



Governor General declares 'State of Emergency'

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**Fenui would like to
acknowledge photo
credits to those people
whose photos are fea-
tured in this issue.**

...and more



*Alofi at Vaitupu Island flooded on Thursday
this week Photo: Supplied*

GOVERNOR General His Excellency Sir Iakoba Taeia Italeli, this morning declares a State of Emergency for the whole of Tuvalu.

In accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, Sir Taeia exercises the power conferred to him by Section 35 (1) of the Constitution of Tuvalu and proclaims that a State of Public Emergency exists in Tuvalu.

This was a result of the devastating impacts of storm surge from Tropical Cyclone Pam that affected all islands of Tuvalu.

This proclamation shall be effective for seven days from the 13th March 2015, unless earlier revoked.

National Disaster Coordinator Sumeo Silu says following the declaration of the state emergency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will advise all missions and notify our donor partners in order to get assistance.

He said the National Disaster Coordinating Committee had updated Care taker Prime Minister this morning on the work the committee and outer islands' committee had done so far.

Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga congratulated the committee and government departments for working together in liaising with outer islands and updated the whole nation on the situation■

PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER



Photo captions

1-Storm surges at Nui Island

2-Storm surges at Nukulaelae Island

3-Debris on Funafuti main road

Photo credited to: Kitiona A, Eleni L

THE islands of Tuvalu have been severely hampered by storm and huge surges caused by Tropical Cyclone Pam.

Over the past two days, events of serious damages, seawater flooding and inundation have been reported from all the eight outer islands of Tuvalu following strong winds but especially caused by huge waves and storm surges, some 4 to 5 meters higher than the islands.

A full survey will be carried out as soon as the weather improves.

Although no human injuries and casualties have been reported, yet, some whole island settlements have been totally flooded requiring emergency evacuation, relocation, and help to the affected residents.

This morning (Friday March 13, 2015) a State of Emergency was declared by Governor General, HE Sir Iakoba Taeia Italeli, for one week effectives as from today.

The Government, assisted by the Tuvalu Disasters Preparedness Coordination Committee, and in collaboration with all stakeholders, is monitoring the situation closely.

Help will be mobilized as and when appropriate, and the international community informed.

Public services on all islands have also been asked to remain alert and vigilant.

Implications of the situation on the holding of general elections scheduled for March 19, 2015 are being closely assessed by the Government. The public will be duly informed of further developments■

QUICK TRACKS

♦ **Radio Tuvalu** broadcasted live over night as the nation waits for brunch of strong winds coming from west to north-west bringing damages waves to some outer islands. The National Disaster Committee organized a 24 hour observation program liaising with outer islands' Disaster Committee on the situation. It was reported that in the past 48 hours, most of the outer islands especially the northern islands of Tuvalu were affected by storm surges hampering the islands bringing rubbish and rocks into the main roads and damages some properties. Radio Tuvalu broadcasted hourly updates from the outer islands as they came through the committee■

♦ **Nukulaela Kaupule** member feared for his island food security as the damaging waves brought saltwater into the pulaka pits. It was reported that pulaka pits on the main island were flooded with water level up to a meter. He said he is worried what is going to happen after this storm-would the pulaka survived the damages from saltwater. Nukufetau pulaka pits on Fale islet were also flooded with saltwater from damaging waves that hit the island yesterday.

♦ **Parents and guardians** of Motufoua students were worried about their children as Vaitupu Island where the school is situated badly hit by strong wind and storm surges. Reports on social media describe the devastation on the island yesterday as damaging wages caused damaged to properties and houses on the coast of the island. Ag Principal Siautele Lito told *Fenui* that the school do not experience strong wind and storm surges as it is located at the other end of the island. He said the water at the school is calm and the school went through with its normal classes throughout this week. He reassured parents and guardians that all students are safe and sound■

Nukulaelae Island in the southern Tuvalu battered by storm surges



Nukulaelae Power house flooded and power supply had been switched off
Photo: Eleni L

NUKULAELAE Island in the south of Tuvalu had battered by storm surges and strong wind in the last 48 hours.

The main generator supplying power to the island had been switch off because the whole power house was flooded.

Nukulaelae Kaupule reported on Thursday night, the island felt the brunt of huge storm surges from the ocean side and the lagoon side of the island causing flooding in the main settlement.

Families living near the coastal areas had been evacuated to evacuation centers identified by the Kaupule.

Reports stated that some families were evacuated to the Falekaupule while others were relocated to the Faikimua Primary School premises.

The Nukulaelae pulaka pit was also flooded and inundated by storm surges with waters up to a meter.

It also reported that some houses were damaged by the strong current from storm surges and few small huts were destroyed.

The island used a back-up generator and a satellite phone to contact with the National Disaster Committee on the capital.

This morning (Friday 13) a summary report states that storm surges are easing and the Island Disaster Committee with able men of the island are keeping a close eye on more damages waves from the ocean side of the island■

Brief summary report from the islands as of this morning March 13.

Nanumea

Mata Hauma was severely flooded and damaging waves uprooted plastic water-tanks from houses near the coastal line. Roads close because of debris filling the road near the island chapel. Some families have been accommodated at Kaumaile Primary School. Electricity was shut down as a result of the floods. More than 10 houses partially damaged.

Nanumaga

The coastal side of the west Nanumaga was severely beaten by strong wind and damaging waves causing damages to some properties and houses. Winds from northwest were strengthened over the past days and this morning it was subsided.

Niutao

Like all northern islands, Niutao also felt the brunt of strong wind and damaging storm surges coming from the west. People were also evacuated to evacuation centers.

Funafuti

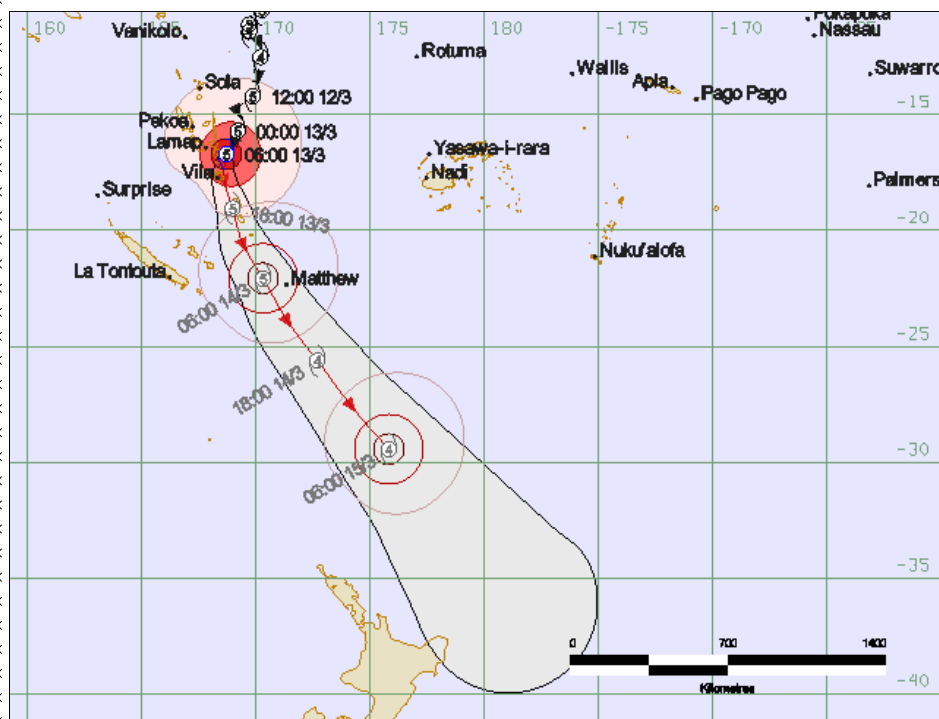
Experience strong winds and damaging storm surges from the lagoon side. Access to the northern end of the island were blocked by debris brought into the main roads by storm surges.

Niulakita

The island also felt strong winds with damaging waves coming from the west. However these waves did not harm the island, except coastal erosion.

TROPICAL CYCLONE FORECAST TRACK MAP

Severe Tropical Cyclone PAM (Source: Fiji Met Service)



Tuvalu Weather Bulletin issued from NWFC Nadi Mar 130218 UTC.

A STRONG WIND WARNING REMAINS IN FORCE FOR ALL LAND AREAS AND WATERS OF TUVALU.

Situation: An active trough of low pressure with associated cloud and rain remains slow moving over Tuvalu. Forecast to midnight tomorrow for Tuvalu:

Over Waters: Strong northerly winds, 25 to 30 knots. Rough to very rough seas. Moderate westerly swells.

Over Land: Strong northwest winds 40 to 55 km/hr. Periods of rain, heavy at times and squally thunderstorms.

Further outlook: Rain continuing. For Funafuti: Periods of rain, heavy at times and squally thunderstorms. Further outlook: Rain continuing.



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Photo captions:

1-Flooding on Nui Island

2-Debris at the Vaitupu playing field

3-Road temporarily close on Funafuti

4-Flooding at Nui Island

5-Lototahi at Nanumea Island partially damaged

6-Trees felt victims to coastal erosion