



**FIJI METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE
GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF FIJI**

MEDIA RELEASE No. 6

2pm, Wednesday, 09 December, 2020

TROPICAL LOW INTENSIFIES INTO A TROPICAL DISTURBANCE, TD01F

The tropical low that is located near Samoa has intensified and upgraded to a Tropical Disturbance (TD01F) at 6pm yesterday. At 9am today, it was located about 11.8 degrees' south latitude and 172.7 degrees' west longitude or about 245 kilometres north-northwest of Apia, Samoa or about 905 kilometres northeast of Vanuabalavu, Lau.

Tropical disturbance TD01F is moving west towards Rotuma at about 10 knots or 18 kilometres per hour. TD01F is expected to intensify further into a tropical depression in the next 12 to 24 hours and possibly named a tropical cyclone by later Friday. By then the system is expected to be located about 13.6 south latitude and 179.4 west longitude or about 280 kilometers east-southeast of Rotuma and 295 kilometers north-northwest of Udu Point (*refer to figure 1 below*).

Meanwhile, the other tropical low remains weak and slow moving near Rotuma. This system will bring about heavy rain and strong winds over land areas and waters of Rotuma from later tomorrow and will be enhanced by the approaching TD01F.

Forecast for the Fiji Group until mid-night tomorrow

Moderate to fresh easterly winds, becoming strong with average wind speeds up to 45km/hr is expected over land areas of Yasawa and Mamanuca Group, Kadavu, Vatulele, Beqa, Vanua Levu, Taveuni and nearby smaller islands, northeastern parts of Vitilevu, Coral coast to Pacific Harbour, Lau and Lomaiviti group. Rough to very rough seas. These winds are not destructive but could be dangerous for those navigating Fiji Waters.

It is expected to rain on and off, heavy at times over Yasawa and Mamanuca Group, Cikobia Island, Vanua Levu, Taveuni and nearby smaller islands. Expect it to be mostly cloudy with showers and possible thunderstorms over the rest of the group.

Isolated heavy falls may lead to flash flooding of low-lying areas.

In anticipation of the above, the following warning is currently in place:

1. A ***Strong Wind Warning*** is now in force land areas of Vanualevu, Taveuni and nearby smaller islands, northern parts of Vitilevu, Coral Coast to Pacific Harbour, Yasawa and Mamanuca Group, Kadavu, Vatulele, Beqa, Lomaiviti and Lau Group.
2. A ***Strong Wind Warning*** remains in force for the Fiji Waters.

3. A **Strong Wind Warning** is now in force for land areas and waters of Rotuma.

Due to water levels receding below their respective alert thresholds:

1. The **Flood Alert** previously in force for low lying areas and small streams adjacent to Waidina River and Naqali Bridge and low lying areas and areas adjacent to Qawa River at Dreketilailai Station has now been **cancelled**.
2. The **Flash Flood Alert** previously in force for low lying areas and areas adjacent to small streams along the Kings Road from Naboutini to Suva, Suva to Nausori, Nausori to Korovou, Korovou to Ra and upper Wainimala and Waidina River and low lying areas and areas adjacent to small streams within the Labasa and Qawa River has now been **cancelled**.

Members of the public are advised to remain alert and vigilant. Take warnings and advisories from relevant authorities seriously and remain prepared at all times.

The current situation is closely monitored and any alert and warning will be issued as and when significant changes are anticipated. Public are advised to remain updated with the latest weather information.

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. You can also visit the Fiji Meteorological Service official Facebook page for latest updates. The flood alert/warning can be accessed at: <https://www.met.gov.fj/index.php?page=warn1#20016.txt>, special weather bulletin at: <https://www.met.gov.fj/index.php?page=warn1#20036.txt>.

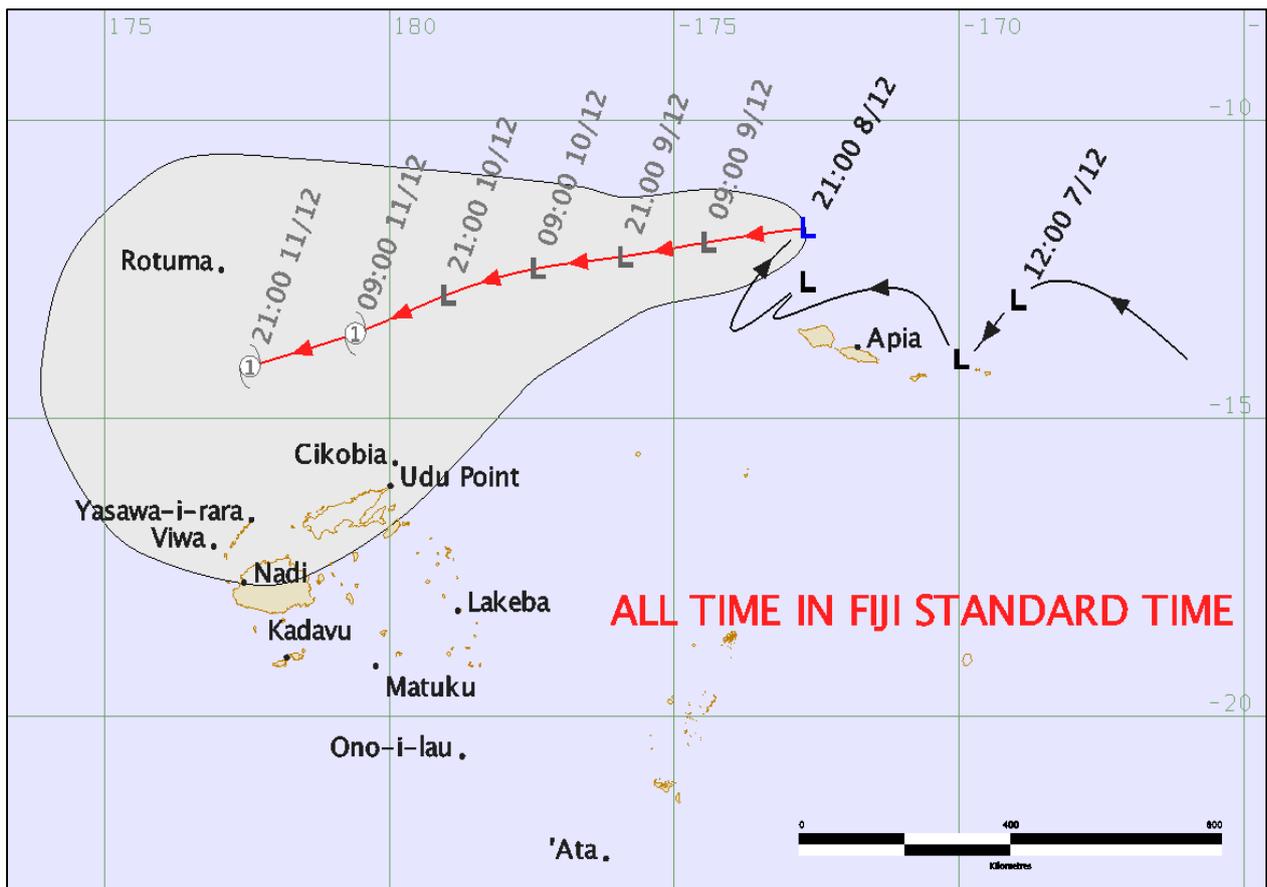


Figure 1: Forecasted track map for Tropical Disturbance TD01F at 9am on 09 December, 2020.

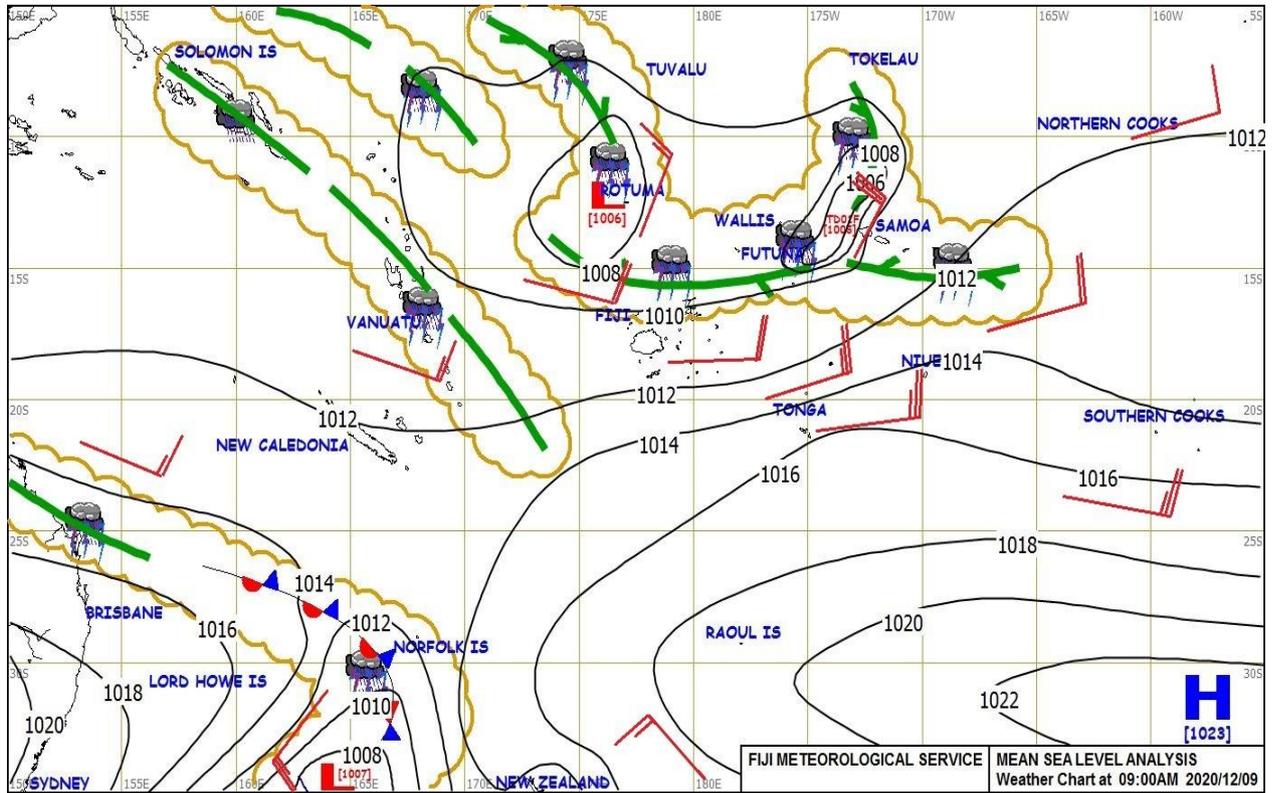


Figure 2: Weather Map at 9am today on 09 December, 2020.

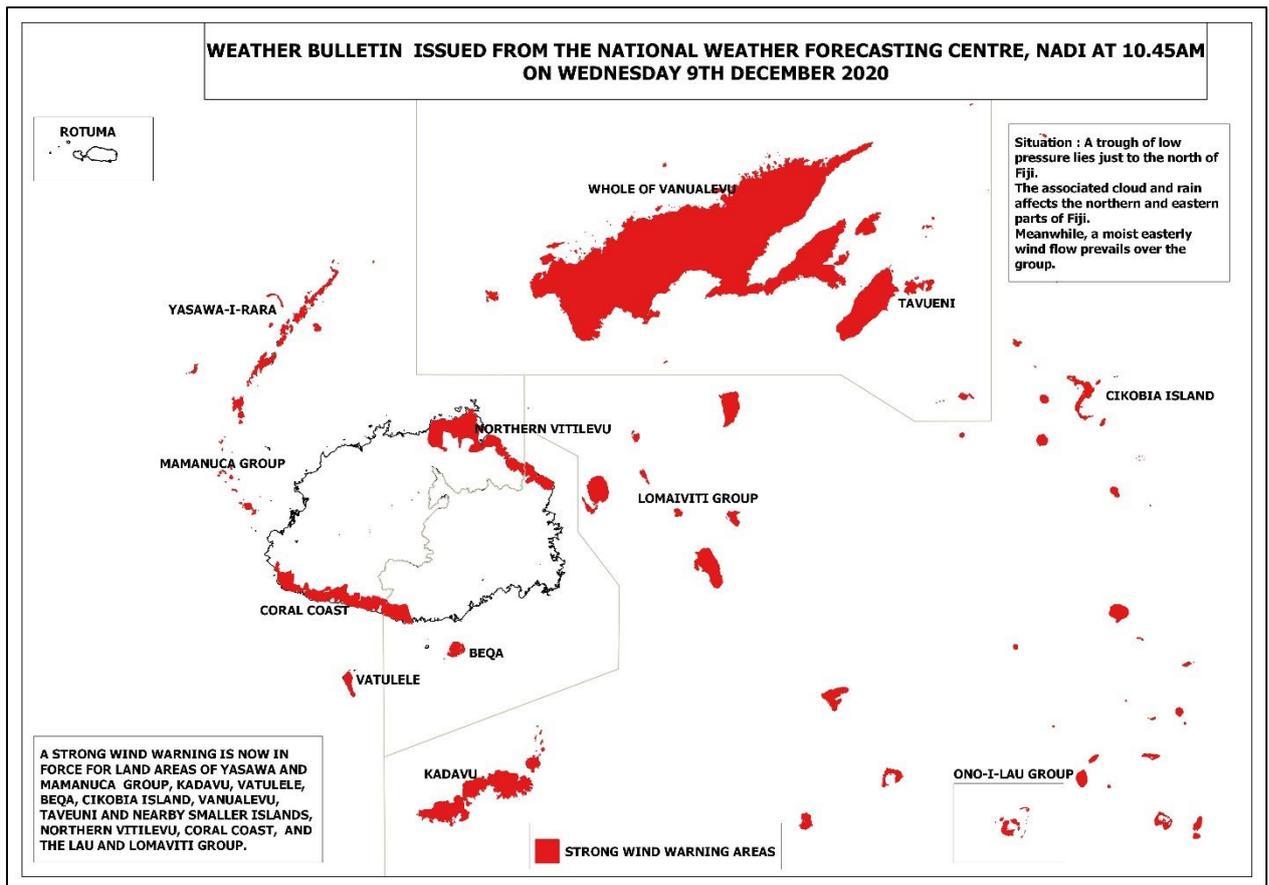


Figure 3: Strong wind warning map at 10.45am on 09 December, 2020.

END

