



## MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

### **Parliamentary Written Question 159/2023**

**Monday 20 November 2023**

#### **Written Question:**

**159/2023 Hon. Jovesa Vocea to ask the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament as to how many intakes have graduated from the MBBS programme that were sponsored by Toppers Scholarship from 2014 to 2022:**

- (a) how many were absorbed into the Civil Service and are currently serving in the country;**
- (b) how many of them have migrated overseas; and**
- (c) how many have joined the private sector or have gone into private practice.**

## Written Response:

1. Hon Speaker Sir,
2. I acknowledge and thank the Honourable Member for the question.
3. From 2014 – 2022, a total of **362** graduated with MBBS on scholarship, **124** through study loans and **32** on Bilateral Scholarships. Altogether a total of **518** have graduated with MBBS from the period in question.

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>MBBS Graduates (2014 -2022)</b>
Scholarships	362
Study Loans	124
Bilateral Scholarships	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>518</b>

## Notes:

- Scholarships numbers are total graduates sponsored under National Toppers Local Scholarship Scheme (**NTS**).

- Study Loans numbers are total graduates funded under Tertiary Education Loan Scheme (**TELS**).
- Bilateral scholarships numbers are total graduates who completed MBBS programme in Cuba and Georgia through the Bilateral agreement between Fiji and the Donor country.

4. Records obtained from the Fiji Medical Council is that **362 scholarship** graduates registered with them from 2020 – 2023 while **123** who graduated through **study loans** registered in 2023 and **29** who graduated through **bilateral scholarships** registered with them between 2021 and 2023.

This means that the unaccounted 3 who graduated through bilateral scholarships and 1 on study loan have either migrated overseas or set up their private practise.

5. These attrition numbers are due to many pull and push factors that include emigration, the search for greener

pastures, education, family welfare, higher salaries and aggressive recruitment techniques by overseas recruitment agencies and local private hospitals.

6. As I have earlier mentioned in one my Parliamentary Statements, these losses impact our ability to deliver quality services and also increases the burden for those who remain with the Ministry of Health & Medical Services.

7. In recognising that we are losing experienced personnel, the Ministry has also pursued capacity building for its current workforce with the support of central agencies of Government and supplemented by our development partners.

**ENDS**