

## **STATEMENT BY THE PRME MINISTER**

I am devastated to learn of the extent of the illness of my trusted Minister and dear friend, Pio Tikoduadua, that has forced him to resign from public office.

On a personal level, he has always displayed the shining qualities of integrity, intelligence, loyalty, judgement and a consideration and love for others that we should all aspire to as Fijians. His religious faith and patriotism - an intense love for God and of Fiji – have also been an inspiration to all who know him. I hold him in the highest possible esteem.

On a professional level Pio has been by my side for 15 years and through some of the greatest challenges of my own life and in the life of the Nation. He was my Personal Staff Officer in the Republic of the Fiji Military Forces, Permanent Secretary for Justice, Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office and was at the forefront of our reform program leading up to last September's election, in which he played a key role in taking our FijiFirst movement to victory.

Since the election, Pio has also been a tower of strength and competence as we serve the Fijian people – my highly valued Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and Leader of the Government in Parliament. In these key positions, he has brought all of his personal qualities to bear, quietly delivered a range of better outcomes for ordinary people and is widely admired and respected across the political spectrum.

I know that every MP of every affiliation will share my sorrow at his departure from the Government and the Parliament and we wish him the very best in his current struggle. And I ask every Fijian to join me in praying for his wonderful man, who is so dearly loved, admired and respected. May God bless Pio and his family – his wife Sereana and his children Mosese and Sarafina.

**J.V. Bainimarama**  
**Prime Minister**

11 May 2015