

37/2019

Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua to ask the Minister for Employment, productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports – Can the Minister inform Parliament on all the policies and programmes under which the youth clubs registered with the Ministry of Youth and Sports can benefit by way of income generating projects?

- Honourable Speaker, the Ministry has a National Youth Policy which is the overarching document that aligns our programs and activities as a Ministry. Besides this we have a policy on Allocation of Grants that governs the processes and procedures for the facilitation of our grants programs allocated under the Ministry of Youth and Sports and an

important criteria is the age of applicants to be within 15 – 35 years.

- Honourable Speaker, our Grants programs that targets income generating projects include;

- 1.Youth Grant;

- 2.Entrepreneurship Grant; and

- 3.Empowerment Grant.

- Honourable Speaker, the **Youth Grant** has a request limit of \$5000.00 and allocated once a year. This will be open to all youth and sports clubs/groups in addressing the thematic areas of the National Youth Policy. The Ministry will widely advertise for the biannual grants through different media and venues to ensure that groups and individuals from all backgrounds are considered. This grant focuses on activities and projects initiated:

- by individual youths;

-by youth clubs and non-governmental organisations working with youth for:

- Youth Empowerment Training;
- Youth Leadership Training;
- Youth Camp;
- Gender Based Training
- Disability Programs
- Sports or Recreation Training;
- Youth or Sports Workshop;
- Seminar, Conference, Congress and the like;
- Exchanges or fact-finding visits;
- Pursuing a volunteer opportunity;
- Local event to showcase youth activities; and
- Income generating projects (IGP).

- Honourable Speaker, the **Entrepreneurship Grant** (EG) has a request limit of \$2500.00 and provides an opportunity to all programme recipients (youth individuals/groups) to establish SME/IGP

projects or improve their ongoing income generating projects through Ministry's seed funding assistance.

- Honourable Speaker, the **Empowerment Grant** is provided after a Youth Empowerment Training which is a community-based program focused at empowering and capacity building youths to enhance socio-economic development.
- The Training Honourable Speaker is designed to target youth and youth groups, rural and urban, male and female to realize their potential through utilization of trained skills and to use resources available to them as source of livelihood.
- After the Empowerment Trainings, participants are encouraged to **establish IGP/SMEs** which is community based and developed using a bottom-up approach.

- Honourable Speaker, Youth Empowerment Training allows for the participation of relevant stakeholders/agencies who are engaged to provide advice on the newly proposed income generating projects.
- The amount of funding allocated in this grant depends on the type of IGP proposed and ranges from \$1000 - \$3000 dollars