

# **BIOGRAPHY**

## **COMMODORE JOSIA VOREQE BAINIMARAMA**

**OSt.J, MSD, jssc,psc**

**VOREQE BAINIMARAMA** was born in Suva on 27 April, 1954 and was educated at Marist Brother High School. He enlisted into the Royal Fiji Military Forces Naval Division as an Ordinary Seaman on 26 July, 1975, and was commissioned from the ranks as an Ensign on 01 November, 1977.

In April 1988 he was appointed Commanding Officer Fiji Navy and was later promoted Commander on 4 October 1988. In 1991 Commodore Bainimarama attended the Malaysian Armed Forces Staff College in Kuala Lumpur and returned to resume command of the Fiji Naval Division in January 1992. At the end of 1992 he was at the Australian Warfare College at Newcastle on Maritime Surveillance Training.

He attended the Asian Institute of Technology in Disaster Management in 1993 and a year later attended Exclusive Economic Zone management Training at the Dalhousie University in Canada. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in October 1994 before attending the Australian Joint Services Staff College [JSSC].

He assumed the appointment of Chief of Staff of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces in October 1997. Commodore Bainimarama was appointed Commander of the Republic of Fiji Military forces and promoted Commodore on 01 March 1999.

Commodore Bainimarama has been Honoured with the Meritorious Service Decoration and the Officer of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem for outstanding service to the military and Fiji. His additional awards include the Multinational Force and Observers Peacekeeping Medal, the General Service Medal, the Fiji Republic Medal and the Anniversary Medal.

Commodore Bainimarama is married to Maria Makitalena and they have six children and eight grandchildren. His interests include all sports, in particular rugby union and athletics, military history and current affairs.