

WRITTEN QUESTION 236/2026

Wednesday 30th September 2026

Hon. Alipate Tuicolo to ask the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources

– Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –

- (a) the number of seismic events recorded during the 2025-2026 financial year; and
- (b) how investment in seismic stations, monitoring technology and specialist staff has improved Fiji's ability to detect, analyse and respond to earthquakes and associated tsunami threats.

During the 2025-2026 FY alone, the Mineral Resources Department recorded and analysed 4,116 seismic events. This total included 3,400 local events (83%) 716 regional occurrences (17%), underscoring Fiji's highly active tectonic environment. Enhanced by strategic government funding, an expanded network of seismic stations now delivers superior national coverage. This infrastructure allows teams to track earthquake locations, magnitudes, and depths with unprecedented precision.

Advanced equipment is only part of the solution; safeguarding the public relies heavily on human expertise. Because seismology is highly specialised, niche discipline, trained geohazard officers must manually verify instrument data to evaluate tsunami risks and issue critical warnings. Therefore, during a major seismic occurrence or earthquake public safety depends on the accuracy of the information provided by our geohazard officers.

The Government will therefore continue strengthening station coverages, communications, analytical systems and staff capability in this area. This investment will help Fiji detect earthquakes earlier, evaluate them more accurately and issue faster, more reliable information when communities may be at risk. Therefore, investing in geohazard science is an investment in national safety, disaster preparedness and the resilience of the people of Fiji.

The Government invests approximately \$600,000 in the purchase and upgrading of seismic stations which strengthens our ability to detect and evaluate earthquakes more quickly and accurately. Furthermore, this supports faster and more reliable information for emergency authorities and communities, moreover, improves Fiji's capacity to assess potential tsunami threats.

Seismology is a scarce and highly specialised scientific field where Government investment in specialised equipment must also be matched by human resource development. Seismic stations record ground motion, but trained officers are required to verify earthquake parameters, assess possible tsunami threats and communicate reliable information to emergency authorities and the public.

The Ministry view recruitment, continuous training, professional development and staff retention as the foundational pillars for sustaining a robust seismology field.

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