

I welcome you all and have much pleasure in extending my warm greetings on this auspicious occasion of the 57th Sanatan Annual Convention at Cuvu, Sigatoka on the theme ***Sanatan-Promoting Unity in Diversity***.

If by unity, we mean embracing the feelings of all Fijians then we might be referring to sharing and caring the sentiments of our fellow countrymen. Fiji's constitution articulates that all Fijians are united by common and equal citizenry. This is consistent with our mission that Sanatan Fiji is committed to promote and sustain unity and friendship among all communities in Fiji.

All the members of Sanatan Fiji value the richness in diversity and are proud of our multiracial co-existence. In particular, we ensure that practical steps are taken to progress in moral, material, social, economic and cultural life. In other words, these will enable us to maintain our rightful and honoured place amongst other Fijians. Furthermore, these will contribute fully to peace, prosperity and progress of our beloved Fiji. Our effort to develop a conducive environment for human dignity, respect for one another, personal integrity, mutual support and human empowerment are inbuilt in our government and governing. Sanatan Fiji is committed to charting new strategies for unity in diversity. It is continuously striving, for a harmonious and prosperous Fiji for peaceful co-existence.

Having been through the *modus operandi* of the Sabha for several years, we decided to revisit our constitution and align it with that of Fiji which is based on honest, transparent and dynamic governance. In doing so, we will strengthen our financial capacity that enables us to promote unity on diverse frontiers.

On the national level, we have developed formal relationship with other religious groups, NGOs and other institutions. On the international scene, Sanatan Fiji has engaged in dialogue with Sanatan World Cup body to make Fiji an international hub to host Sanatan soccer world cup every two years during Easter holidays.

Regrettably, TC Winston has seriously affected the livelihood of many Fijians, and Sanatan Fiji has responded immediately by providing relief materials. Sanatan Fiji is striving to reduce violence, poverty, child abuse and family breakdowns.

This convention provides a valuable time to review old links and make new friends. Sports have become a regular feature of our annual conventions. It is enjoyed by our delegates on the one hand and promotes unity on the other.