



MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS

Press Release

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Media Release

Nadi River Dredging Commences

The Nadi River Dredging works has commenced to protect and safeguard households, communities, farms, and infrastructure adjacent to the Nadi River

A total of Nine kilometers of dredging works will be undertaken by the Ministry of Waterways under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) agreement with Hong Yuan Development Pte Ltd, Nadi based Dredging Company.

While commissioning the dredging works at the Sikituru village in Nadi, Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy said that dredging works will protect 875 households, five villages, farms and the Nadi town community by increasing the water discharge capacity of the river by removing approximately 1.2millions cubic meters of silt material.

Dr. Reddy said "climate change coupled with various activities upstream such as logging and agricultural activities is contributing to a much larger volume of water to flow downstream along with sediments.

"The activities upstream are resulting in sediments and debris which reduces the discharge capacity of our waterways. This dual effect is creating havoc downstream during rainy seasons," he said.

"Today we're very happy on to say that upon completion of this project, we will be increasing water discharge capacity of the Nadi River by dredging 9 km from the river mouth to the upstream, up to Narewa village," He said.

Minister Reddy noted that Nadi is a prime area renowned for the tourism industry, highlighting that these dredging works will support the farming activities, enabling farmers to sell their produce to the hotels and resorts and also reducing spilling over of water thus entering Nadi town.

The Tui Nadi, Ratu Vuniani Navuniuci said the dredging works will now support the farming activities and will enable villagers to invest in agricultural production as the dredging works will address flooding which occurs during the annual rainy season

He further expressed his gratitude as the dredging work would provide relief to the communities, adjacent villagers, and the business sectors in Nadi Town.

The Nadi River dredging works will protect and safeguards Narewa, Sikitutu, Maqalevu, Moala, and Yavusania villages, close to Nine-Hundred households, and business sectors in Nadi town, sugarcane, crop and livestock farms downstream the river.

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