



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

# THE “STRONGER TOGETHER” JOBS SUPPORT SCHEME

Further to the historic levels of direct government COVID-19 unemployment assistance, the Fijian Government has announced a new hiring subsidy — the Stronger Together Jobs Support Scheme — to incentivise employers to create employment for out-of-work Fijians. Employers approved as “Stronger Together Employers” will be granted a wage subsidy equivalent to the minimum wage rate for a three-month period when they employ eligible Fijians.

Employers in the private sector, public enterprises, registered NGOs, and municipal councils are all invited to express their interest in becoming Stronger Together Employers.

The following conditions apply:

- Stronger Together Employers must pay the respective sectoral minimum wage, with Government subsidy pegged at the national minimum wage rate;
- Stronger Together Employers must bear the cost of Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) contributions and any other employee associated costs for those recruited through this scheme;
- To prevent this scheme from curtailing existing employment, new employees will be considered against existing staff numbers as of 30 September 2020, as verified through FNPF; and
- Stronger Together Employers must seek approval with the Ministry of Economy for the number and job category of new positions created through this scheme.

The following individuals will be given preference for employment through this initiative:

- Fijians without FNPF membership who are or who were working in the informal sector; and
- Fijians with FNPF membership whose contributions ceased prior to 30 September 2019 (i.e., those unemployed prior to COVID-19);

Fijians who are currently receiving assistance under phase 2 and phase 3 are also eligible for employment through the Stronger Together Jobs Support Scheme. However, if these employees are successfully employed under this scheme, they will forgo continued assistance under phase 2 and 3. In the event they are unemployed after participating in the scheme, they can reapply to receive phase 2 and 3 assistance, in the event their former employer is still not able to re-hire them.

Fijians who are currently receiving social welfare payments are eligible for employment through this scheme. However, they will have to forgo social welfare payments if they are successfully employed. Recipients of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise ('MSME') concessional loan or FNPF pensioners do not qualify for employment under this new scheme.

The initiative will be managed through the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service in collaboration with FNPF, Ministry of Economy, and other relevant Government agencies.

Expressions of interest should be posted, hand delivered or e-mailed by 23 October 2020 to the following addresses. Applications processed past this date will also be considered.

Postal Delivery	Hand Delivery	E-mail
"Fijian Government New Employment Subsidy" Ministry of Economy P. O. Box 2212 Government Buildings Suva	"Fijian Government New Employment Subsidy" Ministry of Economy Level 10, Ro Lalabalavu House Victoria Parade Suva	Subject: "Stronger Together Jobs Support Scheme" <a href="mailto:strongertogether@economy.gov.fj">strongertogether@economy.gov.fj</a>

For any clarifications, please contact Mr. Randhir Charan, Head of Administration at the Ministry of Economy on 3221300 or 9996250 or over e-mail at [randhir.charan@economy.gov.fj](mailto:randhir.charan@economy.gov.fj)

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