

# THE Fiji Times

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## Minister orders FDB inquiry

FINANCE Minister Ratu Jone Kubuabola has appointed a committee to look into the operations of the Fiji Development Bank board and management.

Ratu Jone said he wanted an independent opinion on the extent to which the board had adhered to the principles of good governance when it carried out its responsibilities.

The committee comprises Anjish Jokhan, the Fiji Institute of Accountants president, Inia Naiyaga of the Reserve Bank and Harvie Probert of the Fiji Employers Federation.

It is required to present its report on March 7.

Ratu Jone said the Government had noted the decision taken by the FDB board to terminate the contract of managing director Isoa Kaloumaira.

Mr Kaloumaira was fired on Monday by chairman Navitalai Naisoro.

Ratu Jone said the Government was also mindful of the concerns raised by the board and management that the principles of good corporate governance were not being adhered to.

Mr Kaloumaira's termination comes into effect on March 21.

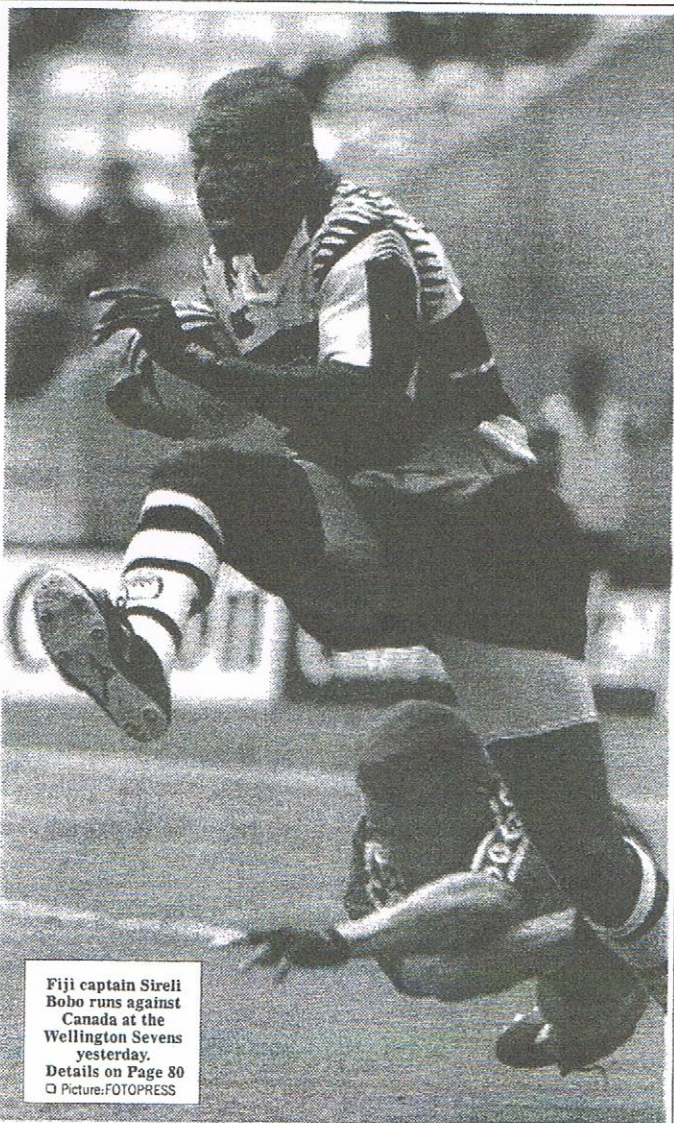
On the bank's financial integrity, Ratu Jone said the board had implemented measures to re-inforce its prudential position.

"Prior to the termination decision, the board had endorsed the adoption of the Reserve Bank of Fiji's prudential guidelines in the finalisation of the 2002 accounts," Ratu Jone stated.

He said two other initiatives already in the process were getting the RBF to provide periodic onsite inspections to ensure that the FDB's operations were in line with the RBF's expectations and having an accounting firm conduct internal audits.

This used to be done by bank staff. Ratu Jone said the FDB board would continue to examine additional prudential measures to safeguard its financial position.

# Army 'did not order' killing



Fiji captain Sireli Bobo runs against Canada at the Wellington Sevens yesterday.  
Details on Page 80  
Picture: FOTOPRESS

## Commander refutes rights violation

By SAINIMILI LEWA

THE army did not order the killing of the five rebel soldiers during the November 2, 2000, mutiny, said Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama.

He was responding to a letter addressed to him by an unknown person requesting that the death of the five members of the Counter Revolutionary Warfare unit be investigated. The letter was also addressed to the "officers of the Fiji Military Forces and authorities of our beloved nation".

The letter also contained the photographs of two rebel soldiers. A copy of the letter was obtained by *The Fiji Times*.

Said Commodore Bainimarama: "I never gave any orders to kill. Did anyone see me give the orders?"

He said he had not received the letter nor could he state when a court martial on the case would begin.

"It has taken two years to complete two court martials. We will try the living soldiers first before we look into the circumstances surrounding the death of the deceased soldiers," he said.

The army chief said relatives of the deceased CRW officers would have to wait for justice to take its course.

Military officers Selesitino Kalounivale, Jone Davui, Epineri Bainimoli, Iowane Waseroma and Lagani Rokowaqa died on November 2 after being rounded-up by loyal soldiers.

The Colonial War

Memorial Hospital's Medical Superintendent, Salimoni Tuqa, had confirmed that the men were bruised beyond recognition when they were brought to the hospital that evening.

Assistant Police Commissioner Emosi Vunisa said the investigations were taking a while. He would not comment on whether Mr Bainimarama would be interrogated.

The letter asked how much longer would it take for the soldiers in custody to be tried.

"Are the people who gave the death orders and those responsible for the tortures and murders covered by the Muanikau Accord?" the author asked. The letter said the deceased soldiers' families were crying for justice and asked the nation not to forget them.

Human Rights Commission's complaints manager, Joseph Camillo, said the commission was conducting its own investigations into the deaths following a request from the soldiers' widows.

Foreign Affairs Minister Kaliopate Tavola re-affirmed the Government's pledge to maintain human rights in the country.

"I believe non-government organisations have an important role to play in the active promotion and protection of human rights. Government, with its limited financial and human resources, cannot do everything. Thus, it relies on you to support its effort in ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights by all citizens of Fiji," Mr Tavola said.