



## MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT

### Press Release

318 TOORAK ROAD, BALI TOWER, SUVA

P O BOX 1292, SUVA

Phone: (679) 3383155 Fax: (679) 3383546

---

September 2020

Attention: Chief-of-Staff

For immediate Release

#### **Environmental Impact Assessment clinics to fast track processes**

Government is committed in maintaining the progress in policy interventions to ensure effective partnership and leadership on the ground, for the protection of biodiversity and the work contributed towards the protection of our environment.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Waterways, Environment and Agriculture Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy while opening the Validation Consultation Meeting for the 6th National Reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Environment Impact Assessments Clinic for the Western Division.

Highlighting the significance of the nationwide clinic, Minister Reddy reiterated that the clinic will allow the public to raise environmental issues to the environment expert who will ensure it is dealt with immediately.

Dr. Reddy stresses that the clinic will assist in fast tracking the applications and at the same time providing advice on any lacking paperwork and doubts that can hinder the approval process.

Minister Reddy said this will allow the Department of Environment and its stakeholders to re-group, re-discover, and innovate our thinking in areas of resource management, resource utilization, and conservation for the purpose of economic growth amidst the current global pandemic and economic hardship our nation is going through.

He ensured for a similar clinic to be done in other hot-spot areas in other divisions for all businesses to meet and resolve outstanding issues.

Meanwhile a representative from the All Engineering group of companies Mahomad Shaneem Khan acknowledged this initiative undertaken by the Department of Environment.

“It shows how committed the Department of Environment is towards protecting our environment concerning the developments taking place in Fiji. It gives the businesses to meet and discuss issues directly with the environment expert and we hope similar clinics are organized in the coming months,” he said.

The Department of Environment will have it’s EIA clinic at the Friendly North Inn Hotel in Labasa this Friday.