



Ministry of Justice



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29th May 2013

The Registered Officer
People's Democratic Party
103 Gordon Street
Suva

Dear Sir

Application for Registration proposed 'People's Democratic Party'

The application for registration in accordance with the Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) Decree 2013 ['Decree'] by the proposed 'People's Democratic Party' ['Applicant'] was received on 15th April 2013. All particulars were submitted together with the application. On the face of it, the application satisfied the minimum requirements in section 6 of the Decree.

Pursuant to section 9 of the Decree, the Registrar published the application in the Fiji Sun on 22nd April 2013 and in the Gazette on 26th April 2013. The Registrar did not receive any written particulars pursuant to section 9(2) (b) of the Decree.

Upon verification of the Constitution submitted with the Application, it is found to be in compliance with the provisions of the Decree.

Furthermore, the membership listing was also verified with the National Register of Voters. Numerous irregularities were discovered, all of which were then put to the Applicant for its comments. The Applicant requested that those listings wherein anomalies existed be disregarded from the list provided. The Applicant confidently relies on the remaining numbers to meet the minimum membership requirements as per section 6(i) of the Decree.

The reasons advanced in explanation by the Applicant and also considering the minimal requirements of the Decree, I opt to consider if there are sufficient members listed which would duly qualify the Applicant. The Applicant has submitted a total number of 6808 persons registered as its members.

The Decree regularizes the registration process, governs the conduct of, makes rules on the funding and creates a transparent disclosure mechanism for groups which intend to hold itself out as 'political parties.' It is a significant development and advancement from the

now repealed Electoral (Registration of Political Parties) Regulations 1991. The Decree is oriented towards transparency of the persons who intend to contest to lead the country.

It appears from the structuring of the provisions that in order to hold out as a Political Party, an applicant would need to be prevalent throughout Fiji and not concentrated in a district or Town. It requires such groups to divert from cultural/ racial based associations which are discriminatory to align to neutral names in 'English.' It requires such groups to be made up of Fijians from all over the country.

To emphasize the importance of and to eliminate opportunities of falsification and fraud, the Decree imposes penalty provisions as in section 10 (4) for failure to provide information once requested and section 10(5) prohibits registration in the event information submitted is incorrect or obtained in a fraudulent manner.

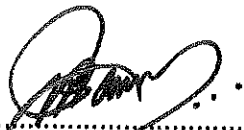
From the responses received from the Applicant; and also considering the nature of the anomalies, I do not believe these are intentional alterations made to achieve registration but rather human error. I am not satisfied that the Applicant intended to benefit from the anomalies. The Applicant actually sought to have them deleted from its list. In the following table illustrates the number of members that the Applicant would have:

Division	Requirement	Total Submitted	Total with Anomalies	Balance
Western	1750	2279	155	2124
Eastern	250	547	31	516
Northern	1000	1546	92	1454
Central	2000	2436	261	2175

It is evident that the Applicant does meet the minimum requirements as per the Decree.

Having found that the Applicant has provided the necessary particulars as required by section 6 of the Decree, I determine that the Applicant be registered as a political party under the Decree.

The People's Democratic Party, [PDP] is hereby required to submit a written declaration giving details as per section 16 of the Decree no later than 12 p.m on 1st July 2013.



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Mohammed Saneem (Mr.)

Registrar of Political Parties