



MEDIA RELEASE NO 10

10am Tuesday 20th December 2016

UPDATE ON CURRENT WEATHER AND TD04F

RAIN BANDS CONTINUE TO AFFECT THE GROUP

The Tropical Depression (TD04F) moved rapidly between Yasawa-I-rara and Viwa Island and passed very close to Nadi at around 5pm and was located west of Suva at 6pm yesterday evening. It moved faster than anticipated with a speed of about 15km/kr.

TD04F changed its track to southwest overnight continued moving away from Fiji. At 8am this morning, it was located 18.4 degrees latitude and 175.9 degrees East longitude or about 180km West-southwest of Nadi and about 250km West-northwest of Kadavu. It is moving West-southwest at 10km/hr further away Fiji. However, associated trough of low pressure and active rainbands continue to affect the country.

Heavy rains have eased in most parts of the country, but heavy rain warning remains in force for Vanua Levu, Taveuni, Kadavu, Lau and Lomaiviti Group. In these areas, periods of heavy rain with squally thunderstorms are expected. Other places will get occasional showers and a few thunderstorms with heavy falls expected.

The chances of flooding for low lying areas and small streams remain high even though heavy rains are easing in some parts of the country. Anymore rain will directly go into the streams and rivers as ground is very saturated. This means that we are not yet out of danger and the concern remains for heavy rain, flooding of low lying areas, fresh to strong and gusty winds.

As of 9am this morning, the following alerts and warnings are in place:

- A “**Heavy Rain**” Warning remains in force for Vanua Levu, Taveuni, Kadavu, Lau and Lomaiviti Group;
- “**Strong Wind**” warning remains in force for all land areas and waters of Fiji;
- A “**Flood Warning**” remains in force for the following low lying areas:
 - small streams for whole of Fiji;
 - small streams adjacent to and downstream of Rakiraki Town;
 - downstream of Navolau Station;
 - downstream of Wailotua and Nayavu stations and Wainibuka River; and
 - downstream of Nausori Town;
- A “**Flood Alert**” remains in force for low lying areas adjacent to and downstream of Nabukaluka and Waimanu Rivers;

Flood “Alert” that was previously in force for the following major streams and rivers are now cancelled:

- Navua Town
- Labasa Town
- Nadi Town
- Nabukeleka Station
- Sabata Station
- Keiyasi Station
- Votualevu Station
- Dewala Station; and
- Toge Station

Improvement in weather is expected to come by later tomorrow with most parts of the country going into occasional showers. However, heavy localised falls are still expected and flooding of low lying areas still remains high. We are going to see much improved condition today compared to yesterday. Rain bands are expected to continue affecting from time to time on Wednesday with longer period of break.

The above warnings and alerts will be reviewed and upgraded or downgraded as appropriate. Public are advised to remain alert and be cautious as periods of heavy rain are expected which will trigger more flooding with localised heavy falls.

Fresh to strong northerly winds with an average of 45km/hr gusting to 65km/hr and expected to gradually ease to moderate (20 to 30Km/hr) over next 24 hours.

Mariners should anticipate northerly winds with average speeds of 25 to 30 knots and gusts of up to 40 knots easing to 20 to 25 knots in next 24 hours. Expect rough to very rough seas with moderate southeast swells. Visibility will be poor in areas of heavy rain and squally thunderstorms.

We will continue to closely monitor the rivers and the weather systems and provide regular updates as the situation improves or deteriorates.

All communities are advised to remain alert and be updated with latest alerts, warnings, advisories and latest weather bulletins.

For more details and the latest on weather, please contact the Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre on 6736005, 9905376 or visit the Fiji Meteorological Service’s website, www.met.gov.fj.

END.

Annex 1.

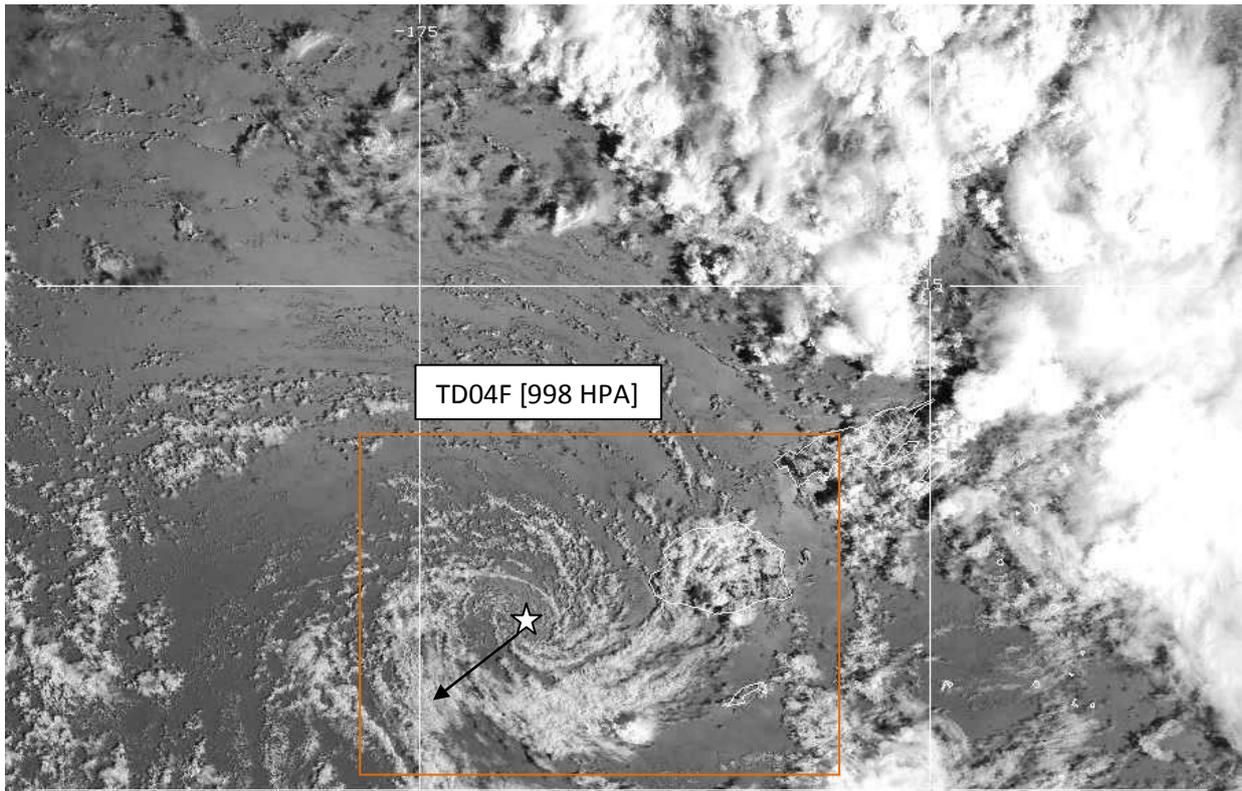


Figure 1: Satellite Map at 9am on 20 December 2016. TD04F moving further away from Fiji. Source NOAA.

Annex 2

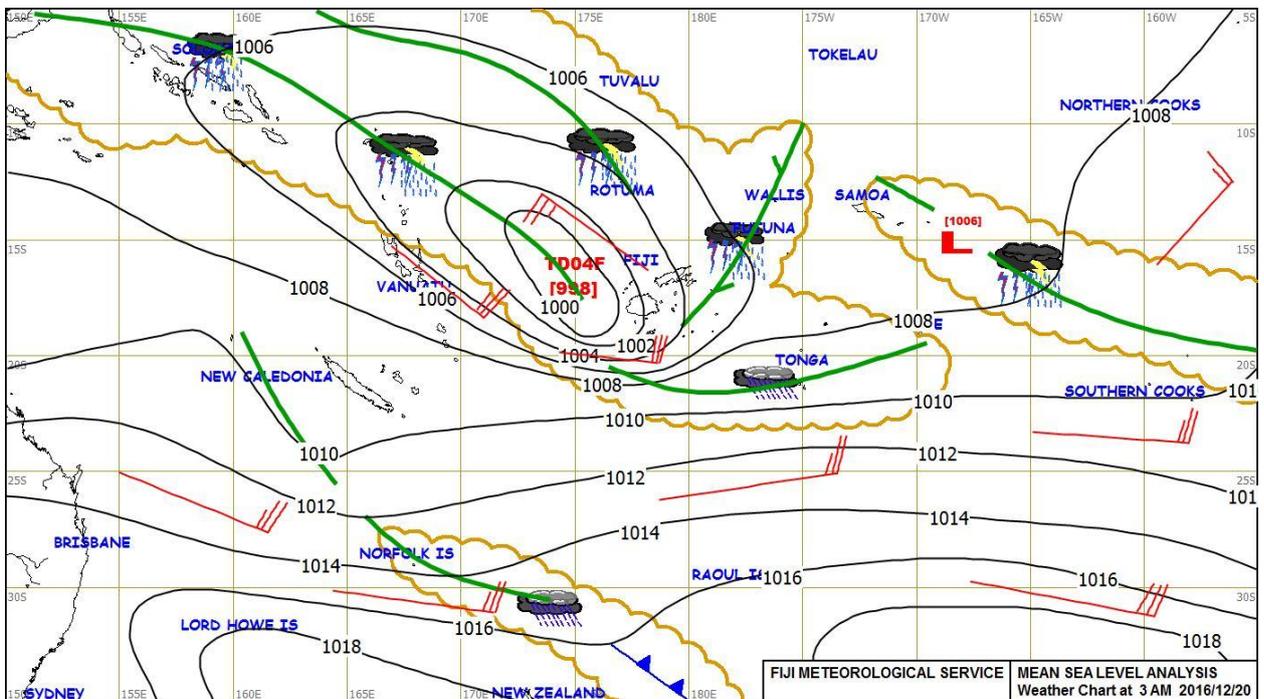


Figure 2: Weather Map at 6am on 20 December 2016.

Annex 3

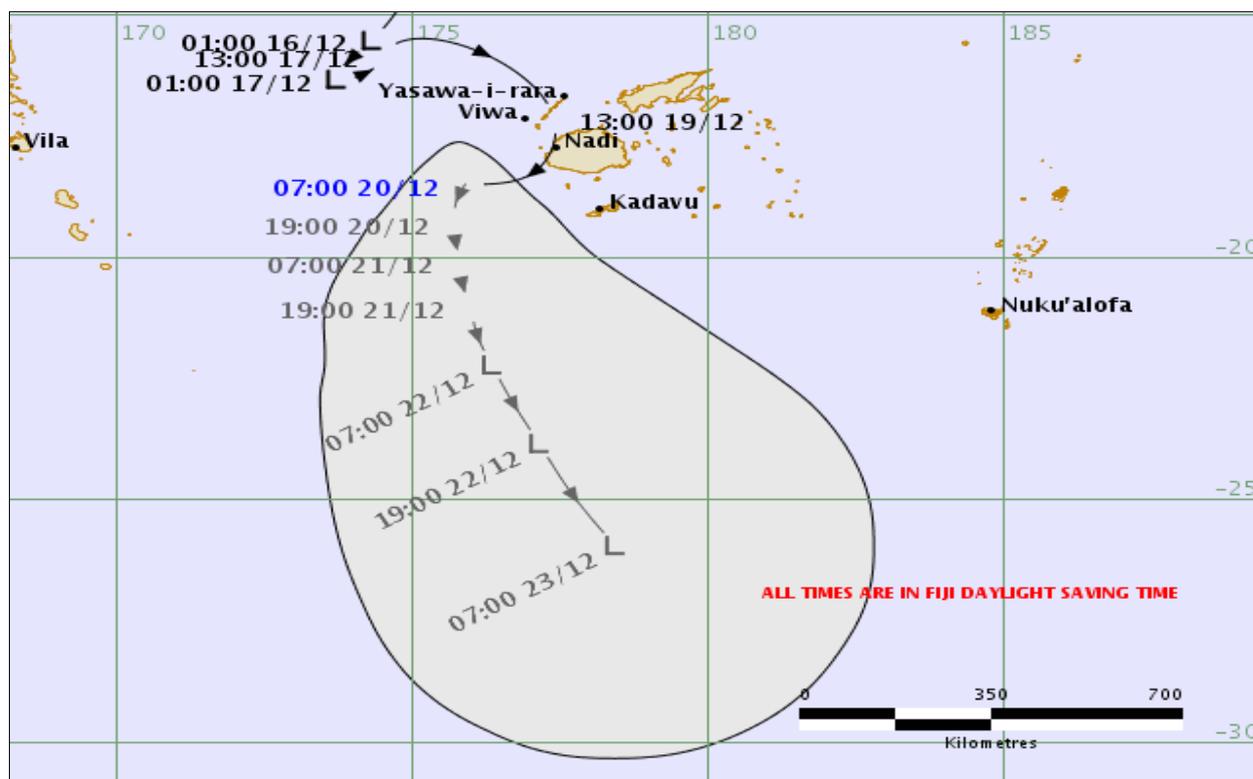


Figure 3: Official Forecast Track at 8am (FDST) 20 December 2016.

Annex 4

Rewa Catchment	River Level	Alert (m)	Warning (m)	Status
Nabukaluka	3.46	4.0	5.0	Decreasing
Navolau	14.43	6.0	8.0	Decreasing
Waimanu	3.32	4.0	5.0	Decreasing
Nayavu	11.62	5.0	8.0	Decreasing
Nausori Bridge	6.17	3.5	4.5	Increasing
Wailotua	Delay	4.0	5.0	Delay
Rakiraki Catchment	River Level	Alert (m)	Warning (m)	Status
Rakiraki Town	2.69	1.5	2.0	Increasing
Vatukacevaceva	0.56	1.0	1.5	Decreasing

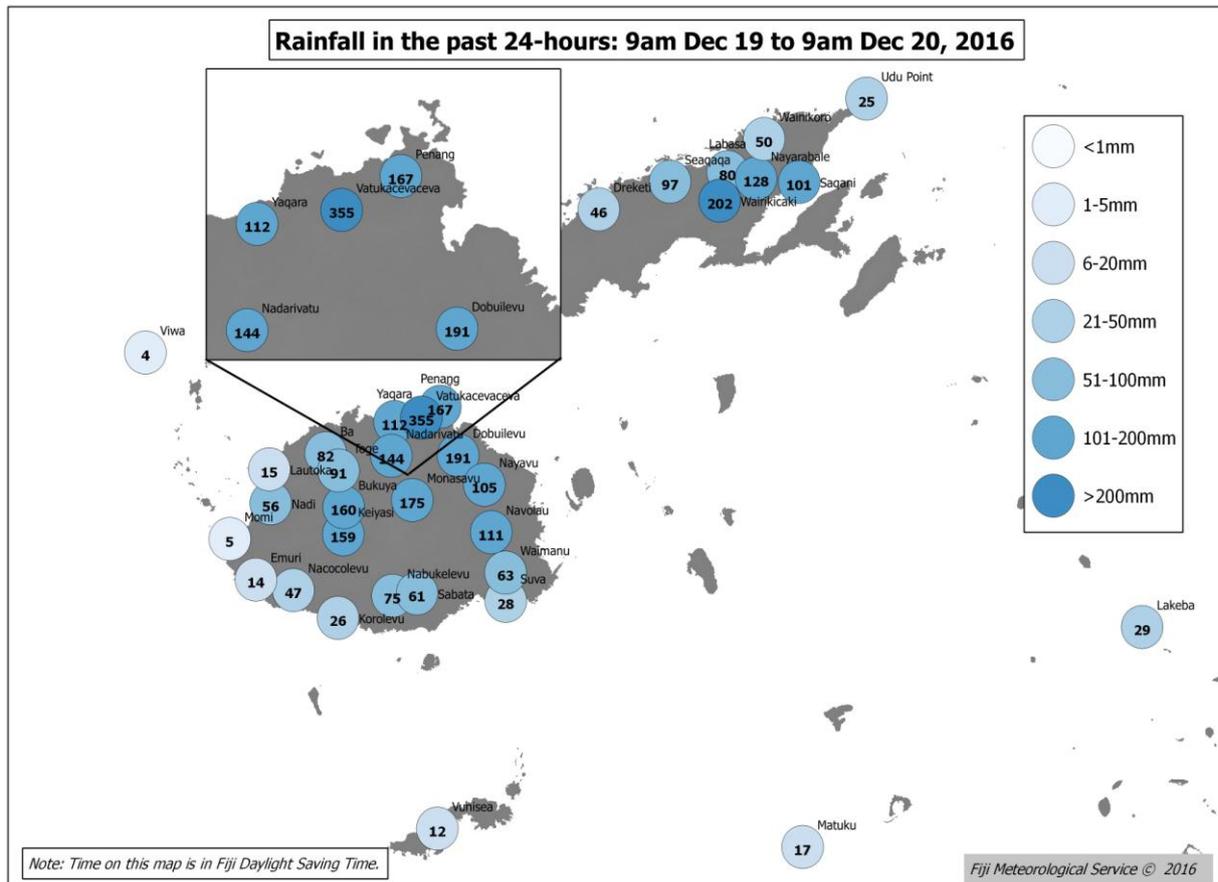
Table 1: Status of Water Level in Rewa and Rakiraki Catchments as at 9am this morning. Water level in other catchments are receding and are well below alert level. However levels may rise with the high tide at around 1pm today.

Annex 5

Significant Wind Recorded			
Station	Wind Direction	Wind Speed (Knots)	Wind Gusts (Knots)
Udu Point	North	26	40
Rakiraki	East	24	34
Yaqara	Northwest	23	32
Nausori Airport	East	23	33
Nadrivatu	South	22	47
Momi	Northwest	18	25
Koro Island	North-northeast	18	30

Table 2: Significant winds reported in last 24 hours (9am yesterday to 9am today).

Annex 6.



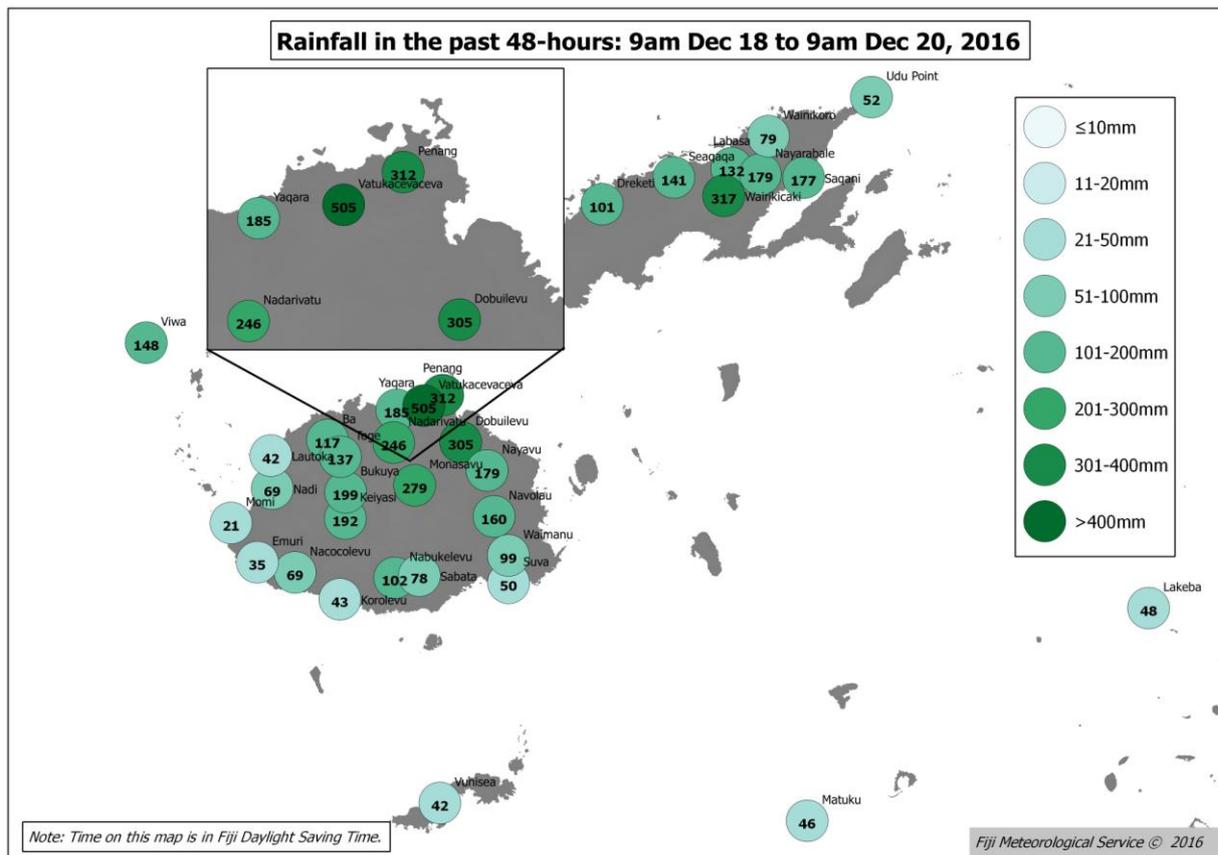


Figure 4: Rainfall Distribution Map for past 24 and 48 hours ending at 9am on the 19 and 20 December 2016.