

PSC CIRCULAR

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PSC Circular 24/2008

To: Permanent Secretaries and
Heads of Departments **File:** 29/632/3-2

Subject: NATIONAL DISASTER AWARENESS
WEEK 2008: 22-26 SEPTEMBER **Date:** 05/08/08

- 1.0 The National Disaster Awareness Week will be held from 22-26 September, 2008. The theme for 2008 is based on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction 2008/2009 campaign '**Hospitals Safe from Disaster: Reduce Risks, Protect Health Facilities, Save Lives**'.
- 2.0 Basically, the event for this year is aimed at drawing the attention of the government agencies, private sectors, civil societies and importantly the general public on the importance of hospitals and all types of health facilities for the life-saving role they play. They are also powerful symbols of social progress and a prerequisite for social stability and economic development. As such, everyone should be made aware of the importance of the issue and be committed to helping ensure that hospitals and health facilities are resistant to natural hazards.
- 3.0 The official launching of 2008 event will be at Sukuna Park in Suva, on the 23rd of September culminating in a procession through the city of Suva. A 2-3 day programmes will be featured in all the four Divisions and Districts.
- 4.0 Apart from the Preparedness Committee, the three working groups (Programme, Health & Media) have been set up to develop, coordinate and implement activities planned for the week. The programme will feature displays by the various agencies, distribution of awareness materials, media programmes, drama, poster competitions, mock exercises by Ministry of Health and other related activities.
- 5.0 Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments are requested to provide the necessary support in the preparatory work leading up to the week and to release their staff where appropriate to participate in the actual conduct of the weeklong programme.

- 6.0 Further information and clarification can be obtained from Mrs. Shakuntla Kumar e-mail address: Shakuntla.kumar@govnet.gov.fj and Mr. Laisenia Tui email address: Laisenia.tui@govnet.gov.fj, National Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Defence, National Security, Disaster Management and Immigration on Telephone 3313400 Ext. 181.



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