**Sugar Festival 2013 Souvenir Magazine**

**Message by the Prime Minister, Commodore J. V. Bainimarama**

**CF(Mil), OSt.J, MSD, jccs, psc**

It is with great pleasure that I share this message of good will for the 2013 Sugar Festival which will be staged at Churchill Park, Lautoka from 20 to 28 September. I say this with all sincerity taking into consideration that we have just released our new constitution for the new Fiji. A Fiji that prides itself in a fair and just society, a caring and an accountable government, of one people and one nation premised on a path of equality and inclusiveness.

The festival’s theme of **“Building Our Nation Together With Kindness and Sincerity”** blends well and is consistent with the spirit of our new constitution.

 Festivals such as this brings our people together with such diverse and yet rich culture of many ethnicities where our differences are forgotten as we mingle together as one united people. During this week of festivities our second city of Lautoka will be engulfed in merry making from entertainments provided by the organizers, the feasting from food stalls, the purchase of goods and services from various service providers apart from making new friends, fostering new alliances and establishing a network of new friends.

I also note with gratitude and great admiration the Sugar Festival’s Organizing Committee’s perseverance, resolve and commitment in organizing yet another festival this year which marks its fifty second anniversary of active existence of building bridges for the diverse communities for our new Fiji.

In this regard I would like to urge your readers to obtain a copy of our new constitution and share it with others so that a vast majority of our beloved nation gets to understand and understand it fully and well before the general elections in September next year.

At this juncture I must congratulate the ten contestants vying for the crown and their sponsors for supporting this year’s festival.

I commend the Sugar Festival Organizing Committee 2013 for its courage and determination in organizing this year’s event.

May you all have a successful and rewarding week.