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Written Question 147/2017

Hon. Salote Radrodro to ask the Minister for Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport –

- a) Can the Minister provide a list of all communities that have been refunded their one-third deposit contribution under the Rural Electrification Programme?

Madam Speaker, I thank the Honorable Member for the question.

The Rural Electrification refund program covers two major categories of rural electrification assistance. These are the Rural Grid connection and the Solar Home Systems Installation assistance. In total, 6,842 households equivalent to 27,368 rural Fijian have been refunded from within both assistance programs. The breakdown of number of households by divisions is as follows:

Central Division	- 1,872
Western Division	- 2,436
Northern Division	- 1,513
Eastern Division	- 1,021
TOTAL	<u>6,842</u>

- b) Can the Minister indicate which community has been connected with Electricity?

Madam Speaker, out of a total of 6,842 households refunded, a total of 2,173 households equivalent to 8,692 rural Fijian have been connected with electricity through grid connection and solar home systems installations. The breakdown of number of households by divisions is as follows:

Central Division	- 206
Western Division	- 853
Northern Division	- 682
Eastern Division	- 432
TOTAL	<u>2,173</u>

c) Can the Minister indicate, for communities not yet connected, when their electricity supply would be connected for example, Nairevurevunicagi - off Khalsa Road and next to Kalabu Road.

Madam Speaker, out of a total of 6,842 households refunded, a total of 2,173 has been connected, 2,787 will be connected by end of 2017 and the remaining 1,882 households will be connected in July, 2018. The breakdown of pending refunded applications by households and plans are as follows:

Central Division	- Total of 1,666 pending - 675 to be connected by end of 2017 - 991 to be connected by July 2018.
Western Division	- Total 1,583 pending - 891 to be connected by end of 2017 - 692 to be connected by July 2018
Northern Division	- Total of 831 pending - 705 to be connected by end of 2017 - 126 to be connected by July 2018
Eastern Division	- Total of 589 pending - 516 to be connected by end of 2017 - 73 to be connected by July 2018
TOTAL PENDING	<u>4,669</u>

Madam Speaker, further to the plans above, and with specific reference to the rural grid connection project at Narevurevunicagi, note that FEA has had a site meeting in April of this year with landowners; and whereby it was confirmed that Nairevurevunicagi Settlement is part of the scheme that will be supplying the general Sakoca area, Rokara Road, Khalsa Road and Delaivalelevu in Nasinu.

Design of the power lines has been completed for this scheme and FEA will start pegging the pole positions by the end of this month. Actual construction of this project which includes Nairevurevunicagi began in 1st September, 2017 and will be completed by the end of this year.

Furthermore Madam Speaker, my Ministry also confirms that newly built houses in Nairevurevunicagi will be able to connect to the newly built power lines once it is completed.

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