

Eulogy for Mrs. Emma Bovoro

The Sovereign the Most Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem

King Charles the III

The Grand Prior

The Lord Prior

The Subprior

His Excellency

The President of The Republic of Fiji

The Chancellor of The Order of Fiji

The Patron of the St. John Association in Fiji

Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere

Knight of Grace, Sir Ratu Epeli Nailatikau

Commanding officers, Officers, Serving brothers and Sisters

The Honourable Prime Minister, Sitiveni Ligamada Rabuka

Honourable Member of Parliament

Excellencies,

The Closed Divisions

Commander of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces

Acting Police Commissioner

Commission of Prisons

CEO National Fire Authority / Fire Chief NFA

Executive Council of St. John in Fiji

St. John Ambulance officers

St John Brigade and Volunteers

St. John Corporate Services

St. John Sponsors, family and Friends of St. Johns

To Mr. Tukana Bovoro and their children and grand-children

Pro 31:25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. Pro 31:29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. 30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

Today, we gather to honor and celebrate the extraordinary life of Mrs. Emma Bovoro, a true embodiment of dedication, compassion, and leadership. Her journey with the St. John Association in Fiji spans an impressive 38 years, during which she became a beacon of hope and service for countless individuals within her community and beyond.

Mrs. Bovoro's rich tenure began in 1985 as a Volunteer Nursing Training Officer, marking the start of her lifelong commitment to the principles of volunteerism and charity. Throughout her illustrious career, she held numerous pivotal roles, including Acting General Secretary and later General Secretary Commissioner. In 2013, she was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of St. John Fiji, becoming the first woman to lead this venerable institution since its inception in 1939.

Her leadership was characterized by unwavering commitment and selfless service. Under her guidance, St. John Fiji flourished, overcoming challenges and navigating through difficult times. She reinvigorated the association, transforming it from the brink of bankruptcy to a state of financial stability and operational excellence, thereby ensuring its capacity to effectively serve the community.

Mrs. Bovoro's remarkable contributions extended beyond administration; she was a captivating innovator. Her pioneering initiative, the 'Night at the Classics,' merged classical and local iTaukei music, garnering immense support and enriching the cultural landscape of our community. This event not only provided vital financial resources for the organization but fostered a sense of belonging among its members.

Her stewardship was marked by integrity, compassion, and a fervent belief in the mission of St. John. She showed profound respect and loving-kindness to all, embodying the organization's values in her every action. Her approach to service was non-judgmental, focusing on upliftment and resilience in those she helped. She inspired those around her to maintain high standards of excellence, promoting a culture of openness and continuous improvement.

Mrs. Bovoro's legacy includes not only her accomplishments but also the strength of community she fostered within St. John. By embracing diversity and inclusiveness while holding firm to its Christian roots, she created a spiritual home for many. Her leadership united individuals from all walks of life, fostering a sense of family and purpose that was palpable in every endeavor.

Her dedication to humanitarian service was recognized by many, culminating in her being awarded the prestigious Grade V honor as an Officer of the Most Venerable Order of Jerusalem. The Order of Fiji awarded her the commendation "Pro Fide – Pro Utilitate Hominum," which captures the essence of her life's work: a profound commitment to serving humanity with faith and purpose.

Through her journey, Mrs. Bovoro has left an indelible mark on the Order of St. John and on the hearts of all who had the privilege to know her. Her unwavering dedication serves as a reminder of the power of selfless service and the impact one individual can have in the lives of many.

As we remember her today, let us carry forward her spirit of service, compassion, and unyielding dedication to the welfare of others. Mrs. Bovoro's memory will forever inspire us to strive for excellence, to cultivate a community rooted in caring and resilience, and to continue the legacy of hope she so beautifully embodied.

May her spirit live on in the lives she touched and the communities she served, guiding us as we strive to honor her legacy in our own acts of kindness and service.

Rest in peace, dear Emma. Your light continues to shine brightly in our heartsuit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

DR RATU VERENIKI RAIWALUI CSSt.J, OFM
Executive Chairman
St. John Association in Fiji