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## **Official Statement of Grace Road regarding petitions to the parliament of SODELPA against Grace Road**

The following is the official statement of Grace Road in regard to SODELPA party leader [REDACTED] and the party for their unfounded slanders, insults, false accusations and their petitions to the parliament against Reverend Okjoo Shin and Grace Road.

*"These things you have done and I kept silence; You thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes. [Psalm 50:21]"*

We hereby state the truth based on the above Word of God in Psalms.

On 26 May 2020 in the parliament, [REDACTED] of the opposition party said, "Grace Road Church is founded on hate. Founder [Reverend Okjoo Shin] has physically assaulted her followers and has promoted racism in her sermons when she publicly called the Fijian population mentally weak and taught that her followers are superior beings to the citizens of Fiji."

We call for you to clearly present on what basis you have maliciously slandered our Group as in your statement above.

Ever since GR Group was founded in 2014 in Fiji, we have been persecuted as a cult by religious leaders who have maliciously insulted us without any biblical basis.

Using the baseless claims through social and news media, SODELPA party leader, [REDACTED] and other party members have submitted petitions to the parliament demanding inquiry into all activities of 400 members of Grace Road and deportation of the members to Korea. We hereby openly refute these claims.

With regard to the claim of being a cult:

We ask all of you who claim to be Christians to explain the biblical definition of a 'cult'.

The biblical definition of a cult is the one who does not acknowledge Jesus as coming in the flesh [2Jo.

1:7], and the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ [1Jo. 2:22, 1Jo. 4:2~3]. Those who do not see, hear, believe and act by the Bible are the cult.

Reverend Okjoo Shin has been carrying out the perfect biblical reformation for the past 13 years to awaken the Christians and Catholics around the world from the spiritual slumber. They are truly entrapped in the real heresies, living a meaningless religious lifestyle without knowing the meaning of a single verse in the Bible.

Our Reverend and the members of Grace Road live by the Bible, and we are not ashamed in the sight of God and men. The true Christians have always been persecuted since creation. The true prophets in the Old Testament who have been sent by God and the apostles in the New Testament were hated and persecuted by those inside the church who claimed to believe in God. Even Jesus Christ the Son of God was hated, persecuted and condemned as a sect, and brutally crucified.

Once more, we ask you who slander Grace Road as a cult. What is your definition of a cult? If you are confident, let us biblically reveal what a cult is through a public hearing before everyone.

Show exact evidence for your claims of Grace Road Church being founded on hate, and your claims of Reverend Shin promoting racism and insulting the people of Fiji. Our Group has begun rice farming in Navua in 2014, and built the largest rice mill in Fiji. We have been investing the most in the agricultural sector to achieve self-sufficiency of rice, which heavily relies on imports, and prepare for the coming great famine. We have been cultivating idle land and growing a wide range of crops and fruits throughout Fiji. Not only have we been supplying to restaurants, supermarkets, resorts and hotels, but we have also been improving the diet and health of the people of Fiji. Grace Road has introduced the concept of Farm-to-Table, and has been providing safe and healthy food without using pesticide and herbicide by implementing sustainable farming.

We have even cultivated and planted rice on the land in Nausori of [REDACTED] the former party leader of SODELPA, which is a party denouncing Grace Road. This fact is a proof that Grace Road's mission is about improving food security and import substitution in Fiji, and Grace Road has no political purpose or motive.

Since 2015, Grace Road has entered construction industry, and completed the State House project, the Prime Minister's Residence project, FNU Naceva Campus, Taveuni Court House expansion, construction of airport terminals on Vanua Balavu Island and Koro Island, and a host of commercial-residential projects. Not once have we given any bribes to the government or lobbied in any of our construction projects. Only through honesty and trust we have built up the reputation of Grace Road. We are carrying out a wide range of building projects throughout Fiji even now. Grace Road has been continuously endeavoring to improve residential space and living conditions in Fiji through construction.

When the tropical cyclone Winston struck the entire nation of Fiji at the end of February in 2016, Grace Road has rebuilt a total of 46 houses over a period of 1 year at our own cost for the people of Naucobau and Ovalau. We carried out these projects to these villages which received the most damage, in order to fulfil the love of God as fellow brothers [1 Timothy 5:10]. Moreover, at times many of our Fijian employees eat and live with us under the same roof like a family.

*having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work. [1 Timothy 5:10]*

Grace Road serves customers with joy and sincerity in all of our restaurants and retail shops in Fiji. Our business has been successful due to the support and encouragement from our customers who recognises our heart. This was because our Reverend Okjoo Shin taught us to always be honest, sincere and diligent before God and men as the motto of Grace Road Group. All activities of Grace Road Group are open to the public. If you visit any of our stores even once, you would be able to see whether we were founded on hate and racially discriminate others, or whether we serve others with humility. Come and see for yourselves how we truly serve with joy and happiness. You will be able to experience how Reverend Okjoo Shin has guided all Grace Road members with the love of God.

**We call for a public hearing.** [REDACTED] as the leader of the opposition party, you are both a pastor and a member of the parliament. We ask the leader of the opposition, [REDACTED] and also everyone who loves Fiji to consider this. The parliament should be a place to discuss important national affairs and be concerned with the wellbeing of the people, especially in these times of national crisis from COVID-19 and TC Harold. Yet you have petitioned to deport Grace Road, who has not committed any crime, dutifully fulfilled the tax obligation, carried out the largest commercial agriculture operation in Fiji, and endeavored more than anyone else for the economic development and improving living standards in areas, such as food processing, construction, health care, restaurant and retail. Justify whether this petition was right in the sight of God and men.

What have you contributed to the development of Fiji nation? When the government and the citizens should unite in one heart and mind in order to overcome the current national emergency, what are you doing in the parliament? Instead of proposing a solution to overcome the national issues, you promote division and disorder. You are the ones who are founded on hate and racially discriminate others. You criticise for the sake of criticising, and politically exploit Grace Road. We are true Christians. Insulting and slandered our Reverend Okjoo Shin and Grace Road is blaspheming God Himself. You waste people's tax money. If you are able to make any rebuttal, let us hold a public hearing.

A true Christian must practice love biblically. More than 400 members of Grace Road, from a 90-year-old elderly to a newborn baby, have left behind all of our former lives and migrated to Fiji. We have only done our best to carry out the Word of God on earth, rain or shine, from morning to evening, yet our

diligence was unjustly slandered as exploitation of forced labor. Our move to Fiji in itself was denounced as confinement. The biblical threshing floor in which we voluntarily confessed our sins and truly repented was condemned as assault. Our Reverend Okjoo Shin and Grace Road have only seen, heard, believed and lived by the Bible. Yet we have been politically and religiously oppressed, not only in Korea, but in Fiji as well. You, who claim to be Christian, oppress and persecute true Christians.

If you were Christian, you would not petition to the parliament for the strangers who left behind their former lives and moved to Fiji, their new home, to be deported only for your religious and political motives. It is you who stand on hate.

*"You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. [Exodus 22:21]"*

In the entire history of Fiji, if there was another group of 400 foreigners, who came and gave their very best in agriculture, restaurant and construction throughout the nation in such a short time and demonstrated their love for the people and the nation of Fiji, then show it.

Grace Road does not hate you. We rather urge you with love that you can still heed this reproof and return to God. Without God's grace, we cannot live even a single day. Our Reverend and our Group trust only in God, and we petition to God with all of our heart. Let us examine what the truth is for all to see.

*Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. [Isaiah 55:7]"*

**Yours Faithfully,**

**Grace Road Group**