



## FIJI TRADES UNION CONGRESS

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### **FTUC RELEASE NO: 44-02/13**

#### **Workers' Political Movement**

The workers in Fiji have faced great challenges during the military coups for many years now. The current Decrees deny workers their most fundamental rights which are part of human rights and attempt to decimate workers' unions and all the gains that workers have made through decades of struggle. Such onslaught by the Regime and aided by some Employers is unprecedented. The uncertain political climate is seen by some employers as an opportunity to turn the clock back on workers and their unions. The FTUC remains firmly committed to oppose any such measures and will do all within its power and influence to protect workers and their families. All options are being considered.

The FTUC Special Delegates Conference on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2013 decided that the workers needed a political movement and a political party to address the attack on workers' rights and human rights in Fiji. The Conference resolved unanimously that workers and the common people needed a voice that would be able to address the concerns of the people. A party that would bring all people, irrespective of race, colour or creed as one people with a common cause. The Trade Union Movement has proven to the people that multiracialism is not only a slogan but is alive and well within the unions. The Trade Unions today in Fiji remain the only democratic movement and have a history of fighting for social justice.

The Conference was attended by more than 400 delegates from all affiliates of FTUC. The Conference mandated the National Council of FTUC to do whatever is necessary in the formation of a movement and a party. Wide consultations will be held with all sectors of

the community to ensure that the movement is an all-inclusive one with a common cause.

Support for such a move has been strong and people have indicated their desire to have a strong and truly multiracial political party. The Workers are in a position to deliver and show the solidarity that is needed. The FTUC calls on all people who support democracy and genuine multiracialism to join hands to forge a better Fiji.



**Felix Anthony**  
**National Secretary**

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