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## ELLINGTON WHARF REOPENS, STRENGTHENING INTER-ISLAND CONNECTIVITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

On December 16th, Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services, and Transport, Honorable Ro Filipe Tuisawau officially commissioned the newly upgraded Ellington Wharf in Rakiraki, marking a significant milestone in improving inter-island connectivity for communities in Ra and beyond.

The reopening of Ellington Wharf reflects the government's continued commitment to investing in critical transport infrastructure that enhances mobility, supports trade, and improves access for all.

Ellington Wharf plays a crucial role in connecting Viti Levu to Nabouwalu in Vanua Levu by sea, linking families, facilitating passenger movement, and enabling the efficient transport of goods between Fiji's two largest islands. Speaking at the commissioning, Honorable

“ The reopening of Ellington Wharf underscores our broader vision to create reliable, safe, and efficient transport links across Fiji. This wharf is a critical artery of economic activity, supporting local businesses, farmers, and entrepreneurs by improving access to markets and reducing travel time.

The upgraded wharf is expected to enhance safety and deliver a more reliable service for both passengers and freight. These improvements will contribute directly to economic activity in Rakiraki and surrounding areas, while supporting national goals of regional integration and economic diversification.

- Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services, and Transport, Honorable Ro Filipe Tuisawau ”

Tuisawau said the upgraded facility represents more than just a physical improvement.

The Honorable Minister encouraged the community members and stakeholders to work collaboratively to maximize the benefits of the upgraded facility and ensure its long-term sustainability. He also acknowledged the contributions of engineers, contractors, planners, and community leaders whose efforts made the project possible.

The FRA has also upgraded 366 meters of unsealed section and jetty area to sealed road and installed 5 streetlights at the jetty wharf area for safe commute and accessibility. The reopening of Ellington Wharf stands as a symbol of progress and shared commitment to building a more connected, resilient, and prosperous Fiji.





## NEW KOROLEVU JETTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITMENT TO RURAL MARITIME GROWTH

The Minister for Public Works, Transport, and Meteorological Services, Honorable Ro Filipe Tuisawau, officiated the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the new Korolevu Jetty on Wednesday, 10th December 2025.

The \$12 million project, supported by the Chinese Government through the Office of the Prime Minister, marks a significant milestone in strengthening maritime transport and improving local connectivity.

Located in Korolevu Village, the new jetty will include two dedicated passenger and cargo berths designed to accommodate small motorboats, significantly improving accessibility for villagers, fishermen, and local businesses. The jetty structure will span 25 meters, and works will include upgrades to the existing sloping revetment on the west bank of the flood discharge estuary.

In his remarks, while representing the Honorable Prime Minister, Honorable Tuisawau said the Korolevu Jetty aligns closely with the priorities outlined in the national development

“ Under the Fiji National Development Plan 2025–2029, the government has emphasized the urgent need for balanced development across rural, maritime, and urban areas, bridging gaps in infrastructure, access, and opportunity. As part of the renewed focus on rural and outer-island transformation, the Plan calls for improved connectivity through better roads and jetties, alongside greater investment in transport, water, sanitation, and other essential infrastructure.

The opening of this jetty also reflects our broader commitment to rural infrastructure development, a commitment that has seen significant investment in roads, footpaths, bridges, and community services to enhance access and improve living standards for rural Fijians.

- Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services, and Transport, Honorable Ro Filipe Tuisawau ”

agenda.

Representing the Ambassador of China to Fiji at the event, the Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Fiji, Mr. Liu Ke, highlighted the strategic importance of the project, noting it as a key piece of infrastructure and reaffirming China’s commitment to working with the Fiji Roads Authority to ensure its successful completion.

He also underscored the strong ties between Fiji and China, particularly under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), noting that the long-standing relationship continues to support progress in infrastructure and community development.

The Korolevu Jetty project demonstrates the government’s continued commitment to improving rural maritime infrastructure and supporting the livelihoods of coastal communities that rely on small marine vessels for trade, transport, and daily movement.

The Honorable Minister called on the community to back government initiatives and ensure the proper care and upkeep of the new developments.

## FOUR KEY BRIDGES IN TAVEUNI TO BE REPLACED, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY



The Minister for Public Works, Transport, and Meteorological Services, Honorable Ro Filipe Tuisawau, today officiated the groundbreaking ceremony for the replacement of four critical bridges in Taveuni on December 19th. The bridges, fully funded by the Fiji Government, will cost \$8.8 million, and the project is scheduled for completion in November 2026.

Located along the main arterial road, the Balili Bridge and Soqulu 1, Soqulu 2, and Soqulu 3 Bridges play a vital role in connecting villages, enabling safe access for school children, facilitating the movement of agricultural produce to markets, and supporting the overall social and economic activity of Taveuni. Officiating at the ceremony, Honorable Tuisawau highlighted the importance of these bridges as essential lifelines for communities across the island.

## FIJI ROADS AUTHORITY IMPLEMENTS NEW TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES AT KEY INTERSECTIONS TO ENHANCE SAFETY AND TRAFFIC FLOW

The Fiji Roads Authority has now implemented new traffic management measures at selected intersections to address congestion and improve safety for both drivers and pedestrians. These enhancements include the introduction of prioritized “through” lanes and improved signage, all designed to facilitate smoother traffic movement while maintaining high safety standards.

The new layout features designated “through” lanes at specific intersections, separated by cones to clearly guide drivers. Vehicles traveling in these lanes are permitted to proceed during red light phases, helping to reduce traffic buildup during peak hours.

A speed limit of 30 km/h along these lanes is being enforced to ensure safe travel, with drivers required to give way to pedestrians crossing at designated signals. To further improve traffic flow, a flashing yellow traffic light arm will be installed at a later date to provide additional guidance for drivers in these

lanes. Enhanced signage has been strategically placed to inform and alert road users. A “New Road Layout” sign is positioned 130 meters ahead of the intersection to provide advance notice. Warning signs are installed 65 meters before the intersection to alert drivers of upcoming pedestrian crossings, complemented by a 30 km/h speed limit sign located 30 meters prior to these warnings.

At the intersections themselves, “Pedestrians cross with care” signs serve as reminders for pedestrians to follow crossing signals, ensuring orderly and safe crossings. To facilitate safe pedestrian movement, signs have been installed at the intersections, indicating designated zones for crossing.

Pedestrians are advised to press the pedestrian button and wait for the green pedestrian signal before crossing, reinforcing safety and order during peak traffic periods. Recognizing the importance of community safety, traffic wardens are present during school peak hours at these intersections, including

Rewa Street, Makoi, and Adi Lady Davila, to assist teachers and students and ensure smooth movement.

The FRA emphasizes that all temporary signage and markings adhere to existing pedestrian-activated signals at traffic lights, and the installation of additional signage and traffic arms will further enhance safety and traffic flow.

FRA will also coordinate with local schools through awareness and education campaigns to promote safe behaviors at these intersections. FRA urges all road users to familiarize themselves with the new layout and signage. Drivers are reminded to reduce their speed to 30 km/h in the through lanes and to give priority to pedestrians.

Pedestrians are encouraged to obey crossing signals and cross with care, ensuring safety at all times. Through these strategic improvements and community cooperation, the FRA is committed to ensuring safer, more efficient journeys for all road users.



## VEGETATION CONTROL WORKS INITIATIVE BEGIN IN RAKIRAKI THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

In partnership with the government, local communities, and stakeholders, the Vegetation Control Works Initiative has commenced in the Central, Eastern, Northern, and Western Divisions.

A total of 34 community groups across the Central, Eastern, Western, and Northern Divisions were engaged and contracted under this initiative to carry out vegetation control works. Through this program, local communities, particularly those in rural and village settings, are engaged to take a lead role in the routine maintenance of rural road infrastructure. Tasks such as vegetation control,

minor repairs, and general upkeep will now be managed by the people who use these roads every day. Before the rollout of any initiative, the Fiji Roads Authority ensures that all participating community groups undergo a comprehensive induction conducted by the Traffic Safety Management Team.

The training covers key areas such as safe traffic management setup during works, the importance of using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on-site, and basic first aid procedures. These sessions include both theoretical and practical components

to ensure that all members are well-prepared to carry out their tasks safely and effectively. Participating community groups also earn a substantial income in recognition of their hard work and commitment to this initiative. The Fiji Roads Authority visited Rakiraki Yaubula Investment PTE Limited at Volivoli Circular Road in Rakiraki on 22 October, where the initiative was rolled out. Josefa Uluibua of Rakiraki Yaubula Investment PTE Limited acknowledged the Fiji Roads Authority for the opportunity to be part of the initiative.

Mr. Uluibua emphasized the importance of encouraging members to take ownership of their environment and contribute meaningfully to the development of Rakiraki.

**“ I am grateful to the FRA for giving us this opportunity. Our main goal is to support the livelihoods of the people of Rakiraki, especially those who are unemployed. We currently have 33 registered members who have successfully completed the training program. - Mr. Josefa Uluibua of Rakiraki Yaubula Investment PTE Limited ”**

## A LOOK AT RECENT ROAD PROJECTS

In recent months, the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) has undertaken several major road works across the country, including routine maintenance, rip and remake projects, and broader road improvement initiatives. These ongoing infrastructure efforts reflect FRA's commitment to improving road conditions. Enhancing safety and strengthening connectivity for both rural and urban communities.

Through essential upgrades, ranging from structural reconstruction to intersection improvements, FRA aims to support economic activity, ensure safer travel, and provide more reliable access to vital services.

Some of the major works carried out and in progress under these programs are:



Under the road improvement works, sealing works along Naitonitoni Road, extending towards the Navua Town frontage, have been completed along with new road markings.

The upgraded road will help ease traffic flow, improve road safety, and provide a smoother and more comfortable travel experience for motorists and pedestrians in the area.



Road widening works along four narrow sections of Vuda Back Road are progressing well. Widening for Sections 1, 2, and 4 has been completed, with aggregate overlay currently in progress.

Works have also commenced on Section 3, and the entire project is expected to be completed soon. To date, 783 meters out of the total 967 meters of widening works have been completed.



Under the Seal Maintenance Program, roadworks were carried out along Malele Road in Tavua. This project involved the reconstruction of a 92-meter section of the road's traction seal to ensure long-term durability and better driving conditions.



Rip and Remake and Maintenance Program works were carried out along Benai Police Post, Koronubu Road in Ba to improve accessibility for residents and daily commuters along this vital route. A total of 288 meters of sealing works have been completed, enhancing road safety and ensuring smoother, more reliable travel for motorists and pedestrians alike.



Under the Rip and Remake and Maintenance Programs, sealing works were carried out along Sukanaivalu Road, Lautoka. This road maintenance aims to improve accessibility for residents and daily commuters along this vital route. A total of 250 meters has been completed, with works continuing further to enhance road safety for all users.



Asphalt overlay works were carried out along Nadonumai Road, off Queens Road, delivering a significant improvement for the community. A total of 282 meters of road was sealed, enhancing accessibility and safety for all.



Under the Western Unseal Maintenance Programme, the Vakabuli Village Road re-sheeting project in Lautoka was carried out last month. This project involved 12 separate isolated sites with a total length of 1,384 meters.



The Draunivi area in Ra along Kings Road has been sealed to improve accessibility for residents and daily commuters along this vital route. A total of 220 meters was sealed to provide safer and smoother travel for all road users.



Under the Resilience Program, road upgrading works have commenced at Balata Flats along Nadarivatu Road in Tavua. The project aims to raise a 1.4 km section of unsealed road between Korovou Village and Balata School, an area frequently affected by flooding during the peak wet season. As we approach the rainy season, these works will strengthen road resilience, ensuring safer and more reliable access for nearby communities, including a more dependable route for students travelling to and from Balata School during adverse weather conditions.



Resealing works along the South Coastal Road in Taveuni, extending from Lesuma Village toward Salia Jetty. The overall project aims to reseal the road surface from Salia Jetty up to Naselesele Village, approximately 1.170 km of South Coastal Road and approximately 22 km of North Coastal Road.

This vital preservation effort aims to extend the service life of the existing pavement. To date, a total of 745 meters of the road, with a width of 8 meters, has been successfully resealed.



As part of the ongoing road improvement projects in the Northern Division, a total of 311 meters of Saint Augustine Road in front of Saint Augustine School has been sealed. Reducing dust and improving accessibility.

This improvement is particularly beneficial for the safety and convenience of the school community, including students, parents, and staff, as well as the surrounding residents.



Sealing works were carried out along Ellington Wharf Road in Rakiraki, Ra. This very important route will provide better accessibility for residents, businesses, and transport operators, improving connectivity to the wharf and surrounding communities. The project is expected to deliver a safer and smoother journey for all road users once completed.



The sealing of Legalega Road in Nadi was carried out along with drainage improvement works. A total of 650 meters has been sealed, providing safer and more reliable access for daily commuters, school children, and nearby residents. These upgrades will improve road durability and support better connectivity for the growing Legalega community.



Installation of solar street lights along Vunisea Jetty, Naluvea Jetty, and Kavala Jetty in Kadavu and Koro Jetty on Koro Island has been completed, bringing improved visibility, safety, and convenience to the community. This initiative also supports commitments towards renewable and sustainable energy solutions.



Under the Rip and Remake Program, sealing works are being carried out along the Namulomulo Village frontage on Kings Road. A total of 400 meters has already been sealed, with works continuing to complete the full 690-meter stretch. Once completed, this road upgrade will provide safer and smoother access for Namulomulo villagers and all daily commuters traveling through the area.



Resealing works along Nabouwalu Road, from the SCIL Bridge in Matasawalevu to the Nauwa Bridge at Lutukina Junction in the Northern Division. 2109 meters of maintenance and sealing have been completed, with works progressing further along the corridor. These upgrades will enhance the road surface, providing a smoother, safer, and more durable route that improves connectivity for local communities and road users.



Resurfacing works have been carried out on three deteriorated access roads within Lautoka Hospital. Aggregate overlay was done along Road 1—MacGregor Hostel Road, with resurfacing works for all three roads scheduled for completion. In total, 600 meters of road will be resealed as part of this project. These upgrades will enhance road access, improve traffic flow, and ensure safer and faster access for emergency vehicles.

## IMPROPER WASTE DISPOSAL LEADS TO BLOCKED DRAINS AND FLOODED ROADS

The Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) is raising concerns about poor rubbish disposal practices that continue to be a major cause of blocked drains, resulting in surface flooding on many roads during periods of heavy rain.

Despite continuous efforts by FRA teams to clean and clear drains through high-pressure jetting and other maintenance works, the problem persists. During recent heavy downpours, several cases of road surface flooding were recorded, and inspection teams found that household rubbish clogging cross culverts and catch pits was the main contributing factor. The teams retrieved large amounts



of waste, including plastic bottles, takeaway containers, food wrappers, and general plastic items. This ongoing issue not only blocks drainage systems but also accelerates deterioration of road pavements, leading to further damage and repairs.

FRA urges the public to be more considerate by disposing of rubbish properly, adopting responsible waste-management habits, and avoiding illegal dumping, as clear drains are essential for preventing flooding, protecting road infrastructure, and ensuring public safety during the rainy season.

Motorists are reminded to drive cautiously, follow all traffic signs and management measures, and observe designated speed limits at all times when roads experience surface flooding.

Working together remains key to maintaining clean and functional roads and drainage systems across Fiji.

## FRA URGES CAUTION ON ROADS THIS CYCLONE SEASON

The Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) is urging all road users; motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists alike to stay vigilant and prioritize road safety.

This time of year typically sees an increase in travel, both within and across regions, and it is crucial to recognize the efforts being made to improve road infrastructure while also adhering to safety regulations. In recent months, the FRA has been working tirelessly to rehabilitate and upgrade the country's road infrastructure.

Significant efforts are underway, including resealing, asphalt concrete pavement works, and other essential roadworks aimed at improving the safety and efficiency of Fiji's road network.

However, with these upgrades come necessary road closures, diversions, and the presence of roadworks, which require a higher level of awareness from all road users.



### CYCLONE SEASON ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY

As the cyclone and rainy season sets in, the public is advised to remain vigilant, as continuous heavy rainfall can lead to flooding, landslips, and significant damage to road infrastructure.

Flooded or washed-out roads, weakened crossings, deep potholes, and debris on the carriageway can pose serious risks to both motorists and pedestrians. Members of the public are urged to follow essential safety guidelines: do check weather

updates before travelling, drive slowly on wet or flooded roads, use alternative routes where possible, and report any damaged infrastructure to authorities; don't attempt to cross fast-moving floodwaters, ignore road closure signs, or walk or drive through areas where the road surface is unclear or visibly damaged.

Exercising caution during this season is crucial to ensuring personal safety and protecting the wider community. The FRA continues to rehabilitate and improve Fiji's roads infrastructure, but these efforts can only be truly successful if all road users take responsibility for their actions.

As we celebrate the holiday season, let us remember that road safety is a collective responsibility. Together, through patience, compliance with road rules, and increased awareness, we can ensure that our roads remain safe and accessible for everyone. Keep safe, stay alert, and travel responsibly.



### UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF ONGOING ROADWORKS

While the roadworks are vital for the long-term development of our transportation network, they may cause temporary inconveniences. For example, parts of the road may be narrowed, lanes may be redirected, or speed limits may be reduced to ensure the safety of workers and motorists.

FRA emphasizes the importance of adhering to road signage that directs you around these areas. These signs are placed with your safety in mind, and ignoring them can result in serious accidents,

delays, and unnecessary risks to both road workers and the traveling public. Moreover, traffic controllers are positioned at key intersections and roadwork zones to help manage traffic flow and minimize disruptions.

It is important for all drivers to listen to their directions and follow their instructions promptly. Simple acts of patience, such as slowing down in construction zones, can prevent potential accidents and ensure that everyone remains safe.

### THE DANGERS OF SPEEDING AND RECKLESS DRIVING

Speeding continues to be a leading cause of accidents on our roads, especially during busy holiday periods. With the temptation to arrive at destinations quickly, drivers may become less mindful of speed limits and road conditions.

The FRA strongly encourages all motorists to obey posted speed limits, particularly in areas where roadworks are taking place. Speed limits are not arbitrary; they are in place to protect both drivers and pedestrians. During the busy periods, roads may be more congested, and adverse weather conditions can make the roads slippery.

It's essential to adjust your driving to match these conditions; whether that means reducing speed, keeping a safe distance from other vehicles, or ensuring your vehicle is in proper working order. The holiday season should be a time of celebration, not one marked by preventable accidents.



## PLAN YOUR TRAVEL AND STAY INFORMED

Planning your travel in advance is another key step in ensuring safe journeys. The FRA encourages all travelers to check for road updates, diversions, or advisories that might affect their route.

This helps to avoid unexpected delays and allows you to find alternative routes when necessary. In addition, road-related advisories, such as weather warnings and traffic management plans, should be taken seriously, as they can significantly impact travel safety.



## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Pedestrians play an important role in maintaining road safety, particularly in areas where roadworks are underway. It is essential to use designated crossings, obey traffic signals, and stay alert to surrounding road and vehicle movements.

With increased foot traffic in many areas, both drivers and pedestrians must exercise caution and consideration for one another. At the intersections, “Pedestrians cross with care” signs serve as gentle reminders for pedestrians to follow crossing signals.

To further support safe pedestrian movement, clear crossing markings have been painted at key intersections, indicating designated zones for crossing. Pedestrians are encouraged to press the pedestrian button and wait for the green pedestrian signal before crossing, ensuring safe and orderly movement during peak traffic periods.



## FRA URGES PUBLIC TO PROTECT BUS SHELTERS FROM VANDALISM

The Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) is urging the public to help protect public infrastructure following an increase in unauthorized advertisements being placed on bus shelters.

FRA constructs bus shelters to provide safe, accessible, and convenient spaces for commuters and public transport operators, particularly during adverse weather conditions. However, many of these shelters have been defaced and misused as advertising platforms.

FRA calls on members of the public to take pride in shared infrastructure, act responsibly, and report any acts of vandalism to the relevant authorities.

