



## Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration

Hon. Pio Tikoduadua

### PARLIAMENTARY - WRITTEN QUESTION NO. 28/2024

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

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#### QUESTION

Hon. Viliame Naupoto to ask the Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration-  
In light of the changes in our Immigration Law and policy as announced by the Minister, can the Minister inform Parliament on the following -

- (a) **How many that have come to Fiji as Business visitors are now employed and the general sector where they are employed;**

#### RESPONSE

In accordance with the Immigration Act 2003, a Business Visitor Permit is a type of permit granted to non-citizens who intend to visit Fiji for short-term business purposes not exceeding 21 (only granted to Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, United States of America nationals) or 14 days (nationals of other countries), respectively. This provision allows non-citizens to engage in business-related activities such as attending meetings, conferences, negotiations, or exploring business opportunities, without undertaking employment in Fiji.

It should be noted that visitor permits under Section 9(3) of the Immigration Act does not allow extension, as the provision allows the visitor permit holder to work, study or engage in business related for 14 or 21 days only.

From the period, 2023 to 31 January 2024, a total of 922 non-citizens were entered as Business Visitor Permit.

It's encouraging to note the diverse range of professions entered under the provision of business visitor permits. Additionally, the number of non-citizens entered under this provision, is indicative of the needs of our business community and employers, for short-term engagement under visitors permit.

Notably, from records, this category contributes to various sectors including finance, chartered accounts, aviation, healthcare, construction, hospitality, education, agriculture, law, and many more. This diversity reflects the breadth of opportunities available in Fiji's economy.

- (b) How many of those non-citizens that are registered in the Vola ni Kawa Bula have entered Fiji through the permit exemption granted under the Immigration (Amendment) Act 2023;**

RESPONSE

A total of twelve (12) non-citizens have entered Fiji through an exemption that was granted under the Immigration (Amendment) Act 2023 and subsequently registered with the Vola ni Kawa Bula.

- (c) How many foreigners who are descendants of a Fiji Citizen on 10 October 1970 entered Fiji through the permit exemptions granted under the Immigration (Exemption by Descent) Order 2023.**

RESPONSE

Since the commencement of the exemption provision, a total of eight (8) descendants of a Fiji Citizen who were born before 10 October 1970 entered Fiji with an exemption granted under the Immigration (Exemption by Descent) Order 2023.