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REAR ADMIRAL (RET.) 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**

**SPEECH AT THE INKK MOBILE BATTLE OF THE GIANTS PRESENTATION**

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ANZ Stadium Sun. 31st Aug., 2014

LAUCALA BAY 1500 Hours

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Invited Guests,

Fiji Football Executives,

Ladies, Gentlemen and the Football Fans.

After two weekends of intense competition, the best team in the 2014 INKK Mobile Battle of the Giants has been determined today.

The players and team officials deserve a round of applause for the hard work that they have put in to entertain the fans here this weekend in Suva and last weekend at Govind Park in Ba.

A tournament like the INKK B.O.G holds a tradition which started in 1978 and is continuing as we farewell yet another event and look forward to the 2015 season.

On this note I must say that contribution of the past officials and players must not be forgotten nor ignored as it is through their vision an event like the INKK B.O.G has been able to provide many of our young talents a platform to showcase their skills and ability.

To major sponsors INKK Mobile, Vinaka Vakalevu for your continued support. The $5million consortium ( $3M cash plus $2M in kind) by Vodafone and CJ Patel Group is something positive for football one which must be fully utilised for the betterment of the sport of football over the next 5 years.

The Fiji Government continues to support various sporting bodies in the country and football is one of them.

The grant for the Fiji Under-20 side prior to the OFC U-20 Championship and funding the salary of national senior coach which is accommodated by the Fiji Sports Commission and recently the victorious Fiji Under-20 side was also rewarded.

At the end of the day, we want to see our national sides competing with the best in the world and making us all proud and I am proud to say that the Fiji U20 has qualified for the FIFA U20 World Cup in New Zealand in 2015.

This INKK B.O.G should set a platform for the national side as the Pacific Games has been scheduled for 2015 along with the OFC Nations Cup which acts as qualifiers for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

With these words, I would like to thank the sponsors INKK Mobile once again and congratulate the victorious team and Fiji FA .

Thank you - Vinaka vakalevu.

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