PRESS RELEASE

Dysfunctional labour market a high cost to employers

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For Immediate release

The Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation (FCEF) is concerned about the high non-completion of tertiary courses by students and unemployment of graduates.

The Tertiary Scholarships & Services (TSLS) has reported that more than 33,000 TSLS scholarship recipients have failed to complete their studies or had their awards terminated and only 53% of graduates in the last 3 years managed to secure employment.

"*These non completion cases have come at a cost of $235 million to tax payers and further loss of opportunity to fill the labour and skills gaps in Fiji and contribute to productivity and economic growth", said Edward Bernard, CEO - FCEF*.

More than 770 employers are bringing in foreign workers. As of January 2025, about 6,400 work permits had been issued. For the month of September 2026, work permit applications reached 1,080, the highest recorded in a month.

"*Employers and investors are very concerned about the state of our labour market. Our labour market is not working for Fiji as it continues to have supply side challenges. What is more concerning is that no Government agency is taking the lead role to address this national challenge", added Mr Bernard.*

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