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Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi – Vice President of the Republic of the Fiji Islands and Roko Tui Bau, one of the chiefly titles from the influential island of Bau, off the coast of Viti Levu. He trained as a lawyer in Australia and Canada, and worked in the Attorney General’s chambers as a solicitor from 1983–1991, before becoming Permanent Arbitrator and then a High Court judge. He resigned in 2000 following the coup d’état of that year and worked in private practice until his appointment as Vice President in January 2005.

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**Laisenia Qarase** – Prime Minister of Fiji. He took up the post on 4 July 2000 and subsequently formed the Soqosoqo Duavata ni Lewenivanua (SDL) to successfully contest general elections in 2001 and 2006. He was born on Vanuabalavu in the Lau Group, and educated at Suva Grammar School and Auckland University. He served as Managing Director of the Development Bank (1983–98), and then the Merchant Bank of Fiji (1998–99), before becoming a Senator and then Prime Minister.

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**The ‘yellow bucket’** – A weekly column on Fiji politics and national affairs that can be found on fijivillage.com. Inspiration for the column is found, like many things in Fiji, around a yellow bucket of *yaqona* or kava – hence the name. Launched early in 2003 it has gained a reputation for providing astute observation of Fiji politics and its forecasts have proved remarkably accurate in recent years. Authorship of the column is credited to an editorial board that gathers regularly around the yellow bucket.

* Author information current at December 2006.