



# MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS

## Press Release

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### **Desilting works Commissioned for Six Villages in Ra**

Efforts to mitigate flooding for 6 villages in Ra, adjacent to the Drauniivi River have been bolstered today following the commissioning of desilting works at the river.

The desilting works are expected to protect and safeguard more than 3,000 Fijians living in Drauniivi, Togovere, Vunitogoloa, Naivavuni, Narewa and Vitawa village.

A total of 2 kilometers of river desilting works will be undertaken by the Ministry of Waterways under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) agreement with Super Construction and Civil Works Limited.

While commissioning the desilting works at Drauniivi village in Ra today, Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy said climate change has been a major threat to communities along the river.

Dr. Reddy further reiterated that constant flooding in the waterways is mainly caused by high density of rainfall, climate change and deposition of silt in the waterways.

"I want to assure all communities that we will progressively attend to the issues raised with us and we will protect them," he said

"We have our work to do, and it is not something that we'll be able to finish in a couple of years as requests from communities to us are increasing on a daily basis. So I assure you all that we will come and protect you and your villages or communities," he said.

The general Secretary for the Vatukaloko Development and the Advisory to the Committee Mr. Sele Tagivuni has commended the work undertaken by the Ministry of Waterways.

"Due to too much silt in the river over the years, close to six villages and the farms adjacent to this river are always subject to flooding," he said.

"We're thankful for these works which will have an effect on the prevalence of flooding here in our communities," said Mr. Tagivuni.