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According to the Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary, "Leadership" is defined as "the ability to be a good leader or the qualities a good leader should have." Thus, leadership simply means how an individual with his distinctive is able to lead his cohort to achieve an objective. John Maxwell once said, "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." Currently in Fiji, there is much hype amongst the people about the democratic election which is scheduled for September, 2014. However, our interest is just limited, curiosity bounded or do we take a responsible step and partake actively in this democratic election process? It is a question asked and the answer to be sought. Therefore, it becomes indispensable for the entire nation to come together and choose quality leaders who can steer this island nation which is almost a dot on the world map to pathway of innumerable prosperity. Thus, this essay will put light on how people can effectively choose good leaders and make their sheer contribution felt in the democratic election process.

To begin with, a brief history of the general elections held in Fiji articulates that she has had nine general elections for the House of Representatives since becoming independent of the United Kingdom in 1970. In this period, Fiji has had three constitutions, and the voting system has changed accordingly. Hence, as quoted from the "Fiji Elections Office" website "for the first time Fiji is holding the truly democratic parliamentary election in our history by September, 2014. It will be on the basis of one person, one vote, one value instead of the racially weighted formula employed until now." This is a milestone act which is proposed by the election office and the present Bainimarama government which is foreseeing that Fiji tastes abound development of international standard government encompassed with the ideology of free nation with a government which is "for the people, by the people." Consequently, it becomes evident that people choose the right leaders as their one vote can turn the tables. For this reason, people should act responsibly and take heed of the prefect qualities of a great leader should have which will be given in the rest of the paragraphs.

Moreover, sometimes people severely diminish and trivialize leadership's true meaning by equating the word "leader" with any person in a position of authority and power. However, leadership is not something bestowed upon someone or granted to someone by virtue of their lofty title or set of responsibilities. Rather, true leadership is invited and can only be given willing by others based on who someone is, what someone does and how they do it. Developing and possessing requisites skills and knowledge may help a leader attain a sought out position of authority or power. But it is the character; the sum total of a person's values and beliefs reflected in his or her behavior, actions and decisions that others will judge and truly agree to be led by that person. As once said by Abraham Lincoln, "Character is like a tree and reputation is like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing." Firstly, a leader should be able to exhibit 'integrity' in both his words and action. Integrity is about holistic honesty, truthfulness and consistency in character. Without integrity one will never be able to earn loyal, engaged followers regardless of one's developed skills, accumulated knowledge or gained power. Trust is the foundation to building strong relationships and achieving results. Trust deepens relationships and unleashes tremendous human potential.

Additionally, 'courage and self-confidence' to do the right thing versus what is convenient, expedient, popular or personally beneficial is a key quality a leader should possess. I personally think that in Fiji people who have the notion about driving the nation to success should be handed – in the podiums of the parliament house and not to the ones who take up the role for gaining social acclaims or to increase their bank balances. Most, probably a desirable leader for an economy, like Fiji is one who works diligently and tenaciously to produce the best end results, as well as achieves the best outcomes. Fourthly, a great leader is one who can 'honour his or her words' by always delivering on promises and commitments without any excuses or expectations. Though one might sometimes be unable to honour promises and commitments due to unforeseen circumstances, however one must communicate quickly and clearly with those impacted. That is how one can establish credibility and gain confidence. As the great philosopher Yoda once said, "Do or Do not ….there is no try."

Fifth on the list is that a leader should resolute determination to surface and confronts issues and conflicts with openness and candour balanced with diplomacy and empathy. To add on, there should be some form of 'accountability', which is defined as embracing ownership of actions, decisions, and commitments and should persist to see a leader to see who is up to par with his or her ordeals.

Furthermore, a genuine leader is one who has the desire to serve others; putting service ahead of self interest. One cannot win people's hearts if one does not genuinely care about their welfare and well being. One sure way true leaders are revealed is by what they inspire in others. True leaders measure their success through the success of all of those they serve. And they live by a fundamental tenet, that service to others is the highest honour and greatest obligation of a true leader. The people of Fiji have has done little chance of any powerful force to question leaders or take the order of a nation into their hands, thus Fiji will forgo its coup culture.

Therefore, it can be deducted that a great leader must have a clear vision, the vision may change throughout the course of time, but the ability to see, feel and touch the future should remain, even as the future changes. As now every Fijian is gaining an equal voice for the first time. Every Fijian is gaining a vote a equal value; we all should raise our voices and use our valuable vote for a truly democratic Fiji.