

People's Democratic Party



2014 MANIFESTO



The future is in your hands

**REAL CHANGE!
FORWARD FIJI!**

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JOIN US!

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I want a Fiji that is one nation and not divided, a nation that we are proud to call our home. A nation we can believe in.

I want to renew faith in politics through a PDP government that will govern in the interest of the people who are the majority, the very people who work hard, play by the rules and pay their dues, yet feel let down by a system that favours a few.

A PDP government will unite our people and move the nation forward. After eight long years, the nation and the people are ready for change. PDP offers real change! Join us in our journey to take the country back.



Felix Anthony
PARTY LEADER



People's Democratic Party (PDP)

Manifesto 2014

“Rebuilding democracy and transforming lives”

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OUR VISION FOR OUR COUNTRY

The Fiji Trades Union Congress in its struggle for restoration of democracy and protection of human and workers' rights in Fiji decided in January 2013 to form a political party. The FTUC directed that this party would be based on principles of multiculturalism, inclusiveness and the promotion of women and youth in our national life. With other like minded citizens, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) was registered in May 2013.

PDP pledges to return Fiji to parliamentary democracy. We will build strong democratic institutions that respect human rights. The Party undertakes to unite the people of Fiji and to heal the wounds of the past.

The PDP program for Government summarised in this Manifesto is rooted in the values of multicultural harmony; compassion for the poor, the underprivileged, equality and social justice for all.

A CONSTITUTION THAT SERVES ALL OUR PEOPLE

Our Constitution belongs to all of us. The process of constitution making and its substance should be inclusive, participatory and transparent. The Fiji Constitution is a living document.

The 2013 Constitution does not pass the test of being the Supreme Law. It allows laws to be enacted that limit rights and freedoms of our people. It exempts Government from ensuring observance of those fundamental rights.

The positive elements of the 1997 Constitution and the Yash Ghai Draft need to be included in our Constitution. The PDP undertakes to review the 2013 Constitution with a view to incorporating the positive aspects of the 1997 Constitution, and the Yash Ghai Draft into our constitution.

CLEAN GOVERNMENT

The PDP is committed to establishing a clean and effective government. It is committed to a government that is accountable and transparent. PDP is committed to ridding the government of corruption.

To achieve this, special attention will be given to areas where there are discretionary powers by strengthening the mechanisms for better prevention, deterrent and detection. FICAC as the principal agency charged with this task will undergo substantive review to effectively and efficiently deliver its mandate.

The PDP Government will ensure that the Auditor's General's Report for the past seven years are concluded and made public.

REBUILDING OUR MULTICULTURAL COUNTRY

Multiculturalism is the only way forward for Fiji. The contribution of all the ethnic groups is vital to Fiji's progress.

Multiculturalism will only work if ethnic groups are secure in their identity and their rights and their interests are strongly protected.

The issue of a common name for all citizens of Fiji shall undergo wide consultations with the people. PDP will encourage a full debate on the issue in and outside the parliament. PDP will encourage a full debate on the issue in and outside the parliament to encourage a common name which receives wide approval.

PROMOTING NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

The PDP recognises the hurt and pain suffered by many citizens in these trying times since 1987. There needs to be a closure on these unfortunate events for the country to move forward. The PDP hopes to reduce the pain through the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), similar to the one established in South Africa in 1995 at the end of apartheid.

The Fiji Truth and reconciliation Commission established by the PDP shall:

- be based on the spirit of nation building;
- provide an open process without prejudice;
- collate data and evidence from victims and perpetrators of any injustice arising from past coups;
- promote justice for the victims and seek forgiveness for perpetrators of injustice and of past crimes.

LAW AND JUSTICE

The independence of the judiciary is key to a democratic society. PDP will strengthen the judiciary by establishing a new, modernised, efficient and transformed criminal justice system to develop the capacity for fighting and reducing crime in real terms. Government will review the functioning of the judiciary and the correctional services to achieve integration and coordination.

PDP will:

- Create a more efficient court system to ensure that criminal cases are dealt with expeditiously and without delay within six months of a person being charged;
- Ensure that the judiciary control court proceedings and curb on adjournment and unnecessary delays;
- Ensure that there will be sufficient qualified judges and magistrates;
- Ensure that there will be a well resourced and independent Director of Public Prosecutions, and;
- Limit the duplication between prosecutorial roles of Office of Director of Prosecutions (ODPP) and Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC).

PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

PDP recognises the inherent rights and freedoms that exist under the 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The PDP will ensure that the Bill of Rights contained in the 2013 Constitution be upheld at all times and be brought in uniformity with the UDHR and the ICCPR. It will fiercely oppose any effort to limit these freedoms.

- PDP pledges to revoke all decrees that violates human rights including workers' rights and indigenous rights;
- PDP will ensure equality for all citizens.

SAFEGUARDING WORKERS' RIGHTS

PDP is committed to the protection of the rights and dignity of workers, including the right to decent work. The PDP promises to oppose any current and future law(s) that curtails individual rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To this end, the PDP will develop policies that comply with the Employment Relations Promulgation (2007) and the Core ILO Conventions including Freedom of Association and the Right to Collective Bargaining. The party will repeal the Essential Industries Decree and its Amendments, State Services Decree, Administration of Justice Decree and its Amendments, and Public Order Amendment Decree where ever these violate rights and freedoms.

The party will engage with employers and unions to form a strong partnership and cultivate a culture of

harmonious industrial relations.

As a matter of priority, the party will:

- Reinstatement the Tripartite Forum;
- Reintroduce the wages councils;
- Restore all Collective Agreements that were in force at the time when any decree annulled them;
- Reinstatement all personal grievances and disputes that were pending in arbitration when decrees were issued to discontinue further action. Ensure full compliance of all labour legislation;
- Allow for review of any termination of employment during the currency of the above mentioned decrees;
- Set up a Tripartite Committee to review all labour legislation to ensure compliance with all ratified ILO Conventions, and;
- Amend legislation to allow police and prison officers the right to form unions and enjoy all rights enjoyed by workers of the country.

PROMOTING RIGHTS OF YOUTH

Fiji's youth have a right to engage in all areas of social, economic and political life, including decision-making. The PDP will promote the education, training, up-skilling and employability of young people, as well as their active participation in civic and political life.

PROMOTING RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

PDP will develop legislation that guarantee the rights of all Fiji's children to education, safety, health and well-being, and that protect them from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, poverty, discrimination, exploitation and other violations of their fundamental rights. The Party will improve the enforcement of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which Fiji ratified in 1993.

EMPOWERING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS

PDP recognises the need for our citizens living with disabilities and special needs to be respected, to maintain their dignity and individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices and have independence as persons. Our citizens living with disabilities and special needs have the right to full and effective participation and inclusion in society, the right to equality of opportunity, the right to accessibility, and the right to respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities and special needs as part of human diversity and humanity.

Within these policies PDP will promote for the respect of the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and special needs, and respect for the right of children with disabilities and special needs to preserve their identities.

SAFEGUARDING INDIGENOUS RIGHTS & PROMOTING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Indigenous customs and traditions, institution and values form an intrinsic part of iTaukei identity and lives. The Party respects the central place of the iTaukei within Fiji's wider multicultural society and will pursue policies and programmes consistent with the UN Indigenous & Tribal Peoples Convention, which Fiji has ratified.

PDP recognises the value of indigenous knowledge, which cuts across many different sectors and is a source of sustainable livelihoods. The Party will introduce the policies and legislation to mainstream indigenous knowledge, protect its intellectual property, and minimise the risks of foreign commercial exploitation or extinction in the face of competing global knowledge systems.

RESTORING THE GREAT COUNCIL OF CHIEFS

PDP recognises the important role of the GCC as an institution and the role of chiefs in modern Fiji. PDP

will reinstate the GCC and will assist it to promote indigenous customs and traditions and to improve the economic well-being of indigenous people. The PDP will be guided by advice of the GCC on all matters relating to the protection of indigenous rights and interests.

PDP will further insure that there is no interference by government in the election of the provincial councils.

ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY

PDP recognises the efforts and role played by the women in our society. The suppression of women's rights means the disempowerment of half of the country's population. This undermines our progress and development.

Gender rights are an integral part of human rights. The PDP will work with major stakeholders promote gender equality in all sectors.

PDP as a priority will focus on:

- Mainstreaming gender in all national and sub-national policies;
- Increasing to 30 per cent women's participation at all levels of decision making including national, sub-national and corporate entities;
- Economic empowerment for women;
- Developing a comprehensive response to eliminating violence against women;
- Vigorously monitoring and evaluating progress in achieving gender equality.



Some PDP women executives and members at a recent workshop.

SAFEGUARDING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION & MEDIA FREEDOM

PDP Government will introduce a Freedom of Information Bill and bring the media industry in line with internationally recognised norms of media practice. PDP will review media ownership laws and also remove any form of government control over local media. The following decrees will be reviewed as soon as possible to ensure freedom of the media as exercised in developed democracies of the world:

- Media Industry Development Decree 2010 and its amendment decrees;
- Television Amendment Decree 2012.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

The primary focus of PDP's economic policy for Fiji is increasing the value of employment in high labour absorptive export and import replacement activities. Fiji's economy is characterised as a small open economy and a price taker. The current claim in GDP growth is not matched by the growth in the value of employment, according to published data, and therefore has not benefitted the majority of the citizens of Fiji.

PDP will focus on export and import replacement activities to improve and sustain the standard of living of the citizens of Fiji. To achieve this, PDP will focus on increasing domestic value added (DVA) of economic activities generated which translates directly to the increase in the welfare of society.

PDP's strategy to achieving this is to create an environment that is conducive to investment in activities that provide a high domestic value added.

These include:

- Primary industry including:
 - agriculture;
 - forestry, and;
 - fishing;
- Tourism;
- Manufacturing.

Key strategies to be pursued include:

Investment incentives

Refocus the investment incentives offered through InvestmentFiji towards employment-based incentives

Most of the investment incentives currently offered through InvestmentFiji are focused on concessions, principally tax concessions. This type of incentive aims to attract entrepreneurs by increasing the profitability of their enterprises. While the strategy may deliver increased investment it is less effective in increasing employment.

PDP's main aim is to increase employment and will work towards establishing an incentive structure that is focused on increasing employment. PDP will explore the creation of Export Development Market Grants (EMDG) to compliment the Forum's Market Support Fund (MSF). A schedule of grants would be available to suitably qualified enterprises. To be eligible for an Export Market Development Grant the business should be export oriented. It should also be providing employment to Fijians.

The suggested changes in focus of investment incentives will be deliverable through InvestmentFiji's existing organisational structure.

Resource mobilisation

Land

Improve access to land for commercial and household production

PDP recognises that the economic resource that offers the best chance for increasing employment is land. Land can be utilised for commercial production and household production – both of which are economically valuable and require high labour inputs.

To achieve this, PDP will tap on the existing framework that is designed to mobilise under-utilised land. ITLB as the institution that administers this framework can be reformed and the framework can be updated to reflect contemporary realities.

The key to improving access to land is the reform of the ITLB.

The issues that need to be addressed in this reform include:

- All landowners receive a fair share of the rents collected from the leasing of their land.
- Under-utilised land should be brought into production.
- Landowners should have the option of direct participation in the leasing negotiations.
- Tenants should have secure access to land on fair and reasonable terms.
- ITLB administration charges would be reviewed to ensure that landowners receive maximum benefit.

Finance

Improve Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) access to existing sources of finance

PDP acknowledges that SMEs are a major source of employment in Fiji. In spite of this, usually SMEs have trouble accessing finance, often due to limited ability to secure loans. With an existing robust finance sector and financing mechanisms in Fiji that directly target SMEs, PDP will facilitate researches to review the appropriateness of these delivery mechanisms.

These mechanisms will be minimised and PDP will work towards supporting new business start-ups and businesses that have limited financing. These include the Reserve Bank of Fiji's (RBF) Import Substitution and Export Finance Facility (ISEFF) and the Fiji Development Bank's Agriculture and Small & Medium En-

terprise Corporate Loans and Micro Loans Facility.

Labour

PDP will provide support to employers who take on new employees and/or support existing employees study to improve their skills and qualifications.

a) *Provide tax concessions to encourage the recruitment of new employees*

Drawing on best practices, PDP will consider providing tax concessions which can be tailored to encourage employers to take on new employees. This would be in the form of tax credit, the percentage quantum to be determined for the first year of employment and may be at a reducing rate over subsequent years. This approach will be used to foster new employment and employment of disadvantaged groups/individuals. As a strategy it is directly targeted to create employment.

b) *Provide incentives and support for employee training*

The PDP will review the incentives, already in place, for training undertaken in Fiji. In this regard, PDP will reinstate TPAF as the specialised agency for vocational training with internationally recognised qualification. This policy directly targets employment and therefore fits within PDP's economic policy framework. Work need to be done on structuring the support to ensure that it adds value to Fiji's economy.

Government Budget

a) *Medium term target should be to achieve fiscal balance*

PDP is committed to achieving a fiscal balance. PDP acknowledges that persistent fiscal deficits will result in inflation and the devaluation of the currency. This will inevitably erode the standard of living of most Fijians. Given the fiscal performance of the current regime, however, achieving a fiscal balance within the foreseeable future, will be a challenge.

b) *Limit size of Government*

PDP recognises the importance of limiting the size of Government. Fiji has experienced in the past, Government competition for finance can squeeze out the private sector. PDP is committed to a effective and efficient civil service.

c) *Reduce reliance on FNPF*

PDP will continue to reduce its reliance on FNPF, so as to facilitate increased lending to the private sector. Previous Governments' heavy reliance on FNPF funding seriously jeopardised the security of worker's pensions.

d) *Curtail foreign borrowing to within serviceable limits*

PDP recognises the current high levels of foreign debt. This is seriously close to being unsustainable and is not underpinned by a strong economic growth over the past years evidenced, by greater reliance on foreign borrowing.

PDP acknowledges that the level of debt expressed as a percentage of GDP is a poor indicator of debt sustainability. The real test is the extent to which the growth in an economy is sufficient to cover the cost of repayment. PDP accepts that the only way out of this situation is to substantially boost the real growth in exports.

e) *The taxation structure should be expanded to include resource rent taxes collected on natural resources*



The first PDP signboard goes up in Lautoka in November 2013.

PDP believes that natural resources including fish, timber, water and minerals belong to Fiji and access to those resources should be subject to taxation. In some cases this is already happening. The quantum of each tax should be assessed on an industry by industry basis.

f) *The existing taxes rates should be reviewed to identify anomalies*

PDP believes that any review of taxation should be carried out within the framework that ensures the Government share of the economy does not expand. As discussed above, the size of Government should be constrained to avoid competition for financial resources.

QUALITY EDUCATION SYSTEM

PDP believes that every person has the right to and access modern, effective, relevant and quality education.

PDP will appoint an independent education commission with appropriate terms of reference to examine and make recommendations on all aspects of the education system for a modern Fiji. Within the term of its rule, the PDP will begin to implement the recommendations of the commission.

Amongst all other issues, the commission shall include a consideration of:

- Blend of quota, merit and needs basis system on scholarship;
- Assessment system and examination;
- Teacher/pupil ratio;
- Examination;
- Quality teacher, environment and tools;
- Early Childhood teachers, and;
- Mainstreaming technical and vocational education into primary school curriculum through to secondary and beyond.

The retirement age policy has had serious implication on all sectors of work including all civil servants.

For all civil servants and established workers on civil pay, PDP will ensure that the retirement age extended to 60 years on a voluntary basis as soon as practicable.

PDP will continue to support the efforts of the previous governments in providing free tuition to all students at all levels. Other provisions such as bus fares for school children attending school will continue to be provided. In addition PDP will rationalise and facilitate free meal for poor students coming from rural setting.

PDP will continue merit based scholarships but put in measures to ensure that the students on scholarship are able to make their own choice. These scholarships would be on a need basis.

PDP will revisit the scholarship loans and scholarship schemes to ensure that the provisions do not work to the disadvantage of communities that continues to need affirmative action. The students loan shall only be paid back on finding work and reaching a reasonable income threshold after graduation.

The authority of the founding institutions of schools will be respected. Community schools will be encouraged to make their own autonomous development decisions providing accountability to those who fund the school.

Faith-based institutions will be allowed to teach the core values of their faith without breaching the secular provisions of the Fiji Constitution. Government schools and community schools with mixed faith shall have access to the teachings of their own core values.

The Education Commission shall review the regulations for establishment of private schools in relation to:

- facilities;
- computer schools;
- standard facilities and fees.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PDP recognises that there is a need for an integrated human resource development that is effective and sustainable. PDP embraces life-long learning as an over-arching policy of HRD. It will place emphasis in re-skilling and up-skilling the workforce and develop policies together with the education providers that would provide incentives for workers to improve their marketability.

In addition PDP acknowledges that there are skills shortages which result from the ongoing emigration of skilled labour, as well as low levels of workplace competence. The most severe shortage of skilled workers is in the area of nursing, competent tradespersons, especially in the construction industry.

PDP will promote practical training in the form of workplace attachments through incentives, working to raise the profile for TVET as a worthwhile and rewarding option as compared to academic studies. PDP will review the working of NEC to ensure its effectiveness and relevance and that the scheme is not abused.

A REVOLUTION TO CREATE QUALITY JOBS

About a half of Fiji's population live in poverty. Urban poverty stands at around 45 per cent with rural poverty on a rapid upsurge due to the decline traditional agricultural commodities such as sugarcane, copra and the other related industries and the unstable political situation that has existed for the last eight years. Unemployment amongst our young people aged between 18 and 35 is exceptionally high with young women being more adversely affected.



The inaugural PDP Convention on 3 May 2014 in Lautoka with the newly elected executive members with Party Leader Felix Anthony.

PDP will take the following immediate measures to address the issue of employment generation and poverty reduction:

- *Expanding the tourism sector skills*
Working with resort and tourism sector employers in partnership with training providers, develop Government supported apprenticeship programs in services including security, food and beverages, water sports, equipment and building maintenance and repairs.
- *Creating new value added jobs in forestry industry*
Working with training providers, commercial banks including the FDB, and forestry resources owners to establish small and medium scales enterprises in Vanua Levu, Naitasiri and Serua to manufacture value-added products.
- *Establishing a marine resource protection cadre*
Working with fisheries stakeholders, Fiji's navy and maritime island communities and Fiji's development partners to develop a network of community monitors from Rotuma, Yasawas, Lau, Lomaiviti to Kadavu to develop real time monitoring of fisheries activity in Fijian waters, using new technologies to improve fisheries management.
- *Increasing jobs in value added marine exports*
Providing incentives to domestic and international private sector enterprises for value added, environmentally safe marine products such as sea weed, Fijian branded pearl and marine products. PDP will facilitate marketing, branding and market access for these products.
- *Increasing high quality jobs in small and medium scale enterprises*

Re-energising the SME sector through a special window of FDB and working with commercial banks to support young adults to be provided with technical, financial and management support to set up start up enterprises in service sector such as IT repairs, motor repairs, fashion, Internet cafes, and restaurants.

- *Climate change specialists*

Working with villages on mainland and island communities, tourism stakeholders, research institutions and development partners to establish 'lighthouse' projects for climate change adaptation including reestablishing coral beds, marine protection zones, forest regeneration, protection of traditional plant varieties, erosion adaption, regeneration of mangrove cover.

- *Boosting service centres*

Maximising of Fiji's unique positioning on the dateline, its English-speaking base for young people, and good IT connectivity, provide coherent package of support through land, connectivity, and other supportive infrastructure for new and expanded call centers to service Australasian and North American markets.

- *Fostering skills for an IT revolution*

Working with private sector providers, all secondary schools and all primary school on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, all government offices including rural and island health centres, agriculture departments, will be enabled by end of 2018.

- *Community health workers*

Though the Ministry of Health strengthening village and community based health workers to promote primary health care including fight against dengue, better nutrition and the first point of contact with specialised support through hospitals through telemedicine.

FREEDOM FROM POVERTY

Poverty remains a stumbling block towards national development. Approximately 200,000 of our citizens experience extreme poverty. Poor nutrition, housing, health, education have cyclical effects. Children born in poor households are very likely to end up poor themselves as a result. Poor health of low income households means that the emergency health care costs to the nation increases over time. The whole country is worse off because so many of our citizens are so poor.

PDP's program for eradicating poverty includes:

- *Introduction of means testing for access to government programs*

The government will introduce a means testing program pegged at less than \$300 per month for an average family of four. We estimate this to represent 25 per cent of those live in extreme poverty. Those who meet these eligibility criteria will have access on a priority basis to a range of government services including social welfare.

- *Immediate assistance*

As an immediate measure for those who qualify under the means test program, the PDP will remove VAT from all electricity charges, ensure free water supply and free medical services and waiver of all charges in all government hospitals.

- *Program to be expanded*

PDP will progressively review means testing income levels to include more people to benefit from this program. The target will be to include all those people living below the poverty line.

- *Introduction of national employment program for poor households*

A flagship community employment program will be developed to give poor households access to public employment. These programs may include maintenance of government infrastructure including roads, disaster relief, elections support, and other essential public works programs.

- *Private Enterprise Initiatives*

Private enterprises that will be granted contracts for government services including construction of roads, maintenance of government assets will be required to provide at least 15 per cent of their total jobs to people from means tested poorest households as a criteria for eligibility for award of Government contracts.



Party Leader Felix Anthony and Lautoka members give the PDP salute, a clenched right fist.

- *Supporting community organisations in the fight against poverty*
PDP Government will provide financial support to NGOs and religious organizations for targeted, specific and results based poverty reduction activities through a fund with an initial seed grant of 10 million per annum.

FOOD PRICES AND PRICE CONTROL

Mechanisms for price control, together with any associated tariffs, duties, fees and taxes, on basic food items will be reviewed with the aim of lowering these retail prices.

MINIMUM WAGE MUST BE A LIVING WAGE

PDP believes that to lift people out of poverty a living wage equating to the poverty line must be the ultimate goal. The PDP intends to achieve this within four years, while making special provision for small and medium size enterprises.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR ALL

PDP will extend Social Security Benefits so that all citizens can enjoy their fundamental right to a decent and dignified life. The absence of well-functioning social security systems is a major cause of poverty, ill health and mortality. Current social security is limited to workers in formal employment sector with majority of workers in the informal economy excluded.

PDP will, in consultation with stakeholders,

- Develop a program to offset substantial reductions in income arising from sickness, maternity, employment injury, disability and death;
- Develop a progressive program to finance health care and social security income for low-income families and the informal economy;
- Enhance the coverage and effectiveness of the system of protection, and;
- Review the operations of FNPF and the effectiveness in accordance with the mandate of FNPF to offer a secure and respectable retirement for all workers.

As immediate measures, the PDP will:

- Reinstate all FNPF pay-outs to be based on 15 per cent as per the previous agreement;
- Introduce a means tested pension scheme for all citizens over the age of 60 at the initial rate of \$120.00 per month.

HOME OWNERSHIP

PDP's goal is a home-owning society. To progress this, PDP will work with the Housing Authority and Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) to review existing facilities available to first-time home owners, whether constructing or buying ready – built homes. To do this PDP, will authorise the assessment of the previous government guarantees to Housing Authority and at the same time reassess the \$10 million government grant previously identified for HA now re-channelled to commercial banks. Furthermore, PDP will re-examine the Village Housing Scheme discontinued by the current regime.

In addition, existing sale and purchase tax structure currently levied will be reviewed by PDP.

SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Thousands of our citizens live in squatter settlements around the country together with internally displaced persons. PDP recognises the hardship of persons living under these circumstances. A PDP Government will work with all stakeholders to find permanent solutions.

PDP will:

- Secure land for resettlement of squatters and displaced persons;
- Support current housing initiatives to upgrade the living conditions of people in informal settlements.

QUALITY HEALTH-CARE FOR ALL

PDP recognises the importance of healthy living in promoting a healthy life and workforce. The PDP is concerned about level of quality health provisions for the general public, especially in the public domain. The PDP, through further reforms, will vigorously push for better health and medical facilities. Of specific focus is the production, distribution and retention of health professionals across all different specialised categories within the health sector.

PDP will:

- Invest in the modernisation of the medical infrastructure so that all the major operations can be done locally;
- Work towards developing specialist centres strengthening research and development;
- Increase resources towards public health care, in particular non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and at the same time focusing on primary health care;
- Put more resources in training to ensure that there are adequate doctors, nurses and technical staff in hospitals and health centres, and;
- Develop a comprehensive health insurance scheme through an arrangement with the FNPF.

As immediate measures, PDP will:

- Reduce waiting time at out-patients departments at the public hospitals;
- Provide all commonly used drugs at 10 per cent of the cost price;
- Provide all drugs free to children and people aged over 60 years, and;
- Regulate charges of private practitioners to a level that is affordable.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

PDP's foreign policy is a commitment towards the advancement of Fiji's economic, political, social and cultural interests. PDP is committed to Pacific regionalism and strengthening of Fiji's ties with other Pacific Island countries based on mutual respect, democracy, rule of law and good governance. PDP will restore full diplomatic relations with Australia, New Zealand, European Union, Britain, the United States and the

international community and put an end to Fiji's diplomatic isolation.

RESTORING FIJI'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

PDP firmly believes that Fiji needs to first strengthen its relations with countries in the region to foster economic and social development and to enhance the quality of life and standard of living for the people of Fiji and Pacific Island countries.

PDP will work very closely with the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat to deepen regional cooperation and economic development. We will play a leadership role in ensuring that smaller Pacific island countries work as a team to ensure level playing field with larger economies of the Pacific to gain access to their markets and to benefit from investments from these economies.

LAND ISSUES

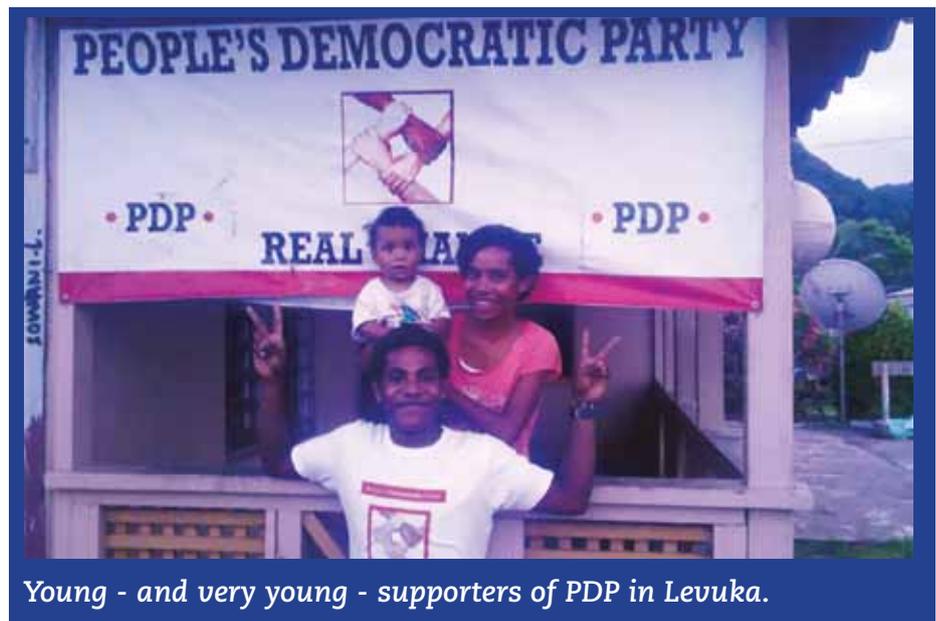
PDP will continue to ensure the inalienability of native lands while at the same time fostering development of the Fiji economy. Fiji economy has changed markedly and is now dominated by market-oriented activities, principally based on commercial agriculture, fishery, tourism and other trade. At the same time the cultural environment is also changing for Fiji.

PDP recognises that TLTB as the custodian of native land needs to be efficient and effective.

Through institutional strengthening, TLTB will be more responsive to the demands of its primary clients - the landowners.

PDP, in consultation with the TLTB and landowners, will develop a framework that provides owners with a reasonable return on their assets while giving tenants security of tenure. In recognition that TLTB currently works under a rigid regulatory framework which leaves little scope for adaptation, PDP will work with all major stakeholders to review the land rents which are fair and equitable to all parties.

PDP will also consult with landowners to review the recently amended distribution system of rent and other income.



Young - and very young - supporters of PDP in Levuka.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

PDP is committed to rural development, re-energising the agriculture sector and poverty alleviation. These challenges compliment each other. The PDP will focus on infrastructure development, such as roads, water, electricity, health, education, job creation and security in rural areas. Our tourism policy also promotes job creation and infrastructure development in rural areas.

REVITALISING THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

Our sugar industry now faces a very challenging future. Despite a lot of efforts by the previous and the current government, the outlook of this industry remains bleak. Sugar cane production has dropped from a high of 4 to 1.6 million tons. The land problems of the past have greatly affected this industry and as

such it is difficult to find new farmers to join this industry.

PDP will:

- Establish a Commission of experts and stakeholders as a matter of urgency to re-develop plans to revive the sugar industry;
- Review of FSC operations;
- Review the role of Cane Growers Council and its effectiveness;
- Seek external assistance to finance increased production including assistance to existing farmers; and,
- Develop programs to diversify the industry to support alternative livelihoods.

BUILDING THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

PDP recognises the contribution of the tourism industry to Fiji's economy. The PDP also realizes the growth potential for this industry in terms of the multiplier effect it creates for revenue generation and employment opportunities.

PDP will ensure that the tourism industry is given support by the state to reduce the leakage factor of the tourism industry, promote indigenous and domestic investments in the sector, and attract high end investors to create world class infrastructure and extend the industry to more area of the country. The PDP also believes in the growth of local and South Pacific tourism. The Fiji citizens are denied the luxury of enjoying the beauty of their own country.

As immediate measures, PDP will:

- Introduce tax incentives packages for local and international investors who are willing to take tourism away from the traditional locations to new places in the country
- Open up the international aviation sector for more international airlines
- Deregulate the local airline industry for more competition and reduction in local fares.
- Increase funding for Tourism Fiji for more promotional activities.
- Further promote and support eco-tourism activities within the industries;
- Promote sports tourism.

PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

PDP believes in a 'green' future. As such, it will pursue policies that promote a sustainable environment to be enjoyed now and that is preserved for our children. The PDP recognises the threats posed by global warming, therefore, it will engage with the local and international stakeholders to minimise the impact of this phenomenon.

PDP government will:

- Allocate budget towards sustainable environment programs with a specific focus climate change, biodiversity, waste management and pollution;
- Increase funding for resources research into renewable energy;
- Introduce classes on environmental education in schools;
- Forge Government and community partnerships to promote environmental programs.

DEVELOPING OUR LAND AND MARINE RESOURCES SUSTAINABLY

PDP will review all legislation governing Fiji's primary sectors to promote more sustainable development for Fiji's land and marine resources. The Party recognises that the land and sea are crucial sources of livelihood and food security and they must be managed sustainably so that interests of our future generations are not compromised by ill-advised short term exploitation.

PDP will promote land polices and reforms that are fair, equitable and sustainable, across all sectors ensuring that they do not aggravate problems of landlessness and rural poverty, threaten food and water security, or cause environment degradation.

PDP will support, through institutional strengthening and budgetary support, research and development

and encourage the build-up of expertise and skills in resource management including agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

A RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO MINING (LAND-BASED & SEABED)

PDP's approach to the exploitation of Fiji's mineral resources will be guided by its commitment to sustainable development, human rights and social justice. The Party will follow best practices and global standards for responsible mining. It will demand greater corporate social and consultation especially with local communities; and protect the right of workers to decent wages and healthy and safe working conditions.

With respect to deep seabed mining, the PDP will adopt a precautionary and socially responsible approach. It will place a moratorium on this activity both within and beyond territorial waters until more is known about the likely social and environmental consequences, and the affected communities have been properly consulted.

RE-ESTABLISHING PRIDE IN OUR MILITARY AND NAVY

PDP will enhance Fiji Military Forces' capacity through professional training to provide effective international peacekeeping support through the United Nations. Restoration of bilateral partnerships will ensure that our military have access to finest opportunities for training across the world.



Party supporters at the PDP Convention in Lautoka in May.

Through assistance from our traditional allies, PDP will work to strengthen and expand Fijian naval division to provide security, disaster relief and emergency response capabilities not only to Fiji's economic zone but to South Pacific region as a whole. Fiji will play a strategic role in monitoring and curbing human trafficking, transnational crimes like drugs and money laundering and protection of economic resources.

PDP will ensure that a modernized Fiji navy is capable of monitoring the exploitation of our seas by commercial fishing vessels. The capabilities of the Fijian navy will be enhanced to support other South Pacific states in protection of their marine resources and provide disaster relief.

Our men and women in uniform have been deprived of international training programs since 2006 PDP will ensure that our men and women benefit from training programs in US, UK, Australia and other friendly countries.

POLICE

It is no secret that in the past eight years, the levels of crime and corruption has risen to an all time high. While the most serious crimes are reported in the media, it is crimes at the lower end of the criminal scale that affect the larger part of the population and this includes criminal acts such as, house breaking & entering, home invasions, theft, assaults and aggravated assaults. Many of these wrong doers are never brought to justice and the victims of these crimes are denied justice due to the lack of and low rates of detection and the slow pace of our court system.

PDP pledges to make our streets and communities safer for our youth and old, for our women and children and for our boys and girls. We will be tougher with criminals while fighting crime and corruption

and fighting the causes of crime and corruption.

PDP will:

- Review the police force, its effectiveness and provide rigorous training, better remuneration and equipment;
- Increase the capacity to combat high rates of crime; serious and organised crimes and sophisticated white-collar crime, and;
- Implement regular up-skilling of members of the police force;
- Review the Code of Conduct & Ethics, Force Standing Orders and Operational Procedures;
- Provide better training to our Criminal Investigations Department (CID) and forensics personnel to improve their levels of crime detection.

PRISONERS AND CORRECTIONS

PDP will provide for greater prison rehabilitation and work with all stakeholders to reduce the number of repeat offending. PDP will review the existing state of prisons and improve conditions of facilities and provide for more training of correctional officers. Prisoners will be given greater opportunities to learn a vocation or trade to better intergrate and positively contribute to society.

RESTORING DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL

PDP is aware of the continuing urban drift and the pressures this places on urban infrastructure and services, and in turn municipal councils. The Party will work closely with councils to strengthen their capacity to regulate town and country planning and to deliver efficient and effective services, including services to those who are particularly vulnerable such as the squatter community. PDP believes that local counsellors must be elected to their positions in order to prevent cronyism and ensure transparency and accountability to town and city rate payers.

- Elections for all town and city councils will be held within 12 months of the general election;
- Audited reports of town and city council finances for the period 2006 to 2014 will be presented to rate-payers in advance of the elections.

INVESTING IN OUR SPORTS

PDP will work closely with all sports organisations to promote sports and assist in the development of sporting infrastructure across the country.

A PDP government would:

- Provide financial grants and paid fellowships to young high and talented sportsmen and sportswomen to deepen their skills and knowledge especially through international exposure;
- Provide enabling environment to sporting bodies, to professionalise and develop sporting infrastructure across the country.

MAKING THE LAND TRANSPORT AUTHORITY (LTA) ACCOUNTABLE

PDP believes the responsibility of traffic law enforcement should be with Fiji Police Force and not to be duplicated by LTA or any other state institution.

In the light of the above, PDP promises to rationalise the operations of LTA.

As a priority PDP will:

- Review LTA legislation and withdraw all extraneous levy such as the road tax;
- Rationalise rules and regulations governing LTA operations.

PRESERVING OUR CULTURE AND HERITAGE

In a world where popular culture is becoming commonplace as a result of globalization, PDP will develop programs to celebrate and promote Fiji's diverse traditional cultures. Alongside this, the Party will encourage, support and protect the intellectual property creative work and innovation in the visual and performing arts such as painting, music, theatre, dance and film, recognizing the large pool of local talent that exists particularly amongst our youth.

Community groups will be supported through Government to preserve and present traditional cultural programs within Fiji especially via TV and other media and internationally.



PDP is founded on the belief in human dignity, freedom and equality of all individuals. It is founded on the core values of human rights, including the rights of women, youth and other marginalised groups.

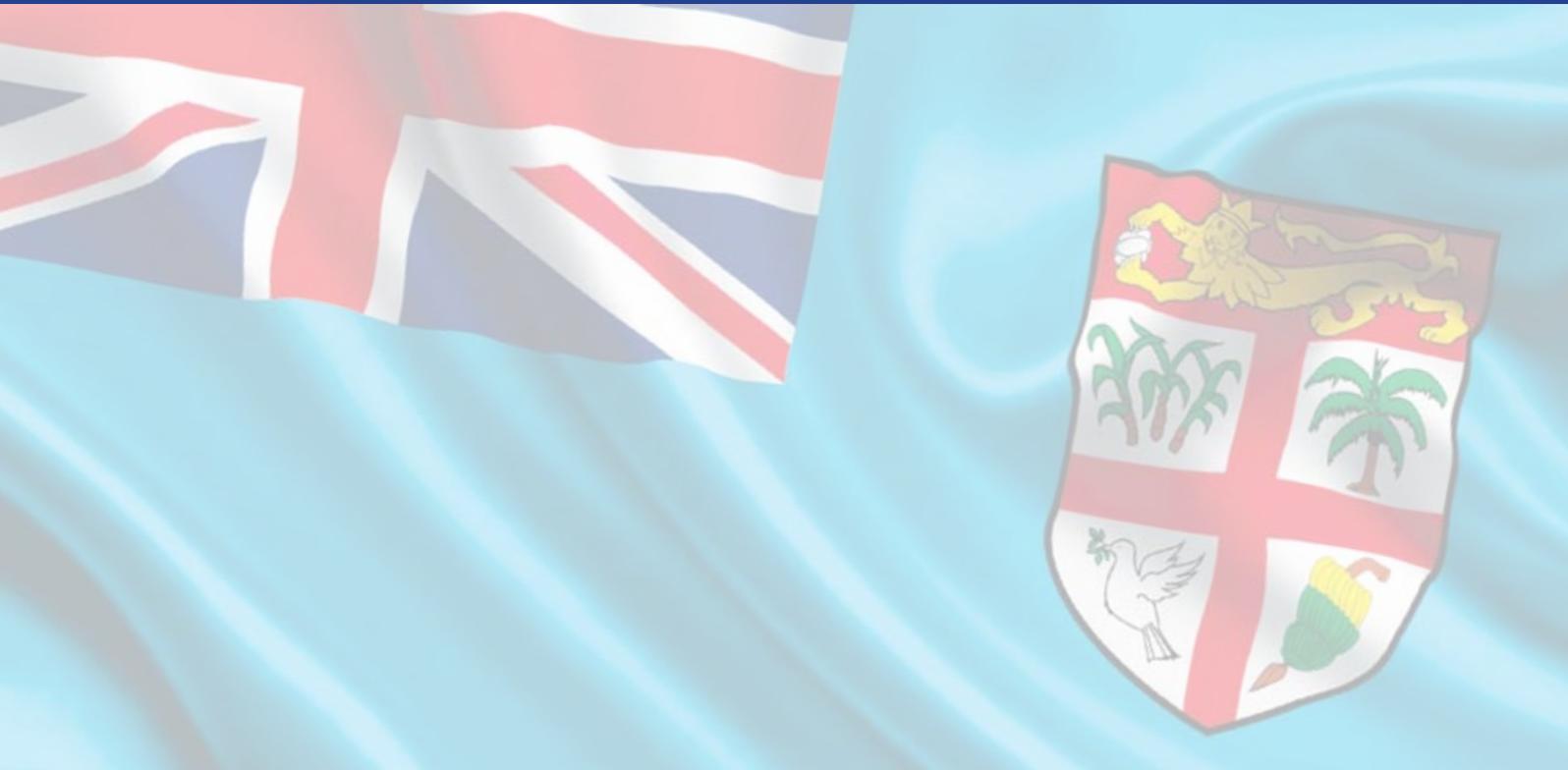
The Party is committed to democracy, the rule of law and good governance. It believes in an elected government that is incorruptible, transparent, inclusive and accountable to all citizens.



A PDP Government offers a path, a clear program and an unflinching commitment to lift Fiji out of poverty. We will build a strong democracy and transform the lives of individuals and our communities.



People's Democratic Party



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