rogolevu, vakosakosa rawa ni vakavuna na didivara na veimataqlai mate vaka koya.

Na tabana ni bula na kena sagai me vakagalalataki keda mai vua edua e lako tu ga mai me mai tara dua na mataqali bisinisi qori ibati ni wai qai vakavu leqa vei keda. Keitou sa tagava me vakalawataki ni bera ni dua e cakava ya me na register rawa vei na Tabacakacaka ni Bula; kevaka e sega na totogi e tiko qori. Kevaka e lako tu ga mai vakaloa mai cakava dua na bisinisi, e tiko na list ni bisinisi e vakatokai na "offensive trade" e tiko na daku ni lawa imuri. Kevaka o ni na raica na Public Health Act koya tiko na regulation imuri sara – offensive trade. Ira koya sa tiko ya tabu ni dua me mai vakaduria vakailoa dua na mataqali bisinisi vaka koya yacova ni sa dikeva na tabana ni bula me vakagalalataki keda mai na lewenivanua sa na qai rawa. Kevaka ena cakava; kena totogi e tiko qori.

HON. A. BIA.- Kevaka me ra taro - o ira na vakaba ni vuaka tiko voleka mai na loma ni bai vakoro, oti ya qai boi tiko, so na gauna sa sega ni sava tu beka me dua na siga se rua na siga gole tu na kena itaukei, lako beka dua na soqo se lako vakacakacaka oti ya vakavuna tiko mai nai boi ena loma ni koro. Vakacava na kena oya ke rawa ni vakamatataki ga.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Koya ya e kovuti tiko ena "nuisance" vei ira na bisini yadudua se tamata yadudua ni o cakava edua naka e vakavuna nai boi ka lai tiko vakaca kina na lewenivanua. Na kena lelevu sa qai yacana na "offensive trade", na nuisance sa qai votai tiko vakavica - bibi ga ni cakacaka koya e caka ka rawarawa ni vakavuna na tauvimate - sau levu na totogi. Kena lailai sobu - lailai sobu talega na itotogi.

Na kena matai ko ni a taroga mai na tikina 38 ni raica tiko qori na kena toso cake mai na $1,000. Oqori o ira na spreadtaka na misinformation. Dua na vakatatao ni veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula na false information. Taura mada na gauna ni vaccination. Ni keitou saga tiko

me ravuti na COVID-19 qai so era vosa tiko ena mona livaliva me ra tukuna tiko, " qori na cakacaka ni tevoro, qori na vakavuna noda mate" ira na parofisai ya se tukuni mai vica na yabaki sa oti ia keda se bula tikoga qo. Sa qai vakadredretaka na neitou rawata na nodra vakabulai na lewe i Viti ena vaccination. Yaco sara na kena revurevu vei ira na luveda lalai era dau cula na cula ni polio, na cula ni misila, levu na itubutubu na gauna qo sa sega ni qai kauta tiko yani na luvedra baleta na itukutuku koya vakadewataki tiko mai na gauna ni COVID-19.

Dua na outbreak ni typhoid e yaco mai Labasa, sa caka na veiqaravi sa dredre me bonati; sa kau yani na typhoid vaccine e volia mai na Matabose kei Vuravura e 20 percent ga ni population era vakatarai me ra cula; na vo ni 80 percent era bese. Ya na revurevu ni false information. A sega ni tu na gauna ya, qo edua na ka sa vakaturi tiko ena lawa vakaturi me na totogitaki kina ke dua e tukuna wavoki tiko dua na ka e lasutaki, vakaleqai keda tiko, ka vakavuna tiko na dredre ni veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula - lavaki vei koya e $1,000 me rau sota.

MR. L. VALETABUA.- Turaga Chairman, ni tiko talega na lewenivanua, kila ni gauna ni COVID-19 ni bera ni yaco tiko na veiqaravi ni tabana ni bula sa liu tale tiko dua na mata timi koya ratou vunau wavoki tale tiko -ni na kila tiko. Dua na gauna keitou a lako cake sara i Naboubuco keitou qai yaco yani sa tukuni sa lesu talega ikea na mata timi ya. Koya ra vakacacana tiko na veiqaravi ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula. Qo e ka vou baleta me rawa ni taqomaka tiko na veiqaravi.

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Dua saka tale na taro. Baleta na tikina 27 me vaka saka na lailai ni totogi ni vakasosavo e yacova e $1,000. Ke rawa ni vakamatatataki ga vei keimami na cava na totogi ni $1,000?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Turaga Chairman, sai koya saraga qori, koya a laveta cake mai o honourable Bia me baleta na ka boica (nuisance) se dua na ka e rawa ni lai vakavuna na tiko vakaca se na tauvimate. E rawa ni lailai me vaka na wai mai valenikuro (na wai ni masi yaya) me vagolea tu ga kina ikeli ni wai, koya lai vakavuna sara tiko na sisi ni qele. Ia ni bera ni lai sisi na qele era cici na gone, ra qito, karokaro se milamila ena waica koya gole tiko mai ya.

Sa qai tiko gona na ceiling ni totogi ni nuisance e $1,000 volai tiko ya me yacova na $1,000 kena ibalebale ena sega ni sivita na $1,000. Sa na qai tiko na ituvatuva me vaka na waica mai valenikuro koya rawa ni lailai toka beka me biu toka na $50, koya e bibi koya lako mai na septic tank sa direct saraga kina dua na yasa ni vale koya y ana via bibi sara toka me $1,000.

Na kena vakamatailalai e nanumi tiko me na qai muri mai edua na kena Public Health Regulation koya me na qai biu vakamatata mai kina. Na Act sa mentiontaki ga kina - na cava e kovuti vei na nuisance vata na kena totogi me yacova tiko na $1,000. Kena ibalebale koya na ca levu taudua koya rawa ni caka me $1,000 kena vo ena vakatautaki na rivarivabi kina bula ni tamata. Vakabauta ni sa na matata vei keda?

MR. A. TUINASAU.- Lailai na totogi ni sega ni muria na ivakaro na kena samaki na duka. Tubu na totogi kina $1,000 - $100 ena veisiga ke sega tiko ni samaki. Qo saka beka me baleta na cakacaka vakoro? Au taro saka.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Na cakacaka vakoro me na caka rawa. Ni sa taura rawa tiko? Qo kevaka sa tiko dua na nuisance sa laurai tiko vei iko.

Taura mada ke dua na vale e tiko mai Nadawa, yasa ni nona vale sa gole tiko kina wai ca mai nona septic tank. Keitou gole yani sa soli vua na notisi ni sa basuka tu na lawa koya au vakamacalataka tiko qori. Me na rairai kina mataveilewai ke sa mani vakadonua o Turaga ni Lewa na ceiling ni totogi e $1,000, kevaka mani tukuna okoya, " au sega ni cakacaka, au tikoga ivale" Turaga ni Lewa na qai rawa ni tosoa sobu mai. Ena vaka ga na normal mitigation so na gauna dau soli tu ga e $200 se $300. Io, sa na qai solia mai kina na order me vakagalalataka okoya na leqa oya. Kena ibalebale kevaka e gole tiko na wai ca mai na septic tank koya me na vakavinakataka nona septic tank me kua ni gole tiko na wai ca. Kevaka e sega ni cakava na Order ya sa na qai totogitaki tiko okoya ena $100 ena veisiga ena kena se gole tikoga na waica. Baleta ni sega ni cakava na cakacaka koya gadrevi me cakava. Oya na ibalebale ni veisau e tiko oya.

MR. J. KURUMALUA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Kurumalua)

Tiko saka na tabana ni bula, ni tiko saka na Turaga lewe ni Bose lawa. Au via muria saka ga edua na itukutuku sa lako oti mai vei kemuni me baleta saka na nodra vakacaca tiko na manumanu ena loma ni koro vaka talega kina vei keimami.

Ena vuku saka ni manumanu e kilai ni so vei ira na manumanu qo e tauvimate me vaka na Brucellosis, TB e tiko na kauwai ena tikina oya ni ra dau basu bai mai era butuka na lomanibai, era benu, ke rawa ni ra vakasalataki talega oira na taukei ni manumanu. Levu era vakaloma ni bai tu voleka tiko yani ena yasa ni neimami tikotiko ke rawa ni ra maroroi na manumanu me rawa ni tarovi kina na kena vakadewai tiko na mate era vakavuna tiko na manumanu kina neimami tikotiko.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, vinaka vakalevu na vakatataro. Sir, sa rawa ni nodratou submission saka ga i Waikalou me include ko ira na animal owners baleta na lawa vakaturi tiko qo e kovuti ira na susu manumanu koya vakavuna na boica. Ke sa rawa ni nodratou submission, ke rawa ni drau vakatututaka ga mai me sa nomudou submission me kovuti ira talega na taukei ni manumanu koya sa tasere ka mai vakavu leqa ena loma ni nodatou koro.

MR. J. KURUMALUA.- Sa vakatura saka tiko.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kerea me dua e tokona.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Donu, vakaveitalanoa kevaka dou sa vakatututaka mai, keitou na lai raica na komiti. Sega ni tiko vei ratou na tabana ni bula na kaukauwa me ratou veisautaka. Sa tiko na ligai keitou na Komiti me sa tiki ni nomudou vakatutu, sa na lai wili me weka ni vuvale ni lawatu koya vakamacalataki tiko ya.

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Na vakatutu baleta saka tikoga na veitotogi. Au raica tiko ni kua ke rawa ni lutu tale vakalailai vei keimami na tu vakanakoro mai vei ira na tiko itaoni. Dua saka tale na taro na kena soli.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kerea me da na taura yadudua na vakatutu. Ni tukuna mai na kena matai me tokoni me qai lako vakaivola.

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Au vakatututaka tiko e vica na lawa. Me baleta na tiko vakagalala mai na veikoro lelevu vata kei keimami na tiko na veikorokoro ke rawa ni wasei toka na keimami totogi.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Me wasei vakacava? Me lutu se me tubu cake?

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Me lutu vei keimami na tu vakanakoro.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Cava na mata ni fika ni nanuma tiko?

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Sir, ke rawa ni lutu mai me vaka ni lewe levu qo e tiko ena $100, $1,000. Koya tiko na $100 rawa ni lutu me $50, koya e $1,000 rawa ni lutu mai me $200 se $300. Vakatutu saka tiko.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dua e tokona?

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Karua ni nomuni mosoni?

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Karua saka ni noqu vakatutu me baleta saka na kena saumi na fine. Me vaka saka na tiko vakanakoro, mai taoni e saumi saka tiko vei ratou na Administration ni town council. Na tiko vakanakoro edua saka na taro kevaka sa na totogitaki dua na lewenikoro, na ilavo e rawa ni gole tale mai vei na koro baleta na kena saumi na totogi e rawa ni dua nai lavo me tikici ki na koro se gole taucoko vei ratou na tabana ni bula?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni vakatututaka mada mai qori?

MR. U. QARALEKA.- Au sa vakatututaka ke rawa ni gole saka na totogi ilavo kina koro.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dua e tokona?

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Qo gona na bibi ni veitalanoa. Na kena soqoni - keitou na lai vakacakulea vakamatailalai sara, qo a lako mai na koro vakaturaga qo, ke keitou raica ka duavata ni yaga me lutu se tubu cake vanua ya na qai lai basika kina. Vinaka madaga ni ko ni sa vakatututaka mai. Sa wili vaka written submission vei keitou mai vei kemuni na lewenivanua.

MR. S. KANAVAKATINI.- Na kena maroroi na manumamu iloma ni koro. E dau ka beci vei keimami ira na koli era tu wavoki tu qo. Ke rawa ni lako mai loma ni koro? Vakacava me katia dua na gonelailai, nai wali cava e rawa ni dou cakava na tabana ni bula? Noqu rai tiko me sa vakaleseni mada na koli era bula tu e lomanikoro ko ira na susu koli tiko.

Kena karua: vakacava saka mo raica vakarua me dua e benu ca e lomanikoro. Nai wali cava saka dou na cakava?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Tabana ni bula dua nomudrau vakadewa? Dina ni tiko na taudaku ni lawatu, rawa ni dua mada nomuni vakasala raraba.

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Mr. Chairman, tiko na veiwekani. Io na lawa me baleta na manumanu e tiko veiratou na tabana ni teitei na Animal Health. Vei kemuni na via susu manumanu, manumanu susu dodonu me vakaleseni vakabibi na koli. Kena leqa koya sa tiko qo vei kedatou vakatokai tiko na kena vosa vakavavalagi " stray dogs", ia na lawa talega ni manumanu sa tiko na gauna qo tabu ni ko vakamatea dua na manumanu. Sa rawa ni vauci iko tale na lawa kevaka o kitaka vakakina ena vuku ni lawa "cruelty to animals".

Kena karua: na benu ca. Ia na benu ca e vakatautaki tu, kevaka e benu ca tikoga ena yasani vale rawa ni kovuti koya na lawa ni tabana ni bula - na vuku ni duka ni nona itikotiko; kevaka e benu ca ena dua na vanua taukeni raraba (public place) se dua na vanua e sega ni kovuti koya - na nodratou lawa na tabana ni environment – Litter Act ni benu vakaveitalia. Kena ibalebale e rua tiko kevaka e benu tikoga e yasa ni nona vale kovuti koya na lawa ni Tabacakaaka ni Bula ena vuku ni dukaduka ni nona itikotiko in sanitary condition kevaka benu taudaku ni nona itikotiko sa kovuti koya na lawa ni Environment na Litter Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dua nai otioti ni nanuma se vakatutu ni bera ni tou sa na vakaotia yani nodatou veitalanoa? Keitou kila ni tiko tale na porokaramu ni oti qo me keitou kua ni vakatatao. Gauna mada ga qo sa via 90 pasede na veika keitou vinakata me keitou rogoca sa tiko qo na neitou noke, me neitou kaukau lesu.

MS. S. DONU.- Tikina e 23 – Vosa makawa me baleta na duka kei na dauveiqaravi. Vakayagataki na vosa vou me baleta na "septic tank" kei na "environmental health practitioner." Cava saka na kena ibalebale?

MR. T. VOSATAKI.- Oya na kena vakavoui ga eso na vosa e tiko vei na lawa koya se dau vakayagataki ena gauna makawa koya sa sega ni qai veiganiti vata kei na gauna eda tiko kina qo. Au vakabauta na "septic tanks" dau yacana tu na "soak pit" iliu. Vakatutu tiko qori me boko na "soak pit" me biu na "septic tank". Kevaka o ni na wilika tiko na lawa ni wilika na "soak pit" gauna ni kua sa sega ni dua e kila na cava na kena ibalebale. Na vakatutu tikoga qori me veisau na vosa vakavavalagi oya.

MR. V. VASUVANUA.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Mr. Vasuvanua)

Dua saka na taro ena tikina e 32 me baleta saka tiko na wai ni gunu. Vakadinadinataka ni wainigunu e yaga raraba vei keda na lewenivanua. Da raica saka na totogi e tiko e $500, so saka na totogi e dau solia saka na matanitu me vakarere sara vei keimami na lewenivanua. So dau soli tu me $10,000 me baleta beka eso na veivuke ni solia saka na matanitu. Na wainigunu e ka bibi saka vei keimami. So na gauna keimami qai dau rogo talanoataka saka tiko na vukivuki ni kena dau vakasausataki tiko na wainigunu. Kerei saka tiko na matanitu me dikevi tale saka vakavinaka. Me biu saka mai dua na uma ilavo me rawa ni vakarere tu vei ira na tamata era dau lako tu ga ra dau lai vakayagataki wainimate ena vakaso ni wainigunu me rawa ni vakarere ka ra dau lai vakacacana tu na vakaso ni wainigunu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Dua na ulutaga bibi ya. Sa tiko ga na wainigunu, sa kovuti keda kece baleta eda tiko dua nai tikotiko da gunu kece tiko. Au kerekere mo vakatututaka me toso cake tale na totogi se me lutu vakalailai?

MR. V. VASUVANUA.- Me toso cake saka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Vica na mata ni fika o ni nanuma me toso cake kina?

MR. V. VASUVANUA.- Me $2,000 saka.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Na cava e kaya tiko na lawatu vakavoui?

MR. V. VASUVANUA.- $500

MR. CHAIRMAN.- $500 kina $1,000? Au kerea mo ni vakatututaka mai.

MR. V. VASUVANUA.- Sa vakatura saka.

LEWENIVANUA.- Tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Kevaka e vakatau vei au, ke a $10,000 vei kemudou ike mo dou yadrava tiko cava na bibi ni wainigunu kina noda bula.

MR. P. VAKALOLO.- Au kerekere saka tiko yani kina Komiti dou gole tiko mai na yakavi ni siga ni kua - me vaka ni sa tubu saka tiko nai vodovodo. Na nodra dau qaravi o ira na matenisuka, tubu ni dra kei na cula ni gone. Ke rawa ni sa vakatututaki yani ke rawa ni dua na vula me gole saka mai kina vei tikina me ra mai qaravi saraga inakoro. Dau levu saka tu na buinigone ra lako saka yani, oso na basi era dau saumi lori, na veiveisau ni tubu ni vodovodo sa tiko saka qo. Sa vakatutu saka tiko ke rawa saka ni lako mai na tabana me mai veiqaravi ena neitou tikina.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni sa vakatututaka mai ya?

MR. P. VAKALOLO.- Sa vakatura saka.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni saka.

MS. A. VAKALOLO.- (Vakamacalataki koya o Ms. Vakalolo)

Dua saka na kerekere ena Tabacakacaka ni Bula. Au lewena tiko na Komiti ni Tiko Bulabula vei ena neitou koro o Waikalou. Na kerekere saka ke rawa ni vakalevutaki saka mada na neimami dispensary baleta saka na nodratou veiqaravi na Nasi ni Koro. So na gauna sa dau levu na wai sa sega ni rawa ni keimami lako yani ivalenibula me ra sa qaravi ga na tauvimate ena dispensary. Vata kei ira na vakalesilesi e rawa saka ga ni ra gole mai me ra mai veiqaravi ga ena neimami dispensary.

MR. L. VOSATABUA.- Turaga Liuliu ni Bose, tiko na Lewe ni Bose yaco, tiko na turaga kei na marama, cavuti tiko na vakavinavinaka ena vuku ni kauwai kau cake saka tiko mai.

Au kila sa ciqomi saka tiko na kauwai nei Nasi ni Koro, na kauwai ni Komiti ni Tiko Bulabula baleta na veiqaravi. Kila ni ra sa dau lako tiko mai na timi ni veiqaravi na yacana tiko na “safe clinic”. Ra lako mai na mata timi me ra mai qaravi, au kila ni ko ni na qaravi vakadua se vakarua ena dua na yabaki ena vuku ni wiliwili ni koro e tiko ena loma ni nodatou

yasana. Ia me vaka na vakatutu sa caka vei ratou na komiti sa na sagai me na vakalevutaki na outreach kei na veiqaravi ena veikorokoro.

Na dispensary au kerea me noda itavi na lewenivanua. Au sa kerekere vakabibi, sa itavi tiko madaga ni Tabacakacaka ni Bula na kena vakavinakataki na veiqaravi, na valenibula, na kedra isau na Nasi ni Koro vata kei na nodra vuli na Nasi ni Koro. Sa kerea me nodatou itavi tiko na veikorokoro. Baleta kevaka e qaravi kece na vei vale ni dispensary kece na vei korokoro, au sega ni kila ena qaravi rawa se sega. Da dui qarava madaga na noda dui dispensary na veikorokoro.

RO I. TUINASAU.- Dua saka ga na vakatataro. Na vuku saka ni benu. Eda sa veitalanoataka tiko na benu. Taro saka qo vakacava saka na nodra benu na business men era vakayagataka tiko na taudaku ni veikorokoro – nodra benu me vaka na vakamakama, na vanua me ra kauta kina nodra benu. Yasa ni nodra sitoa ga ra vakama benu. E donu saka tiko ya?

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Taro vinaka. Au nanuma ni da sa taura oti na tikina ya. Na kena veisau na lawatu qo na tikina o ni kauta tiko mai qori. Sa wili tiko iloma. Vinaka saka vakalevu na taro.

MS. A. KETEIVALU.- Dua saka tiko na ka au a vakaraitaka saka tiko yani baleta na tabana tikoga ni bula vei ira na disability. Levu na gauna era sa sega ni dau kawaitaki tu. So na gauna me ra sa dau lako yani me ra lai kere wheelchair na veika me ra bula kina qai sega saraga. So sa ra davo sara tu ga, e levu sara tikoga na kisi ni disability era vinakata na wheelchair qai sega ni vakarawarawataki mai vei ira. Au sa kerekere saka tiko vei kemuni ke rawa ni rau cakacakavata na tabana ni bula vata kei ratou na Social Welfare na kena vakarautaki na veika vei ira na disability.

Kena karua: na nodra valelailai. Levu saraga na gauna sa lako cake saka tiko na kerekere baleta na nodra valelailai kei na valenisili me rawa ni sema ga mai. Ia na gauna qo e sega sara tikoga ni dua na ka e caka tu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ulutaga rabailevu toka ya; vakabauta ni tiko kece kina noda itavi, tavi ni loma ni tikotiko kei nai tavi ni matanitu. Au kerea mo ni biuta mai vakatutu keitou na qai lai semata vua na kena Ministry.

MS. A. KETEIVALU.- Au sa vakatura saka tiko.

LEWENIVANUA.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Au na kerei Turaga Roko me na qai dua tale nona vakamacala ena tikina qo ni bera ni da na mai vakacavara noda veitalanoa ena yakavi talei edaidai.

MR. S. QARANIVALU.- Sa tiko saka ga na Liuliu ni Bose, Lewe ni Bose lawa, drau tiko na vakalesilesi mai na tabana ni bula, au sa gusui keimami saka tikoga ena vakavinavinaka levu kina veika taucoko sara.

Au kila ni bera niu vakaotia yani noqu itukutuku ni vakavinavinaka, au vakatura saka tikoga na Public Health Act qo me vakacurumi saraga vei na nodra curriculum na gone (au guilecava meu cavuta mai Vunidawa). Me tekivu saraga mai na primary, secondary me yaco sara na tertiary.

Me ra qai tubu cake tiko mai na luveda, era sa kila tiko oira e tiko na lawa ni savasava. Kila vei keda na taba qase sa matau tiko na maroroi ni savasava. Vakamacalataki tiko mai Vunidawa na mataka lailai sa tiki saka tiko ni noda bula na maroroi ni benu, na tara ni valelailai, na maroroi ni vakaso ni wai, ka kece ya sa tiki tikoni bula. Dua saka ga na gauna qo via mai waicala vakalailai, ia, koya ya ena vinaka me sa tiki ni nodra ka ni vuli na luveda ena tagede kece saka ni vuli.

Ena vuku saka ni neimami vanua saka qo o Soloira, sa cavuti saka tiko na vakavinavinaka levu ena vuku ni nomudou siro saka tiko mai nakoro, au kila vei kemuni talega na lewenikoro o ni sa vakavinavinakataki tiko vakalevu. Ena vuku ni Valenivolavola ni Yasana na nomuni tiko. Dua na ka bibi na nomuni gauna, keitou vakila toka na kena irairai ni kua mai Vunidawa. Dua na gauna lekaleka qo na matanitu e siro tiko mai me mai rogoca na domomuni. Na lawa lelevu va qo e vica na gauna sa oti na matanitu sa vakatulewa ga sa cakava nona lawa sa toso. Na gauna vou eda sa tiko kina qo, e mai rogoci tiko na domoda, koya e ka bibi saka tiko kina. Sega ni kena isevu qo, e levu tale era na muri mai, ena mai rogoci tiko na domomuni.

Na kerekere ga me ra kakua ni ra mai tale lala oira na liga ni noda veiqaravi. Era sa nanumi keda mai, o keda me da nanumi ira. Kila dua na irairai keitou raica tiko mai Vunidawa ni kua, bolei keitou vakalevu na liga ni veiqaravi, ratou tiko na Lewe ni Bose lawa; na lawalawa dodonu me keimami tiko yani ikea, keimami qai sega ni tiko yani. Sa cawadru na gauna ya, ia keitou vakavinavinaka vakalevu ni keitou lako mai Soloira na yakavi qo o ni lewe levu tiko, kila sa na sinai vakavinaka sara tiko na nodratou noke na liga ni veiqaravi.

Kerekere saka ga, mai muri ni tukuni mai dua nai tukutuku ni veivakararamataki da lakova mai. Koya ya e mai rogoci kina na domoda, ena taudaku ni gauna qo ya sa oti. Me vaka sa tukuna tiko na Liuliu ni Bose – gauna ga qo se rogoci kina domoda, ia, na taudaku ni gauna ya sa nodratou tiko vata kei ira na dau ni buli lawa. Koya saka beka ga ya na vakavinavinaka mai cavuti tiko vei kemuni, dina ni donumaka tiko na osooso ni koro, ni solia tiko na gauna me curu tiko mai na ituvatuva sa cavuti saka tiko na vakavinavinaka levu.

Vei kemudou na lewe ni timi, sa gusu tale tikoga ni Valenivolavola ni Yasana kei keimami na lewenivanua na vakavinavinaka na kena kau saka tiko mai na rarama ena neimami veikoro, au kila ni a via luluqa toka mai Vunidawa, ia, na loma saka talega ni tikina qo o Soloira e tiko talega kina edua na Vunidawa. E sega ni koro ni matanitu na koro ni veiqaravi. Au kila ni sa na bonata vakavinaka ya na levu ni taro o ni sa mai bulagoci saka tiko kina ena yakavi ni ni kua. Ni tiko saka nai tokani, mai dua saka tiko na vosa ni vakavinavinaka ena vuku ni tavi sa vakasaka tiko ya na kena levu.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Ni bera ni cava ga na noda veitalanoa, au kerea na tikina bibi ya me lesu tale na lawatu me lai tiki ni vuli. Au kerea mo ni vakatututaka mai.

MR. S. QARANIVALU.- Sa vakatura saka tiko Turaga Liuliu ni Bose.

LEWENIKORO.- Sa tokoni.

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Sa mai cava noda veitalanoa na yakavi ni kua. Tiko saka na Turaga Na Vunivalu, tiko na loma ni nodatou Tikina, loma ni nodatou koro vakaturaga i Soloira, au cavuta na vakavinavinaka levu, vakavinavinakataka vakalevu na nomudou yalovinaka, nomudou vakatara me keitou curu mai na lewe ni nomuni Palimedi veiqaravi tiko ena gauna bibi qo. Veika kece sa veitalanoataki ni kua, ni yalo vakacegu sa na kau cake nomuni vakatutu

kece, keitou na lai digova, keitou na lai tavulona ka vakamatailalaitaka me keitou lai raica ivei koya na ka dina e yaga me lewe ni kena veisautaki na yavu tu qo.

The Committee adjourned at 4.30 p.m.