



PRESS RELEASE

Government's response plan welcomed by WEBC & MSME Council's

Monday 25th May, 2026

The Women Entrepreneurs Business Council (WEBC) and the MSME Council support the Government's announcement to fully absorb the 22.5 per cent increase in bus fares and extend subsidies on the interim 5.91 cents fuel surcharge to eligible MSMEs.

For micro, small and medium enterprises, public transport remains an essential mode of transport for workers, customers, suppliers and business owners themselves. By absorbing the bus fare increase, Government is helping to ensure that people can continue to travel without the additional cost burden, and keep businesses operating with minimal disruption.

WEBC and the MSME Council also acknowledge Government's decision to expand the subsidy of the interim 5.91 cents fuel surcharge to all MSMEs with an annual gross income turnover of less than \$30,000.

"While this comes at a total value of approximately \$6 million annually, this type of support will remove additional worries for entrepreneurs in the micro and small business sector, by helping them manage costs and maintain business continuity. It also supports broader economic activity by protecting household spending, business productivity and access to goods and services", Rakin Wahed, Chair – MSME Council (under FCEF)

This is an important measure that recognises the realities faced by micro and small businesses, many of whom operate on tight margins and are highly vulnerable to increases in electricity, transport and other operating costs.

"Many small businesses, especially women owned, are running lean, resilient businesses where every cost increase is felt immediately. The Government's decision to extend the fuel surcharge subsidy to MSMEs and fully absorb the bus fare increase is a meaningful and timely

intervention. It protects livelihoods and keeps businesses operational”, Jyoti Maharaj, Chairman – Women Entrepreneurs Business Council (WEBC)

WEBC and the MSME Council commend the Government for its targeted support and for recognising the important role that MSMEs play in Fiji’s economy. These interim measures provide practical relief and will help sustain small businesses, protect livelihoods and support continued economic participation.

-END -

For enquiries, please contact: **Mrs Gaylene Kamali** Manager Advocacy and Corporate Communication, Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation T: +679 331 3188| M: +679 9983098 | E: macc@fcef.com.fj |