Tsunami drill for schools

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Teachers and ambulance personnel co-ordinate the movement of schoolchildren to their respective buses during the tsunami evacuation drill yesterday in Suva. Picture: ELIKI NUKUTABU

HUNDREDS of students from three schools within the Suva peninsula rushed to Suva's Raghwan Park yesterday as they participated in a mock tsunami evacuation drill.

The drill was part of efforts by the National Disaster Management Organisation to test the response systems in schools and other departments to the threats of tsunamis.

Mock drill chief co-ordinator Iosefo Volau was present to witness how students of Draiba Fijian School, Veiuto Primary School and Suva Grammar School responded after the 2pm siren sounded.

"We want to see how effective their response systems are and also to see how well the teachers, police, fire department and also our personnel from NDMO collaborate during the exercise," Mr Volau said.

He said other schools within the Suva peninsula also participated in the same exercise.

"This is an exercise that involves almost 12,000 students from schools in Suva and the first exercise this extensive that we have organised," he said.

Mr Volau was pleased with the general responsiveness of the three schools that used the park as their evacuation centre.

"The siren went off at 2pm, Draiba Fijian School was here at 2.15pm and the two other schools quickly followed," he said.

Mr Volau said such exercises should be regularly conducted to teach everyone their part in a bid to save lives.