

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

**Prime Minister of Fiji and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, the Public Service, People’s Charter and Change and Progress, Information, iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Lands and Mineral Resources**

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**CLOSING STATEMENT AT THE 43ND SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR COUNCIL**

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**Sofitel Hotel Thurs. 6th June, 2013
NADI**

Ministers;

Vice-Chairman;

Executive Director;

Excellencies;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

As we come to the end of the 43rd Session of the International Sugar Council, I would like to thank you all most sincerely for your active engagement during the three days of our deliberations. On behalf of the Fijian people and Government, I express our appreciation to all members of the Organisation for making excellent contributions in today’s Council session as well as in the Workshop and committee meetings.

We have had an in-depth exchange on wide ranging topics on world sugar matters and related issues, including bio-fuels, ethanol and climate change.

Although circumstances differ from country to country, we are all faced with many of the same issues. We have examined these key issues during our discussions, and received the findings of expert studies. What we take away from this meeting will help guide us as we consider the options for improving our respective industries.

I would like to thank Dr. Peter Baron, the Executive Director, and his team for the excellent preparations for this meeting. My thanks also go to all of the staff of the Fijian Government and sugar industry stakeholders who have contributed to the smooth functioning of this meeting.

This has been a very productive three days.

I wish you all a relaxing enjoyable excursion to the Plantation Island and a safe return trip home. I look forward to seeing you all in London in November.

Vinaka Vakalevu and thank you.

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