



PRIME MINISTER
SUVA, FIJI

16th December, 2008

Honourable Murray McCully
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Wellington
NEW ZEALAND

Dear Minister

I refer to your letter of this morning. I am extremely disappointed with the position you have taken in respect of the arbitrary and punitive travel bans imposed by New Zealand.

Your claim that the new New Zealand Government wants to improve relations with Fiji is hitherto hollow.

In the final analysis, your Government together with the Australian Government are employing bully boy tactics. You are taking a high moral ground with Fiji in the Pacific when you shirk away from doing so with other politically and economically powerful countries. Your Government's hypocrisy is most blatant, which you fail to acknowledge. Your attitude towards Fiji and the Pacific in general is condescending (like your letter) and patronizing.

In addition, the actions of your diplomats together with Australia's in Fiji are, in short, most undiplomatic. They not only are actively disengaged with the Fijian Government but are actively working to undermine it. At the very least, this is unacceptable diplomatic behaviour. Your mission in Suva over the past 18 months has served no role in improving relations with Fiji.

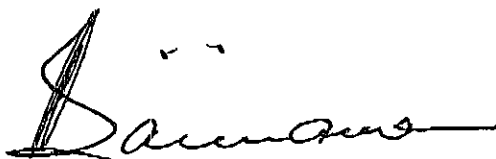
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As I said to you, even if we were to accept a ban on Ministers of the Interim Government, notwithstanding the fact that you did not impose a ban on the Interim Government appointed by the current President in 2000 and the fact that the High Court of Fiji has held that the appointment of the Interim Government by his Excellency our President is legal, the continuation of the bans on innocent citizens including children of my country, is not only inhumane, unfair and unjust but undignified and obtuse. It makes a hypocrisy of your supposed adherence to due process.

The ball is in your court to improve relations with Fiji. We have from day one been prepared to engage diplomatically, on a level playing field, with dignity and civility, professionalism and honesty and with the view to put in place systems for sustained parliamentary democracy - all of which appears to be lost on you, the new New Zealand Government and its diplomats.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



J.V. Bainimarama
Prime Minister