

Meeting between Prime Minister Qarase and Commodore Bainimarama

Government House; Wellington
29 November 2007

Points of Agreement and next Steps

Overview:

The meeting between Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase and Commodore Frank Bainimarama at Government House in Wellington has seen lengthy, serious and meaningful discussions on the issues raised by the Royal Fiji Military Force. Substantial progress was made in resolving areas of difference.

The areas discussed, and the outcomes reached were:

Issue: Public declaration by the government that the coup events of 2000 were illegal; and all those associated with them must be removed from office.

Outcome:

The Fiji Government reaffirms that the coup events of 2000 were illegal.

The Government has undertaken to develop, without delay, a renewed and fully resourced public education programme, to take to the public and villages of Fiji, an information programme aimed at ensuring wide public awareness and understanding that the events of 2000 were illegal.

The Government is also prepared to will also proceed, consistent with Fiji constitutional and legal process, to continue to bring to account those people found by due process to be illegally associated with the events of 2000. The RFMF has been invited to provide to the Government the names of people whom it believes should face legal process.

Note: the Government of New Zealand has indicated its willingness to assist in the resourcing of the public education programme.

Issue: Withdrawal of the 3 contentious Bills: the Reconciliation Tolerance and Unity Bill, Qoliqoli Bill and the Land Tribunal Bill

Outcome:

Action on the Reconciliation, Tolerance and Unit Bill has been suspended.

The Government and RFMF agree that a current independent review of the constitutionality and legality of the Qoliqoli Bill and Land Tribunal Bill should,

