



# RESERVE BANK OF FIJI

*Progressive and Resilient Central Bank, Trusted by Our People*

## PRESS RELEASE

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### RESERVE BANK OF FIJI PARTNERS WITH THE FORGE PACIFIC TO STRENGTHEN MSME GROWTH AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION



The Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF) has partnered with The Forge Pacific Pte Limited (The Forge Pacific) to deliver a targeted business development programme aimed at strengthening the growth, resilience and investment readiness of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across Fiji.

Under the partnership, RBF and The Forge Pacific will design and implement a five-month business readiness programme for 20 MSMEs. The initiative will equip participating businesses with practical skills and capabilities in governance, financial management, compliance, strategic planning and investment readiness.

The Forge Pacific is a Fiji-based business development service provider that supports entrepreneurs and MSMEs through mentoring, coaching and investment readiness programmes designed to help businesses grow and access finance.

The initiative aligns with Fiji's National Financial Inclusion Strategy 2022–2030, the MSME Strategic Plan 2025–2030, and the country's broader development priorities to strengthen entrepreneurship and financial inclusion. It also complements the implementation of the Access to Business Funding Act 2025, which introduces alternative financing mechanisms aimed to address longstanding financing challenges faced by small businesses.

As Fiji prepares for the introduction of its first Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Lending Platform, the programme will help develop a pipeline of businesses that are better prepared to access both traditional and

alternative sources of finance. Participants will strengthen their governance, financial capability and investment readiness, improving their ability to attract lenders and investors.

RBF Governor Mr Ariff Ali highlighted the importance of supporting MSMEs through evidence-based and private-sector-led solutions stating, “this partnership recognises that MSME development requires both responsive policies and practical support. By working with The Forge Pacific, we are investing in a private-sector solution that will strengthen business capability and help prepare MSMEs to access emerging financing opportunities, including those enabled through Fiji’s new P2P lending platform.”

The Forge Pacific Co-Founder Watesoni Nata Jr. welcomed the partnership and its potential impact on Fiji’s entrepreneurial ecosystem, saying, “Many MSMEs have strong potential but face challenges in building capability, becoming investment-ready and accessing finance. Through this programme, we will provide practical coaching, mentoring and business development support that empowers entrepreneurs to build stronger, sustainable businesses. Beyond access to finance, this initiative is about creating jobs, fostering innovation and contributing to a more resilient and inclusive Fijian economy.”

The programme will begin with The Forge Business Readiness Assessment, providing each participating MSME with a comprehensive evaluation of its current capabilities and identifying priority areas for development. Businesses will then undertake coaching, mentoring and workshops across five key pillars:

- Business Strategy and Growth
- Operations and Governance
- Financial and Investment Readiness
- Market Readiness and Customer Growth
- Leadership, Innovation and Business Resilience

The programme will conclude with investment-readiness support, including opportunities for participants to refine and present their businesses to potential financiers and investors. By the end of the programme, participating MSMEs are expected to have stronger business fundamentals, clearer growth strategies and greater confidence to access financing and pursue expansion opportunities.

This partnership reflects RBF’s ongoing commitment to fostering a more resilient, innovative and inclusive MSME sector that contributes to sustainable economic growth across Fiji.

## **RESERVE BANK OF FIJI**

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