LAND SETTLEMENT IN FIJI: INDIVIDUAL COMMERCIAL

FARMING IN THE LOMAIVUNA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

AND ITS IMPACT ON THE RELOCATED ETHNIC

FIJIAN LEASEHOLDERS AND THEIR

HOUSEHOLDS.

BY

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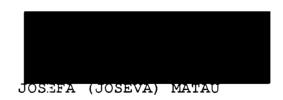
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#### DECLARATION

I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not being currently submitted for any other degree.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge any help received in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged in this thesis.

Finally the views, opinions, recommendations and errors made within this study are the sole responsibilities of the researcher. The occurrence of any error is regretted.



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#### ABSTRACT

Land settlement for farming development has initiated and motivated the utilization of under-used Fijian lands for commercial purposes. It has provided the impetus for the effective application of the integrated rural development approach aimed at improving living conditions in non-urban areas. In the three most recent national development plans (D.P.7 - 9, 1976 - 1990), goals have been set for programmes to promote economic opportunities and cater for the people's needs and livelihood.

This study, however, has tried to observe the impact of the land settlement programme on the Lomaivuna ethnic Fijian farmers and the surrounding communities. It reviews the origin and development of the scheme and its performance relating to the management, farming output, the role of participating agencies and the state of the scheme today.

Data were collected through a questionnaire survey, formal interviews, informal discussion and a search of archival records of the participant-agency files. Library research was carried out to provide the literature review and supportive information. Eighty random-sampled farmers (48% of the Fijian leaseholders or 38% of the total scheme farmers) were surveyed.

The findings of the research study reveal that arable farming is still the primary economic activity at Lomaivuna. Fijian customs, traditions and related obligations will continue to affect nearly every aspect of the farmers' lives, particularly farming. It should be recognized and accepted that Fijian leaseholders regard customs and traditions as important aspects of their existence. The farmers have made compromises to accomodate communalism but the practical result qualifies the Lomaivuna leaseholders as only semi-commercial farmers, or even semi-subsistence farmers.

Today's Lomaivuna farmers are satisfied, although economic returns are not as fulfilling as most want them to be. Lomaivuna has provided them certain opportunities which are non-existent in the village community. Their immediate need (similar to most small farmers in Fiji relying on the domestic markets) is the provision of greater opportunities and efficient organization to convert production into profits.

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#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ALTA Agricultural Landlords and Tenants Act, 1976

ALTO Agricultural Landlords and Tenants Ordinance,

1966

ANU Australian National University

BOMAS Business Opportinity Management Advisory

Service

BP Burns Philps (South Seas) Limited

BRAC Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee

BSF Bureau of Statistics, Fiji

CADU Chilalo Agricultural Development Unit

CPO Central Planning Office

DAF Department of Agriculture, Fiji

DP Development Plan

FAB Fijian Affairs Board

FABEU Fijian Affairs Board Education Unit

FAO Food and Agriculture Organisation

FELDA Federal Land Development Authority

FMV Fair Market Value

GDP Gross Domestic Product

INCRA Brazilian National Institute for

Amazonian Research

IPS Institute of Pacific Studies

KLDP Kenyan Livestock Development Project

KTDA Kenyan Tea Development Authority

LDA Land Development Authority

LDC Land Development Company

LDO Land Development Ordinance

LLDP Lilongwe Land Development Programme

LTFG Local Task Force Groups

MH Morris Hedstrom Limited

MPI Ministry of Primary Industries

NAF National Archives of Fiji

NLTB Native Land Trust Board

NMA National Marketing Authority

RFMF Royal Fiji Military Forces

SIDA Swedish International Development Authority

SODENKAM Nkam Development Society

TFP Tropical Food Products

UCV Unimproved Capital Value

USP University of the South Pacific, Fiji

WADU Wolamo Agricultural Development Unit

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