

# National Federation Party

#TogetherForFijisFuture

## Our Vision for Fiji

### 2022 GENERAL ELECTIONS

We are bringing to you the vision we wish to share with the people of Fiji when we are in Government. Not every idea is here. But we hope you will see that NFP is ready for leadership. Because, together we are Fiji's future.

This is our time.



Professor Biman Prasad  
Leader



### FIRST 100 DAYS:

#### SUMMARY

- ✓ Slash Government Ministers' salaries and allowances by one-third. We will appoint an independent Parliamentary Emoluments Committee (with no politicians) to recommend appropriate Ministerial and Parliamentary salaries and allowances.
- ✓ End Ministerial motorcades and pool all Government Ministerial vehicles, cut their use by 50%, and sell or end the leases where we can.
- ✓ Request the Auditor-General to help the Finance Ministry to cut overspending, waste, pilferage and other losses in Government departments.
- ✓ Begin the process of organising summits on the economy, sugar, housing, health, education, poverty, agriculture, sports and other pressing issues. Listening and learning is the key to better government.
- ✓ Set up a committee focused on simplifying laws to work for the people – birth certificates and identification, e-ticketing and other complicated rules and regulations. This will include the new voter registration laws requiring to matching birth certificates. These will be reversed.
- ✓ Stop holding Government meetings and consultations at expensive hotels and resorts, instead paying schools, religious bodies and community organisations for their halls and venues and catering.
- ✓ End the contract of Qorvis Communications. Expensive foreign propaganda companies are not NFP's style!
- ✓ Repeal I-Taukei Land Trust (Budget Amendment) Act 2021, known as Bill No.17.
- ✓ Work on alternatives to e-ticketing where systems fail and people cannot get access to public transport.
- ✓ Begin the process of organising summits on the economy, sugar, housing, health, education, poverty, agriculture, sports and other pressing issues. Listening and learning is the key to better government.
- ✓ Request the Auditor-General to help the Finance Ministry to cut overspending, waste, pilferage and other losses in Government departments.
- ✓ Reform Parliament and give the Speaker independent legal support.
- ✓ Change Standing Orders to plan for vernacular languages to be used in Parliament (with simultaneous translation as soon as possible).
- ✓ Prioritize establishment of national advisory bodies for Education, Health, Communications, Agriculture and Welfare.
- ✓ Begin national consultations on reviving the district and provincial services structure.
- ✓ Prepare position papers on protection of human rights, freedom of speech, bill of rights, and consumer protections (especially in the digital world) for all Fijians.
- ✓ Return the Vice-Chancellor of USP to Fiji and begin the task of restoring Fiji's relationship with USP, including work permits for regional employees of USP.
- ✓ Inquire into the millions of dollars wasted on the Walesi project and allow private TV stations to return to using their own transmission systems.
- ✓ Lift the entry ban on the late Professor Brij Lal's wife, Dr Padma Lal, to allow her return to Fiji with his ashes.
- ✓ Fairly addressing employment grievances of civil servants and others due to the covid vaccination policy with the objective of restoring their employment.







## NFP - IN OUR FIRST 6 MONTHS:



### RESTORE THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF TRADE UNIONS AND WORKERS

- ✓ Amend legislation to allow for Right to strike and picket. Strengthen Collective bargaining for all workers.
- ✓ Legislate Right to assembly, free speech and protest.
- ✓ Remove contract employment for civil servants and other public sector employees.
- ✓ Increase civil service retirement age to 60 years.
- ✓ Remove retirement age for municipal workers like other workers.
- ✓ Restore essential services to ILO standards which means only a few industries as legislated previously, instead of all.
- ✓ Increase grievance reporting time for essential workers.
- ✓ Allow individual and collective grievance reporting.
- ✓ Improve dispute settlement processes, including Tribunals.
- ✓ Empower Tribunals and Courts to settle all disputes.
- ✓ Facilitate and host an annual employment summit.
- ✓ Implement and adhere to genuine Tripartism and facilitate within the Tripartite Forum wages and fixing guidelines.
- ✓ Legislate an annual minimum wage review with a view to achieving a living Wage.
- ✓ Put a stop to exploitation of workers by publicly funded contractors.
- ✓ Complete all labour law reviews within the first year of government.
- ✓ Review of FNPF structure by amending FNPF Decree, including governance to restore workers' say in Funds that are 100% owned by them.
- ✓ Restoration of contribution rate of 8% for Employee and 10% for Employer.
- ✓ Restoration of FNPF Pension scheme and contractual obligation to give some security and comfort to retirees.
- ✓ Re-visiting the 1% Employer/Employee contribution for a medical scheme to be shifted into pension fund if not used.

### REVIVING TRIPARTISM AND OTHER FORUMS FOR CONSULTATION WITH WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES FOR CONSULTATIVE PROCESS:

- ✓ Restore status of cane growers as most important stakeholders in the sugar industry.
- ✓ Repeal amendments to the Sugar Industry Act imposed by Fiji First that prohibited elections for Sugar Cane Growers Council.
- ✓ Facilitate the conduct of elections for a representative Growers Council to be held before the start of the 2023 harvesting and crushing season.
- ✓ Re-establish Mill Area Committees to hold Fiji Sugar Corporation to account in all aspects of operations linked to growers including mill performance.
- ✓ Develop plans for FSC to rebuild a new state of the art sugar mill in Penang, Rakiraki, that was closed down in 2016 by Fiji First.
- ✓ Review the cane payment system to enhance growers' nett profit per tonne to above \$25.
- ✓ Develop an incentive system to increase sugar cane production to over \$3 million tonnes per annum to ensure a viable and size-optimal sugar industry.
- ✓ Engage experts to review the cane railway network and develop its viability for transporting other goods in the Western Division and for tourism purposes.
- ✓ Understake a full review of the economic viability of Fiji Sugar Corporation to return to its financial soundness.
- ✓ Re-look at the grower's insurance scheme implemented by Fiji Care Ltd under which growers pay at least three times more than their share in premiums when it is supposed to be only \$52 per annum.
- ✓ Hold a sugar summit to obtain widespread consultation on the efficacy of initiatives named above.
- ✓ Restoring rights of ratepayers and citizens of town and city councils.
- ✓ Repeal changes to the Local Government Act imposed by the Bainimarama regime that led to dissolution of elected town and city councils in early 2009.
- ✓ Facilitate the free and fair conduct of municipal elections to ensure truly representative town and city council elections.
- ✓ Invite Commonwealth Local Government Association to re-establish its office in Fiji to provide expert advice on operations of elected councils.
- ✓ Restore full Media Freedom.
- ✓ Repeal the Media Industry Development Act 2010 to ensure full and unequivocal freedom to Fiji's media industry, which will also remove restrictions on commercial television like Sky Pacific from airing local news and selling commercials, prevention of which has affected their profitability.
- ✓ Encourage re-establishment of Fiji Media Council to allow freedom to the media to self-regulate without any State control.
- ✓ Ensure Public Service Broadcast grant or fee is not a monopoly and aimed at showing profit for a broadcaster
- ✓ De-monopolising government newspaper advertising that has been exclusive to one newspaper only since the last decade.

# Our Vision for Fiji



## EDUCATION

- ✓ Complete review of TELS to ensure fairness of existing student loans to the State and student loan write-offs where merited and prudent.
- ✓ Complete review of guarantee and "stop departure" rules on TELS students.
- ✓ Scholarships extended to merit-based to reward students from poor families not qualifying under the prescribed marks benchmark of in excess of over 300.
- ✓ Awarding scholarships or long term loans to students undertaking any program irrespective of whether or not they have qualified through Year 13 or Foundation studies.
- ✓ Removing restrictions on free bus fare to students that currently is confined to zoning or a certain stage in bus fare system.
- ✓ Appoint an Education Commission to holistically carry out a review of the education sector and come up with a report by end of December 2023.

## REDUCING COST OF LIVING

- ✓ Review duties and charges on imported goods and services.
- ✓ Legislate, as a Budget consequential amendment, charging duty and VAT on FOB or Freight on Board instead of CIF – cost, insurance, freight – as is currently the case to lower costs incurred by businesses. This is to be a temporary measure until the full recovery of the economy.
- ✓ Increasing the number of zero-rated or VAT-free essential goods to include prescribed medication.

## HEALTH

- ✓ Develop a budget strategy to get the Health Ministry funded to \$500 million per annum or the required WHO international benchmark by second year in office.
- ✓ Reviewing the procurement procedures of medication at Fiji Pharmaceutical Services to ensure availability of medicine at all times.
- ✓ Repealing all laws that compromise the recruitment of medical personnel and establishment of pharmacies that were enacted by Parliament through the Fiji First government.
- ✓ A holistic inquiry into all aspects of public health and medical services delivery with an aim to ensure immediate improvement to basic services within six months and positive changes to diagnostics, advanced medical care and surgeries by early 2024.

## TERMITE INVASION

- ✓ Address the issue of termite invasion that has for more than a decade caused millions of dollars in damage by severely damaging homes in Lautoka and is now spreading to other districts.
- ✓ The NFP govt will provide support to our under resourced and vulnerable families.
- ✓ Support Biosecurity Authority of Fiji to tackle this issue with urgency and decisively, as well as by getting help from experts in overseas.