



**MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT &  
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES**

*'A Dynamic Ministry Driving Sustainable, Inclusive Growth and  
Resilience for Communities towards a Better Fiji for All'*



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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**BELOW AVERAGE TROPICAL CYCLONES PREDICTED FOR 2017/18 SEASON  
FOR RSMC AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY**

**NORMAL OR AVERAGE RISK FOR FIJI**

With tropical cyclone season approaching, the Fiji Meteorological and Hydrological Service have released its annual Tropical Cyclone Seasonal Outlook for the 2017/18 Season today.

Near average tropical cyclone activity is expected in the region this season. “four to six” (4-6) tropical cyclones are likely to occur within the AoR in the 2017/18 season, with one to three (1-3) predicted to reach Category 3 or above status.

Tropical cyclone risk is anticipated to be normal for Fiji, Southern Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Wallis & Futuna during the upcoming 2017/18 season.

Reduced risk is expected for Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Samoa, Tonga, Niue, Cook Islands, Austral Islands and Tuamato Archipelago & Gambier Islands.

Tropical Cyclone activity is unlikely for Kiribati and Marquesas Islands this season.

The Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre based in Nadi is responsible for monitoring cyclone activity in a specific area of the Pacific, known as its Area of Responsibility or AoR which is bounded from 160 degrees East to 120 degrees West Longitude and from Equator to 25 degrees South Latitude.

The RSMC’s AoR includes Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, Tonga, and New Caledonia”.

For Fiji, one to two (1-2) tropical cyclones are predicted to pass through Fiji waters this season with one anticipated to reach Category 3 or above status.

For those tropical cyclones, disturbances or depressions passing close to the country, associated active cloud and rain bands may occasionally affect Fiji with marked rainfall and possible flooding, including sea flooding of low-lying coastal areas. With the expectation of

tropical cyclone genesis to lie to the west of the Dateline in the Coral Sea region, there is high chance of TCs to approach Fiji from the Northern, Western and Southern sectors.

There is a high probability that these cyclones will pass close to, or over, western and southern parts of Fiji. Whole of the country should remain alert and prepared at all times throughout the season as these are predictions based on statistical and scientific evidence, not actual forecasts.

Therefore, it is critical that communities across Fiji act responsibly and pay close attention to all weather forecast, warnings and advisories issued by the Fiji Meteorological Service, National Disaster Management Office and the Government. We learn from TC Winston, which affected Fiji in February 2016 and remain prepared at all times.

It is very important that Fijians are quick to take heed of warnings and take the necessary precautions in order to save lives and protect property.

These are predictions are to give the public a general idea about what to expect for the upcoming cyclone season and not definite numbers.

It is expected that the total number of tropical cyclones will be in the vicinity of the values listed, and not necessarily within the given range.

The official 2017/18 tropical cyclone season begins on 01 November 2017 and ends on 30 April 2018, although cyclones can form in months outside this period. The peak period for cyclones in the region is usually from January to March.

**For more information and clarification:** Please contact the Director of Meteorological Service, Mr. Ravind Kumar on 9905379 (**Mobile**) or [ravind.kumar@met.gov.fj](mailto:ravind.kumar@met.gov.fj) (**Email**).

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