



Uphold the spirit of the 1997 Constitution to move Fiji forward

The 27th July 2008 was the tenth anniversary of the passing of the 1997 Constitution of the Republic of Fiji Islands.

The Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF) affirmed that the 1997 Constitution has been a progressive one for Fiji and that the spirit of the Constitution must be upheld to move Fiji forward.

"The 1997 Constitution is supposed to be a living document – not just in legal technicalities, but in the spirit of the Constitution which is embodied in the Compact. Since the Constitution was passed, efforts have been made to uphold the spirit of the Constitution – this is evident in the attempts to form multi-party governments and by a greater awareness of the need to be fair to all races in Fiji," CCF Chief Executive Officer, Rev Akuila Yabaki said.

"The Constitution is not impervious to change and within the 1997 Constitution

itself, there are provisions to form the basis for negotiations (the Compact). The Constitution also has provisions for making changes to it, in a legal way," Rev Yabaki said.

"The 1997 Constitution is still way ahead of the people of Fiji because some vital sections of it have not been implemented to date," Rev Yabaki said.

Two of these are the requirements to enact a Freedom of Information and a leadership Code of Conduct legislation. The CCF however, believes that such legislation should not be promulgated by the current Interim Government.

"These are very important pieces of legislation and they should be left to an elected Parliament to enact," Rev Yabaki said.

CCF is saddened that since the passing of the 1997 Constitution, there has been three

elections and two coups in Fiji.

"In spite of a progressive Constitution, Fiji had two coups. This is because the spirit of the 1997 Constitution was not upheld. We must uphold the spirit of the 1997 Constitution to move the country forward," Rev Yabaki said.

"It is the responsibility of elected governments and civil society organisations to raise greater awareness on what's in the Constitution. Furthermore, citizens need to take interest in the affairs of the country and learn about the Constitution and the various legislations pertaining to Fiji," Rev Yabaki said.

CCF's grassroots education programme involves explaining the Constitution in a simplified manner. A people's version of the Constitution is available for free in English, Fijian and Hindi languages from the CCF office.

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Salaseini keeps learning at 101



There is no end to learning. This has been proven by the oldest participant to a CCF workshop, 101 year old Salaseini Vasu (sitting on left) seen here at CCF's Grassroots Education Workshop on Good Governance and Human Rights, held in Nagado village, Nadi on 17 July 2008.

Editor's notes

This issue of *Tutaka* has been primarily devoted to coverage of grassroots education workshops on good governance and human rights and the national budget.

The coup culture, leadership problems and human rights are among the issues that always get raised in discussions by participants.

A solution to the coup culture in Fiji is of utmost urgency. However, the onus lies on the citizens of Fiji to work with the military and hold leaders accountable to measures they can commit to, to end the coup culture.

The time for action is now, and not later. Citizens of Fiji need to stand up and be counted for their commitment to peace, democracy and a just society.

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Naitasiri education workshop

CCF conducted a Grassroots Education Workshop on Human Rights and Good Governance in Waidracia, Naitasiri, on Tuesday, 27 May 2008.

The workshop, conducted by CCF's Chief Executive Officer, Rev Akuila Yabaki and Communications and Advocacy Officer, Mosmi Bhim, was organised in partnership with the Soqosoqo Vakamarama. It attracted 46 participants including 19 women and also youth.

Assistance was also received from the Naitasiri Provincial Council through its Assistant Roko, Ratu Peni Kilibau, who recently passed away.

Waidracia village has piped water supply and electricity and flush toilets. However, the road conditions past the Naqali bridge are very bad. There is some large scale dalo farming in the area, and some dairy and vegetable farming.

It was noted that female participants spoke very little during the workshop. There was



The 'kava group' discuss issues during group work.

a lack of understanding of English among some participants and all communication was translated and explained in Fijian.

This workshop was slightly different from previous ones as it featured a module on Human Rights. Other exercises were on the Concept of Citizenship, Transparency and Accountability, and A Rights-Based Approach to Citizenship Capacities.

Draft Charter has measures to end coup culture

The draft Fiji People's Charter for Change, Peace and Progress, which includes a State of the Nation and Economy report, was launched for distribution to the public in August 2008.

CCF Chief Executive Officer Rev Akuila Yabaki is a member of the National Council for Building a Better Fiji (NCBBF) which oversees the Charter process.

Below are extracts of the draft Charter, which will be finalised in October 2008 after feedback from communities.

ii Key Pillars for Rebuilding Fiji

1. Ensuring Sustainable Democracy and Good and Just Governance
2. Developing a Common National Identity and Building Social Cohesion
3. Ensuring Effective, Enlightened and Accountable Leadership
4. Enhancing Public Sector Efficiency, Performance Effectiveness and Service Delivery
5. Achieving Higher Economic Growth While Ensuring Sustainability
6. Making More Land Available for Productive and Social Purposes
7. Developing an Integrated Development Structure at the Provincial Level
8. Reducing Poverty to a Negligible Level by 2015

9. Making Fiji a Knowledge-based Society
10. Improving Health Service Delivery
11. Enhancing Global Integration and International Relations.

Pillar 1 - Ensuring Sustainable Democracy & Good and Just Governance

Critical Problems and Issues:

A fair and just Constitution is the basis of good governance. However, a Constitution that divides the people and separates them, which does not provide for equal opportunities, can be neither fair nor just. The world community, in declarations and treaties expressing the highest ideals, has opposed racism and injustice. We the people of Fiji are all too aware of the harm racial division has done to our country. We declare, through this Peoples Charter, our commitment to a Fiji free from all forms of discrimination.

Democracy must be entrenched in our Constitution in accord with our pledge to rebuild a Better Fiji for All: one nation, one people with a common identity and shared destiny. Fiji's electoral system is racially discriminatory and undemocratic.

The United Nations Convention on Discrimination and the Right to Universal and Equal Suffrage requires each individual vote to be equal in value. The current communal system of representation entrenches inequalities, by not providing one value for

one vote, has contributed to the "coup culture", and the consequent ethnic based politics that has impeded our national development. We commit ourselves to a free and fair electoral process, that promotes one people, one nation and one identity.

We acknowledge that democracy is more than just a matter of voting. Effective democratic governance must place the people at the centre. We, therefore, affirm our commitment to secure a more transparent and accountable process of government. To perfect democratic governance in Fiji, we, the people, must be free to see, to hear, and to speak on the affairs of our country.

In the wake of the coups since 1987, Fiji suffers the stigma of having a "coup culture". We must put an end to the cycle of coups.

The Way Forward:

The following key measures and actions must be taken with due priority:

- Reform of the Electoral System:
 - abolish the communal representation system as provided for under the Constitution and the Electoral Act 1998, and replace this with the use of a common roll system.
 - establish a fair system of voting so that all the interests and wishes of the people of Fiji can be represented in the Parliament ... and for this adopt an Open List Propor-

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More education needed in vernacular

CCF Grassroots Education Workshop on Good Governance and Human Rights attracted 59 participants from Nagado Village, located in the interior of Nadi.

The workshop was organised by recently appointed Community and Field Officer at CCF Ms Sereima Lutubula. The workshop was conducted by Ms Lutubula with assistance from Communications and Advocacy Officer at CCF Ms Mosmi Bhim.

There were 46 women participants and 13



Recently appointed Community and Field Officer at CCF, Ms Sereima Lutubula, explains transparency and accountability concepts at the Nagado village workshop.

male participants, including youth, at the workshop held on 17 July 2008. The participant Salaseini Vasu, at 101 years, is the oldest ever to attend a CCF workshop.

Majority of those present came to know about human rights and sighted information on Fiji's 1997 Constitution for the first time.

Conflicting issues on human rights and culture were raised where youths raised concern on discrimination in the village where they get blamed for most problems that occur.

The Turaga ni Koro (village headman) responded that many times youths do not respect village regulations and responsibilities.

This issue was further explained by a discussion on the meaning and history of human rights, whereby everyone has equal rights, however, all rights come with responsibilities.

Human rights was discussed in reference to the Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

The session on citizenship revealed a strong belief among many that only the indig-



Participants at the Nagado village workshop posing for a photograph.

enous Fijians are citizens of Fiji or those registered in the Vola ni Kawa Bula (VKB).

A lack of trust in people from other races taking up leadership positions in the government was revealed. The exercise was concluded with a discussion on the definition, rights and responsibilities of citizens, as enshrined in Fiji's 1997 Constitution.

The session on Transparency and Accountability elicited differing views on bad leadership and how to deal with bad leadership problems. Concepts to do with absolute power, reconciliation and qualities of good leadership were discussed.

It was revealed that corrupt practices occur at all decision making levels including village, provincial and government level and discussion was held on ways in which people can voice their concerns to leaders.

Citizenship concepts discussed at workshop

The Grassroots Education Workshop on Good Governance and Human Rights was held at the District Officer's Office in Nadi Town on 15 July 2008.

The workshop was organised by recently appointed Community and Field Officer at CCF Ms Sereima Lutubula. The workshop was conducted by Ms Lutubula and Communications and Advocacy Officer at CCF Ms Mosmi Bhim.

This workshop attracted 35 participants, including 28 women and seven men. The participants were already aware of human rights issues.

A discussion was held on the political situation in Fiji regarding discriminatory inci-



Participants at the Nadi Town workshop.

dents that occurred on the granting of assembly permits and the deportation of two newspapers publishers.

CCF's stance on the Charter process in Fiji was also discussed with regards to human

rights and the 1997 Constitution.

In the session on citizenship, greater awareness was created that citizenship concepts are linked to democracy. Participants knowledge on the concept of citizenship was clarified by sighting text from the constitution.

Three police officers from the Community Policing Unit were notable participants who welcomed the session on citizenship.

The activities on Transparency and Accountability encouraged discussion on the principles of good governance. There was a widespread belief in the concept of dialogue and consultation as a means of promoting good governance.

Needs of communities in Ovalau highlighted

The Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF) conducted a Grassroots Budgetary Workshop at the Levuka Parish Hall in Levuka, Ovalau, from 7-8 July 2008.

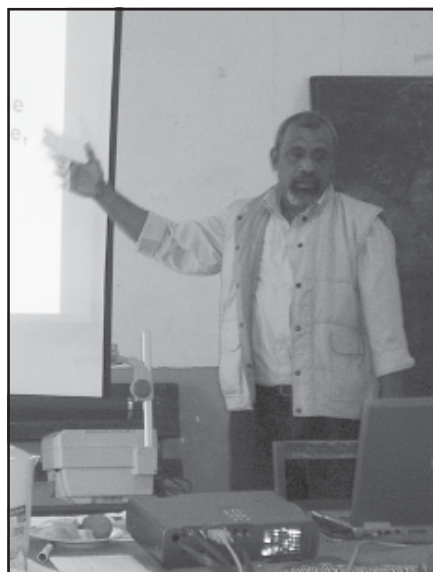
Levuka town is the old capital of Fiji and bears many monuments and buildings that have historical significance for Fiji. While this is good for history, it also reflects the sad fact that the island itself has not developed as much as would be expected of a former capital. The road from the airport to town is a dirt and gravel road – which turns what should be a 30 minute journey into a one-hour journey!! Further inland, the roads to all villages are bad. Transport is mainly by vans and carriers outside town, although within the town, some taxis are available.

Levuka, however, is special. It is racially diverse with people speaking both vernacular languages – Hindi and Fijian. People are proud of their island and are hospitable.

Since the capital moved away, Levuka went into a slow decline. Once the hub of Fiji, now it is a sleepy town. The main employment opportunity is through the Pacific



Participants at the Grassroots Budgetary workshop, held at Levuka Parish Hall.



Mr Inoke Loganimoce presents on the activities of the social welfare department.

Fishing Corporation (PAFCO) company, where locals are employed to unload, process and prepare tuna for export. The Levuka harbour made it possible for PAFCO to establish its fishing operations.

Background

The workshop responds to the right of citizens to understand the processes and content of the government's national budget, and why it is important for citizens' to scrutinise and participate in the national budget process. The CCF is grateful to the German-based organization Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED) for funding these workshops.

A Ministry of Social Welfare senior representative – the Acting Assistant Director of the Department of Social Welfare Mr Inoke Loganimoce - gave a comprehensive presentation on the budget, projects and activities of the social welfare department. The workshops were facilitated by Mosmi Bhim and Sereima Lutubula, who are staff of CCF, through presentations, discussions and group work activities.

The workshop attracted 35 enthusiastic participants. They came from villages, government and non-government sectors, including: Draiba Village, Navulua Village, Vagadaci Village, Tikina Levuka, Lomaiviti Provincial Office, Waitovu, Naikorokoro, All Nations Women, Levuka Town Council, Tokou Village, Nasinu Village, Ministry for Women, Vatukalo Village, National Trust of Fiji Islands, Catholic Women's League, Levuka Parish, Red Cross Society, Visoto Village, Viro Village, Nawowo Village, Draiba Women's Club, and PAFCO Employees Union.

The people from Ovalau have highlighted their concerns and recommended solutions, which CCF has sent in a Community Submission to the Ministry of Finance & National Planning for the 2009 Budget.

Special Concern by CCF

While making the submission, CCF expressed concern that a military coup occurred on 5 December 2006 and currently, there is an un-elected government leading the country. CCF expressed concern that without a parliamentary democracy, mechanisms of accountability and transparency in the government budget process are disabled. For instance, the budget is not tabled in Parliament so there is no opportunity for a scrutiny of the draft budget

by opposition parliament members. Likewise there is no opportunity for the public to hear about the draft budget in the media before it is passed. Secondly, the budget does not go through a parliamentary approval process, and thirdly, parliamentary approval and scrutiny of government expenditure does not take place.

CCF calls for the holding of democratic elections as soon as practicable so that an elected government can run the country, and so the parliamentary processes of accountability and transparency can be operational again.

Some Recommendations

1. Water

The participants from Ovalau proclaimed that water is the most important necessity in a person's life. However, it is currently not being treated as an important issue. They feel that their needs regarding water are being neglected by relevant authorities.

Recommendations

A solution was proposed whereby the villagers could assist the government in resolving the water problems. The solution was that the government could send a water expert to visit the villages to conduct individual surveys and prepare recommendations on the best way of upgrading water supply. This was described as the most important issue.

The recommendations could be implemented through a partnership deal where the villages could provide labour and the government could provide finance and water tanks.

2. Infrastructure

Recommendations

in CCF's submission on the national budget

- a) Roads on Ovalau should be upgraded.
- b) Assistance should be sought from the Roads Supervisor to upgrade the roads in Ovalau because roads are necessary for children to go to school, for people to go to work and to travel and access services.
- c) Assistance should be sought from the Fiji Electricity Authority to provide electricity supply to communities. Electricity is necessary for children to study. Without it, electrical appliances cannot be used.
- d) The participants gave assurance that the villagers will pay for the installation costs of electricity in their villages.
- e) Assistance should be sought from the regional development office to upgrade the seawalls in Levuka town and other parts of Ovalau. Currently, water from sea waves drench some roads, especially during high tides and rough weather. Sea walls are also necessary to prevent soil erosion and erosion of the main roads on the coasts.
- f) Assistance should be sought from Telecom to provide telecommunications services in rural areas in Ovalau. Telephones are necessary to access education and health facilities and to keep in touch with family members.



Participants presenting on their group work on advocacy.

3. Health and Sanitation

Recommendations

- a) Each village should be provided with proper guidelines and advise to build a proper dispensary for the community.
- b) More awareness should be provided by health authorities on healthy eating and living. The agriculture department should encourage planting of local food crops.
- c) Awareness should be provided by the drugs department and the police force on the harmful effects of abuse of drugs and narcotic substances, which includes mental health problems.

- d) Village laws should be created to enforce the requirement that proper toilets must be built before occupants move in a house.
- e) The community needs to take on responsibility for waste management. This includes separation of rubbish – separating garden wastes from cans and other non-decomposable wastes. Wastes should be disposed off properly and advise should be provided on this.
- f) The health department and the provincial office should provide quarterly awards to encourage villagers to implement proper sanitation.

4. Education & Good Leaders

Recommendations

Education:-

- a) Government should provide more quality teachers.
- b) Villages could fund-raise for school fees or seek assistance from the Social Welfare Department.
- c) Information on scholarships should be made available and assistance from organizations such as Save the Children Fund should be sought where necessary.
- d) Counseling services should be made available to children to deal with peer pressure and associated social and substance abuse problems. Education workshops should also be made available to parents, students and teachers.
- e) Vocational schools and facilities should be provided. Participants said that currently, there were none in Ovalau.
- f) Parents and Teachers Associations (PTA), school committees and the health department, should work together to address the problems of health and safety in schools including: building standards, toilets and water supply.
- g) Government should assist in providing proper bus services for schools.

Good Leaders:-

- a) Corrupt people are bad leaders and should not be appointed to government positions. Corruption should be dealt with severely.
- b) Government officials should be accountable for their actions and activities with regards to their official work and the use of government properties and facilities.

- c) If funding is available, leadership training on good governance concepts should be provided from village level upwards.
- d) Leaders should be well educated.
- e) Leaders should socialise with the ordinary people to understand their problems.



A group exercise on needs of communities.

nary people to understand their problems.

5. Jobs, Income Generation and Land Utilisation

Recommendations

- a) Farmers:-
 - government could supply the seedlings and farmers could purchase them.
 - Government and farmers could form a partnership where the government could provide tools to farmers to purchase at a subsidised cost.
 - A partnership could be created for building farm roads whereby the government could provide the machinery and the community could provide labour.
 - Government could provide assistance in finding markets for agricultural produce.
- b) Fisheries:-
 - fishing equipment and boats could be provided through a self-help scheme where a portion of the cost is paid by the government and a portion of the cost is paid by the community member.
 - Proper fishing licenses should be issued by provincial and government authorities to prevent illegal use of the qoliqoli.
 - Sea pollution should be addressed through a community clean-up campaign on creeks and foreshore areas. The Health Department could assist in this activity by providing gloves, t-shirts and waste bags.
 - Government should assist in finding markets for fisheries.
- c) Government should provide advice to landowners so they can build housing facilities to rent out to workers coming from outside Ovalau.

CCF Human Rights Song Competition entrants

The judging of the six entries to the CCF Human Rights Song Competition ended on 29 May 2008, with a decision that there were no clear outright winners to the competition.

Judges therefore decided that the entrants be given a monetary compensation reward for their efforts. The main judges for the competition were long-time singers and musicians Mr Viveka Nand and Ms Ethel Naidu. Both have decades of experience in teaching music. The judging sessions were also attended by CCF staff Mosmi Bhim

and Marie-Pierre Hazera.

The six entrants were: Holly Brain (12 years old), Koni Fiu, Veilomani Boys Home (Circle of Friends), Jake Tulele (senior citizen), Eremasi Rova (17 years old), and Shane Antonio.

The competition was launched through an advertisement on 28 December 2008. A second advertisement was published on February 2 2008, after the decision to extend the competition to end of February to attract more entries. Judges were engaged in March 2008.

The entries were judged on criteria which considered the lyrics, nature of ideas expressed, musicality, style and purpose of the song, as well as general performance standards.

The judges commented that the entries received, especially by young people, were encouraging. The judges encouraged the entrants to continue writing and polishing their ideas as there was a possibility of their songs being used for another purpose in future. The six songs have been featured below, after permission from the entrants.

Human Rights Song – by Holly Brain

Verse One

I wake up on a sunny, humid morning
But its still the same as yesterday
We live in this cold cruel world
But I hope that someday it will change.

CHORUS

What happened to all those rights we are
supposed to have?
Freedom of speech and all that jazz.
We are not living in a democracy.
Maybe it's just me.
But this ain't the way its supposed to be!

Verse Two

All around me I see people on the streets
With their heads down and shuffling
their feet
Is this the way you wanna run a country?
I don't think so.

CHORUS

Verse Three

Everyone keeps talking about world
peace
But all the countries just seem to disagree
Why can't we all just get along?
That's the reason I'm singing this song.

CHORUS X 2

Field of Dreams – by Koni Fiu

Field of dreams that I once had
Land I toiled night and day
To bring hope for the future
And relief for my sorrows

I await the westward winds
For the sowing to begin
The seeds for they weight heavy
With a harvest of promise

Something seems to be so wrong
For the sun shines on and on
And the rain keeps on falling
Fields of dreams are put on hold

Sun and rain they now collide
None ceding, none ceasing
My sobs and cries are not heard
Sun and rain has drowned them out

Field of dreams
Must wait another day
Field of dreams
Is at nature's mercy
Field of dreams
That I sing in silence
Field of dreams
Once brought me hope

The westward winds
May come tomorrow
Though hope is lost
My dream must live on
I will hold on
Till the weather turns

Human Rights by Jake Tulele

Please listen and hear my song
About our beautiful world
Where everyone should live a life
Equally enjoyed by all.

Human right is like our God
Human right is like our World
Human right is for everyone
Equally shared by all.

Human right is like our Earth
Providing all our needs
Enjoy our life with equal rights
And live our life in peace.

Human right is like the wind
Blowing everywhere
Equally breath in by you and I
And everyone else in the world.

Human right is like the sun
Shining on every mind
Give and inspire them with heat of love

Ensuring you love everyone.

Human rights is like the rain
Falling on everyone
Drench them with love and compassion
Giving them water of life.

Chorus

So eat and drink
Enjoy your right
Be Happy and Merry
Every moment of your life
Live Enjoy!!
With human rights
Forever more.

Rights in Our Paradise – Veilomani Boys Home, Ba

(Production of Circle of Friends: Sylvester Prasad, Colin Mickel, Russel Ting, Illesa)

CHORUS:

Once we were a paradise,
With everyone given special rights.
Now we see murdering and stealing,
The picture we're showing is not so
bright. (2X)

VERSE:

Fiji was the way the world should be,
That's the Fiji we want the world to see.
But now our rights, are not recognised,
By our own leaders who have closed their
eyes.

RAP:

Pliz shed some light on the countries
situation.
People are dying and its breaking our
hearts and
If we are being ignored what's the use of
Education, the rights of the people,
people of the nation.
Stand up for your rights (2X), if we use
our heads
There's no need to fight, let us be Fijians
let us be wise,
Together as one, can become a paradise.

(continued on page 7)

receive monetary compensation rewards

(continued from page 6)

VERSE:

Our neighbouring countries are questioning our Rights,
For people are dying, no one can fight.
Now we're in darkness once we were bright,
You people in charge, pliz shed some light.

CHORUS: Once we were

BRIDGE:

Fiji is a paradise but its not true,
Promised rights but never through.
Taken votes for their own mights,
The people are suffering for their own rights. (3X)

The Love that we Need – by Shane Antonio (Mox)

CHORUS

So whether you from
Suva, Labasa, Lautoka
Mother father its ok
Fiji people put it up
Fiji people don't give up
One the love that we need, to build our country (2X)

If you can't see that means you haven't been listening
To the cries of families whose lives have been terrorised
By commercialism, fascism and racism
So as kids grow with hatred within our hearts
From the very start our lives have been tainted
And our paths painted
To make it about race, but can we trace
The roots of our situation that has got us taking
One step forward and three steps back
Its so damn crazy
Like a rat-a-tat-tat.

CHORUS

Kids watching television testing theories of escapism
As we run around with du-rags and baggy pants
Apple bottom jeans, boots with the fur (what the far)
In Fiji's weather we'd be smelling like a rug
So nanuma that we J-Lo or the young Chris Brown
In a rap video
But can you blame us for putting ourselves through
All the torture and the pain just please you (please who)
Can you blame us for doing it like they

do on TV
Speaking like they speak on TV (for shizzy)
All together now
Put it up for Fiji

CHORUS

Yo fate just so you know
This is how we gotta go
From the East to the West
Yo fate we gotta grow
Together – our life paths cross together
Forever – we gotta do it now or never
Whatever – the criminal just can't see
That all this coups are killing you and me
Nad my plea to our God up above
Is one day our people will hug and show some love
Instead of mugs and shoulder shrugs
And its all becoz
Some accumulated enough cash
So they generated, fully decorated homes
And there's those who hate it
Can't make it while others take it
Sad ain't it
We need to build an economical ladder
Together can't you see that
For a small fee
We'd live in peace and harmony

CHORUS

Repeat Chorus and fade

Human Rights Song – by Eremasi Rova

VERSE ONE

My neighbour Joe Tease was walking in the street
I asked him what about his dad
The look in his eyes gets lost real fast
Looks like something done really gone bad

I stand there tripping there's tears in his eyes
Starts telling me the story as he starts to cry
“My dad, he never liked the soldiers and the guns”
“He always said that killing is a sin it isn't fun”
“Coup dropped on us and he started preaching truth”
“Commander in a service says he sees right through”
“And now my dad's gone because of free speech”
“The soldiers took him to the camp – make him stop breathing”
And I be like “Joe, relax, we'll find something to do”
“Your dad might be gone but let him live inside of you”

CHORUS

So, just look up to the sky
We have to stay strong inside
The world might be going to the dogs
We have to find the light though we're feeling lost
We have to make it through all this here pain
We have to act now this is life not a game

VERSE TWO

Next thing I know I'm on the stroll again
I come up on Aisake looking low again
I ask him “Ice, bro wasup my dude”
“Look like something happen that just ain't cool

He sitting holding head in hands on the side path
I sit and say “man, my life just crashed”
“the job I had is gone and I don't know what to do”
“school's coming up I don't think my kid is through”
“and all of this because of this because of this military coup”
I'm like “Ice, relax, we'll find something to do”
“Might be tough right now but we gotta pull through”

CHORUS

VERSE THREE

Silence is the golden rule is what they taught at schools
That got us to a nation hushed up
No-one to stand up
And now people in power
Insufficient proof
To justify their means
But just another story left for another day
Everyone stand-up learn to speak like what I say
The time is now, and now is the time

We have to be united and shout with one voice
We have to be united while we still have a choice
Fijians, Indians, whoever you may be
Forget our differences get together for Fiji
Freedom of speech may be choking
Rather see the guns thrown than the guns smoking
We people can't be coping
Nothing free man
And all our hands is open
And still I'm calling to object
No to riot
Protest
Or We'll never get correct

CHORUS

Draft Charter has measures to end coup culture

(continued from page 2)

tional Representation (PR) Electoral and Voting System.

- incorporate specific anti-discrimination measures into Fiji's electoral laws to ensure no person is discriminated against by political parties on the grounds of race, religion, gender or circumstance.

- remove the mandatory power sharing arrangement ...in the current Constitution.

- reduce the voting age from 21 to 18 years.

- maintain compulsory registration and abolish compulsory voting.

- promulgate an Anti-Discrimination Act.

- the electoral system be removed from the Constitution and enacted as law so that it may be amended and reformed from time to time according to the will of the people. However, the fundamental recommendations of non-ethnic voting, equal franchise and Proportional Representation be enshrined in the Constitution.

• To ensure good and just governance, including greater transparency and accountability, and to combat corruption:

- The government be fully accountable to the people of Fiji through Parliament and its procedures. These include: a robust and effective Opposition, able to fully scrutinise the programmes and policies of government. A Parliamentary Committee system that has the resources and capacity to consider matters before the Parliament in a nonpartisan manner in the interest of the people and the nation. The people have access to Parliament through their petitions and proposals and that these receive appropriate and due consideration.

- The Parliament of Fiji must have the capacity to adequately carry out executive and administrative oversight of governance through its own or constitutionally created independent statutory agencies.

- The Government must publish timely public reports with adequate details so that the people of Fiji are aware of what is being done in their name and with their taxes.

- Enact Freedom of Information legislation and establish a Media Tribunal.

• To end the cycle of coups:

• Adopt and apply a thirteen prong principles based strategy including reforms addressing ethnonationalism, leadership, good governance, human rights and national reconciliation.

Ending the Coup Culture: 13 Key Principles

- Remove the political, economic and social conditions for coups and strengthen the sanctions against coups.

- Build genuine national reconciliation through dialogue, forgiveness and appro-

appropriate conflict resolution mechanisms for groups and individuals affected by coups.

- Redefine the role of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces to bring it closer to the people.

- Transform the role of public leadership.

- The Courts to be empowered to penalise including orders of dissolution of political parties that engage in activities that breach important values of the Constitution.

- Improve ethnic relations at the personal, communal, institutional & national levels.

- Enlarge public accountability for national security.

- Implement electoral reforms.

- Strengthen the accountability and transparency of State institutions, the private sector and civil society organisations in particular to enhance their adherence to the rule of law.

- Establish civic programmes to raise public awareness about the injustice and illegality of coups and issues of democracy and good governance.

- Reform institutions and rehabilitate individuals and groups which are most prone to being implicated in coups such as ethnonationalists and religious fundamentalists.

- Ensure a separation between religion and state.

- Facilitate greater public participation in all aspects of governance.

- Realign the role of the RFMF to include Human Security:

Enhance the RFMF-community development partnership by strengthening its developmental role to ensure that its professional, technical and social potential is fully realised. This to be achieved through the implementation of the National Youth Service, and in areas such as conservation of biodiversity, basic infrastructure rehabilitation and development, especially in the rural areas through an expanded Engineering Corps and provision of security services.

• To redress the law and order situation:

- reduce overall criminal offence rate,

- reduce crime rates against women and children,

- reform laws that impede the combating of crimes,

- enhance enforcement capacity to address crimes including sophisticated crimes and crossborder security issues.

- reduce prison population through measures such as alternative sentencing, community service, and restorative justice.

Pillar 2 - Developing a Common National Identity & Building Social Cohesion

Critical Problems and Issues:

• We lack a common national identity and unity as citizens of Fiji.

• Racially divisive leadership has contributed to the situation that we are now a fractured and fragmented society.

The Way Forward:

The following key measures and actions must be taken with due priority:

- Adopt as the common name: "Fijian" for all the citizens of Fiji with full recognition that the indigenous people are the *i Taukei*.

• Develop a national moral vision for the common good.

• Promote shared national values through the national education curriculum.

• Ensure teaching of the vernacular languages (Vosa Vakaviti and Hindi) and the comparative study of major religions.

• Phase out institutional names that denote racial affiliations.

• Promote national moral vision, narratives, rituals and symbols. One National Anthem to be in the three main languages, flag ceremony to be observed in all schools and important State functions.

• Eliminate racial categorisation in all government records and registers.

Pillar 3 - Ensuring Effective, Enlightened & Accountable Leadership

Critical Problems and Issues:

• Our people have suffered the type of "leadership" that has been elitist, parochial, divisive, extremist and selfcentred. This has done little to advance the interests of our ordinary people.

• Our leaders in most cases have failed to involve us in making the major decisions that affect our wellbeing and our daily lives.

The Way Forward:

The following key measures and actions must be taken with due priority:

• Enact, and effectively enforce, a Code of Conduct for public servants, public and independent constitutional office holders, Municipal Councils, Members of Parliament and persons who hold statutory appointments or governing or executive positions in statutory authorities.

• Develop a leadership model and vision which clarifies the legitimate roles of elected and nonelected leaders in a democratic Fiji, with emphasis on honesty, integrity, professional ethics, and service to communities.

• Step up and enhance training and development of public leaders including parliamentarians, traditional, civic and community as well as youth and women leaders.

• Increase public awareness, including civic education at school level, on key leadership principles.