



MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS

Press Release

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Seawall construction for Dakuiniku village commenced

Relocation of houses due to Coastal flooding and coastal erosion will now not be a preference for the 250 villagers of Dakuiniku, in Tailevu

This after the construction works of 250 meters of Nature Based Seawall that will protect 50 houses and more than 250 villagers.

The Ministry of Waterways will oversee the project with an agreement from the Basic Industries Limited who will facilitate the construction work.

While Officiating at the ground breaking Ceremony at the village in Tailevu, The Minister for Waterways, Environment and Agriculture Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy highlighted that innovative thinking is vital while dealing with Nature, reiterating the importance Eco-Friendly Nature-Based Seawall.

Minister Reddy applauded the initiative of the Basic Industries in supporting the Fijian Governments effort towards building Resilience amongst the coastal communities, which are the most vulnerable to climate change.

Minister Reddy further alluded that relocating should be a last option for the village and the government, as the their main aim is to protect the traditional land for the coastal communities

"I've noted how communities are now being feeling threatened, due to issues related to climate change. Now, several decades ago, when our forefathers settled here at our own coastal areas or river beds. There was a reason, because their lifestyle, their livelihood, their culture was intertwined with water, and oceans," He said

"Our heritage is linked. Our forefathers have been buried here. Last thing we want to do is to move communities away from where their cultural heritage has been grounded, and our government led by our Prime Minister, we have been fighting against issues of climate change, and we will do everything possible to ensure that communities are protected," said Dr. Reddy

The Chief Executive Officer for Basic Industries Mr. Ritesh Dass commended on the initiatives of the Ministry of Waterways using Nature-Based approaches to protect the Namatakula community.

We owe our existence to the Fijian communities and our obligation stretches beyond delivering commercial objectives and maximizing shareholder return.

“It is about giving back to the communities and the environment in fulfilling our values, and breathing our corporate social responsibility philosophy and making a positive impact to the lives of our fellow Fijians.” Said Mr. Dass.

Meanwhile for the 59 year old Sereana Duvaga who lives by the sea in the village, coastal flooding had been a concern as houses used to get flood during the high tide.

“During the cyclone times, the whole villagers had to evacuate their house and get shelter either at RKS School or at the church hall.

At times during the high tides, some of the houses used to get flood and women and children find it difficult to move around the village due to this.

“The women in the village cannot do floriculture or any other agricultural activity because of seawater inundation” she said

We thank the government of the day, the Ministry of Waterways, for the construction of the seawall that will not only protect the village but will also secure our ancient land.

Close to 250 meters of a hybrid sea wall, will be built by the Ministry of Waterways with bouldering work, land reclamation, rows of mangroves (as a first), and vetiver planting (last line of defense) to protect the village coastline.