



PRESS RELEASE
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HOW DOES JUST ONE FISHING BOAT BECOME THE BEGINNING OF A DREAM COME TRUE?

Until the MORDI Program approached the Nasareci settlement there were no development initiatives taking place at all. As a clan from the Naiqaqi village, it is small, very small, with only four households which consist of five men and four women. They previously relied solely on sugar cane cutting as their only source of income.

The dedication of those working on the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Programmes (MORDI) has recently paid off at this tiny settlement based in the Wailevu District. **MORDI aims** to contribute to sustainable, improved livelihoods of vulnerable communities, (especially youth and women) living in remote rural areas of Pacific Island countries, in line with the Millennium Development Goals.

MORDI commenced work in Nasareci during 2006 when they held business, governance, first aid, conflict resolution, leadership, FIMSA, PLA and financial training. This training inspired and enabled the community themselves to write their own proposals for funding. When they did this in 2007 they secured their request for funding of a fishing boat.

MORDI provided the community with this fishing boat in 2008 with funds from IFAD. This boat is now the life blood of the community; it drives them forward and is a real eye opener for them to continue finding other sources income.

Their first exploration was a local transport system to Savusavu and other nearby villages. The boat generates \$50 per run if hired or used by someone in the community or by outsiders to transport them to Savusavu as the major problem in the community is transportation problem.

The second project stemming from the boat's income was to invest money earned into their community account. The Nasareci fishing boat committee leader and the new community facilitator; Mr.Apenisa Taga monitored the money. The invested money was then used to buy a house in Labasa to accommodate their students education fees, meals, stationeries and fare to school.

The third project came after the house was bought. The committee opted to invest in a copra drier. Currently the copra drier is run by the community and has generated a lot of income.

The forth income generation idea is to reclaim their land back from other local communities which was given away by their great grandparents a century ago. This will allow the community to settle on their own land and upgrade it through developments and other infrastructure.

It has shown how one boat can benefit so many areas of community life. It has only take three years for this inspirational community to achieve all these goals... all from one fishing boat.

Community Facilitator, Mr.Apenisa Taga says: "This fishing boat project has inspired the community to stay put instead of going to Macuata to cut sugar cane. As a community member, I know there was a lot of work that the community had to do (ogaoga). There were limited financial resources to cover all the required tasks therefore the fishing boat project will be our only hope to satisfy all our daily needs".

Talica Anderson, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, says: “This community has been an inspiration to neighboring communities, districts and the nation as a whole for their great commitment and effort. They consistently thought outside the box so in 10 - 20 years time their future generations will enjoy a sustainable livelihood.

The MORDI Fiji program has 28 community facilitators in three districts working with 28 communities. This will be achieved through four key components: community empowerment; economic empowerment; learning, sharing and upscaling; and programme management.

Ends

Editor’s Notes:

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About Partners in Community Development Fiji:

PCDF holds a 30 year legacy of providing valuable lessons, guidance and most importantly, inspiration for the future. PCDF aims to assist the people of Fiji in all aspects of development; environmental, infrastructural, governmental and social.

Goals:

- ✓ Protect our coral reefs
- ✓ Conserve our fresh water
- ✓ Promote good governance
- ✓ Reduce the stigma attached to mental health issues
- ✓ Support sustainable livelihood initiatives

Partners in Community Development Fiji is one of Fiji’s longest established development NGO’s and is completely reliant on voluntary donations to continue its work.

Mission Statement - Working in partnership with communities to empower and assist with informed decision making for their own future development.

Partners in Community Development Fiji

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