Less than two months after the devastation caused by cyclone WINSTON, cyclone ZENA formed on 5 April over the south-western Pacific Ocean, near the island of Espiritu Santo (Vanuatu). It then moved over Vanuatu making landfall on the islands of Espiritu Santo, Aoba and Pentecost on 5 April with approx. max. sustained wind speed of 65-85 km/h. On 6 April at 6.00 UTC it had max. sustained wind speed of 148 km/h and its centre was located approx. 240 km south-west of the island of Viti Levu (Fiji).

Over the next 24 h it is forecasted to move east-southeast towards southern Fiji and Tonga, slightly weakening. Its centre may pass near the island of Kadavu (Fiji) on 6 April with max. sust. winds of 130-150 km/h. Heavy rain and strong winds may affect most of the Fiji islands over the next 24 h. As of 6 April, Hurricane, Storm, Heavy Rain and Flood Warnings are in effect for several areas of the country.

Media reported that over 8800 people have been evacuated in the Western and Northern Divisions, as of 6 April.

Sources: ECHO, GDACS, JTWC, WMO, Fiji Met. Services, NDMO, Vanuatu Met. Services, Media