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15<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

## Press Release

Graham Davis' deliberate distortion of the Gone Marama Bale, the Roko Tui Dreketi's letter to Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama dated 11/04/2012 needs to be refuted because it's so biased and tantamount to professional recklessness.

First of all, the Gone Marama Bale's writing to **'Voreqe'** is definitely within Fijian protocol showing their closeness, despite the differences of their personal situation and to expect her to address him in any other capacity is not only condescending, but outright hypocrisy, which is beyond Grahams' comprehension.

His escalating the Gone Marama Bale's letter to Commodore Voreqe as **"a titanic struggle looms between the old and new orders in Fiji for the hearts and minds of the indigenous majority – the i'taukei"** is nothing short of irresponsible media hype intended to arouse emotion, which was never intended by the writer.

The deliberate choice of title **'Paramount Chief deals the race card'** is intended to deflect away from the substance of the Gone Marama Bale's letter to Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama implying a foreign meaning, more sinister in nature and calculated to attract negative reaction from knee jerk reactionaries.

The FDFM wholeheartedly agrees with the gist of the Gone Marama Bale's letter:

***"the obsession to remove racial issues from the governance of this nation is short-sightedness and ill-conceived, for ethnicity is a fact of life. Internationally, ethnicity and culture are recognised and valued, for it is only through racial and ethnic diversity that we can realise civic strength. It is when our nation fully appreciates the different ethnic communities and their culture and learn to accept the different cultures and religion, then only, when we will have everlasting peace in Fiji."***

In my Press Release earlier this month, I did warn the Military Junta after its abolition of the Great Council of Chiefs with the following concluding remarks:

- ***"FDFM's concern is that Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum's contorted and short-sighted personal agenda of wanting to dismantle Fijian Institutions because of his Machiavellian pretence; it will free Fijians to a better qualitative life, apparently has fooled Commodore Bainimarama and some others.***
- ***It condescendingly and dangerously fails to grasp the possibility, it could instead unleash and spiral Fijians out of control fuelled by an avalanche of fear and anger directed against Commodore Bainimarama; Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and their supporters,***



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***triggering an implosion within Fiji's already fragmented Fiji Military Forces & civil population; causing a massive wave of retribution & civil unrest affecting all peoples and the economy, but unfortunately Fijians and Indo-Fijians will bear the brunt, of the likes we've never witnessed in modern Fiji before."***

These concerns were never meant to incite people or to arouse racial hatred as tactlessly insinuated by Graham, but rather a concerned warning of what could actually happen because of their current course of action in dismantling Fijian Institutions.

FDFM wishes to reiterate, it was the Great Council of Chiefs who negotiated the release of the Chaudary Government from George Speight's captivity through the Maunikau Accord, which unfortunately resulted in Speight's arrest following the subsequent attack on the Kalabu Settlement because of Voreqe's renegeing on his promise and blaming everyone else except himself.

Graham is ill-advised in using the '**race card**' as his trump card because this was never the intention of the Gone Marama Bale, thus inviting ridicule and scorn upon himself after being caught out throwing down a trump card whilst having the same suit in his hand at the time, known in Fiji, as "**yaraneke**."

The Gone Marama Bale's insistence on the pivotal role the Great Council of Chiefs play in Fiji's political landscape cannot be undermined, which has been acknowledged by both former Indian NFP Leader Jay Ram Reddy and current Indian FLP Leader Mahendra Chaudary and fully endorsed by the FDFM.

It's foolish to think, race and ethnicity can be exorcised in Fiji and nor should it be because as the Gone Marama Bale rightfully alluded to, it's recognised in International Forums, such as the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**, which was adopted at its 62nd Session at its New York Headquarters on 13/09/2007.

Graham's explicit biased support for Fiji's illegal Military Junta has deprived him of the ability to see things as they truly are and to discern what not to take at face value. His limited repertoire of tools because of his biasedness reminds me of Abraham Maslow's quote: "**when the only tool you have is a hammer, every problem begins to resemble a nail.**"

He missed out on the opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the courageous stance the Gone Marama Bale is taking in the face of mounting pressure to remain silent not only for her own personal safety, but her Confederacy, Yasana, Tikina and Village, kow tow and be subservient to Fiji's illegal Military Junta.

Edmund Burke's quote of "**all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing**" is a timely warning for Fiji at this time, but unfortunately enforced by people like Graham.

The Gone Marama Bale, knowing the cost to her own personal safety, chooses to speak on behalf of the countless Fijians and Fijian Chiefs who cannot freely speak their minds for fear of reprisal or the withholding of government development projects from their Provinces or Villagers.



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She's already been previously arrested and taken into Police custody in the middle of the night, like a fugitive, but later withdrew her charges, due to insufficient evidence, so she's fully aware of the implications of her letter, but it's something she believes Commodore Vorege Bainimarama needed to hear.

Graham's referring to her as having ***“embraced the mantle of warrior chieftain – the Boadicea of the South Seas – taking it upon herself to confront Bainimarama head on”*** is a courageous stance any right minded person would be proud of, yet he fails to appreciate this fact.

The difference between Boadicea and the Gone Marama Bale is that Boadicea almost succeeded against the Romans, whereas the Gone Marama Bale with our assistance; other Freedom Fighters and other support will succeed against Fiji's illegal Military Junta.

Take Aung San Sui Kyi of Burma for example. She was under house arrest for almost 15 years in Burma under the dictate of its illegal Military Junta, but eventually the Junta caved into international pressure and held democratic elections earlier this month, resulting in her National League for Democracy Party winning 43 of the vacant 45 seats.

I challenge Graham to take a courageous stance like the Gone Marama Bale the Roko Tui Dreketi and the FDFM, which I serve as its President.

Our objection to Fiji's Military Junta is on record because it's illegal.

I challenge Graham to take the courageous stance by fully disclosing his interest regarding Fiji's illegal Military Junta, rather than hiding behind the façade of an Independent Journalist, which he certainly isn't.

If Graham cannot take this courageous stance, then I suggest he divert his attention elsewhere because we're talking here about innocent people's lives and the deprivation of their rights and freedoms, which was usurped by Commodore Vorege Bainimarama in his December 2006 coup.

Suliasi Daunitutu.

FDFM National President.