

# **THE CONSTITUTION OF FIJIFIRST**

## **1. WHAT IS THIS DOCUMENT**

This is the Constitution of FijiFirst -a national movement dedicated to the service of our nation and putting its interests first.

## **2. WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE STAND FOR**

FijiFirst is a national movement dedicated to the service of our nation and to the advancement of the well-being of our people. Towards this end, FijiFirst's objectives are:

- a) To uphold and implement the Fijian Constitution;
- b) To sponsor programmes for the dissemination and adoption by Fijians of the Core Values and Attributes of FijiFirst;
- c) To serve the best interests of Fijians and to put Fiji first;
- d) To uphold the rights, freedom and dignity of human beings;
- e) To preserve, protect and defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Fiji;
- f) To promote and foster common and equal citizenry;
- g) To safeguard the freedom, and advance the well-being, of Fijians through representative and democratic government.
- h) To forge a nation of Fijians: to build a fair, just, and tolerant society; and to bind them together by patriotism, honour and commitment to Fiji.
- i) To build a dynamic society which is disciplined and self-reliant, and in which rewards are in accord with each Fijian's performance and contribution to society, and which has compassion for the less fortunate;
- j) To foster, support and promote the values of healthy competition, self-sufficiency and free enterprise;
- k) To achieve the optimum in economic development, and social and cultural fulfilment and safeguard our environment to have the natural world protected for the benefit of present and future generations;

- l) To encourage the participation of Fijian workers as partners together with business and government in fostering economic growth and development of Fiji;
- m) To foster an environment for healthy economic growth in which workers have good prospects for employment, earning sustainable wages, and lifting living standards;
- n) To honour men and women who have sacrificed their lives in the service of their nation;
- o) To contest seats in the Parliament of Fiji in the name of "FijiFirst" with a view to forming government and appointing the Prime Minister; and
- p) Without undermining the over-riding interests of the good of society and without undermining the preceding objectives, to provide equal opportunities for all Fijians to strive to fulfil themselves and to achieve their maximum potential through education and training so that there will be a place and role for every Fijian whatever his or her contribution.

### 3. OUR CORE VALUES

The mission of FijiFirst is to build a fair and just society where the benefits of progress are spread widely to all. FijiFirst's core values should remain constant. FijiFirst reaffirms its ideals as being that to successfully govern and transform Fiji into a modern miracle.

**Integrity:**

FijiFirst must remain clean, incorruptible, above board and transparent, and lead with integrity.

**Diversity:**

A Fiji that belongs equally to all citizens where every individual is assured of justice and fairness.

**Meritocracy:**

A system that provides citizens with equal opportunities to progress, and for a person's contributions to be recognised and appreciated on the basis of merit.

**Self-reliance:**

No one owes us a living. We will avoid creating the dependency syndrome.



#### **4. OUR ATTRIBUTES**

Based on these values, FijiFirst is committed to promoting in all of its acts and deeds reliability, pragmatism, unity, far-sightedness, decisiveness, compassion and resilience over any sense of entitlement or privilege.

##### **Reliability:**

We say what we will do and do what we say. Fulfilling on promises will show Fijians they CAN TRUST us so that we can also earn the people's confidence in our competence and ability to deliver.

##### **Pragmatism:**

We will not be trapped by ideology. Instead, we are committed to maintaining a flexible approach to generating novel solutions to the problems confronting Fiji whilst remaining consistent to our values. Our approach CAN WORK.

##### **Unity:**

A key strength of FijiFirst is the strong sense of unity, loyalty and discipline. This means strong individuals who may have diverse views CAN STICK TOGETHER to work as one effectively.

##### **Far-sighted:**

We operate with a very long-term horizon. No problem is too remote just because its effects may only be evident in the future. We CAN SEE AHEAD to guide Fijians along the best way forward.

##### **Decisive:**

The ability to make swift and bold decisions even in the absence of complete information is a key asset. We CAN DO the necessary to make painful but correct decisions for the long term.

##### **Compassionate:**

We must be able to instinctively empathise with our people. We CAN FEEL their worries, concerns, as well as share their hopes and dreams.

##### **Resilient:**

The ability to persevere despite the discomfort, personal risk or possibility of failure means we CAN LAST through tough times to be there for Fijians.

We strive to win the respect, trust, support and votes of Fijians.

#### **5. WHO CAN BELONG AND HOW YOU CAN JOIN**

##### **5.1 Eligibility**

Membership of FijiFirst, its Divisions, Branches and other cognate parts is offered to any citizen of Fiji of voting age who:

- a) Meets the statutory criteria for participation in the political process in Fiji;
- b) Is not ineligible in law to be elected to the Parliament of Fiji;
- c) Undertakes to comply with this Constitution; and
- d) Is not a member of any other political party.

## 5.2 Joining us

- a) Every member shall be loyal to Fiji and shall uphold the Constitution of Fiji.
- b) Every member must accept and conform to this Constitution, programmes, principles and policies of FijiFirst.
- c) Application for membership shall be made in writing to the General Secretary of FijiFirst and shall be considered by the Central Executive Committee, provided that the Central Executive Committee shall have the power to delegate its functions under this clause to such Committee or officials as it deems fit.
- d) It shall be the duty of the Central Executive Committee in exercising its powers under this clause to consider carefully the suitability of the applicant for admission as a member, having regard to the objectives of FijiFirst.
- e) Subject to clause (c), an applicant shall be accepted as a member if a simple majority of the members of the Central Executive Committee present at the Central Executive Committee meeting at which the election of the applicant is considered vote in favour of his or her election.
- f) The Central Executive Committee may reject any application without assigning any reason therefore and its decision shall be final until and unless it is revised by the Leadership Committee.
- g) In the event of any applicant being refused membership by the Central Executive Committee, any two members may in writing propose to the Leadership Committee, with proper reasons in support of their proposal, that such applicant be accepted. The Leadership Committee may at a time that is convenient consider the proposal and either (subject to any conditions if it deems it necessary) accept it or reject it in its complete discretion. The Leadership Committee is not required to give reasons for its determination. If the Leadership Committee accepts the proposal, its determination shall replace the determination of the Central Executive Committee.
- h) Upon the appointment of a member:
  - (i) notice in writing thereof shall be given to him or her;



- (ii) he or she shall be furnished with a copy of the Constitution of FijiFirst;
- (ii) he or she must pay to the Treasurer within fourteen days from the date of the notice referred to in subclause (h) (i), the amount of the first subscription. Upon payment of this subscription but not before, he or she shall become a member of FijiFirst, and be bound by the Constitution. If the first subscription is not paid within the prescribed 14-day period as aforesaid, the appointment of such member shall be void, unless he or she satisfies the Central Executive Committee that the delay in payment was due to a sufficient cause.
- i) All members shall have the right to attend FijiFirst Congresses.
- j) Members who have proved their loyalty and service to the principles and objectives of FijiFirst and members who, in the opinion of the Leadership Committee, are fit and proper persons, shall be eligible for appointment as members of the Central Executive Committee.
- k) A member shall be appointed to the Central Executive Committee by the Leadership Committee.
- l) Any Central Executive Committee member who is absent for two consecutive formally appointed meetings of the Central Executive Committee without having given prior notice may have his or her membership of the Central Executive Committee terminated by the Central Executive Committee. Before taking a decision, the Central Executive Committee shall send the member a written notice requesting such person to submit his or her explanation in writing for such absence and the Central Executive Committee shall give due consideration to such explanation. A member whose membership of the Central Executive Committee is thus terminated shall, however, continue to be an ordinary member.
- m) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, a member is ineligible to be a member of more than one Division or Branch that has been set up to represent geographical regions. Furthermore, a member cannot be a member of a Division or Branch set up to represent geographical regions if the member is not ordinarily resident in that region.

### **5.3 Foundation member**

- a) Foundation Members shall have all the rights and privileges of members of FijiFirst but shall also be entitled to the following:
  - i. have membership in perpetuity subject to the rights of the Leadership Committee to terminate such membership in accordance with the Constitution;

- ii. to automatically be members of the Leadership Committee for as long as they are Foundation Members;
  - iii. have the exclusive right to vote for and appoint to or remove persons from the Central Executive Committee;
  - iv. shall be entitled to be appointed to the Central Executive Committee.
- b) The Leadership Committee:
- i. shall comprise all Foundation Members from time to time;
  - ii. shall elect from amongst its membership the Parliamentary Leader;
  - iii. shall include and have as its head the Parliamentary Leader;
  - iv. shall determine the number of persons who shall make up the Central Executive Committee (which shall not at any time exceed 15) and the various official positions therein which must include the following:
    - 1. the President;
    - 2. two Vice Presidents;
    - 3. the General Secretary;
    - 4. the Treasurer;
  - v. shall from time to time appoint new Foundation Members but such appointments can only be made upon a unanimous decision of existing Foundation Members provided that any member of FijiFirst who currently holds the position of Prime Minister of Fiji shall automatically be a Foundation Member but which entitlement shall cease upon that person ceasing to hold the position of Prime Minister of Fiji unless the Leadership Committee (excluding the Foundation Member who has ceased to become Prime Minister) unanimously votes otherwise.
  - vi. shall have the power to terminate any Foundation Member where:
    - 1. such member has breached a fundamental requirement of the Constitution;
    - 2. has misconducted himself or herself in a way that does not (in the reasonable opinion of other Foundation Members) befit a member of FijiFirst;
    - 3. has been disloyal to FijiFirst; or



4. is otherwise not a fit and proper person (in the reasonable opinion of other Foundation Members) to continue as a Foundation Member or as a member of FijiFirst;

provided that the decision of the Leadership Committee to terminate such membership (excluding the Foundation Member who is to be the subject of the decision) is unanimous.

vii. shall have the power to:

1. carry out any of the functions of the Central Executive Committee which thereupon shall be deemed to be an act or decision of the Central Executive Committee;
2. veto, overturn or amend any decision of the Central Executive Committee;
3. direct the Central Executive Committee in writing to adopt and pass any resolution which shall be deemed to occur if the Central Executive Committee does not do so by employing its usual processes within 14 days of such direction;
4. amend this Constitution.

viii. shall in consultation with the Central Executive Committee have the final say on the selection of suitable candidates to contest seats in the Parliament of Fiji in an election;

ix. shall require unanimous decisions in the exercise of its functions except where this Constitution provides otherwise or where it resolves to adopt a majority vote in which case in respect of those matters a majority vote shall suffice.

c) Parliamentary Leader shall:

- i. be elected from the ranks of the Foundation Members by the Foundation Members which shall be unanimous but if after two rounds of voting unanimity is not obtained then the person commanding two thirds or more of the votes;
- ii. the Parliamentary Leader shall lead FijiFirst in any election and shall hold the position of leadership of those members who have been elected to the Parliament so that, e.g., if FijiFirst holds the majority of seats in Parliament, the Parliamentary Leader shall be the Prime Minister; if FijiFirst is in the position of being the main opposition party in Parliament, the Parliamentary Leader shall be the Leader of the Opposition;

#### **5.4 Subscription**

- a) The annual subscription for a Member shall be \$1.00 or such other sum as the Central Executive Committee may from time to time prescribe.
- b) All annual subscriptions (except the first subscription of a newly appointed member) shall be payable in the first month of each financial year. The first subscription of a newly appointed member shall become payable in the manner described above but thereafter shall be in accordance with this provision.
- c) If any member fails to pay his or her subscription within two months of such subscription becoming due, written notice shall be sent to his or her last known address but if the failure continues after two months from the posting of such notice, the Central Executive Committee may delete his or her name from the membership of FijiFirst. But if at any time he or she gives to the Central Executive Committee a satisfactory explanation, he or she may, in the complete discretion of the Central Executive Committee, and upon payment of all arrears, be re-admitted to membership.

#### **5.5 Resignation of member**

Any member may resign his or her membership by giving to the General Secretary one month's notice in writing to that effect, provided that any member giving such notice shall be liable to pay his or her subscription up to and including the current year in which such notice is given.

#### **5.6 Discipline**

It shall be the duty of the Central Executive Committee if at any time it shall be of the opinion that the interests of FijiFirst so require, to consider the question of the suspension or expulsion of any member or demotion of any Central Executive Committee member at a special Central Executive Committee meeting convened for that purpose. Such member shall be given notice in writing, sent to the last known address of such person, of such meeting and shall be informed in such notice that he or she may offer a written explanation or an explanation of his or her conduct to such meeting in person. If at such meeting, after considering any explanation offered, two-thirds of the members of the Central Executive Committee present and voting for the suspension of that member, demotion or expulsion, the member shall thereupon be demoted, suspended for such period as the Central Executive Committee so constituted may specify or cease to be a member or Central Executive Committee member as the case may be. An expelled member shall have the right of appeal to the Leadership Committee.



## 6 HOW WE WILL CONDUCT OUR MEETINGS

All meetings of FijiFirst that are required under this Constitution shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

- a) Meetings shall be held as prescribed in this Constitution or as appointed by the relevant committee from time to time as it sees fit.
- b) The procedure to be adopted in the conduct of meetings shall comply with the following:
  - 1. applicable legislative requirements;
  - 2. this Constitution;
  - 3. the requirements or procedures determined by the Leadership Committee;
  - 4. the requirement or procedures determined by the Central Executive Committee;
  - 5. the requirement or procedures determined by the subject committee,

provided that in the event of a conflict between any one or more of these requirements, preference will be given in the order of requirements set out in this subclause. Subject thereto, each committee may determine its procedures and practices as it sees fit.

- c) Reasonable notice in writing shall be given to those eligible to attend the meeting specifying:
  - 1. the date, time and location of the meeting;
  - 2. the business to be transacted, including an agenda;
  - 3. anything else required to give effect to any legislative requirement or the requirement of a superior committee of FijiFirst;
- d) The quorum shall be at least 60% of the total number of persons eligible to attend. In the event of there being no quorum, the meeting shall be adjourned for thirty minutes. Upon the meeting being reconvened after the adjournment should the prescribed quorum still not be attained, those present shall form a quorum provided that there must always be in no fewer than 2 persons.
- e) The business at any meeting could include but is not limited to:
  - 1. passing the minutes of the previous meeting;
  - 2. to receive and review any report;
  - 3. the work and progress of FijiFirst;
  - 4. financial matters;
  - 5. reviewing, amending, giving effect to the objectives of FijiFirst;
  - 6. election of office bearers;
  - 7. implementing any directives from superior office bearers or committees of FijiFirst; and
  - 8. pass resolutions.

- f) Except where the Constitution prescribes otherwise, ordinary resolutions put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided by a show of hands unless a ballot is demanded by the person chairing the meeting or a majority of the office bearers. Unless a ballot is so demanded, a declaration by the person chairing the meeting that a resolution has on a show of hands been carried or lost shall be conclusive evidence of the fact. The demand for a ballot may be withdrawn.
- g) There shall be no voting by proxy.
- h) In the event of an impasse, such impasse shall be resolved by a decision to be made by one of the following persons set out in order of priority:
  - 1. the Parliamentary Leader;
  - 2. the Leadership Committee;
  - 3. the President;
  - 4. the General Secretary;
  - 5. the Central Executive Committee.
- i) Attendance may also occur by video link provided a functioning video link facility is made available and otherwise the Chairman approves.

## **7. FIJIFIRST CONGRESS: LISTENING TO THE VIEWS OF ORDINARY FIJIANS**

- a) Whenever the Central Executive Committee deems it necessary, it may convene a FijiFirst Congress at such time and with such agenda as the Central Executive Committee shall determine.
- b) At least three weeks before the date fixed for a FijiFirst Congress the General Secretary shall inform all members in writing of the date fixed for the FijiFirst Congress and cause an appropriate notice to be published in the prominent written press (as well as any other prominent media that the General Secretary considers appropriate) of Fiji.
- c) At least one week before the FijiFirst Congress, the General Secretary shall notify all members of the business to be transacted.

## **8 HOW FIJIFIRST WILL BE MANAGED**

### **8.1 Duties of the Central Executive Committee.**

The duties of the Central Executive Committee shall include the following:

- a) To present to the Leadership Committee and (when convened) the FijiFirst Congress a Report covering the work and progress of FijiFirst during its term of office, together with a Financial Statement and Accounts duly audited;



- b) Ensure that FijiFirst complies with all legislative requirements to enable it to participate in the political processes of Fiji including the pursuit of government and seats in the Parliament of Fiji;
- c) To propose to the Leadership Committee, such amendments to the Constitution as may be, deemed desirable;
- d) To submit to the FijiFirst Congress such resolutions and declarations as in its view may be necessitated by political circumstances;
- e) By engaging members of FijiFirst and any external persons possessing the necessary skills and expertise develop policies and policy documents (including election platforms) which:
  - i. may be disseminated to members of FijiFirst for discussion and consultation;
  - ii. may be tabled at FijiFirst Congresss for discussion and consultation;
  - iii. must be submitted to the Leadership Committee for review, discussion, amendment or adoption (as the Leadership Committee in its complete discretion sees fit)
- f) Upon adoption by the Leadership Committee any policy document shall become the policy of FijiFirst and must be available to any member of FijiFirst upon reasonable request'
- g) To organise and maintain a Fund to finance elections, carry out the work of FijiFirst and to spread among the people the aims and ideals of FijiFirst;
- h) To enforce the Constitution of FijiFirstand promote its aims and to take any action it deems necessary for such purpose;
- i) To establish branches in each of the 4 prescribed electoral divisions of Fiji and for such other constituency (such as regional, youth and the like) at such times and with such constitution and standing orders as it shall deem proper provided that they are not in conflict with the requirements of this Constitution and the proper governance and requirements of FijiFirst. It shall at all times guide and control the work of the Branches in accordance with the policies laid down by FijiFirst and the objectives of FijiFirst. Membership of any such Division or Branch shall not be less than 5 members of FijiFirst;
- j) To establish mechanisms for garnering support, including financial support, for the objectives of FijiFirst, including by setting up bodies the membership of which will be available to Associates who will not be members of FijiFirst but who otherwise share in and support the goals and objectives of FijiFirst. Such bodies must not be conducted in a manner

that is inconsistent with the Constitution, legislative requirements for participating in the electoral process and the objectives of FijiFirst;

- k) To make such Rules as it considers necessary for the proper administration and discipline of FijiFirst and its cognate committees and bodies; and
- l) Propose to the Leadership Committee suitable candidates to contest in any election seats for the Parliament of Fiji.

## **8.2 Powers of members of the Central Executive Committee**

### **a) The President**

- i. The President shall have the right to call meetings of the Central Executive Committee.
- ii. All duties, powers and responsibilities of the President shall, in his absence, devolve upon the Vice Presidents or a Chairman elected by the Central Executive Committee.

- b) One of the Vice Presidents, appointed to do so by the President, shall perform the role of the President where the President is not available to do so.

### **c) The General Secretary**

- i. The General Secretary shall be responsible for summoning the FijiFirst Congress and any Special FijiFirst Congress and all meetings of the Central Executive Committee.
- ii. The General Secretary shall conduct its correspondence under the directions of the Central Executive Committee and shall keep a register of members.
- iii. The General Secretary shall keep all members fully informed of all important activities of the Central Executive Committee. The General Secretary shall keep minutes of the FijiFirst Congress, and any special meetings of the whole of the membership and of the meetings of the Central Executive Committee.
- iv. At least one calendar month before the date fixed for the FijiFirst Congress, the General Secretary shall inform the members in writing of the date fixed for the FijiFirst Congress, and draw their attention to the procedures for meetings.

### **d) The Treasurer**



- i. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all the funds of FijiFirst and shall issue receipts for all payments made to FijiFirst.
- ii. The Treasurer shall implement procedures for ensuring that FijiFirst does not receive any funds in contravention of legislative requirements applicable to the electoral processes in Fiji.
- iii. The Treasurer shall implement procedures for ensuring that FijiFirst conducts its financial affairs in accordance with legislative requirements applicable to the electoral processes in Fiji.
- iv. The Treasurer shall give notice to all members whose subscriptions are in arrears.
- v. The Treasurer shall direct the Trustees to open such a banking account to manage the funds of FijiFirst as the Central Executive Committee may direct and shall deposit therein all monies received on behalf of FijiFirst.
- vi. All cheques and other financial instruments shall be duly signed by the Treasurer and one of two other signatories authorised by the Central Executive Committee.
- vii. The Treasurer shall be responsible for drawing up the Financial Statement and Accounts for presentation to the FijiFirst Congress and the Central Executive Committee.

e) The Central Executive Committee

- i. The Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees with powers to co-opt. Such subcommittees shall be responsible to the Central Executive Committee.
- ii. The Central Executive Committee shall meet as and when necessary to arrange the affairs of FijiFirst, and whenever necessary to examine the account books and FijiFirst's records. More than fifty per cent of Central Executive Committee members at a properly convened meeting of the Committee shall form a quorum. Minutes shall be kept of all the proceedings of the Central Executive Committee.
- iii. The Central Executive Committee shall have power to appoint, pay and dismiss staff employed by FijiFirst.
- iv. The Central Executive Committee shall have power to direct the Trustees (which in this subclause (e) includes a reference to Trustee Corporations) in accordance with clause 8.3 to purchase, take on lease or in exchange, license, hire or otherwise, acquire, movable or immovable property of any kind in furtherance of the objectives of

FijiFirst and to sell, exchange, lease, license or otherwise dispose of any movable or immovable property or interest thereon on such terms as may be considered expedient and subject to this Constitution.

- v. The Central Executive Committee shall be empowered to borrow for the purposes of FijiFirst such amount of money either at one time or from time to time and at such rate of interest and in such form and manner and upon such security as shall be specified in any resolution passed by the Central Executive Committee to borrow money as aforesaid, and thereupon the Central Executive Committee shall direct the Trustees to enter into such agreements for the above purpose in accordance with clause 8.3 and to give such security as may be necessary.
- vi. The Central Executive Committee shall have power to direct the Trustees in accordance with clause 8.3 to build, construct, improve, develop and maintain any property necessary or convenient for the purposes and objectives of FijiFirst.
- vii. The Central Executive Committee shall have power to direct the Trustees sign and execute all deeds, documents and other instruments of every nature and kind whatsoever for carrying out the purposes of FijiFirst.
- viii. The Central Executive Committee shall have power to direct the Trustees to accept, undertake or execute any trust or gift which may be deemed to be in accordance with or which may further or benefit the objectives of FijiFirst or any of them.
- ix. The Central Executive Committee shall have power to appoint in accordance with Clause 8.3 below, members of FijiFirst or persons who are not members of FijiFirst but who in the opinion of the Central Executive Committee will bring specialist or commercial knowledge to bear in the operation of the Trust or a Trust Corporation as Trustees of FijiFirst for such time as it deems fit.
- x. The Central Executive Committee shall have the power to so appoint, discharge and direct such Trustees or Trust Corporation to do all such acts and things as the Trustees or Trust Corporation may be empowered by Clause 8.3 below to do.

### **8.3 Trustees**

- a) There shall be two or more Trustees comprising members of FijiFirst or persons who are not members of FijiFirst but who in the opinion of the Central Executive Committee will bring specialist or commercial knowledge to bear in the operation of the Trust or Trust Corporation who



shall be appointed by the Central Executive Committee and in whom any immovable property of FijiFirst shall be vested,

- b) The Trustees or Trust Corporation so appointed shall hold office for such period as may be decided by the Central Executive Committee or until such time as such appointment is terminated by the Central Executive Committee by notice in writing to the Trustees or Trust Corporation concerned. Where by reason of the above, it shall appear necessary to the Central Executive Committee to appoint new Trustee or Trustees or Trust Corporation, the Central Executive Committee shall by resolution nominate the person or persons or Trust Corporation to be appointed the new Trustee or Trustees. For the purpose of giving effect to such nomination, the President and General Secretary of FijiFirst are hereby nominated as the persons to formally appoint new Trustees of FijiFirst in accordance with legislative requirements and they shall by deed duly appoint the person or persons or Trust Corporation so nominated by the Central Executive Committee as the new Trustee or Trustees of FijiFirst.
- c) All appointments of Trustees or the Trust Corporation must be in accordance with the Trustee Act (Cap 65) and the Trust Corporation Act (Cap 66).
- d) The Trustees or Trust Corporation shall be indemnified by FijiFirst against any costs incurred or damage suffered in the proper or reasonable discharge of their duties in addition to any indemnity given by law to Trustees.

## **9. KEEPING US UP TO DATE**

- a) Amendments to the Constitution shall only be made by the Leadership Committee.
- b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, proposed amendments to the Constitution may be sent in writing to the General Secretary of the Central Executive Committee.
- c) If the Central Executive Committee resolves to do so, the Central Executive Committee may implement a procedure for consultation and/or debate or discussion regarding the proposed amendments and make recommendations to the Leadership Committee.

## **10. STANDING ORDERS AT FIJIFIRST CONGRESS**

- a) The FijiFirst Congress shall be chaired by the President but if the President is not available to do so the Vice President, but if the Vice President is not available to do so the chairman shall be appointed by the Central Executive Committee in consultation with the Leadership Committee.

- b) No motion or amendment shall be spoken to by any person except the mover until it has been seconded.
- c) To any question, any number of amendments may be moved.
- d) Not more than one amendment shall be before the meeting at one time. When an amendment has been moved, members shall speak for or against the amendment and any member may indicate the terms of an amendment he or she may desire to move later should the amendment under discussion be defeated, but he or she may not move this further amendment until the amendment under discussion has been disposed of.
- e) An amendment which directly negates the motion under discussion shall not be accepted.
- f) An amendment upon being carried shall be submitted as the substantive motion when it shall be competent for any member to propose a further amendment to it.
- g) Any member who has not spoken on a motion before the meeting may move "That the meeting proceed to the next business" or "That the motion be now put" on the seconding of which the Chairman shall, without discussion, immediately put this motion to the vote.
- h) When the Chairman is standing no other member shall at the same time stand or speak.
- i) Notices of motions other than those of a formal character shall be submitted to the Chairman in writing.

## **11. GENERAL**

- a) The Financial Year of FijiFirst shall commence on the 1st of April and end on the 31st of March. Within three months after the end of a term of office, the Central Executive Committee shall submit to the Leadership Committee a Report with a financial statement and the duly audited accounts of FijiFirst during its term of office.
- b) The Accounts of FijiFirst shall be audited by an Auditor or two Honorary Auditors (who shall be CPAs or equivalent) who shall certify the correctness of the Statement of Accounts. The Auditor or Honorary Auditors shall be appointed by the Leadership Committee.
- c) The Leadership Committee shall direct the Central Executive Committee to publish the Report to the members and otherwise as required by the legislative requirements governing electoral processes in Fiji.



- d) No member shall except for professional services rendered at the request of the Central Executive Committee, receive any profit, salary or emolument from the funds or transactions of FijiFirst.
- e) Every member shall faithfully and fully abide by every decision made by the Leadership Committee, FijiFirst Congress or by the Central Executive Committee until such time as the decision is amended or revoked.
- f) Only the President or the General Secretary of FijiFirst or such other persons authorised by them can issue any statement to the Press in the name of FijiFirst.
- g) The Central Executive Committee shall have the power to use at its discretion the funds of FijiFirst or moneys collected by donations to compensate a member of FijiFirst who has suffered any loss or injury as a direct result of any lawful activity carried out for FijiFirst.
- h) The logo of FijiFirst shall be as set out in Schedule 1.
- i) The address of the registered office of FijiFirst shall be as follows or as amended from time to time and notified to the Registrar of Elections: 59 Vunakece Road, Namadi Heights, Suva.
- j) The postal address of the registered office of FijiFirst shall be as follows or as amended from time to time and notified to the Registrar of Elections: G. P. O. Box 555, Suva.
- k) Central Executive Committee may enter into any arrangement for amalgamation, joint working or cooperation with any association, society or body of persons whether incorporated or not carrying on work or having objects similar to the work and objects of FijiFirst and to assist and support by pecuniary contributions or otherwise the operations of any such association, society or body, and to take over upon any terms all or any of the property, undertakings and liabilities of any such association, society or body subject to the following circumstances:
  - i. the Leadership Committee unanimously approves merger talks to be carried out with such other organisation;
  - ii. subject thereto, the Leadership Committee authorises identified persons who are members of FijiFirst to conduct negotiations with such other organisation and report to the Leadership Committee as and when required by the Leadership Committee;
  - iii. if the Leadership Committee determines in its complete discretion that it wishes to approve the proposal, the Leadership Committee may authorise the Central Executive Committee to convene a FijiFirst Congress so as to conduct a broad consultation with its membership;

- iv. subject to the completion of such a Congress (if required by the Leadership Committee) and any other steps that may be determined by the Leadership Committee, the Leadership Committee must conduct a vote as to whether the proposal should proceed. The proposal shall only proceed if there is a unanimous vote of the Leadership Committee approving it.
- l) FijiFirst may be dissolved only if the Leadership Committee unanimously resolves to dissolve FijiFirst in which case:
  - i. the President shall take all steps necessary to give effect to that resolution, including the appointment of a liquidator to dispose of the assets of FijiFirst and to discharge any accrued liabilities of FijiFirst;
  - ii. the Central Executive Committee shall take all necessary steps to notify members of FijiFirst and ensures that FijiFirst complies with all legislative requirements applicable to electoral processes to give effect to the resolution;
  - iii. if there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the remainder shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members of FijiFirst but shall be given or transferred to some company, association, society or other body having objects similar or in part similar to the objects of FijiFirst to be determined by the Leadership Committee at or before the time of dissolution.



## Schedule 1 – FijiFirst Logo

