



MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS

Press Release

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Ba River Dredging Commenced

Efforts to safeguard the township of Ba and its adjacent communities from flooding was heightened following the commissioning of dredging works in the Ba River today.

The dredging works are expected to mitigate flooding with an increased amount of water discharge capacity that would benefit the business sectors in Ba town, sugarcane, crop and livestock farms along the river.

A total of 19 kilometers of river dredging works will be undertaken by the Ministry of Waterways under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) agreement with Vanua Ko Ba Holdings.

While commissioning the river dredging works in Ba today, Minister for Waterways, Environment and Agriculture Hon. Dr Mahendra Reddy said that dredging works will increase the water discharge capacity of the river during heavy rain.

Minister Reddy reiterated that due to the constant flooding, the water discharge capacity has been diminished which has caused flooding in the Ba town and adjacent communities.

"The current discharge capacity of Ba River now is around 1570 cubic meters per second which have been reduced to almost half due to the silt material in the Ba River," he said.

Dr. Reddy further noted that upon the completion of the 19 kilometers of dredging works, around 3.8 million cubic meters of silt would be removed which will increase the water discharge capacity to around 2180 cubic meters per second.

He said this will allow water to quickly move out during the flood.

The spokesperson for Tui Ba and the Director for Vanua Ko Ba Holdings Mr. Manasa Litidanu said constant flooding in the Ba town during the annual rainy season has been creating risk to the businesses in the Ba town.

He further expressed his gratitude on behalf of Tui Ba as the dredging work would provide relief to the communities and farmers adjacent to the river.

"We would like to thank the government for assisting us to dredge this River, as you know, over the years we have been suffering because of floods," he said.

He acknowledged the continuous support from the Ministry of waterways in their drainage programs and now the dredging of Ba River which will safeguard their farms and homes.