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# BCI to face breach of Regulations over \$400,000 overdraft - More shocking Schoonergate revelations confirm CIP Government is corrupt

The People's Bank BCI is about to face the media blow torch and public critical review over its alleged involvement in the contentious Schoonergate scandal. BCI Board Director Richard Neves obviously under pressure unintentionally raised a red flag during a Radio Cook Islands interview last Wednesday 30 September 2015 with Tony Hakaoro when he made reference to the BCI in context to an answer to a question on if the BCI were in anyway involved with facilitating funds for Pacific Schooners Ltd, Mike Henry's shipping Company.

Neves' denial was assertive and diversionary then when realising he may have unwittingly had a slip of the tongue back peddled saying his comments re BCI were just a scenario. A complaint is now being prepared for PERC to investigate BCI's alleged breach of Banking regulations and financial dealings with Mike Henry /PSL.

The scandalous hole the CIP Government has dug for itself isn't retracting but is getting bigger and deep, the reader is asked to read the following revelations and be mindful of the dates of events then make your own judgement.



**M**inister of Finance Mark Brown's ambitions to one day be the Prime Minister is in tatters, show boat businessman Mike Henry's reputation as a sponger dependent on political patronage to maintain his flashy corporate lifestyle has multiplied and the Financial Secretary Richard Neves chances of scoring a highly paid Regional job is in serious doubt.

The sheer desperate Brown and Neves' all out attempts to bury the Schoonergate scandal with conflicting lies and diversionary spin doctoring on radio interviews have just created further suspicious concerns with media practitioners and a growing critical public. Confronted with uncomfortable truths, Neves glosses over and blatantly refuses to answer the hard question that if the

truth was told would be self incriminating. Brown's voice emits a nervous twitch when put under the spot light but both have a lot to answer for and the Prime Minister Henry Puna who is drowning in problems of his own volition wants the Schoonergate scandal buried once and for all.

The awaited PERC report was intended to keep prying eyes at bay till the next unknown sitting of Parliament but of all people the Public Service Commission Russell Thomas last Thursday on 1 October 2015 makes a media release about the PERC report on Schoonerrgate that was incidentally prepared by Richard Neves and delivered to the PSC five days prior to it going public.

Thomas was not authorised by his Minister Puna or Brown to make that media release. It came as a surprise to Brown who told radio listeners on Matariki FM on Tuesday 29 September he was preparing his own media release to be made public before the end of that week.

The CIP government was coming under increasing media and public pressure to release the PERC report for public consumption but were desperately holding

*continued next page*



out until the advanced \$200,000 was repaid by Mike Henry.

On Wednesday 30 September the Leases Approval Tribunal issued a Certificate of Approval for Katherine Mary Louise Henry to mortgage the land known as Vaiakura Section 94E1 in Arorangi in the favour of the ANZ Banking Group Limited for the amount \$220,000 plus further advances for the purpose to assist with bridging finance to repay a government contract deposit. The Certificate of Approval lists the term is for five years.

During his Radio Cook Islands interview with Tony Hakaoro on 30 September Neves stated five times he was confident the funds advanced to Mike Henry would be repaid within days, but he continued to refuse to confirm the amount was \$200,000 which the Minister of Finance Brown disclosed on the same day during an earlier radio interview with Hakaoro.

Hakaoro raised a very important issue of Neves' credibility and integrity. He said he had blatantly lied on radio that any pre-contract payment had been advanced to Mike Henry. Hakaoro stated how do we know Neves is telling another lie? He said where is the proof of payment by Mike Henry? Neves must now accept his flippant comments are no longer acceptable without independent third party proof.

Neves knew the mortgage with ANZ was being processed therefore could make his bold predictions he would receive the refund within the week.

In March 2015 Mike Henry at his request met with the PM Henry Puna (an uncle of his wife) and Minister Mark Brown's (his childhood friend) office. MH sought help from them to salvage his sinking shipping dream. MH suggested he be assisted with a fulltime job while the Chairman of the Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) Unqualified in any notable profession of trade do it yourself handyman MH was provided a non-contract untitled job at \$80,000 plus perks such as travel allowances, vehicle etc. His job is being justified because he's being used as a CIP and government pati pati sponsor agent.

Neves was told to sort something out for Mike Henry, their collusion resulted in signing a lucrative but irregular shipping charter service contract between the two of them on 8 May 2015. Only days before that, an overdraft facility for the amount of \$400,000 was arranged at the BCI. Let's be reminded that Neves is a Director of BCI and Mike Henry being the Chairman of CIIC is the overseer of all State owned Enterprises which includes BCI.

The highly irregular and secured. It is alleged the legally questionable aspect security was the contract plus of this OD is the how it was

*continued page 4*



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future revenues earned by the Tiare Taporo. What if any due diligence was done by the BCI to protect the people's money? No due diligence was conducted by Neves prior to rewarding the charter contract to the no work history deregistered PSL. Basic due diligence by Neves would have revealed PSL was insolvent with creditors banging on Mike Henry's door for outstanding payments.

A fully independent impartial PERC investigation will point to BCI management being bullied into arranging the OD facility by Neves. At least three courageous BCI staff are willing to give affidavit evidence to that end and that Neves, Mike Henry and Brown had compromised the integrity of BCI. In 1998 after the 1996 economic meltdown an overseas consultant recommended the merger of the Post Office and the Cook Islands Development Bank with new regulations imitating the commercial Banks, this was primarily to put an end to the political interference to manipulate access to funds for personal agendas.

On the 13 May five days after the contract was signed \$200,000 was sent to the PSL

account at BCI, most of this money \$160,000 was used to buy fuel in Canada. Money was used on Rarotonga to ward off Mike Henry's creditors and some was used to pay airfares.

security and ready to pay back the government if anything happened but as a result of the attention the Neves realised that sending that money from the BCI to MFEM would open

desperately scandalously defending their decisions and incredulous manipulation of the people's money by saying all the money has been refunded therefore end of story, what's the fuss for? It's all getting boring let's move on. What about the fact Mike Henry has had the use of \$200,000 of public money for over four months as bridging finance interest free. There have been no loan or legal fees charged to Mike Henry as well.

Was Neves and Brown scammed by a desperate Mike Henry who was under intense financial pressures, was there any intention by Mike Henry to fulfil the obligations of a legally unenforceable contract, was the advanced \$200,000 a helping hand and a form of bridging finance to help their friend out of a difficult financial patch?

Is BCI the People's Bank offering unsecured overdrafts with the same conditions, just a whole lot of verbal's based upon uncertain predictions, some one's head has to roll here.

BCI's mumblings of legal reciprocity after media revelations of the alleged \$400,000 OD facility for PSL or to PSL director Mike Henry is a scare tactic that doesn't hide the fact Neves finger prints are ever where. BCI is challenged to prove otherwise, that no loan facility was granted to the foreign registered company or to Mike Henry. The onus is on BCI, the People's bank to prove the Board has acted appropriately in all matters concerning PSL or Mike Henry. It is after all the People's bank.

If Neves and Brown's wishful thinking Schoonergate is done and dusted, their nightmare is going to get worse.

Next week we expose PERC Chairman Geoff Stoddart's grubby cover up role in Schoonergate, we ask the question why the PERC report of 12 pages was sent to Neves who edited it down to five pages then it was released. You've read the PSC's brief media summary of the PERC report, next week we tell you what was in the report and what incriminating material that would take up three pages was struck out.

*Brown and Neves are desperately scandalously defending their decisions and incredulous manipulation of the people's money by saying all the money has been refunded therefore end of story, what's the fuss for?*

About \$200,000 of the OD facility was transferred to a trust account in New Zealand leaving \$200,000 available balance in the BCI overdraft facility.

The \$200,000 left in the account was said to be

them up to allegations of using a wholly owned government Bank to pay back the advance, so they decided to rush through a loan from the ANZ Bank to pay it instead.

Brown and Neves are

## PSL = Pack of Stupid Lies

When George Orwell said "Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable.." he was speaking for Mark Brown and Richard Neves.

On the 17th August Neves the Financial Secretary for the Cook Islands Government sent a letter to Mike Henry of PSL to give him the opportunity to remedy PSL's breach of the contract. The next day on the 18th August Mike Henry conceded that PSL would not be able to fulfil any part of the Contract. It is here when the dispensation of lies becomes too much to bare.

Despite Mike Henry terminating the contract Neves continued his public charade everything was on track, he was persistently claimed and radio the Tiare Taporo would be arriving Rarotonga on the 15 September, even after there was no passengers to repatriate Neves continued to huff and bluff to a disbelieving media.

Unbeknown to Neves at the same time a scorned Mike Henry was telling fellow drinkers at Trader Jacks he had paid the money back past

tense, but that was untrue as it was only his committed intention.

When the opportunity to make the demand was there the Financial Secretary decided not to pursue it, instead he chose to wait hoping that the money would get paid. Behind closed doors Neves was working overtime to get Mike Henry to repay the advance and avoid the embarrassing situation of making the demand and after five days be left with no option but to call in the receivers. Neves and his side kick Mark Brown and not the other way around; have told the public on national radio that everything is now in order and that everyone should move on.

Among the apathetic public there are some who refuse to digest the lies Brown, Neves, Henry and Puna are disseminating and whether they like it or realise it, it will be to their peril.

Don't be so sure of yourself Neves because if the law has been broken then the law has been broken and it is therefore an offence and repaying the money does not make it right.

- George Pitt

- George Pitt



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# NZ Cook Islands Labour MP speaks on critical issues

*Herald Special Correspondent*

**H**on Poto Williams MP is currently visiting the Cook Islands as part of a UNDP sponsored Seminar alongside other Parliamentary colleagues from NZ, Australia and UNDP, to assist local MP's brush up on their Parliamentary skills and to develop their own interpersonal understanding of processes and procedures within the Cook Islands Parliamentary environment.

Although acknowledging she is a relative newcomer to the local political scene, Williams has been very active in her own home Labour constituency of Christchurch NZ and has also been involved in various Cook Islands and Pacific organizations assisting with education, health, climate change and gender related issues amongst others. Her interest in what is happening here in the Cook Islands is deep seated because of her genealogical connections to Manihiki which she says her family hails from and of course, her passion to help Cook Islands People generally achieve their potential in self determination initiatives.

The Herald took the opportunity to interview her briefly regarding the controversial Portability of Superannuation for C.Is People returning home and where to from here, Government's bid for UN membership and the likely impacts this would have on our people in NZ and the status of C.Is People's future in NZ.

Williams acknowledged these were very important issues and there were no simple solutions however she was committed during her term as a MP to advance them as best she could.

On the issue of Portability, Williams expressed her commitment to ensure the issue remains on the political agenda in Parliament and currently, there are two options available to advance this. The first is to continue to consult and pursue this as a Labour Party policy priority and the second, to continue to facilitate the Standing Order Procedure

introduced by Hon Winston Peters and advocate passage of a Private Members Bill.

She admitted there was also a lot of factors that needed to be reconsidered; one being further consultation with our own Cook Islands People in NZ for whom this legislation was initially introduced in the early 90's for. She was optimistic that in time, political attitudes will change and that a positive outcome will result in encouraging our people to return home and contribute towards the ongoing development of this nation.

On the issue of UN Membership, the political sensitivities involved naturally make it difficult to respond to. What the current exposure has done however, is start the process of engagement for Cook Islands People living in NZ at the political level, in raising awareness as to their identity and issues of sovereignty surrounding NZ's future roles and obligations to the realm countries of the Pacific and in this regard, the Cook Islands.

This is not an overnight issue and perhaps the next platform is to start a process of consultation with Cook Islands communities throughout NZ to illicit their views. Naturally, this will take some time, planning, resources and will need to involve people with the right skills, attitude and approach on an issue likely to become a political hot potato in the not too distant future.

With regards to the status of Cook Islands People in NZ and what the future holds for them, well, one thing is certain, we've gone through 50 years of development and yet one can't help but feel we are still in a void. The critical issues such as gender, youth displacement, unemployment, welfare dependency, family violence, alcohol abuse and lack of home ownership are still high on our communities agendas today and our people are still dealing with them so they are not new. They are no different to what is being experienced in the Cook Islands except on a much larger scale.

Williams also acknowledged

that while there was some fragmentation amongst our Cook Islands communities throughout NZ, this was natural given the wide geographical spread but she was of the view that irrespective, there was a desire to retain cultural ties with the Cook Islands and a willingness to contribute and share skills, knowledge and expertise in particular areas that add value to development issues for our people.

She further acknowledged that if there was one thing that brings us together with a sense of commonality, it's that. The question is the how and the when! Perhaps this could be the starting point between our 2 Governments as a basis for consultation rather than isolated or selected issues that are sensitive and controversial. The issue of a "pan Pacific approach" on Cook Islands priority issues rather than an "island by island basis approach" should be something to think about seriously in the future.

As a woman, mother, grandmother and community focused Cook Islands person, Williams is dedicated to providing assistance for our people where required. Certainly



Poto Williams

changes in policy and attitude towards women would be a good starting point and for as long as she is a MP, she is committed to ensuring that those actions are carried out with the support of good Cook Islands people and networks around her.

For now, her focus is on supporting our own MP's to ensure they have the capacity and skills to understand the complexities and intricacies of our Parliamentary system and to appreciate that support systems are available for them externally if and when needed irrespective of political affiliations.

With those comments in mind, it is pleasing to see at least there is one champion within the NZ political environment willing to take up the challenges and pave the way for future generations of talented women and potential role models for our people in the Cook Islands. Kia Manuia to Poto Williams MP on her political aspirations and future endeavours.

## Sale of shares to public in Bluesky progressing

*By Poko Utia*

**O**n Tuesday the Herald spoke with Mike Tavioni for a progress report on the sale of Iti Tangata Bluesky shares (shares to the public in Bluesky).

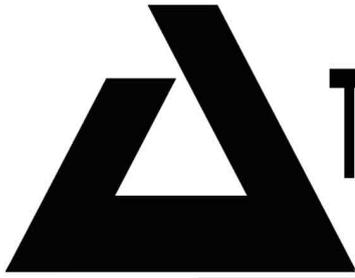
Tavioni advised that since beginning sales to the public the committee sought to find office accommodation, set up a phone number and also a website. Tavioni says that he is very happy with sales so far and that they have finally set up phone and email contacts and website so that people are able to access them if interested in buying a share. They hope to have office accommodation shortly. He adds that they are extending the request to Cook Islanders in New Zealand and Australia as there has been enormous interest from Cook Islanders overseas in buying shares.

Here are there contact details

Iti Tangata Community Ltd

Phone; 20237, email :iti tangata@oyster.net.ck

Michael Tavioni: miketavioni@gmail.com, cell- 58731



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# BCI announce new Internet Banking Service



By Hayley McNabb.

On Monday 5th October BCI was very pleased and privileged to announce the launch of their new Internet banking service called My Internet Banking, which was held, at the carport area of the Police Station.

This service is available to all customers here in the Cook Islands as well as overseas who has Internet access. My Internet Banking service will benefit not only the customers' management of their money but also to help facilitate trade within the Cook Islands.

For example someone from Palmerston someone who may want to export parrotfish to Rarotonga can sign in to their Internet banking and check that they have received their payments into their accounts before actually sending the goods off. At the same time they may also want to pay a Rarotonga based supplier to put goods on the same freight run. And service will really help and open up a gateway in trade for those in the outer islands to provide their goods and services craft here with people in Rarotonga.

Also the Cook Island communities, who are based in New Zealand and Australia along with Internet Banking, have now a more direct way to interact with their accounts from here in the Cook Islands. Sending money from New Zealand can be done directly and customers have seen the real time benefits that it brings. As well as that, BCI will be opening their Australian direct service very soon so the growing communities in Australia can also be in touch with their money and investments they have here in the Cook Islands.

So if you are wanting to sign up for Internet Banking, you can go the BCI website [www.BCI.co.ck](http://www.BCI.co.ck) and from there on it will take you directly through the steps of completely out the forms which you can send back to them at [MYIB.BCI.co.ck](mailto:MYIB.BCI.co.ck) and an electronic staff will then be in contact with you in which they will give you your access codes.

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



COOK ISLANDS INVESTMENT CORPORATION  
Government of the Cook Islands

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Cook Islands Investment Corporation (CIIC) is seeking expressions of interest from local businesses, contractors and individuals for the two work programmes outlined below.

#### 1. Security surveillance for government properties

CIIC plans to improve its asset management and protection processes by implementing surveillance systems across government properties. CIIC is seeking interests from locally established businesses for one or both of the following components:

- a) Supply, install, commission and maintain IP surveillance systems
- b) Monitoring, response and patrol services

Interested businesses are asked to submit a capability statement outlining:

- Company background and capabilities
- Relevant experience
- Key personnel and management expertise
- Contact information

Only those who register their interest and pass the initial evaluation process will receive Request for Proposals, when they become available.

#### 2. Asbestos removal work

CIIC is preparing for the staged removal of asbestos-containing building materials from government buildings commencing in 2016. It is intended that this work be carried out by contractors who are fully competent and conversant with best practise standards and procedures for handling asbestos materials. Through this expressions of interest process CIIC will identify contractors (businesses or individuals) who wish to undergo training and certification, and later tender for the removal work.

Interested contractors are asked to supply the following information:

- Name and contact details
- Construction experience and qualifications
- Previous experience with asbestos removal work and certification (if any)

To confirm your interest in either one or both programmes, or for further details, please email [anne.taoro@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:anne.taoro@cookislands.gov.ck). Expressions of interest close at 4.00pm on Friday 16 October 2015.

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Join us for the Awards Dinner with live entertainment, welcome drinks and show at 18:00 on Saturday, 10th Oct. \$ 60.00 per person @ The Islander Hotel

## Pacific Resort Aitutaki – Rapae Bay Restaurant

Review Date: 26 September 2015

**R**apae Bay Restaurant located at Pacific Resort -Aitutaki and the only participating establishment from the stunning island of Aitutaki in the Cook Islands Restaurant of the Year competition. Breathtaking views of Aitutaki Lagoon and the Pacific Ocean from 3 different dining platforms, what an amazing start to our dining experience of their 3-Course Island Style Menu with matching wines.

On arrival at the Restaurant's entrance we were welcomed by staff, with their friendly Aitutaki hospitality. Our host for the evening was Food & Beverage Manager, Robyn. We were escorted to our table on the second dining platform and felt relaxed once seated. Pre-dinner drink served and explanation presented on the menu we were about to indulge on.

To start, the entrée served Aitutakian Crayfish Ravioli beautifully presented and mouth-watering at first sight.

Matched with a glass of Villa Maria Private Bin Sauvignon Blanc (available at The Bond Store for \$22). The gooseberry and fruity flavours from the wine complimented the perfectly cooked Crayfish Ravioli bedded on sesame infused seaweed and saffron lime butter giving the dish colour and delectable texture when eaten. To complete the dish a parmesan chip lifting the flavours to enjoy.

A Lime Mint Sorbet served to clean the palate, very refreshing and crisp. Replenishing of ice cold still water to get one ready for the next course.

Main course served Oven Baked Wahoo matched with a glass of Nautilus Chardonnay (available at The Bond Store for \$26.50). Served on a long black glass platter starting from one corner to the other with a pouring jug of Coconut Lime Sauce, Cherry Tomatoes, Spicy Green Mango Chutney, Wahoo and Wasabi Potato Roulade. Wahoo perfectly cooked, medium and well portioned. Contrasted



by the connected colours and textures of cherry tomatoes, wasabi potato roulade and drizzled over with the coconut lime sauce. Matched well with the Nautilus Chardonnay hinting aromas of white peach, citrus blossoms, toasted almonds and leaving a long creamy finish on the palate.

Grand Finale for dessert a Coconut Trio served with a glass of Jules Taylor Sauvignon Blanc Late Harvest (available at The Bond Store for \$23). The wine's complimentary flavours of honeysuckle and spiced orange matched well with the Coconut

Panna Cotta, Coconut Crème Brulee and Coconut Ice Cream nested in a brandy snap basket. Presented well on a dark platter which brought out whiteness of the desserts and making it hard to choose which of the trio to start with.

An enjoyable evening and definitely worth the experience. Wishing them the best in the chance to become Cook Islands Restaurant of Year Winner for 2015. Meitaki Atupaka to the team at Pacific Resort Aitutaki (P: 31720), Air Rarotonga (P: 22888) and Popoara Ocean Breeze Villas, Aitutaki (P: 31739).



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Restaurant of the Year Awards 2015



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# Solar Installations Gaining Momentum

Our story so far is one of success, as we work towards playing our part in the achievement of our country's target of electricity demand being increasingly met by clean renewable energy sources towards 2020, and in our case this is sourced from the sun." stated TAU CEO, Apii Timoti.

TAU is working on developing and managing a network potentially 100% powered by the sun with generation owned by both the utility and the private sector. "This is no easy feat and there is no template to follow, we are pioneering new frontiers for renewable energy on a global stage and the world is watching with keen interest," according to Timoti.

"From the perspective of the TAU Board, there is an opportunity for every Cook Islander to be involved in this emerging market, whether as users or suppliers. TAU has certainly seen a huge interest over the last few months in private solar installations feeding directly into the grid and many would have seen these facilities being built around the island."

Currently, 14% of electricity on Rarotonga sourced through solar, with the need to expand



Solar panels at airport

by around 20% per year towards 2020, if the national targets are to be achieved.

Of primary concern for TAU's management is the reliability of our network. What is paramount during the transition to clean energy is continuing to maintain this level of reliability for our customers.

"We know our current infrastructure will require improvements to be able to increase the uptake from renewables, and we are quickly reaching that point. TAU is working hard to make the required upgrades and create additional opportunities for further solar installations from

the private sector and home network stability technologies. owners as we move forward.

"While connection of solar farms to the grid has been possible almost immediately, future connections, depending on their size and location, will need to be connected through a strategic and scheduled approach. TAU is currently exploring options to enable this to happen in the immediate, medium and long term. As such TAU expects new connections will be programmed between now and 2020 in step with the adoption of interim and long term storage, control and

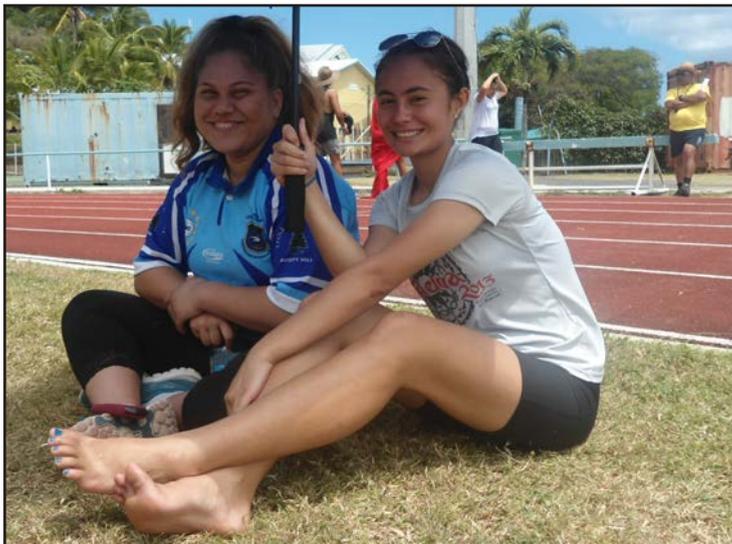
development." "The fundamental principle of guiding this work is not only the achievement of our national targets for energy, but also ensuring that our customers are well cared for. "The Government fully supports TAU's efforts. The years ahead will be an exciting time for the Cook Islands as we progress towards clean and sustainable energy for all our people. TAU hopes everyone will be involved and are understanding of the constraints that we face and the efforts made to overcome these as we benefit from a very positive step forward in our country's development."



# Tereora Anau sports day

By Courtney Matai

Last Friday, Tereora College held their last inter-colour house (anau) Sports event at the BCI stadium that went on from 8:30am-3:00pm. All students including the seniors who returned after finishing their mid-year exams, were to participate in a maximum of five events. Either two track (500m, 1500m, 100m etc) events or three field (Shot-put, Discuss etc) and vice versa. Tug-of-war was also played, where each Anau (colour house) competed against each teams same year level. The year 13 Business Academy sold nu as well as cake and ice cream on the day which will contribute towards their work experience trip to Aitutaki. After participating in all five events, the results at the end of the day was Ikurangi (yellow/house2) who came first, followed by Blue coming in at second, Red third and lastly Green house.



VACANCY

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Cook Islands Herald Issue 787

# TE KAVE KÖRERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, FRI 2 OCT 2015

## \$200,000 repaid?

Repayment of Government's advance of \$200,000.00 paid to Pacific Schooners Ltd was the subject of discussion on Te Kave Kōrero on Friday 2nd October 2015.

According to a Press Release issued by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM), on Thursday 1st October, Pacific Schooners Ltd had paid back to Government in full, \$200,000.00.

Te Kave Kōrero presenter, Tony Hakaoro, spoke with Minister of Finance, Mark Brown and Financial Secretary, Richard Neves.

In Māori Brown informed listeners that the advance payment to Pacific Schooners had been paid back by the company.

"Te moni tei advance ia ki teia company ko te Pacific Schooners, kua tutakinaia mai, pouroa te moni tei advance ia kua tutakinaia mai. Kare i papu meitaki i aku e, e `ia tikai moni, inara, ko te information tei tukanaia mai ki aku, e ki tetai rua anere tausini, two hundred thousand dollars, tei advance ia ki teia company nei, ko teia te moni tei akaokinaia mai".

Brown said all the money paid in advance had been refunded in full.

"Ko te katoaanga teia o te moni tei advance ia. Pouroa tera moni tei advance ia, kua akaokinaia mai. Kare to tatou pute moni i ruti i tai sene e i tetai tara i teia akakoroanga ta tatou i tomo ki roto".

However, Hakaoro asked the Minister what proof or evidence is there to show that the money had indeed been paid.

"E te Minita, ka karanga taua i roto i te reo papa`ā e, e a`a te proof, me kare, e a`a te evidence e, kua tutakiia mai tena moni?".

Brown responded saying that if his officials tell him that the money had been made, it is true.

"Me karanga mai na taku aronga angaanga i roto i te Tipatimoni e, ko teia te moni tei tutakinaia mai, ko teia rai te moni tei

tutakinaia mai. Kare ratou e tuku i tetai tuatua neneva ki runga i te ratio e, me kare, ki roto i te public e, e kua tutakinaia mai tetai moni, e kare tetai moni i aere mai na, no e Tony. Me karanga mai na te officials e, kua tae mai te moni ki roto i te puka o te Kavamani, tuatua tika tera.

Brown added that if one wants to see the statement as evidence of the payment one has to see the Financial Secretary, Richard Neves.

Me ka inangaro koe kia kite koe i te statement, ka aere koe ka aravei koe i to taua taeake i a Richard, e na Richard e akariari atu ki a koe te au statement aere, me kare, tetai au evidence taau ka inangaro koe kia kite meitaki koe, kia kite toou mata. I aku rai, me karanga mai na taku aronga angaanga e, kua raveia tetai angaanga, ka ariki au i tera e tuatua tika".

Brown emphasised that Pacific Schooners had paid the money into Government's account.

"Taku i marama au e Tony, kua tutaki mai teia company, te Pacific Schooners, na rotou i tuku mai i te moni ki roto i te puka a te Kavamani, e, ta ratou moni i rauka mai, na ratou rai te reira business ea, na ratou rai te reira. Me kua kimi mai ratou i tetai moni i roto i to ratou au shareholders, me kua rauka mai tetai moni na roto i tetai au matara ke, na ratou rai tera tuanga".

"As far as the Government is concerned kua tutaki mai ratou i te moni tei advance ia ki a ratou. Kare to tatou iti tangata i ruti i ta ratou moni, akaokinaia mai, that's the end of the business as far as te tua o te Kavamani".

Brown said Government did not assist the company to obtain the money to pay back Government.

"Te rauka nei i aku i te akapapu atu ki a koe ra oki e Tony, kare roa te Kavamani i tauturu ana i teia company kia rauka mai tetai moni i te tutaki i ta ratou kaiou. Te akapapu atu nei au i te reira i teia taime e Tonv".

When Hakaoro spoke to Neves he said "rest assured the advance that was made to Pacific Schooners, I'll keep that commercial confidentiality there, was repaid in full".

However, Hakaoro asked Neves, "what evidence can we rely upon that you've received the money? Are you able to produce some form of evidence when you come back from your meeting in Peru?".

Neves responded, "I'm not sure how we can provide that sort of evidence. I guess I can get PERCA to come along or Mr Williams or someone to say yes, this amount was repaid if people don't trust what I say".

Hakaoro volunteered to look at the evidence but Neves declined saying, "well, if you don't trust me, that makes it very difficult but I'm happy for someone like Bob Williams to confirm that the money was repaid. He's the head of the Financial Intelligence Unit, he's seen the statement and he's seen the deposit slip, if you're happy for Bob's word so be it".

"How about him and I come in to look at it?", said Hakaoro.

"No Tony, I'm happy for Bob to do it but I'm not gonna have journalists just popping in to look at the charted accounts ledger of the Government and have a look at all these sorts of payments. Ultimately in the end you have to have faith in Government and if you don't have faith in Bob Williams whose the independent person who looks at the transactions then I'm not sure who you can try", said Neves.

"The difficulty I have with my friend, is that, he's employed by an Agency of Government. There is no independence there at all" said Hakaoro.

Te Kave Kōrero thanks Minister Mark Brown and Financial Secretary Richard Neves for coming on air and answering questions regarding the repayment of the money.

Cook Islands Herald Issue 787

# TE KAVE KÖRERO

Host: Tony Hakaoro, WED 30th Sept 2015

## Last day for letter of demand

Wednesday 30th September was the last day for service in terms of the Charter Agreement between Government and Pacific Schooners Ltd.

On Te Kave Kōrero to discuss the subject was Financial Secretary Richard Neves, Chief of Staff of the Office of the Prime Minister, Elizabeth Wright-Koteka, Matariki FM owner William Framhein and Te Kave Kōrero presenter Tony Hakaoro.

Hakaoro started the interview by going straight to the point.

“Richard, today is the last day, I guess the first question is, have you sent a letter of demand to the company, or, if not, when would you send that?”

The response was not so direct.

“I’m saying that I’m anticipating that we will be getting the money that we’ve advanced to them very very shortly”, said Neves.

In terms of the Charter Agreement between Government and Pacific Schooners clause 9 requires that a letter of demand be sent to whichever party has failed to perform or discharge obligations under the contract.

Pacific Schooners vessel, the Tiare Tāporo, failed to arrive in Rarotonga to transport Te Maeva Nui groups to the northern group.

The vessel was contracted to carry out transportation services between 1 and 30 September 2015 but failed to turn up due to a damaged engine.

It is still berthed in Panama City and is uncertain whether its engine has been repaired.

Asked as to when he would send a letter of demand Neves said:

“I’m just saying that I’m not going to go into

what I have done and what I haven’t done, I’ll talk about outcomes I think are going to happen this week and I’m reasonably confident that we should be getting our advance back from Pacific Schooners within the next week or so”.

“What I’m just pointing out is that we’ve written to Pacific Schooners on a few occasions outlining obligations, I’m not gonna get into, I sent a letter on this date, I sent a letter on that date. What I can say with a reasonable sense of confidence is that, we’re expecting a payment to be made, refunding the money back within the next week or so”.

Asked whether there has been an indication whether payment is forthcoming Liz Wright-Koteka said she has not been communicating with Pacific Schooners because “obviously I am not the one that entered into the contract on behalf of Government”.

Neves on the other hand was confident that payment would be forthcoming.

“We are fairly confident in Government, myself and Liz that Pacific Schooners who was advanced some money and didn’t provide a service will be refunding it back so the claims that I made and I’m consistently reminded about, to say that we would not be paying for a service if it wasn’t provided, will become true”.

Hakaoro put to Neves that the prudent thing to do was to issue a letter of demand but Neves did not agree.

“I’ve taken a number of steps since it became apparent that Pacific Schooners was gonna have a lot of difficulties fulfilling its obligations in the contract. I took the actions that I felt were warranted to be taken in order to recover the advance that we’ve paid because no services were gonna be provided by Pacific Schooners and I took a prudent cautious approach

towards getting that advance back and as I explained before, I expect that we would be getting our advance repaid in full within the next week”.

In terms of the refund Framhein asked Neves whether he had offered assistance to Pacific Schooners Ltd in securing funds to pay Government.

“No, like I don’t, I’m a Director on the BCI and when there are issues that I may be conflicting in, there are a number, I remove myself from the meetings so I don’t have any sort of, it’s up to Pacific Schooners shareholders to decide how they get their money, not up to Government, I don’t guarantee anything, we don’t guarantee anything”, said Neves.

“Richard, just coming back to the BCI question then, you say you’ll remove yourself because of the conflict of interest if something arises I guess from the time the contract was signed, but prior to the contract, has BCI given any facility of any kind whether it’s a loan, and we’re talking about Pacific Schooners, have you been involved in any meetings prior to the contract where some kind of financial facilities has been provided for Pacific Schooners?”.

“William, I don’t talk about the finances of the BCI, who borrows, who deposits, so I’m not going to enter into it. We don’t talk about it. I don’t talk about individual tax matters, and certainly don’t talk client details at the BCI”.

In briefly talking about the PERC report Neves said that he, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, the Public Service Commissioner and Pacific Schooners were the people provided with a copy of the report.

Te Kave Kōrero expresses gratitude to Richard Neves, Elizabeth Wright-Koteka and William Framhein for being guest speakers on the programme.

Meitaki maata ki a kotou toko toru.

# Capacity Building for Resilient Agriculture in the Pacific



Participants to the Workshop with Minister Turepu

*By Charles Pitt*

The Cook Islands is one of three Pacific islands funded by the International Federation of Agriculture Development (IFAD) to building resilient food systems with organic agriculture, young farmers and organisations that support them. Niue and the Republic of Marshall Islands are the other two beneficiaries to the project that focuses on agricultural resilience given the global challenges of climate change natural hazards and environmental degradation. The Titikaveka Growers Association (TGA) is the implementing agency in the Cook Islands of the 3 year project (2015-2017) which is being equally supported by the Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community (POETCOM) housed within the regional office of the South Pacific Community (SPC).

TGA has partnered with other

local farmers organisations such as the Rarotonga Farmers Cooperative and Te Enuia Mou Farmers from Puaikura to follow on from April in a second workshop aimed at establishing Certification System for Farmers. The 3 days workshop held at the Papaaroa Community Hall 5-7 October 2015 was attended by 21 farmers to develop a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) where all farmers check upon themselves to comply within set rules for growing crops according to the rules agreed by all parties. Teava Iro of TGA affirmed that this project is more than an individual farmers association as it is broadly based to address an alternative farming method conducive to human health, our natural heritage and nation building. The project has a model for empowering young farmers with required skills and knowledge for better farming

practices to earn independent income and produce food for them and their families as an alternative to migrating to New Zealand or Australia. Daniel Apii of Puaikura farmers shared of the importance to strongly encourage young age farmers to sustain farming at the village level. Wayne Mitchell of Rarotonga Farmers Association applauded the developments made by each farmers group since they met in the first workshop held in April for an alternative farming method and stressed the commercial demand for organic farming.

Young farmer brothers, Jason (16) and Okirua (14) Uka shared of how they enjoyed planting and seeing the fruits of their labour to reach the point of harvesting and selling produce to earn money and share with neighbours of their surplus supplies of tomatoes and ground lettuces. Both brothers

are being mentored by the project and by senior farmers involved in the project for the period of the IFAD sponsored initiative where both young farmers are grasping the organic approach as 'a more natural form of farming'. Stakeholders such as Red Cross, BTIB, the Ministry of Education, Chamber of Commerce and Ministry of Agriculture were represented where the Minister for Agriculture Hon. Turepu stressed in his opening address to the workshop that 'organic farming is a prioritised farming method that the government is supporting towards a green economy'. Participants Lydia Marsh, Maryanne Peters and Eitiare Vano bring to the workshop the equitable representation of women farming and marvelled the workshop with their farms of fine produces, a demonstration of 'tender love in farming'.

# With much love



By Teherenui Koteka

Recently we have seen over 200 runners and walkers take part in the annual Round Raro event. One of these groups was the “Bay Girls” from the southern and eastern suburbs of Wellington, New Zealand.

Eight Samoan women, two husbands and twenty one children who through friendship have raised their kids together and through loss in the last three years have forged a sisterhood to achieve health for themselves and commemorate the lives of two of their husbands and one of them.

My connection is one of the Bay Girls, my Auntie Gabby, who with her husband, Uncle Va’a became big sister and big brother to my mum Liz Wright-Koteka (their Lisi), as a young student at Victoria University. I saw my mum’s love for Auntie Gabby and Uncle Va’a on their numerous visits to Raro, it was a mutual feeling - the stories, laughter and tears. Uncle Va’a was a big Tongan Samoan

gentle, kind, educated and loving.

A government policy writer, highly educated with a soft chuckle who spoilt mum and aunty and whose soft response made sense of all mum’s university and Wellington stories. Sadly on March 15th 2013, Uncle Va’a died suddenly and unexpectedly from a huge heart attack. This was devastating time for my Auntie and her family, but the Bay Girls were a huge support to my Auntie and cousins during this time.

Earlier, in 2012, Fara Kiriau, another of the bay Girls, lost her husband Tere to Cancer. So this group of women, had 8 fatherless children. In December 2013, one of the Bay Girls Motu Groom passed away while aqua-jogging at the local pool. One of the only times she had jogged without one or more of her Bay Girls sisters. Motu was the life of the Bay Girls. My Auntie Gabby said she was the centre point for them. Utter devastation. Motu was married to Tusi and had 3

children, so 11 children now without one parent.

The Bay Girls were there for their sister’s family. At the start of 2014 these women decided to commemorate their loved ones by doing the ‘Round Raro’, a chance to get healthier together using colours to represent their loved ones. Purple represented Tere, Orange Motu and Yellow Uncle Va’a.

They saved, fundraised and trained. Auntie Gabby said she wanted to come to Rarotonga to hold mums hand as she knew how much Uncle Va’a loved mum. They competed in many different categories of the race. They all wore their oranges, yellows and purples. They were especially proud of their fellow Bay Girl, Ann, who completed the whole 32km. For a lot of them, the challenge was difficult because they had gone from no fitness to competing. Auntie Gabby in her yellow pareu said it was hard for her but she just kept thinking of Uncle Va’a. She wanted to do it under 2hours and did it in

1.58. Her children Annie(14) and Poutasi(11) crossed the finishing line on either side of their Auntie Maria-Goretti in yellow holding her hand.

Both Auntie Gabby and the other cousin Justina cried tears of joy upon finishing. It was Uncle Va’a’s 50th the night before the race. We had a big dinner to celebrate this. In Auntie Gabby’s words and prayer we heard loss and love, friendship and the bond of love her and Uncle Va’a shared with mum.

Mum did a dinner for them on Sunday night just prior to their departure. As I looked around the table at these women and Mum next to Auntie Gabby I felt glad to be a part of something extremely special.

Rest in Love Uncle Va’a “Asotasi Va’a Makisi.

The love story of you and Auntie Gabby continues in my mum’s stories. It started in 1985 and now 30 years later is commemorated in Auntie Gabby crossing that line to the beat of the drums in her yellow pareu for you.

VACANCY



**TOWER INSURANCE**

**CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER  
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TOWER Insurance has provided domestic and commercial insurance in the Cook Islands for over 30 years and right now we have an exciting opportunity for a Customer Service Officer to join our team!

If you have a genuine passion for customer service then this is an opportunity to begin a career in the insurance industry. The successful candidate will bring exceptional organisation skills and proven customer service experience.

In return we will provide training in all aspects of the insurance industry, including insurance policy administration, claims, sales and customer service.

Written applications including a Curriculum Vitae and references must be received no later than 16 Oct 2015.

If you are interested in a career with TOWER Insurance and would like further information please contact:

Jay Areora  
Manager  
Telephone: (00682) 22713  
Email: jay.areora@towerinsurance.co.ck

PUBLIC NOTICE



**PUBLIC NOTICE – AVATIU VALLEY ROAD**

Residents and users of Avatiu valley road are advised of an impending project start for TAU civil works at the Power station that will affect road traffic between now and November 2015. In particular they are asked to show:

1. Carefulness in the area in question from the Power station to the intersection at Avatiu Ara metua.
2. Awareness of heavy vehicles, plant and machinery which may be parked on the Avatiu valley road
3. Adherence to speed limit, warning signs, traffic direction from time to time etc.

**New Hope Church**

Parekura Conference Centre

*Inspirational messages to uplift and empower you*

**Sunday at 10.30am**

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



**PARLIAMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICE**

**FAMILY LAW BILL  
Invitation for Public Submissions**

The Public is hereby advised that a Parliamentary Special Select Committee for the Family Law Bill has been established to go over the Bill and invite public submissions.

Written submissions are to be addressed to the Clerk of Parliament, P.O.Box 13, Parliament Building, Nikao.

Those who wish to make oral submissions are invited to make known their intentions to the Clerk of Parliament on telephone 26500 or email [john.tangi@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:john.tangi@cookislands.gov.ck)

Closing dates for submissions is Friday 11th December 2015, 4.00 p.m.

Copy of the Bill with Explanatory Note are available on the following website <http://www.pmooffice.gov.ck/> Otherwise a hard copy can be obtained from Parliament at \$10."

**TUATUA AKAKITE**

Te akakite iatu nei ki te katoatoa e kua akatupuia e te Paramani tetai Kumiti Takake no te Ture Tamanako note Kopu'tangata.

Kua akaue ia teia Kumiti kia akara ki roto i te Ture Tamanako ma te kimi matatio i tetai au tuanga no te akameitaki atu i teia kia tau no te akateretere'anga e kia ripoti atu teia au kimikimi'anga ki te Paramani.

Ko tetai uatu tangata tei anoano i te tuku mai i to kotou manako no teia, kia tata mai ki te Karaka o te Paramani Clerk of Parliament, P.O.Box 13, Parliament Building, Nikao.

Me kua anoano koe i te aravei e te tuatua i toou manako kite Kumiti kia akakite katoa mai kite Karaka i runga i te tereponi 26500 me kore kote rorouira [john.tangi@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:john.tangi@cookislands.gov.ck) .

Ka topiri'ia te aka'ari'anga manako a te Varaire ra 11 o Titema 2015 i te ora 4 i te avatea ai.

Ka rauka mai teia Ture Tamanako ki runga i te roro'uira a te katoatoa <http://www.pmooffice.gov.ck/> me kore kia tiki mai i teia no ko i te Paramani e \$10.

**John Tangi  
Clerk"**

VACANCY



**COOK ISLANDS TOURISM CORPORATION  
TRADE COORDINATOR**

Join the dynamic hardworking team at Cook Islands Tourism Corporation!

With the mandate to lead the nation in tourism, destination development and marketing, our team is looking for a bright, energetic, passionate individual to make a difference and help cultivate continued success in this economic sector.

The Cook Islands Tourism Corporation invites applications for the position of Trade Coordinator.

The successful applicant will be reporting to the Marketing Manager – Head Office and will be required to coordinate and manage work programmes that service the sales and marketing requirements of Cook Islands Tourism Corporation and deliver an efficient support system to internal and external stakeholders.

Applicants must have the following expertise:

- Tertiary degree in a related field
- One year experience in the tourism industry or similar
- One year sound knowledge in project management
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to prioritize work and meet tight deadlines
- Excellent interpersonal and written communication skills
- Ability to multi-task and manage many projects at one time
- Ability to work within budget
- Excellent communication and written skills
- Advance knowledge in MS Office specifically MS Word, Excel, Outlook and Powerpoint
- Sound knowledge in design software

The successful applicant will also need to demonstrate:

- A sound understanding of the different market needs and behaviours
- Ability to work outside of normal working hours and on the weekends to complete certain projects

A detailed job description can be requested by email to [applications@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:applications@cookislands.gov.ck)

Applications with a CV should be addressed to Executive Assistant, PO Box 14, Cook Islands Tourism Corporation, Rarotonga or emailed to [applications@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:applications@cookislands.gov.ck)  
Applications close 2pm, Friday 09 October 2015.

TENDERS



COOK ISLANDS  
**Ministry of Education**  
Maraurau o te Pae Api'i

**Ministry of Education  
2016 School Stationery & Consumables Tender Notice**

Tenders are invited for the bulk supply of School Stationery & Consumables for the 2016 school year. Quality and specifications document can be uplifted from the Ministry of Education office or download from MOE website: [www.education.gov.ck](http://www.education.gov.ck) or contact Procurement, Health & Safety Officer Ms Terangi Charlieon phone 29357, fax 28357 or email [terangi@education.gov.ck](mailto:terangi@education.gov.ck)

Tender submission will close @ 4.00pm Tuesday 13th October, 2015

Tenders shall be either in a sealed envelope or emailed to [tenders@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:tenders@cookislands.gov.ck)

MOE 2016 School Stationery & Consumables Tender 151613  
Secretary of Education,  
Ministry of Education, PO Box 97  
Rarotonga, Cook Islands



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**Date: 21 September 2015**

**Project Name: Transportation of Agricultural Equipment and Raw Materials to the Pa Enua**

**Tender ID: 151614**

Tenders close: Friday the 9th October 2015 at 3 p.m. The Development Coordination Division (DCD) of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management invites suitably qualified freight forwarding service providers to tender for the delivery of Agricultural equipment and raw materials to the Pa Enua. Tender documents can be picked up from DCD, Third Floor of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management in Avarua. Electronic copies of the tenders are available from the [www.procurement.co.ck](http://www.procurement.co.ck)

All tenders are to be placed in the Tender Box at DCD, 3rd Floor, MFEM Building, Avarua by the closing date of Friday the 9th October 2015 at 3 p.m. For Tender Information or any queries relating to the tender documents please contact:  
Tender Manager: Erina Korohina Ph: +682 29521  
email: [Erina.korohina@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:Erina.korohina@cookislands.gov.ck)

**FOOTBALL UPDATE**

# Cooks ranking shoots up

The Cook Islands National Men's team is now ranked 166 in the world, 4th in the Oceania region after the results of the World Cup Qualifying tournament held in Tonga last month. This is the highest ranking the Cooks achieved since being a member of FIFA back in 1994.

Although the Cooks did not qualify for the second stage of the World Cup Qualifiers, winning over host Tonga and higher ranked Samoa consequently have pushed our ranking up by 34 places.



# Blatter rejects US sponsors' calls to step down

Sepp Blatter has rejected the demands of a string of FIFA's front-line US sponsors to step down immediately in the wake of the deepening corruption crisis, saying to do so would not help the beleaguered organisation.

In what appeared to be a co-ordinated action, Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Visa and Anheuser-Busch InBev have all called on Blatter to take the plunge and leave after being placed under criminal investigation by the Swiss authorities.

"For the benefit of the game, The Coca-Cola Company is calling for FIFA president Joseph Blatter to step down immediately so that a credible and sustainable reform process can begin in earnest."

Fast-food chain McDonald's said Blatter's resignation would be "in the best interest of the game" and Visa and Anheuser-Busch In-Bev followed suit.

Visa commented: "As we've previously said, we believe two things need to happen to ensure credible reform: First, an independent, third-party commission led by one or more

important leaders is critical to formulate reforms; Second, we believe no meaningful reform can be made under FIFA's existing leadership.

"And, given the events of last week, it's clear it would be in the best interests of FIFA and the sport for Sepp Blatter to step down immediately."

Anheuser-Busch InBev added: "It would be appropriate for Mr. Blatter to step down as we believe his continued presence to be an obstacle in the reform process."

Blatter has already announced that he will leave in February, nine months into a fifth four-term. To make yet more concessions is clearly one step too far for the 79-year-old Swiss - even in the face of the corporate giants who pour millions into Fifa's coffers and without whom FIFA's finances would collapse.

In a counter-statement released through his US-based legal team, Blatter said resigning now "would not be in the best interest of FIFA, nor would it advance the process of reform".

"While Coca-Cola is a valued



sponsor of FIFA, Mr Blatter respectfully disagrees with its position and firmly believes that his leaving office now would not

be in the best interest of FIFA nor would it advance the process of reform and therefore he will not resign."