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**** For Immediate Release ****

New access road to ease water problem



Caption: ***Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Hon. Inia Seruiratu cuts the ribbon to officially open the Wairiki Reservoir Access Road in Bua yesterday.***

LABASA – The commissioning of the Wairiki Reservoir Access Road project is expected to alleviate water issues faced by the villagers of Wairiki in the district of Vuya.

The access road was commissioned by the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Hon. Inia Seruiratu yesterday.

The new road will enable the villagers to access a water tank situated at the end of the access road during dry spells. The new access road will also allow accessibility for water cartage exercise by the Water Authority of Fiji (WAF).

Situated in the Northeast of Nabouwalu, the villagers of Wairiki mostly rely on rain water and water carting for water consumption, and they fetch water from a nearby river for household chores.

Wairiki Village headman Mr. Pita Kara said the newly opened access road would greatly assist the villagers of Wairiki in also accessing safe drinking water through the water cartage exercise conducted by the Water Authority of Fiji.

“Before we used to face a lot of water issues. We either get water from our own tanks at home or fetch water from the river which was not safe. But this project will enable us to get clean drinking water and we are very grateful for such assistance,” he said.

The village women’s group representative, Ms. Luisa Makosoi said the new road would assist a lot of women in the village.

“In the past when we have to fetch water for the family from the river, it used to be really hard for us as we had to carry buckets on our back. But today we thank Government a lot for helping us with this new road,” Ms Makosoi said.

Minister Seruiratu said the new access road could give the community a sense of hope in providing access to their reservoir for the provision of safe water to meet their basic need.

This, he reiterated is aligned to provisions set out in the 2013 Constitution and our commitment in ensuring that no one, especially those in rural Fiji were left behind in Government’s development initiatives.

Hon. Seruiratu also assured the villagers that Government was committed to ensuring that Fijians in rural and maritime communities had the same level of access to services offered by Government like those enjoyed by Fijians in urban centers.

The Hon. Minister also used the opportunity today to remind villagers of Wairiki of the need to be alert and prepared during this cyclone season.

More than 70 people from 24 households will benefit from the construction of the new access road.



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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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