



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**HON. ASERI RADRODRO**

**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION**

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**MONDAY 28 APRIL 2025**

**25/2025**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

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**Hon. Premila Kumar to ask the Minister for Education –**

**With the \$5.9 million allocation in the current budget for hardship assistance under TSLs, can the Minister inform Parliament on the number of students who have benefited from this assistance and how much of the allocation has been utilised to date.**

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**Response :**

1. In the 2023-2024 budget the Coalition Government introduced the Hardship Assistance Scheme to support the private students with good academic performance but facing financial hardship. The entry requirement at the inception was that a student should have

completed first year of studies privately with an academic achievement of 65% of GPA (Grade Point Average).

2. Moreover, in the 2024-2025 budget, the entry requirement for onboarding has been changed from 65 percent GPA to 50 percent pass rate. This is now aligned with the continuity requirement for Year 1 students on scholarships. Further scheme has been extended to TVET students at Diploma level in comparison to funding of degree students only in 2024.
3. A total of 781 students benefited from the Hardship Assistance Scheme so far, as 329 students came onboard in 2024 and 452 started in 2025.
4. TSLS will open the application for the Hardship Assistance Scheme for Semester 2 intake to allow those students who have completed Year 1 privately and have obtained a pass rate of 50% to be assisted from Semester 2 of 2025. There would be some students who will complete Year 1 of their studies by the end of Semester 1 and may come on board under the Hardship Assistance Scheme from Semester 2. The total number of students under this scheme will increase after completion of the intake for Semester 2.

5. Till date, a total of \$3,477,852 has been utilised in the current financial year of the allocated \$5.9 million for Hardship Assistance Scheme which is 59%. The number of students assisted under the Hardship scheme is based on the applications received and processed based on the eligibility criteria.
  
6. The Coalition Government will continue working with TSLs on innovative scholarship policies to ensure maximum return from taxpayer investment in the education sector.

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