



**HON. VATIMI RAYALU**

**Minister for Agriculture and Waterways**

**22<sup>ND</sup> November, 2023**

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**Written Statement 181/2023**

Hon. Ilesia Vanawalu to ask the Minister for Agriculture and Waterways –  
Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –

- **how many farm roads were constructed and completed in the past eight years i.e., 2014 to 2022 by Province; and**
- **how many farm roads are earmarked to be constructed in the current financial year by Province.**

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The Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways constructs farm roads primarily to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the rural farmers through provision of necessary infrastructure and resources that will equip them to enhance their production to meet local and market demand.

The strategic intention of this program not only explores available market opportunities but establishes a workable framework for the efficient and effective participation of all players in the supply chain.

The program aims to:

- establish and expand commercial ventures with adequate resources and support;

- develop efficient and effective strategies for the entire supply chain, from production to marketing;
- promote key commodities such as yaqona, ginger and turmeric; and
- develop rural areas through an integrated approach.

A total of **157** farm roads were constructed and completed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways in the past eight years i.e., from 2014 to 2022. This was through the provision and facilitation of the following programmes:

- Rural and Outer Island Program
- Farm Access Program
- Cocoa Farming Program
- Nadarivatu Farming Program
- Flatland Development Program

Table 1 below shows the number of farm roads completed by Division and Province from 2014 to 2022.

**Table 1: Number of Farm Roads Completed by Division and Province from 2014-2022.**

Division	Province	No. of Farm Roads
<b>Central</b>	Naitasiri	20
	Rewa	4
	Tailevu	20
	Serua/Namosi	7
<b>Eastern</b>	Kadavu	6
<b>Northern</b>	Bua	16
	Cakaudrove	24
	Macuata	15
<b>Western</b>	Ba	18
	Nadroga/Navosa	16
	Ra	11
<b>Total</b>		<b>157</b>



In the last financial year (2022-2023), the Ministry upgraded **32** existing farm roads. In this financial year (2023-2024), the Ministry intends to construct **2** new and upgrade **167** existing farm roads with a budget allocation of FJ\$2million to enhance food and income security and exports.

Table 2 below shows the number of farm roads the Ministry is planning to construct this financial year.

**Table 2: Number of Farm Roads to be constructed by Division and Province - 2023-2024**

<b>Division</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>No. of Farm Roads</b>
<b>Central</b>	Naitasiri	16
	Rewa	6
	Tailevu	38
	Serua/Namosi	10
<b>Eastern</b>	Lau	10
	Lomaiviti	12
	Kadavu	6
<b>Northern</b>	Bua	2
	Cakaudrove	8
	Macuata	3
<b>Western</b>	Ba	22
	Nadroga/Navosa	18
	Ra	18
<b>Total</b>		<b>169</b>

In conclusion, this program has cross-cutting positive outputs of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), National Development Plan (NDP), Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and Ministry's Costed Operational Plan (COP). The development of new farm roads and improving the existing ones will not only connect farming areas to markets but also improve farmers' livelihoods and grow Fiji's Agriculture Sector.

**VTTKR**

**END**