



# The Ministry Of Infrastructure & Transport

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**4.30pm Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

### **UPDATE ON TROPICAL DEPRESSION (TD04F) – MOVING SOUTHWARDS**

Tropical Depression (TD04F) with central pressure of 1000 HPA was located near 15.8 South latitude and 174.5 East longitude or about 380km Northwest of Nadi or about 340km West-northwest of Yasawa-Rara at 1pm this afternoon. It is now moving South-southwest at about 10km/hr.

TD04F is anticipated to gradually intensify and likely to become a category 1 cyclone around midday tomorrow and maintain this intensity as it moves southwards. On the projected track, the centre of TD04F is expected to remain to the west of Fiji. However, the associated trough of low pressure and active rain bands continue to affect the country through the weekend.

The major concern remains the continuing heavy rain, floods, strong and gusty winds associated with TD04F. The streams and rivers in the Rewa, Navua and Rakiraki catchments are increasing and currently the following alerts and warnings are in force:

- A “Flood Alert” is now in force for all low lying areas and small streams adjacent to major rivers for the whole of Fiji;
- A “Flood Alert” is now in force for Rakiraki Town;
- A “Heavy Rain Warning” is in force for whole of Fiji;
- A “Strong Wind Warning” is remains in force for land areas of Fiji; and
- A “Strong Wind Warning” remains in force for all Fiji Waters.

Expect periods of heavy rain to continue with squally thunderstorms over most parts of the country today, tomorrow and through the weekend. With more rain forecasted, there is an increased chance of flooding of major rivers in the coming days.

Expect moderate to fresh northeast to southeast winds, gradually turning northerly and becoming strong and gusty with average speeds of 45km/hr and momentary gusts up to 60km/hr from tomorrow.

Mariners should anticipate northeast to southeast winds with average speeds of 20 to 30 knots and gusting up to 35 knots. Expect winds to turn northerly with seas becoming very rough from tomorrow. Visibility will be poor in areas of heavy rain and squally thunderstorms.

All communities are advised to take necessary precautions and remain prepared at all times as flood alert is already in place for all low lying areas and streams adjacent to major rivers. Also prepare for strong winds and gusty winds. Please take alerts, warnings and advisories seriously and remain updated with the latest weather bulletins.

For more details and the latest on weather, please contact the Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre on 6736006, 9905376 or visit the Fiji Meteorological Service's website, [www.met.gov.fj](http://www.met.gov.fj).

**ENDS.**

**Annex1**

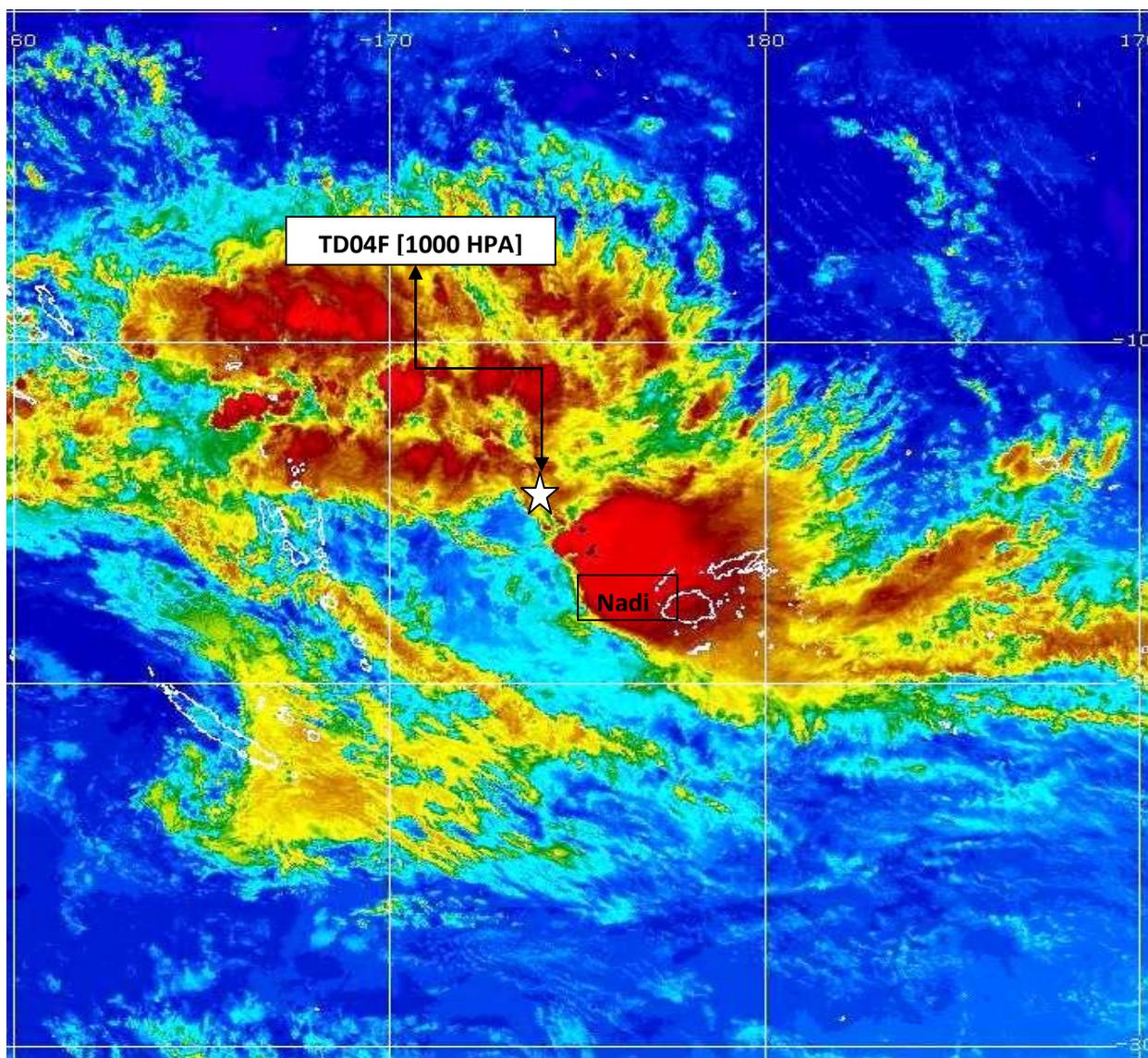


Figure 1: Satellite Map at 11am on 15 December 2016. Source NOAA.

## Annex 2

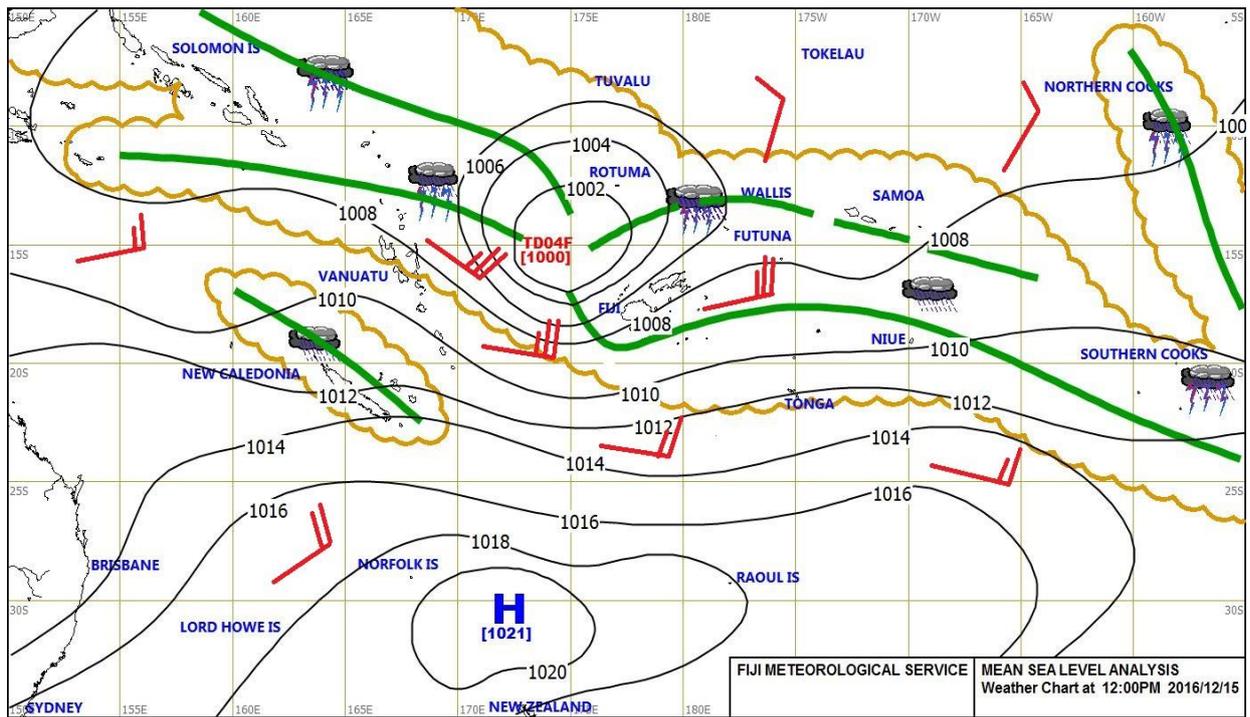


Figure 2: Weather map at 12noon 15 December 2016.

## Annex 3

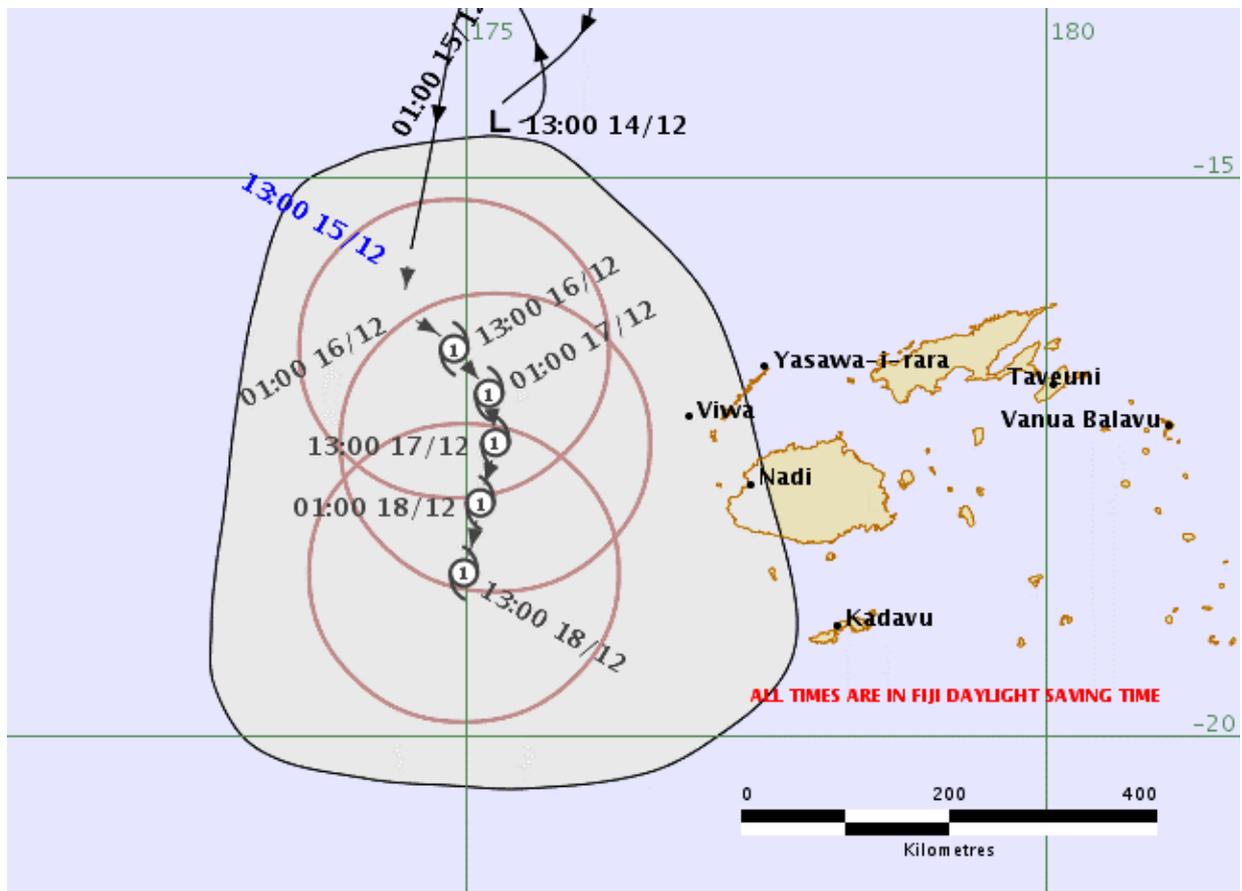


Figure 3: Forecast track Map for TD04F.

## Annex4

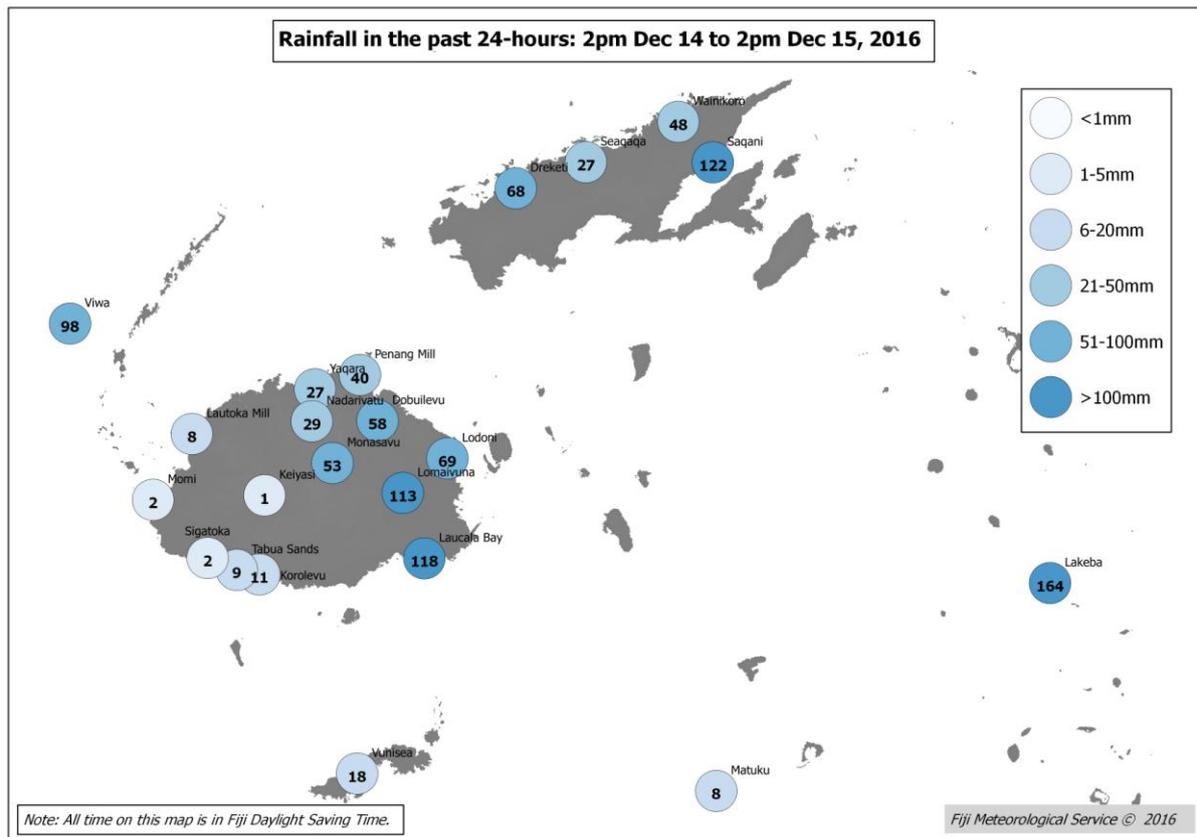


Figure 4: Rainfall over the last 24 hours from 2pm yesterday to 2pm today.

## Annex5

Rewa Catchment	3pm	4pm	Alert (m)	Warning (m)	Status
<i>Nabukaluka</i>	2.60		4.0	5.0	decreasing
<i>Navolau</i>	4.15		6.0	8.0	increasing
<i>Waimanu</i>	5.66		4.0	5.0	decreasing
<i>Nayavu</i>	2.82		5.0	8.0	Increasing
<i>Nausori Bridge</i>	2.66		3.5	4.5	decreasing
<i>Wailotua</i>	2.15		3.0	4.0	Increasing
<i>Nairukuruku</i>	2.36		4.0	5.0	delayed
Navua Catchment	River Level		Alert (m)	Warning (m)	Status
<i>Navua Town Bridge</i>	-		2.0	2.5	
<i>Sabata</i>	2.27		6.0	8.0	Increasing
<i>Nabukelevu</i>	1.44		3.0	4.0	Decreasing
Rakiraki Catchment	River Level		Alert (m)	Warning (m)	Status
<i>Rakiraki Town</i>	1.66		1.5	2.5	decreasing
<i>Vatukacevaceva</i>	0.67		1.0	1.5	Increasing

Table 1: Status of Water Level in Rewa, Navua and Rakiraki Catchments.