



NATIONAL DISASTER COUNCIL



*Dept of Home and Cultural Affairs
PO Box G11
Honiara
Solomon Islands*

Phone: (677) 27936, Mobile: 95895

Fax: (677)-24293

e-mail: ndc@solomon.com.sb

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National Disaster Management Office

January 2010 Earthquake Report #01

04 January 2010

SITUATION

1. Two earthquakes occurred this morning in the Western Province, the first at 0848 and the second at 0936. USGS reported the first as measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale and the second, 7.2. The depth of the first was 36km (22.4 miles) South South East of Gizo or island (264km (164 miles) West North West of Honiara. And the second struck at 143km (89 miles) South South East of Gizo Island or 210km (130 miles) West North West of Honiara.

1 injury reported at Baniata village, Rendova Island; one house at Rano, Marovo lost one side; 500 homes in the Marovo lagoon were reportedly damaged by waves.

2 big waves hit Tetepare Island damaging some canoes and dwelling houses; some tourists there also got injured and requested evacuation to Gizo as soon as possible.

A. Reports

Officer in Charge of Munda police reported two big waves hitting Tetepare Island at 1040 am damaging some canoes and dwelling houses but didn't give the exact number. Some tourists on the island were reported as being injured and requested evacuation to Gizo as soon as possible.

A report from Baniata on Rendova island said people there saw big waves and ran to higher grounds; in the process one person was injured but not seriously.

Gizo Police officer, Inspector Wala, also relayed the damages reported on Tetepare Island by Munda Police to NDMO. (Police Munda had also sent the same report they relayed to the NDMO to Gizo police).

At 12 midday a report from Lokuru village on Rendova Island reported fallen houses (no specific numbers); high waves so people ran to higher ground; but no injuries.

The same report also mentioned about one house at Rano village which lost one side because of the earthquake. But there were no casualties.

Tinge village on Marovo reported seeing high waves but didn't report any problems or casualties.

At 1430 further reports coming through the SIPF claimed two villages in the Marovo lagoon lost 500 houses. Efforts to verify this report are being made.

The following report was forwarded to the NDMO by the PFNet Manager Tony Matelaomao:

These are the damages I received through HF radio at Baniata clinic.

1) They said that number of houses could not be confirmed as situation is not stable at this time. They are still experiencing earthquakes but few boys able to go through the village and made an estimation that it's more than 60 houses.

2) Number of canoes was damaged by waves but numbers not confirmed.

3) No casualties but some people who went out early this morning (to their garden, out fishing, some travel to nearby villages) are yet to be located.

All the villagers are moving to higher ground but there are also landslides. They said that they are in need at this time.

*Regards,
Jonathan.*

The following was received from the Officer in Charge of Munda Police, Allenson Tioby:

a) **Tetepari TDA Station:**

- Jetty washed out
- No injuries
- No deaths
- Some boats damaged
- Petrol shed damaged
- 10 exp healthy

b) Baniata village:

- 16 houses damaged
- 32 partly damaged
- People need shelter, food water
- No deaths or injuries

B. National Response

- a. The National Disaster Operations Committee met briefly this morning for a briefing and updates about the earthquake.
- b. NDMO sent a Public Safety message on SIBC
- c. The National Disaster Operations Committee through SIPF has dispatched a rapid assessment team by helicopter at 1400. The team is yet to report back.
- d. NDMO is continuing to check with communities through HF radio and telephone.
- e. Patrol Boat Lata, PV 03, will leave at 1800 today with some relief food and water and tarpaulins and an assessment.
- f. Munda Police have dispatched at MV Jackpot 2pm today to the affected villages

An update will be made tomorrow Tuesday 05 January 2009.