

Change is Coming



NFP



Legendary
Since **1963**

**MANIFESTO OF
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION PARTY
2018 GENERAL ELECTIONS**

“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

**\$5 an hour | \$100 per tonne | 15 items VAT-free |
Housing | Education | Health**



Fellow Fijians

The general elections scheduled for 14th November, 2018 have the potential to permanently re-define the social, economic and political landscape of Fiji.

The decisions that our voters make will have a great bearing on the direction that Fiji takes in future, whether to continue with business as usual with continued and increased suppression of fundamental freedoms, lack of genuine democracy, skyrocketing cost of living, a sugar industry in a deathly plunge, deteriorating health and medical services, and the continued enrichment of those at the top echelons of Government paying themselves outrageously high salaries and allowances.

OR, the beginning of a new dawn after the dissipation of the dark clouds of uncertainty hanging over all of us for the last 12 years. The start of a true and genuine democracy, giving true meaning to common and equal citizenry and meritocracy, reduction in the cost of living, improved health and medical services, a vibrant sugar industry and an education system that meets the challenges our youth face today.

“Change is coming”, our general election slogan, was launched on 3rd June 2017 at our national convention in Lautoka, together with our core policies after our initial Talanoa consultations.

More than 16 months later, we have come to the end of our Talanoa consultations. We gratefully acknowledge the many, people from all walks of life, who gave freely their time and resources to sit down and share their thoughts and wisdom with us. They shared their frustration, hopes and dreams. They are yearning for change. Their trust and faith in NFP will not be misplaced.

Our manifesto is a living document and a genuine commitment to the people of Fiji. We want you hold us to our promises. We are accountable to you.

God Bless Fiji

Biman Prasad
Leader

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Team Fiji,

Two-man government in our country is not working for the people. We want a Fiji where everyone works together for a brighter future. We will march forward in unison and harmony as a mighty collective force to once again restore power to all of you. Because it is you who have shaped our policies. It is you we have listened to. And we want you to proudly take ownership of the government and its policies.

Simply put, NFP will be a government of Team Fiji that make up our multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious nation.

First, we must all be economically secure. That is why we want a fair living wage for our workers and our farmers. Our economy depends on them. Next, we have to get rid of the climate of fear that covers our country. People must be free to speak up so that they can contribute their ideas.

Then we need to begin the massive task of rebuilding. Because education will decide our future, we need an education system – including university education - that works. We must have a good health system. And we must ensure that every family has that most important thing – a good home.

These are our priorities. They are not the only things we will do. You can read more about our plans in this manifesto. We have 51 candidates contesting this election. We are a well-established, legendary party. And we are asking you to make us your government. We want leadership that works with everybody, for everybody. Fiji's future depends on our working together.

God Bless Fiji

Pio Tikoduadua

President

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Consultation

The first part of working together is listening to people's concerns and taking up people's ideas. It is the people's government. Our people have great knowledge of the areas they work in and how they are affected by government policies. In our first 100 days we will hold:

- a National Economic Summit
- a National Education Summit
- a National Jobs and Poverty Summit
- a National Housing and Urban Development Summit
- a National Sugar Summit
- a National i-Tukei Leadership Summit

to share and test our ideas and gather feedback from key stakeholders. These summits will result in giving you within the first 100 days:

- 15 VAT free basic food items
- Review of duty on food and other items with the aim of reducing duties
- \$5 minimum living wage
- Implementation of the minimum guaranteed price of \$100 per tonne of sugarcane
- Initiation of plans to build a new sugar mill at Penang, Rakiraki

Raising incomes. Cutting the cost of living

The economy has grown in the last 12 years. But wages have not grown with the economy.

- **We will implement a minimum living wage rate of \$5 per hour by:**
 - working with employers in each industry
 - providing tax incentives and other support to employers in low-wage sectors
 - formulating special measures for domestic workers who support working families
 - implementing special measures to ensure that young people who want work experience may work for no lower wages for a limited period of time
 - **We will slash VAT to ZERO on 15 basic food items as well as kerosene and prescription medication. The six previous food items plus kerosene and prescription medication were VAT free until Fiji First First government in a betrayal of their 2014 election promise imposed VAT of 9% on the following foods:**
 1. Rice
 2. Flour
 3. Tinned Fish
 4. Powdered milk
 5. Cooking Oil
 6. Tea

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NFP will make VAT free or zero-rate, the following basic food items:

1. Rice
2. Flour
3. Cooking Oil
4. Tinned Fish
5. Tea
6. Powdered milk and liquid milk
7. Butter
8. Noodles
9. Potatoes
10. Onion
11. Garlic
12. Canned Tuna
13. Locally Produced Eggs
14. Bread
15. Locally Produced Frozen Chicken

Additionally, NFP will make VAT FREE, the following items:

1. Prescription medication
2. Kerosene
3. Women's sanitary products
4. Baby milk formula
5. Diapers
6. Toilet paper
7. Soap
8. Imported Fruits

NFP will also REDUCE DUTY on the following imported items:

- Lamb products
- Ghee
- School shoes
- school bags
- Reduce by 20% Excise Duty on locally produced Beer and Spirits

**This means You will not Pay VAT on 23 Basic Items
Resulting in Savings for You and Your Family**

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Pensions

- We will increase social welfare allowances for our poorest people, the sick and intellectually handicapped below the threshold of \$30,000. Social Welfare allowances for the ages will be increased as follows:

Age group	Allowances
60 – 65 yrs	\$100 per month
65 – 70 yrs	\$200 per month
Over 70 yrs	\$300 per month

The benefits of a growing economy should be available to all and not just the rich getting richer. Hardworking Fijians deserve to eat healthy food and have the basic necessities of life.

Sugar industry

200,000 people directly and indirectly depend on this vital industry for their livelihood. The industry has suffered tremendously under the Bainimarama regime and Fiji First government for the last 12 years. Cane production has declined by almost 50% from 3.2 million tonnes in 2006 to around 1.7 million tonnes. The number of active cane growers has fallen from over 18,000 in 2006 to about 12,000. The government has been clueless on how to revive the industry.

An NFP Government will:

- Implement a minimum guaranteed price of \$100 per tonne cane price effective from the current season
- Maintain the current policy of all fertiliser and weedicide subsidies
- Maintain the current policy of providing grants for ploughing of cane land and cane planting as well subsidising the cost of mechanical harvesters
- Bring back an elected Sugar Cane Growers Council
- Return leadership of South Pacific Fertilisers and the Growers Fund to growers
- Hold an annual Sugar Industry Summit involving all industry stakeholders
- Improve the rail network and cut lorry waiting times at the mills
- Build a new sugar mill in Rakiraki.

Education

The world is changing. Our education system is not. It has been on a backward slide. We will:

- Hold a National Education Summit to urgently hear from all stakeholders in education on what is needed to be implemented from the 2019 school year
- Set up an Education Commission to consult widely and report back on long-term reform
- Return power over school facilities and fund-raising to school committees
- Give job security and professional development to teachers
- Take politics out of higher education. It will be controlled by an independent Fiji Higher Education Authority

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- Guarantee academic freedom in universities. We will not pressure universities whose staff criticise the Government
- Focus more efforts on early childhood education so that all children get the right educational start. We will consult closely with employers to ensure that tertiary education meets their needs
- Ensure people with disabilities have access to education.
- Introduce Civic Education as a compulsory part of the curriculum.

Our students are our future. An NFP government will put politics aside to ensure quality education for our students. We want our students to be successful and our country to be successful. This cannot be achieved without support for our teachers.

TELS And Tertiary Education

Education lifts our productivity, grows people's incomes and grows the economy for everyone. We have talked to students and their parents. We will establish:

- Academic Excellence scholarships
 - Continue with the existing National Toppers Scholarship (Rename it as Academic Excellence Scholarship)
 - Restructure the 12 priority areas by adding more areas.
 - Include a leadership training workshop component.
- **Merit Scholarship (to cater for students from low income families) Those that have not received an offer letter for Academic Excellence Scholarship**
 - Those that have not received an offer letter for Academic Excellence Scholarship
 - Completed their Year 13 in a year preceding the award year with an aggregate mark of not less than 250/400 marks
 - Combined family income is less than \$30,000
- **Free First Year Degree studies at the three universities**
 - All first-year courses fees (for any degree program) paid by the government
 - Students enrolling in degree studies from 2019
- Loans Scheme
 - Continue with the existing TELS
 - Those who have not received an offer letter for Academic Excellence Scholarship or Merit Scholarship
 - New Students and existing tertiary students
 - Accommodation Loans Scheme (ALS)
- Conversion of Loans to Grant under TELS
 - All student debt under TELS since establishment of TELS for those with a combined family income of less than \$30, 000 converted to grant

Health

Fiji's national health system is declining. We have some of the highest NCD statistics in the world. Our hospitals and health centres are poorly resourced and badly maintained. Our

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poorest people cannot get access to the health care they need. We will:

- Establish a National Hospital Service responsible for all aspects of delivery of timely and efficient health and medical care
- Create a Family Healthcare Scheme for families with incomes under \$30,000
 - All family members will be able to visit a private doctor four times a year free on an age appropriate schedule
- Make kidney dialysis treatment free for patients whose combined family income is less than \$30,000 and subsidise by 50% treatment of patients from combined family incomes of more than \$30,000
- Put hospitals under the control of the community by appointing hospital boards
- Centralise and re-organise hospital maintenance and drugs stocks so equipment is not broken down and medicine does not run out
- Increase expenditure on preventative medicine, good nutrition and to combat NCDs.
- we intend to build a Hospice to ensure the best palliative care, for the comfort and dignity of our cancer patients and other terminally ill patients. Patients with a family income of less than \$30,000 will be provided dialysis free of charge.

Free Medicine

A National Federation Party government will give true meaning to Free Medicine Scheme by:

- Increasing the threshold of income to \$30,000 from the current \$20,000 to ensure more of our people benefit from the Scheme
- Giving true meaning to “free” by ensuring all those who qualify for the Scheme are able to receive any medication prescribed by a doctor – not just the 142 generic medicines selected by Government, which are often not available
- Enabling private pharmacies to send monthly bills to the Health Ministry on the total cost of free medicine dispensed to eligible patients
- Ensuring all private pharmacies are equipped with a separate information system specifically for the Scheme and connected to the database of recipients at the Health Ministry – unlike the current system of paperwork and paper shuffling
- Ensuring all prescribed medications are zero-rated or VAT-free. This will reduce the cost of medicine for everyone, especially those who are not eligible for the Scheme

Towns, Cities And Urban Development

The Government has failed urban communities. It has broken its promise to hold local government elections, because it is afraid of voters. Town and city services are in a shocking state. Local governments are best suited to address local problems and improve the quality of life for their residents and commuters. We will:

- Bring back local government elections, so people can take their issues to local community leaders (and hold them accountable with their votes).
- Hold local government to high standards of garbage collection, cleanliness, drainage, and maintenance of parks and other services
- Upgrade recreational areas and parks in each town and city

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- Create a modern and proper garbage landfill for the Nadi/Lautoka/Ba area and phase out the Vunato Rubbish Dump.

Housing

The Government has completely failed on housing – a basic need. Rents are high because there are not enough houses. We will invest \$200 million per year or a total of \$800 million over four years in housing. We will:

- Open up new land in urban areas and ensure better planning
- Work with landowners on new housing developments so they receive a fair return on the land they make available for housing
- Refocus Housing Authority and Public Rental Board on building affordable homes for people on low incomes
- Work with local experts on rural housing to build basic homes with at least one cyclone resistant room and which rural dwellers can build as they go
- Work actively with the owners of squatter settlement land to acquire land or have fair rental arrangements and permit tenants to have access to power and water.
- Provide grants to home owners in Lautoka and Labasa whose homes have been destroyed by termites
- Give tax incentives to large employers to build company housing, education and childcare facilities for staff and workers. This reduces their travel time to work and increases the national stock of houses.

Rural Development

Rural people are treated like second-class citizens. They do not have access to services and technology in urban centres. They have to travel several times to towns and cities to meet simple needs, wasting time and money. We will:

- Bring services to people. Every rural community will have at least one place with connectivity and technology for phone cards, e-ticketing, birth certificates, TINs, Cash-Power cards. We will enhance mobile phone banking services
- Ensure all major rural roads are regularly maintained and reinforced, particularly before the wet season
- Consult with rural people on their priorities for rural development.

Social Welfare

- Overhaul the current Social Welfare system. We will increase allowances in line with the cost of living
- Engage with the many charitable and religious organisations that already work in the community with the most vulnerable. We want to use their knowledge and experience
- Provide funding to charitable organisations to expand their support to vulnerable people, free of political interference or government bureaucracy
- Develop a specific policy on ageing and the care of the elderly. We want policies, including tax relief and income support, that encourage families to take care of their elderly relatives, as our customs and traditions have always required.

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i-Taukei Affairs

Our i-Taukei People

NFP recognises our indigenous Fijians as the first people of Fiji, and as the custodians of a unique culture, strong traditional values and their own land.

- We recognise the importance and potential of an effective, responsive Fijian administration as the primary tier for governance for indigenous land, natural and cultural resources
- We will work through the devolution of powers and financial resources to revitalise the Fijian Administration as the primary tier of governance for iTaukei land, natural and cultural resources.
- Within 100 days of coming into government we will convene a national forum for traditional high chiefs, heads of yavusa and leaders in other spheres of iTaukei life. This in order for our iTaukei leaders to determine themselves the future of the Fijian administration.
- Revitalise the i-Taukei Institute of Language and Culture (formerly the Fijian Dictionary Project) to encourage the development of in-depth knowledge of and literature in the indigenous Fijian language and the study of different dialects and oral histories
- Abolish the Village By-laws
- Repeal the Rotuma Land Bill
- We will uphold the CBD Nagoya Protocol in terms of protecting the genetic resources of Fiji's biodiversity, with Free Prior and Informed Consent in consultation with resource owners.

Care For People With Disabilities

We believe that people with disabilities should have the same rights to work and actively participate in society as the rest of the community. Often, their disabilities hide untapped potential. We can tap that potential if they have equal access to opportunities. We will:

- Work in partnership with City/Town Councils and rural authorities to provide disabled-friendly facilities in all public places
- Invest more towards improved educational outcomes and promote inclusion of children with disabilities

Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

We know that achieving gender equality is not just the right thing to do – it is the smart thing to do. Gender inequality impacts Fiji's productivity, income and quality of development. If we can achieve gender equality, we grow the economy and the quality of national life. We will:

- Consult women's groups on special policy measures to reduce domestic violence, sexual harassment and assault. This is a priority. Equality for women means nothing while they are unsafe in their homes, on the streets or in their places of work
- Focus on the cost of living for women, including making women's hygiene products duty-free and zero-rated for VAT
- Respect the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Ensure all economic policy addresses constraints that affect women's access to

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productive resources, removing discriminatory labour market regulations, improving infrastructure services to enhance women's access to markets and female friendly work practices

- We will also concentrate on
 - strengthening women's endowments and economic opportunities,
 - strengthening the legal and institutional environment,
 - transforming social norms and practices and
 - taking measures to enable women's participation in the policy domain by creating space for women's collective action.

Animal Welfare

NFP supports the cause of alleviating the suffering of animals. We will make laws for:

- The preservation of species threatened with extinction and protection of wildlife from harmful exploitation and destruction of critical habitat
- Protection of animals including companion animals from cruelty and violence.

Land

NFP will review all land policies and legislation to guarantee equal opportunities for benefits derived from utilization of land.

NFP will lease land under NLTA from landowners at 10% UCV and sub-lease to aspiring tenants under ALTA at 6% UCV with 4% to be subsidised by government.

To stimulate economic activities relevant tax to be imposed on all registered leases and freehold land not developed for a year from the date of imposing this policy.

Value of unused land to be assessed and recorded so that viable land can be identified and proposal for development initiated to boost economic development.

NFP government will identify land available viable for development using the proposed \$200 million for housing so that all citizens are not deprived of decent living environment and opportunities

Disaster Preparedness

NFP will strengthen real time data and information on anticipated national disasters.

We will:

- Strengthen the capability of institutions directly involved in research, updates and recording of natural disaster events.
- Ensure that there is a standing allocation in the national budget for disaster preparedness
- Account for all assistance rendered times of natural disasters, including aid and voluntary contributions.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

We have the land and the climate. The world is demanding good quality food. And yet we import nearly \$1 billion worth of food into Fiji each year. We have to completely change the game. We will:

- Make imports of seeds, agricultural machinery and other agricultural inputs duty free

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and improve the processes

- Revitalise Agro-Marketing so that farmers have a minimum price for Yaqona, Dalo, Cassava, Ginger and other high in demand crops
- Offer tax incentives to large agricultural enterprises (foreign and local) to develop other crops for export, on condition that they support local farmers to supply them Tobacco and poultry farming are good examples of how overseas investors have developed agriculture for Fiji farmers.
- Completely review the structure of the dairy industry and guarantee a price of \$1.25 per litre of milk at the farm gate
- Look at ways to reduce the barriers and time of getting farm produce to urban centres to sell, including building more mini markets and maintain proactive extension services to help farmers utilize modern techniques
- Invest \$20 million per year in creating and maintaining new plantation forests for in-demand timbers. Planting and maintenance will create new jobs and forests will benefit future generations
- Completely review the current inshore and offshore fisheries policies so that local fishermen obtain the benefit of Fiji's fisheries resources.

Economic Policies

The Government boasts of economic growth. But compared to countries in Asia and Africa, Fiji's economic growth average – below 3% per year – is poor. Fiji remains one of the hardest places in the world to start a business. Tax policies are bureaucratic and punitive. We will:

- Hold a National Economic Summit in our first 100 days in office to gather views on policies to develop business and promote economic equality
- Completely overhaul the rules for investment and the process for starting businesses. We will follow the New Zealand model - because New Zealand is No 1 in the world for ease of starting a business
- Set up a new Fiscal Review Committee whose mission will be to consult widely and advise on simplifying the taxation system and removing bureaucracy
- Set a simple, predictable, five-year government economic policies in National Budgets. These will not change from year to year. Businesses need predictability and stability
- Work in partnership with business to develop infrastructure and social services for profit and to meet their social responsibility objectives. We understand that business is not just about profits and that business also wants to contribute to society.
- Urgently implement mining projects and accelerate the mining industry. This will be done in full consultation with the resource owners to ensure their full participation and flow of maximum benefits to them

Tourism

- We will abolish the 6% ECAL (which the government has never used for climate adaptation) and add a 2% service tax, to be collected and distributed to all waged employees of the resort/ restaurant/service
- We will completely review and overhaul the taxation of tourism, in consultation with the industry. This will include the types of tax, when tax changes are implemented and using the revenue on tourism taxes for tourism promotion that benefits all tourism operators.

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Environment

NFP will put in place strategies and measures to ensure that utilization of natural resources are done in a manner that is not detrimental to the environment. We will also ensure that resources retain maximum value to the country and provides maximum benefits to resource owners. We will:

- Review the 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
- We believe 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 landowners and relevant stakeholders.
- Create transparent and consistent policies for environmental management because it plays such a positive and essential role in securing environmental wellbeing.
- Ensure Fiji has the resources, capacity and other services to protect and assist our communities as we deal with the challenges we will all face due to the effects of climate change.
- 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 and Safety Act, Public Health Act (1955), Environmental Management Act, Mining Act, Water Supply Act (1955), Town Planning Act, Sewage Amendment Act (1974), Ports Authority of Fiji Regulation (2008) and the Litter Amendment Decree (2010)
- Work in partnership with environmental NGOs towards environmental stewardship in light of rapid urban development and other significant influences.
- Review the management of fisheries, particularly dealing with licenses issued to offshore fishing vessels.
- Endeavour 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.
- The 20 cents plastic bag levy will be removed and replaced by a plastic buy-back scheme, which will allow people to sell plastic bags and other plastic products to government or private sector operators for recycling and or environment friendly disposal, with the eventual aim of banning the use of single use plastic bags altogether
- We will put in place a Science-based Environment Policy
- We will establish a National Laboratory for all science related testing, including regular tests on drinking water, other surface and atmospheric tests of all kinds needed for Fiji's growth and development.
- We will immediately direct Energy Fiji Limited to change its operations at Wainasavulevu Weir to stop further damage to the Wainisavulevu cloudforest. We will begin an Inquiry and immediately set aside \$10M for rehab and cloudforest recovery as a first step.

Law and Human Rights

- We will completely overhaul and review our law and human rights institutions, including

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the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission

- We will urgently investigate how to make the court system quicker and less expensive, and promote Alternative Dispute Resolution
- We will ensure that human rights will be at the forefront of all government policies and legislation. No legislation will be enacted if it breaches any fundamental human right.

Infrastructure

- We will hold consultations on a National Infrastructure Plan. This will be to ensure that all infrastructure is planned in an integrated, long term way. The National Infrastructure Plan will include roads and bridges, wharves, airstrips, railways and alternative modes of transport; power, water and sewerage; and communications. We will set policies for safe, climate-friendly and economically efficient infrastructure
- We will look at funding alternatives for infrastructure including BOOT (Build, Own, Operate, Transfer) projects begun by the private sector
- We will review and establish a new policy for haulage sector.

Youth

“Throughout history, it’s always been young people who had the passion, who had the courage and who were worried about social justice” – NFP leader Biman Prasad

- But it's not just about social justice. It's about economic opportunities too.
- We understand that youth are tired of being talked down to. We understand that they must be directly involved in strategies to improve their lives
- In our first 100 days we will hold a National Youth Summit with a wide range of youth representatives we will develop strategies focused on education, employment and enterprise
- We want to develop new opportunities in tourism, agri-business, outsourcing and servicing. These are not just opportunities for employment. They are opportunities for young people to begin small enterprises and to use their energy and passion to develop them.
- We want youth to take leadership in the community – in sports, social events, health and environmental awareness. This will soon be their country – they must help to shape it
- Fiji's youth need modern technology. They must also have freedom of speech and creativity and the right to criticise and call out the mistakes of our national leaders. This is what we promise

Labour and Trade Unions

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. We acknowledge the positive role unions can play towards creating fairness across our society and improving productivity. We will:

- Implement a \$5 an hour minimum national living wage
- Remove all restrictive decrees related to employment and restore full collective bargaining
- Re-empower trade unions by strengthening worker and trade union rights consistent

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with International Labour Organization standards

- Remove fixed term employment contracts for public and private sectors except for positions of higher management
- Increase public sector workers' retirement age to 60 years
- Provide workers access to efficient and fair justice
- Ensure decent and minimum wages to all workers
- Review the administration of the Wages Councils so they become effective in protecting workers' economic rights
- Restore benefits lost under Essential National Industries Employment Decree (2011)
- Restore essential service industries to pre ENI Decree schedule
- Restore the right to protest, picketing, demonstrations and strikes.
- Review Essential Industries Dispute Settling machinery such as arbitration court structure.
- Extend dispute reporting time for essential industries to three months.
- Review the governance structure of the Fiji National Provident Fund, the current pension scheme and member benefits and restore lost pensions.

Empowering Civil Society

Working together means allowing others to work to improve our community. Often the people know better than the Government what is needed. We want them to organise themselves to help others. We will:

- Allocate \$10 million a year towards community grants to improve social services, facilities and sports. Qualifying community organisations must contribute 75% of the cost
- Enact a new Incorporated Societies Act, similar to New Zealand, to enable NGOs to be registered simply, easily and quickly so they can begin the work they want to do
- Allocate \$5 million a year towards small grants to NGOs for projects that impact their immediate communities. This will be on a "matching funding" basis (Government will match every dollar raised by the NGO to the required limit)
- Repeal the Media Decree and create an environment to facilitate freedom of expression without undue restrictions.

Foreign Affairs

We want a foreign affairs policy that works for our people, not the egos of our leaders. We will:

- Realign our foreign policy back towards our traditional partners – Australia, New Zealand, Europe, the United States – partners who share democratic values and concern for human rights
- Close down embassies in Brazil, Ethiopia and other places which are not paying their way. We cannot afford to waste money on foreign adventures we cannot influence.
- Our foreign policy will strongly support the self-determination of the people of West Papua, whom the current Fiji First government has shamefully ignored

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Sports and Recreation

Sports is not just a good thing in itself. It builds fitness, fights NCDs and is a strong force for national unity. This is why we want to completely re-think our approach to the current national sports policy.

- In today's world, sports is also an economic opportunity for many young people. More than 400 young Fijians are playing professional rugby around the world. They send money back to Fiji and serve as ambassadors of our country in their adopted communities. This number can double if we can develop their skills. There are also unlimited opportunities for Fijians to work around the world as sports managers, therapists and officials. This is an opportunity we must not miss.
- NFP will set up a National Sports Institute for training and development in all major sports and establish sports academies around the country.
- NFP will keep politics out of the Fiji Rugby Union and encourage it to thrive under independent management and commercial sponsorship.

National Infrastructure Authority

NFP doesn't believe that despite pumping in a few billion dollars into Fiji Roads Authority, there is value for money for the roads and bridges being either upgraded or constructed by FRA. There has been huge wastage of funds.

We will replace FRA with establishment of the National Infrastructure Authority (NIA). The NIA will establish depots in every major municipality and rural station. Under NIA, at least 5,000 new jobs will be created in the next four years bringing back jobs lost to foreign contractors. We will remove the functions of the Ministry of Waterways and absorb that capability into the National Infrastructure Authority.

The NIA will be responsible for:

- Maintenance, repair and construction of new roads and bridges
- Maintenance of street lights
- Maintenance of government properties like hospitals, accommodation homes and schools on a regular basis

Daylight Saving

NFP will remove Daylight Saving. When urban people change the clock, this "steals" daylight from rural people at the beginning of the day when they have to get cane to the mill or vegetables to the market.

We urge the Ministry of Employment Opportunities, Productivity and Industrial Relations not to go ahead with the planned implementation of daylight savings on 4th November 2018.

If the Ministry goes ahead and does it, then an NFP government will remove it and return to normal times within 20 days after taking office.

Reducing Cost of Doing Business

The cost of doing business in Fiji has skyrocketed in the past 12 years. On Ease of Doing Business rankings, Fiji is ranked 101 out of 190 countries. On the Ease of Starting a Business, Fiji is ranked 160 out of 190 countries.

The high fees and charges for various unnecessary bureaucratic requirements are strangling our small and medium businesses.

**\$5 an hour | \$100 per tonne | 15 items VAT-free |
Housing | Education | Health**

NFP will review all the charges and fees to ensure both Ease of doing business and the Ease of starting a business are less time consuming and cheaper.

E-ticketing

We understand the difficulties being faced by our people who use buses everyday as their means of transportation, especially after the implementation of the compulsory e-ticketing system.

Our people have to cut other expenditure to renew e-ticketing cards at the beginning of each week. This is putting severe strain on the tight budgets of the people burdened by high cost of living.

NFP believes that there has to be a dual system of payment of bus fares to give time to our people to adjust to the system.

NFP will implement a dual payment system of both through cash and e-ticketing.

Internet

Internet charges in Fiji are different for the amount of data purchased from every service provider. There are also numerous concerns raised by people of their data being lost due to time limit on its usage.

NFP will review all internet charges with a view to standardising the charges with a view to lowering the cost of internet.

IN OUR FIRST 100 DAYS WE WILL

- **Hold a National Economic Summit and other sectoral summits to review and work with stakeholders on the implementation of our social and economic policies**
- **Cut Prime Minister and Ministerial salaries by 25% and drastically slash allowances to pre-September 29, 2016 levels (when they were exorbitantly increased) from Day One. We will appoint an emoluments commission to hear from the public and determine salaries and allowances for PM, ministers and parliamentarians**
- **Repeal the Media Decree and other laws restricting freedom of expression**
- **Ensure there is no regulated social media**

SMALL THINGS MATTER

- We will hold every second Cabinet meeting out of Suva so that Ministers can meet and hear from the people and be reminded that their policies are for them
- We will not hold summits and conferences in big hotels. They will be held in community facilities like schools and church halls so we are transparent in the community
- We will abolish Ministerial motorcades. Ministers do not need police escorts, sirens or flashing lights. They will not claim priority on the roads. They will follow the rules like everyone else.

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Where will we save money?

- We will reduce the budget for Government media advertising, unnecessary public broadcasting any other propaganda expenditure. We will cancel all foreign propaganda consultancy contracts
- We will cut wasteful operational expenditure in all Government Departments. Huge amounts of money are wasted on transport, travel to unnecessary meetings, overseas travel, paper files and catering. We will critically review the Fiji Roads Authority budget and the efficiency of FRA, which spends hundreds of millions of dollars a year
- We will not engage in costly vote-buying gimmicks but ensure government assistance is delivered to the most needy
- We will reduce the number of Fiji diplomatic missions overseas and only maintain those that provide returns for example in trade, marketing and tourism
- We will set up a list of nominated community small projects to be funded from savings in Government spending.

WHY NFP?

After four years as a minority but highly effective parliamentary Opposition party, we are now offering ourselves for judgment by all our people. Above all, we are offering ourselves as a truly credible alternative to the current Government.

LEGENDARY

The National Federation Party has come a long way from its first formative days from the day of the mango tree with unshakeable roots in Rakiraki under which the late Alparti Tataiya suggested to our founder Leader Ambalal Dahyabhai Patel (A D Patel) and his able lieutenants to form a political party.

Therefore this party was blessed. We say blessed because overlooking that tree was the legendary Nakauvadra mountain range. Therefore we are legendary since 1963. We have survived the political pitfalls for the last 55 years. We will be around for another 55 years.

Political parties formed after NFP have come and gone despite being led by personalities. But the NFP remains, – a principled impregnable fortress.

And we can tell you that more parties will dissipate after the forthcoming general elections but we will live on.

Our party has been led by leaders who were statesmen in their own right. Their achievements are permanent milestones. Leaders like A D Patel, S M Koya, Harish Sharma and Justice Jai Ram Reddy were giants of their time in ability, understanding and perception of the problems facing Fiji. They always put national interest above everything else.

For them political capital or simply winning was secondary to principles of truth, righteousness, equality, dignity and justice.

And 55 years later, these principles remain as strong as the unshakable roots of the mango tree. They will not be shirked for political expediency.

We are at the crossroads. But together, as a mighty collective force, we shall prevail.

POSTSCRIPT:

This Manifesto is to be read together with the various NFP policy statements adopted and published separately by the party.

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TRUST



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