****

REAR ADMIRAL (RET.) JOSAIA VOREQE BAINIMARAMA, CF (Mil), OStJ, MSD, jssc, psc

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

**SPEECH AT THE LABASA COLLEGE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Subrail Park No. 1 Fri. 15th Aug., 2014**

**LABASA 1000 Hours**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Principal of Labasa College;**

**Staff, Students and Parents of the College;**

**Distinguished Guests;**

**Ladies, Gentlemen and Children.**

Bula vinaka and a good morning to you all.

This morning, I paid a visit to your school and I am happy to say that you have kept it neat and good looking… thank you for this.

Developments in Health, Education, Infrastructure and Agriculture in the Northern Division is the focus of my Government… we have initiated the look north policy and under this policy have taken up numerous capital projects most of which can now be physically witnessed as well as be benefitted from.

Labasa College is well known for its achievements for six decades since its inceptions as a technical institution in 1954, as a secondary school in 1995 and as a boarding school in 1974. I am well aware that currently this is the only government school on the island of Vanua Levu.

Labasa College is an iconic school as it has consistently produced good results over the years and your theme: *“sustaining a legacy excellence”* is appropriate and relevant to your celebration. In addition, I acknowledge the contribution your College has made towards the human resource needs of this country… today, we have people holding prominent positions in all works of life in Fiji and abroad.

I am also happy to say that labasa college not only accommodates for day scholars but also for disadvantaged children from distant, rural, remote and maritime zones. It is good to note that today you still maintain a capacity of one hundred and fifty students in the hostel and four hundred day scholars.

At this juncture, I acknowledge the good work of your former Teachers and Principals such as Mr. John Sharan, Mr. Sarwan Singh, Mr. Amraiya Naidu, Mr. Emitai Boladuadua, Mr P.N. Sharma and Mr Ben Salacakau, to name a few, whose hard work and vision have raised the College’s standard to be one of the best educational institutions in Fiji.

My Government, through the Education Ministry has provided children of Fiji the following:

1. Transport assistance to all children coming from average family background.
2. Grant towards purchase of text books, library resources and furniture.
3. An annual grant of one hundred and sixty thousand dollars towards running of Labasa College hostel facility.
4. A recently approved grant of three hundred and sixty five thousand dollars towards maintenance of the Vakatale Girls Hostel of Labasa College. The work for this project will commence in term 2 holidays by Ministry of Works.
5. My Government promises to continue to provide grant to upgrade the infrastructure of Labasa College.
6. We will also look at the proposal for a multi-purpose hall that your Principal has given me this morning.

In conclusion, I wish you all an exciting and enjoyable Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and a fruitful and successful academic year. Please do not forget to put Fiji First during the September elections.

May God bless Fiji. Vinaka vakalevu – Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\* end of speech\*\*\*\*\*