



**MINISTER FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL
PROTECTION HON. LYNDA TABUYA**

Written Response 156/2023

Hon. Hem Chand to ask the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection- Can the Minister inform Parliament on the number of senior citizens currently receiving an allowance of \$125 and \$115 respectively.

The Social Pension Scheme or in short SPS is meant for senior citizens in Fiji who have attained the age of 65 years and above, with no source of income, are not recipients of any other Government Pension, Ex-Serviceman Funds, FNPF or any other superannuation.

Some significant changes have been made to the Programme in this fiscal year, which are:

- ✓ Recipients who are above 70 years received a 25% increase to their allowance which equates to \$125 per month. Recipients between the ages 65-69 years received a 15% increase to their allowance which equates to \$115 per month.
- ✓ Inclusion of 1,500 FNPF pensioners who were deprived of their financial benefits by the former administration 2011. We have so far onboarded 314 members and they receive \$115 or \$125 per month depending on their age.

To accommodate the above changes, Government has allocated budget of \$78.2 million which is an increase of \$23.2 million from last Fiscal Year.

I would like to inform this August house that currently there 31,250 individuals receiving \$115 per month while 21,700 are receiving \$125 per month.

End.
