

RABI ISLAND - CYCLONE AMI DAMAGE REPORT NO.1 *Received 23 Jan 2003*

(Taken from information provided and published on the Banaban website – <http://www.banaban.com>)

Here are the first photos of Rabi sent to us by Bauro Kabure, Secretary of the Banaban Trust Board, Suva. Tomorrow Bauro will organise to set up a Rabi Relief Trust Fund account in Suva, Fiji so we can start to try and fundraise to help our people back in Rabi. We will post details of this account on the MESSAGE BOARD as soon as they become available.

Here is the also the latest information from Ken's brother, Biniati who is stationed at the Fiji Police Post in Rabi. He has been helping co-ordinate emergency assistance. We have asked him to try and access the damage for us into 3 categories.

1. Partially damaged
2. Badly damaged
3. Totally gone

Just to give you a clearer idea of damage – from Uma church back through Nantoi, Kesukesu, Nuku and Tabwewa all areas here hit, houses suffered some type of damage and all food trees. Tabiang and Buakonikai seemed to be protected more from the full brunt of AMI's force.

FIRST REPORT OF DAMAGE IN NUKU AREA

- The kindergarten at Nuku - Totally gone
- Local police and magistrate court - Roofs gone - and rest ready to collapse altogether.
- Guesthouse - OK.
- 4 houses at beach side sports ground - Totally gone
- Hospital - OK.
- Council office - OK, but generator not working properly.
- Post Office - OK
- Banaban Primary School Nuku - Partially damage

Biniati will supply more details of actual numbers of houses lost and damaged etc over the phone tomorrow night - 24 Jan 2003. Bauro Kabure will also email more photos and info tomorrow for us.



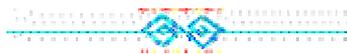
Photo 1: House of Teirabung Christoper at Nuku (about 6 houses away from hospital)



Photo 2: House of Matiria and Alesio at Kesusu about 3 houses down the hill from Ken Sighrah's house at Kesu Kesu (both are teachers at Banaban Primary School, Nuku)



Photo 3: House of Tekanabu at Nuku is the house on the beachside opposite Photo 1 (this solid concrete house has also been moved off its foundations by the storm surge from the sea)



RABI ISLAND - CYCLONE AMI DAMAGE REPORT NO. 2 *Received 30 Jan 2003*

This message was received today from Bauro Kabure, Secretary, Banaban Trust Fund Board
banabantrust@is.com.fj

My apologies for the slight delay in getting back earlier as agreed.

Everyone seems to be tied down with their children getting back to school right now and the attempts to open an appeal fund account may take some time.

However, I have discussed with the Chairman of the Banaban Trust Fund - Ratu Epeli Kanaimawi and in principle we have agreed to facilitate any collection of appeal funds to a trust account at Westpac Banking Corporation, Suva Branch.

I will wait for the endorsement of our other trustees by tomorrow and will advise you on the account number.

All funds collected will individually be accounted for and transferred in turn to the Rabi Council of Leaders. We will close off the collections on 28th February 2003.

Kindest regards,

Bauro



Photo 4: House of Nei Tekan situated on the waters edge at the Sports Ground - Nuku (where 4 houses were completely lost)



Photo 5: House of Tiboua at Nuku Village a few doors down from the road up to the Guest House.



Photo 6: House of Nei Kautu at Tabwewa near the Catholic maneaba (meeting house)



Photo 7: House and Hall of Uoue Abetai, the leader of the Rabi Dancing Group at Nuku not far from the hospital on the seaside.



Photo 8: View of the main road outside House and Hall of Uoue Abetai looking back towards Nuku.

RABI ISLAND - DAMAGE REPORT NO. 3 *Received 30 Jan 2003*

RABI NEEDS OUR HELP!

We are still waiting to receive a written report on the extent of damage on Rabi, but just judging from the photos we have already seen, it looks like everyone has suffered damage to some degree. We also have included photos of our house that had just been renovated and we were due to be staying there when Cyclone Ami hit. It is an absolute miracle that no one was killed or badly injured.

We would also like to call on all our friends and visitors to this website to please get behind the Rabi Relief fundraising. We only have until the end of February to get money over to Suva so that it can be distributed where it is so badly needed across the entire community.

We would also like to ask those who are involved or have connections with groups like Rotary, Lions or other clubs and associations to try and get your clubs involved in this important fundraiser. Also your own church community where you live. What a great project to get behind and know that your efforts to help will not only be greatly appreciated but really lift the spirits of our people back home. The whole process of trying to rebuild Rabi is daunting. As one of our friends who had been to Rabi said, *'It is terrible to think that people with so little before Cyclone AMI may now be without a roof over their heads...'*

We will post details on where money can be sent to the RELIEF FUND as soon as Bauro gets back to us. Meanwhile if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us on email or post any public announcements via the MESSAGE BOARD.

Ti akabo ao teke raoi! Ken Sigrah



Photo 9: House of Ken Sigrah situated on the knoll (or the hill) at Kesu Kesu (I would like to thank my children, family and friends for all the hard work they put into the house leading up to AMI)



Photo 10: Back view of Ken Sigras House of Kesu Kesu. (On the left side of the house it drops away to a beach about 60 feet below)



Photo 11: House of Teraaka at the very end of Tabwewa past the Catholic maneaba (meeting house)



Photo 12: House of Betero at the farmers settlement at Eritabeta (where the fresh water spring is located north of Tabwewa village).



RABI ISLAND - DAMAGE REPORT NO. 4 *Received 8 Feb 2003*

This information has just been provided by Binati Sigrah, who is the local Fiji Police Officer on Rabi and Ken Sigrah's eldest brother.

Binati has done a survey of just two of the villages in the aftermath of Cyclone Ami. Tabwewa and Uma, which also includes the main business district of Nuku.

His estimates are based on housing alone and he has been so busy in these areas that he has not even had time to carry out survey in Tabiang and Buakonikai to estimate the extent of damage there. It is believed however that the main impact of Ami was felt in these northern regions of Rabi while Tabiang and Buakonikai would have still included damage from high winds, flooding and storm surges.

His report is not good -
He has categorised damage into two main areas -

Partially damaged - meaning lost of windows, some roofing iron and kitchens and other extensions on homes.

Gone - which includes houses that are completely uninhabitable, totally lost or unrepairable, or all roofing completely gone (*as seen in photos that have already been posted to this website*)

- ☀ **Approximately 200 homes are PARTIALLY DAMAGED**
- ☀ **25 homes are – GONE**



DAMAGE REPORT NO. 5 *Received 16 June 2003*

THE NEED TO REBUILD OR REPAIR 150 HOUSES ON RABI

These latest photographs of the situation on Rabi have kindly been sent to us by UK photo journalist Lee Karen Stow (*Lee Karen Stow © 2003*) and show the current situation on Rabi.

Lee has recently returned from Fiji where she was reporting on the news that Blue Lagoon Cruises had secured permission to allow its passengers to visit Rabi next year on two 'historical and cultural' cruises. She felt very privileged to have been given the chance to visit Rabi also. However she was deeply shocked at the damage rendered by Cyclone Ami in January, especially as the Western media did not report this. She stated that 'We had no knowledge that Fiji, let alone Rabi, was hit'.

As can clearly be seen in these photos, nothing has really been done at this stage to rebuild the damaged houses, some of which will have to be completely rebuilt.

We have begun fundraising to get some much needed rebuilding programme started as soon as possible, while the community eagerly awaits any news of some type of foreign aid to help them.





Photo 13: Queen Elizabeth Hall at Nuku

Photo 14: Damaged building in Nuku.



Photo 15: Rui's House and shop at Nuku opposite the Tabwewa hall

