

Events

- Parliament held hostage in 2000
 - Bainimarama appoints Qarase as Interim Prime Minister
 - Affirmative Action blueprint
 - 2001-2001 “Agriculture scam”
- Qarase’s SDL party wins 2001 and 2006 general elections
- Dec 2006 Bainimarama coup
 - “Cleanup campaign”
 - Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC)
- Charges against Qarase over
 - family company purchases of shares in Fijian Holdings Limited
 - Vanua Development Corporation use of NLTB rents

Agriculture scam

- Grants of farm implements fertilizer etc farmers
 - only Fijians benefited
 - 42% of agriculture budget in 2001
- 2002 audit report found
 - purchase of non farm items
 - inflated prices paid
 - only two suppliers favoured
 - no use of tenders/quotations
 - officials breached regulations
- Permanent Secretary and one official convicted before coup
- 4 officials and 1 businessman convicted in 2007/8
- ministers not charged

FICAC

- Promised but not delivered by Qarase government
- Set up by interim Government in April 2007
- Langman, ex soldier, as Deputy
 - no independent commissioner
 - roughly 22 cases to court
 - one conviction so far
- Charges under existing penal code (“abuse of office” etc)
- Qarase charged over
 - FHL share purchases
 - authorisation of VDC use of rents

Fijian Holdings Limited

- Formed 1984 ‘to accelerate
Fijian participation in economy’
- “restricted company”
 - Type A shares - Fijian individuals
 - insider dealing?
 - Type B shares - Fijian institutions
- \$20 million loan or grant from
government
 - ‘Blueprint’ says convert to grant

Native Land Trust Board

- intermediary between Fijian landowners and lessees
- divides rent
 - 25% administer itself
 - 22.5% to 3 levels of chief
 - 52.5% for distribution among group
- 1975 Native Land Development Corporation
- 2002 rents assigned to NLTB from
 - extinct landowning group (Schedule A)
 - unowned land (Schedule B)
- 2004 Vanua Development Corp
 - would invest (all?) rents

Types of definition of 'corruption'

- Illegality
 - eg Fiji penal code
- Public-office
 - expectations of office holders
- Public-interest
 - consequences of corrupt actions
- Policy corruption
 - legal, but benefits ruling circle
- Public opinion
 - TI survey of Fiji opinion in 2006
- 'Management or leadership'
 - why no action against it? (army)
- Political corruption
 - anti-politics
 - different ideals corrupted (Philp)