



# MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS

## Press Release

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### **Multi-Purpose Irrigation Project Commissioned for Nadari settlement**

The desperate need for accessibility to water for rural communities for farming purpose as a determinant of people's livelihoods through agricultural production, socio-economic development, and environmental protection remains key priority for the government.

This is to further address the wellbeing of Fijians in the rural and maritime communities which is the hub of critical primary economic activities such as agriculture, where these rural and maritime communities play a critical role in the country's overall development agenda

This was highlighted by the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy while commissioning the Ministry of Waterways' Nadari Multi-Purpose Irrigation Project at Nadari in Ba today.

The Government's investment through the Ministry of Waterways and Environment will provide access to water through the gravity-fed Irrigation project which included the maintenance work on the existing reservoir that will benefit the eighty farming households and close to 400 people during droughts.

While commissioning the project, Minister Reddy said this would enhance farming activities and will encourage the community to actively contribute toward the growth and expansion of the agriculture sector.

He said that government will continue to capitalize the rural and maritime communities for the overall development of the country.

"Our government is committed to creating a critical infrastructure in rural areas through which we sustain rural agriculture production," said Dr. Reddy.

Minister Reddy reiterated that irrigation projects will boost farming activities for the settlement and will determine the sustenance of livelihoods through food/agriculture production.

Highlighting the potential contribution the farmers can have on the agriculture sector, Hon. Dr. Reddy emphasized that waterways service subsidizes fundamentally to commercial agriculture contributing dramatically towards Fiji's economy.

This project will assist in better organizing rural farmers through cluster farming, provision of extension services, farm-access roads, irrigation, mechanization, marketing support, and export development,” said Dr. Reddy.

“This project is one such simple innovation that did not cost a fortune and yet this would cater to the entire community not just for now but for years to come. This marks the testimony that we would like to leave behind for our community,” he said.

He further alluded that providing access to water remained a key priority for the Fijian Government to ensure the continued development of such isolated communities and the country as a whole.

Meanwhile, for the 30 year old resident, who is also an advisory Councilor Mr. Navin Kumar Gosai who is a livestock and crop farmer acknowledged the Government assistance as this would further boost the farming activities in settlement.

He said the water source will also provide safe and clean water for household use especially for drinking purposes.

This problem has been ongoing from almost 20 years as the community was not receiving clean water as for drinking purposes and we are now thankful to the Waterways Ministry for this timely assistance for the community.