

RESETTLEMENT PLAN

Fiji: Transport Infrastructure Investment Sector Project

Queens Road Rehabilitation Project (QRRP B): Site 4C – Vatukarasa Grave Relocation



ADB Project Number: 48141
ADB Loan Number: 3210-FIJ
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Prepared by Fiji Roads Authority for the Asian Development Bank and World Bank.

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Abbreviations

ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
CR5	-	China Railway
GOF	-	Government of Fiji
GSA	-	Greater Suva Area
HQ	-	Headquarters
LARDD	-	Land Acquisition and Resettlement Due Diligence
LARF	-	Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework
QRRP	-	Queens Rd Rehabilitation Project
TIISP	-	Transport Infrastructure Investment Sector Project
WB	-	World Bank

1.0 Executive Summary and Project Description

1. With loan funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank (WB), together with funding from the Government of Fiji (GOF), the Fiji Roads Authority are implementing the Transport Infrastructure Investment Sector Project (TIISP). TIISP will improve access to socio-economic opportunities by upgrading and rehabilitating land and maritime transport infrastructure across the Fiji Islands. The overall objectives of the Project are improved access to markets, employment opportunities, and social services. The outcome will be improved safety and resilience of land and maritime transport infrastructure for users of project roads, bridges and rural jetties and wharves
2. One of the sub-projects proposed under this package is the Queens Road Rehabilitation Package B Sub-project. Queens Road Rehabilitation package B sub-project involves the rehabilitation and upgrade of four sections of sealed road in the Western (Nadroga Province) Divisions with an approximate total length of 20km. The sub- project involves road pavement upgrades, small sections of road widening within the existing road reserve, footpath repairs and footpath installations. The approximate total cost of this sub-project is FJ\$50m.
3. The objective of the sub-project is to lower the overall road maintenance costs, improve the safety of road users (drivers and pedestrians) and improve the travel comfort of road users. Other outcomes expected from the sub- project will be lower road user costs through reduced damage to vehicles. This will be achieved by rehabilitating the existing road pavements that have reached the end of their serviceable life.
4. In 2020 a Queens Road Rehabilitation Project (QRRP) B Land Acquisition and Resettlement Due Diligence (LARDD) Report was prepared by the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA)¹. The LARDD Report screened the sub-project for land use and involuntary resettlement impacts. In 2022, the TIISP project management unit identified some cases of unforeseen physical and economic displacement impacts that were not included within the 2020 LARDD Report. As such, the FRA have instigated a review and verification of sites under construction, yet to be constructed and already completed to ensure compliance with the Project's social safeguards legal covenants. This corrective action is in keeping with social safeguards policy and process guidance outlined within the Project's Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework (LARF)².
5. This Resettlement Plan focuses on project impacts to the Vatukarasa Graves at QRUP B : Site 4C.
6. The FRA conducted land screening at Site 4C of the QRRP B in 2020 however the Project design team recommended a change in the original scope of work in 2022 which would result in impacts to one grave site within the road reserve.
7. The Findings of this QRRP Resettlement Plan for Site 4C confirms that one grave located within the road reserve will be impacted by the proposed design changes. During consultations, the affected families and community agreed to allow for the relocation of the impacted grave away from the road reserve and also requested that an additional six graves located on customary land at the side of the road reserve also be relocated to keep the grave sites together. FRA agreed to undertake the physical resettlement of the seven total grave sites on a voluntary basis, with full permission of affected families who were given the option to reject the proposed grave relocation.
8. This Resettlement Plan (LARP) has been prepared and submitted to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank (WB) in compliance with the Project social safeguards obligations set out within the Project Legal Agreement. The RP adherences to the Project LARF, following ADB/WB approval of the RP, disclosure of the RP on the FRA/ADB/WB website and implementation of the RP (including compensation and assistances provided), the FRA will provide the contractors with "No Objection" to construct physical works at Site 4C.

¹ <https://www.fijiroads.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ADB-Queens-Road-LARDD-Report-10-June-2020.pdf>

² <https://www.fijiroads.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Land-Acquisition-and-Resettlement-Framework-May-2016.pdf>

2.0 Scope of Resettlement Impacts at QRUP B – 4C

Community consultations were held with community representatives from the clan (Mataqali) of Nabili which consists of 3 sub-clans namely; Nalouragi, Waralumu and Burelevu July of 2022. The consultation was focused on understanding the history of the graves, identifying affected persons – both deceased and their family members and obtaining their views on whether they wish to have the one affected grave relocated from the road reserve. The outcome of this consultation is described below, minutes of the meeting are annexed to this Resettlement Plan.

The subject site known as Nakorovatu; lies within Site 4C of the QRRP B, approximately one kilometer from Vatukarasa Village over the bridge towards Namada Village (towards Suva). Nakorovatu is an old burial ground / grave site for Vatukarasa Village. It consists of seven (7) graves, of which only one (1) grave is affected by proposed physical works and lies in the allocated roadside drain reserve and six (6) graves lie in customary land outside the scope of the Project. All the 7 graves belong to the Clan (Mataqali) of Nabili which consists of 3 sub-clans namely; Nalouragi, Waralumu and Burelevu.

Figure 1 – Locality of Current Location of the 7 Graves



Figure 2 – Picture of the 7 Graves



The initial Clan's burial ground was on the opposite side of the road towards the sea. Due to climate change with sea level rise; only one grave remains; while the rest have been washed away by the sea. It was then relocated to the other side of the road on the landward / hill ward side in 2012; which is the current subject site. Out of the seven graves; the villagers and clan members can only identify three graves belonging to the late Varanisese Tabaiwalu, Ratu Inia Tukere and Naibuka Fong. The other four graves could not be identified as to which ones belonged to the late - Napolioni Bolakoro, Mosese Kukimosi, Ratu Meli Navara and Josivini Bau. The Nakorovatu burial grounds is no longer used by the Clan (Mataqali) of Nabili; as they have identified a new burial ground known as Waimara which they are currently using. Waimara burial ground is towards the other end of the village approximately 300 meters landward side; from the Queens Highway traversing towards Sovi Bay. According to the Head of the Clan and its members; they were planning to exhume the human remains and relocate them to Waimara burial grounds; but had not been able to until now.

The construction design includes a drain within road reserve; where 1 grave is currently located. Consultations was done with the rightful Clan Members of the possibility of relocating that 1 grave (Minutes annexed). The clan consented to the relocation on a voluntary basis and were given the option to refuse the relocation; the clan agreed to a relocation of the grave and requested FRA to relocate the affected grave and the other 6 unaffected graves to the Waimara burial grounds which they are currently using.

Figure 3 – Locality of the 3 Burial Grounds



Figure 4 – Picture of Waimara Burial Site (Currently used by Clan of Nabili)



3.0 **Information Disclosure, Consultation and Participation**

Consultations with the Head of the Clan and Clan members; confirms their consent to the relocation of the 7 graves from Nakorovatu (subject site) to Waimara (current burial grounds). The contractors & FRA have agreed to assist in the relocating of the entire graveyard of 7 graves instead of only that 1 grave that is within the road reserve.

The Clan of Nabili have confirmed to be responsible for the performing of all traditional rituals regarding the disinterment and reinterred of their late Clan Members remains' while the contractor will assist in the digging of the burial pits. The Clan of Nabili plans to have 1 big pit being dug up and all remains will be laid side by side covered in traditional Tapa (Masi) wear. All immediate families of the 7 Graves have given their consent and agreed of the process and traditional ritual that will be followed during the relocation day.

The budget for relocation of the seven graves was discussed and the budget was agreed with all participants of \$3,850 Fijian dollars, which includes the cost of material and customary ceremony/rituals. FRA confirmed that this budget is in compliance with the Project Entitlement Matrix set out within the Project LARF.

The Clan confirms to be ready for the date of this relocation. FRA will advise the confirmed date after all regulatory approvals have been received and that the Resettlement Plan would be sent to ADB/WB for confirmation that due process has been followed.

4.0 **Grievance Redress Mechanism**

Affected and interested persons will be provided with details of the TIISP GRM which is available at the FRA website <https://www.fijiroads.org/contact-us/>, toll free number: 5720 or email: info@fijiroads.org

The key functions of the GRM is to (i) record, categorize and prioritize the grievances; (ii) settle the grievances in consultation with complainant(s) and other stakeholders; (iii) inform the aggrieved parties about the solutions; and (iv) forward the unresolved cases to higher authorities.

The subproject manager or engineer supported by FRA's social specialist or impact manager and consultants will be the grievance focal point to receive, review and address project related concerns and to resolve disputes relating to the grave resettlement in coordination with the government authorities. Affected persons will be made fully aware of their rights during consultations about the relocation requirements under the Project. No costs will be charged for anybody making a complaint. APs/DPs will be exempted from any fees associated with resolving the grievance pursuant to the project's grievance redress procedure.

Complaints will be recorded and investigated by FRA's social specialist/ impact manager working with relevant staff of the individual subproject. The FRA will be immediately informed/updated of any complaints from affected persons by FRA's social specialist/ impact manager. A complaints register will be maintained which will show the details and nature of the complaint, the complainant, the date and actions taken as a result of the investigation. It will also cross-reference any safeguard compliance report or other relevant documentation.

When subproject implementation starts at the grave site, a sign will be erected at the site providing the public with updated project information and summarizing the grievance redress mechanism process including contact details of FRA's social specialist/impact manager. All corrective actions and complaints responses carried out on site will be reported back to FRA. FRA will include information from the complaints register and corrective actions/responses in its progress reports to the ADB and WB. In the whole process, relevant Fiji agencies (DOL, TLTB, etc.) will be always available to review public complaints and advice on the FRA's performance for grievance redress.

A description of the steps of the Grievance Redress Process are available within the Project's LARF which is described in the following table:

Stage	Process	Duration
1	DP/village head or traditional chief takes grievance to FRA's social impact manager	Any time
2	FRA's social impact manager reviews and finds solution to the problem in consultation with village head or traditional chief and relevant agencies	2 weeks
3	FRA's social impact manager reports back an outcome to village/traditional chief/DP	1 week
If unresolved or not satisfied with the outcome by FRA's social impact manager		
4	DP/village head or traditional chief take grievance FRA CEO.	Within 2 weeks of receipt of decision in step 3
5	FRA CEO reviews and find a solution in coordination with relevant agencies	4 weeks
6	FRA CEO reports back the solution/decision to DP/village head or traditional chief	1 week
If unresolved or at any stage if DP is not satisfied		
DP/village head or chief can take the matter to appropriate court		As per judicial system

5.0 Legal Framework and Institutional Regulatory Approvals

The following table outlines the legal framework and the responses / approvals from the country's regulatory institutions that governs Traditional Burial Grounds:

INSTITUTIONS	LEGAL COVERAGE	COMMENTS	APPROVAL / CONSENT DATE
Nadroga / Navosa Provincial Council	Ministry of Itaukei Affairs – Governing Institution for all Itaukei Villages in Fiji	Supports the Consent of the Clan of Nabili of Vanua Conua, Vatukarasa for the relocation.	Support Letter dated 21/10/22 annexed
Sigatoka Sub - Divisional Health Inspector	Ministry of Health – Oversees and approves burial grounds	<p>Inspections done on 11/10/22 and approval for the relocation received on 24/11/22 subject to the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The correct grave is opened. 2. The exhumation commences as early as possible to ensure the maximum privacy and in between 6am to 6pm. 3. The plot is screened as appropriate for privacy. 4. The immediate family of the exhumed bodies are informed and have given their approval. 5. All cultural and traditional rites to be accorded should the family members insist. 6. The exhumed human remains must be placed in an appropriate casket to the satisfaction of the immediate family members prior to being reinterred. 7. This disinterment and reinterred of the human remains shall be done on a day with forecasted favorable weather. 8. The supervision of the disinterment and reinterred to be supervised by a Health Official. 9. Good Hygienic Practice to be maintained throughout the process; that is handlers are to wear puncture proof gloves and mask. 10. The area of exhumation to be properly disinfected prior to filling. 	<p>In response to the Conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All the seven graves will be relocated; thus all graves will be opened. 2. Once approval is given then a date is scheduled for a good weather forecast and be done early in the morning. 3. The Plot will be dug up and as agreed in the consultation that all remains will be buried in one big plot. 4. The immediate families have given their consent. Annexed. 5. As discussed and agreed in the consultation that the whole clan will be performing all the cultural and traditional rituals for this relocation. 6. A casket will be available for all the human remains; each would be wrapped up in traditional tapa wear. 7. As soon as approval is received from ADB and WB; then a date will be confirmed with forecasted favorable weather. 8. Once date of relocation is confirmed, the Health Office will be notified so that an official is present to supervise. 9. All the participants / handlers will be wearing puncture proof gloves and mask. 10. It will be ensured that area of exhumation will be disinfected prior to filling.
Director Fiji Museum	Ministry of Culture and Heritage – analyses exhumed of human remains	Confirms via telecommunication enquiry with Director Elia; that there's no need for His team to conduct assessment as Graveyard is known and also marked.	Not Applicable.

6.0 Resettlement Plan and Institutional Arrangements

STEPS	DAY	ACTIONS	PARTY
1	1 Day Prior to Resettlement Day (RD)	The contractor will dig a big Burial Pit at Waimara Burial Ground	CRFG
2	Resettlement Day	The head of the Clan and Clan members of Nabili will perform a traditional yaqona ceremony amongst themselves and the Vanua(Traditional Zone) of Conua.	Clan Nabili
3	Resettlement Day	The contractor will help dig up/ open up the 7 graves	CRFG
4	Resettlement Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clan of Nabili will exhume the human remains and wrap each of them in the traditional Tapa (Masi) Wear and will be placed in a casket. • All Handlers will be wearing puncture proof gloves and mask. • Areas of exhumation will be disinfected before filling. 	Clan Nabili
5	Resettlement Day	Human remains will be transported to Waimara burial ground accompanied by members of the Clan	CRFG & Clan Nabili
6	Resettlement Day	Laying of the remains side by side in the Burial Pit readily dug and covering of the pit followed with Traditional Rituals and ceremonial church practices to close off the ceremony	Clan Nabili
7	100 Days after Resettlement Day	Cementing and Construction of Grave as per Resettlement Budget	Clan Nabili

7.0 Resettlement Budget and Financial Plan

ITEMS / ACTIVITIES	QUANTITY	COST	TOTAL COST
Cement bags	20 Bags	\$20 per bag	\$400.00
Blocks	60	\$10 per block	\$600.00
Fine Sand	50 bags of 50 KG	\$15 per bag	\$750.00
Machine Works: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extracting remains • Digging of new grave 	N / A	In Kind	In Kind
Rituals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Tapa Wear (Masi) • Yaqona • Miscellaneous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Pieces • 1 KG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200 each • \$100 • \$600 	\$2,100.00
TOTAL			\$3,850.00

8.0 Monitoring and Reporting

- a. Prior to relocation of the graves, information about the Resettlement Plan and Grievance Redress Mechanism will be provided and advertised widely with the affected Village should there be any issues raised regarding the grave resettlement.
- b. The team FRA / Sheladia Associates, Inc. / CRFG 5 reps will be present on the day of the grave resettlement to monitor and ensure that the Resettlement Plan is actioned appropriately without any disputes or other disturbances.
- c. After the grave resettlement day, a report will be circulated with photographic evidence of the Resettlement Event.
- d. Grave construction materials will be supplied on the confirmed date of constructing the subject grave (approximately 100 nights after the Resettlement Day as agreed with affected persons) to the Clan Nabili.
- e. A report with photographic evidence of the construction of the new grave site; be submitted to fully close the case.
- f. Implementation of this Resettlement Plan and associated photo evidence will be included with the TIISP Safeguards Bi-annual Report.

9.0 Recommendations

Given that all required level of due diligence for resettlement plan has been carried out both traditionally and regulatory; it is recommended that ADB and WB gives approval for this resettlement plan to be actioned and a No Objection to Construct.

Annexure 1 – Meeting Consultation (Attached)



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Management Section of Queens Road Upgrade Project B

CHINA RAILWAY NO.5 ENGINEERING GROUP (FIJI) LIMITED

Meeting Name:	Vatukarasa Grave Relocation Consultation		
Facilitator	Mr. Atunaisa Nayago (Consultant CWS)	Time:	12:15pm
Date:	05/07/2022	Location:	Vatukarasa Village

1.0 ATTENDEES:

- Livai Koro – Fiji Roads Authority – Western Division
- Silio T – Civil Works Solution (CWS)
- Miliana Navia – China Railway No.5 Engineering Group
- Apenisa Lanivia – Turaga ni Mataqali – Vatukarasa Village
- Tawake Meli – Vatukarasa Village
- Pauliasi Ratu Mali – Vatukarasa Village
- Ifereimi Navovo – Turaga ni Koro, Vatukarasa Village
- Ratu Epeli Vamohi – Vatukarasa Village.

2.0 WELCOMING & INTRODUCTION:

Before the commencement of the meeting, a *sevusevu* was presented to the Mataqali head and the members. The meeting facilitator, Mr. Nayago then started the meeting by briefly introducing the different representatives present and then proceeded explaining the purpose of the visit and the consultation.

3.0 MEETING DELIBERATIONS:

Mr. Nayago informed the attendants that the main reason for the meeting was to first enquire about the history of the burial ground beside the road near Vatukarasa village, establish the number graves on that burial ground and explore the possibility of a relocation. The current location will be impacted by the road upgrade works that is



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currently in progress and it only proper to consider those impacts and provide the best options. After much deliberations it was agreed that the all the graves will be relocated.

4.0 MEETING OUTCOME:

4.1 History of the burial ground:

Mr. Tawake, a representative of the Mataqali Nabili, explained that the current burial ground was actually the first relocation that was done about 10 years ago. The initial burial ground was on the opposite towards the sea and currently only one grave is there today. The reason for the relocation was that a good number of graves was washed away into the sea, hence the first relocation.

4.2 Number of graves on the site:

Ms. Navia enquired about the number of graves now at the burial ground in discussion. Mr. Tawake explained that there are about 7 graves on the current burial ground. Three of those graves are identified and their names are given below, whereas the other four graves could not be identified neither could the Mataqali members:

1. Varanisese Tabaiwalu
2. Inia Tabaiwalu
3. Naibuka.

4.3 Grave Relocation Options:

The Mataqali Nabili members that were present have agreed to relocate all the remaining graves to another site.

4.4 Proposed Relocation Site:

The Mataqali Nabili have also identified the relocated site. The site is a graveyard which is currently being used now by the villagers. It is located about 300m from the main Queens Highway. The two pictures below show the proposed relocation site.



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Figure 1- New grave relocation site.



Figure 2- A grave at the relocation site.

4.5 Date of Relocation:

The date of relocation will be confirmed by Fiji Roads Authority and will be communicated back to the company and then to the Mataqali. The rituals of the relocation will be performed by the members of Mataqali Nabili.

4.6 Draft Relocation Budget:

\$2,000 was the projected budget proposed by Mr. Livai to which he explained that this was the amount that was usually given out in the past to villagers for similar rituals irrespective of the number of graves relocated. He further added that a tentative budget was to be drawn so as to list all the materials and activities that will be undertaken during the relocation.

Therefore, tabulated below is the draft relocation budget:



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Items/Activities	Quantity	Cost	Total Cost
Cement bags	20 bags	\$20 per bag	\$400
Blocks	60	\$10 per block	\$600
Fine sand	50 bags of 50kg	\$15 per bag	\$750
<i>Machines Works:</i> Extracting of Remains Digging of new grave	N/A	In kind	In kind
Rituals: Masi Yaqona Miscellaneous	7 pieces	\$200 each \$100 \$600	\$2,100
TOTAL			\$3,850.00

4.7 Relocation Works and Rituals:

The Mataqali members will perform all the traditional rituals. CR5G will assist in the digging of the burial pits as was requested by Mr. Yogesh. It was also agreed that one big pit will be dug and all the remains will be laid side by side and covered with the tapa (masi). Mr. Livai also stated that he had seek also advise from Mr. Elia of the Fiji Museum regarding the matter. Mr. Elia advised that there is no need for his team to conduct any assessment because the grave yard is known and also marked.

5.0 OTHER MATTERS:

After the discussions about the grave relocations, there were other issues that were brought up:



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5.1 Complaints:

During the consultation, there were some employment issues that was received by the Mataqali members, Ms. Navia advised that the employment issues should be sent to the Human Resource Department and the department will then advise the management of the company.

5.2 Request for Old Culverts:

Mr. Pauliasi requested if they could use the old culverts for their access way to their plantation as they are finding it difficult now to go to their plantation or to take their animals over because the drainage system now is too deep. They're requesting if an access way could be done for ease of access.

Mr. Livai then informed that the old roadside drainage is not allowed to be used and it is usually taken to the FRA depot. He then stated that CR5G will assist in this matter.

6.0 END OF MEETING:

The meeting proper ended at 1:15pm followed by a site visit to the graveyard and then to the new relocation site.



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7.0 PICTURES:



Figure 1- Meeting attendees



Figure 2-



Figure 3- Site Visit




Figure 4- Relocation site



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8.0 ATTENDANCE SHEET:



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Lot 1 DSS 1775, Sawau Road
Bayview Heights, Suva, Fiji
P.O.Box 863, Suva.

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VATUKARASA VILLAGE CONSULTATION - 5th July, 2022

No.	Name	Address	Contact Details	Signature
1.	APENISA LAMVIA	VATUKARASA	9052137	<i>[Signature]</i>
2.	ESPER TAWAKE MELI	VATUKARASA	9567984	<i>[Signature]</i>
3.	PAULIAS KATH MALU	VATUKARASA	207872	<i>[Signature]</i>
4.	Aunaisa Nanyage	Nakua Suva	7099710	<i>[Signature]</i>
5.	SUSA F	SUSA	720772	<i>[Signature]</i>
6.	Ivanisi Nawanio	VATUKARASA	8690635	<i>[Signature]</i>
7.	Ratu EBELI VASOCHI	VATUKARASA	2859007	<i>[Signature]</i>
8.	Mikiana Nava	CRG, SM	9219724	<i>[Signature]</i>
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Annexure 2 – Health Inspector’s Inspection Report (Attached)

To: Subdivisional Health Inspector Nadroga/Navosa

Date: 10/11/22

From: SAHI Sigatoka

File: AO-1/22

Re: Site Inspection of Existing and Proposed Site for Disinterment and Reinterred of Human Remains at Vatukarasa village.

Reference is herewith made to the above subject via email correspondence dated 29th September, 2022.

.Prior to site inspection, a meeting took place at the TNK’s residence which was attended by the Turaga ni koro (TNK), Mr Ifereimi Navovo and Ms Miliana Navia (the Environment Manager of China Railway) and the Acting Tui Conua, Ratu Inia including me.

According to Ms Miliana, on the first consultation meeting she was not present, but was present on the second consultation meeting which was the 5th July 2022 with the TNK, Mr Apenisa and Mr Tawake and on the final consultation meeting which was the 13th September, 2022 with the Assistant Roko Mr Sitiveni, Mr Apenisa Lanivia and Mr Tawake part of the meeting with the TNK not present.

Today, 11/10/22, at 1130hrs I met up with Ms Miliana, Turaga ni Koro and Acting Tui Conua, Ratu Inia and had a brief meeting regarding the exhumation of human remains and its relocation for final burial . However, TNK stated that no proper consultation done with the him and the relatives of the deceased regarding the \$2,000 given by China Railway to Mr Tawake . Ms Miliana countered with clarification on the standing issue. Thus, , Mr Ifereimi Navovo, verbally informed Ms Miliana that since they had approached Mr Apenisa Lanivia, then Mr Apenisa Lanivia (Turaga ni Mataqali) and his team to execute the given task at hand with the exhumation of the human remains, as he and the acting Tui Conua will not be a part of it.

At 1200hrs on 11/10/22, Ms Miliana and I also had a meeting with Mr Apenisa Lanivia regarding the works to be carried out on the exhumation which he rest assured us that the works will be executed on time as they have ordered the coffin and identified and approved the relocated site.

According to Mr Apenisa Lanivia, all the seven exhumations are from the Mataqali Nabili which consists of the 3 sub-clans namely Nalouragi, waralumu and Burelevu.

Meanwhile, approximately 1km away from Vatukarasa village (i.e over the bridge towards Namada village) at Nakorovatu (village old grave site) are the existing seven graves of which one grave lies in the allocated roadside drain while the remaining 6 graves are clustered closed to each other at the same spot just out of the demarcated roadside drain. The topography of the site is flat with dark brown soil texture with shrub layers by the roadside, however, this turn to alter to canopy and slope landward.

The initial burial ground was on the opposite side of the road towards the sea, due to climate change one grave is on site today. The relocation is hereby needed since a good number of graves was washed away into the sea during its first relocation 10 years ago.

Mr Apenisa Lanivia the heald of the mataqali Nabili and his mataqali intend to exhume the human remains and bury at Waimara (Mataqali Nabili burial ground) towards the other end of the village by the Queen’s highway on the landward side . This proposed site has been identified and approved by the Mataqali Nabili for relocation located approximately 300m landward from the main Queen’s highway as you travel towards Sovi Bay. The topography is hard brown soil texture with flat and slope with

landward gradually alters to slightly slope to steep slope. Massive canopy vegetation landward with the relocated site surrounded by shrub layers. Furthermore, China Railway no.5 Engineering Group will be providing machinery while the village through Mr Apenisa Lanivia will be providing manpower on the final relocation of the exhumation of the human remains.

The disinterment and reinterred of human remains is hereby recommended provided that:

1. No dispute of any kind to take place at any time within the village;
2. The applicant to submit written approval of the exhumation and reinterred of the human remains from all immediate families affected;
3. China Railway no.5 Engineering Group to provide machinery whilst, the villagers to provide manpower;
4. Written minutes for the Vanua meeting for the reinterment of the deceased persons to be provided duly certified by the respective provincial office; and
5. Consent and approval be provided by the Central Board of Health


S/Hi Viliame Gonewai



"A Transformed iTaukei Family for a Better Fiji"

TIFB Complex, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Suva | P.O.Box 2100, Government Building Suva
Telephone: 773 0909 | Facsimile: 330 5115 | Email: tab@govnet.gov.fj

21/10/22

The Senior Divisional Medical Officer
Koromumu Hospital
Sigatoka

RE: SUPPORT FOR VANUA CONUA, VATUKARASA VILLAGE

Dear Sir,

This letter is written in support for the decision made by the Vanua Conua, Vatukarasa village with regards to the physically shifting of seven (7) graveyards.

The decision was made with regards to the current improvements and advancement of the main Queens Highway which lies close by to these seven (7) graveyards.

Hence, for this China Railway is the main contractor for this task.

On this note, this office fully supports this application and hope that good sense will prevail.

Vina Valevu,



[J. Qava]
For: Roko Tui Nadroga/Navosa

Annexure 4 – Consent Letter from Close Family Members (Attached)

NABILI, YAVUSA NABILI KEI JKA
 NA 7 NA WEKADRA NK 7 NA 1 BULIBULI

TOKITAKI	WEKADRA
✓ KRANISESE NAINOKA	MOSESE TABALWALI.
RT INIA TUKERE	MOSESE TABALWALI
NABUKA FONG	TONO FONG
NAPOLONI BOLAKORO	RT MELI TAWAKE
MOSESE KUKIMOSI	APENISA LANIVIA
RT MELI NAVARA	RT MELI TAWAKE
JOSVINI BAN	JONE LEDUA

YKCA	MATAQALI	NABILI
RT MELI TAWAKE		SKINI
TEVITA, BULAI		
PAULIAGA RATHMAN		
TECONI LOURU		
MISIWANI NASEGO		

In the village of Vatukarasa, Baravi, Nadroga, Yavusa (tribe) Nabili, Mataqali (clan) Naabili, in regards to the relocation of the 7 burial graves from their original location on our burial grounds

The so-mentioned Yavusa and Mataqali Nabili have given their consent to un-earth these 7 burial graves and be relocated to another site, on a piece of land of the Yavusa Nabili, Mataqali Nabili for the purpose of widening the road running along these graves. Consent to relocate these graves, have also been given by the immediate families of the deceased.

As the practice of our elders, this ceremony will involve some traditional ceremonies where Tabua (whale's tooth), Yaqona (kava), i-vivivi (Traditional mats & masi-tapa) and a feast is presented.

We, the Yavusa and Mataqali Nabili humbly request your assistance to carry out this solemn duty.

The village of Vatukarasa, Yavusa Nabili and Mataqali Nabili have set aside Friday 23rd September to undertake this dignified ritual.

We sincerely hope that you will consider our humble request to enable us to undertake the responsibility laid upon us in regards to the necessary road works running through our customary land.

Attached is the list of names and signatures of the Yavusa Nabili, Mataqali Nabili and the families of the deceased who are representatives of the Yavusa and Mataqali Nabili.

****Translation of the main body of the original letter from i-Taukei to English (Page 1 only)***

YACA

SAINI

AWFEREJI TAMACATE
KPENISA LANIVIA
Sireli Tamatia
Morse Navalu

Kyanta
Aniviy.
Hansko
Kivaku



中铁五局斐济女王路升级 B 标项目经理部

Management Section of Queens Road Upgrade Project B

CHINA RAILWAY NO.5 ENGINEERING GROUP (FIJI) LIMITED

Lot 1 DSS 1775, Sawau Road
Bayview Heights, Suva, Fiji
P.O.BOX 863, Suva

Tel: 8070754
Fax:
E-mail: cr5ggrupb@163.com

Contract No: FRA TIISP 20-14B

Contract Name: QRUP Package B

Employer: Fiji Roads Authority

Engineer: SHELADIA

Ref number: QRUP-NTE-169

Date: 28th November, 2022

Subject: Vatukarasa Grave Relocation Approval

Dear Sir,

Please find attached the approval from the Minister of Health and Medical Services to relocate the 7 graves at Vatukarasa. The approval is subject to the following conditions:

- The confirmed date and time of the relocation work to be communicated to the Sigatoka Health Office;
- The relocation work to be supervised by the Sigatoka Health Office; and
- The required religious protocols are adhered to.

Submitted for your information.

Yours faithfully,

Jin Ming

Contractor's Representative

China Railway No.5 Engineering Group (Fiji) Limited



28th November 2022

Engineers

**Development
Consultants**

Architects

15825 Shady Grove Road
Suite 100
Rockville, MD 20850
USA
Tel 301-590-3939
Fax 301-948-7174
www.sheladia.com

Ref. #: Sheladia QRUP/0070/2022/11/28

Attn: **Yogesh Raju**
Programme Manager – Central
Fiji Roads Authority
Level 4, Fiji Development Bank Building,
360 Victoria Parade, Suva, Fiji Islands

Contract No. FRA TIISP 19-54

Contract Title: Construction Supervision, Rehabilitation of Queens Road –
Lami to Yako

Communication No. NTF 070

**Subject: Approval for Disinterment and Relocation of 7 No. Graves Vatukarasa
Area**

Dear Sir,

The Contractor, CR5G, has obtained the necessary clearances to relocate the 7
number graves near the Vatukarasa bridge, please see the attachments from the
Ministry of Health.

We would be most grateful if you could obtain the clearances and no objection from
the ADB and WB so that the relocation works of the graves can commence

Yours faithfully

On behalf of Sheladia Associates Inc. USA

(ROGER J HODGSON)

Resident Engineer
FRA TIISP 19-54 QRUP

International Offices

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Burkina Faso
Ethiopia
India
Kenya
Niger
Philippines
Rwanda
Tanzania
Uganda

Encl. – NTE 169 & Ministry of Health Approval Letter

Copy to:

- Mr Charlie Ward - TIISP Portfolio Management Consultant
- Mr Jeff Young – Sheladia Managing Director - Transport
- Mr Anil Anumarlapudin - Sheladia Assistant Vice President, Sheladia Associates Inc. USA
- Atunasia Nayago - CWS Managing Director

Minister- Health & Medical Services,

Dear Sir,

**Re: Disinterment of 7 human remains from Vatukarasa village
grave site at Nakorovatu to reinternment at Waimara Mataqali
Nabili burial ground**

The office is in receipt of the above mentioned matter. The applicant, China Railway No.5 Engineering Group Fiji Limited seeks advice and precautionary measures in exhuming and relocating human remains.

After comprehensively evaluating the information given, the following was noted:

1. China Railway No.5 Engineering Group Fiji Limited has been contracted to carry out rehabilitation works along 6 different sections of the Queen's Road along the corridor of Namada Village and Nawaicoba with a total construction length of 22.3km.
2. Improvements to the drainage system will entail re-location of 7 human remains from Vatukarasa Village old burial site.
3. Several consultation meetings (minutes attached) have occurred with the deceased family members to relocate the said 7 human remains.
4. China Railway No.5 Engineering Group Fiji Limited has agreed to pay all relocation works for the 7 human remains.
5. Consent has been sought from the 7 families concerned and a copy is attached.
6. A support letter from Roko Tui Nadroga/Navosa's office is also attached in favour of the relocation of the 7 human remains from old Vatukasa village grave yard to Waimara Mataqali Nabili burial ground.

Based on the above, the following is recommended subject to your approval:


1. The applicant to submit written approval of the exhumation and reinterred of human remains from the immediate families affected.

2. The applicant to confirm the time of the exhumation and reinterred process to allow health officials presence.
3. Should the application be approved, all recommendations as per approval letter attached to be adhered to within the period of exhumation and reinterred of the human remains.
4. Future applications of such matter to adhere to guidelines stipulated under the Burial and Cremation Act, Cap 117

Supervision for this exhumation and reinter process will be provided by my team from Sigatoka Health Office.

The above is for your information and attached is a letter for your kind endorsement to permit this request.

With regards,



.....
Kharishma Devi

Senior Health Inspector- Burial & Cremation

01-11-2022



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Ref: MD 6/8/7

Date: 24/11/2022

Mr. Jin Ming
China Railway No.5 Engineering Group Fiji Limited
P.O. Box 863,
SUVA

Dear Sir,

Re: Approval for Disinterment of 7 human remains from Vatukarasa village old grave site to reinterment at Waimara Mataqali Nabili burial ground

Reference is made to the above mentioned.

The Ministry of Health acknowledges your submission and after assessing the information and documents, the Ministry of Health gives approval to the disinterment of 7 human remains from Vatukarasa village old grave site to reinterment at Waimara Mataqali Nabili burial ground subject to the following conditions:

To ensure decency:

- The correct grave is opened.
- The exhumation commences as early as possible in the morning to ensure maximum privacy and in between 6am to 6pm.
- The plot is screened as appropriate for privacy.
- The immediate family of the exhumed bodies are informed and have given their approval.
- All cultural and traditional rites to be accorded should the family members insist.
- The exhumed human remains must be placed in an appropriate casket to the satisfaction of the immediate family members prior to being reinterred.

To ensure safety:

- This disinterment and reinterred of the human remains shall be done on a day with a forecasted favourable weather.
- The supervision of the disinterment and reinterred to be supervised by a Health Official.
- Good Hygienic Practice to be maintained throughout the process; that is handlers are to wear puncture proof gloves and mask.
- The area of exhumation to be properly disinfected prior to filling.

Respectively submitted for your information.



.....
Hon Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete
Minister for Health and Medical Services