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## Tremors rock Vanua Levu

Friday, November 13, 2009

TWO earthquakes rocked areas in the Fiji group yesterday.

The first tremor, measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale, struck in northern Vanua Levu yesterday morning.

Mineral Resources Department senior seismologist Lasarusa Vuetibau said some people in Bua reported feeling the tremor.

He said the earthquake struck the seismically active part off Lekutu and Yasawa-i-Rara.

"This is part of Fiji's fracture zone, which runs all the way from northern Yasawa to Udu Point," said Mr Vuetibau.

The US Geological Survey recorded another tremor measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale at 2.13pm yesterday.

Two aftershocks followed the earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale that occurred at 10.45pm on Monday. A 4.9 magnitude tremor happened at 1.19am on Tuesday with another measuring 4.5 occurring 36 minutes later.

Nabouwalu police station received no reports of damage along the coastal villages of Bua province on Monday. The earthquake shook at a depth of 565km.

However, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre issued two tsunami bulletins, advising that "based on the depth of the earthquake" a tsunami was not generated.

It said the earthquake's location was virtually in the centre of waters between Fiji's two most populated islands -- Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

The closest towns to the quake zone were Tavua and Vaileka in northeast Viti Levu.