



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

DATED 8 April 2022



BETWEEN: PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE, of 74 Suva Street, Suva
AND: NATIONAL FEDERATION PARTY, of 124 Princes Road, Suva

INTRODUCTION

WE, the PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE, a new national political movement and the NATIONAL FEDERATION PARTY, the longest-established political force of our beloved Fiji, declare the following:

AFFIRMING that the indigenous people in their folklore and culture see themselves as indivisibly one with the soil, the rivers, the surrounding seas, the flora and fauna, their *vanua* and that from time immemorial they have held sacred the *vanua* deep in their collective being, founded upon the belief that "Our *vanua* is us, and we are the *vanua*";

ACKNOWLEDGING that the descendants of *Girmitiyas* and others from the Indian sub-continent, Europe, Asia, China and the surrounding Pacific islands are now bonded by history with those who first came here and who also call Fiji their home;

RECALLING our history back to the signing of the Deed of Cession, on the 10th October 1874 when Fiji became a British Colony and that since then, as a nation, we have journeyed together, sustained by shared values of friendliness, tolerance, compassion, neighbourliness, goodwill and understanding, that have seen us through disagreements, conflicts and discord;

RECOGNISING the immeasurable, precious and diverse contributions, investments and gifts that every community and faith have given and continue to give to the building of our beloved nation;

WE, the PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE and NATIONAL FEDERATION PARTY, dedicate ourselves to continue the honourable tradition of serving and helping the wonderful people and friends of our beloved nation, to build Fiji into a just and prosperous country, where human rights and the inherent dignity of every person are respected, and where opportunities are increased to ensure that each person has a place in the sun, and a seat at the table;

AND so we seek first, the blessings of God and second, the support and goodwill of the wonderful people and friends of Fiji, here and abroad, as we enter into this political partnership AND AGREE:

Basis of partnership

- We enter into this agreement as we intend to govern - on the basis of mutual trust and good faith, with a commitment to working together, focusing on Fiji's best interests over their own.

A vision for our country

- We share a vision for our collective future, believing in:
 - democracy, the rule of law and good governance and human rights
 - the power of the people of Fiji to work together to build and improve each others' lives, supported by, not dictated to by their government
 - pride in Fiji's ethnic, cultural and religious diversity, and the ability to put our different abilities and strengths to work for the good of all of Fiji's people
 - the recognition of the special place of Fiji's indigenous people, their rights to their land, tradition, culture and special institutions and their place in achieving Fiji's long-term stability and security
 - an inclusive society led by a people-centred government, which promotes the rights and participation of all
 - a dynamic and diversified economy in which Fiji's people can engage and thrive, including modernised and sustainable arrangements which deliver economic returns for landowners and strengthen security of tenure for tenants
 - a strong commitment to universal good health, a revitalised education system and gender equality as key drivers of economic growth and human development
 - the need to promote the leadership of Fiji's young people, to create economic opportunities for the twenty-first century and to respond to the challenges of climate change and re-engineering Earth as a sustainable planet
 - protecting and maintaining the integrity and autonomy of our public and statutory institutions to promote transparent governance
 - Fiji, through its words and deeds, being a force for good in the South Pacific region and in the wider world, working in harmony with our Pacific neighbours, safeguarding the integrity of regional institutions such as the USP and the Pacific Islands Forum, applying our skills as peacekeepers and supporting human rights, peacebuilding and climate justice.



Name and participation

3. We will discuss and if thought appropriate choose a name for the partnership. We will invite other political parties sharing their aims and objectives to join it.

Separate identities and legal structure

4. We will maintain our separate identities, registrations, legal structures and finances, but may combine together in different ways which are consistent with the purpose and objectives of our partnership.

Leaders' meetings

5. Our leaders will meet once a month and at other times as their schedules will allow, to review shared policies, election strategy, ways of providing mutual support to each other and to make announcements for the information of all Fiji citizens.

Sharing information with the people

6. We will tell Fiji citizens about our intentions. These include that, should our combined number of Parliamentary seats comprise a majority after the next election, we will form a coalition government including, if we think fit, with other parties that share our values and are willing to work in the spirit of this partnership.

Manifesto, policies and public statements

7. We will co-operate with each other where possible on manifestoes, policies and public statements to present to the people of Fiji policies and ideas which will drive the nation's future. We also reserve the right to differ and offer alternative ideas and policies to the electorate. We understand that differences, co-operatively and sensitively discussed, are a source of strength; and compromise and respect for the views of others are key elements of the multi-party government of which we will be part.

Diversity in all forms of party representation

8. We each recognise the importance of our representatives, including party officials and candidates for national and local elected office, truly representing Fiji's population. This is not only by ethnicity but by age and gender. We respect the challenges that young people and women in particular face in becoming party officials, representatives and electoral candidates. This includes the aggressive political environment encouraged by the governing party and the financial and time constraints involved in active political participation. We commit to promoting the participation of youth and women representatives and candidates who adhere to our values and meet party and legal requirements.

Mutual support and collaboration

- We agree to form working groups of senior officials and advisers to better co-ordinate our work, as agreed in the monthly meetings of our leaders. Our specific areas of collaboration will include:
 - setting out a shared vision for the political, economic and social development of Fiji
 - cost-sharing and co-ordination on electoral processes, voter registration and voter mobilization
 - mutual support and protection in the event of unfair regulatory action or prosecution
 - monitoring of the conduct of the election and the count

Amendments to this MOU

- We may amend this MOU to meet necessary circumstances or to include other parties who share their values and wish to join them. Amendments must be endorsed by each party's governing bodies before they become binding.

SIGNED AT SUVA THIS 8th DAY OF APRIL 2022

Sitiveni Rabuka
Leader
People's Alliance

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