



Parliamentary Written Question 48/2023

Hon. Esrom Immanuel to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives and Small and Medium Enterprises, and Communications –

(a) can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the specific grant information for each recipient of the “Young Entrepreneurship Scheme” (YES) launched in 2018, and data on the tax dollar value per annum, by quarter, as disbursed by the Ministry – by name, date, locality (village or rural community centre), division, ethnicity and gender for the period January 2018 to 23 December 2022; and

(b) the current status of every grantee to-date

1.0 Introduction

The Young Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) or YES is an initiative that's has been effectively involved in the fostering of young business entrepreneurs innovative ideas. With the goal to promote and harness invigorative talents of our young Fijians to become “Job Creators” rather than just “Job Seekers”.

The Ministry has Fiji upcoming brightest entrepreneurs between 18 to 40 years old through our YES programme who have innovative and bankable ideas or projects.

2.0 **YES Grant Information**

Since inception in 2017/2018 financial year, the YES programme has funded a total of 13 recipients with grant total value of \$305,507.55. The YES offers a grant of up to \$30,000.00 and has funded these recipients through separate phases to ensure that effective utilisation of funds by the recipients.

The YES programme has been a successful initiative; from the 13 recipients we have supported, a successful rating of 70% with 9 successful and active business recipients; one of which acquired a fellow recipient business.

The specified information of the 13 recipients from the 2017/2018 till date is as follows:

1. Atunaisa Rainima is an entrepreneur who received the YES grant of \$19,927 to purchase tools, equipments and farming gears which was phased as per the details below:
 - i. Phase 1 - \$10,994.55
 - ii. Phase 2 - \$8,933.50

The business located at Labasa is currently active however it has diversified to Landscaping business, subsequent from the initial Bio Gas business he operated.

2. In 2017, Ms Adelene Tutu, was the first female entrepreneur who received the YES grant amounting to \$20,025 used to purchase a Fitness App Development Software and gym equipments which was paid in the following phases :
 - i. Phase 1 - \$8,175.00
 - ii. Phase 2 - \$11,820.56

The grant was used to develop a fitness App (Get Lean Fiji) was located at L4 Gurbachan Singh Building Labasa. However, in 2022 it has since closed

operations as the recipient moved overseas and sold the business items to another YES recipient Mr. Winston Hill.

3. Siwan Narayan of Lautoka an entrepreneur who received the YES grant amounting to \$18,215.00 for the purchase of building construction equipments and machineries for the following amount:

- iii. Phase 1 - \$9,011.00

- iv. Phase 2 - \$9,240.00

A Tiny and Affordable House Scheme, a development of affordable houses for low income earners located at Lautoka, is currently an active business.

4. Mr. Winston Hill of Suva, received a grant of \$30,000 for the purchase training technological equipments and softwares of in the following phases:

- v. Phase 1 - \$15,496.78

- vi. Phase 2 - \$14,503.22

The business is a Boxfit Gym located at Toorak Suva is currently a very active and successful venture. The YES programme supported Mr Hill through the purchase of gym equipment. Additionally, he acquired an associated YES recipient, Ms. Adelene Tutu's business items for her Smartphone fitness App (Get Lean Fiji) project.

5. Mr. Krishneel Chand an entrepreneur who received YES grant of in the following amounts :

- i. Phase 1: \$14,328.50

- ii. Phase 2: \$3,217.00

A Traffic Essential Consulting services located in Suva is currently an active business and the grant funding enabled him to purchase his traffic assessment equipment. He does traffic impact assessment works for private developers and Fiji Roads Authority.

6. Mr. Rinesh Sharma is an entrepreneur who received a \$29,963 grant under the YES programme.

He initiated an Automated Hydroponic business in Lautoka but due to cyclones partially damaged his equipment. However the business is offering trainings for hydroponic farming to agriculture students and groups and aspiring entrepreneurs that intend to venture into hydroponic farming. At the moment, Mr Sharma has also entered the political arena as a current Member of Opposition.

7. Ruben Singh an entrepreneur who received YES grant for the following phases :

- i. Phase 1: \$6,506.18
- ii. Phase 2: \$23,372.47

The Business is a Physiotherapy Clinic located at Nands Mall, Nabua is currently a very active business that offers physiotherapy consultations services. The grant enabled him to purchase specialised medical equipment to start this business.

8. Leo Williams Vanualailai is an entrepreneur who received YES grant amounting to \$14,153.26. He operates an Aerial Mapping and Geographic business located at Nasinu is currently an active business. Through his grant funds he was able to purchase drone and other equipment for the business.

9. Rakin Wahed is an entrepreneur who received a YES grant for \$12,000.00 for the development of a medical information app. However, Mr Wahid was not able to get secure enough subscribers to the app and this app currently inactive.

10. Mr James Colata is an entrepreneur based in Suva who received YES grant of \$29,900 for the purchase of his cross fit gym equipment. At that time, he was the only accredited crossfit trainer in Fiji. He had to diversify his business into food and hospitality during COVID-19 as gyms were closed. He aims to re-start his business gym business in the near future.
11. Dhrish Kumar is an entrepreneur who received YES grant amounting to \$29,833. The grant enabled Mr Kumar to open a recreational Paintball business located at Vatuwaqa, Suva is currently an active business. He is currently expanding to Nakasi and may open in the western division in the near future.
12. Mr Chris Vanualailai a new entrepreneur who received a one off YES grant of \$29,999.42 to purchase air and sea testing equipment. He runs a Environmental Monitoring business to service Fiji and the Pacific Region and does environmental testing for the private sector developers.
13. Ms. Maraia Matata is the latest recipient that received one off YES grant amounting to \$24,059.45. Her and her husband run a Football Academy located in Suva, provides football training and development program for kid's ages (4 years – 16 years) is currently an active business.