

**COMMODORE 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

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**SPEECH AT THE CENTENNIAL DINNER FOR SUVA RUGBY UNION**

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**Novotel Hotel Fri. 2nd August, 2013**

**LAMI 1845 Hours**

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The President of Suva Rugby;

The Chairman of Suva Rugby;

Invited Guests;

Affiliated Clubs of Suva Rugby;

Friends and Family of Suva Rugby.

A very good evening to you all.

I am honoured to be here with you this evening to mark the 100th year of Suva Rugby.

Firstly, I congratulate Suva Rugby Union for achieving this milestone.

I also take this time to pay tribute to those who have gone before us . Those who have contributed to the successes and those who faced difficulties and failed.

We are all remembered here today as contributors to Suva Rugby's 100 years of life.

As a former President of Suva Rugby and President of Fiji Rugby, I am well aware of the difficulties you face as a Rugby Union. Our national body is not without its share of difficulties, but I stand here this evening to pay tribute to a Union that is the oldest in Fiji and works diligently to create a center of rugby professionalism and performance excellence.

As we all sit here today to reminisce on our days with Suva Rugby, I am sure there will be great stories to tell. Stories that have shaped our Rugby Union and have made most of us in this room tonight, lifelong friends.

With these few words, I conclude tonight by inviting us all to continue with this great legacy of friendship in rugby and may Suva Rugby prosper for the next 100 years.

Vinaka vakalevu.