



MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT

Press Release

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Attention: Chief-of-Staff

For immediate Release

Mangrove nursery commissioned to address Coastal Erosion Rehabilitation

Coastal communities in the Western area exposed to constant coastal erosion now have a climate resilient nature based solution.

This after commissioning of new mangrove nursery by the Ministry of Waterways and Environment at Luvu in Lautoka on Thursday to address various coastal erosion and to rehabilitate coastal environment with the use of nature-based solutions- Mangroves.

While commissioning the nursery, the Minister for Waterways, Environment and Agriculture Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy reiterated the importance to secure coastal households from the impact of coastal erosion.

Minister Reddy reiterated that it is the government's priority to strengthen and adapt the efforts and promote the use of nature-based solutions in restoring degraded coastal areas.

"We have implemented hard infrastructure interventions and are fully aware of its costs and aesthetic relevance. Thus following extensive coastal erosion nowadays in Fiji, The Ministry of Waterways is encouraging nature-based solutions such as mangroves to restore and prevent erosion along with coastal areas," he said

Minister Reddy said communities need to take action towards protecting the natural resources such as mangroves which not only secures their livelihood, but also provides a hub for the marine ecosystem.

'While the government has done its part in securing the livelihoods of the vulnerable coastal communities, it is mandatory for the communities to restore degraded coastal areas in communities for the environment protection and for the future generation," he said.

“We are taking environment rehabilitation a step further, by committing to restore degraded coastal landscapes with nature-based solutions and specifically mangrove in this context. Mangroves play a very crucial role in supporting biodiversity richness and high levels of productivity, supplying seafood at capacities large enough to feed our communities,” said Hon. Reddy.

“We are demonstrating that we are putting our policy directives in National Adaptation Plan and National Development Plan into tangible actions and are committed to safeguard and protect vulnerable Fijians,” said Hon. Minister.

The mangrove nursery will provide high-quality juvenile mangrove plants which will be transferred to vulnerable coastal communities that are exposed to coastal inundation and erosion and will ensure sufficient supply of high-quality planting stock.