We are there for you

LABOUR 22
MANIFESTO
Labour’s Guiding Principles

Labour’s mandate is directed by its guiding principles for fair and democratic governance.

The democratic systems that safeguard the effective running of a country have broken down in Fiji. This has led to social and economic failures that have destabilised the country.

This would not happen under a Labour government.

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Our guiding principles are as follows:

1/ Recognition and protection of fundamental political and civil rights of citizens, freedom of expression and a just legal system

2/ Elimination of discrimination and exploitation on grounds of class, sex, religion, age and political affiliation

3/ Abolition of poverty and achievement of an equitable distribution of income, wealth and opportunities

4/ Provision and maintenance of full and meaningful employment

5/ Proper management of Fiji’s resources, and protection of the environment

6/ Redistribution of political and economic power so that all members of society have the opportunity to participate in the institutions and processes which determine their lives

7/ Promotion of democratic socialisation of industry, production, distribution and exchange in order to eliminate anti-social exploitative practices

8/ Maintenance, creation of and support for a competitive, non-monopolistic private sector

9/ Encouragement and support for local small-scale businesses, farming and co-operative ventures

10/ Fostering a national identity for our people

11/ Recognition and encouragement of the right of labour to organise for the protection and advancement of its objectives

12/ Application of industrial democracy to increase opportunities for people to work in satisfying, healthy and humane conditions and to participate in and increase their control over decision making processes affecting them.

“With humility and humanity, that is part of our living tradition, we must serve the people of the land”

- Dr. Timoci Bavadra -
First Labour Prime Minister 1987
Dear Friends,

I know that for many of you, life is getting harder. Keeping a roof over your head, putting decent food on the table for your family, and getting quality health care for your loved ones, has become a tough challenge.

People everywhere tell me that the cost of living is very high and that they are finding it difficult to make ends meet. The shocking truth is that over half our people either live in poverty or on the verge of it.

Our nation is over-burdened with debt, corruption is a serious problem, the economy is deeply troubled, there is mounting social distress. But equally serious is the blow inflicted on our national ethos and self-respect. We are now seen as a nation living off borrowed money.

Labour stood by you all these years making your voice heard on all matters that have made life difficult for you – the escalating cost of living, the fight for a fair national minimum wage, the assault on the basic rights of workers and so on …

Now we are ready to take on a new challenge to rebuild Fiji where everyone is treated fairly.

WE are ready to tackle the root causes of poverty by empowering our people to live in dignity - earn fair wages, afford healthy nutritious food for your families, give your children a decent education, have access to affordable housing and quality health care.

WE want to see that our workers are treated fairly, that they have security of employment and that their jobs and rights are fully protected. We want to substantially reduce the high unemployment rate among our youth.

WE want all our people to feel that their freedom and rights are protected and secure and that they have access to fair opportunities.

WE want a government that is transparent and accountable to the people. We want to rid the nation of corruption and nepotism.

WE want Fiji to become a self-reliant nation with a robust economy.

Labour stands before you with a proven record of 37 years of dedicated service to all the people of Fiji. The achievements of the Labour governments of 1987 and 1999 (short as they were) stand as true testimonies of our vision, and our ability to govern for the benefit of all. Our compassion and sensitivity to the needs of our people and our courage and determination to maintain course in the face of adversity, remain unmatched.

Our 2022 Manifesto presents, once again, Labour’s Vision for our nation.

We have a dynamic set of policies to address the key challenges that confront us. Team Labour looks forward to meeting with you to explain these policies in the course of our campaign in the coming weeks.

A vote for Labour is a vote for a secure, prosperous and a more exciting future for you and your family.

God Bless Fiji

Mahendra Chaudhry
Leader
We as a nation, just like households, must learn to live within our means. Right now in Fiji, economic growth is import-consumption based, debt-fuelled and inflation driven. GDP figures are more representative of the increase in prices rather than increase in productivity.

The country and individuals are consuming more than they produce and debt levels for both have dramatically risen. The increasing debt, alongside rising inflation and cost of living, could likely result in further devaluations of the Fijian Dollar which would make Fijians even poorer. In fact, Fiji could find itself in the same spiralling crisis as Sri Lanka.

To avoid this, we must import less and export more. As a first step in Labour’s economic recovery, we will discourage non-essential imports. This will reduce our trade deficit and support local producers and manufacturers to increase our level of self-reliance, boost private sector growth and build local capacity.

Labour’s economic recovery will create meaningful production and lift the standard of living for all. Those with the opportunity to go overseas will prefer to remain in Fiji and social issues such as poverty will be tackled.

Foreign debt will be reduced under a Labour government as budget deficits will be funded from domestic sources. An extensive costing of the policies outlined in this document has been carried out where budget deficits will fall within the capacity of the domestic market to lend to the government. It is envisaged that a balanced budget will be possible within 3-5 years by when domestic debt can also begin to be paid down.

For more information go to flp.org.fj - Labour’s alternate budget and manifesto supplementary document: ‘Fiji First’s Failed Economy’

RESHAPING THE ECONOMY

THE OUTLOOK FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Labour will consolidate under a new Ministry of Infrastructure all existing institutions to provide an integrated approach to development while allowing municipal councils the responsibility for the maintenance of urban roads, streetlights etc.

Labour will create a public sector infrastructure enterprise to develop local capacity to reduce our reliance on expensive overseas contractors.

Labour will invest in roads (with respect to maintenance and to ease traffic congestion), jetties, and bridges; renewable energy; water, sewage and sanitation; telecommunications (including digital); hospitals and schools, rural development, housing for the poor and agriculture

For more info go to flp.org.fj - Labour’s alternate budget & manifesto supplementary document: ‘Overcoming Fiji’s Infrastructure Deficit’

ELECTRICITY AND WATER FOR ALL

- The privatisation of EFL will be examined and a future plan for a government buy back actioned to safeguard access to electricity for all, control excessive use and wastage and ensure the lowest price for energy to the consumer
- The EFL subsidy, grid extension and house wiring scheme will continue
- WAF will continue to be well funded but also reviewed to understand and remedy its recent shortcomings to secure the uninterrupted supply of water to households all around Fiji

TRANSPORT

- review the operations of LTA to ensure that it does not unnecessarily harass and penalise motorists, but rather assist them and help keep our roads safe
- revise all fees and charges levied by LTA to make them fair to motorists
- Undertake a holistic study of the taxi and hire car industries in consultation with industry stakeholders to address such things as:
  ‣ base system
  ‣ issuance of permits
  ‣ grievances of contract drivers
  ‣ fare structure
- Labour will conduct an extensive national public transport review to determine ways in which the public and private sectors can work together better to improve outcomes, especially in rural areas
- Fuel prices need to be stabilised: Labour will investigate the current fuel price structure, distributor margins, introduce quarterly price review and look at setting up a fuel stabilisation fund to standardise fuel prices nationally and reduce domestic sea and air travel costs.
Labour’s economic recovery will involve the revival of the agricultural sector. This will strengthen domestic supply chains and safeguard food security while reversing urbanisation and rural poverty. Increased economic growth in agriculture will have to be sustainable and environmentally friendly.

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHERIES**

**GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT AND GRANTS**
- Increased funding and scope of Fiji Agro Marketing (AMA) and grants to independent distributors to collect farm produce from ALL farmers and distribute to market to all corners of the local market, making local food more accessible and cheaper (especially after climate events)
- Greater farm level assistance
- Import duty will be increased to support and guarantee livelihoods for farmers
- Boost manufacturing through increased funding for Food Processors Fiji and incentives for the private sector

**SUSTAINABLE FISHING**
Priority to preserve local fish stock
- Emphasis on import substitution to boost livelihoods of local fishing industry
- Fund the effective policing of our territorial waters to guard against poaching
- Continued support for local aquaculture
- Investment in infrastructure

**CREDIT**
- GOVT @ 3.99% + GOVT GNTEE
- 50 YR AGRI LEASES & GOVT LEASE RENEWAL SUBSIDIES*

**FARMERS**

**LIVESTOCK**
Increase local capacity and self reliance and support local producers: raise import duty and encourage local producers to supply the domestic market; provide subsidies to dairy farmers (feed, medicine, pasture development and breeding); increase funding for disease control and veterinary; and review the Fiji Meat Act

**FORESTRY**
- Encourage supply for local market; continued reforestation & conservation; funding for nurseries for local hardwood (dakua, yaka etc)
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**REVERSING RURAL DECLINE**

**LABOUR’S RETURN TO RURAL INITIATIVE WILL ADDRESS POVERTY, BOOST THE ECONOMY AND REDUCE THE STRAIN ON URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE**

**INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT**
- Labour will invest in the maintenance and upgrade of rural roads, bridges & agricultural infrastructure
- Labour will allocate $50m annually for infrastructure development in Vanua Levu and outer islands
- Improve postal and banking services for rural areas

**AGRICULTURAL ESTATES**
- Labour will acquire land, prepare lots and build houses for Agricultural Estates (commercial farming lots) for eligible urban households to encourage their return to rural; grants and low interest loans (under govt guarantee) will be made available for those under this scheme to relocate, purchase their home and establish businesses

**RURAL ‘HUBS’**
- Labour will construct rural service centres that provide administrative services, commercial and market spaces, free Wi-Fi hotspots and public communal areas and facilities

*Terms of leases must be in consultation with landowners; Labour recommends a minimum of 50 years for agricultural leases for an increase in the rental from 6% to 10% of the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV). Government will pay the 4% difference in the case of local farmers.*
Low Interest BUSINESS LOANS for SMEs

Small businesses must have access to low interest loans in order for productive areas of the economy to be targeted.

The government will guarantee the loans and support interest payments

Unfortunately, under Fiji First, bank loans have been directed to the property market, import consumption and to large businesses. This has caused households to be inundated with debt and, alongside the devaluation of the dollar in 2009, is the main reason for the unprecedented rise in the cost of living. The dominance of large businesses has stifled competition, strangled smaller businesses and kept wages low.

For those SMEs wanting to expand in productive areas of the economy and employ youth and women

3.99% CREDIT FACILITY UNDER GOVT GNTEE

For innovative new SMEs in productive areas of the economy and involving youth and women entrepreneurs

REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT

LOCAL MANUFACTURING

- Shift in emphasis from services to manufacturing for import substitution and export
- Shift from a reliance on foreign investment to supporting local innovation and entrepreneurship; FDI must be regulated to ensure it adds value to the economy

IT DEVELOPMENT

The IT sector has great export potential and will be developed through construction of IT ‘villages’ and support for private sector investment. We need to add value to the IT sector and under Labour, Fiji will not be relegated to a mere Call Centre Nation

FILM/TV AND MUSIC

Grants for artists to create more and better quality local content for domestic and export markets
- Privatise FBC

TOURISM

Support tourism in strategic ways to boost Fiji’s attractiveness in the global market while increasing domestic competition

- Reduce departure tax to land more people on our shores
- Remove excessive tax breaks to allow for a level playing field and greater competition
- Support innovative ventures (eco-tourism, farm stays, hill stations, health/medical tourism initiatives etc) with emphasis on local small to medium business ownership
- Public and private funded tourism development in Ra, Vanua Levu and historic & cultural destinations such as Levuka, Taveuni and Suva
- Continuation of marketing grant

TAX REFORM

Labour will:
- Introduce a progressive income tax structure while continuing the $30,000 tax threshold
- Review tax holidays and incentives to create a level playing field
- Increase trade tax on non-essential imports
- Standardized corporate tax at 20%
- Reinstate Service Turnover Tax to redress the imbalance between the services and other sectors of the economy
- Widen Capital Gains Tax on the sale and transfer of investment assets
- ensure No VAT on basic food items including baby food and medicines

Action plan for capital markets to better utilise domestic savings for investment

EASE of DOING BUSINESS

Labour will review fees, charges and licensing requirements applicable to small businesses and grant appropriate relief and incentives to encourage greater participation in this sector. Labour will redirect the Commerce Commission’s oversight role to ensure fair competition practices rather than stifling businesses through over-regulation

GROWING THE PRIVATE SECTOR
QUALITY HEALTH CARE

ALL OUR CITIZENS, RICH OR POOR, DESERVE THE BEST HEALTH CARE

There is mounting dissatisfaction with our Health Care services. The fault lies with the govt and not our nurses and doctors who have been working through trying conditions, under resourced and poorly paid. The FF govt in the past 15 years has lacked the political will to improve conditions. Labour will do the following:

PRIVATE SECTOR in HEALTH
Labour will access specialist expertise & resources for the management of hospitals to improve services and technology. Labour is not satisfied that the Aspen PPP model serves in the best interest of our people.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME
A scheme similar to Australia’s Medicare will be developed to improve healthcare and make it accessible to all eligible Fijians.

STAFFING
- Doctors and nurses will be well remunerated; salaries and allowances of health personnel will be increased to retain them in Fiji
- TELS reduced for students in healthcare to boost enrolments

MEDICINES
The stock of free medicines & consumables will be increased at all our hospitals and health centres.

UPGRADE MEDICAL FACILITIES
Upgrade all healthcare facilities (including proper maintenance) and improve equipment.

AGED CARE
- Review ‘gaps’ in aged care
- Coordinate care between communities and institutions to improve services for seniors

FIGHTING TOGETHER AGAINST NCDs
Labour will embark on a vigorous and holistic campaign to fight NCDs
Labour will:
- Mount awareness in schools, workplaces, communities and the media on the need for healthy lifestyles, diet and exercise; community leaders, sports and entertainment personalities will be active in these awareness campaigns.
- Widen Excise taxes to regulate supply of unhealthy foods
- Carry out an integrated approach to the distribution of healthy, cheaper locally produced foods
- Encourage local governments to provide attractive green public spaces for exercise and outdoor activities
- Boost funding for mobile clinics to visit remote and rural communities for regular health checks
- Increase government subsidies for kidney dialysis treatment in each district
- Create a health databank to coordinate information

HOUSING FOR ALL
(AFFORDABLE URBAN HOUSING PROJECT - AUHP)

PROACTIVE GOVT INITIATIVE THAT PROVIDES QUALITY, CLIMATE RESILIENT & AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR HARDWORKING FIJIANS

3 STEP APPROACH TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING
1 - FNPF savings plan to raise the deposit for a new home
2 - Housing Authority will administer the construction of affordable homes through government funding - Houses will be sold at fixed prices at two levels: low income and middle/low income
3 - Commercial banks will provide loans at 3% interest

MOVE UP IN THE WORLD
- Urban squatter settlements will be a thing of the past through affordable housing and freeing up PRB flats
- Labour does not believe in high-rise, ghetto style housing, rather ‘liveable’ neighbourhoods with parks and open spaces
- The supply of new and affordable housing will reduce prices in the overall housing market

Urban squatter settlement maintenance programmes will continue alongside the upgrade and development of rural and small-town squatter settlements; Labour will upgrade villages and proactively support the Model Towns Trust (housing for villages)

Review gaps in MENTAL HEALTH understanding & treatment
GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION (GEC)
Labour will set up a Commission to:
- review existing legislation to remove discrimination against women and non-binary genders and ensure that new laws firmly represent all genders;
- deal with complaints in relation to workplace discrimination;
- work closely with NGOs and engage on the ground with communities;
- ensure that women in the formal and informal sectors are paid their statutory wages.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Set up a domestic violence & child exploitation task force and engage a ‘Violence Never’ campaign in the media and on the ground.

CORDINATED STATE ASSISTANCE
- Increased support (incl. financial) for single parents.
- Government funded community awareness programmes against exploitation, trafficking and domestic violence; and support for victims.

DOMESTIC DISPUTE RESOLUTION
- Family courts will be well resourced to effectively deal with reported cases and to ensure compliance.
- Mediation services will be encouraged as an alternative to the lengthy and adversarial court system.

WOMEN IN COMMERCE
Labour will strive to increase the economic empowerment of women:
- Affordable credit & govt guarantees for women in productive areas of the economy.
- Extend the role of AMA for the distribution and marketing for such things as traditional craft products & floriculture and horticulture products for the domestic and export market and to tourist centres.
- Provide education & training on financial & business management through govt programs.

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS & LAND
An integral part of Labour’s policies is to advance agriculture and primary resource sectors and develop the rural areas; this will improve the wellbeing of the Indigenous community.

Government programs will be set up to provide landowners with ongoing guidance and support to protect their interests and to maximise the potential of their land resource.

Increase the maximum annual rental of agricultural land to 10% of the UCV to better reflect the value of the land with a negotiated 50 years minimum lease term and Government will pay the 4% difference in the case of local farmers.

Land utilization needs to be sustainable and productive and follow traditional values of respect for mother nature.

Reintroduce tertiary level scholarships for financially and geographically disadvantaged students which will benefit i-Taukei students.

Increase funding for Indigenous land development and the iTaukei Institute of Language & Culture.

For more information go to flp.org.fj - Labour’s manifesto supplementary document: ‘Equality for Women’
EDUCATION

TRANSITION INTO THE WORKFORCE
Reduce the burden of TELS and encourage hard work
- Labour will set up a new Ministry for Tertiary and Vocational Education to oversee this sector
- Reduce TELS by 50% for those who complete courses in the prescribed term; this will be backdated for all outstanding TELS accounts
- Further reduce TELS for courses in the national interest
  - Increased TELS eligibility quota
- Toppers to be supplemented with scholarships for those financially and geographically disadvantaged and for overseas post graduate studies
- Labour’s new ‘National Services Scheme’ will provide employment (while upskilling) on minimum wage for those who miss out on tertiary positions
- Grant for post graduate research and coordination with govt departments and the private sector to boost innovation
- Reinstate the USP grant; review fees charged by tertiary institutions as a condition of their grants

JOB CREATION
- Low interest and government guaranteed loans for business expansion that engage youth employment
- Infrastructure projects will target youth employment
- Youth will be directed to those tertiary level courses that maximise employment possibilities
- A National Employment Office to coordinate job vacancies

SPORTS, CULTURE & THE ARTS
- Labour will establish a Fijian Academy of Sports, Art and Culture to boost employment, training and participation of young people with specialized skills; enhance Fiji’s brand and profile on the global stage
- Sporting facilities and Youth Training Centres will be upgraded and sports programs in schools and at community level implemented
- Labour believes that the arts is vital for national identity and unity; Labour will fund: ‘Arts Alive International Festival’ as an annual cultural celebration, Suva Art Gallery; Dance Theatre of Fiji; The Cultural Theatre of Fiji and provide grants to musicians and film makers

INVOLVE THE VOICE OF YOUTH by mobilising and engaging youth on issues such as government policy and the environment through funded national Youth Councils

INTERNET AND ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY
- Labour will prioritise the development of digital infrastructure to provide wider access to the internet ranging from better digital services in rural areas to free Wi-Fi at such public venues as markets, government buildings e.t.c.
- A Labour government will further adopt digital technologies to increase the ‘ease of doing business’ and enhance access to government services
  - There will be continued funding for digital resources for schools

YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
Upgrade and improve resources for schools to better cater for children with special needs; and integration into the workforce

STATE ASSISTANCE
Fee free education up to 18 years old and free bus fare for travel to and from school will continue

BETTER SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT
- Labour will increase paid leave for teachers, review pay increases for education workers and carry out civil service employment reform
- Funding for urgent school upgrades will be available

BETTER OUTCOMES FOR EDUCATION
There must be a review of the entire education system engaging such topics as:
- improving the curriculum which needs to be modern and progressive, involving music, sports, art etc and representative of an egalitarian society
- the governance structure for decision making, the delegation of responsibilities and how government grants are being utilised
- the possibility of State funding for lunches, uniforms etc for disadvantaged pupils
- access to education in terms of location, affordability and for people with disabilities
- secondary schools having the capacity to be technical colleges in regional areas
- increasing wages for education workers
- the provision and accessibility of childcare
LABOUR POLICY IS DIRECTED AT 100% EMPLOYMENT WHILE SAFEGUARDING WORKERS’ & UNION RIGHTS, A FAIR & DECENT WAGE FOR ALL AND WORKPLACE SAFETY & SECURITY

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM

1/ Restore permanent employment for all established civil service positions and abolish short term contracts
2/ Review current pay structure and service conditions; rectify anomalies
3/ De-politicise the civil service; replace expatriates & localize all senior executive positions
4/ Review the Employment Relations Act to provide for speedy resolution of labour disputes
5/ Provide appeal rights on promotions, transfers & disciplinary penalties
6/ Restore retirement age to 60

NON DISCRIMINATION
The rights of all persons in the workforce will be protected on the basis of inclusion, gender equality & non-discrimination

OH&S
Labour will step up enforcement of OH&S regulations and practices in the workplace

FIJI NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND (FNPF)
Workers will not have their pension fund pillaged
- Restore the tripartite governance structure of FNPF to allow representation of workers
- Revisit the 2012 reforms to ascertain its appropriateness in the current economic and social context
- Labour shares FNPF’s concerns about the current state of retirees’ savings & benefits and will restore the pension rate to 15% and reimburse $180m to the accounts of members forced to withdraw during Covid
- Pensions will be periodically adjusted to take into account the cost of living

MINIMUM WAGE
The current minimum wage is inadequate (as is apprentice wage) and will be reviewed to take account of the cost of living
As the economy rebounds under a Labour govt, minimum wage will rise steadily while inflation stabilises

LAW AND FREEDOM
The 2013 Constitution is deeply flawed and conflicts with democratic and international norms on human rights and good governance. These must be reviewed.
Restore freedom of expression, association and assembly and full capacity of the unions to fight for workers’ rights
Re-establish media freedom - review the Media Industry Development Decree to remove the harsh penalties and restrictions on media freedom
Return autonomy and authority to independent commissions and State institutions
A separate courts system will be created for traffic offences and petty crime to free up other areas of the court system
Enact comprehensive Code of Conduct & Freedom of Information legislation as a matter of priority to provide open access to government information and curb corruption
Labour will review current laws and practices relating to citizenship to ensure that citizenship is genuinely granted
Labour believes that the armed forces must remain under the control of the government exercised through the Cabinet and the Minister responsible
CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

**ECONOMIC GROWTH MUST ALIGN WITH TRADITIONAL VALUES OF RESPECT FOR LAND AND SUSTAINABILITY**

- Minimise fossil fuel use through sugarcane production of ethanol to replace petrol (E10 petrol), bagasse to replace cooking gas and by reducing imports
- Boost renewable energy through public, private and development partner investment in hydro, converting ‘waste to energy’ (including biogas); solar initiatives in urban areas and the continuation of providing solar to rural & maritime areas
- Reduce flooding and redirect water by funding extensive drainage; dredging; desilting and irrigation works; and constructing and upgrading floodgates and dams.
- Review the environmental impact of mining (incl. water)
- Prioritise the commercialisation of small & medium scale diversified farms over large scale mono-crop farms to retain moisture in the atmosphere and the natural balance of soils
- Development of parks and open spaces and the establishment of more ‘liveable’ towns and cities
- Invest in National Parks & gardens, that regulate the environment, provide sanctuary to flora & fauna (incl. protected and endangered species) and provide recreation to the public (incl. tourists)
- Carry out an urban rubbish collection and recycling initiative (phase 1)
- Labour will carry out an annual environmental impact survey and pay a subsequent environmental levy in order to monitor and regulate their environmental footprint
- Labour will mobilise the Bio Security Authority to deal effectively with the growing scourge of termites and black ants. This is a major concern which has been ignored. A review will be conducted with respect to compensation for those affected
- Study the impact of receding coastlines on coastal villages and relocate them when necessary
- Labour will give priority to the conservation of Fiji’s rich and unique biodiversity and be proactive in safeguarding our coral reefs and mangroves and ensuring the conservation of our marine resources
- Study the impact of vehicle and industrial pollution and fertilizers on our environment and determine solutions
- The strict compliance of litter laws will be upheld to keep our environment clean at all times

**HUMAN & DRUG TRAFFICKING**
- Additional funding will be given to police and border force to step up measures to combat human and drug trafficking
- QORVIS will be replaced by an inhouse facility for public relations
- $20m Disaster Relief Fund for immediate relief for those affected by climate events. This will ensure that funds are at the ready for unforesen disasters
- Campaign against cruelty to ANIMALS, National desexing program, round up strays
- Labour will review fees, charges and business practices of Banks, financial institutions, and insurance companies

**DRUG CONSUMPTION (NARCOTICS)**
- Labour is greatly concerned about drugs in our society: a report will be commissioned into drug related abuse, mental health and the rising incidence of suicide; it will look at how mental health practitioners, social workers and police can coordinate their work to create better outcomes

**COUNCIL ELECTIONS**
- Bring back Municipal & Provincial council elections to allow for better representation for, and accountability to, rate payers
- Reinstate the 102 FRCS staff and teachers that were made redundant during Covid
- Work alongside NGOs to better understand the needs of the interest groups they represent; coordinate public and/or private sector funding for deserving NGOs

**OTHER ISSUES**
- Development of parks and open spaces and the establishment of more ‘liveable’ towns and cities
- Review the environmental impact of mining (incl. water)
- Prioritise the commercialisation of small & medium scale diversified farms over large scale mono-crop farms to retain moisture in the atmosphere and the natural balance of soils
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**FOREIGN RELATIONS**
- Continue strong relationships with global partners and seek new engagements to participate in mutually beneficial trade and diplomacy BUT always with strong belief in Fiji’s sovereignty and self determination
- State Owned Enterprises (SOEs)
- SOEs will be strengthened and better regulated to improve governance, efficiency and to modernise operations; SOEs will have to provide financials on time
- Labour will mobilise the Bio Security Authority to deal effectively with the growing scourge of termites and black ants. This is a major concern which has been ignored. A review will be conducted with respect to compensation for those affected
- Study the impact of vehicle and industrial pollution and fertilizers on our environment and determine solutions
- The strict compliance of litter laws will be upheld to keep our environment clean at all times
### THE STRENGTH IN SUGAR

| Continue existing subsidies on fertilizer, weedicides and pesticides | Retain the new farmers assistance scheme introduced by Labour in 1999 |
| Reform and upgrade existing harvesting and transport systems to make them cost effective; continue cartage to Rarawai Mill | Introduce a comprehensive crop rehabilitation programme (CRP) to increase crop size – similar to Labour’s CRP of 1999 |
| Upgrade the ageing mills with modern equipment and rebuild the Penang Mill in Ra | Support private sector investment into manufacturing to diversify output for export and domestic markets |
| Labour will assist cane growers with the payment of premiums on land lease renewals | Immediate increase of the guaranteed price to $102pt to reflect increased costs |
| Review operations of FSC to restore profitability | Reinstate industry organisations disbanded by the FF government to give cane farmers a voice in the running of the industry |
| Grants and incentives for farming best practices and crop diversification | R&D into alternate uses for sugar (e.g. alternate fuels, plastics), soil health, sustainable farming methods & improving per-hectare yield |

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**Labour will action 100% employment**

Labour believes in an economy structured to meet the needs of the people where no one is left behind

**No one must go hungry!**

The Food Voucher Program will align with the national agri-distribution initiative where local and healthy food is accessible by all

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**Disclaimer:** It is notified to all concerned that expenditure on the activities and projects mentioned herein will be funded from the Consolidated Fund through the government budgeting process and accounted for in all respects as per the requirements of the Finance Management Act. Authorized by: Mahendra Chaudhry, Secretary-General, Fiji Labour Party, 30 Varani Street, Suva. Paid for by the Fiji Labour Party.

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