



Pacific Media Watch

FIJI TIMES ONLINE <http://www.fjitime.com/story.aspx?id=105298>

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We're in contempt

Wednesday, November 05, 2008

ON 22 October 2008 The Fiji Times published a letter to the editor from a person named as Vili Navukitu said to be of Queensland, Australia, which described the High Court ruling of Fiji in the *Qarase v Bainimarama* case in a contemptuous manner.

The Fiji Times accepts that, while persons may comment critically on judgments of the Court, there are reasonable limits on such criticism, and the words used by our correspondent exceeded those limits in casting doubt on the integrity and independence of Fiji's courts.

The Fiji Times acknowledges that, in publishing those comments, it committed a contempt of court.

For this it apologises, unreservedly, to the judges in the case and to the High Court of Fiji. It acknowledges that, as a responsible newspaper publisher, it must exercise great care in publishing comments on legal proceedings, the judiciary and the court system generally.

The Fiji Times has offered to pay costs to the office of the Attorney-General, which has begun court proceedings in respect of this contempt.



...from the Fiji Times, Voice of the People Column, 22/10/08

<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?ref=archive&id=103991>

Court ruling

Letter removed: see <http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=105298>

*Vili Navukitu
Queensland
Australia*

Court ruling

A dark day in the annals of Fiji 's judiciary and legal history was brought about by the totally biased, corrupt and self preserving judgment handed down by Anthony Gates, John Byrnes and Devendra Pathik in the Qarase vs Bainimarama case.

I do not know Mr Qarase nor am I a member of the SDL but I know when an injustice has been committed and I believe that the injustice in this case must be condemned by all law abiding citizens.

This case in my view was not about Mr Qarase and his party, nor was it about our hope for Fiji 's future and the rule of law to triumph over unlawfulness.

The President Iloilo has not only failed the ordinary people of Fiji but the Great Council of Chiefs who appointed him.

Bainimarama is a criminal no better than the rebels of 2000.

The judiciary was tainted from the day Justice Daniel Fatiaki was forcefully removed and Anthony Gates unashamedly usurped his position.

Gates' efforts to legalise the immunity is laughable given the immunity was designed to protect him also.

Thank you Mr Qarase and keep up the good fight against oppression, tyranny and injustice.

*Vili Navukitu
Queensland
Australia*

Research and educational resource provided by the Pacific Media Centre | Creative Industries Research Institute

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