

## **A-G: How People Will Benefit From The Accident Compensation Commission**

by Shratika Singh, SAVUSAVU September 26 <http://fijisun.com.fj/2017/09/26/a-g-how-people-will-benefit-from-the-accident-compensation-commission/>



From January 1, 2018 the Accident Compensation Commission Fiji will effectively look into injuries related to motor vehicle accidents, including motor vehicle injuries sustained by employees in company vehicles.

Acting Prime Minister and Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum confirmed this during a roadshow for civil servants which was held at Yaroi Village Community Hall in Savusavu yesterday.

He was responding to a question asked by staff nurse Ashneel Kumar.

Mr Kumar questioned if civil servants like nurses would be given compensation for being injured following a motor vehicle accident during working hours.

Mr Sayed-Khaiyum replied saying that there has been lot of reforms brought up with regard to the third party policy.

“We have announced during the budget this year that from the beginning of 2018, a Fiji Accident Compensation Commission will be established as an independent commission to administer a no-fault compensation scheme.,” he said.

“This will be for all motor vehicle accidents under the new Compensation Act.

“This is a very simple system and you do not have to go through the court system.

“If you are unhappy with the payout stated for injury then you have an option to go through the court system.

“We are in the process of appointing a chief executive officer and many more things.

“We are following the New Zealand system.”



Meanwhile, Savusavu Subdivisional Hospital sister-in-charge Tarisi Racula requested for clarification on the meal allowance for nurses who work overtime pulling from the morning shift to the afternoon shift.

“If possible we nurses can claim meal allowance when we do double shift,” Ms Racula said.

“I believe what we are receiving is not nutritional.”

Director of Civil Service Reform Management Unit Jane Curran clarified the issue saying there are provisions for meal claims however not in cases where meals were provided, which is the case in hospitals.

“If your ministry is providing the meal then you can’t claim meal allowance.

“It is the ministry that decides to whom or when to give the meal allowance.

“The question of quality needs to be addressed separately.”

Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said he thought such policies on whether nurses were given meals or allowed to claim meal allowance needed to be looked into.

“Whether nurses should be given food, the same as the patients or be given meal allowance...because sometimes they would say that they received the meal allowance but they didn’t get the time to buy the food and they are feeling hungry,” Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said.

“The meal allowance has increased from \$9 to \$20.”

### **Clarification**

Savusavu Subdivisional Hospital senior midwife Rea Ofati asked Ms Curran to clarify on their Fiji National Provident Fund deduction whether it would be normal or increased.

Ms Curran explained the FNPF deductions would be a normal deduction.

“The employee will contribute eight per cent from their pay and the Government will still contribute their ten per cent,” she said.

“Nothing has changed.”

**Edited by Mohammed Ali**

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