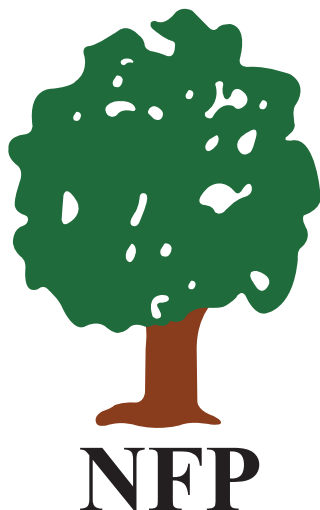


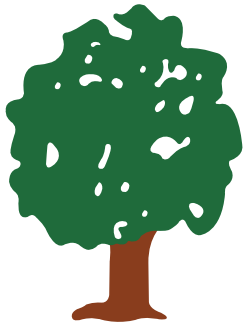
# National Federation Party

## Our People's Future

# MANIFESTO

**2014 General Elections**





# National Federation Party

“It is easy to be a ranting politician. It is difficult to be a statesman in a Government to steer the ship clear of all rocks. A statesman has got to look at the next generation. A politician usually looks to the next election. I have repeated before that if it ever comes to choosing between sacrificing my community, and the interests of the country, and sacrificing myself, I would rather sacrifice myself”,

- *A D Patel – 1964*

“We seek a country whose children of all races grow up with a deep understanding and respect for each other’s cultures, languages and traditions. We seek a country which encourages the best and the brightest – indeed, encourages all its people, of all races – to work together”,

- *Jai Ram Reddy – 1997*

“Change is a fact of life. We must all be willing to accept change when it comes. The NFP was born out of the struggle for dignity and justice of the ordinary people, the farmers and the workers of Fiji. Throughout our struggles we have always worked to liberate people from bondage of racial compartmentalization and create one nation and one people”,

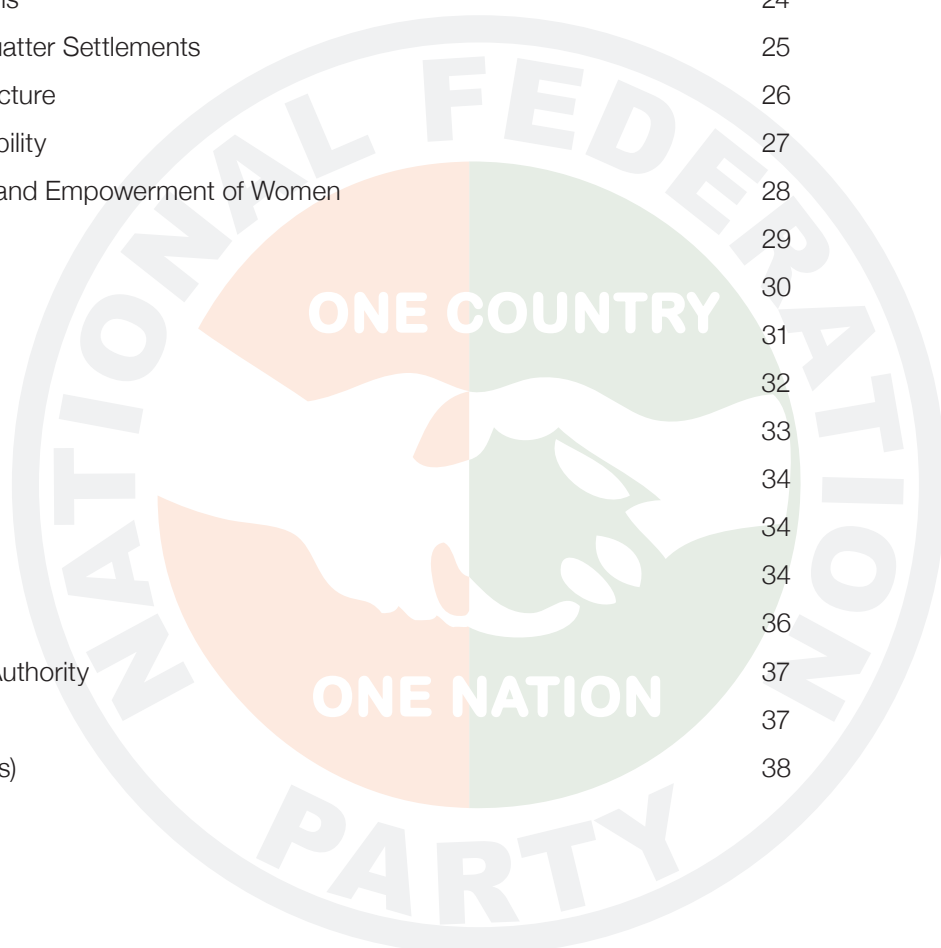
- *Siddiq Koya – 1977*

“The NFP has, is and will stick to its enduring values of freedom for our people, democracy and good governance, humility and understanding of the unique nature of our society. We believe in an open and accountable government. Our vision for Fiji is one where people have the freedom to earn a decent living, freedom to question the government, and freedom from fear and oppression. It is a Fiji where we will promote the delivery of services to all without fear and favour”,

- *Biman Prasad - 2014*

## Contents

Enduring NFP Values	4
Introduction: Key Themes	8
1. Strong and Prosperous Economy	10
2. Education	11
3. Health	14
4. Indigenous Rights	15
5. Agriculture	16
6. Land	18
7. Sugar	19
8. Manufacturing	20
9. Tourism	21
10. Fisheries and Forestry	22
11. Environmental and Natural Resource Management	23
12. Energy	24
13. Industrial Relations	24
14. Housing and Squatter Settlements	25
15. National Infrastructure	26
16. People with Disability	27
17. Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women	28
18. Children	29
19. Youth	30
20. Senior Citizens	31
21. Trade	32
22. Sports	33
23. Foreign Affairs	34
24. Civil Service	34
25. Media Freedom	34
26. Law and Order	36
27. Land Transport Authority	37
28. Animal Welfare	37
29. Appendix (Graphs)	38



# TRUST

## Enduring NFP Values

Fiji is at the crossroads at this critical juncture of our Independent history. After almost 8 years of military rule, our citizens will go to the polls on September 17 to elect a government and restore parliamentary democracy. The people of Fiji will decide which party will put the national interest at the forefront. They will decide which political party's policies are truly aligned to their interests as citizens that will rebuild and restore our nation.

**To that end, key questions that voters must be able to decide for themselves: which party has a track record of offering integrity, honesty and trust to the people of this country?**

**Which party can be trusted to provide a transparent and accountable government?**

**Which party will campaign against coup makers and supporters? Which party will never reward coup makers?**

At this critical juncture, the NFP is fully aware of the beating pulse of the nation and strongly



associates with the deeply felt sentiment that the people of Fiji need hope, trust and transformation. We remain fully committed to our pledge to serve the people through a strong, stable and accountable government and to our vision that in the process of rebuilding and restoration, we will deliver a strong and prosperous economy for all to face the challenging times ahead. The NFP is under no illusion that a robust economy must be the paramount priority that can in turn reinforce real change in the lives of the people of Fiji who have endured, and continue to bravely persist under the gravest of hardships.

In achieving this priority of rebuilding the economy, we will strive to build a stronger, transparent, more productive and diverse economic landscape through stable and efficient government, appropriate and just taxes and more productive businesses. The NFP has always believed in the inherent power of our society's diversity, including the rich cultural heritage of our indigenous people. During the past 50 years of the party's existence, we have continuously promoted multiculturalism as the cornerstone of a peaceful community and we will not waver from continuing to strengthen the social cohesion between our ethnic groups. We need each other in this process of rebuilding, restoration and reaching for better lives.

Now more than ever, Fiji needs vision, hope, trust, perseverance and transfiguration. Fiji needs a party that has credibility in transparency, dedication and fortitude in order to regain the great deal that we have lost. **The National Federation Party is the party THAT deserves to be given a chance. The NFP has itself undergone its own internal transformation in order to be able to meet the immense challenge before us. This is evident in our lineup of candidates, both young and experienced, who come from all walks of life and have answered our call to serve, rebuild, restore and take our beloved country forward.**

The NFP is the party with the longest record of service to Fiji in this election and we proudly celebrated our 50th anniversary last year. We were born before Fiji became Independent and we have been part of the journey of modernizing Fiji since then. During this time, the NFP has always been the champion of principled policies and change for the betterment of all.

Today, the NFP is ready to take the challenges facing our country now and beyond. We are ready to meet the new economic, political, social and environmental challenges and ensure that any change that we propose is in the best interest of the people of Fiji.

The NFP has always believed that change for the good is possible and that it can be brought about through consultation, dialogue, negotiation and where necessary, compromise. Fiji does not stand still and neither does the NFP. We will endure, but move beyond stale political arguments to provide opportunities for all citizens to realize their fullest potential and achieve their dreams of peace and prosperity. Fiji's own journey towards robust democracy and

prosperity has not been easy. Our nation has made mistakes and stumbled along the way. During these arduous times, the NFP has remained bound by its principles and stood firmly on the right side of history with a long-term inter-generational view of change. We will continue to honour these principles and do what is best for the nation within fundamental parameters such as the rule of law, participatory democracy, social justice and principles of good governance, while promoting justice, fairness and equality under the law for every citizen.

The NFP believes the people of Fiji will make informed decisions about whom they entrust with the safeguarding of their interests. This responsibility does not end on 17 September 2014. We have no doubt whatsoever that post-election, you will stand alongside us to collectively move the wheels of progress to create, build, innovate and expand the possibilities for the growth and development of our nation. At the same time the NFP requires each one of you to hold us to account for our promises and to participate effectively within the parliamentary processes so that we can continue to shape the future of Fiji together. We do not work for a society divided into the elite and the poor – we will take you all with us to a better future.

This manifesto is our plan that will help us realize our vision for a better future with success. In essence, our manifesto lays down the direction, values and policy priorities of the NFP in the next government. In the past six months, NFP leaders have travelled to different parts of Fiji listening and talking with people of Fiji about their families, their lives, their hopes and aspirations. We have had many sincere conversations across a wide spectrum of our society including farmers, young people, stay at home parents, factory workers, civil servants, business executives, academics, retirees, and various experts. It is from these conversations that we have developed our manifesto. In the ensuing pages you will find that the priority to build a stronger, productive and diverse economy from which all will benefit is constructed from our conversations with those who graciously gave their time to share their honest and expert views.

The NFP has not wavered in the view that while much has to be done in rebuilding and restoring, better days are within our reach if our vision is a shared one. We humbly invite you to make this journey with us to continue modernizing Fiji on a foundation of our tried and trusted values. It will not be an easy journey, however if we all work together and summon forth our best efforts, change for the good is possible.

We are a party with a proven track record. Our achievements are permanent milestones. Most importantly we are not tainted by any of the four military coups. As a party born out of the struggle for dignity and justice of our ordinary citizens, the NFP is once again ready as ever to honestly serve our nation through social, economic and political advancement of all our people.

We can collectively overcome the challenges that lie ahead and bequeath a peaceful, stable and progressive Fiji to our people and future generations.

God bless Fiji



**Tupou Draunidalo**  
PRESIDENT

**Biman Prasad**  
LEADER



## Introduction: Key Themes

### Create More Jobs

- Reposition our economy towards higher and sustained economic growth.
- Economic reforms and macroeconomic management that will increase productivity and create decent jobs.
- Trade reforms, labour market policies, national competition policies and tax reform to provide impetus to productivity growth.
- Policies that address particular issues in regions such as the Northern Division and Maritime Regions.

### Build a Caring Society for All

- Reduce Value Added Tax (VAT) from 15% to 10% to reduce the cost of living for all families.
- Establish a set of national guidelines for child protection, safety, and support for children and young people that includes as well, monitoring and evaluation.
- Increase funding to improve educational outcomes and promote inclusion of children with disabilities.
- Increase funding for provision of aged care, health services and appropriate community facilities for recreation for the aged.
- Increase the Social Pension Scheme (SPS) allowance.
- Funding to promote indigenous culture and tradition.
- Reduce poverty by creating more jobs.
- Govern for all Fijians, not favouring any particular group.
- Lead with a dedicated team that includes Fijians from a wide spectrum of our society including experienced politicians, young people, women and indigenous leaders.
- Protect freedom of speech and support an open media.
- Emphasis on knowledge solutions, including analysis and policy dialogue, to support reforms and policies.
- Provide a robust and vibrant human rights policy.

### **Towards Just, Fair and Humane Labour Practices.**

- Repeal the Essential National Industries (Employment) Decree and amend the Administration of Justice Decree to restore full collective bargaining rights and access to justice for workers and trade unions, including police and prison officers.
- Restore check off facilities, the right to strike, picketing and demonstration.
- Institute a fully transparent system of Procurement.
- Improve disputes settling time, labour inspection, enforcement of OHS, redundancy provisions and workplace democracy.
- Remove restrictions in Political Party and Electoral Decrees.
- Restore Public Service Log of Claims (LOC) award, terminated disputes and collective agreements.
- Introduce a National Medical and Life Insurance Scheme.
- Restore retirement age to 60 in the civil service.
- Remove fixed term employment contracts.

### **Public Sector Governance**

- Provide a Strong and Stable Government
- Improve accountability and transparency in government systems and processes.
- Institute a fully transparent system of all procurement of all goods and services by Government.
- Be more accountable to the people of Fiji.
- Timely assessment of government's financial performance and tabling of Auditor General's Report.
- Improve Government Services through E-government initiatives
- Restore confidence and strengthen our Rule of Law institutions.





## 1. Strong and Prosperous Economy

- 1.1. NFP is committed to reforms and macroeconomic management that will increase productivity, create jobs and secure the future strength of the Fijian economy.
- 1.2. NFP will put in place **responsible fiscal policies** and allocate resources in a manner that maximizes value to the country.
- 1.3. NFP will build a **strong economy that delivers for all Fijians** (*Figure 1*). Economic growth must be shared, particularly during a time when cost of living is rising.
- 1.4. NFP will provide opportunities for all Fijians to contribute to and benefit from economic growth and wealth creation by establishing **a just taxation system, improving the quality of public services, increasing access to educational opportunities, and providing social safety measures.**
- 1.5. The percentage of population living below the poverty line has increased from 7% in 1970 to 32% in 2009 (*Figure 2*). This is a very serious issue and we cannot continue with business as usual. NFP is committed to **reforms and policies for sustained economic growth and raising per capita incomes, to help the poor in our society break out of the poverty cycle.**
- 1.6. The rise in cost of living over the last decade has taken a heavy toll among the poor in our society (*Figure 3*). As an immediate measure to assist the poor NFP will **reduce Value Added Tax (VAT) from 15% to 10% immediately.** Fiscal duties on key food items and the current exchange rate policy will be reviewed as additional measures to ease the burden of the rising cost of living on many households, especially the poor who spend a larger portion of their household budget on food items.
- 1.7. NFP will create an environment conducive to providing sound expected return on private investment. The goal of investment policy will be grounded in Fiji's overall development strategy to **promote investment for inclusive growth and sustainable development.** Investment policies will be developed in partnership with all stakeholders to ensure predictable, efficient and transparent procedures for investors. NFP will ensure that investment policies are stable and consistent not only to attract foreign investment but give confidence to the local investors. Investment policies will also be aimed at promoting international best practices of corporate social responsibility and good corporate governance.
- 1.8. NFP recognizes that one of the key ingredients leading towards future economic

growth is productivity. NFP will initiate reforms such as tariff reductions, national competition policies and tax reform to provide impetus to productivity growth. Government services such as health, education, taxation, defense, police, justice, social welfare and civil service performance will be **productivity based**.

- 1.9. NFP will remove unnecessary impediments (such as excess regulation) in the way of small businesses. In Government, NFP will provide a supportive environment for small businesses and will provide incentives to support entrepreneurs trying to make a living by managing small operations.
- 1.10. The average life expectancy at birth in 1986 was 67 years. The current retirement age policy in the civil service of 55 years will remove skilled and competent workers out of the labour market for 12 years. NFP will increase the **retirement age to 60 in the civil service** while ensuring appropriate policies for recruitment and retention of younger workers.
- 1.11. NFP will create a one-stop shop for processing foreign investment proposals, reduce red tape and rationalize the numerous licensing requirements that are impediments to investment.

## 2. Education

- 2.1. NFP believes that all children in urban and rural areas including the Maritime Region should have equal access to a world class education.
- 2.2. NFP supports the development of education policies that recognize the important role of learning in progress towards sustainable development.



- 2.3. NFP supports the development of new and better forms of professional development opportunities for teachers, principals and school management and equip them with appropriate expertise and skills required for leading and participating in continuous education improvement.
- 2.4. NFP will maintain the current per capita grant for schools but provide flexibility on the use of specific allocations. We will also introduce international benchmarks to monitor the quality of teaching and learning in our schools.
- 2.5. NFP will retain good policies like free primary, free secondary, bus fare, textbooks, and grants to schools.
- 2.6. NFP will **initiate an Education Commission of Inquiry to curriculum, teaching content, methodologies and class sizes for the twenty first century.**
- 2.7. NFP will review entry level requirements for teacher training courses and provide incentives for high caliber students to join the teaching profession.
- 2.8. NFP will institute new teacher recruitment policy to ensure that only high achievers with good Grade Point Average are recruited.
- 2.9. NFP will ensure modernization of our schools with relevant modern technology to allow our teachers and students to benefit from the latest innovations.
- 2.10. NFP will **conduct a review the Education Act 1978** to provide renewed direction towards education policies that are suited for the twenty first century.
- 2.11. NFP will review the current External Examinations and Assessment Policy, particularly the abolition of Fiji Intermediate Examination, Fiji Eighth Year Examination and Fiji Junior Certificate Examination. NFP will create an independent Examination Board and will remove scaling of external examination marks.
- 2.12. NFP believes the greatest learning in a child's life is during early childhood. NFP will increase funding and regulation for all 5 year old children to attend kindergarten. We will **integrate kindergarten education within the primary schooling system** so to recognize the value of starting early.
- 2.13. NFP recognizes the importance of tertiary education as a major contributor to economic competitiveness in an increasingly knowledge driven economy. In this regard, NFP will retain the newly established Tertiary Education Loan Scheme (TELS). NFP will, however, **introduce a means based scholarship within TELS to provide full scholarships to students from low income families who do not qualify for the**



**Toppers Scheme** so that these students are not burdened with a loan repayment after completing tertiary studies. NFP will convert all loans for students from low income families that were taken under TELS in 2014 to full scholarship.

2.14. NFP will adopt a tertiary education strategy that has the overall goal of raising employment skills, sustaining a globally competitive research base and improving knowledge dissemination for the benefit of our people.

2.15. NFP will make tertiary institutional funding formula driven, related to both input and output indicators and including strategically targeted components.

2.16. NFP will boost the Fiji National University with relevant resources.

2.17. NFP will review salaries and current employment conditions of all teachers including incentives for rural teachers to encourage recruitment and retention of high quality teachers.

2.18. NFP will restructure the grant allocation to allow flexibility with a view to providing school lunches, uniforms and stationery.



### 3. Health

- 3.1. NFP recognizes that health is vital to productivity and development of Fiji. It is further acknowledged that health is also a public good, which has impacts beyond individuals and households.
- 3.2. NFP will establish a National Health Commission to advise on Health Policy and Practices.
- 3.3. NFP will establish a National Health Care System, open tertiary health care to providers outside of the Ministry of Health and separate health policy making and delivery of health services
- 3.4. NFP will **change core health management and administration to be directed towards people centered policies** for successful Fiji health services. These will attempt to reduce waiting time for outpatient services in public hospitals.
- 3.5. NFP will realign policy in the area of medical legislation affecting rules for health services; health worker registration / medical supplies / public health.
- 3.6. NFP will **ensure medical care that is focused on public education and compassion for human values and life** for all age groups and by all providers throughout Fiji, from cities to the most remote islands.
- 3.7. NFP will establish and strengthen health rights for dignified and personalized health care.
- 3.8. NFP will **ensure clinical (hospital based care) is delegated to empowered health specialists groups (specialised teams) for standard practice and equal care levels throughout Fiji.**
- 3.9. NFP will commit funding to ensure that Fiji has well-placed and well-funded teams of medical workers with targets and goals for satisfaction in service delivery.
- 3.10. NFP will fund appropriate dialysis services for those who are unable to afford these services.
- 3.11. NFP will ensure **that facilities are maintained to international health quality standards for clean / sanitary and a dignified hospital grade environment.**

- 3.12. NFP will review and realign policy for equitable health services outcomes in environmental/ ecological health for sustaining life and welfare; and disaster and humanitarian crisis health responses.
- 3.13. NFP will establish a policy statement and means to redress all forms of discrimination against medical and allied health workers in the country with safeguarded welfare for all providers of health services.
- 3.14. NFP will review the salaries of doctors, nurses and health workers and implement a new salary structure within six months of being in government.
- 3.15. NFP will implement a health sector modernization program involving private-public sector solutions to improve medical facilities and equipment, to use new technologies including telemedicine to extend services to island communities, and reduce costs of private and public sector drugs through bulk purchasing.
- 3.16. NFP will not tolerate medical negligence or patient abuse.

#### 4. Indigenous Rights

- 4.1 NFP has always recognized indigenous Fijians as the first people of Fiji and that indigenous Fijians have a special place in our nation as the custodians of a unique culture, strong traditional values and their native land. Our unmatched record on this speaks for itself particularly on ALTO, ALTA, the 1970 Constitution and the 1997 Constitution.
- 4.2 NFP will work through the devolution of powers and financial resources to revitalize the Fijian Administration as the primary tier of governance for iTaukei land, natural and cultural resources and within 100 days of being in Government will convene a national forum for traditional high chiefs and heads of yavusa in order for our iTaukei leaders to determine themselves the future of the Fijian Administration.
- 4.3 NFP will ensure that Fiji will be a nation with quality cultural and social life rich that is celebrated with iTaukei and Hindi language, music, arts, folklore, emblems, theatre, traditional oratory speech, dance, poetry, medicine, traditional knowledge and all other forms of cultural expression – including native species of soil, tree's, plants and other such genetic resources are strongly protected through robust intellectual property safeguards.

- 4.4 NFP policies will be consistent with international conventions and will always be guided by the wishes of our indigenous people upholding principles such as “Free, Prior and Informed Consent” where developmental projects are concerned.
- 4.5 NFP will ensure that the iTaukei language together with Hindi language, as is English currently, will be mainstreamed.



## 5. **Agriculture**

- 5.1. NFP regards the agriculture sector as important not only for sustaining livelihoods in the rural sector but also for overall growth and poverty alleviation strategy, and to sustain a valued, core way of life for many. A poverty alleviation strategy that underscores agriculture is vital as almost 60% of the poor in the labour market are engaged in agriculture.
- 5.2. Our agricultural sector is under resourced and has the potential for substantial growth if supply side constraints are addressed and appropriate incentives are in place.

NFP





- 5.3. NFP's strategy for **increasing the availability of land for agricultural purposes is through a 'Master Lease' concept.**
- 5.4. The current policy on agricultural development in the past 7 years has been confused. Specifically, the incentive structure has confused the promotion of import substitution with export promotion. NFP will define a very clear agricultural policy linked to our export markets so that our farmers can increase production and increase income through export led agricultural development.
- 5.5. NFP will prioritize and promote Batiri citrus before Fiji loses this prime crop.
- 5.6. Our agriculture sector has failed miserably over the last several decades primarily due to lack of supply chain infrastructure linking production, processing, distribution and marketing. NFP will create policies and provide incentives to reduce produce lost at the farm level through low cost post-harvest technologies by promoting private investments in the area of cooling/storage/warehousing.
- 5.7. NFP will remove the monopoly on the processing of milk and provide direct assistance to the dairy sector.
- 5.8. NFP will promote the production of non-sugar commodities such as rice, fruits, vegetables, cocoa, poultry, dairy, spices and root crops.

## 6. Land

- 6.1. NFP recognizes that land and the issue of agricultural leases has always been contentious and a source of bitter and acrimonious debates. NFP has in the past strongly advocated for a lasting solution to the issue of expiring land leases.
- 6.2. NFP recognizes the need for dialogue and partnership between landlord and tenants for an amicable solution to the iTaukei land lease issue.
- 6.3. NFP will promote a Master Lease concept in which government leases all available agricultural land from landowners and then re-leases it to tenant farmers for a minimum tenure of 50 years. We will push for agricultural and residential tenants leasing Crown C land to be given the option to buy the land at a fair price following valuation of the unimproved capital value of the land. The master Lease does not deal with commercial lease.
- 6.4. NFP will ensure there is certainty and confidence for both the tenants and landowners. In the 25th year of the lease, Government will assess the future of the lease after its expiry. If it is assessed that the landowning unit will need the land for its use in future, then the tenant is informed that the lease will not be renewed upon its expiry in the 50th year. The lessee then has 25 years to plan the future. If it is assessed that the landowner will not require the land under lease, then the lease will have a statutory extension of a period of a further 25 years.
- 6.5. NFP in government will lease land under Native Land Trust Act (NLTA) from the landowners at fair rental that will be prescribed to a premium rate of 10% of Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) bearing in mind the class of land. Government will re-lease land to tenant farmers under Agricultural Landlord & Tenant Act (ALTA) to maximum of 6% UCV basing on the class of land. The 4% difference in rental will be subsidized by Government.



- 6.6. Native Land Trust Act (NLTA) and Agricultural Landlord & Tenant Act (ALTA) are no longer entrenched in the Constitution. NLTA and ALTA have been entrenched in every Constitution since Independence, namely the 1970, 1990 and 1997 Constitutions. This was done to prevent any Government from making ad hoc amendments to both legislations. It required two third majorities in Parliament with powers to veto any amendments vested in nominees of Great Council of Chiefs in the Senate. Entrenchment of NLTA and ALTA are necessary as it provides a sense of security and guarantee to both landowners and tenants.
- 6.7. NFP in government will not exercise the powers of 'compulsory acquisition' inter alia native land - as allowed under Section 27 of the 2013 constitution.

## 7. Sugar

- 7.1. The sugar industry has been at the core of the Fijian economy for the past 125 years. However the 2006 military coup has seriously deteriorated the industry. In 2006 Fiji produced 3.2 million tonnes of sugarcane and 310,000 tonnes of sugar. In 2013, cane production declined to 1.6 million tonnes and sugar production declined to 179,000 tonnes. The increasing cost of cane production, harvesting and delivery to the mills, the uncertainty caused by the coup and the loss of European Union grant of \$374 million over a 7 year period are the major factors eroding the confidence of cane growers leading to declining production. As a party that rescued cane growers from the shackles of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Ltd, the NFP is the only Party that has the leadership, skills and expertise necessary to revive the industry and enhance the livelihood of 200000 directly or indirectly dependent on the sugar industry.
- 7.2. NFP will ensure that the restructure of the industry is completed for future sustainability of the industry.
- 7.3. NFP will focus on policies/incentives aimed at reducing production costs which include increased production per unit area using high yielding varieties and increasing planting and efficient transportation of cane.
- 7.4. NFP will provide further support to the Sugar Research Institute of Fiji towards research and development that is essential to long term sustainability and growth of the industry.
- 7.5. NFP will develop a four year program for the rehabilitation of farms by implementing policies to reduce the cost of production and raise incomes of the farmers.

- 7.6. NFP will undertake reforms to the cane harvesting and transportation operations to reduce costs to farmers.
- 7.7. NFP will restore democratically elected Sugar Cane Growers Council.
- 7.8. NFP will ensure efficient and regular maintenance of cane access roads.
- 7.9. NFP will provide growers with subsidy up to 50% for inputs such as fertilizer and weedicides.
- 7.10. NFP will implement a minimum guaranteed price for cane of \$85 per tonne.

## **8. Manufacturing**

- 8.1. NFP recognizes that the manufacturing sector offers an opportunity for economy wide employment creation because of linkage and spillover effects with the rest of the economy.
- 8.2. We will review the micro level challenges for firms, especially high transportation and logistics costs, difficulties in getting credit, and a lack of transparency and certainty in regulations. NFP will remove the restrictions that discourage new entrants from setting up shop and prevent existing manufacturers from expanding.
- 8.3. NFP believes that the success of the manufacturing sector is dependent upon investment in hard infrastructure to strengthen national connectivity such as roads, seaports, airports, and information and communication technologies. Further, to attract more investment in labor intensive and resource based manufacturing sectors it will also require better policy coordination to provide certainty in regulations and lower transaction costs.





- 8.4. NFP will ensure that it is easier for non-exporting firms to become exporters and for exporters to expand their market abroad, especially by resolving transportation and logistics issues and reducing non-tariff barriers to market access abroad.
- 8.5. NFP will create policy to increase overall market efficiency by encouraging competition and maintaining economic openness. At the same time, NFP will provide particular support for local firms to be able to compete in the global environment.
- 8.6. NFP will set up a Productivity Commission to guide policy on development of manufacturing and other industries.

## 9. Tourism

- 9.1. Tourism is vital to sustainable growth in Fiji as it continues to be a major employment provider.
- 9.2. NFP will adopt national and international policies to boost tourism.
- 9.3. NFP will develop incentives for more tourism investment and encourage small scale tourism development in rural areas.
- 9.4. NFP will ensure that tourism is at the forefront of national priorities by the implementation of relevant policies as an important part of government's plans. NFP will make the budgetary provisions and give the support that is essential in the development of tourism.
- 9.5. NFP will encourage local participation in the tourism industry by removing regulatory barriers that act as constraints.
- 9.6. NFP will create a policy for more local participation at middle and senior management levels.



- 9.7. NFP will create policies to reduce casualization of employment in the industry.
- 9.8. NFP will promote eco-tourism by local indigenous owners.
- 9.9. NFP will standardize concessions for local and foreign investors in the industry.

## **10. Fisheries and Forestry**

- 10.1. NFP will develop an appropriate community based forest use management scheme that provides equitable benefit sharing.
- 10.2. NFP will protect natural forests for ecotourism and other benefits.
- 10.3. NFP will develop a fisheries management system that recognizes traditional custodians of the resources and will encourage viable and sustainable use and development of fisheries. The policy will also aim to control illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.
- 10.4. NFP will support marketing of fish as well as storage facilities (fish ice plant) in outer islands.



10.5. NFP will fund and support projects such as seaweed development, pearl and oyster production.

## 11. Environmental and Natural Resources Management

11.1. NFP will put in place strategies and measures to ensure that utilization of natural resources are in a manner that retains maximum value to the country and provides maximum benefits to resource owners.

11.2. NFP will review utilization of pine resources to ensure maximum value adding and down-stream processing rather than the current practice of converting good quality mature forests into low-value wood chips.

11.3. NFP will urgently implement mining projects and accelerate the mining industry. This will be done in full consultation with the resources owners to ensure their full participation and flow of maximum benefits to them.

11.4. NFP strongly believes that protecting Fiji's biodiversity is an important environmental challenge, requiring research, regulation and protection through sustainable land management practices, good forestry practices, creation of reserves and cooperation with landholders and relevant stakeholders.

11.5. NFP will **create transparent and consistent policies for environmental management** because it plays such a positive and essential role in securing environmental wellbeing.

11.6. NFP will ensure Fiji has the resources, capacity and other services to protect and assist our communities as we deal with the challenges we will face due to the effects of climate change.

11.7. NFP will **review all existing legislation, policies and strategies on controlling pollution, increasing energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions**. These include the Land Transport Act, Ozone Depleting Substance Act 1998, Occupational Health & Safety Act, Public Health Act 1955, Environment Management Act, Mining Act, Water Supply Act 1955, Town Planning Act, Sewerage (Amendment) Act 1974, Ports Authority of Fiji Regulation 2008 and the Litter Amendment Decree 2010.

11.8. NFP will work in partnership with environmental NGOs towards environmental stewardship in light of rapid urban development and other significant influences.



11.9. NFP will review the management of fisheries, particularly dealing with licenses issued to offshore fishing vessels.

11.10. NFP will endeavor to move beyond conventional environmental management by complementing the existing regulations with a broader array of policies, economic instruments and management practices that provide incentives to change consumption and production.



## **12. Energy**

12.1. NFP realizes that importation of fuel accounts for one-third of our imports. NFP will as a matter of urgency undertake reform of the Energy Sector aimed at reducing fuel imports, providing investment incentives to Independent Power Producers and accelerating setting up of biofuel projects.

12.2. NFP will review pricing policies and operational efficiency of Fiji Electricity Authority to improve its accountability not only to the shareholders but also to the consumers.

12.3. NFP will as a matter of priority put in place policies to encourage utilization of solar energy through subsidy of solar equipment and review of tariffs for supply of power to the national grid.

## **13. Industrial Relations and Worker Pension**

13.1. NFP recognizes that modern trade unions are an important component of our society and economy, providing protection for employees and working for equality and fairness.

NFP acknowledges the positive role unions can play towards creating fairness across our society and improving productivity.

13.2. NFP will **remove all restrictive decrees related to employment and restore full collective bargaining.**

13.3. NFP will **restore worker and trade union rights consistent with International Labour Organization standards.**

13.4. NFP will **provide workers access to efficient and fair justice.**

13.5. NFP will ensure decent and minimum wage to the workers.

13.6. NFP will review the administration of the Wages Council in a regular manner so that workers' wages are adjusted on the basis of cost of living.

13.7. NFP understands and recognizes that the current FNPf contribution merely provides a retirement fund for its members. We believe that the FNPf should become a pension fund.

13.8. NFP will commission a study to review FNPf structure and management for an efficient and sustainable pension fund.

13.9. NFP will further review the contractual violation of the current pensioners.

## 14. Housing and Squatter Settlements

14.1. NFP will review the urban development legislation to provide those living in squatter settlements with state support for basic facilities such as roads, water supply, electricity and sanitation.



14.2. NFP will review legislation to provide proper land division and titles for squatter families.

14.3. NFP will create a medium to long term plan, which will aim to make land available for the settlement of the poor families in the urban hinterland.

14.4. NFP will review the First Home Buyers Grant policy to assist low and middle income families buy their first home.

## **15. National Infrastructure**

15.1. NFP believes that consistent investment in infrastructure is critical in generating economic activity and job creation.

15.2. NFP will create a policy framework to allow for long term planning of Fiji's infrastructure needs. The framework will include identifying and prioritizing nationally important infrastructure.

15.3. NFP will facilitate private – public partnership in long term planning, funding and building first class infrastructure to promote long term economic growth.

15.4. NFP recognizes the key role played by technology, in particular information technology, in sustaining long term economic growth. To create infrastructure of the future, NFP will develop a National Broadband Policy to increase opportunities for households and firms from the digital economy. This will improve internet accessibility and affordability, especially in rural and maritime areas.





- 15.5. NFP believes that every household/individual should have access to water, electricity and sanitation.
- 15.6. NFP will re-establish Public Works Department (PWD) to ensure that our people are employed in major national infrastructure projects including those funded by foreign loans and grants.
- 15.7. NFP will invest in local capacity for all road works, including maintenance with clear separation between policy making (FRA), and service delivery sections (PWD).
- 15.8. NFP will review Water Authority of Fiji to provide affordable and clean water to all the people of Fiji.

## 16. People with Disability

- 16.1. NFP supports the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and will mainstream disability in the development agenda as a strategy for achieving equality for persons with disabilities.
- 16.2. NFP will create appropriate legislation so that **people with disability have the same opportunities as everyone else for work and recreation.**
- 16.3. NFP will work in partnership with city/town councils to provide facilities that will allow people with disability enjoy the same privileges and rights as the rest of the community.



- 16.4. NFP will **invest more in removing barriers to education and promoting inclusion of children with disability.**

## **17. Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women**

- 17.1. NFP recognizes that gender equality is both an important development objective in its own right as well as good development policy. NFP understands that gender inequality can impact on Fiji's productivity, income and quality of development.
- 17.2. NFP strongly supports the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the commitment to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 3 and 5, which argue that gender equality and empowerment of women are development objectives in their own right.
- 17.3. NFP will promote gender equality in access to productive resources, economic opportunity and decision making at all levels contributes to higher economic productivity and wellbeing for all.
- 17.4. NFP will commit stronger initiatives to gender equality for women in Fiji because despite some progress they still have less access than men to policy decision making, employment and productive assets.
- 17.5. NFP accepts that any policy focus towards equal economic opportunity should **address constraints that affect women in accessing productive resources, by removing discriminatory labour market regulations, improving infrastructure services to improve women's access to markets and female friendly work practices.**
- 17.6. NFP is **committed to gender aware public policy and reforms to achieve gender equality to promote more rapid development.** Gender equality does not happen automatically and must be made to happen.
- 17.7. NFP will **reform existing policies and programs to strengthen the voice and participation of women in households, communities and in society,** including in local government, on boards and other levels of governance.
- 17.8. NFP will primarily concentrate on five pillars for achieving gender equality and empowerment of women: (i) reducing gender based violence, (ii) strengthening



women's endowments and economic opportunities, (iii) strengthening the legal and institutional environment, (iv) transforming social norms and practices and (v) taking measures to enable women's participation in the policy domain by creating space for women's collective action.

## 18. Children

18.1. NFP is passionate about the wellbeing and welfare of all children.

18.2. NFP will produce a set of national guidelines in consultation with all stakeholders for child protection, safety and support as well as monitoring and evaluation.

18.3. NFP will prohibit all forms of degrading and humiliating treatment, including corporal punishment.

18.4. NFP will fight discrimination and social exclusion of children in, or at risk of, poverty and secure adequate resources and access to quality services and education.



## 19. Youth

- 19.1. NFP realizes the important role that youth play in positively transforming society, especially through their public and political participation to create a fully democratic society.
- 19.2. NFP has strong desire to involve young people in making decisions that affect their lives to help foster democratic deficit and develop processes of democratic renewal amongst young people who feel excluded and disengaged.
- 19.3. NFP will strengthen and provide support for training and development of young people to prepare them to become better informed in the workforce and as community leaders.
- 19.4. NFP will strengthen the existing National Youth Policy by including effective and beneficial strategies that empower young people to actively influence and shape the political agenda.
- 19.5. NFP will ensure that the National Youth Policy is the product of a multiparty, national consensus, based on consultation with all stakeholders, especially young people.





## 20. Senior Citizens, Retirees and Destitute

- 20.1. NFP recognizes that senior citizens have made Fiji strong and prosperous and deserve to be cared for and respected in our society and through our policies and actions.
- 20.2. NFP will ensure senior citizens enjoy a safe and secure retirement by delivering a strong and prosperous economy.
- 20.3. NFP will mainstream senior citizens' concerns into the national development debate and implement good practice supported by civil society and senior citizens.
- 20.4. NFP recognizes the needs of an ageing population and is committed to the provision of improved aged care, health services and appropriate community facilities for recreation.
- 20.5. NFP will increase the Social Pension Scheme (SPS) that targets all elderly citizens aged 70 years and over.
- 20.6. NFP will make special provision for welfare funding for all widows/widowers/destitute regardless of other family support already provided.
- 20.7. NFP will review the concessionary bus fare for senior citizens & disabled persons with the view to providing additional benefits.
- 20.8. NFP will provide discounts in electricity, water and town / city rates to retirees.



## 21. Trade

- 21.1. NFP recognizes the important role played by international trade to the growth and development of Fiji but notes the type of trade and the trading system has changed over time as technological and institutional innovations developed.
- 21.2. NFP believes that as a small open economy, Fiji's trade policy stance should not be to isolate itself from the global phenomenon, but rather to respond to circumstances as they unfold. NFP is committed to designing our international trade policies to promote jobs and incomes for our workers.
- 21.3. NFP strongly believes that protection of domestic industries is not the answer to Fiji's economic woes. Fiji's economic solutions should never involve protection and there exists evidence that small countries will decline behind protective barriers.
- 21.4. As a member of the World Trade Organisation, NFP will focus on trade policy that is in principle non-discriminatory.
- 21.5. NFP will put first priority on unilateral tariff and non-tariff reforms towards more efficient allocation of resources and take advantage of the benefits of specialisation.
- 21.6. NFP believes that trade agreements can play a part in opening markets for our goods and services while making certain they complement Fiji's commitment to non-discriminatory trade.
- 21.7. NFP notes with concern the recent increase in tariffs as announced in national budgets. NFP strongly opposes any tariff escalation and will design a tariff reduction program that will take into account possible adjustment costs. The tariff reduction program will be a long term one and scheduled in clearly defined phases.
- 21.8. NFP also recognizes the importance of trade in services. NFP will increase the commitments in GATS and aim to reduce restrictions present in different sectors and regulations relating to foreign investment.
- 21.9. NFP will establish a committee to examine the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index with the objective of providing suggestions on reducing the cost of doing business in Fiji.

## 22. Sports

- 22.1. NFP recognizes the importance of sports in our community and understands the role of sports in uncovering talent, improving physical fitness and encouraging important social skills.
- 22.2. NFP will review the current National Sports Policy and assess the effectiveness of the policy in developing sports in Fiji.
- 22.3. NFP will cooperate with national sporting bodies to develop a strategic approach to the development of their sports with a focus on targeting children at an early age to provide a strong foundation for further development.
- 22.4. NFP will support national sporting bodies to adopt good practice models that have worked in other countries to provide long term development.
- 22.5. NFP will develop athletic facilities in the Western and Northern Divisions.
- 22.6. NFP will set up a National Sports Institute for training and development in all sports and establish sports academies around the country.



## **23. Foreign Affairs**

- 23.1. NFP will ensure that Fiji can hold its head high as a proud member of the international community.
- 23.2. NFP will review and restore membership of the Commonwealth and Pacific Islands Forum.
- 23.3. NFP will rebuild and restore our relationship with all our international and regional partners.

## **24. Civil Service**

- 24.1. NFP will work to counteract the unacceptable level of nepotism, cronyism, racial and gender disparity and militarization that has occurred since 1987.
- 24.2. NFP will practice and institute recruitment and promotions in the civil service on academic (based on the average GPA of degree or diploma) merit and reflecting the ethnic composition of the population.
- 24.3. NFP will ensure that there is no discrimination in civil service appointments on the grounds of race, gender, colour or creed.
- 24.4. NFP will strengthen technical capacity of the civil service.
- 24.5. NFP will reinstate internal mechanism for civil servants to allow them to take their grievances to the Public Service Appeals Board.
- 24.6. NFP will introduce stringent deadline for a turnaround time for all decisions and public requests.

## **25. Media Freedom**

- 25.1. The media industry in this country has been under siege since the military coup of December 2006. The last 5 years, especially after the abrogation of the 1997 Constitution on 10th April 2009, have been turbulent and devastating for the media industry and media industry.

The work of the media industry, especially after the start of the coup culture in 1987, has been remarkable, balanced, informative and impartial, except for a brief period after the 1987 coups.



However, the enforcement of media censorship under Public Emergency Regulations after April 2009 until January 2012 and the promulgation of the Media Industry Development Decree 2010 has seriously undermined media freedom.

Media throughout the world is generally regarded as the Fourth Estate – the last line of defenders of democracy, human rights, dignity and justice.

25.2. Article 19 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through the media regardless of frontiers”.

This freedom and right is reposed in the people, which the State and politicians must respect at all times.

25.3. The Media Industry Development Decree is regressive and suppresses Media Freedom because it imposes restrictions and prescribes heavy penalties.

24.4. NFP Government will repeal the Media Industry Development Decree because we believe the media should not be regulated by the State or any Government.

25.5. NFP Government will enact Freedom of Information legislation so that the media and members of the public have access to official Government documents in order to effectively promote accountability and transparency.



## 26. Law and Order

- 26.1. NFP will ensure adequate support to the judiciary which is so fundamental to upholding Rule of Law and instilling confidence to the general public in the judiciary.
- 26.2. NFP will adequately resource and empower the Police Force to respond effectively to reported cases, including the provision of efficient transport and equipment.
- 26.3. NFP will undertake comprehensive reforms to bring the Police Force to international standards comparable to our bigger neighbours Australia and New Zealand.
- 26.4. NFP will facilitate better training and capacity building for the Police Force to deal with all forms of criminal activities including cybercrime.
- 26.5. NFP will modernize the Police Force by equipping it with the latest technology, including computerized reporting systems. NFP will initiate the networking of police stations across the country for intelligence sharing and crime investigation.
- 26.6. NFP supports the formation of a union for police force.
- 26.7. NFP will make investigation processes swift, transparent, fair and decisive.
- 26.8. NFP will strengthen community policing in ways to bring the Force closer to the public as a confidence building measure and friendship.





26.9. NFP will improve the working conditions and welfare of the Police personnel.

26.10. NFP will provide support for appropriate training to police and military to enhance professionalism and commitment to democratic governance and rule of law.

26.11. NFP government will continue Fiji's UN peacekeeping and other bilateral and multilateral alliances and training.

## 27. Land Transport Authority

27.1. NFP recognizes the role and importance of LTA towards land transportation in Fiji.

27.2. NFP will review LTA regulations with a view to reducing fines, fees and charges that are reasonable and affordable for our motorists, drivers and pedestrians.

27.3. NFP will remove Road Levy charges which were intended to be only temporary for road maintenance and upgrading works which have now been substantially completed. As such there is no merit in continuing with this levy. NFP will ensure that any form of penalty including suspension of driving licenses shall be determined by a court of law.

27.4. NFP will make policing our roads the responsibility of the Fiji Police Force.

27.5. NFP will thoroughly review speed limits on our roads and implement appropriate limits based on clear guidelines.

## 28. Animal Welfare

28.1. NFP supports the cause of alleviating suffering of animals.

28.2. NFP will encourage development of strong policy for preservation of species threatened with extinction, and protect wildlife from harmful exploitation and destruction of critical habitat.

28.3. NFP will enhance support to NGOs and other organizations to protect companion animals from cruelty and violence.

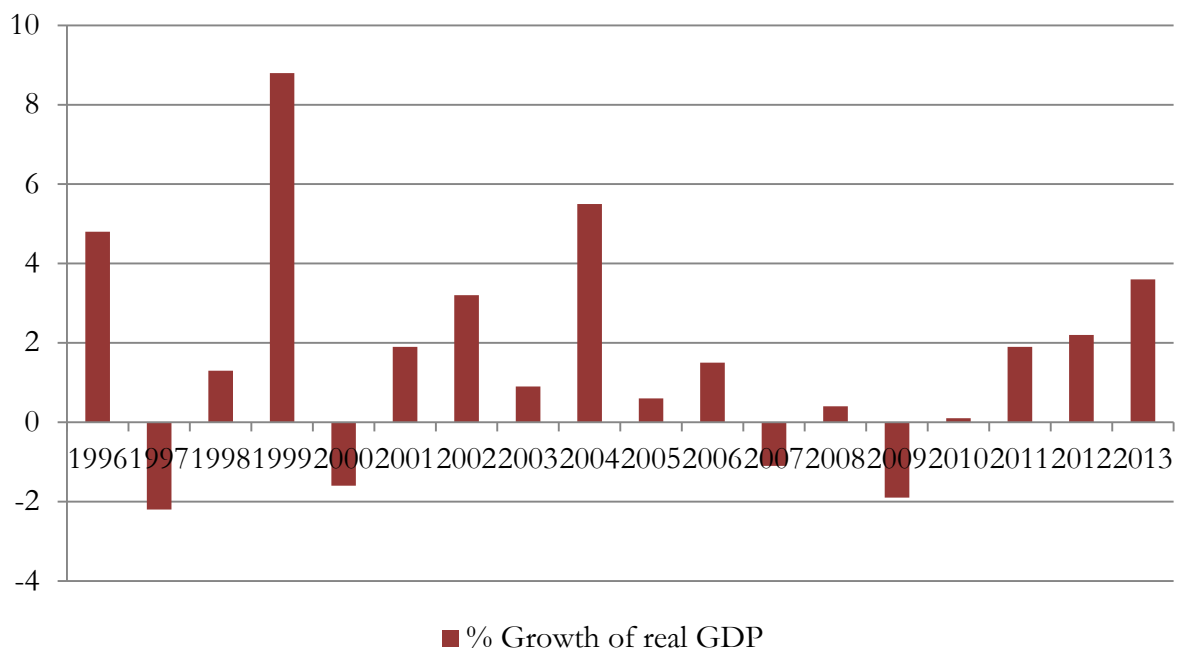


## Appendix

Figure 1

### Economic Growth

Percentage Growth of Real GDP: 1996 – 2013

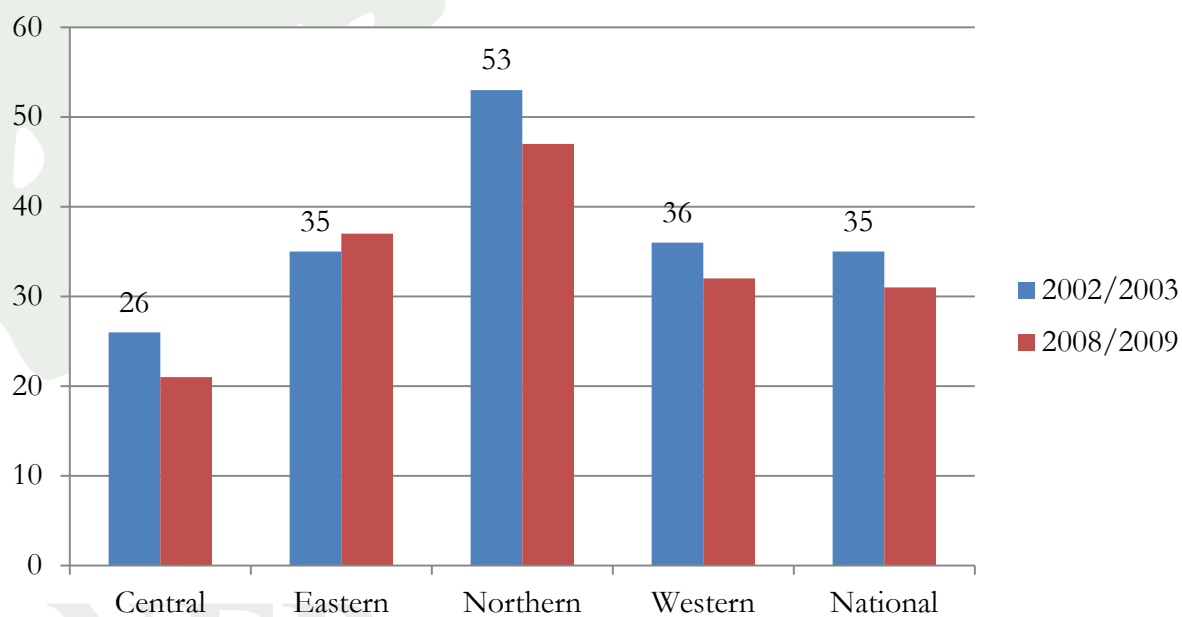


Source: Fiji Bureau of Statistics

Figure 2

### Poverty

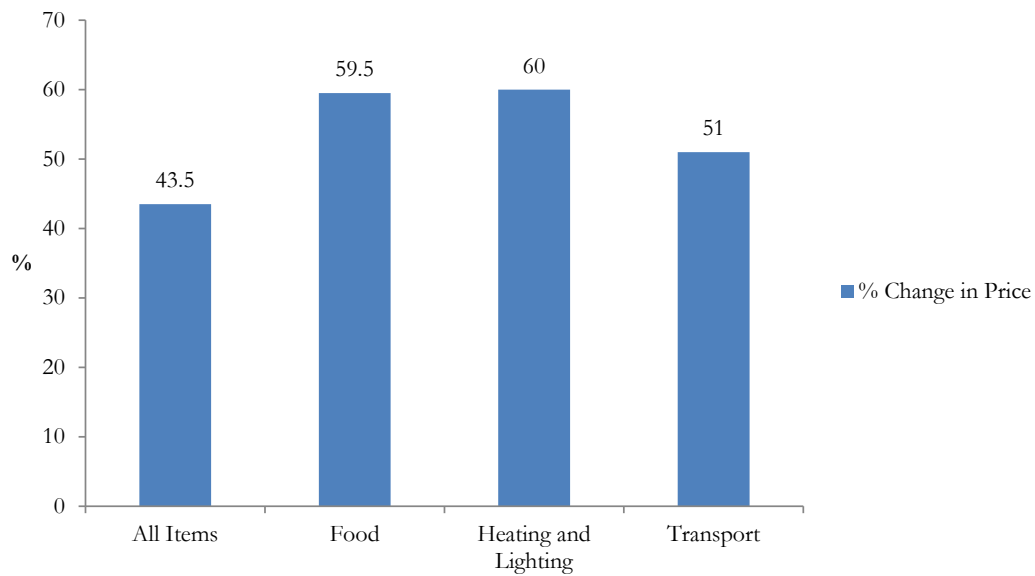
Incidence of Poverty by Division (% of population): 2002/2003 & 2008/2009



Source: Fiji Bureau of Statistics

Figure 3

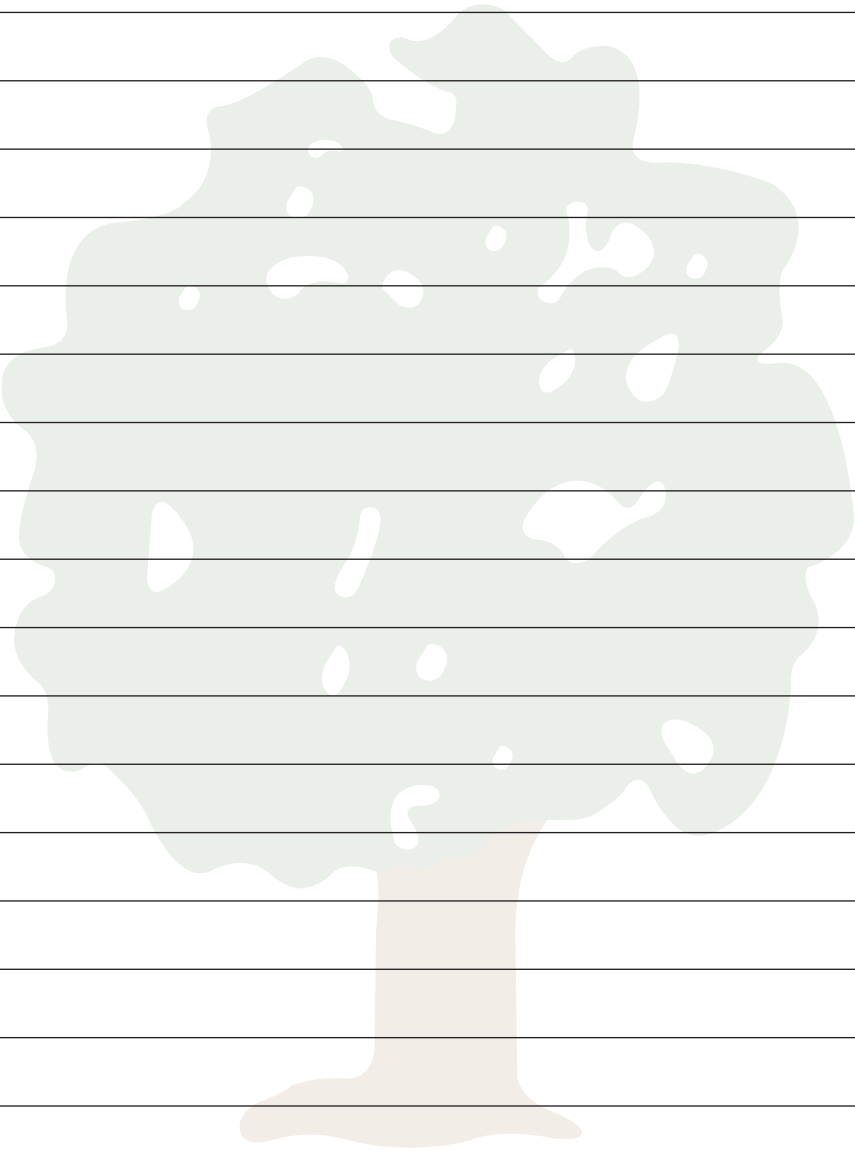
### Change in Prices since 2006



Source: Fiji Bureau of Statistics

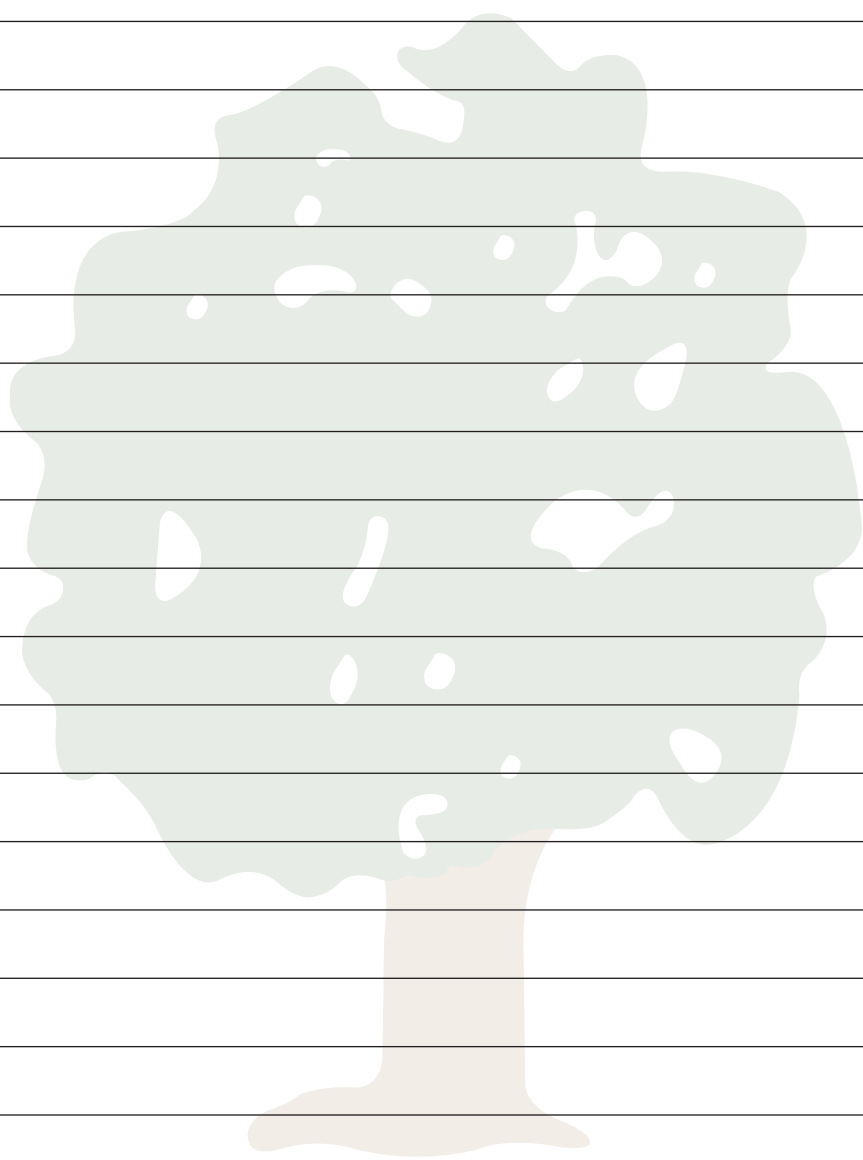


Notes



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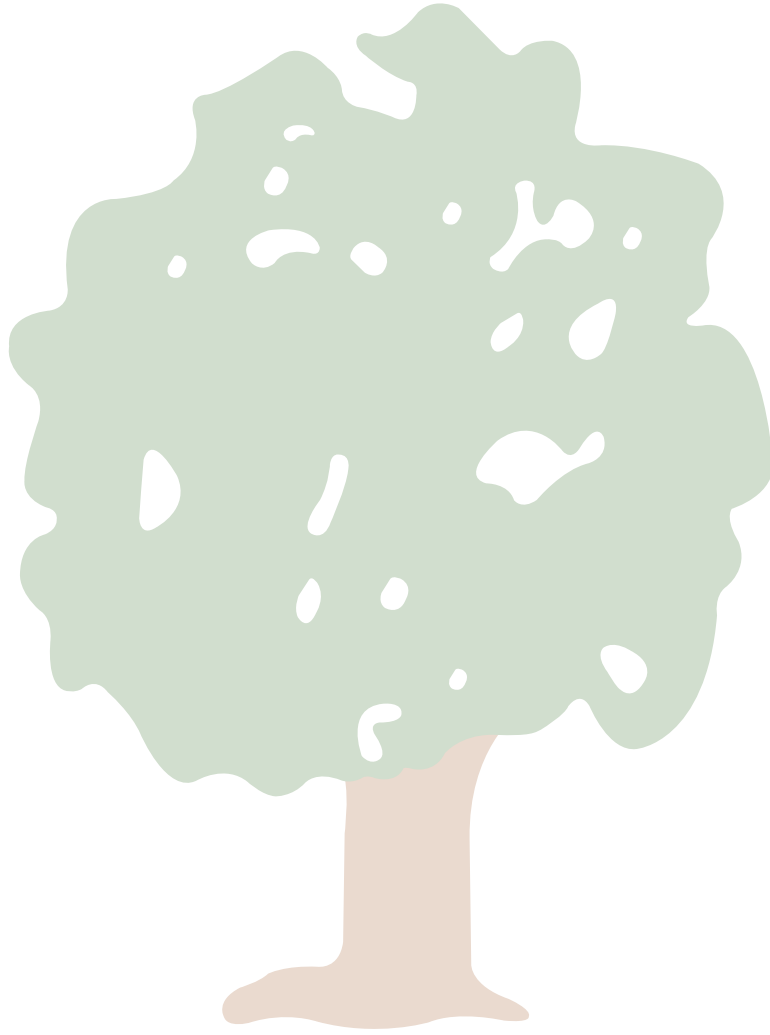
NFP



## **ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NFP**

In the last 50 years, the National Federation Party has achieved many things for people of all walks of life in Fiji. Some of its major achievements are listed below:-

1. Establishment of the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF)
2. Establishment of the Housing Authority of Fiji.
3. Proposing the idea of a local university that led to the establishment of the University of the South Pacific (USP)
4. Successfully and peacefully negotiating the independence of Fiji and the 1970 Constitution.
5. Brought about ALTO in 1966 and ALTA in 1976 in partnership with the landowners that provides mechanisms and basis for resolution of future land tenure problem in Fiji.
6. Played a key role in the sugar industry by negotiating the Denning Award, purchase of the CSR and SPSM and establishment of the FSC and in restructuring the sugar industry in 1984 allowing farmers to have greater say in the industry.
7. Negotiated Diwali and Prophet Muhammed's Birthday public holidays.
8. Establishment of the Reeves Commission to review the 1990 Constitution and the successful passage of the 1997 Constitution.



NFP

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