He was a successful example of Fiji’s post-colonial assertion in the international community and was credited for his pioneering work on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Background
Born in 1936 to Shiu and Raj Kuar Nandan of Samabula, Satya Nandan was the youngest of 10 children. Over the past few weeks scores of people around the world have written to Fiji to share kind words on hearing of his sad passing in February 25, 2020. They have written to heap praise and tributes for the far-reaching work of the late Fijian diplomat in the international arena.

Satya, as he was known wore many hats – a lawyer, diplomat, friend, foe, leader, negotiator, a lecturer, husband and a father. Many who knew him described him an honest broker, an agent of change, a seasoned negotiator, and more. He is credited and rightfully so, for his pioneering work on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Satya was a well-known figure within the UN corridor and is still remembered for his tireless work in this field. To this day his work is recorded and used in lectures in Universities across the world.

TITAN OF DIPLOMACY

As a Fijian, he was a representative for members of the public wishing to pay special tribute for outstanding contributions of the late Professor Nandan. Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

He was a representative (diplomat) of Fiji at the United Nations (1970-1976 and 1993-1995), He has been Fiji’s representative on the Legal, Political, Decolonisation and Disarmament Committees.

He was Fiji’s Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (1976-1983).

As Ambassador of Fiji to the European Economic Community (EEU) (1976-81) he participated in the negotiations for Lome I, II and III Conventions between the African, the Caribbean and the Pacific Group of States (ACP) and the EEC relating to trade, investment and development in ACP countries.

He was Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Fiji (1981–83).

He served as Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea from 1983 to 1992.

This platform, enabled him to push for the reform of the Treaty text and gave him the mandate to resolve outstanding issues on UNCLOS. When UNCLOS entered into force in 1994, as the Representative of Fiji, he was elected the first President of the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention.

The late Satya Nandan.