**STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE PROPOSED *FIJIFIRST*, AFTER THE LODGMENT OF THE APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION**

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen.

We have just filed the application for the registration of proposed *FijiFirst* with the Supervisor of Elections.

The application was lodged with approximately 40,083 signatures of the original members.

Of these signatures 903 was from the Eastern Division; 9,045 from the Northern Division; 14,499 from the Central Division and 15,636 from the Western Division. These signatures were collected over a very short period of time.

I wish to thank all those Fijians who agreed to be the original members for the registration of the proposed *FijiFirst.* These were men and women, young and old from the towns, cities, rural and maritime areas. They were working men and women. They were business people. They were factory workers and labourers. They were the youth. They were landowners. They were farmers. They were mothers and homemakers. They were husbands and wives. They were university students. They were people with special needs and the visually impaired.

I also wish to thank the other tens of thousands of Fijians who came out and gave their verbal support when I and my volunteers travelled around Viti Levu and Vanua Levu and the maritime areas.

We of course are registering a completely new party and once approval is given for registration, we will set up branch offices throughout Fiji. Our approach as you know, as demonstrated through my leadership is to work for and with all Fijians. Our branches and branch officials will represent our youth, our women and Fijians from all walks of life.

Our application contained the list of 6 officials for the proposed *FijiFirst:*

I Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama is listed as the Leader;

Dr. Jiko Luveni who is the Minister for Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation is listed as the President;

The two listed Vice-Presidents are Mr. Bijai Prasad a former Senator and the former Nadi Branch President of the Fiji Labour Party, and Tui Macuata, Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere;

Mr. Vimlesh Kumar an Accountant and an affiliate Member of CPA Australia is listed as the Treasurer; and

The Attorney-General, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, is listed as the General Secretary.

 Once the Party is registered, we will of course commence our campaign.

We will meet and sit down and discuss with Fijians about how we all as citizens of this wonderful country must come together and put Fiji first.

We must come together with sincerity and honesty and with love and affection, without any pretentions, to ensure that Fiji continues on its path of progress, success and opportunities for all Fijians.

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