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**CANNIBAL FEAST,  
ASSASSINATIONS WERE  
PART OF COUP PLANS**

# Close call in 2000

By ANISH CHAND

ONE of the most disturbing revelations to emerge from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings came from convicted coup figure Jo Nata recently, who claimed Fiji narrowly avoided a "last cannibal feast"

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during the 2000 crisis. Nata alleged that despite its controversial role, the Counter Revolutionary Warfare Unit prevented even greater atrocities, including planned assassinations, violence against hostages and the burning of Parliament House after it was vacated.



**Ready to serve ...** Police Constable Jekope Viaviaturaga, recipient of the prestigious Baton of Honour, dedicated his achievement to his family after joining the force to inspire positive change and combat crime in his home village of Loa, Cakaudrove on Vanua Levu.

■ More on PAGES 2, 32-33. Picture: SOPHIE RALULU

## More parcels wash ashore

By JAKE WISE

POLICE have seized another 35 parcels of suspected illicit drugs found floating off the shores of Munia Island in the Lau Group as a massive maritime investigation continues to unfold.

This latest discovery adds to dozens of mysterious packages recovered across the region since late May, forcing authorities to collaborate with international jurisdictions to trace the source of the incoming tide of contraband.

■ Full report on PAGE 2

## Batiwale calls for stronger online laws

By JAKE WISE

ONLINE Safety Commissioner Filipe Batiwale says stronger laws are urgently needed as Fiji faces a growing wave of online abuse that the current legislation is not equipped to address.

Mr Batiwale, while on *The Fiji Times* online portal *The Lens@177*, warned that while child sexual abuse material was already illegal, Fiji's laws did not specifically prohibit AI-generated nude images of children, creating a dangerous gap that

could leave young victims vulnerable to long-term trauma and humiliation.

"Fiji is not really a safe place for children because we really don't have any laws to prevent what a child can see online," he said.

At the same time, he cautioned that the unchecked influence of social media poses broader risks to society, pointing to Myanmar as an example of how online platforms can contribute to social and political instability.

■ Full report on PAGE 5





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