

Small business challenges - Fiji Times Online

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BUSINESS licensing is a challenge for establishing small businesses in Fiji, says founder of Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND), Sashi Kiran.

According to their survey, Ms Kiran said this had crippled micro and small businesses in rural areas.

She was one of the speakers at the Certified Practising Accountants (CPA) Congress in Nadi last week.

Working with rural farmers and entrepreneur, Ms Sashi said, accessing business licences was a major obstacle for the growth of business.

Ms Kiran said access to markets was a major restriction for women in business in rural areas.

Attorney-General and Acting Prime Minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum agreed with Ms Kiran on the challenges facing micro, small and medium enterprises around the country.

He said the level of bureaucracies still existed in the system and this needed to be streamlined.

"Yes, this is a problem and business licensing is a challenge for small businesses," he said.

National Centre for Small and Micro Enterprises Development acting CEO Ravi Chand said Government was working round-the-clock to improve the system on the issue of licensing.

Access to finance was also highlighted as one of the contributing problems to growing micro, small and medium enterprises.