



## **MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **Press Release**

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**Attention: Chief-of-Staff**

**For immediate Release**

#### **Stakeholders applauded for phasing out from uses of harmful gas.**

The Western division Air Conditioning and Refrigeration industry has been praised for showing their commitment to phase out of the use of harmful gases in the industry which deplete the ozone layer.

This was commended by the Minister for Waterways, Environment and Agriculture Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy during the 2020 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer in Nadi yesterday.

Dr. Reddy said it is vital for the stakeholders to work collaboratively with the Ministry of Environments in terms of phasing out from the use of harmful gasses to protect the environment witnessing the continuous growth of climate change.

“We have seen the industry is very much committed in dealing with the issues in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment to deal with challenges we are facing to phase out from the uses of harmful gases in Fiji which harms the environment,” he said.

Hon. Reddy further stressed the objective to demonstrate and expedite the adoption of HCFC free alternatives through targeted retrofit programs the ministry currently has for the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, Tourism and the Fishing industry with the use of alternative environment friendly gasses.

Minister Reddy stated that the Ministry of Waterways and Environment together with its stakeholders was confident in reaching a further reduction milestone target in HCFC consumption by the end of 2020.

Meanwhile the President for the Western Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Industry Mr. Ajesh Goundar said acknowledged the initiative by the Ministry of Environment to use environment-friendly gas and phasing out from the harmful gases which depletes the ozone layer that contributes towards the climate change.

Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC)-22 or R22 is being phased out by Fiji (R22 is a refrigeration gas used in the air-conditioning units and refrigeration system for the purpose of cooling).

Alternatives such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and hydrocarbon (HCs) will replace R22 depending on the different sector and availability in the market.