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

Written Question – 37/2026

Hon. Joseph Nand to ask the Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Prime Minister provide detailed information on the following:

- (a) how the recent 20% increase in the Ministry's budget has been allocated across youth development;
- (b) elite sports advancement for the current fiscal year; and
- (c) how much of this Budget has been utilised so far.

Parliament of Fiji
Government Buildings, Suva

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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.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank the Honourable Member for the question and response has been crafted as per the breakdown of the question:

(a) How the recent 20% increase in the Ministry's budget has been allocated across youth development.

Response:

1. Mister Speaker Sir, the increase in the Youth Development Budget for the 2025–2026 financial year, amounting to \$689,340, has been strategically directed to strengthen youth capacity, expand service delivery, and enhance outreach—particularly to rural and maritime communities.

2. A significant portion of this increase has been allocated towards Youth Capacity Building Programmes, and Personal Emoluments, to support effective programme delivery and implementation.
3. In terms of programme delivery, Mr. Speaker Sir, our approach has been deliberate—prioritising depth of engagement and impact over volume. While two Youth Festivals were conducted this year, compared to four previously, these engagements were more targeted, inclusive, and service-oriented.
4. The Youth Festivals in Naitasiri and Rotuma integrated youth symposiums, access to Government services and mobile skills training and empowerment programmes.
5. The Rotuma Youth Festival is particularly noteworthy. Given its geographical isolation, this initiative reached 581 youths, extended participation through district-level evening sessions, and improved access to sporting infrastructure, including the construction of a

hardcourt. This also lays the foundation for future development of a sporting complex, positioning Rotuma to host national-level events.

6. Mr. Speaker Sir, two Ministerial outreach tours were also undertaken in Kadavu and Yasawa, representing a shift towards direct, community-based engagement. These tours delivered outreach to over 792 youths, 150 certifications through training programmes and 10 youth grants to support local initiatives

7. Additional outcomes included commissioning of the Kadavu Rugby Union Gym, delivery of health awareness and HIV testing programmes and hosting of the Commonwealth Baton Relay reception in Yasawa.

8. A key milestone was the reopening of the Yavitu Training Centre in Kadavu, which had been closed since 2020. The Centre is now fully renovated and powered by renewable energy, supported by a 99-year Government lease and accessible by road and equipped with boarding

facilities. This investment significantly enhances access to vocational and skills-based training, particularly for youths in maritime regions.

9. Mr. Speaker Sir, the increase in Personal Emoluments reflects step increments for civil servants, and adjustments arising from the Job Evaluation Exercise, ensuring that the Ministry is adequately resourced to deliver on its mandate.

10. In summary, the increased allocation has been strategically utilised to strengthen youth capability, expand equitable access to services, and create pathways for employment, entrepreneurship, and community resilience.

(b) Elite Sports Advancement

Response:

11. Mister Speaker Sir, Government's investment in elite sports remains a key pillar of our national development agenda, recognising sport as a driver of **national pride, economic opportunity, and international representation.**

12. For the 2025–2026 financial year, a total allocation of **\$11.42 million** has been provided through the Fiji National Sports Commission to support four strategic areas hosting of international events, overseas tours and elite athlete scholarships and engagement of international coaches. As at the end of the third quarter, **\$8.94 million**, representing **78 percent of the total allocation**, has been utilised.

13. Mr. Speaker Sir, the breakdown is as follows:

- i. **Hosting International Events** - \$2.66 million utilised from the \$3.93 million provided to support **23 events**, strengthening Fiji's position as a regional sporting hub;
- ii. **Overseas Tours** - \$4.83 million utilised from the \$5.38 million provided to support **41 tours**, providing athletes with critical exposure to high-level competition;
- iii. **Elite Scholarships** - \$122 thousand utilised from the \$186 thousand provided supporting **11 athletes**, ensuring sustained

development of high-performing individuals; and

iv. **International Coaches** - \$1.32 million utilised from the \$1.94 million provided to engage of **12 coaches**, strengthening technical expertise and performance systems across national teams.

14. These targeted investments reflect Government's commitment to building a high-performance sporting ecosystem, enhancing competitiveness, and supporting athletes to excel on the regional and global stage.

Event Allocation	Annual Allocation	Annual Event Funded	Utilisation to Date	Events Funded to Date	Balance	% Utilised
HOSTING INT. EVENTS	\$ 3,913,044	27	\$ 2,661,605	23	\$ 1,251,439	68%
OVERSEAS TOURS	\$ 5,380,435	51	\$ 4,828,214	41	\$ 552,221	90%
SCHOLARSHIP ELITE	\$ 185,870	15	\$ 122,160	11	\$ 63,710	66%
INTERNAT. COACHES	\$ 1,942,826	12	\$ 1,324,633	12	\$ 618,193	68%
TOTAL	\$ 11,422,175		\$ 8,936,612		\$ 2,485,563	78%

(c) how much of this Budget has been utilised so far.

Response:

15. Mister Speaker Sir, the utilisation of the Youth Development Budget reflects steady and disciplined implementation aligned with programme priorities.

16. To date, Youth Capacity Building Programmes have achieved a utilisation rate of 71 percent, reflecting active delivery of training, outreach, and empowerment initiatives and

Personal Emoluments stand at 57.52 percent, consistent with the phased disbursement of staff-related costs over the financial year.

17. Overall, these figures demonstrate progressive and responsible utilisation of resources, ensuring that investments are translating into tangible outcomes for young people across Fiji.

Conclusion

18. Mr. Speaker Sir, the increased investment in youth development and elite sports reflects Government's broader commitment to building human capital, strengthening national identity, and creating opportunities for inclusive growth.
19. These initiatives are not standalone—they are part of a coordinated effort to ensure that every young Fijian, regardless of location, has access to opportunity, skills, and pathways to contribute meaningfully to national development.

Thank you.