



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

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Water crisis addressed for Ellington farming communities

An integrated collaboration by the Ministry of Waterways and the local communities will soon be undertaken to address the Water crisis at Ellington in Rakiraki as several communities are being vulnerable to extremely dry weather.

This was assured by the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy while meeting the farmers from Ellington, Nariya and Rarapatu in Rakiraki yesterday.

This followed upon a request from the community members as drought became a major adversary for farming as well as for household activities.

While raising concern on behalf of about 15 farmers and households, a 55 year old Mr. Joe Cagi said farming activities are badly affected during the dry season of the year.

"Drought is the major issue we are facing here and at times there is no water for a number of the day in the house as well as in the farms and this result in the decease of agricultural production during the dry season of the year," he said.

He further alluded that addressing the issue will result in the increase in agricultural activity as well as it can be consumed for households also for drinking.

Meanwhile, in a response Minister Dr. Mahendra Reddy reiterated 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.

He said his align Ministries will take immediate action to construct a bore hole which will further address the issue of drought for about 15 farming households in the community.

Dr. Reddy has however emphasized that these water sources would be for communal usage and won't be specifically availed for an individual household as this project will benefit more than 15 houses in the community.