

Fiji Mahogany Survey

David Chang (Fiji)

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SUMMARY

The Fiji Mahogany is a globally categorized timber due to its unique appearances therefore greatly in demand and is predicted to bring forth great returns upon maturity. Originally initiated by the British Colonial Government in the early 1950's, the afforestation program was carried out on vacant Itaukei Land whereby stumpage payment was exercised. Depending on size and quality, payments were deduced on the volume of timber extracted from tree stumps. Leasing arrangements were still in place with duration of 99 years on an annual rental of thirteen cents per hectare. The ideology of surveying existing forest land to determine extent of area cultivated, for relevant documentation and leasing is the current government's initiative towards facilitating the availability of land for productive purposes through the implementation of a market – based standard of utilizing land whereby both landowners and tenants enjoy justifiable returns. The Lands department was delegated to carry out the survey of the mahogany plantations in Fiji. Declared as a government commercial company under the Public Enterprise Act and incorporated under the Companies Act, transformed into a privatized company for the purpose of developing the Mahogany Industry in Fiji, including the harvesting and processing of mahogany forest, the proposed allotment designing were solely at their discretion. Considering the afforestation program undertaken by the mentioned firm, the proposed lot designing were mostly determined by the scheduled planting timetable hence a lot consist of young trees planted within the same period convenient during the harvesting whereby logging would particularly be in operation within the tentatively defined boundary making it easier for machineries involved to focus at a specified block. The government surveyor was tasked to commence with the survey of the Mahogany Forest in Fiji with a period of approximately 10years. Naturally bounded in the form of creeks, rivers the lots concerned generally comprised of more than hundred hectares of land covering the most part of Fiji. The survey enhances skills and knowledge, whilst exploring new technological platforms to deliver quality services and contributing to the nation building success.