

Attorney-General's Conference 29th November & 1st December 2007

INTRODUCTION OF COMMODORE JOSIA VOREQE BAINIMARAMA

OStJ, MSD, jssc, psc

By: Solicitor-General

Prime Minister, Mrs Bainimarama,
Attorney-General, Ministers of State, Permanent Secretaries
Members of the Diplomatic Community,
Members of the Judiciary,
Members of the Legal Profession,
Members of International Organisations,
Distinguished Guests,
Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone here today for the opening of the 9th annual Attorney-General's Conference.

For nearly a decade now, the Attorney-General's Conference has provided the public and the legal community with an opportunity to hear from a variety of distinguished and eminent speakers and to debate a wide variety of topics. This year's Attorney-General's Conference continues and builds on that tradition and I think you will agree that the line up of speakers and the variety of topics will provide for a thoroughly engaging two-day conference.

And, as is always the case with Conferences, in addition to the formal, structured parts of the Conference, the informal parts of the Conference also provide attendees with an opportunity to get to know one another and it is my hope that everyone, in addition to participating in the discussion parts that will follow the topics, will also make use of the time at the Conference to socialise, engage with the speakers and participants, and enjoy the informal as well as the formal aspects of the Conference.

“Progressing Fiji and the Law” is the theme not only for the Conference but for the nation at this time and represents, in many areas of life, a significant break with the past through the reform of institutions and laws. A difficult and complex task but one that is necessary if Fiji is to progress and meet the challenges of the new century.

One person who is at the forefront of this movement for progress is our Chief Guest Commodore Josaia Voreque Bainimarama, the Prime Minister of Fiji and the Commander of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces.

Before moving on, it is my pleasure to say just a few words to introduce our Chief Guest, the Prime Minister.

And in keeping with the Prime Minister’s Mandate to me on this occasion, I will endeavour, Prime Minister, to keep the introduction very brief, simple, and straightforward.

Commodore Bainimarama has had a very distinguished career in the Fiji Navy and has been the Commander of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces since 1999. He was appointed Prime Minister by His Excellency, the President on 4th January 2007.

In terms of virtues, he strongly believes and practices principles of discipline, honesty, good governance, and accountability. In fact, his determination to ensure that these virtues are embraced by this country as a whole for the benefit of ordinary people is what has compelled him to become head of the current government of Fiji.

He is a man with strong family and religious values. He is married with six children and seven grandchildren and when he has a free moment, which is not often, his interests include all sports (but in particular rugby union and athletics), military history, and perhaps rather naturally, current affairs.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to now invite the chief guest to deliver his keynote address and to formally open the 9th Annual Attorney-General's Conference; the Right Hon. Prime Minister, Commodore Josia Voreque Bainimarama.