



## PRESS RELEASE 70/2021

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**\*\* For Immediate Release \*\***

### **NDMO CONCLUDES AWARENESS TRAINING IN THE NORTH**

The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) concluded a comprehensive three-day workshop on “Working as a Team in an Emergency Operation Centre” in the Northern Division on December 3.

The workshop focused on lessons learnt from past disasters- especially Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Tropical Cyclone Ana - and ways that the Provincial Administrators and District Officers could strengthen their roles as Disaster Coordinators in an Emergency Operation Centre (EOC). It also included the setup and activation of an emergency operation centre and information management.

The target participants for the training included staff of the Commissioner Northern Division, Provisional Administrators, District Officers and Assistant District officer and representatives from other government ministries.

Divisional Commissioner Northern Mr. Uraia Rainima, said disaster coordinators played a vital role in saving lives at the height of a disaster and that they should guide and advise Fijians on how to better deal with it.

“It’s a big risk for Vanua Levu at this time as we are already into the cyclone season and there are more than 7, 000 people that were affected by TC Yasa and TC Ana,” Mr Rainima said.

He added that the training was vital as it would ensure the smooth running of operations when there was a disaster.

Director NDMO Ms. Vasiti Soko echoed similar sentiments, saying that coordination is key during disasters and such trainings will equip the Disaster Coordinators in ensuring Government’s priority of saving lives is met .

“We have seen the wrath caused by past disasters and we have made it a mission at NDMO to educate everyone at all levels on the importance of being well prepared for a disaster,” she said.

“The training is part of the Government’s continued effort increasing our level of disaster readiness as per the Natural Disaster Management Act and the National Disaster Management Plan.”

The NDMO will be conducting similar training for staff members from the Central and Eastern Divisions this week.

The NDMO also acknowledges Save the Children Fiji for the support rendered towards this training.

**-ENDS-**

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The Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management is responsible for implementing development strategies that bring Fijians living in rural and maritime regions the same level of access to essential services and economic opportunities as anywhere else in the country. We coordinate and implement the Fijian Government's rural and maritime development initiatives with a mission to empower Fiji's rural sector. We also spearhead disaster risk reduction initiatives at national and sub-national level including disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. We have offices for each of Fiji's 14 provinces including Rotuma, leading the Fijian Government's rural development and disaster risk management operations.

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