



The Ministry Of Infrastructure & Transport

Nasilivata House
87, Ratu Mara Road, Samabula
Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji

Telephone: (679) 338 4111
Facsimile: (679) 338 3198
Website: www.mwtpu.gov.fj



MEDIA RELEASE

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2016/17 TROPICAL CYCLONE SEASON TO OFFICIALLY END ON 30 APRIL

The 2016/17 Tropical Cyclone season will officially end on 30 April 2017 and all communities are advised to remain prepared at all times as natural disasters can happen at any time of the year.

The country is moving from wet to dry season, rapid fluctuations in weather can be anticipated from time to time with high variability in rainfall from one month to another could be expected. Severe weather have formed outside of the wet season in the past, thus we must pay close attention to all weather forecast, warnings and advisories whenever they are issued.

The 2016/17 season has been quieter than predicted in terms of named tropical cyclones. This is not the first season when only 2 cyclones were named in the Fiji's Area of Responsibility. The other season with 2 named cyclones was 1994/95 and the seasons 1990/91, 2003/04 and 2011/12 had 3 named cyclones.

The Ministry of Infrastructure & Transport through the Fiji Meteorological Service monitored 20 Tropical disturbances (20 TD's) this season. Eight of these intensified into Tropical Depressions and 2 developed into Tropical Cyclones. In comparison to 2015/16 season, a total of 18 tropical disturbances were monitored and 8 developed into tropical cyclones. The last season was influenced by a strong El Niño which provided favourable environmental conditions with atmosphere supporting the changes in the ocean and vice versa. However, this season, atmosphere had been lagging behind the oceanic changes and did not provide the necessary atmospheric support (high wind shear) for development of tropical cyclones.

Even though, there was no direct impact of tropical cyclones this season, indirect effects from significant depressions brought flooding rain in December 2016, February and March in 2017. The Tropical Depressions 04F, 09F, 11F and 14F were the notable ones while TD04F was the most significant one which caused widespread flooding, caused landslides in several parts of Fiji and brought strong winds over the country.

As the tropical cyclone outlook just provides guidance of what could be expected, actual weather lies in the hands of "Mother Nature". In this regard, it is advisable to be prepared at all times and take heed of weather alerts, warnings and advisories. Let us therefore, prepare for upcoming dry season.

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

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