



# MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS

## Press Release

318 TOORAK ROAD, BALI TOWER, SUVA

P O BOX 1292, SUVA

Phone: (679) 3383155 Fax: (679) 338354 Email: [waterwaysfiji@gmail.com](mailto:waterwaysfiji@gmail.com)

---

**February 2021**

### **Minister Reddy addresses Drainage concerns for Western Farmers**

The threat posed by flooding which affects households, farms and infrastructure will now be addressed for major farmers and communities in the West.

This was the assurance given by the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Hon. Dr Mahendra Reddy while visiting farmers and communities in the Western Division.

Dr. Reddy while addressing various communities, villages and farmers stressed that emergency drainage works would be carried out as this was the immediate need common amongst these areas in order to safeguard farms and houses from flooding.

He further noted that most of the public drains were hindered immensely due to siltation from the surface run-off which is caused by continuous rainfall.

Minister Reddy further reiterated that the work will commence from this week by the Waterways Ministry and public drains will be desilted to further address the flooding concerns.

"We will organize contractors to carry out the emergency drainage works as soon as possible in the various localities and will treat this as an urgent concern to further avoid the threat of flooding in the communities and farms," he said.

"We will protect every household and farms that are threatened from flooding or any flow of water and will ensure that households and farms are safe guarded," said Dr. Reddy.

Dr. Reddy visited and met farmers in the whole of the Western Division from areas in Rakiraki, Tavua, Ba, Lautoka, Nadi and will conclude his visit in Sigatoka on Thursday.

Dr. Reddy further noted that emergency drainage works will allow farmers to normalize their agricultural activity for those who have been affected by recent Natural Disaster.

Meanwhile, speaking on behalf of the farmers from Raviravi, Navou and Karavi, Advisory Councilor Mrs Susma Lal thanked the Minister for visiting the farmers and addressing their concerns.

"We thank the government and the Minister Dr. Reddy for his visiting and hearing from farmers and communities following the natural disasters to witness the damages and loss occurred during recent flooding," she said.