

Eminent Former Senior Cabinet Minister and Diplomat Joins the University of Fiji's Centre for International and Regional Affairs (CIRA) - September 5th, 2006

Eminent former Deputy Prime Minister, senior Cabinet Minister and Diplomat, Mr. Filipe Bole, has been appointed as a Senior Fellow of the Centre for International and Regional Affairs (CIRA) of The University of Fiji.

Mr. Ravindran Nair, Honorary Director of CIRA, has warmly welcomed Mr. Bole's decision to join the Centre, saying that CIRA is privileged to have on its staff a person of such high standing and experience.

"CIRA is proud to be associated with Mr. Filipe Bole, a greatly respected individual whose public service includes service as an eminent public servant, a senior diplomat and a senior Cabinet Minister, including Foreign Minister. We are so pleased that he has so willingly endorsed CIRA's objectives and put his weight behind CIRA and the University of Fiji. CIRA has been greatly strengthened by his involvement," said Mr. Nair.

"The thought of doing something new at this stage of my career is excitingly challenging and I know I am going to enjoy it." said Mr. Bole, commenting on his decision to join CIRA.

"Sound international relations is a must for countries like Fiji whose future is so intimately tied to trade and close relations to other countries. I believe that The University of Fiji, through CIRA, will be in a position to offer the educational and training opportunities that are required to meet this challenge. I look forward to playing a part with Robin and other members of the Centre staff in this development," he added.

Professor Rajesh Chandra, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Fiji, said: "We are truly honored by Mr. Bole's acceptance of the position of Senior Fellow of CIRA. The association of Mr. Bole and a number of other internationally reputable individuals in the activities of the Centre gives us great hope that we will have a true Centre of Excellence at the University of Fiji. In addition to his contributions to CIRA, Mr. Bole will advise me on the strategic directions of the University, especially to support our efforts to be inclusive and responsive to the development needs of Fiji, including the special needs of Indigenous Fijians".

The Mission of the University of Fiji's Centre for International and Regional Affairs, launched by the Hon. Senator Kaliopate Tavola, Minister for Foreign Affairs, earlier this year, is to become the premier institution for the promotion of teaching, research, dialogue, debate and publication on issues relating to Fiji's regional and international interests and activities, including its trade interests.

Mr. Filipe Nagera Bole obtained his tertiary education at the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand where he completed a Master of Arts degree, and at Auckland Teachers College.

Subsequently he worked as a teacher in Fiji, before joining the civil service where he served in various senior positions in a number of government departments, including as Permanent Secretary for Education. He was also a member of the Council of the University of the South Pacific from 1974 to 1980.

Mr. Bole has a distinguished career spanning three decades. He was Fiji's Ambassador to the United States and the United Nations from 1980 to 1983. Subsequently, he became the Director of the Pacific Islands Development Program in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he remained until 1986.

Mr. Bole then served as Minister of Education in 1986 and 1987. He went on to serve as Minister for Foreign Affairs (1987-1988, and 1992-1997), Minister for Youth and Sport (1989 to 1992), Deputy Prime Minister (1992-1993) and Minister for Information (1997-1999). While remaining Minister for Foreign Affairs, he concurrently held portfolios as Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism (1995-1996), and Minister for National Planning (1997-79).

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