



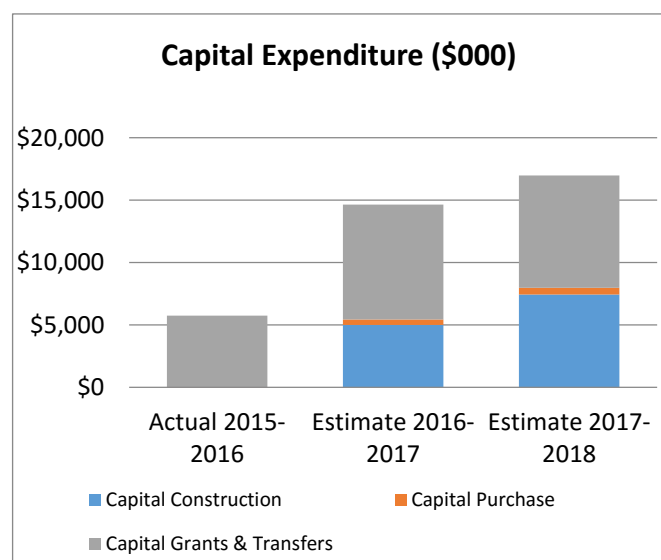
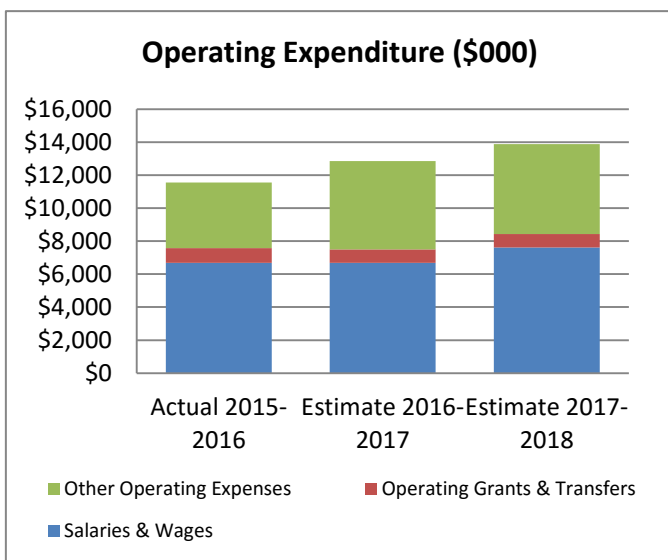
The Fijian Government Office of the Prime Minister 2017-2018 Budget Highlights

The Office of the Prime Minister [OPM] assists the Prime Minister in the role of Head of Government and Chairperson of Cabinet by providing administrative and logistical support. The Cabinet Office of the OPM provides Cabinet and the Prime Minister with secretarial support to ensure timely decisions for the effective running of Government.

The OPM also administers the implementation of a number of programmes, including the development of the mahogany industry, small grants and the coordination of donor funding for community development projects (particularly in rural areas and outer islands) and the administration of the Rotuma, Rabi and Kioa Island Councils.

The OPM now has authority over the Department of Immigration, which is responsible for managing the flow of people across Fiji's borders. This includes passport issuance for Fijian citizens, entry and departure permits and the processing of applications for citizenship.

The budget for OPM in 2017-2018 is **\$24.0 million**, comprising **\$13.9 million** for operating expenditure, **\$9.6 million** for capital expenditure and VAT of **\$0.5 million**. Another **\$7.4 million** is allocated under Head 50 for construction of Prime Minister's Office Complex and Upgrade of Prime Minister's Residence.



The increase of **\$0.9 million** in 2017-2018 is attributed mainly to:

- an increase due to adjustments in salaries and wages and the Hon. Prime Minister assuming ministerial responsibility for the Department of Immigration.

New Initiatives

- \$100,000 is allocated to fund five new Assistant Immigration Officers' (AIO) positions in the Western Division to improve access to and quality of immigration services in Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua, Rakiraki and the Yasawa and Mamanuca groups.
- \$300,000 is allocated to conduct feasibility studies for the development of an e-passport system to replace the existing Integrated Border Management System and Passport Issuance System. If feasible, this new system will enhance the security features and efficiency of Fiji's passport issuance system through the storage of biometric information, including finger print recognition to authenticate the identity of passport holders and eliminate fraud.

Ongoing Initiatives

- Raising the standard of living for the Fijian people through:
 - Prime Minister's Small Grants Scheme (\$9.0 million):
 - a) Education: upgrades school buildings (including kindergartens, classrooms and teachers' quarters), sports grounds, and walkways/footpaths. Also installs solar and water systems and funds the purchase of school furniture and equipment e.g. computers, tables, chairs.
 - b) Community Development: upgrades and constructs evacuation centres, procures sports equipment for youth groups, funds women's empowerment programmes through resource centres, constructs infrastructure projects (water, solar power, rural electrification, drainage improvement and bus shelters), and supports income generation projects, including the procurement of boats and outboard engines.

- Rotuma, Rabi and Kioa Island Councils: provide logistical and administrative support to the various councils (\$465,000).
- Grant to Melanesia Vasu-i-Taukei: provides grants to support development in the Melanesian Vasu-i-Taukei community (\$100,000).
- Ensuring that Fiji's mahogany industry is developed sustainably and equitably through:
 - Fiji Mahogany Trust: supports the development of the mahogany industry and the activities of the Trust, which represents iTaukei landowners (\$250,000).
- Maintaining and improving office facilities to improve the services that are delivered to the public through:
 - Prime Minister's Office Complex: begins construction work on the office complex following the completion of the design phase (\$5.0 million).
 - Upgrade of Prime Minister's Residence: commences upgrades at the Prime Minister's official residence to address structural defects and prevent further deterioration through major restoration and refurbishment (\$2.4 million).
- Improving access to immigration services and managing flows of people into Fiji in an effective and secure fashion through:
 - Integrated Passport Issuance System: improves access to immigration services. Passport issuance systems have already been procured to allow Fijians to obtain passports from the Labasa and Nadi Immigration Offices. The Labasa Immigration Office began issuing passports in June, 2017 and funds are allocated in 2017-2018 to complete the setup of the passport issuance system at the new Nadi Immigration Office in Namaka (\$250,000).