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# MEDIA RELEASE

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## HOPE RESTORED AS DRAUBUTA ROAD WORKS NEARS COMPLETION

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Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) is nearing completion on the 1.8km road construction in Draubuta in the North East of Sigatoka in the province of Nadroga/Navosa.

“School children of Draubuta Village leave home every Sunday to a nearby village to attend school and return home every Friday afternoon after school. This is the struggle the villagers of Draubuta face daily due to lack of proper road access,” says Turaga-ni-Koro Sireli Marua.

“Children as young as six year-old have to stay away from their family to attend primary school, they do not complain because they want to study and become successful.”

Mr Marua said life is challenging and the villagers do not have a choice but to undertake the arduous trek on a daily basis. This becomes more difficult during the rainy season as the trek becomes slippery and dangerous, especially for the women and children.”

“For years the villagers of Draubuta have longed for proper roads and we are very excited that this dream is coming to fruition. We are grateful to the government and the FRA for keeping their promise and providing us a road.”

FRA Acting Chief Executive Officer Robert Sen says the new access road will make a big difference to the villagers and will ensure that schools, health services and other facilities are within reach.

“There is still years of hard work ahead of us all and we are committed to improve and provide access to all Fijians,” Mr Sen said.

He has thanked the villagers for their understanding and patience as the roadworks continue.

The 1.8km road project started in early February and is anticipated to be completed by October 2018, weather permitting.

***Photo Caption 1: Turaga-ni-Koro Sireli Marua with FRA’s Works Manager Rodrick Chand at the new Draubuta Access Road.***

***Photo Caption 2: Villagers of Draubuta with FRA representatives and contractors at the new access road***



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