Corruption in Post Coup Fiji Politics

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Scandals

• National Bank of Fiji (after 1987 coup)
• Agriculture Scam (after 2000 coup)
  • Perm Sec convicted November 2006
  • 3 other officials convicted September 2008
• Fijian Holdings Limited
  – $20 million government loan/grant
  – Purchases of class A shares
    • Qarase charged by FICAC
• Native Land Trust Board
  – Connex IT deal
  – Investment of rents in Vanua Development Corp
    • Qarase charged by FICAC
Cleanup Campaign  
December 2008-May 2009

• Purges of officials
  – Levers of state power
  – Governing party
  – CEOs and Board of statutory bodies

• Gathering of complaints
  – 400 by end March, plus
  – 200 against military (NGO)
  – 81 by the military (against public)

• Investigations
  – By the military
  – Delegated to agencies
Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption

- Recommended by Law Reform Commission 2003
- Adopted by government 2004
- Promised again end 2006
- Promulgated May 4 2007
- Strong investigatory powers
  - Legality?
  - Relations with DPP?
  - Some provision for prevention work
- No commissioner
  - Lt Col Langman Deputy Commissioner
FICAC Activity

• 5756 complaints received by April 2009
  – 879 registered for investigation (15%)
• 33 cases prepared
  – 22 charges by June 2008
  – 2 involving Qarase
• few convictions yet
  – Fisheries coop accounts clerk (Dec 08)
  – Forestry officer (July 09)
  – FIT director acquitted (March 09)

• Source: FICAC website and press releases
Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption

FICAC sees a Fiji free from all forms of corruption, through good governance and institutional transparency.

Report acts of corruption to your nearest FICAC office.

FICAC - ensuring our citizens live a life FREE of CORRUPTION
Impersonation
Check for Identification Card or Warrant Card if you are approached by a FiCAC officer

CORRUPTION
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Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption

Members of the public must not offer gratification to any public officer for any official dealing and neither should public officials accept.

FICAC - ensuring our citizens live a life FREE of CORRUPTION
Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption has joined global efforts to combat corruption through the UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION.

Say NO to corruption

FICAC - ensuring our citizens live a life FREE of CORRUPTION.
Charges against Qarase

• While Minister, acted arbitrarily by authorising NLTB to invest trust funds in Vanua Development Corporation

• While Director of FHL, bought 200,000 shares in the company for his family firm Q-Ten investments (5 counts)

• Hearing scheduled for 19 Jan 2010