



MEDIA RELEASE No.2

3.00pm Saturday 16th April 2016

TROPICAL DEPRESSION (TD17F)

Tropical Disturbance (TD17F) has intensified into a Tropical Depression and it was analyzed near 15.2 South latitude and 176.2 East longitude or approximately 310km south-southwest of Rotuma and 310km north-northwest of Nadi at midday today.

TD17F is moving southeast, towards the Fiji group at 15km/hr. On this track, it is expected to move over the Group tonight. The associated trough with active rain bands is expected to continue affecting till Monday.

The concern for Fiji is the associated strong winds, rainfall and the likelihood of flooding of low lying areas. The chance of TD17F developing into a Tropical Cyclone over Fiji waters remains low. Therefore, the following alerts and warnings are in force:

- *A heavy rain warning has now been upgraded to cover whole of Fiji.*
- *A strong Wind Warning is now in force for the land areas and waters of Fiji and Rotuma.*
- *A flood warning is now in force for the low lying areas adjacent to Rakiraki River and low lying areas including Naqoro flat, Rakiraki Town and Qalau.*
- *A flood alert remains in force for all small streams, creeks and low lying areas adjacent to major rivers for the whole of Fiji group and low lying areas at Dreketilailai station including the bridge at Konasami and downstream to Boubale bridge at Bulileka .*

Periods of rain, heavy at times and a few thunderstorms are expected. Moreover, we expect improvement in weather from midday tomorrow. Rain is expected to start easing and clearing from the west as TD017F continues to move eastward.

Over Land: Clockwise winds with average speed of 55km/hr and gusts to 85km/hr. Winds expected to gradually ease from the west tomorrow.

Over Waters: Clockwise winds 25 to 30 knots gusting to 40 knots with rough to very rough seas. Moderate swells. Poor visibility in areas of heavy rain and thunderstorms.

For Rotuma: A trough of low pressure with associated cloud and rain affects the Island. Expect periods of rain, heavy at times and few squally thunderstorms. Rain expected to form tomorrow.

Over Land: Strong northerly winds with an average speed of 50km/hr and gusts to 80km/hr.

Over Waters: Northerly winds 25 to 30 knots with rough to very rough seas.

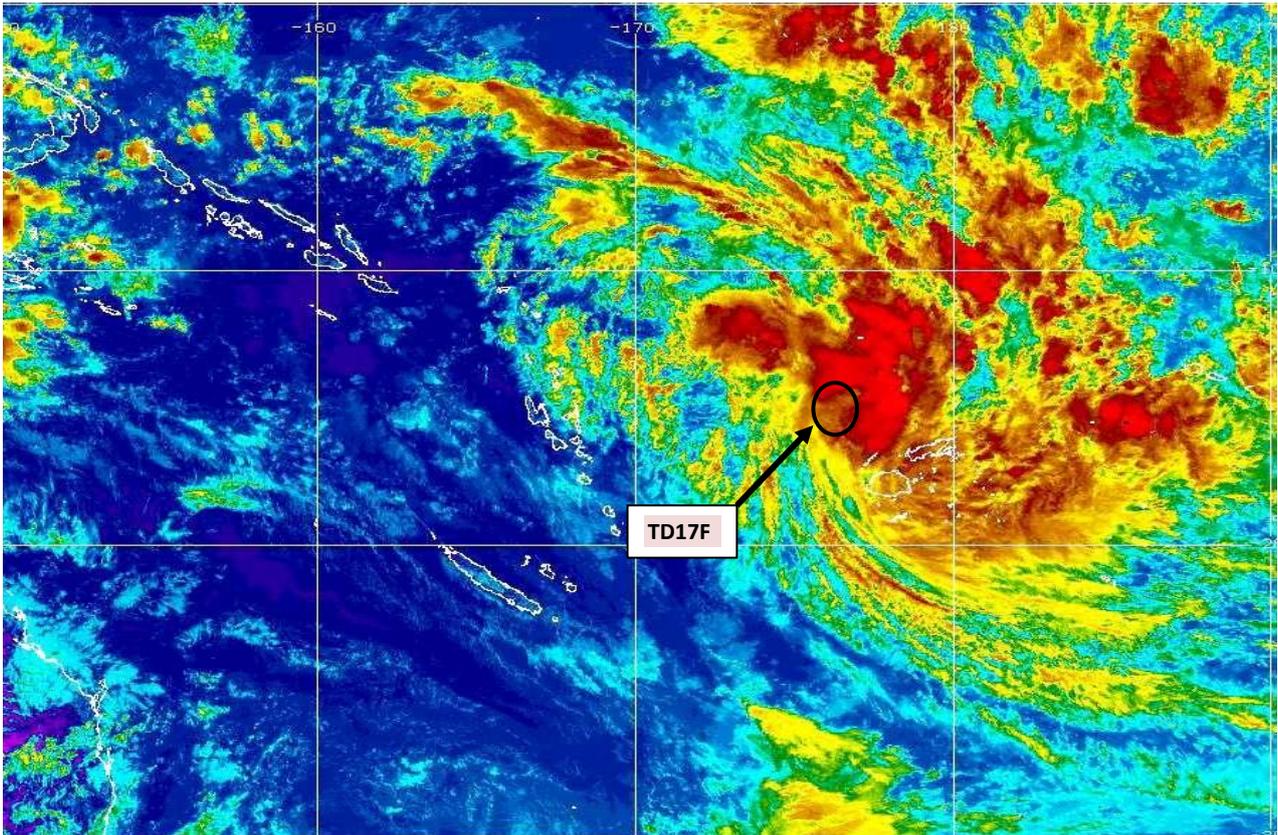


Figure 1: Satellite Image at 1.30pm on Saturday 16th April, 2016. Red shades are areas with heavy rain.

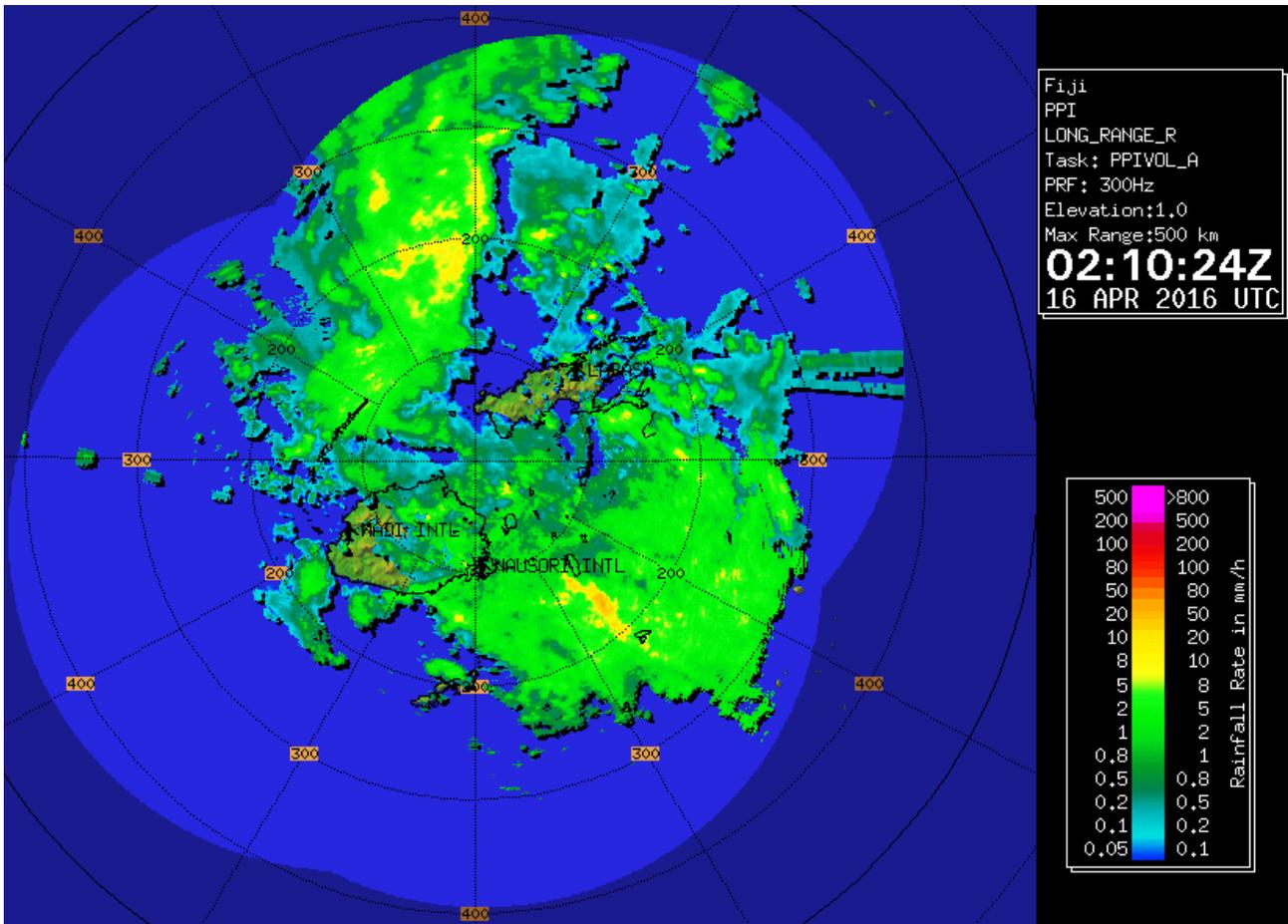


Figure 2: Radar Image at 02.10pm on Saturday 16th April 2016.

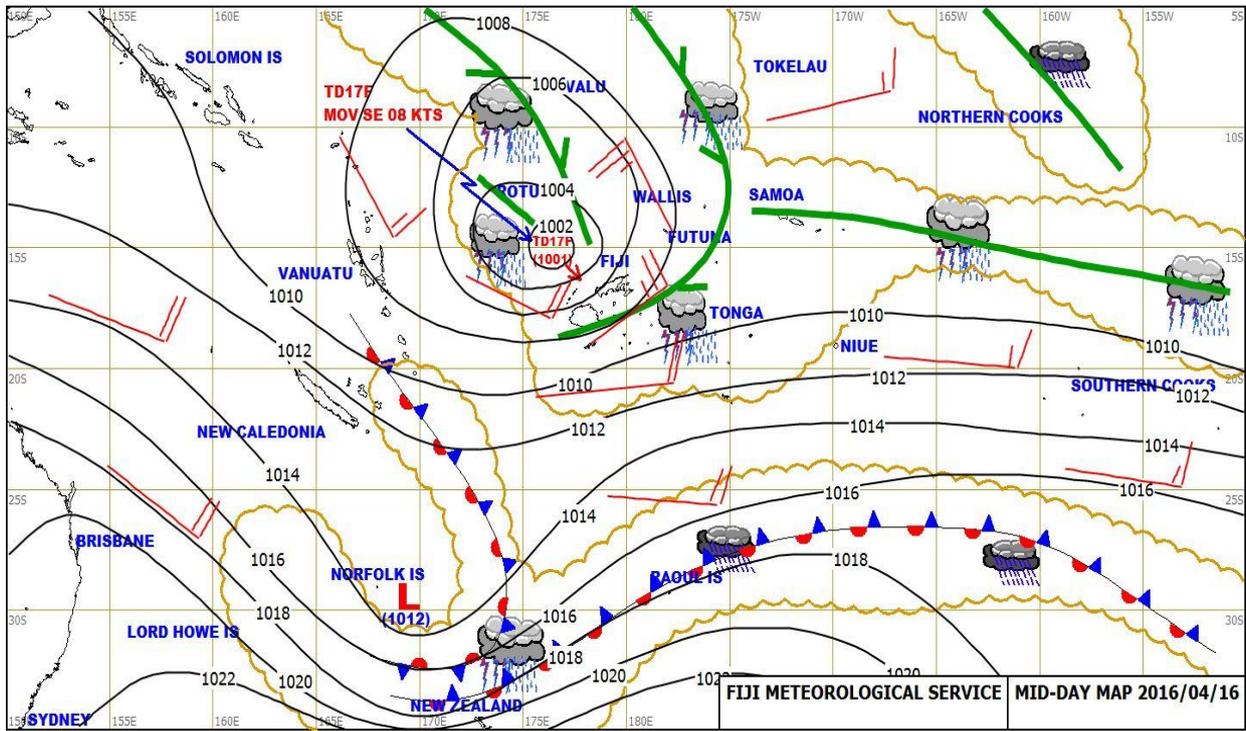


Figure 3: Mean Sea Level Weather Map issued by RSMC at mid-day on Saturday 16th April 2016.

Significant rainfall recorded from 9am yesterday to 9am today.	
Location	Rainfall (mm)
Rotuma	72
Udu Point	70
Nayarabale	68
Dreketilailai and Monasavu	61
Matei	58
Labasa Airport	55
Lomaivuna, Koro Is, Dewala, Wairikicake and Nabukeluka	Between 50 and 40

Table 1: Some significant rainfall recorded from 9am yesterday to 9am today.

All major rivers are normal except for Rakiraki River which is gradually rising and under flood warning. As rain continues over the next 24 hours, the water level in the major rivers may gradually rise and overflow their banks. The major Rivers and their tributaries are being closely monitored.

The general public is advised that the tropical cyclone and wet season is in progress; therefore all communities are to remain alert and prepared at all times. Furthermore, take forecast, warnings and advisories seriously and make timely and informed decision(s). Keep updated with the latest weather bulletins and take alerts and warnings seriously.

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

ENDS.

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