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HEADLINE: MOST FIJIANS BELIEVE POLITICAL PARTIES ARE CORRUPT:
SURVEY

DATELINE: SUVA March 27

BODY:

Over 70 per cent Fijians believe politicians are at least moderately corrupt, according to new research conducted by **Transparency International** Fiji (TI Fiji).

The research, conducted last August, reflects the views of 1,024 people aged 18 and over.

Politicians came out of the survey very badly with 47 per cent of all the interviewees believing that politics is largely affected by corruption and another 25 per cent believing that politics is moderately corrupt, TI F statement said.

Interviewees viewed the business community as only slightly better, with 40 per cent believing business to be largely corrupt and 25 per cent viewing business to be moderately corrupt.

The pre coup opinions also showed that 54 per cent of those interviewed believed that governments were either ineffective in the fight against corruption or actively encouraged corruption.

TI Fiji's research would be used to contribute to the **Transparency International** Global Corruption Barometer, published by the TI Secretariat in Berlin.

While the TI Fiji research found citizens viewed Parliament and politicians as very corrupt, religious and non governmental organisations were considered to be the least corrupt, although no sector was considered to be free of corruption.

Many of the views seemed to reflect the experiences of others because few people said that they had paid bribes themselves although corruption takes many forms other than bribery.

The legal system also came out of the survey relatively well with 81 per cent of interviewees feeling that bribes did not need to be paid to get a fair judgement from a court although one in five respondents believed the justice system to be slow and complicated.

The survey was conducted for TI Fiji by Tebbutt Research. Respondents were from Suva, Nausori, Lami, Nadi, Lautoka and Ba.

The survey sample was managed to ensure that it reflected Fijis population by gender, age, race and location.

(Pacnews)

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