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**** For Immediate Release ****

Minister Seruiratu visit Western Division warehouse



Caption: *Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Hon. Inia Seruiratu with a staff member from the Office of the Commissioner of Western Division in front of a shipping container filled with donated items from members of the Fijian community in Melbourne, Australia. The container is currently stationed at the Western Division warehouse.*

SUVA- Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Hon. Inia Seruiratu visited the Western Division warehouse on the weekend to inspect the preposition of stores as part of our joint preparedness for the current cyclone season.

The Ministry has been working diligently in recent weeks to ensure our preparedness levels are up to par with the expectations of the senior management.

Under the guidance of the four Divisional Commissioners, the divisional warehouses had been set-up accordingly to ensure that it is in a state of preparedness to respond rapidly and effectively to any crisis.

In his meeting with the Western Division team, Hon. Seruiratu strongly emphasised the need to conduct routine readiness checks to prepare well for this new cyclone season. He also reminded them to ensure that stores were being distributed and prepositioned in advance in line with our status of readiness.

Meanwhile, prepositioning of Non-Food Items (NFIs) for the Northern Division is expected to be completed soon following the easing of maritime travels to maritime islands last week.



Caption: ***Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Hon. Inia Seruiratu inspect the Western Division warehouse in Lautoka.***

-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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