



Rear-Admiral (Ret'd) Hon. J.V. Bainimarama, CF (Mil), OSt.J, MSD, jssc, psc

Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs

WRITTEN QUESTION NO. 124/2020 – SCHEDULE 2 - Wed. 2nd Sept.,2020

QUESTION

Hon. Mosese Bulitavu to ask the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the number of community projects funded by the Small Grant Project allocation under Programme 1 of the Office of the Prime Minister and the cost of each project from 2018 to date.

RESPONSE:

1. The Small Grant Scheme (SGS) was established to finance small scale community projects submitted to the Government for assistance by various communities and organisations in Fiji.

2. The SGS has assisted rural communities through funding of small scale income generating projects, education assistance, water and electricity supply, village and settlement development projects and improvements to sanitation of community facilities.

Note, these are ad-hoc projects not budgeted or accounted for by relevant line-Ministries in their annual budget.

3. Implementation of these projects are supervised by the respective Provincial Administrators and relevant agencies. Monitoring mechanisms in place, are in the form of implementation updates and acquittals that are submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister for auditing and inspection purposes.

4. The Scheme has directly benefited more than 100,000 ordinary Fijians and been instrumental in facilitating and satisfying the basic human rights for rural dwellers, such as the rights to education, reasonable access to transportation, housing and sanitation, economic participation, adequate food, water and health.
5. This has been possible through the Scheme funding towards the construction of classroom buildings for our children, upgrading of health facilities in remote and maritime areas, procurement of fibreglass boats and engines, extension of water projects in disadvantaged communities, procurement of kitchen utensils for womens' groups and provision of solar systems to villages - to name a few.
6. From 2018 to date, the Scheme has funded a total of 171 projects at a combined cost of \$12.6m. *See Table 1, 2 & 3 below.*

7. From January to July 2018 of the 2017/2018 financial year, out of the \$9Million budget allocated, the Office utilized 68 per cent or \$6.2Million to fund a total of 79 projects, and this consisted of 38 projects in the Education sector, 22 projects for Village and Community improvements and 19 integrated development projects. *(refer to table 1)*

8. For the 2018/2019 financial year, the Office was again allocated with a \$9Million budget of which 58 per cent were utilized or \$5.1Million.

A total of 69 projects were funded and this consisted of 36 projects in the Education sector, 24 projects for Village and Community improvements and 9 integrated development projects. *(refer to table 2)*

9. For the current 2019/2020 financial year, out of \$4 Million from the initial budget, 36 per cent of \$1,300,427.40 Million has so far being utilized to fund a total of 23 projects.

Funding was channelled towards 11 projects from the Education sector, 9 projects for Village and Community improvements and 3 integrated development project.
(Refer to table 3)

Table 1: Breakdown of Cost and Project Funded – January to July 2018

Sector	No. Projects	Cost	% of Cost to Total Cost of Projects Funded
Education	38	\$3,954,270.41	64
Village / Community	22	\$1,822,554.21	30
Other Integrated Projects	19	\$389,973.09	6
Total	79	\$6,166,797.71	100

Table 2: Breakdown of Cost and Project Funded – 2018/2019 FY

Sector	No. Projects	Cost	% of Cost to Total Cost of Projects Funded
Education	36	3,225,093.05	62
Village / Community	24	1,377,139.23	26
Other Integrated Projects	9	645,899.40	12
Total	69	5,248,131.68	100

Table 3: Breakdown of Cost and Project Funded – 2019/2020 FY

Sector	No. Projects	Cost	% of Cost to Total Cost of Projects Funded
Education	11	1,009,082.83	77
Village / Community	9	165,664.57	13
Other Integrated Projects	3	125,680.00	10
Total	23	1,300,427.40	100

10. The Scheme demonstrates Government's commitment of leaving no one behind to ensure balanced growth and sustainable development. Also note that the Office of the Prime Minister has undertaken a review of the Scheme Guidelines which has extended the scope of funding and assistance to rural and disadvantaged communities.
