



MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS

Press Release

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June 2021

Solar Lights Bring Relief for Emuri Village

Travelling in pitch-black darkness will be a thing of the past for villagers of Emuri Village in Sigatoka.

The women in the village are especially relieved when transporting their produce to the Sigatoka market to sell. It is now a safer experience for them after solar lights were installed by the Ministry of Waterways recently.

Emuri Village headman Ratu Apenisa said that the women of the village would walk in the dark and cross the river as they treked for the market.

“Villagers would often cross the flooded river at night time, which is the only way to reach the village. It was very risky, because whenever there is flood, we don’t know what the flood water carries with it,” he said.

“Most of the women from the village travel to sell their agricultural produce in the Sigatoka market. They go early in the morning and return late when it gets dark. At times it was risky as they carry money with them for their livelihood,” he said.

So this assistance from the Ministry of Waterways will ensure safer movement for the villagers whenever they are travelling from the village to the main highway, or vice versa

The request for the solar lights was made to the Minister for Waterways, Environment and Agriculture Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy by the villagers during an informal Talanoa session held in the village earlier this year.

Minister Reddy said the solar lights would help to ease the fear and anxiety among women who transported their produce to the market.

“Mothers’s in the village work very hard, where most of the time they leave home early in the dark so that they could sell their vegetables in market,”

He said the lights will provide a safer journey to them and motivate other members of the family to get into agricultural production adding that Government was providing all available means to improve the lives of ordinary Fijians throughout the country.

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