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BAVADRA REJECTS IDEA OF NEW POLLS

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WELLINGTON, Friday: **Fiji's** deposed Prime Minister, Dr Timoci **Bavadra**, has rejected the proposal by the Governor-General, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, for an uncontested election to change the country's Constitution.

According to **Fiji's** Chief Justice, Dr Timoci Tuivaga, Dr **Bavadra** legally cannot be stopped fielding candidates in the election.

In a statement issued in Suva today, Dr **Bavadra** called on the Queen to use her influence to ensure the rule of law prevailed in **Fiji** and "that arbitrary changes will not be pushed through to the detriment of all the people of **Fiji**".

"I would urge that any constitutional changes should involve the widest possible consultation and must be considered by the current Parliament duly elected on April 11, **1987,**" Dr **Bavadra** said.

Dr Tuivaga said the Governor-General could only rely on goodwill to ensure no-one opposed the candidates nominated by him for a Parliament formed purely to change the Constitution.

If this proved impossible to achieve the Governor-General could consider reconvening the old Parliament to pass the amendments.

"That's an alternative which must not be discounted."

However, it appears unlikely that Dr **Bavadra** would agree to make such changes. He said today that changing the Constitution had "grave implications for the social and economic development" of **Fiji**. A former Cabinet Minister, Apisai Tora, 53, pleaded not guilty in court in **Fiji's** second largest town, Lautoka, on charges of sedition and inciting racial antagonism.

Mr Tora, the Communications Minister in the Alliance Government beaten in the April elections, elected Supreme Court trial and the case was adjourned until October 26.

The charges followed a speech Mr Tora made on April 21 at Viseisei village near Lautoka during a meeting of Fijian chiefs.

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