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** For Immediate Release **

Central Division DAC Members meet after new appointments



Caption: *Acting Deputy Secretary for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Ms. Arieta Dimuri address the newly appointed District Advisory Councillors (DAC) at a meeting this week.*

SUVA- Newly appointed members of the District Advisory Council serving in communities in the Central Division met this week to discuss their role in advancing and fulfilling Government's development initiatives and aspirations in their respective communities.

In addressing the forum, Acting Deputy Secretary for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Ms. Arieta Dimuri reminded the DAC members about the importance of meeting the expectations of the Ministry.

"I would like to remind you of the Code of Good Governance listed in the Terms of Reference. This includes the principles of accountability to the people we serve, acting in good faith and in the best interest of the District, and not our individual personal agendas. Your work is to remain within the scope of your functions, adhering to rigorous ethical and professional standards, and last but not the least to refrain from politicising issues in Council meetings," Ms Dimuri said.

She emphasised to the Forum that the Ministry took a strong stance on misbehaviour and the breach of the Code of Good Governance. Ms Dimuri said this aligned to the intention of the Ministry in maintaining the integrity of forums such as the District Advisory Council.

"I would like to remind you that in your appointment letter we had specified that appointments will be subject to Police Checks. In addition, the TOR also requires that those appointed as DAC members 'should be of good character, sober minded, and maintain a clean police record'.

As members of the District Advisory Council, she said, they were a key development partner that would be the extending arm for the Ministry in ensuring that services such as proper and clear advice, facilitation of needs and conveyance of critical development priorities to fellow Fijians in the rural and maritime communities were well coordinated.

"Your services will be an ambit to help in the improvement of living standards, contribution to economic growth, alleviate poverty and more importantly, aligning to the work of the Government's National Development priority of 'leaving no one behind',"

Ms Dimuri also reminded the DAC members that their respective meeting and monthly reports were critical as the information were necessary in the planning and prioritisation of development needs.

"These are needs that will assist our communities access proper water and good sanitation, better roads, food security, and connectivity to name a few," she added.

The DAC meetings for the Central Division concluded today.



Caption: District Advisory Councillors (DAC) from the Central Division at a meeting in Nausori this week.

-ENDS-

The Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management is responsible for implementing development strategies that bring Fijians living in rural and maritime regions the same level of access to essential services and economic opportunities as anywhere else in the country. We coordinate and implement the Fijian Government's rural and maritime

development initiatives with a mission to empower Fiji's rural sector. We also spearhead disaster risk reduction initiatives at national and sub-national level including disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. We have offices for each of Fiji's 14 provinces including Rotuma, leading the Fijian Government's rural development and disaster risk management operations.

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