



**FIJI METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES
GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF FIJI**

MEDIA RELEASE No.47

3pm, Monday 05 March 2018

TD09F REMAINS SLOW MOVING

A trough of low pressure with associated cloud and rain remains slow moving over Fiji and is expected to continue affecting the Group for next few days.

Meanwhile, Tropical Disturbance, TD09F was located about 500km West-northwest of Nadi at 12pm today. It remains slow moving, anticipated to move southwestwards and remain over open waters.

TD09F is expected to intensify into a Tropical Depression in next 12 to 24 hours while remaining over open waters to the west of the Group. It does not pose a direct threat to Fiji at this stage, however rain and strong winds associated with the system is anticipated as it intensifies. The chance of TD09F developing into a tropical cyclone is moderate to high over next 48 hours.

Within the next 24 to 48 hours, the major concern is continuing heavy rain, floods, strong and gusty winds associated with the system and the following alerts, and warnings remain in force:

1. A “**Strong Wind Warning**” remains in force for lands areas of Rotuma, Yasawa and Mamanuca Group, Western Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and nearby smaller Islands;
2. A “**Strong Wind Warning**” remains in force for all Fiji and Rotuma Waters;
3. A “**Heavy Rain Warning**” remains in force for the Fiji Group;
4. A “**Food Alert**” remains in force for all low-lying areas, small streams and areas adjacent to major rivers of Fiji and for areas downstream of Vatukaceveva Station to Rakiraki Town.

Expect periods of rain, heavy at times with squally thunderstorms to continue today and tomorrow over most places. Localised heavy falls increases the chances of flooding of low-lying areas in the coming days as more rain is forecasted. Some easing of rain can be expected from Wednesday.

With predicted heavy rainfall, high tide and water in the rivers being at medium to high flows, there is an elevated risk of flooding at catchment level in the coming days.

Mariners can expect northerly winds 20 to 25 knots, gusting to 30 knots. Expect winds to increase from 25 to 30 knots and gusting up to 45 knots with rough seas and poor visibility in areas of heavy rain and thunderstorms.

Members of the public advised to take heed of current warning and alerts and act accordingly. The communities living in areas prone to flood and landslide are once again reminded to remain alert and take appropriate precaution if necessary. Moreover, remain updated with the latest weather information and take alerts and warnings seriously, as they are issued.

For more details and the latest on weather, please contact the National Weather Forecasting Centre on 6736006, 9905376 or visit the Fiji Meteorological Service’s website, www.met.gov.fj. For heavy rain warning: http://www.met.gov.fj/aifs_prods/20014.txt, For Flood Warning: http://www.met.gov.fj/aifs_prods/20016.txt and our latest updates can also be followed on the Fiji Meteorological Service official Facebook page.

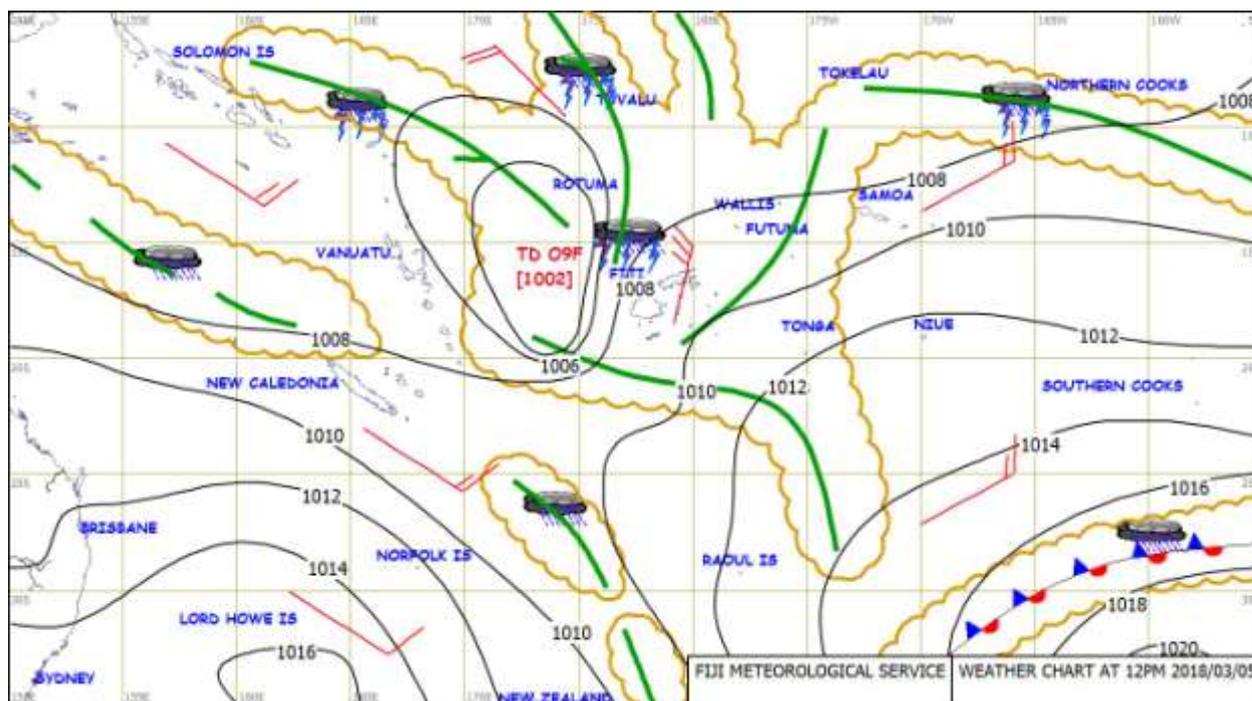


Figure 1: Weather Map at 12pm today on 05 March 2018. TD09F lies to the West-northwest of the Group.

| Selected Sites | Rainfall at Selected Sites |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Rotuma | 60mm |
| Nadarivatu | 53mm |
| Yaqara | 46mm |
| Matuku | 43mm |
| Yasawa | 41mm |

Table 1: Significant rainfall at selected sites from 9am yesterday to 9am this morning on 05 March 2018.

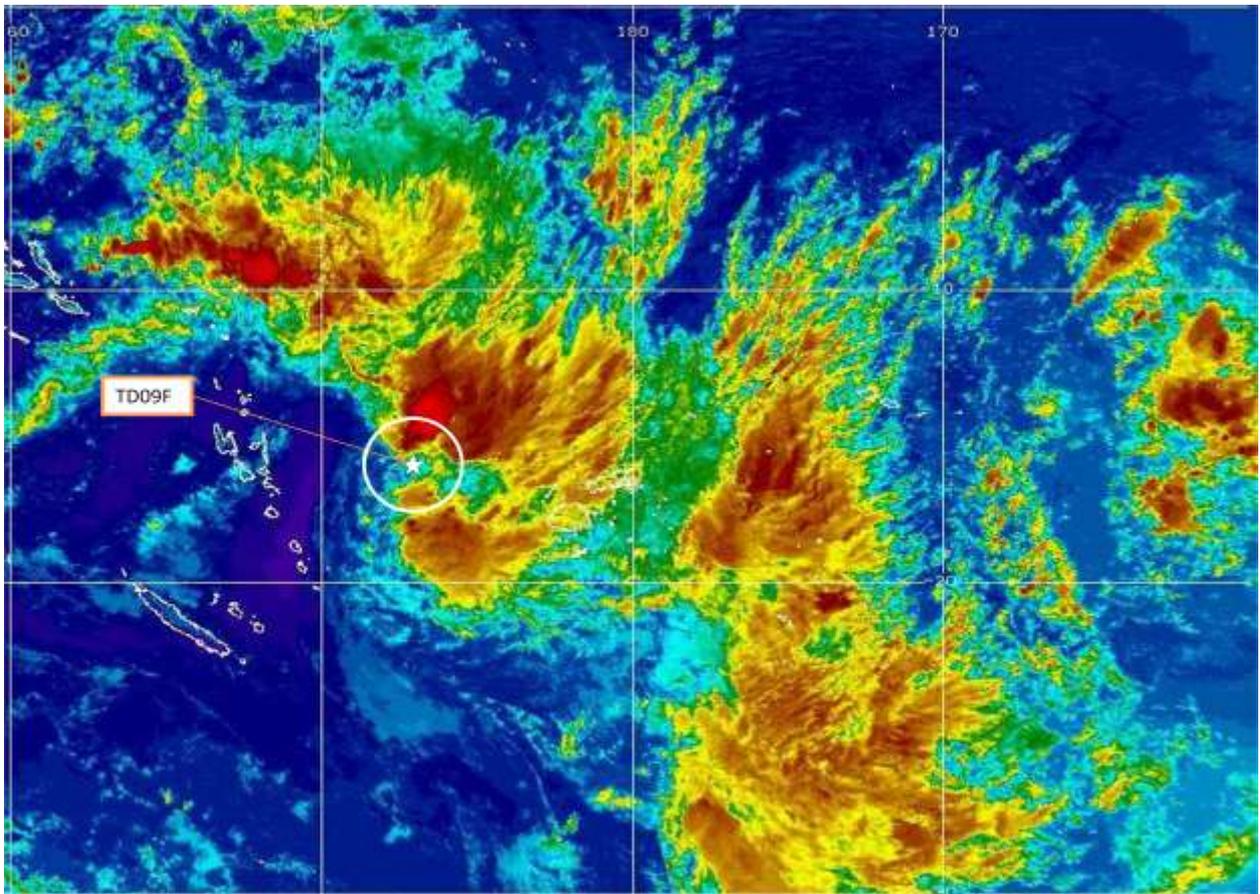


Figure 2: Satellite image at 2pm today on 05 March 2018 with cloud bands affecting the country.

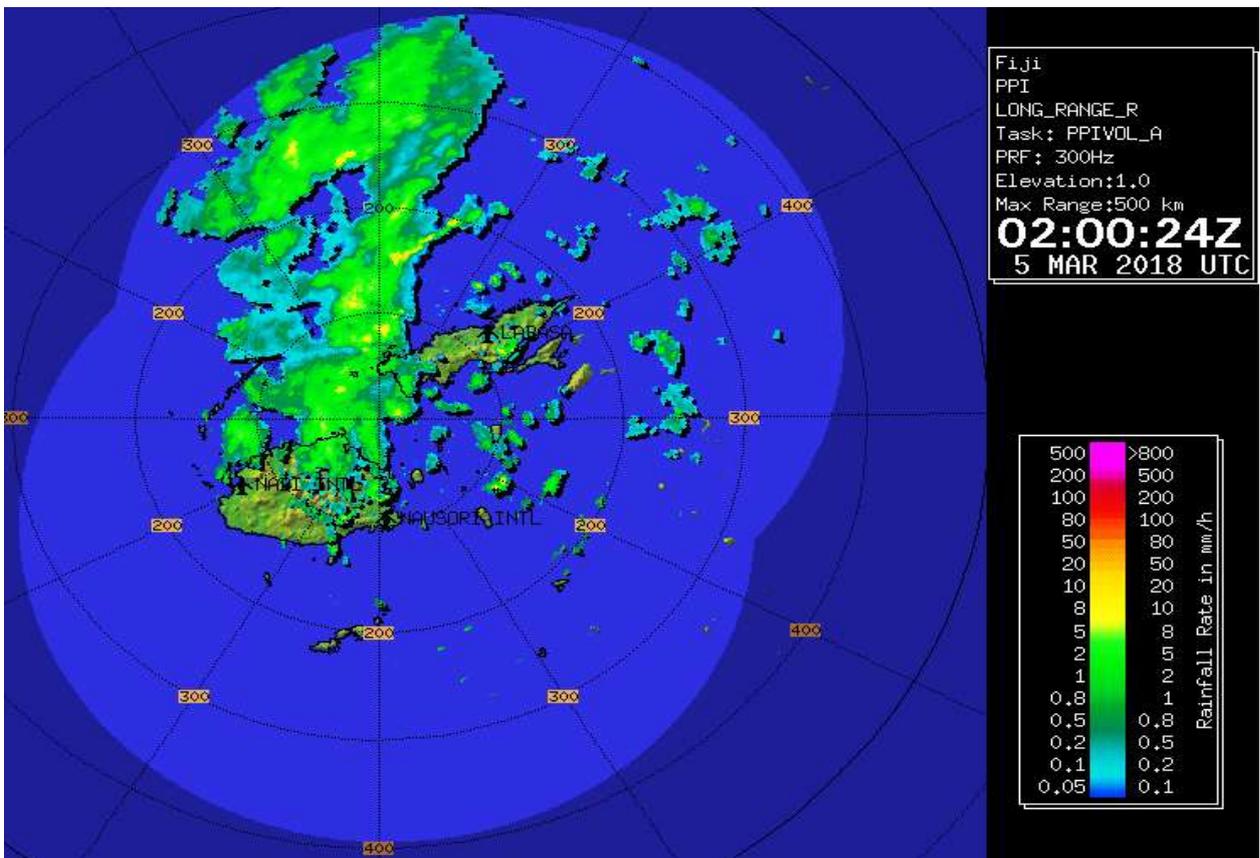


Figure 3: Radar image at 2pm today on 05 March 2018.

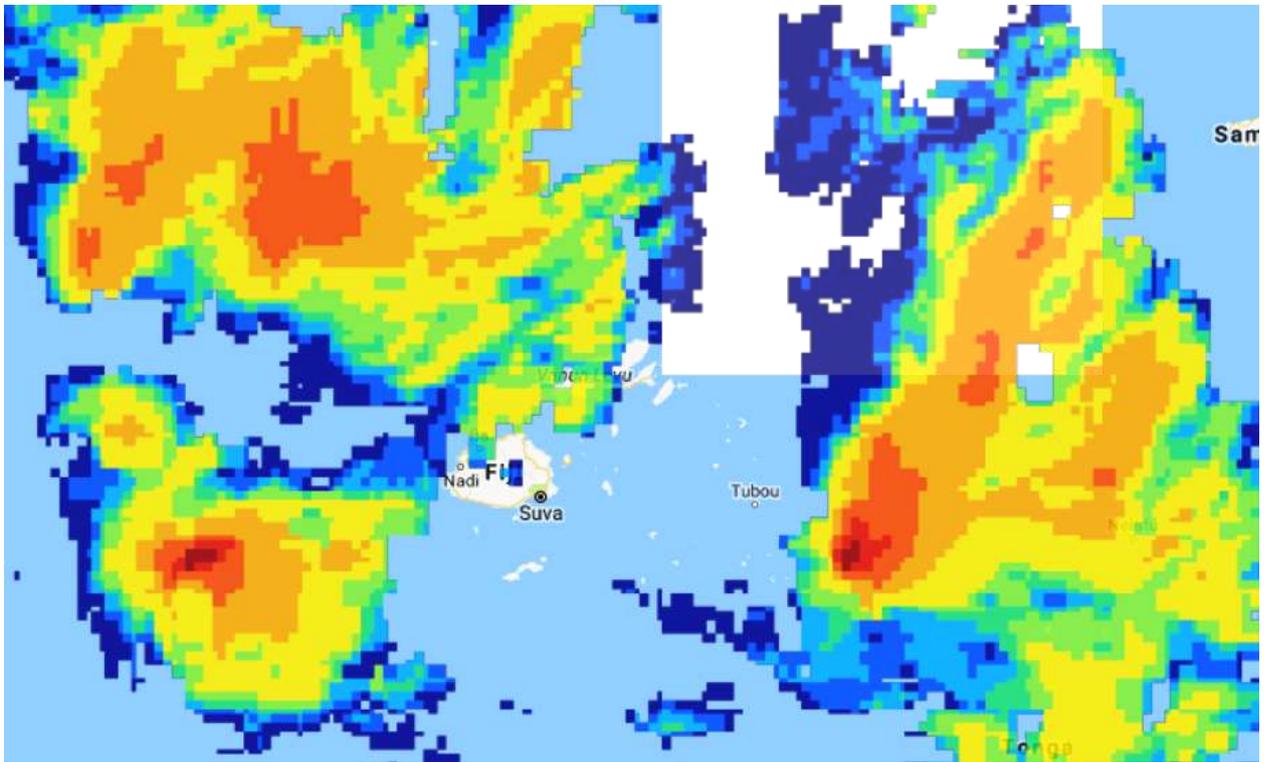


Figure 4: Rainfall of estimated from satellite observation suggest that the cloud bands have potential to produce 5 to 10mm of rainfall per hour.

| Rakiraki Catchment | Threshold Level | | WL 11am | Remarks |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| | Alert (m) | Warning (m) | | |
| <i>Vatukacevaceva</i> | 1.0 | 1.5 | 0.95 | Decreasing |
| <i>Rakiraki Town</i> | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.60 | Increasing |
| Sigatoka Catchment | Alert (m) | Warning (m) | | |
| <i>Keiyasi</i> | 4.0 | 5.0 | 1.29 | Decreasing |
| <i>Sigatoka Bridge</i> | 3.5 | 4.5 | 3.30 | Normal |
| Semo Catchment | Alert (m) | Warning (m) | | |
| <i>Tuva</i> | 3.5 | 4.5 | 1.72 | Decreasing |
| Ciri @ below Confluence | 1.5 | 2.5 | 1.06 | Increasing |

Table 2: Water Level Update at 11am today 05 March 2018

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