



Parliamentary Question

**Minister for Housing and Local Government
Honourable Maciu K. Nalumisa**

Parliamentary Question 316/2024

**Parliament
Government Buildings
SUVA**

Friday 6 December 2024

Written Question

Hon. Premila Kumar to ask the Minister for Local Government and Housing – Can the Minister inform the Parliament on the details of official overseas trips taken by the Special Administrators from January 2023 to November 2024, specifically –

- a) A year-wise breakdown of total number of overseas trips undertaken by the Special Administrators in each Municipality**
- b) The amount funded by each Council; and**
- c) The purpose and accomplishments of each trip.**

Mr. Speaker Sir, pursuant to Standing Order 45(3), I submit my Written Response to the question by Hon. Premila Kumar.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I wish to provide an account of official overseas trips undertaken by Special Administrators of Fiji's Municipal Councils from January 2023 to November 2024. These trips

were undertaken with the purpose of enhancing capacity building, fostering partnerships, and aligning our municipal operations with international best practices. I will outline the details of these trips, including their purpose, activities, and the significant accomplishments achieved as a result.

Part A – Break Down of Overseas Trips Undertaken by Special Administrators

Mr. Speaker Sir, between January 2023 and November 2024, only three (3) Municipal Council Special Administrators participated in 8 official overseas trips. These trips were planned, ensuring they addressed key capacity-building needs for Municipal Councils and delivered tangible outcomes that benefit local governance and the citizens of Fiji.

The destinations, hosts, and themes of these trips included engagements with international municipal bodies, attendance at global conferences, and participation in regional training programs. The overseas trips were funded by the respective International Agencies. The Municipal Councils only paid for the incidental and per diem allowance to the Special Administrators.

Detailed information are as follows:

Council	Details of the Trip	Year Attended	No. of Trips Attended
Nadi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th Asia - Pacific Urban Forum [APUF-8], Seoul, Republic of Korea 20/10/2023 - 29/10/2023. The trip was attended by Attended by Chair Lawrence Kumar. ICLEI World Congress, Sao Paulo, Brazil 15/06/2024 - 24/06/2024. Attended by SA Chair, Saliceni Raiwalui. 	1. October 2023 2. June 2024	2
Labasa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COP28 UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates 09/12/23-14/12/23. The trip was attended by Attended by SA Doreen Miller. 	1. December 2023	1

Suva	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8th Asia - Pacific Urban Forum [APUF-8], Seoul, Republic of Korea 20/10/2023 - 29/10/2023. The trip was attended by Attended by Chair Ritesh Singh. • Waste Management Technologies (seminar) 16/03 - 19/03/2024. The trip was attended by Attended by Chair Tevita Boseiwaqa. • Smart City Summit & Expo Kaohsiung, Taiwan 21/03 - 26/03-/2024. Attended by Chair Tevita Boseiwaqa. • 5th China Shaoxing International Friendship Cities Conference 18/05 - 28/05/2024. Attended by Chair Tevita Boseiwaqa. • International Workshop on Climate Change Impacts on Oceans 29/09 - 05/10/2024. Attended by Chair Tevita Boseiwaqa 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. October 2023 2. March 2024 3. March 2024 4. May 2024 5. Sep-Oct 2024 	5
Total			8

Part B - Amount funded by each Council

Mr. Speaker Sir, between January 2023 and November 2024, three (3) Municipal Councils funded the eight (8) overseas trips for Special Administrators in the sum of \$20,712.78. The said sum comprises of the payment of visa application fees, meals, per diem allowances and incidental costs.

The detail of the specific costs of the trips are as follows:

Part C - Purpose and Accomplishments of Each Trip

Mr. Speaker Sir, these overseas trips have delivered far-reaching benefits for Fiji's municipal councils. The capacity-building initiatives have equipped Special Administrators with the skills, knowledge, and global insights required to lead reforms and improve service delivery.

Some notable impacts include are as follows:

Council	Details of the Trip	Cost of the Trip
Nadi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8th Asia - Pacific Urban Forum - \$1,900.85• ICLEI World Congress - \$4,099.50	\$6,000.35
Labasa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• COP28 UN Climate Change Conference	Nil
Suva	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8th Asia - Pacific Urban Forum - \$3,919.08• Waste Management Technologies (seminar) - \$2,329.38• Smart City Summit & Expo - \$4,147.12• 5th China Shaoxing International Friendship Cities Conference - \$2,764.28• International Workshop on Climate Change Impacts on Oceans - \$1,552.57	\$14,712.43
Total		\$20,712.78

Council	Purpose	Accomplishments
Nadi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum reflected on colliding crisis faced by Cities in Asia & Pacific for action for Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] • The World Congress session unveiled what it means for cities, towns, and regions across the world in the face of unprecedented change and uncertainty. The need for action-oriented impact and innovative solutions becomes more pressing than ever, and the session discussed a broad set of voices, as we co-develop key messages, which feed into the Roadmap to COP30. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insights on how best to support sustainable urban development through deliberations on real-world experiences of resilience-building and transformation through and beyond the Pandemic. • Integrating resilience into the legal, policy and planning frameworks and institutions to build a stronger and more resilient Fiji is a critical issue. This includes mainstreaming disaster risk management and climate change adaptation into the core government documents and institutions to achieve 'risk-informed' development. It also includes reviewing disaster risk management legislation and policies.
Labasa	Participated in the Local Leaders Summit to Voice Out How Climate Change Is Affecting Them, And What Are The Plans	Voicing Out How Climate Change is Affecting Labasa Town; Call on governments to speed up the transition away from fossil fuels to renewables such as wind and solar power in their next round of climate commitments.
Suva	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum reflected on colliding crisis faced by Cities in Asia & Pacific for action for Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] • Participated in the seminar and learned about the practices adopted by other Smart Cities. • Participated in panel discussions for Sustainable Living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insights on how best to support sustainable urban development through deliberations on real-world experiences of resilience-building and transformation through and beyond the Pandemic. • Learning the technologies used by other Smart Cities on Waste Management. SCC along with Sigatoka Town Council were

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Special Administrators were invited to attend the conference and also networked for friendship cities. • Participated in the Local Leaders Summit and Voice Out How Climate Change is affecting smaller nations. 	<p>nominated by the Hon. Min. to attend the seminar in Hyderabad, India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Special Administrators participated in panel discussions for Sustainable Living. This Summit was held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan where Chairman Boseiwaqa joined SA Ravai and 1 Directors from Hyderabad, India. • Participated in the workshop and gained practices for Suva City to adopt resilience practices to tackle impacts of Climate Change
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Mr. Speaker Sir, all overseas trips were undertaken with accountability and transparency. The trip's expenses, objectives, and outcomes were meticulously documented and reviewed to ensure value for public funds.

The accomplishments outlined underscore the importance of continued investment in capacity building. By empowering Special Administrators, we are strengthening municipal governance and ensuring the long-term development of our cities and towns.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the response to the written question is respectfully submitted.