



Asian Productivity Organization “The APO in the News”

Name of publication: Fiji Times Online (3 March, 2015, Fiji)

<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=296871>

Government plans to reduce unemployment rate

Shayal Devi
Tuesday, March 03, 2015

GOVERNMENT is working on reducing the unemployment rate from seven per cent to 5 per cent by 2016.

This was announced by Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Jioje Konrote during the opening of a training workshop in Nadi yesterday.

He said one of Government's efforts was in focusing resources to encourage young school leavers to pursue entrepreneurial careers.

"A lot of effort and priority will be directed at our rural youth and school leavers in convincing them that entrepreneurship is one of the preferable career choices they should make," Mr Konrote said.

"This is because of the fact that we lack an entrepreneurial culture and tradition."

Government also encouraged annual small business awards.

"This is in recognition of successful and innovative entrepreneurs who are making a livelihood and in doing so, collectively contributing to strengthen the Fijian economy.

"We also have a 10-year tax holiday for a minimum investment of \$250,000.

"This incentive has been extended until 2018 and is intended to spur entrepreneurship development in the agricultural sector.

[+ Enlarge this image](#)



Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Jioje Konrote, right, NTPC director Kamlesh Prakash, centre, and APO representative Muhammed Saeed at a training workshop in Nadi yesterday. Picture: Supplied

"Similarly, entrepreneurial projects in agriculture sector with turnover of no more than \$500,000 are exempted from tax."

Apart from this, duty has been exempted on agricultural implements and machinery.

Duty was eliminated on all agricultural items that previously carried a duty of 5 per cent.