



FIJI ROYAL GAZETTE

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FIJI INDEPENDENCE ORDER, 1970

P. K. GANILAU

[L.S.]

Governor-General

PROCLAMATION

(No. 4 of 1987)

By His Excellency Ratu Sir PENAIA GANILAU, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Distinguished Service Order, Efficiency Decoration, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over Fiji.

WHEREAS on 14th day of May 1987 Lt. Col. Sitiveni Rabuka an officer of the Royal Fiji Military Forces and his supporters seized the political power of the State by reason of a coup d'etat thereby rendering ineffectual the lawful exercise of the normal process of government;

AND WHEREAS a political crisis of an unprecedented nature exists and has continued to exist;

AND WHEREAS throughout the said crisis Lt. Col. Sitiveni Rabuka and his supporters have evidenced and manifested an intense and commendable desire to avert bloodshed and general public disturbances;

AND WHEREAS it is to the credit of Lt. Col. Sitiveni Rabuka and his supporters that throughout the said political crisis they have continued to recognize and respect the integrity of the Office of Her Majesty's Governor-General and the present incumbent thereof;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable and imperative that the normal system of government be restored and preserved as soon as possible;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable and imperative for the sake of general appeasement of the nation and early restoration of normal life that powers vested in the Governor-General arising from the present state of public emergency be exercised in order to bring about national reconciliation and avoidance of ill-will among the people of Fiji;

NOW THEREFORE in the exercise of the prerogative of mercy vested in me by virtue of my office as Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of Fiji and by virtue of extra-legal powers necessitated and compelled upon me by the worst political crisis ever experienced in the history of Fiji and the state of public emergency, I HEREBY GRANT AMNESTY to Lt. Col. Sitiveni Rabuka and all other persons who may have been in way implicated in the unlawful seizure of the power of the State on Thursday, 14th May 1987.

NOW THEREFORE in the further exercise of my powers herein and for the avoidance of any doubt the aforesaid amnesty is restricted or limited to any unlawful acts committed in connection with the illegal seizure of state power as aforesaid prior to the date of the coming into operation of this proclamation and does not extend to any unlawful acts committed after the said date.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of Fiji this 22nd day of May 1987.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN