

IN THE EYE OF
THE STORM

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IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

Jai Ram Reddy and the Politics of Postcolonial Fiji

BRIJ V. LAL



E P R E S S



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For the People of Fiji

History says, *Don't hope*
On this side of the grave
But then, once in a lifetime
The longed-for tidal wave
Of justice can rise up,
And hope and history rhyme

Seamus Heaney



MY FIJI

I offer a vision which sees this beloved land of ours united in its diversity, forged out of adversity and built on trust. I offer you a vision of Fiji of which historians will say that, in the midst of our tragedy, we found courage and wisdom, and foresight and determination, to lead the nation away from the precipice into a prosperous future. I can only hope that my vision for this most wonderful of nations will fulfil its promise. I can only pray that we who have the moment at hand will find the courage, the strength and the determination to let the past be past, and build a nation that will stand not just to 20/20, but down through the centuries.

Jai Ram Reddy, 1993

JAI RAM REDDY — LIFE IN OUTLINE

Date and Place of Birth: 12 May 1937, Lautoka Fiji

Education: Bar-at-Law, University of New Zealand, Wellington (1956–1960)

Legal Qualification

Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand (admitted 1960)

Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Fiji (admitted 1961)

Work Experience (Legal)

Law Clerk, Bell Gully and Company, Wellington (1958–1960)

Staff Solicitor and Associate, AD Patel and Company (1961–1966)

Crown Counsel, Crown Law Office, Suva (1966–1968)

Principal Legal Officer, Crown Law Office, Lautoka (1968–1970)

Partner, Stuart Reddy and Company, Lautoka (1971–1988)

Sole Practitioner, Lautoka (1988–1997)

Public Service

Leader of the Opposition's nominee in the Senate (1972–1976)

First elected to the House of Representatives (Apr. 1977)

Leader of the Opposition (1977–1984, when resigned)

Attorney General and Minister of Justice (Apr–May 1987)

Member, Falvey Constitution Review Committee (July 1987)

NFP–FLP nominee to the Deuba Accord Committee (Sept. 1987)

Elected Member of the House of Representatives (1992)

Leader of NFP and Leader of the Opposition (1992–1999)

Member, Joint Parl. Select Committee on Constitution Review (1995–1997)

President, Fiji Court of Appeal (Mar–Aug 2000; Jan 2002 – Apr 2003)

Permanent Judge, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (2003–2008)

Honours and Recognition

Fiji Independence Medal (1970)

Fiji Independence 25th Anniversary Medal (1995)

GOPIO Award for Political Leadership (NY. 1990)

Companion of the Order of Fiji (1998)

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