



# 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](http://www.mwtpu.gov.fj)



## **MEDIA RELEASE No.6**

**1pm Thursday 09<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

### **HEAVY RAIN ALERT AND STRONG WIND WARNING IS NOW IN FORCE**

Most parts of the country are experiencing a window of improved weather today as the Tropical Disturbance 09F moves away from Fiji. However, the active trough of low pressure with associated cloud and rain continues to affect the Lau group and should expect heavy rain and squally thunderstorm for most of today. This is expected to gradually ease to showers later today as the trough moves further away from the Group. Other parts of Fiji can expect occasional showers and few thunderstorms with heavy falls likely. The following warnings and alert still remains in force associated with TD09F:

- A “**Heavy Rain Warning**” remains in force for the Lau group;
- A “**Strong Wind Warning**” remains in force for land areas Lau and Lomaiviti group;
- A “**Flood Warning**” remains in force for low lying areas and areas adjacent to Rakiraki Town and downstream; and
- **Flood Alert**” remains in force for the low lying areas and small streams adjacent to Nadi Bridge and Dreketilailai and areas downstream of Nadi and Qawa Rivers.

The weather is expected to deteriorate again as another active trough of low pressure with embedded Tropical Disturbance TD10F is anticipated to affect the group from later tomorrow. The system is likely to bring another spell of heavy rain and also strong winds over the land areas in most parts of the country. In anticipation of trough moving closer to the group, the following alert and warning is now in place:

- A “**Heavy Rain Alert**” is now in force for the rest of Fiji;
- A “**Strong Wind Warning**” is also now in force for the rest of Fiji;

Expect occasional showers increasing to rain and becoming frequent and heavy at times with squally thunderstorms from tomorrow. Winds are also anticipated to increase and become strong and gusty as the TD10F moves closer to Fiji. Expect strong northwest winds with average speeds of 40km/hr to 55km/hr with gusts of up to 75km/hr over the land areas.

A “**Strong Wind Warning**” remains in force for all Fiji Waters and mariners can expect northwest winds 20 to 30 knots gusting to 40 knots with very rough seas and moderate northerly swells.

It needs to be noted that TD09F brought significant amounts of rainfall in most parts of the country in last few days and the risk of flash flooding remains high as the ground is extremely saturated, thus any more rain will lead to increase in river levels in short period of time.

All communities are advised that the country is not out of the danger yet, as heavy rain and strong winds are heading our way from later tomorrow and expected through the weekend. Do not be carried away by current break in weather, therefore you are requested to take alerts, warnings and advisories seriously whenever it is issued and remain prepared at all times.

Your weather Office will closely monitor the situation and provide an update as any significant changes are observed or expected in the coming days. 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](http://www.met.gov.fj)

**ENDS.**

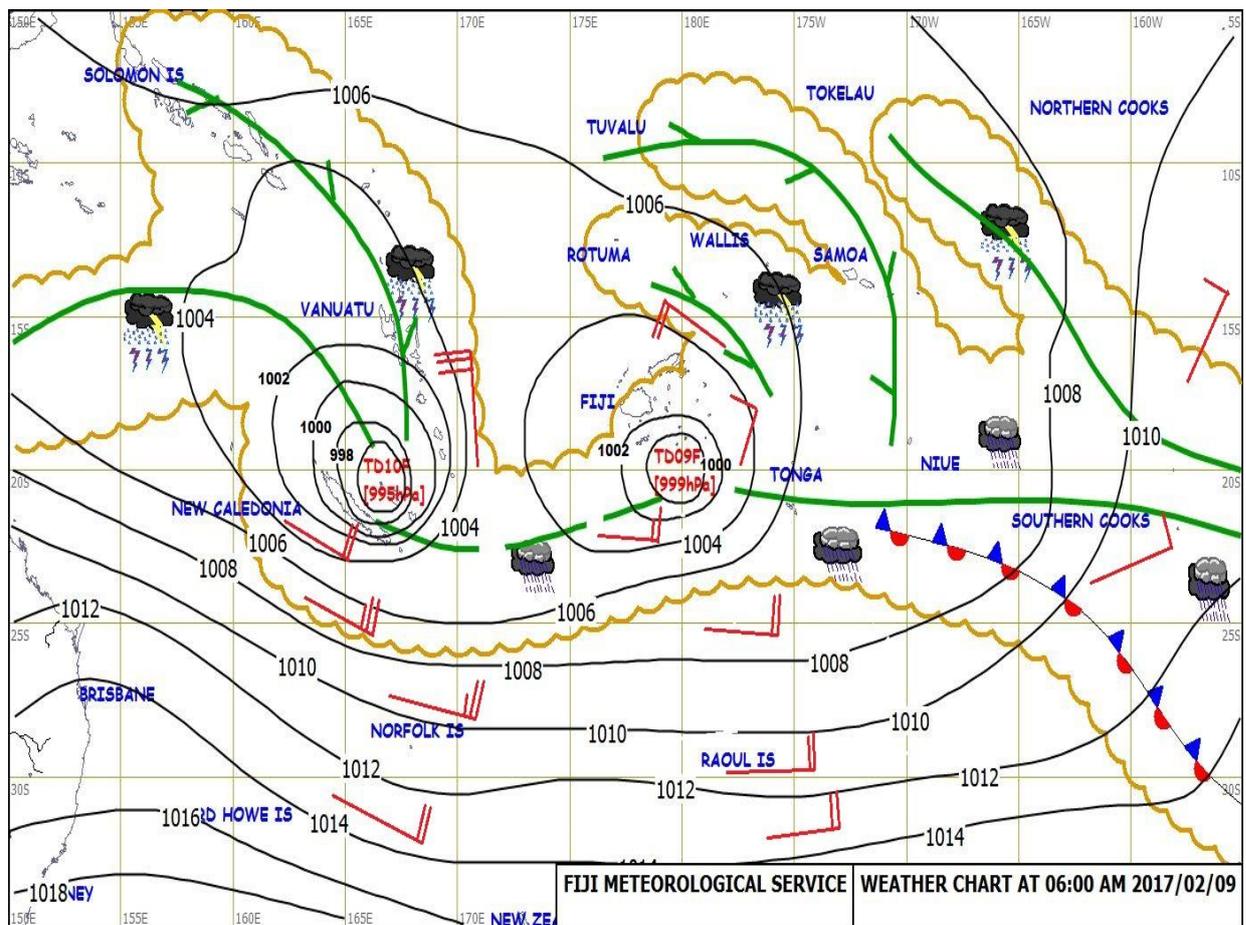


Figure 1: Weather Map at 6.00am on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

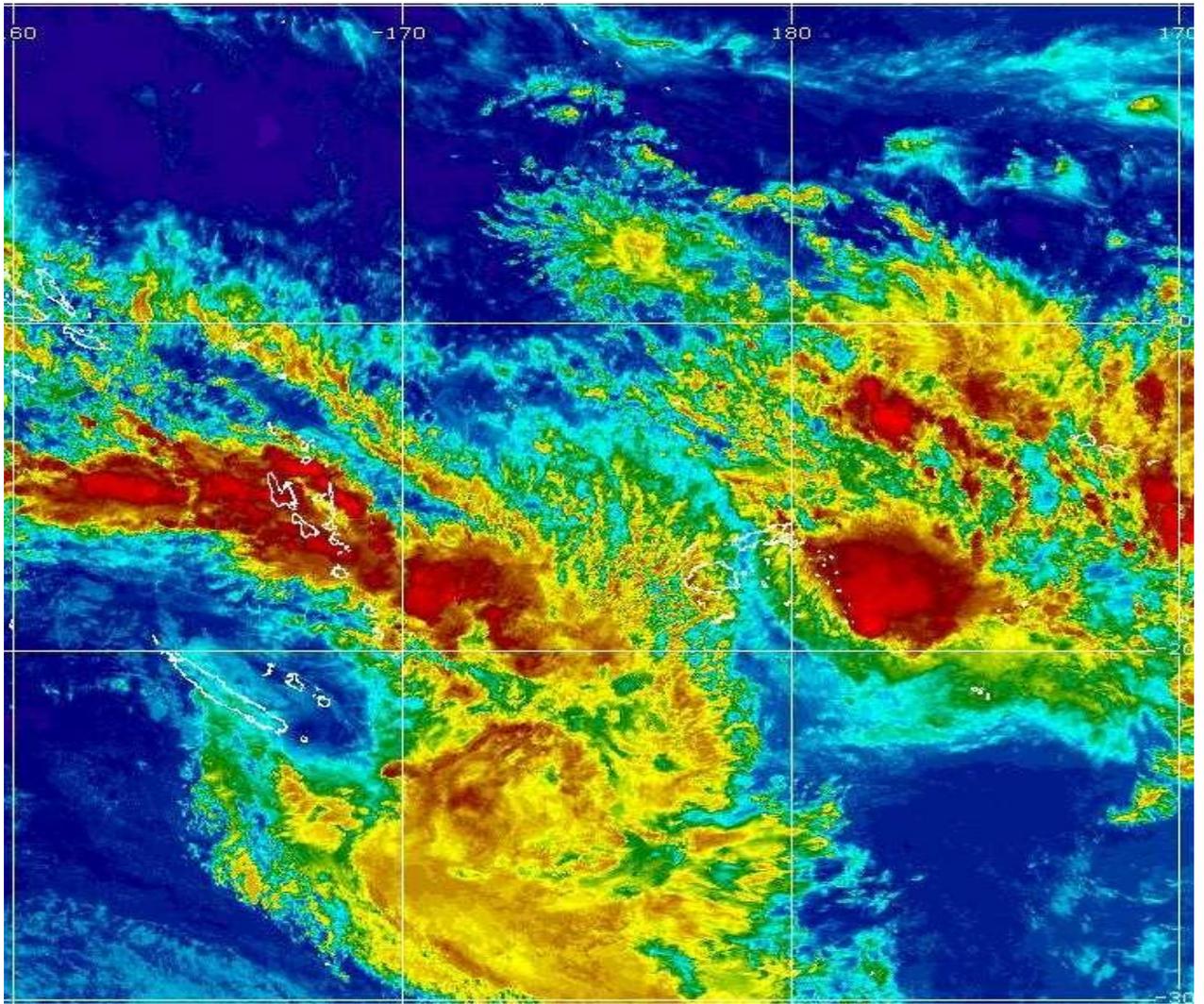


Figure 2: Satellite image at 12.30pm (00.30UTC) on 09<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

STATION	CATCHMENT	WATER LEVEL @10AM	ALERT LEVEL (m)	WARNING LEVEL (m)	STATUS
Nadi Bridge	Nadi	3.65	3.5	4.5	Decreasing
Rakiraki	Nakauvadra	2.4	1.5	2.0	Decreasing
Dreketilailai	Labasa	2.3	2.0	2.5	Decreasing
Qawa	Labasa	2.96	2.0	2.5	Decreasing

Table 1: Water Levels at various monitoring stations are currently decreasing. Next high tide is around 5.00pm this afternoon.

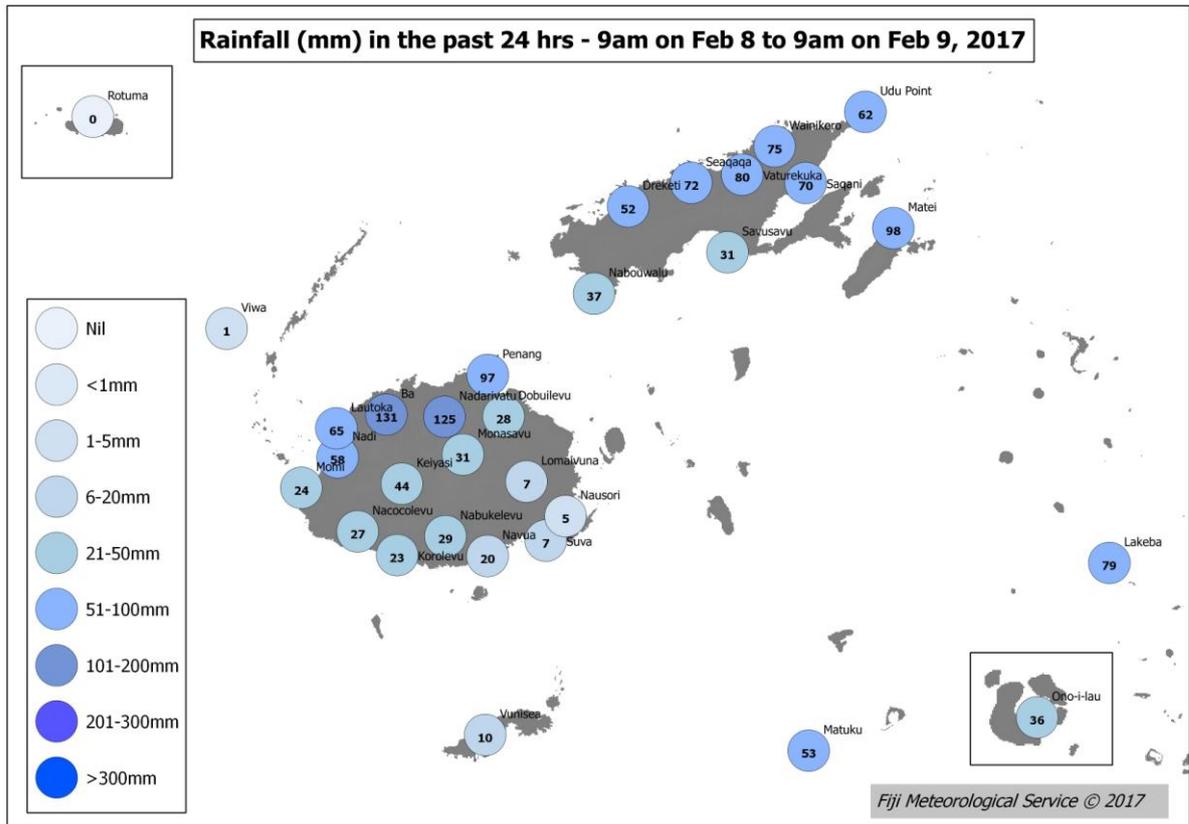


Figure 3: Rainfall for the past 24 hours from 6am yesterday to 6am this morning.

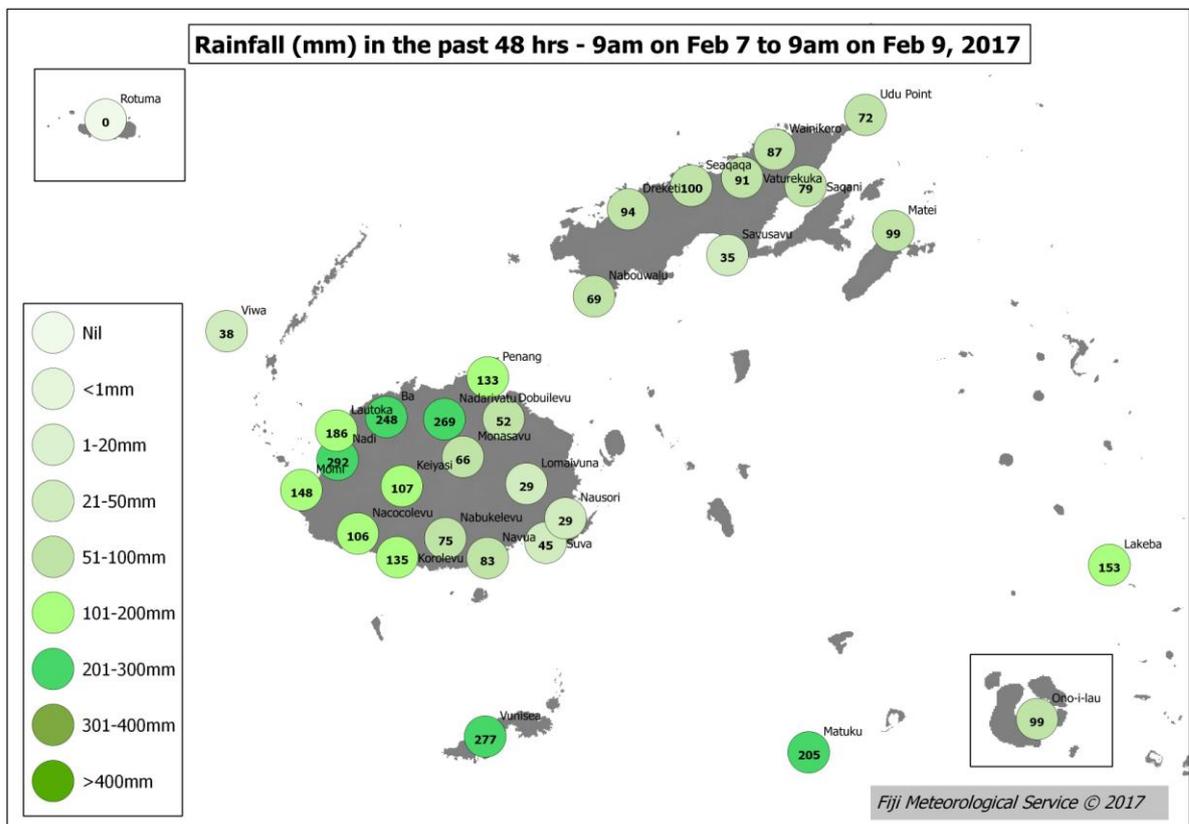


Figure 4: Rainfall for the past 48 hours from 6am on Monday to 6am this morning.