

PEOPLE
First

"We will Do Better"

**2018 ELECTION
MANIFESTO**

A ROADMAP TO PEACE AND HAPPINESS

HIGHLIGHTS OF FULL ROADMAP

“Leadership is not about the next election, it is about the next generation .” Simon Sinek

Our Pledge to the People of Fiji: Statement by the Leader of Unity Fiji



This election must be about leadership. We must find a national leader that is visionary, passionate, and have no ulterior motive except to serve the interest of the people. We must find a leader that is competent to ease the burden of everyday living. Life is extremely hard. Poverty is rising. The rich are getting richer. The escalating cost of living is hurting everyone. Salaries are not keeping pace. Putting food on the table is a daily struggle. Jobs are hard to come by. House prices are way beyond the reaches of families. Cars are congesting our roads. The poor must pay their bus fares in advance. The morale of the civil servants is at rock bottom. And tragically, some of us are still living in tents nearly 3 years after Cyclone Winston.

Unity Fiji makes this pledge to the people that we will do better in economic and social development, and nation building than any other political party. I believe that Unity Fiji presents a credible government to the people. We claim to be credible because we will do what we promise to do. We have people in the leadership of the party that have served our country loyally with distinction. We will unite this country through a shared vision of “Unity in Diversity”. A united country is a peaceful and happy one. I commend this Roadmap to the people of Fiji.

Savenaca Narube
Leader of Unity Fiji



Foundation and the Three Themes:

a) Foundation:

Education for all: Unity Fiji believes that education is the foundation which anchors the three themes of this Roadmap. Education never ends in our lives. Formal education starts from Early Childhood to primary, secondary and tertiary. Informal education is important in all spheres of life at community, technical and cultural levels. Education for all is the building blocks to our future.

b) Theme 1:

Providing dignity of living to all: Unity Fiji pledges to help families enjoy the basics of life like food, shelter, education, and health. We will take the development to the people at all levels of our nation from the family to the village, communities, provincial, and national. The center of our economic program is the utilization of resources. We must change mindsets and have the courage and conviction to think long term. We are in this together. Let us use the tremendous pool of goodwill that is abound in our nation to work together to realize our dreams.

c) Theme 2:

Leaving no one behind: Unity Fiji promises the people of Fiji that we will leave no one behind and we will be fair to all of you. We must take everyone with us towards our destination of peace and happiness. All people, especially the poor, must share in the benefits of development. We will close the gap between rich and poor. We will take development to the people and empower resource owners to get rich from their resources. We believe that if we apply fairness to everything that we do from sharing of resources, making national decisions and in building relationships with each other, we will secure unity, prosper our country, and enjoy peace and stability.

d) Theme 3:

Empowering the nation: Finally, we pledge to empower our nation with tools and knowledge to prosper on their own without being a perpetual slave to government. At the same time, transparency and good governance will be our guiding beacons. Our youths are our hope for the future. We will ensure that we do not burden them with the wrong decisions that we take now. We will give them hope that they will achieve their dreams through education. We will empower our women to play their rightful role in governing this country. We will empower resource users and owners to maximize the potential of our resource-based industries.



Overarching Anchor: Education for All

- a) To reward academic achievements to all Fiji citizen students by awarding full scholarships to the top 400 highest achievers.
- b) Award full scholarships to all Fiji citizen students who have secured places, in recognized tertiary educational institutions and whose parents' combined income is under a reasonable threshold.
- c) Provide Tertiary Education Loans Scheme to all Fiji Citizen, students who do not qualify for clauses a or b, above.
- d) Award tuition scholarships to all Fiji citizen students who have secured places in recognized Vocational institutions and whose parents' combined income is under a reasonable threshold.



- e) Exempt tertiary students from 'TELS' loan repayments under TELS if they have served in Fiji for more than 3 years.
- f) Strengthen the inclusion of Entrepreneurship in High School curriculum and tether young business owners to established businesses.
- a) Detailed review of Childhood Education and Sports in schools.
- b) Continue the payment of bus fares and school fees of all children.
- c) Review the education curriculum to include Enterprise Education and overhaul the 1978 Education Act.
- d) Comprehensive review of Civil Service Reform.
- e) Integrate the manpower needs of the nation with training, scholarships and education.



I. THEME 1:

PROVIDING THE DIGNITY OF LIVING TO ALL

"The prize of greatness is responsibility." Winston Churchill

1.1 Taking development to the people.

- a) Introduce an integrated model of resource utilization which will be centered on: a) the provision of seed capital from a Resource Utilization Fund (RUF); b) value adding, packaging and marketing through the Economic Hubs (EH); and c) technical resources, including land, through the Resource Technical Centers (RTCs).
- b) The Resource Utilization Fund will establish a Resource Commercial Bank after two years of operation.
- c) Allow leases beyond 50 years with appropriate conditions to compensate for the longer use assets.
- d) Promote the continuity of leases by introducing goodwill payments at the expiry of the land leases.
- e) Make the iTaukei Trust Board (TLTB) independent from government.
- f) Raise the price of cane to \$110 per ton and introduce a monthly cane payment system to farmers through a revolving sugar cane support fund.
- g) Implement a full review of the sugar industry.
- h) Lift the government support to non-sugar agriculture to be equitable to those provided to the sugar industry.
- i) Reduce the multiple layers of decision making in the iTaukei and Indo Fijian administration structure to speed up the implementation of their development plans.
- j) Allocate budget resources to provinces including advisory councils according to a transparent and fair template.



Mahogany Industry



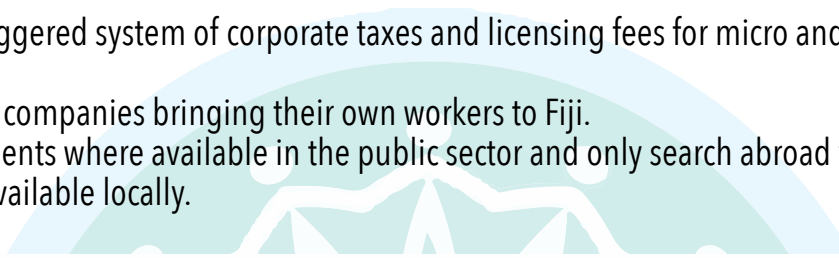
Sugar Industry



- k) Merge the development priorities of the iTaukei, Indo Fijian and other communities early in the planning process and determine the budget availability at this stage.
- l) Build an alternative interior road between Suva and Lautoka to open-up these areas to commerce.

1.2 Supporting businesses and workers

- a) Introduce a multi-tier minimum wage structure for unskilled workers starting at \$4 to a maximum of \$5 an hour depending on the age of the business, number of employees and turnover.
- b) Introduce a staggered system of corporate taxes and licensing fees for micro and small businesses.
- c) Reduce foreign companies bringing their own workers to Fiji.
- d) Recruit local talents where available in the public sector and only search abroad when the skills are not available locally.

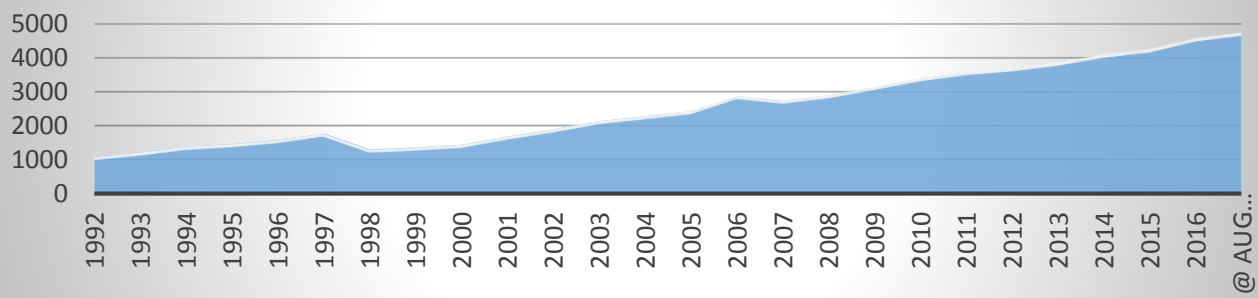


1.3 Easing the burden of everyday living

- a) Reduce customs duties on selected essential items and those not produced locally.
- b) Waive the import duties on essential housing materials.
- c) Waive the capital gains taxes and stamp duties to assist first time home buyers.
- d) Allow the use of cash in paying for bus fares.
- e) Subsidize the construction of homes for the poor.
- f) Build additional lanes between Suva and Nausori to ease traffic congestion.
- g) Build an alternative coastal road between Nausori and Suva.
- h) Review the shipping subsidy and the efficiency and affordability of the inter-island shipping services.



Debt has trebled in only 12 years



1.4 Avoiding the financial cliff

- Reduce debt by adopting a budgeting framework that reduces the net deficit over time.
- Cut down the wastage in expenditure and review the effectiveness of programs through a Public Expenditure Reviews (PERs).
- Use the proceeds from the sale of assets to repay debt.

Increasing access to quality health care

- Increase the coverage of subsidy on medicine.
- Upgrade hospitals and health centres.
- Increase the number of health centres in remote areas to an acceptable coverage ratio based on geography and population.
- Reduce cost of kidney dialysis to \$50 per session or free for those earning less than \$100 per week.

1.6 Raising the benefits of our foreign missions

- Close missions abroad that do not bring value to Fiji.
- Open a foreign mission in Israel.

II THEME 2: LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

"The challenge to leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but not folly." Jim Rohn.

2.1 Reducing poverty and inequity

- Retain all existing support for the disadvantaged and the poor, and increase budget allocation by 15%.
- Retain the privileges that senior citizens now enjoy and increase some by 10%.
- Introduce medical insurance for FPNF members and senior citizens.
- Build automatic changes to the minimum wage to maintain its purchasing power.



- e) Take the development to the people through the Economic Hubs to be established across the country.
- f) Provide capital to owners and uses of resources through the Resource Utilization Fund.
- g) Initiate a program to change mindsets of resource owners that will help support businesses.
- h) Immediately review all royalties to reflect the market values of these resources.
- i) Increase the rate of leases to 12% of the unimproved capital value (UCV) over three years.
- j) Return the ownership of minerals found on their land to landowners and make it mandatory for landowners to participate in their mining.
- k) Complete within the first year in government the rehabilitation of those affected by Cyclone Winston.
- l) Establish Retail Distribution Centers (RDCs) in the Economic Hubs in the outer islands and interior of the main islands to increase value adding, minimize transport costs and reduce prices.
- m) Repeal all licensing fees paid by the traditional owners when fishing in their traditional qoliqoli.

III THEME 3: EMPOWERING THE NATION

“Example is not the main thing in influencing others, it is the only thing.” Albert Schweitzer

3.1 Providing visionary and inclusive leadership

- a) Promote peace by building national unity from the ground up through a shared vision of “Unity in Diversity”.
- b) Protect the identities and culture of the people in building unity.
- c) Initiate a nationwide program to promote tolerance and understanding of ethnic cultures and traditions.
- d) Provide inclusive leadership that listens to the people.
- e) Put people first and not political ideologies.
- f) Provide experienced leadership who have served the country loyally.

3.2 Healing the wounds of the past

- a) Establish a Reconciliation and Peace Commission.
- b) Address the injustices that people suffered in the 1987 to 2006 coups.
- c) Correct the injustices that people suffered after the 2006 coups.
- d) Compensate tenants and landowners whose land leases expired after 2000.
- e) Compensate the reduction in allowances of soldiers that have served in peace keeping duties.
- f) Solve our land issues once and for all through flexible duration, adequate basis for leases and royalties, and goodwill payments at lease expiry.
- g) Sympathetically support the move to seek redress for the wrongs of indenture (GIRMIT) and ‘Black-Birding’ – Chinese & Melanesian Labourers.
- h) Set up an independent commission to assess adequate compensation of evicted farmers because of expiry of leases.
- i) Avoid coups by leaving no one behind, improving incomes of resource owners, and providing a new political leadership that brings all people together.



3.3 Empowering Communities

- a) Raise the mandatory retirement age to 60.
- b) Freeze the civil service reforms to allow a full review to be undertaken.
- c) Limit those under contracts to the top three tiers of the civil service and lengthen contracts to minimum of 3 years.
- d) Extend the service of civil servants beyond retirement age under contract of up to 5 years to facilitate transfer of knowledge and capacity building
- e) Introduce a fair and objective performance appraisal system in the public service where the Ministers are consulted but not the decision makers.

3.4 Empowering Youths

- a) Establish a national coordinating body to help develop and export sporting talents.
- a) Work with the churches, religious bodies and civil societies to reconcile the rights of children and their discipline..

3.5 Restoring democracy and good governance

- a) Bring back the Senate.
- b) Establish the Great Council of Chiefs with well-defined functions to include economic development.
- c) Restore the independence of institutions of good governance:
- d) Restore transparency of our fiscal position.
- e) Strengthen parliamentary scrutiny of budgets and audit reports.
- f) Restore elections in municipal councils.
- g) Reduce the multiple Board memberships of individuals.
- h) Publish all Ministerial waivers of procurement laws and regulations.



CONCLUSIONS

"A leader is someone who demonstrates what's possible." Mark Yaneil

We, the people of these beautiful islands, deserve to live in peace and happiness. We can only achieve this vision through a Government that puts people first and not unilaterally impose their own ideologies. We will give the opportunities to all the people to govern Fiji and help shape our destinies. We will restore Fiji to where the world should be.

Unity Fiji makes this undertaking to the people of Fiji that we will be fair, just and credible. We will deliver what we promise to do because we have already demonstrated our leadership qualities to the people of Fiji. We believe that we have the experience, the skills and the fresh minds to deliver what is outlined in this Roadmap to Peace and Happiness.

May God bless Fiji and all its people.

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