

**Commodore Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama,**CF(Mil), OSt.J, MSD, jssc, psc

Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, Public Service, Peoples Charter for Change and Progress, Information, iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Lands and Mineral Resources

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Remarks at the Bainimarama Tournament Awards Night 2013

Novotel Hotel Sat. 2nd Nov., 2013

LAMI 1830 Hours

**The Permanent Secretary of Finance;**

**The Governor of the Reserve Bank;**

**Auditor-General;**

**Chief Executive and Managing Directors of FDB, FNPF & FRCA;**

**Chairman & Members of the Organizing Committee;**

**Our Sponsors;**

**Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Ni sa bula vinaka and a very good evening to you all.

This evening marks the second year, in succession, of the Bainimarama Tournament Awards Night to celebrate courage, achievement, sacrifice, teamwork and more importantly the forging of closer stakeholder relationship amongst the institutions that are part of the Ministry of Finance.

We are equally assembled here to showcase the quest to quality and excellence in performance, whilst celebrating unity of purpose that sport anchors in our national discourse for social cohesion and nation building.

Accordingly, we are here today celebrating *“Unity & Team work”* your theme for this year’s Tournament.

I have been reliably informed that the level of competition this year has vastly improved as you have all witnessed. This is indicative that you have all risen to challenge, given your experience last year, to improve your performance. This is truly commendable and I congratulate you all for your achievements in the last two weeks.

A few weeks ago, I was among some of you here for the PSC Service Excellence Awards Night. I would like to share the same advice I had shared with civil servants.

One of my Government’s high priority is to ensure that all our public institutions, deliver services to its citizens efficiently, equitably, and even enthusiastically.

This is a mission that we will always have before us. The continuous pursuit of excellence must be more than a slogan or a mantra.

We must always find ways to improve, to innovate, to do more with less, and to overcome challenges—no matter how well we think we are doing.

As stewards of public and member funds, all of you owe your loyalty to all Fijians.

Tonight, we are going to hear about accomplishments in the various competitions that you have been a part of.

It will be easy to become so impressed with the end results that we lose sight of how those results were achieved.

But I ask all of you to look at the values and qualities that lie behind those victories. These are the values and personal qualities that will drive us continually to be better at serving our public.

I understand that each of the institutions represented here are adopting standards and values for project and program management, and I applaud you for that.

But, good institutions will never be achieved solely by acquiring and refining management skills.

Strong positive values, innate good qualities that are personally driven, and simple good character are essential qualities for good workers.

We must commit ourselves to raising the standard, to creating a new sense of what we expect as normal behaviour and normal performance in the work that we do.

As we celebrate your sporting achievements tonight, I would like to conclude by quoting Bill Bowerman, co-founder of the sporting empire Nike, who said

"*Victory is in having done your best. If you've done your best, you've won."*

Have a great evening. Thank you, vinaka vakalevu.

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