



MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS

Press Release

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Desilting works undertaken for Vutuni Creek

Efforts to mitigate flooding for 3 villages in Ba, adjacent to the Vutuni Creek have been bolstered following the commissioning of desilting works at the creek.

The desilting works are expected to protect and safeguard close to 2,000 Fijians living in Namosau, Vutuni and Korovtu village.

A total of 8 kilometers of emergency creek desilting works is being undertaken by the Ministry of Waterways under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) agreement with Aggregate Solution Fiji.

While commissioning the desilting works at Vutuni creek in Namosau Ba last week, Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy said these works will protect a large amount of arable land from River Bank erosion and will mitigate flooding on farms adjacent to the creek.

"This will further support the commercial agriculture program through increasing agricultural activity in the community, which could bring economic benefit in the area," he said.

"The desilting works will involve the removal of silt and sediments that have built up within river channels, this to restore its natural capacity, without widening or deepening the river.

Dr. Reddy further noted that these desilting works are not to safeguard households only, but intended to protect roads, schools, arable land and infrastructure adjacent to the creek from flooding.

Meanwhile, Mata ni Tikina Mr. Jeremaia Tuwai from Nailaga Ba said farms along the creek are constantly affected by flash flooding and most of their crops are washed away.

He further expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Waterways as three villages, their farms had been constantly and adversely affected by floodwaters. These villagers heavily depend on farming for food and income security.

"This does not only affect our households, but it also affects our farms and root crops as well and we're grateful to the Ministry of Waterways for the desilting works, it is a sigh of relief for us and we hope that flooding will be addressed through these works," said Mr. Tuwai.

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