



## PRESS RELEASE 70/2021

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**\*\* For Immediate Release \*\***

### Minister Seruiratu visit cyclone affected school



**Caption: Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Commissioner Northern Division Mr. Uraia Rainima and acting Provincial Administrator Bua Mr. Alifereti Abenasiga with members of the school committee and management of Lekutu Secondary School in Bua yesterday.**

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**LABASA** – Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Hon. Inia Seruiratu visited the new temporary school buildings rebuilt by the Australian Defence Force (ADF) at Lekutu Secondary School in Bua yesterday.

The Hon. Minister's visit to the school is to reinforce the message of cyclone preparedness as we are days away from the anniversary of Tropical Cyclone Yasa on December 17.

In his meeting with members of the school committee, Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Hon. Inia Seruiratu urged the committee to ensure the school was secured and staff members were safe.

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“Safety is paramount and when we talk about the need for preparedness, that is serious business for us,” Hon. Seruiratu said.

He also told the school committee that he understood that the journey so far had not been easy for the students and the teachers, but this was an opportunity for them to be innovative.

“Also, be assured of every support from Government. We will be with you because education is a key priority and key investment by Government. This commitment by Government will not change.”

Meanwhile, a representative of the district of Lekutu had also acknowledged the contribution made by Hon. Seruiratu towards the school and nearby communities in the aftermath of recent Tropical Cyclones Yasa and Ana.

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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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