

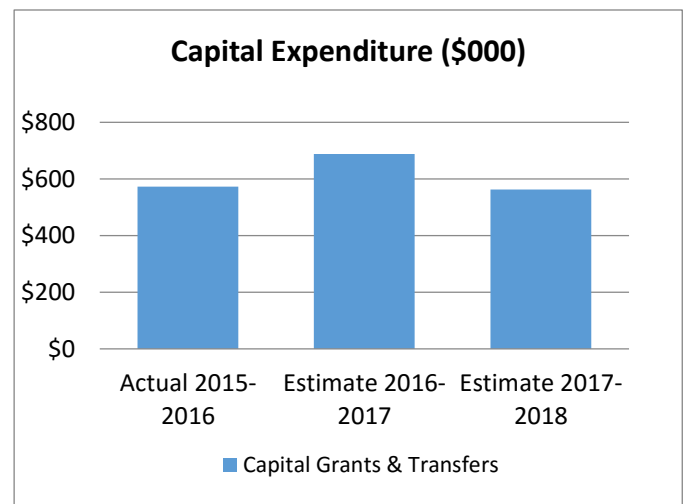
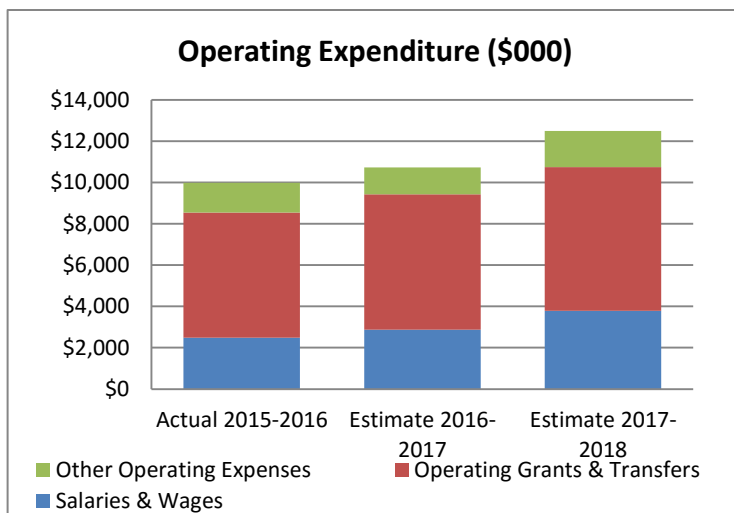


## The Fijian Government Ministry of iTaukei Affairs 2017-2018 Budget Highlights

The Ministry of iTaukei Affairs is responsible for developing policy solutions and providing services for the good governance and wellbeing of the iTaukei people. It is the duty of the Ministry to uphold the rights of iTaukei, as enshrined in the Fijian Constitution, over their land and fishing grounds, and to their fair share of royalties from minerals extracted from their land.

Through its work, the Ministry ensures that iTaukei institutions operate with the best interests of all iTaukei in mind and to carry out the Fijian Government's commitment to promote and preserve iTaukei culture, customs, traditions and language. The Ministry also works to empower iTaukei landowners to make sustainable and productive use of the land so that they raise their standard of living. For iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB), which is the trustee responsible for the administration of customary land on behalf of all iTaukei landowners, the Ministry provides policy advice and other support to the Prime Minister and Minister of iTaukei Affairs as chairperson of the TLTB.

The total budget for the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs in 2017-2018 is **\$13.2 million**, comprising **\$12.5 million** for operating expenditure, **\$0.6 million** for capital expenditure and VAT of **\$0.1 million**.



The increase of **\$1.7 million** in the Ministry's 2017-2018 Budget is mainly attributed to:

- an increase in the operating grants and transfers due to an increase in the Turaga-ni-koro allowance from \$75 to \$87 per month; and
- an increase in special expenditures due to increases in staffing to manage the Computerisation of *Vola ni Kawa Bula* (VKB) and Cultural Mapping Programme.

The decrease in the capital budget allocation is due to a transfer of \$0.13 million to the operational budget of the iTaukei Lands and Fisheries Commission in 2017-2018 for the regularisation of project officers to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of project implementation.

### New Initiatives

- \$177,226 is allocated to fund the salaries of project officers for the VKB Rollout and the creation of 14 Data Entry Operators positions. These operators will each be placed in each province (total of 14 provinces) to assist with issues arising from iTaukei land ownership, customary fishing grounds, village boundaries and traditional titles.

### Ongoing Initiatives

- Operational Grants to iTaukei Affairs Board (TAB), Provincial Councils, Turaga-ni-Koros, Mata-ni-Tikinas and Na Mata: funds the operations of the TAB and Provincial Councils and covers the monthly allowances of Turaga-ni-Koros, which have been increased from \$75 to \$87 per month to better support their roles in developing communities (\$6.9 million).
- Operational and Capital Budget for iTaukei Lands and Fisheries Commission: funds the operations of the iTaukei Lands and Fisheries Commission and covers capital expenditure, namely the demarcation of un-surveyed land, survey of demarcated land and demarcation of village boundaries. In the upcoming budget cycle, planned works include the demarcation in Serua (scheduled for completion by 2018), Macuata and Lau (scheduled for completion by 2020), Serua and Yasawa (scheduled for completion by 2020) and the continued demarcation and registration of another 80 villages in the Register of iTaukei Villages (\$2.6 million).
- Institute of Language and Culture: funds the activities of the Institute, along with the Cultural Mapping Programme, Special Revitalisation Programme, Cultural Awareness Programme and the iTaukei Dictionary (\$1.1 million).