



NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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NATIONAL SITUATIONAL REPORT 01

Ref: NSRWX0223/01

EVENT ID: WX0223
EVENT: TC JUDY & TROPICAL LOW (Coral Sea)
DATE OF ISSUE: **Tuesday, 28 February 2023**
TIME OF ISSUE: 18:00hrs
APPROVED BY: N-DOC Chair
ISSUED BY: SI. National Emergency Operations Centre
NEXT UPDATE: **Upon availability of new information**

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A. HIGHLIGHTS

- The Solomon Islands Meteorological Services (SIMS) upgraded the special weather bulletin to a tropical cyclone warning late yesterday. Yesterday it upgraded to a category one Tropical Cyclone (TC) Judy and was located South of Tikopia Island, Temotu Province. Another Tropical low located in the Coral sea has triggered a tropical disturbance for the remaining provinces.
- Such multiple weather systems can trigger numerous impacts such as flooding, and damage to buildings and livelihoods, hence, people are encouraged to take precautionary actions to reduce impacts.
- The National Disaster Operations committee (N-DOC) has activated the NEOC at level 1 activation (Standby) and Temotu Provincial Emergency Operation Centre (TP PEOC) at level 2 activation (Full-on activation) as of Monday 27th February 2023. Those activations are to support early warning dissemination including building a common operating picture of the anticipated impact and response that may be needed.
- The Temotu Provincial Disaster Operation Committee (TP P-DOC) has convened an emergency meeting at Lata to deliberate on the current and imminent situation for further response planning.
- The NEOC hazard advisor (SIMS) provides a daily briefing of the weather system to the NEOC to support response planning and coordination.

B. SITUATION OVERVIEW

- At 11:00 am this morning, TC Judy (upgraded to category two) with a central pressure of 980 hectopascals was located near 14.0 degrees latitude south and 168.7 degrees longitude east. this is located approximately 101 nautical miles (187 km) south of Tikopia island, Temotu province.
- At 11:00am this morning, the other tropical low in the Coral sea with a central pressure of 1003 hectopascals was located near 12.6 degrees latitude south and 153.1 longitude east. this is located approximately 410 nautical miles (761 km) west-southwest of Rennell & Bellona province.
- TC Judy is moving southwest at 06 knots towards the northern waters of Vanuatu and intensifying. whilst the tropical low in the coral seas is moving northeast at 22 knots towards Rennell/Bellona province.

C. IMPACT REPORTS

- Yesterday evening (27 February), NEOC contacted Tukutaunga clinic in Tikopia via HF radio and the nurse there reported strong winds and heavy rainfall experienced since Sunday night (26/2/2023). It was reported that fruit trees were uprooted by damaging winds. The extent of damages on the island could not be made as yet because of the bad weather.
- The NEOC established a call to Reef Islands yesterday evening (27 February), confirming strong winds and heavy rain, however, no damages are reported.

D. UP-TO-DATE: RESPONSES

National Responses

National Disaster Council (NDC)

- NDC chair (PS MECDM) and Director SIMS briefed the Minister responsible for disaster management regarding the unfolding weather system that will affect the country in the coming days.

National Disaster Operation Committee (N-DOC)

- The N-DOC has activated the international charter space and major disaster¹ to provide support for remote sensing (satellite imagery) capability to support building the picture of the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Judy. The output products will inform respective planning regimes (both at the National and Provincial levels) and decision-making processes to deal with the impact of Tropical Cyclone Judy.

National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)

- The NEOC is currently activated at Level 1 activation (Stand-by) as of 27 February 2023, to support Early warning dissemination and coordination. The centre is manned until 23:00hr until such time when the arrangement will be revoked
- A team of two staff were tasked to liaise with the Temotu PEOC and Temotu PDOC and established communication with PDOC Chair for updates and response planning.

Provincial Responses

- The Temotu P-DOC Chair has activated their Provincial Emergency Operation Centre at 2:00 pm on 27 February 2023 to monitor the situation and communicate with the outer Island communities.
- The first Provincial Disaster Operations Committee meeting was undertaken at 14:00hrs 28 February 2023, to discuss provincial actions and responses.
- Communication with the remote islands of Tikopia and Anuta is challenging. The SI Telekom tower in Tikopia has been non-operational since last year, and the HF radio installed in Anuta by NDMO has not been fixed since last year as well.
- The assistant Provincial Disaster Officer for Temotu is currently on maternity leave and PDO Makira is supervising on her behalf to ensure monitoring and forward planning is actioned.

¹ A group of space agencies and space operators, working together to provide satellite imagery for disaster monitoring purposes. Please see link for details [Home - International Disasters Charter](#). The NDMO is part of the arrangement beginning 2023.

E. OPERATIONS CHALLENGES

- Limited communication coverage in remote Islands (Anuta, Tikopia, Vanikoro, Utupua) - Mobile communications are totally disrupted, however, very limited coverage for HF radio communication

F. RECOMMENDATIONS

- National and provincial stakeholders to support information collection and feedback from Temotu Outer Island communities on the current situation in support of NEOC. Please report to NEOC through 955 or neoc@ndmo.gov.sb
- PDO supervising needs to be deployed with immediate effect to provide technical support response planning and coordination to TP PEOC and the PDC/ P-DOC.
- As soon as weather permits, an Initial Situational Overview (Fly-over) is required to identify the scope and scale of the Impact of Tropical Cyclone Judy in Anuta, Tikopia, Vanikoro and Utupua.
- Responsible telecommunication companies are recommended to rectify communication faults and fix the Tikopia communication tower. This will ensure communication is re-established to strengthen coordination.

G. NEXT UPDATE

The next update will be issued upon the availability of new information.

APPROVED FOR DISSEMINATION BY

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Permanent Secretary - NDC CHAIR

Annex 1: TC Judy Track Map. Source: RSMC Nadi Tropical Cyclone Centre

