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## **El Nino signs, threat remains**

Saturday, September 05, 2009

THE possibility of an El Nino occurring in Fiji, as forecast in early June, remains. The Nadi Meteorological Centre made this revelation as it continued to monitor the climatic conditions on a weekly basis to identify signs of an El Nino.

Climate change specialist Simon McGee said most of the international climate models continued to predict further development of the El Nino, although not emphatically as a month or two ago.

He said this weather condition was developing slowly and had not reached a threshold to become an El Nino, yet.

"The El Nino computer models are still predicting an El Nino condition in the later part of 2009 -- and it could be as soon as next month," Mr. McGee said.

"We are continuously monitoring the situation and we are in regular contact with weather centres in Australia, New Zealand and the United States, also holding teleconferences twice a month to update and discuss the situation here as it develops," he said.

Director Meteorological Centre Rajendra Prasad revealed that around 80 per cent of El Nino resulted in droughts in Fiji.

"These range from mild to very severe events, for example, the droughts (in Fiji) in 1983, 1987 and 1998," Mr. Prasad said.

Mr. Prasad said people should prepare for below normal rainfall, surface and ground water in the coming months.

"Plant crops that demand less water, invest in water storage containers, example, rain water tanks and control burning, which could easily get out of control in dry areas," he said.