



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, HERITAGE AND ARTS

RESPONSE TO THE WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION BY THE HON. RO TEIMUMU KEPA

**Parliament
GOVERNMENT BUILDING**

**Monday 31 August 2020
Question 103/2020**

Can the Minister provide the following to Parliament –

- a) itemise in detail how the \$35.5m budget allocation for 2019-2020 was spent;**
- b) an updated record of the 2,525 active students on the National Toppers Scheme as stated in her response to the 2020-2021 Budget Address.**

I take this opportunity to respond to the written question posted by the Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa on the budget allocation and an update on the 2525 active National Toppers Scholarship recipients.

Response

The question is incorrect, \$35.5m was not allocated in the 2019-2020 financial year, but has been allocated in the 2020-2021 Budget.

The allocation is to fund the studies for the National Toppers recipients who are continuing studies in this financial year. At the end of the financial year 2019/2020, the total number of active students on NTS is 2525. Of this, 453 are expected to complete their studies by the end of December 2020. This means that a total of 2072 existing NTS students will continue with their studies in the new academic calendar (2021).

The distribution of this existing students by the Higher Education Institutions and program categories (spread between MBBS, Oral Health and Dental Surgery and all other priority categories) with the breakdown of costs amounting to \$35,459,600 is as per the table below. The purpose of distinguishing between MBBS, Oral Health and Dental Surgery and all other priority categories is due to the difference in the clustered costs. That is these specific programs have similar costs while costs for all other categories have common costs.

Cost for Current NTS Local Students Continuing in 2020-2021 Financial Year				
Category	HEI	Number	Cost Per Student (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
Medical Category	Fiji National University	603	22,300	13,446,900
	University of Fiji	275	22,300	6,132,500
All Other Categories & Programs	Sangam College of Nursing	13	13,300	172,900
	Fiji National University	301	13,300	4,003,300
	University of Fiji	21	13,300	279,300
	University of the South Pacific	857	13,300	11,398,100
	Fulton Adventist College	2	13,300	26,600
Total		2,072		35,459,600

The breakdown of the 2525 active students by 2 program categories (MBBS, Oral Health and Dental Surgery and all other priority categories) by Year, HEI and the cost details are as follows.

Of the 2525 active students, 28 students are on Bachelor of Oral Health and Dental Surgery, 59 students are on Bachelor of Oral Health, 651 on MBBS while the remaining 1787 students are enrolled in programs in Tourism, Engineering, Commerce, Education, Land/Town Planning, Environment/ Marine Science, Agriculture, Fisheries & Forests, Social Sciences and Technology category and other medical programs.

HEI	Commencement Year of Studies							Total
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
USP	0	0	24	131	269	389	347	1160
FNU	3	67	80	114	219	316	221	1020
UOF	1	35	44	75	94	45	36	330
SIT	0	0	0	0	1	5	7	13
Fulton	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Total No: student's	4	102	148	320	583	756	612	2525
Medical Category	4	92	111	154	233	206	170	970
Non-Medical Category	0	10	37	166	350	550	442	1555

For the financial year 2019/2020, total allocation for NTS Local Scholarships was \$38,768,447.00 while the actual disbursements was \$37,623,052.00

Sincerely

Honourable Rosy Akbar
Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts

