

Statement by the Leader of *FijiFirst* – Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama

Saint Joseph the Worker School Ground
NASINU

Saturday 18 April 2015
1500 Hours

My Fellow Fijians,

I'm delighted to be here as the Leader of *FijiFirst* to convey my gratitude to all of you for your support for our Movement and for me in our great task of serving the Fijian people. As you all know, we have held a number of such small functions around the country to thank our supporters for all you have done to assist us and it's a great pleasure to be doing the same this afternoon in Nasinu.

Those of you from here live in one of the most important areas of the country. The Nasinu corridor is the most populated part of Fiji. 40 per cent of all Fijians live here. As I remarked when I visited the Nasinu Muslim Primary School during the week, it is a vibrant, multicultural

community with a huge amount of community spirit and pride.

The many thousands of people who live in the Nasinu Corridor look to us in *FijiFirst* to take care of their interests - along with those of every other Fijian - and I am proud to say that is what we are doing. We are putting the needs of the people first, delivering the things they need to improve their lives and the lives of their families and giving everyone hope for the future.

I'm very pleased to report to you all that we have now delivered - or are in the process of delivering - the major aspects of our Election Manifesto - the program we took to the Fijian people last September and which they endorsed by giving us a decisive mandate and a decisive majority in the Parliament. We have a range of Ministers here today and I want to give them the chance to explain some of the initiatives in their own portfolios. But whether it is free

medicine, the free Year One milk program or any other of the impressive range of policies we took to the people last September, we are keeping their trust. We are delivering and we are serving. And we can all be proud as members of *FijiFirst* that unlike our opponents, we walk the talk and have earned the trust of the Fijian people for doing so.

We thank God for the blessings that have been bestowed on us as a party, as a people and as a nation that under the *FijiFirst* banner we are moving forward together as one. Unlike our opponents, we passionately believe in equality of opportunity for every Fijian. We don't govern for one section of the community or a particular elite. We govern for everyone without fear or favour. We want every Fijian to have the same opportunities, no matter who they are or where they come from. And I firmly believe as Prime Minister, that this is why the people have given us their trust.

The Fijian people as a whole are essentially decent and fair minded. They fundamentally believe in a fair go for everyone. So they rejected the messages of our opponents at the September election and they are rejecting them now. They know instinctively - because they have seen how our national development was arrested for so many years - that Fiji will only progress as a nation if we stand together as one people. All members of Team Fiji. Each playing our part in making Fiji great.

For *FijiFirst* supporters, these aren't slogans. These beliefs are at the core of our beings. And with our policies, we are demonstrating our values at every turn. Governing in the best interests of everyone, not the elites. Providing ordinary people with what they need. Leading by example.

My colleagues, we must never forget that while the Fijian people have given us their trust, we need to work as hard

as we can to keep it. So while this is a celebration today of the success we have enjoyed and an expression of thanks to you for contributing to that success, I want to leave you with an important message.

We need to remain in election mode. We need to treat every week that passes as a week we need to win in the hearts and minds of the Fijian people. It is very easy to be tempted to coast along. It is very easy to start taking people for granted. We are not going to fall into that trap.

We know how easy it is to lose the trust of the people. Our job is to keep that trust. And if we can do so. If we can keep serving the Fijian people to the best of our ability, we will keep that trust. They will reward us at the next election. But we have to work as hard as possible in the weeks and months ahead and right up to the next election in three year's time.

So while today I pay tribute to all the effort you have put in for our movement and for our beloved nation, I ask you to keep up the momentum of our crusade. To maintain the FijiFirst spirit. To keep taking our message of inclusiveness and hope to the people. To live the values of our party in our daily lives. To set an example to other Fijians of integrity, honesty, patriotism and all those other timeless values that this movement stands for and will always stand for.

So let us go forward from here today with fresh resolve, with a renewed determination to maintain our proud record of serving the people and to work as hard as we can to keep their trust. As Prime Minister, I want to personally thank each and every one of you for the trust you have put in me to lead our movement and our nation. To our candidates, our supporters, our volunteers and our families - vinaka vakalevu for your wonderful encouragement, commitment and faith.

We thank God today for blessing us and giving us the inspiration to serve our nation and the cause of every Fijian.

May God Bless our movement and each and every member. May God bless our beloved Fiji.

Vinaka Vakalevu. Thank you.
