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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **RBF DEPUTY GOVERNOR MUST RESIGN, OTHERWISE SACKED**

The Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of Fiji Arif Ali should immediately resign, failing which he should be sacked by the Reserve Bank of Fiji Board following the declaration of his blatant political bias towards the current Government and its economic policies.

Mr Arif told Fiji Broadcasting Corporation news that more important than a general election was a post-election government that does not reverse the current economic policies because it would “harm the economy and involves a lot of risk”. He added the changes that political parties are talking about were “risky”.

Mr Ali has totally compromised the neutrality and independence of the Reserve Bank Board as well as the Institution. He should have remained apolitical and completely refrained from making political comments. A ordinary civil servant is disallowed from even to be seen at political party meetings or gatherings as it is construed as showing support towards a political party.

Similarly trade unionists, who are paid from members' funds are required to resign their positions if they wish to participate in political activities. The Political Parties Decree makes it an offence that carries a penalty of a \$10,000 fine or 5 years imprisonment for public officers contravening the decree.

The Reserve Bank of Fiji is an Independent State Institution. Unfortunately, Mr Ali has given it a semblance of a political wing of Government and the Fiji First Party. His office is more important and thoroughly independent of any interference, politicization or political involvement.

His comment, which is a campaign statement is also intimidating voters. He is basically saying that only the re-election of the

current government will ensure political and economic stability. This is preposterous.

What are the risks that Arif Ali fears that any other government apart from the current one will generate? The rejection of policies of political parties will be solely determined by the voters of Fiji, not the likes of Arif Ali.

The NFP once again calls upon officers in all independent state institutions to remain apolitical at all times.

We re-iterate that Mr Ali should resign, failing which he should be sacked by the RBF Board so that he can campaign freely for the current Government and the Fiji First Party without tarnishing the credibility and impartiality of the Reserve Bank of Fiji and the high office of the Deputy Governor.

**Kamal Iyer**  
**General Secretary**

Attached: FBC News Script