



Honourable Major General (Retired) Chief (PNG) Tagaloa (Samoa)
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D'Honneur (FR), Commandant, Order of Tahiti Nui, MSc, jssc, psc

**Prime Minister and Minister for Civil Service and Strategic Planning,
National Development and Statistics**

Written Question – 161/2026

Hon. Premila Kumar to ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – In light of the ongoing Asian Subterranean Termite infestation that has devastated thousands of homes across Fiji, particularly in the Western, Northern, and Central Divisions, and noting the introduction of the Termite Control Assistance Programme, can the Prime Minister inform Parliament on the following – (a) How many applications were received and approved for each division in the 2025-2026 financial year; (b) For the 2025-2026 financial year, what was the approved budget allocation, actual expenditure and any underspend or overspend recorded; and (c) For the 2025-2026 financial year, how many homeowners were assisted under the Programme, disaggregated by the amount offered by division.

Parliament of Fiji
2026
Government Buildings, Suva

Wed 27 August

0930 Hours

Salutations

- Honorable Speaker Sir,
- Honorable Ministers and Assistant Ministers,

- Honorable Leader of Opposition,
- Honorable Members of Parliament, and
- Ladies & Gentlemen

Ni sa bula vina'a and a very good afternoon to you all.

1. Mister Speaker Sir, I thank the Honourable Member for the question. I would like to first provide this Honourable House with some vital information regarding the inception of the Termite Control Assistance Programme (TCAP) and the Termite Subsidy Programme (TSP) before I answer the question.

Background

2. Mister Speaker Sir, to curb the spread of Asian Subterranean Termites (AST) in the Western Division, Government during the 2023 – 2024 financial year introduced the TCAP.
3. The aim of the program is to assist homeowners affected by the devastating impacts of termite infestation, through the multiple measures including cash relief package (TSP), termite baiting programme, media awareness and administration of the programme.

4. As part of the implementation mechanism, a Termite Taskforce (Taskforce) was established to help foster Government's efforts in assisting households affected by AST infestation.
5. The Taskforce was co-chaired by the Assistant Minister for the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna and Hon. Sashi Kiran, Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection (*formerly the Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection*) and representatives from Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF), Lautoka City Council (LCC) and the Ministry of Finance.
6. Since inception, the TCAP has been administered by the Ministry of Finance before being transferred to the Ministry of Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics (MSPNDS) in January 2026 under the Hon. Prime Minister's portfolio.

Termite Subsidy Programme

7. Mister Speaker Sir, in order to provide relief to people whose homes have suffered extensive damages due to termite

infestation, Government announced a targeted subsidy program (mainly for people in Western Division) - TSP where:

- i. A subsidy of \$5,000 is provided for households with combined household income less than \$30,000; and
 - ii. A subsidy of \$2,000 is provided for households with combined household income between \$30,000 and \$50,000.
8. In January 2026, Cabinet endorsed the reduction of the subsidy to households affected by the AST due to sustainability and equity. Subsidy of \$5,000 was reduced to \$2,000 whilst, subsidy of \$2,000 was reduced to \$1,000. All other conditions remained.
9. For the subsidy, applicants were received at the Commissioner Western Office, which was verified by the LCC and BAF. Once verification is completed, the application forms together with the necessary supporting documentations were sent to the MSPNDS for processing of payment.

10. A total of 1,667 applications were received. With the influx of the applications received from the western division, on 30 June 2026, the Taskforce approved the closure of new applications for this programme.

11. Mister Speaker Sir, now to respond to the question, it has been crafted as per the breakdown of the question:

(a) How many applications were received and approved for each division in the 2025-2026 financial year?

12. Mister Speaker Sir, no applications were received in the 2025-2026 financial year.

13. However, a total of 272 applications, from the initial 1,667 applications received from the western division, were approved for payment of subsidy under the TSP.

14. In addition, a total of 1,000 households were provided termite baiting services as part of the TCAP.

(b) For 2025-2026 financial year, what was the approved budget allocations, actual expenditure, and any underspend or overspend recorded?

15. Mister Speaker Sir, In the 2025-2026 financial year, a total of \$2,934,783 allocated under Head 50: Miscellaneous Services. The details of expenditure are tabulated below:

Financial Year	Budget Provision (\$)	Actual Expenditure (\$)	Balance (\$)
2025-2026	\$2,934,783	\$815,525	\$2,119,258

16. A total of \$527,000 was used for the payment of termite subsidy and \$288,525 was used for termite baiting services.

(c) For the 2025-2026 financial year, how many homeowners were assisted under the Programme, disaggregated by the amount offered by division.

17. Mister Speaker Sir, a total of 272 households were assisted with the TSP whilst, 1,000 households were provided termite baiting services. All households assisted through the subsidy and baiting services were from the Western Division.

Conclusion

18. In conclusion, Mister Speaker Sir, the TCAP and the TSP reflect the Government's commitment to protecting livelihoods, safeguarding productive lands, and strengthening national resilience.
19. Through these programmes, we continue to support affected communities whilst advancing our broader goals of food security, sustainable development, and economic prosperity.
20. Thank you, Mister Speaker, Sir.

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