MEDIA RELEASE

TROPICAL CYCLONE "AMOS" (Category 1) COULD AFFECT THE NIUAS AND VAVA'U OVER THE WEEKEND

(21 April 2016)

Tropical Cyclone "AMOS" (Category 1) was located about 565km Northwest of Niuafo'ou at 7am this morning moving West Northwest at 6knots. Estimated average winds near the centre is 35-50knots. Tropical Cyclone "AMOS" is currently intensifying slowly and on its current track, the Cyclone is expected to reach Category 2 and start moving east tomorrow (Friday 22 April 2016) and then turn Southeast thereafter toward the Niuas and Samoa. The Cyclone is expected to lie about 270km north of Niuafo'ou around 7am Sunday morning (24th) or about 160km northeast of Niuatoputapu around 7am Monday morning (ANZAC DAY). Damaging Gale Force winds may affect the Niuas from late Saturday and possibly Vava'u thereafter.

The National Forecasting Centre at Fua'amotu continues to monitor the progress of Tropical Cyclone "AMOS" and will activate the Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre if Gale Force winds are expected within 48hrs of reaching any of the Tonga Islands. Members of the public, particularly those citizens residing in the Niuas and Vava'u should take time to get the latest warnings and make the usual pre-tropical cyclone preparations.

Strong wind warnings are currently in place for all land and sea areas of Vava'u and the Niuas with Heavy Damaging Swell warnings in force for Ha'apai, Vava'u and the Niuas. These warnings could be elevated later depending on the actual track Tropical Cyclone "AMOS" takes.
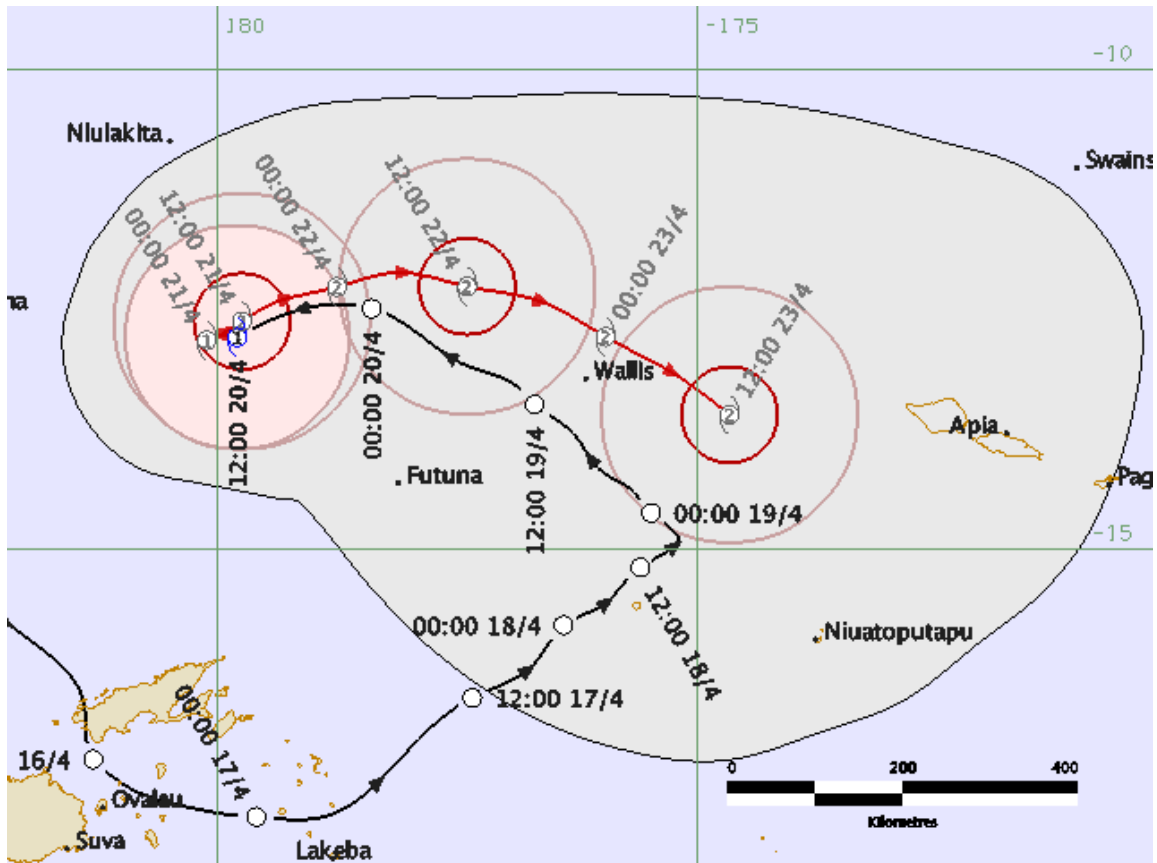
Figure 1: Forecast track of Tropical Cyclone "AMOS" (Image RSMC Nadi)

For further information please contact the Meteorology Division on 35355 or *metstaff@met.gov.to*. More information is also available at www.met.gov.to