



## **MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **Press Release**

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**Attention: Chief-of-Staff**

**For immediate Release**

#### **COVID-19 should not compromise the protection of the environment: Dr. Reddy**

Protecting the Natural resources and to safeguard the environment will not be compromised at any cost given the COVID19 Pandemic.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Waterways, Environment and Agriculture Hon. Dr.Mahendra Reddy while officiating at the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer in Nadi yesterday.

Minister Reddy said the businesses should not violate the environment laws but adhere to it while doing businesses or any sort of developments that disturbs the environment or the natural resources.

Dr. Reddy said the Ministry of Environment will continue to improve on its service delivery and support developments but not at the expense of our environment giving the excuse of COVID 19 pandemic.

“COVID 19 should not be used to sort change on how we going to do things which will affect our environment. We will not allow people to use COVID 19 as an excuse to breach the environment legislation, " said Dr. Reddy.

Minister Reddy further highlighted the obligation the Ministry has to protect the future generation through protecting and leaving a safer, healthier environment for them.

“We will not look at this short term issue to make a policy change which will have a negative effect on our environment and on our future generations. We are responsible to our future generation and have an obligation to protect our environment and natural resources,” said Minister Reddy.

He further stressed that it is everyone's responsibility to safeguard the environment and to protect our natural resources.

"The stock of natural resources contributes towards the quality of the environment in any country and it is our responsibility that everyone contributes towards preservation, building resilience and expanding the stock of natural resources that we have," he said.

"We are very fortunate that Fiji has a pristine environment and natural resources, it is a responsibility of all stakeholders, and the society to take ownership," said Minister Reddy.