

MAJOR GENERAL JIOJI KONOUSI KONROTE (Ret'd) TO CONTEST THE GENERAL ELECTIONS

Major General Jioji Konousi KONROTE who was elected into Parliament in 2006 to represent our Rotuman community and served in the previous Government as the Minister of State for Immigration and Ex-Servicemen within the Ministry for Home Affairs, has been endorsed by the Rear Admiral J.V. Bainimarama (Ret'd) led FIJIFIRST Political Party as one of its 50 Parliamentary Candidates who are to contest the forthcoming National General Elections which is scheduled for the 17th September 2014.

He returned to our home island of Rotuma in 2007 where he had spent most of the past seven and a half years working very closely with the District Officer as Government's Special Representative and adviser to the Council of Rotuma in planning and coordinating the implementation of all development projects for the island.

Regrettably, he was unable to be more involved and supportive of the Bainimarama led Interim Government during this period because of the likelihood of sanctions being applied against him and his family by countries which were opposed to the present regime. The effects of the imposition of such sanctions against his sons Emmanuel and Andrew who are both Commercial Pilots with our National Airline, Fiji Airways would be quite damaging to their careers.

As a former soldier, Major General Konrote does not consider himself a Politician, but rather a servant of the nation who strongly believes that he has a lot to offer in assisting Government to Move Fiji Forward with his qualifications and experience as a Military Commander, United Nations Assistant Secretary General, Senior Civil Servant, Diplomat and Parliamentarian, hence his latest decision to venture once again into the political arena. He wants to make a difference and is more than convinced that the only effective way to influence and assist in national progress towards peace and prosperity is to try and return to Parliament.

Furthermore, he endorses and supports Government's Objectives and Targeted Outcomes which were articulated in the People's Charter for Change, Peace and Progress and now enshrined in Fiji's 2013 Constitution – the Supreme Law of the Land which should *guarantee* the fulfilment of Government's National VISION of re-building the nation into, "A BETTER FIJI FOR ALL."

Whilst aspiring to be involved and be effective at the national level, Major General Konrote still prides himself as an indigenous person who is very passionate about the preservation of our unique Polynesian heritage and identity and the special bond which we are privileged to enjoy with the i-Taukei Chiefs and people, and the rest of our fellow Fijian citizens.

In view of the above, he had formulated and presented to the Council of Rotuma for its consideration, a personal VISION for our home island of Rotuma which he believes to be relevant and could be used as a basis to further enhance peaceful co-existence, progress and prosperity within the ambit of Fiji's socio-cultural diversity.

VISION

STRATEGIC VISION

Rotuma is to remain a Haven within a Peaceful and Prosperous Fiji for its indigenous community – a place where its inhabitants would continue to Love, and Respect one another. Acknowledge and Appreciate Almighty God's Love, Mercy and Blessings on their lives, Enjoy and properly Utilise the island's Very rich and fertile Land together with its varied and abundant Marine resources and at the same time Preserve its clean and Pristine Environment – and Ensure that the island remains a Paradise which present and future generations of Rotumans Would be proud to call Home.

As a devout Christian (Seventh Day Adventist – Sabbath Keepers), he and his family strongly believe that the pivotal and focal point of this VISION is our Love and Respect towards one another as Rotumans and Law abiding citizens of our beloved nation – Fiji, but more importantly, the strengthening and preservation of our Belief and Faith in Almighty God as Creator of the universe and our Trust and Reverence in His Son Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

Major General Konrote's Curriculum Vitae is attached and we would like to wish him and the FIJIFIRST Political Party well and every success during the General Elections – and all its future endeavours.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Full Name: Jioji Konousi KONROTE

Date of Birth: 26th December 1947.

Marital Status: Married to Sarote Faga Konrote.

Family Members, Sons: Emmanuel Jioje Konrote and Andrew Elaise Konrote - They are both Commercial Pilots with our National Airline Fiji Airways (First Officers- Airbus A330), who are happily married to Kazuyo and Patrina respectively and are blessed with their own children.

Primary and Secondary School Education

Draiba/ Nabua Primary Schools, Suva.

Motusa Primary School, Rotuma.

Malha'a Secondary School, Rotuma.

Natabua High School, Lautoka.

Military Educational Record and Qualification.

New Zealand Army- Administration & Tactical Schools, WAIQURU.

Graduate, Australian Army Officer Cadet School, **PORTSEA**, 1972.

Graduate, Australian Army Command & Staff College, **QUEENSLIFF**, 1982, psc.

Graduate, Australian College of Defence and Strategic Studies **CANBERRA** 1996 (Fellow)

Graduate, Programme for Senior Executives in National Defence and International Security,

John F Kennedy School of Government, HARVARD UNIVERSITY/ (United States of America), 2000.

Awards / Decorations

Fiji Independent Medal	1970
UNIFIL Peace Medal	1978
Military Cross (UK) for Gallantry	1982
Meritorious Service Decoration	1987
Brother of the Order of St John of Jerusalem (UK)	1995
Officer of the order of Fiji (Military Division)	1997
Order of Merit (Italy) November	1997
Order of Cedar (Lebanon) October	1999

Junior Officer Record of Service.

Major General Jioji Konousi KONROTE enlisted into the Royal now Republic of Fiji Military Force (RFMF), in May 1966. He was seconded to the New Zealand Armed Forces in 1970 to 1971 and served with the 1st Ranger Squadron, **NZ Special Air Service (NZSAS)**. In 1972 he graduated as a Second Lieutenant into the Fiji Infantry Regiment from Australian Army Officer Cadet School, **PORTSEA**. As a Lieutenant he was seconded to the British Army Far East Land Forces and served as a Platoon Commander with the 1st Battalion, **The Royal Hampshire Regiment** and as a **Staff Officer in Headquarters 51 Infantry Brigade in Hong Kong** from 1974 to 1975.

Senior Military and Civil Appointments

March 1986- April 1987 **Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion Fiji Infantry Regiment United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, UNIFIL**

April 1988-April 1990 **Chief of Staff Republic Of Fiji Military Force RFMF**

April 1990- April 1991 **Deputy Force Commander UNIFIL**

April 1991-September 1997 **Deputy Commander / Chief of Staff, RFMF.**

October 1997- October 1999 **United Nations Assistant Secretary General, Force Commander, UNIFIL.**

February 2000-March 2002 **Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs and Immigration.**

April 2002- March 2006- **High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji Islands to the Commonwealth of Australia and, Ambassador Plenipotentiary to The Republic Of Singapore.**

June-December 2006-Elected **Member of Parliament for Rotuma. Minister of State for Immigration & Ex servicemen.**

December 2006-August 2014- **Government's Special Representative & Advisor to the Council of Rotuma.**

Summary- Personal Qualities and Achievements.

Major General Jioji Konousi KONROTE is one of Fiji's most Outstanding and decorated Military Officers. He has been recognised by his superiors as an excellent **Regimental and Staff Officer** who was highly regarded by those he had served with. He was particularly noted for his Courage, Strong sense of morality and Righteousness, Forethought, Professionalism, Flexibility and Adaptability. His outstanding qualities had been shown by the calibre of his judgement and actions under very trying and difficult circumstances. Major General Konrote was also highly respected by both the Lebanese and the Israelis for his wide experience with UNIFIL, but more so for his Fair, Friendly but Firm stance in resolving very difficult situations, which frequently arose between the different warring factions. His active involvement and assistance to the **1996 Peace Monitoring Group** was greatly appreciated by the **United States Of America, French, Syrian, Israeli and Lebanese** delegates alike. In appreciation of his efforts for Commanding UNIFIL, which was one of the biggest and perhaps the most difficult United Nations Peace Keeping Operation Worldwide, Major General Jioji Konousi Konrote was awarded the **Order of Cedar and the Order Of Merit** by the Lebanese and Italian Governments respectively.

Major General Konrote has had a very long, dedicated and distinguished career in serving Fiji as a Military Officer/ Commander, an International Peacekeeper, as a United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Force Commander UNIFIL, a senior Civil Servant, as a Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs and Immigration and as a Diplomat- Fiji High Commissioner to the Commonwealth of Australia and the Ambassador Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Singapore.

Major General Konrote's 41 years of service for his country and the people of Fiji is a paragon of Loyalty, Courage and Devotion to duty in his performance as a Military Commander, Honesty and Dedication as a Senior Civil Servant and Tact and Perseverance as a Diplomat.