Bula vinaka and a good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen.

My party, *FijiFirst* and I welcome you all to this most historic of occasions.

Today, 12th June, 2014 will go down in the annals of Fijian history as the day when Fiji's first truly modern, progressive, transparent, non-corrupt, nation focussed and inclusive political party was officially launched - *FijiFirst.*

Today is an exciting day for Fijians who have for generations yearned for progressing together, of having a sense of belonging or being one nation and at the same time having all of this truly nationalistic and patriotic feelings manifested or represented through a political party. That political party is *FijiFirst*.

Ordinary Fijians have also yearned for a better life, better living conditions and standards, better housing, better working conditions, security of jobs, growth in jobs, better education, implementation of relevant and modern laws, access to basic amenities such as water, electricity and better roads, being able to do more for their families and of finally having hope for a brighter and more fair and secure Fiji that belongs to us all.

They have also yearned for a more liberal society where people can question, ask and think outside the box, without being told not to do so, because of culture, tradition or religion.

All of this has been made possible under my administration. And the work we started 7 years ago, must now continue for the sake of all Fijians under the banner of *FijiFirst.*

I have a dream of a prosperous and vibrant Fiji for all. My intentions for my country and for my people are very clear and defined. I want the best for all of you. I want to continue the good work that we have done in education, health, women's rights, water, electricity, better roading, modernising laws pertaining to domestic violence, human trafficking, we have changed the archaic rape laws to give women and children better protection.

We have introduced land reforms that give the iTaukei unprecedented protection, security and returns; for the first time we in Fiji now have commoner iTaukei people receiving equal distribution of land lease monies from the leasing of their lands - these of course are opposed by parties such as SODELPA who want to go back to the unfair and elite systems which only serve the few. *FijiFirst* of course will ensure that all iTaukei people - chief or commoner - will get treated fairly and equally.

Equality and fairness does not mean that the chiefly status of traditional leaders is stopped or curtailed. In fact it gives it more strength. It is very encouraging to see that those large numbers of chiefs who have come out and supported equality and fairness have been elevated in their status.

Commoners and in particular our young people give more respect to chiefs who believe in equality and fairness not just in words but in practice. Some political parties are quiet about all of these issues such as Labour and NFP who do not have the courage to speak publicly on such matters and others such as PDP who have compromised their basic principles of fairness because they are desperate for votes. SODELPA as we know stands for elitism.

Our country's Constitution which has been hailed internationally as a modern, fair and just constitution not only gives unprecedented protection to iTaukei land but also protects tenants. It incorporates for the first time enshrines socio-economic rights in a comprehensive Bill of Rights. The adherence to and implementation of this Constitution, Ladies and Gentlemen, forms the cornerstone of *FijiFirst's* objective and goal.

Our intentions are pure. We have the will but we can only realise this dream of a prosperous and united Fiji where everyone does well only if we have the support of all Fijians.

In the coming days judge for yourself what we have been able to achieve for you so far, judge for yourself how much life has improved under my government, judge for yourself the true and genuinely inclusive intentions, I have for the betterment of all Fijians.

Think of how we have done so much despite the pressure put on us by countries like Australia, NZ, USA - who not only stopped us from using the services and the professionalism of ordinary Fijians who wanted to help their country, but in fact stopped us from accessing funding to build better infrastructure such as hospitals and roads, for the ordinary men, women and youth of our country. Of course many of the politicians who are now seeking your vote were instrumental in working with these countries to sabotage our country's efforts.

Yet Despite all of this, we have been able to achieve so much. Given our track record of service to all Fijians, imagine what *FijiFirst* can do as an elected government now that there won't be any restrictions.

My fellow Fijians, Ladies and Gentlemen, our track record speaks for itself. The track record of the other political parties and the people within those political parties speak for themselves.

However, I must warn you that you must beware of old and discredited politicians who will attempt to spread lies about *FijiFirst* and its achievements. Beware of the fear they will attempt to start in your hearts. Beware of their untruths about the perceived loss of land, culture and religion. Beware of them trying to tell you that we cannot work together as Fijians because we are Christians, Methodists, Catholics, Hindus, Muslims and people of different denominations and ethnicities. The past 7 years has shown that we can work together as Fijians even though we have different faiths and religions. We as Fijians are doing much better than we have ever done before.

These people have preyed on your innocence before and as they get more desperate they will try even harder to spread their lies to divide the nation once again.

They will spread the poison of suspicion, racism, fear and divisiveness. They will push for every negative to *FijiFirst's* every positive.

We must all rise above the feeble attempts by these people to break our country, to break your resolve and to tear apart all the success and goodwill that we have achieved for all Fijians. Do not let them deceive you. Read our Constitution. See for yourself what we have done, what we want to do and follow me on my journey under the *FijiFirst* banner to take our beloved nation to a lofty place that we have only dreamed of in the past under previous unscrupulous governments, political parties and politicians.

Also beware of media organisations such as “Fiji Times” whose journalistic standards are not only unprofessional but are blatantly biased. They seek to distort facts, manipulate figures and blatantly print misleading headlines and stories. If they have a political bias they need to declare it. In the meantime, I urge all Fijians to get other sources of information other than the distorted views of “Fiji Times”. I urge all Fijians to remember that one of the shareholders of the holding or related company of “Fiji Times” is a fugitive from the law now residing in Australia. Perhaps it is this and the fact that many of their senior journalists and associates through social media and other forums spread misinformation and are anti-government. Therefore, how can we expect them to be professional and give you the right information?

My fellow Fijians, it won't be long before you have that one chance under our new and Fiji's most just and fair Constitution to exercise your right to make the right choice for your future and the future of your children. This is your chance to play your part and contribute towards the election of our party that will ensure that Fiji is not only a prosperous and modern nation but will also become an admired nation where equality and fairness becomes a corner stone for our great nation.

If you my fellow Fijians put Fiji First, we can become the envy of the world, we can be the way the world should be, we can realise the dream *FijiFirst* and I have for each and every one of you.

In the coming days, we will be looking forward to volunteers, supporters and candidates to register with us.

I and my party have been overwhelmed by the support we've received from ordinary Fijians for the past couple of months. Indeed the support is growing.

In our text message platform, through which we had called for volunteers and people to join as friends of *FijiFirst*, within 24 hours, we had over 100 Fijians, young and old, men and women, from all over Fiji texting to become a volunteer and over 300 Fijians texting to become supporters of *FijiFirst.*

Apart from the official launch, we are also today opening our head office here in 96 Brown Street. We are in the process of finalising offices in Nasinu, Nausori, Rakiraki, Ba, Lautoka, Nadi Sigatoka, Savusavu and Labasa.

We, today have also launched our facebook page, and twitter account - the links of which you will find on our website, www.fijifirst.com which went live a couple of days ago.

Our website carries all our information, including our Constitution and our values, and other relevant information. You can also on line contribute towards our manifesto which will be revealed in time to come.

We have already identified teams to start our various pocket meetings and to inform all Fijians about facts. In the coming months, we will also organise rallies.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am confident that the majority of Fijians will do the right thing for the sake of their future and the future of all Fijians.

We are all one nation, We are all united. So let's all vote as one and put Fiji first on September 17th.

Thank you – vinaka vakalevu.