



LABOUR 22

We are there for you

INDIGENOUS EMPOWERMENT

Labour's policies are for the advancement of all our people regardless of race, gender or creed

The i-Taukei community have been particularly disadvantaged and their needs require urgent attention

Former President, Prime Minister and High Chief Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara said when he saw Labour's 1999 Manifesto:

"Good. Excellent. This is the manifesto... this man is going to benefit the Fijian people (i-Taukei) more than anyone else."

CHALLENGE

Labour is deeply shocked at the latest statistics from the HIES survey that i-Taukei make up 75% of those living in poverty - this percentage has dramatically increased since 2006.

Labour is equally concerned about how **i-Taukei landowners are losing access to their land through long term leases that pay far too little - this is the same as land dispossession.**

Fiji First and past governments have badly failed and exploited the indigenous community.

That is why they lag behind and make up the majority of those living in unhealthy, overcrowded, informal settlements despite being the owners of Fiji's rich resources.

Labour believes that their welfare lies in the sustainable development of their resources and sharing equitably in the wealth it creates.

Labour's 2022 Manifesto outlines policies that will improve the economic and social wellbeing of the indigenous community and assist them to bridge the gap between themselves and the rest of the Fijian population.

Three coups that deposed democratically elected Labour governments were carried out in the name of the indigenous people. However, the quality of life of the ordinary indigenous person continues to decline

Labour has been denied the opportunity to carry out its vision for the empowerment of the indigenous community

There is no better party to support the needs of the i-Taukei than Labour

POLICIES

- ✓ **Education** - The withdrawal of Fijian Affairs Board Scholarships by the Bainimarama govt seriously disadvantaged i-Taukei students as they tended to miss out on Toppers Labour will reintroduce scholarships under affirmative action programmes for i-Taukei students & the disadvantaged of other communities; Labour will reduce the burden of TELS
- ✓ Resource owners will be given **special guidance & technical & financial support** to maximise the potential of their resources & enhance their incomes from these resources - Labour will increase funding for **native land development**
- ✓ The neglect of agriculture and other primary resource sectors has greatly impacted the income of the rural population. Labour's policy emphasis on **agricultural and resource sector development** will provide jobs and enhance the incomes of our rural communities. This will be of great advantage to the indigenous community Labour's policy to **Reverse Rural decline** by addressing the deteriorating state of rural infrastructure; investing in rural housing, roads, water & power reticulation; & the establishment of rural hubs to provide basic services will benefit villagers
- ✓ Labour's focus on **eco-tourism** through local small, medium based businesses will largely benefit the i-Taukei as will our policy for tourism development in Ra, Vanua Levu, and historic & cultural destinations eg Levuka, Taveuni. Labour believes, that as owners of the land and Qoliqoli, the indigenous community must benefit through ownership and not just as low-paid workers in the tourism industry
- ✓ **Health Care** - Labour's plan for a National Health Insurance Scheme will benefit all our citizens, particularly the poor. Labour's plan to set up mobile health clinics for regular check-ups will benefit people in remote, rural areas and help to tackle NCDs
- ✓ **Village upliftment** - In 1999 the Labour government had developed a data base on all Fijian villages in a move to upgrade and improve conditions. The 2000 coup interfered with this programme. It was not implemented by any government after that. Labour will re-establish this policy
- ✓ **Youth** - this is a major area of concern needing urgent attention. It is sad to see the number of our young boys who fill up our jails or stand up in court, wearing hand cuffs. We need to keep them off the streets, we need to find jobs and healthy pursuits for them. Labour's policies to address this issue:
 - **National Service Scheme**: will provide immediate employment for young people unable to get jobs or tertiary placements. They will receive vocational training & minimum wage
 - **Academy of Sports, Arts & Culture**: will provide specialised training for youth showing promise in sports, athletics, or the Arts such as music, painting, dance & drama as career opportunities either here or overseas; it will also provide an avenue for the development and commercialisation of traditional art & craft
- ✓ Labour will increase resources for The **i-Taukei Institute of Language & Culture**