



Honorable Laisenia Tuitubou, Minister for Youth and Sports' Response to Parliamentary Question

Wednesday, 7 March 2018 at 9.30 a.m.

²⁶
22/2018 Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua to ask the Minister for Youth and Sports

Can the Minister explain the nature of assistance that is currently available to registered youth clubs and the procedure to obtain such assistance?

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Hon Member for the question and allow me to respond to the question raised.

My ministry provides assistance to support the two major Ministries deliverables: Youth Development and Sports Development. Youth Development centers on the **provision of assistance** to the youths; through advisory, non-formal education, and capacity building initiatives.

Madam Speaker, under the above broad initiatives, we have the following programs which have been ongoing for the past three years.

1. Youth Empowerment Program is a community based program, which is focused at empowering and capacity building youths to enhance socio-economic development through Training. Youth Empowerment Program allows for the participation of relevant stakeholders/agencies. The Program encourages the establishment of Small and Micro Enterprise (SME) which is community based and developed using a bottom-up approach.

Under this program Madam Speaker, we have conducted trainings targeting youths in rural and urban communities. Our trainings include:

- Seeds of Success – a mindset changing program
- Leadership and Management
- Youth Feed the Nation
- Financial Literacy and this year we have included;
- Civic Education training on Gender Based Violence
- Sexual, Reproductive Health and Human Rights
- Basic Swimming Skills Training and
- Basic First Aid

These programs Madam Speaker is targeted to provide lifelong skills to our youths to help them become active and productive citizens of this country.

2. In addition, we also have **Mobile Skills Program** which is an outreach; capacity and skills building Program that utilizes vocational education to teach individual youths to improve and build up the skills that they already possess. Mobile skills training is usually facilitated by a recognized trainer or organization and includes theory and practical sessions that will allow youths to experience a friendly and holistic learning environment. Our Mobile skills training include:

- Small Engine Repairs
- Beauty Therapy Training
- Front Desk Customer Service
- Spa and Massage
- Porter
- Basic Cookery
- Boat Masters License
- Fibre Glass Boat Repairs and
- Flower Arrangement training

Our Trainers are recognized with Fiji Higher Education Commission. They conduct Mobile Skills Training with recognition and issue Certificate of Attainment so that it gives our youths that edge to continue their Trainings to become Stage 3, Stage 2, and Stage 1 Tradesmen/women on whatever trade they pursue where there is a pathway for further development.

3. Furthermore Madam Speaker my Ministry offers **Specific Skills Training** at our Youth Training Centres.

Madam Speaker, the Ministry has five youth training centres located around Fiji that offer Non Formal Education Programs. The centres are located in Yavitu in Kadavu, Naqere in Savusavu, Naleba in Labasa, Nasau in Sigatoka and in Valelevu, Nasinu. We offer Basic Agricultural and Carpentry training, training in fibre glass boat and small engine repairs as well as in music.

Madam Speaker my Ministry is moving towards ensuring the recognition the programs we offer at our Youth Training Centres through accreditation with Fiji Higher Education Commission under the National Qualification Framework.

My Ministry, through these training opportunities, provides a '**second chance**' to young rural Fijians who may have left school early.

Madam Speaker, as I have alluded to, the above training programs are offered to mainly unfortunate youths in the community to provide them with a pathway back to the formal technical disciplines through these bridging programs. It is encouraging to see Youths coming forward and taking up this opportunity. Both locally and from the region such as Tuvalu and Kiribati and graduating with flying colours.

Madam speaker, my ministry also provide grant assistance to the youths who have gained appropriate skills in the areas of entrepreneurship. (Agriculture graduates from YTC Nasau excelling in yaqona farming in Namoli – Navosa, Tikina Noikoro and a Carpentry Graduate from YTC Yavitu who is now building homes in his village in Naqia Wainibuka).

Furthermore, **procedure to obtain such assistance;**

- [a]. Youth groups are to be registered and be active in order to qualify in these grants.

[b]. The Ministry also provide grant assistance to individual youths who have gained appropriate skills in our Youth Training Centres in the areas of entrepreneurship.

Madam Speaker, my Ministry is also responsible for the development of Sports in Fiji. Under this we have;

- Rural Sports facilities development,
- Donation of basic sports equipment; and other programs provided through the Ministry's statutory body namely the Fiji National Sports Commission which includes:
 - Sports Outreach
 - Train the Trainers
 - Kids In Communities
 - Educate the Educators
 - Wellness program
 - Inclusive Programs
 - Community Assistance
 - Follow-ups

In these programs, one of the main objectives is to address the combat of rising non-communicable disease by

introducing and sustaining physical training activity to the community.

Madam Speaker, for youths and communities to access these programs, firstly our officers visit the community and conduct training need analysis through consultations with the members of the communities. Through this analysis, an appropriate training is tailor made to address the need of the youths in the respective communities.

I am delighted to report that my Ministry continues to promote and maintain gender equality and inclusion in all our training programs and activities. We are emphasising a special focus on this to empower young women to take up leadership roles in the community, attend training programs specifically for young women and to support eligible projects for funding assistance to help them establish businesses themselves.

The **procedure to obtain such assistance is that;**

[a]. Youth groups are to be registered and be active in order to qualify in these Sports grants.

Thank you Madam Speaker.