



MINISTER FOR LANDS AND MINERAL RESOURCES - HONORABLE JONE USAMATE

OFFICIAL ADDRESS AT THE WORLD TSUNAMI AWARENESS DAY ON NOVEMBER 5TH, 2021.

THEME: TARGET F OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK

“Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030”



Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, Jone Usamate.

Bula vinaka and a very good morning to you all. It gives me great pleasure to be here today to officially launch the 2021 World Tsunami Awareness Day.

This year’s World Tsunami Awareness Day theme is Target F of the Sendai Framework:

“Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030”

The purpose of commemorating this significant event is:

- To strengthen community awareness and preparedness towards Tsunami;
- To provide an advocacy platform to highlight best practice and examples of international cooperation which have a positive impact on the lives of people who live in Tsunami-prone areas in Fiji i.e. reducing the numbers of people affected by Earthquake and Tsunami;
- To empower children in disaster risk management & risk reduction; and
- To enhance working relationships between key stakeholders.

In promoting stakeholder’s engagement and enhancing disaster awareness and preparedness, the Ministry via the Mineral Resources Department in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Office held a Tsunami Awareness Webinar session on Wednesday 3rd November which was chaired by our Acting Director for Mineral Resources with panelists from International Organizations, relevant public agencies and NGOs.

This year we also decided to involve and engage the general public by rolling out a poster and short video competition with the theme: “Earthquake and Tsunami Preparedness”.

We are very grateful to the Government of Japan and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Office for the kind support and assistance for the 2021 World Tsunami Awareness Day Competition Prizes, masks and T-Shirts.

On the 5th of every month the Ministry in partnership with NDMO conducts tsunami siren test in the central division to ensure that if and when a tsunami should hit, Fiji is ready.

In addition, there is ongoing collaborative works carried out by relevant stakeholders including the Mineral Resources Department, on Tsunami awareness particularly to the vulnerable communities with more focus on gender equality and social inclusion (GESI).

We recognize UNDP’s support over the years through its Tsunami Project, particularly in strengthening school tsunami preparedness including Tsunami Drill for the Primary and Secondary schools in the Nasese and Vatuwaqa Area.

This gave the opportunity for the School of the Blind and Deaf in Vatuwaqa to test their tsunami evacuation plan.

Your assistance is a timely demonstration of the World Tsunami Awareness Day Theme 2021, on enhancing international cooperation.

This kind of support is also a clear and direct response to the Pacific Island Leaders call

“Mineral Resources Department and National Disaster Management Office targets to make all tsunami at risk communities in Fiji Tsunami Ready by 2030 and guided by the National Tsunami Response Plan.”

Jone Usamate
Minister for Lands & Mineral Resources

through the Pohnpei Statement: “Calling on development partners, the private sector and civil society to join with Pacific Island Countries and Territories to support the principles and the implementation of the Framework of Resilient Development for the Pacific (FRDP) through participation in the new Pacific Resilience Partnership.”

Here in Fiji, your support contributes to the Government of Fiji’s commitment on the implementation of the National Development Plan 5-20 years and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2018-2030.

The Seismology Section under the Mineral Resources Department at the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources is the scientific head responsible for the monitoring of Earthquake and Tsunami in Fiji and the National Tsunami Warning Center.

Mineral Resources Department and National Disaster Management Office targets to make all tsunami at risk communities in Fiji Tsunami Ready by 2030 and guided by the National Tsunami Response Plan.

We are also embarking to develop our National Earthquake Response Plan.

We would like to encourage our partners to join us in our effort to strengthen Fiji’s Tsunami Warning and Mitigation system.

**Be Aware, Be Prepared!
Be Tsunami Ready!**

Once again vinaka vakalevu, dhanyavaad, thank you and God Bless Fiji.