

**STATEMENT BY MR. JEREMAIA.M.WAQANISAU, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, IMMIGRATION AND NATIONAL DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT**

It was on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2004, at approximately 0930 hrs, when I was with the Minister in his office and briefing him of my discussion with Mr Peni Lomaloma, the Principal Assistant Secretary—Defence and the official Spokes person of the ministry, in relation to the release that was in the Fiji Times on the same day. My briefing to the Minister was that I had instructed Lomaloma that there was to be no more release without my authority.

At that point in time the Commander RFMF, Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama and at least three other armed body guards, entered the office of the Minister, without a knock, and on top of his voice started accusing me of trying "to raise an army to fight against RFMF---" Bainimarama continued to accuse me, pointing close to my nose and saying that I was on the radio that morning which I denied. I then remembered my interview with FM96 some two weeks ago, answering their questions in relation to the recommendation of the Defence Review on counter terrorism. I asked Bainimarama to take a sit so that we can discuss the truth of the matter. Bainimarama replied that he had no interest in discussing anything with me.

Bainimarama further said that had it not been for the Minister, I would have been dead already and next time when the military comes back to finish what they started, he would personally lead the military to town and would make sure that I would be the first to die. At that point I told Bainimarama that when he comes down next he should come alone, without his weapon and without his armed body guards and then try to kill me. He became very furious and challenged me to a fight by taking off his web belt (with his weapon) and posing for a fight, saying that he was not scared of me and he was ready to fight me. I told him I didn't want to fight him and he should go away. At this point the Minister was trying to restrain him by holding him back and eventually pushed him out of the door.

**Since the commotion/argument was in Fijian, I wish to also relate the incident in Fijian.**

**Minister:** Curu mai Commander.

**Commander:** Au mai raica tiko ga na tamata viaivalevu qo. Na tamata qo e via vakaduria tiko e dua na mataivalu me valuti keitou na mataivalu.....

**CEO:** Au sega ni kila na ka ko tukuna tiko, dabe mada meda veitalanoataka na ka ko tukuna tiko.

**Commander:** Au sega ni via veitalanoa kei iko.....o sa kila ke a sega ko minister o iko o sa mate makawa.....keitou na lesu tale mai na mataivalu me keitou na mai vakacavara na ka keitou a tekivutaka...au na liutaka sara ga mai o au...o iko ko na l matai ni tamata ko na mate...mo nanuma vinaka tiko o ya.....

**CEO:** Niko sa lako mai mo mai vakamatei au, qai lako duadua ga mai, kua ni kauta mai na nomu l yaragi kei na nomu body guards.....

**Commander:** O iko o nanuma niu rerevaki iko, duri mai me daru veivacu(posing for the fight) tamata viavialevu, tucake me daru veivacu..dou lako i tuba( to the body guards ).

**CEO:** Au sega ni via veivacu vata kei iko....lako tani.

At this point the Hon Minister was holding him, restraining him and pushed him out of the door.

End of my statement