

## MEMORANDUM

From: Permanent Secretary for Rural & Maritime Development and National Disaster Management Phone No: 3313400

To: Secretary-General to Parliament

File No: 3/6/11

Sub: **RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTION NO. 112/2016** Date: 01/07/16

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**Attention:** Mr Sakiusa Rakai

Your letter dated 03 June 2016 on the above subject matter refers.

A copy of the ministerial response to this written question is attached for information and reference. Also, a copy has been handed over to the Hon. Minister for Rural & Maritime Development and National Disaster Management.

Respectfully submitted.



[J Bacau]

for **Permanent Secretary for Rural & Maritime Development and National Disaster Management**





## **HONOURABLE INIA SERUIRATU**

**MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, RURAL AND MARITIME DEVELOPMENT & NATIONAL DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT**

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 117/2016

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*Parliament of Fiji*

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### **Response**

Madam Speaker, I rise to respond to the two (2) written questions coming from the Member of the Opposition Hon. Ratu Sela Nanovo on: (1) what form of assistance would be available for the seven (7) houses that were fully damaged as a result of the tidal wave that swept the village of Tabuya, Nabukelevu in Kadavau on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May; and (2) what is the process of accessing the assistance.

Madam Speaker, immediately after the tidal wave hit the village of Tabuya, a government team was assigned to assess the extent of damage on the ground. Report received confirmed



that of the 15 dwelling houses in the village, only two (2) were destroyed, and 13, even though flooded with sea water, were not affected.

Madam Speaker, there were no reports of seven (7) houses being fully damaged by the tidal wave.

Madam Speaker, the government had already supplied clothes and basic utensils to the families. In addition, 14 tents and the required number of tarpaulins have also been shipped across to provide shelter for the victims.

The two (2) houses that have been destroyed, Madam Speaker, will be assisted through the normal programme of assistance in proportion to the extent of damage. Work will commence as soon as funds are made available, and will be monitored to ensure it is done according to the scope of work.

Madam Speaker, food security in the village remains intact. As a result, it did not necessitate the supply of relief food rations. Villagers continue to fend for themselves up until now. This is different from TC Winston's situation where the sources of livelihood for the victims were severely affected.

On health issues, Madam Speaker, the village had undergone vector control sprayings to avoid any possible outbreak of dreaded diseases. Other necessary advisories had been issued for their safety. I am glad to say that the residents of Tabuya Village are in good health.

Madam Speaker, the calamity at Tabuya Village was also experienced in other coastal areas in Fiji. This is the direct result of the change in climate that the world over is now facing.

As far as the change in climate is concerned, Madam Speaker, those who are determined to continue living in low-lying and coastal areas will continue to feel the full brunt of such catastrophe. Perhaps, this would be a good time for us to take the message across and convince our people that it is now high time for them to take some practical measures by relocating to areas that would provide them a haven.

Madam Speaker, one of our roles – as leaders – is to give timely and accurate information on the policies and programmes of the government to the people. We can only do that if we ourselves are aware of these policies and programmes. Timely and accurate dissemination of information



in a critical situation can save a person from being totally destroyed. Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, we can only give what we have. We can only impart what we know.

In concluding, Madam Speaker, it is vitally important for the Honourable Members of the other side of the House, to be resourceful by familiarising themselves with the policies and programmes of the government, the systems and processes in place, so that they are able to provide timely and correct advice and information to the people when asked, rather than waiting for the next sitting of parliament. Policies and programmes of the government are made to benefit every citizen of this country.

Madam Speaker, that is the response to the question from the Hon. Member and I thank you for your indulgence.

**END**