



BULLETIN

SATHYA SAI INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION



Cyclone devastation in Fiji

Cyclone Disaster Relief in Fiji

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are happy to share with you the latest update on the humanitarian relief work being done with love and compassion by Sathya Sai volunteers in Fiji Islands where a Category 5 cyclone struck on Saturday, 20 February 2016. The Sathya Sai International Organisation (SSIO) of Zone 3 – Australia and Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand, sprang into action immediately after the cyclone hit Fiji. Sathya Sai volunteers from Fiji started offering hot meals, food packets, drinking water, clothes and medical care to the victims of the natural disaster immediately after a nation-wide curfew was lifted on the next Monday morning. The SSIO team focused their efforts in helping families in very remote rural communities who had not received any food, supplies or assistance from any source, until the SSIO volunteers arrived on the scene.

Please read and feel free to forward it to family, friends, and others.

Jai Sai Ram.

With loving regards,

Anupom Ganguli, Ph.D.

Chairman, Media Committee

Sathya Sai International Organisation

Destruction from tropical cyclone Winston



Tropical cyclone Winston, reported to be one of the strongest storms to make landfall since modern records began in the 1970s, ravaged through most of the country; damaging homes, infrastructure, farms and disrupting people's livelihoods. To witness and describe the sheer scale of destruction is difficult enough, but what the affected people endure on the aftermath of such destruction is even harder to comprehend.



The cyclone made landfall near Rakiraki, population 30,000, at 5 PM on 20th February. So far, 43 people have lost their lives. Remote communities in the townships of Ba, Tavua and Rakiraki (on the North West of the main island - Viti Levu) along with about 100 smaller outlying islands such as Koro were the worst affected areas. A National state of emergency was declared in the country. By the grace of Bhagawan, there was comparably minor damage to the Sathya Sai School in Lautoka.

In the West, 4,864 houses were destroyed and 6,574 partially damaged. In the North, 792 houses were destroyed and 2,617 partially damaged, and in the Central Division, 568 were destroyed and 1,667 partially damaged. In the East, 819 houses were destroyed and 253 partially damaged.



Sathya Sai volunteers bring food, water and supplies daily

Approximately 30 Sathya Sai volunteers with the help of local NGOs and religious groups are serving over 500 victims in remote locations daily, with food rations and clean drinking water. Volunteers from both SSIO Australia and New Zealand are also contributing in the relief efforts. They delivered over 6 tonnes of food and 1,500 litres of clean drinking water, in many cases by foot and even on horseback. A team of over 70 volunteers from New Zealand were scheduled to travel to Fiji in April for holding Medical Camps. However, the scale of destruction moved them to arrive much earlier, to participate in humanitarian relief work immediately.

Delivering supplies to remote locations



The SSIO volunteers have been working almost around the clock since the cyclone hit, to provide relief supplies to affected families. Sathya Sai Youth are leading components of the relief efforts. SSIO of Fiji expects the initial phase (providing food packs and clean drinking water) to continue.

Clothing and basic essentials are being packed in major cities of Australia and shipped to Fiji. Some collection of clothes being boxed at Sathya Sai Centre of Blacktown, under the auspices of the SSIO – Australia.



A nationwide prayer appeal has been organized in Australia. Prayers and devotional singing to help disaster victims and provide energy to the hardworking volunteers are being conducted daily at Sathya Sai Centres across Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

