



FIJI PUBLIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated to PSI, PTTI, ITF)

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MEDIA STATEMENT

MISINFORMATION AND IGNORANCE THAT TRADE UNIONS FAIL TO SUBMIT LOG OF CLAIMS TO ERAB

The Fiji Public Service Association (FPSA) wishes to correct the misinformation paddled by Nemani Delaibatiki of Fiji Sun in his Analysis under 'Politics' on page 2 of the Fiji Sun today, Friday 9th November, 2018.

It has become a habit for Fiji Sun to report against the trade unions particularly the Public Sector Unions who file claim on behalf of civil servants pay rise, and fixed term contracts, etc against the Government as an Employer. It then, is a little wonder, why Delaibatiki and his likes will take pot shots against the civil service unions despite the fact that they have no knowledge of processes and procedures under the ERA and the ERA(Amendment) Acts. Delaibatiki does not know the very basic rule as to whom and how trade unions file their log of claims for pay rise and his ignorance comes to the forefront when he states in his article that Log of claims is to be submitted to ERAB. If he only cared to look at the ERA then he would have known that Log of Claims are submitted to the Employer and not to the Employment Relations Advisory Board (ERAB). Under Part 3, Clause 7 of the ERA it is clearly spelt out that ERAB is an Advisory Board a tripartite body which is non-functional now and the FTUC National Secretary has explained it to the media the very reason for its non-functionality and why FTUC has walked out from the Advisory Board meeting.

Let me now turn to the bigger deception and obfuscation by Delaibatiki when he rattles in his analysis that no union submitted its log claims.

Quote :

"if unions were really concerned with their members why hadn't they lodged their log of claims."

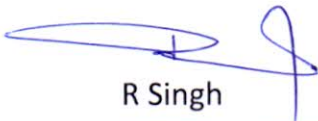
Well, I have a news for Delaibatiki, the Fiji Public Service Association filed its 15% pay claim on 22nd December, 2015 when at that time, the World Bank Reform agenda was

not transformed into blueprint. It is almost 3 years now and FPSA's claim is very much alive and is being addressed in the Arbitration Court where the Solicitor General is representing the Government on behalf of all the Permanent Secretaries who now have constitutional authority to decide on pay including hire and fire of personnel in their Ministries. By the way, the Open Merit Recruitment System (OMRS) and Performance Management Framework (PMF) mechanism, which Delaibatiki had given analysis previously, is more than a subterfuge and smokescreen when the Permanent Secretaries make their final call on who gets the job and who gets the salary increment without any independence appeal mechanism.

Returning to the log of claims, it is for the information of Delaibatiki that FPSA has made a comprehensive submission to the Arbitration Court on 22nd August, 2018 under Dispute Numbers 07-30 of 2018 on 15% pay Increase. Again it is for the information of Delaibatiki that the next call on this dispute is on coming Monday 12th November, 2018.

Once again, we remind Fiji Sun that it should stop spreading misinformation and lies to the reading public and only attempt to analyse issues on which they are familiar with.

Finally, ERAB has no mandate to discuss union's log of claims.



R Singh

GENERAL SECRETARY