



WELCOME SPEECH
HON. MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY, TRADE & TOURISM
HON. FAIYAZ SIDDIQ KOYA
MICRO AND SMALL BUSINESS GRANT DISBURSEMENT – NAUSORI

Ratu Cakobau Park
Monday 28th August 2017

Hon. Prime Minister,

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Bula Vinaka to You All.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all of you today to the 21st phase of the Micro and Small Business grant disbursement by your Fijian Government.

Today's event signifies another fulfilled promise by your Government in ensuring economic prosperity for all Fijians and not leaving anybody behind in this journey towards a better and brighter Fiji.

Ladies and Gentlemen

A total of 18,871 applications were received by the Ministry for the last financial year of which 2,331 individuals from the provinces of Rewa, Tailevu and Naitasiri will be receiving their cheques from the Hon. Prime Minister today. Successful applicants living along the Nasinu-Nausori corridor are also present to receive their cheques today.

These cheques are intended to expand your micro and small businesses or to kick start your aspirations of becoming micro entrepreneurs in your respective communities.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am always proud to highlight, that since the inception of this programme, a total of 9,748 individuals around the country have been assisted to the tune of \$9.3million. With these capital injections, these recipients have been able to grow their respective businesses and support the livelihoods of their families.

The grants that will be provided today, will not only benefit you the recipients, but will generate income for vendors such as hardware companies, supermarkets, market vendors and retail outlets in Nausori and Korovou Town. Hence, this grant will generate economic activities in your rural and urban centers.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The presence of the Hon. Prime Minister to personally hand out cheques is a testament that your Fijian Government prioritizes the growth of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises as they ensure inclusive economic development for our nation.

With the conclusion of today's event, you will be joining 9,748 micro and small business entrepreneurs who are already striving to grow their businesses and contribute to our Gross Domestic Product.

This grant is not a handout but an investment by your Fijian Government in your respective businesses. And as for any investment, your Government expects return on its investment which should be in the form of growth of your respective businesses, development of your communities and an increase in the contribution of the MSME sector towards our economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen

With those few words, I now have the honor of inviting the Hon. Prime Minister to deliver his Key Note Address.

Thank You and Vinaka Vakalevu.