***Address by Rajesh Singh, Deposed MP, former***

***Associate minister for sports, sdl/flp multiparty government***

***Secretary - Fiji DEMOCRACY AND freedom Movement***

***23rd July 2011, Auckland, new zealand***

*The President of Fiji Democracy and Freedom Movement, Mr Josaia Rasiga,*

*Col. Ratu Tevita Uluilakeba Mara,*

*Members of organising Committee,*

*Hon Member for Parliament, Dr Rajendra Prasad,*

*Mr. Peter Conway,*

*Distinguished Guest*

*Members of the media*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

Bula Vinaka and welcome once again!

I am very so very pleased and moved by your presence here today in solidarity as a common voice to promote democracy and freedom in Fiji.

Indeed, without your support, this newly formed organisation could not have succeeded in such a short time to emerge as a unified voice of protest against the barbaric and hideous regime that has oppressed the freedom of our friends and families since 2006.

I wish to share with you certain unpleasant facts and pose questions in a very open and defiant manner relating to the failures and the draconian nature of the self serving military regime. In our nation’s history, we have witnessed the tragedies of coups and counter coups none of which has taken us to the Promised Land.

The consequences of these military coups are well documented and no one can dispute the fact about its devastating impact on our economy, international reputation and race relation in Fiji.

After the 2006 general elections just as we all were getting on with the formation of a multi-party cabinet ushering a new era of racial cooperation, the Fiji Military Forces once again changed the course of our nation for the worse. The 2006 coup supported by prominent figures saw a popular and a well educated elected Prime Minister and his multi-party cabinet removed from office under the barrel of the gun by Frank Bainimarama and misguided followers.

Subsequently, Commodore Bainimarama promised the people of Fiji that his interim government would be **clean**, **accountable** and **transparent**. In the ensuing period the euphoria of the so-called clean-up campaign and mantra of race free Fiji wrecked havoc as some claimed the coup was god sent while others claimed the election was rigged to justify their support for Frank Bainimarama.

Hallucinated fanatics went on rampage accusing the deposed prime minister and members of his government of systematic corruption and kicks backs.

Allegations about truck full of evidence of corruption of the Qarase government had been found by the military spread like wild fire as opportunist from abroad including John Sami and other Johns flocked to Fiji to indulge in merry making and secure overpaid consultancy assignments offering academic solutions and cosmetic reforms.

Nearly five years on now the allegations remain but the fanatics have disappeared except a handful of advisors who form the party of five that includes; Khaiyum, Gates, Pryde, Shameem and Nur Bano who have full control over the Bainimarama.

At the time of the coup, Bainimarama promised to uphold the Constitution and respect the judiciary and its independence. He undertook that no military officers would benefit from the coup. He promised that critical issues of national importance such as the economy, sugar industry, and corruption will be priorities of his government. He also promised the Forum leaders of holding free and fair elections in 2009.

The list of his broken promises is growing by day and it seems he has now started to believe in his own lies.

Let us look at the facts about his illegal government.

The illegal cabinet has three military based ministers. Several permanent secretaries, high commissioners, CEOs of government owned companies and statutory bodies including the head of Police and the Prisons are military officers. Recently, another military officer was appointed as head of the CWM hospital in Suva.

The militarisation of the civil life in Fiji is a very dangerous development and it’s obvious that Bainimarama lied to the nation when he said no military officer would benefit from the coup.

What else could be expected from a morally bankrupt man!

The appointments are being made solely on political considerations so that the dictator could spy and monitor the people of Fiji while qualified and deserving individuals are forced to look for opportunities overseas some of whom may be sitting here tonight.

The Commodore’s record on transparency is just as bad as his personal health.

Following the Court of Appeals ruling in April 2009, the following vital constitutional offices were abolished;

1. *Office of the Ombudsman*
2. *Human Rights Commission*
3. *Constitutional Offices Commission*
4. *Judicial Services Commission*

These important offices were independent agencies of the State.

They were independent of the executive and the parliament charged with the responsibility of advocating for human rights; administer constitutional and judicial appointments. Their independence was to ensure that transparency prevails over these offices and to keep public confidence intact unlike what we have today.

I am not surprised that the Tongan and Australian government have refused to recognise the illegal government’s extradition papers. Rightly so, the regime is illegal and they must be treated with contempt.

Now let us look at the *modus operandi* of the regime on judicial appointments. It is an undeniable fact that all appointments are made by the Puppet Master Khaiyum who is only accountable to Nur Bano Ali and Nazhat Shameem, both of whom are available to give the arrogant attorney general treasonous advice on a 24 hour basis.

In order to suppress public scrutiny over the affairs of the illegal government the office of the Auditor General has been literally made defunct and its reports for the years 2007 onwards has been permanently suppressed away from the public eye.

As you may know that the former Auditor General Eroni Vatuloka who prepared the controversial special report on Bainimarama’s $200,000 leave pay left his job under a cloud of mystery. I am sure that report would make an interesting reading and I challenge the minister for corruption Khaiyum to release that report for public scrutiny.

You all must have read statements carried in the Fiji Labour Party website about the ministerial salaries of Bainimarama and Khaiyum. These were also mentioned in Ratu Ului Mara’s video message. I am sure he will shed some light on these later on. It is widely known and there has been no denial from the regime that Frank Bainimarama and Khaiyum are being paid over $700,000 in basic salaries annually for destroying the Fijian economy.

To make matters worse, Khaiyum’s relative Nur Bano administers the processing of ministerial salaries. This always has been the function of the ministry of finance. The collusion is evident here as to why this has been outsourced to Nur Bano Ali.

These are clear signs of a government which thrives on self enrichment contrary to its mantra of cleanup campaign. The cleanup campaign has now become cover up campaign.

As I mentioned earlier, the Police and the Judiciary are both badly compromised. You will recall Commodore Esala Teleni was removed as Police Commissioner without complete explanation over his removal from the dictator

I am privy to incriminating evidence that a fraud case of a high profile businessman whom he dared to investigate led to his downfall.

This businessman is implicated in a multimillion dollar fraud case and is a close friend of Bainimarama. The serious fraud office wanted to lay charges after consultation with the DPP’s Office but was directed to back off after the businessman greased the palm of the dictator in the China tour sometimes in October 2010. The photos of the dictator and the businessman can be found on the Fiji government website on the famous china tour.

This high profile case is a perfect example of how the dictator is perverting the course of justice in selective cases where big bucks can change hands. While ordinary and common citizens are prosecuted with the full weight for the law, rich and powerful people who can afford immunity are allowed to get away with murder. This is travesty of justice as all people are equal under the law and no one should be immune.

I challenge Bainimarama to come clean on file ***CID/PEP/HQ128/2010***.

In the past 24 months, after the purported abrogation of the constitution, the illegal attorney general has terminated over 20 magistrates, a dozen prosecutors. The DDP’s office has seen four incumbents removed since 2006 and more are likely to fall if they make the puppet master unhappy.

The recent move by the FNPF board to cut pensions by 60% is deplorable. The illegal Attorney General in his recent interview blamed the government of 1980s and 2000 for certain policy decisions which he claims were not prudent. He claims that due to these alleged mistakes the pension rates must be reduced by 60%

The fact remains that after the 2006 coup, the FNPF board appointed by the regime used $1.3 billion dollars of workers funds between 2007 and 2010 in failed projects like Momi and Natodola resorts.

This can be verified with the annual reports of FNPF and no amount of lies can change this fact.

All these facts point towards one conclusion. Fiji’s illegal government is corrupt, incapable and self serving. We must stand together under the 1997 Constitution which provides for freedom of our people.

We must allow the GCC to have a role in the governance of our nation. We must allow the Churches to functions and serve its members. We must advocate for Human Rights and Judicial independence. None of these are being offered in the corrupt regime of Bainimarama and his master Khaiyum.

Ladies and Gentlemen, there are so much fundamentally wrong today in Fiji that ought to be stopped and corrected. We cannot afford to wait till 2014. We must return our country to constitutional rule under the 1997 Constitution as soon as possible.

We must act now and remove the illegal government and say no to Khaiyum’s theory for a sunset clause on the Fijian chiefly and traditional system.

I call on you all to pass this message of hope that the dictator will fall and he will soon.

Thumps Up for Democracy!!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you

Vinaka Vakalevu.

Rajesh Singh