

<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=135974>

## **\$17m damage bill in West**

Samantha Rina

Wednesday, December 23, 2009



*Mohammed Aziz, 52, in what's left of his home at Talaiya in Ba after Cyclone Mick*

THE damage bill left by Cyclone Mick in the Western Division stands at close to \$17million.

Nacanieli Lomani, head of the divisional DISMAC operations centre, said the figure was based on reports received from district teams.

"These reports are from sectors like the Public Works Department on roads and water, the damage to homes, education, and parts of municipalities," said Mr Lomani.

He said some officials had difficulty reaching parts of the division thus the delay in compiling an overall report.

Mr Lomani added they were waiting for the detailed survey results carried out by five teams of three who left for the Yasawa and Mamanuca groups and Vatulele and Naviti Islands last week.

Mr Lomani said the additional funds granted were used to carry out detailed assessments on damage caused by Cyclone Mick.

"The \$35,000 has covered all operations and today (yesterday) we ended shift work with officials from other sectors including Public Works Department, police, agriculture, health, Fiji Electricity Authority and the army," he said. Since the end of rostered duties with the help of other officials, Mr Lomani said the operations centre was now run by staff of the Commissioner Western's office.

Meanwhile, all other divisional DISMAC operations have been closed.

The Northern Centre was the first to cease operations and send out survey teams.

It is expected survey team reports will begin to be actioned this week.