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ABSTRACT

The Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) is mandated by Fiji's Constitution to ensure at all times the security, defence and well-being of Fiji and all Fijians. But it has received mixed reactions within Fiji's society in how it carries out its roles and responsibilities with some especially academic writers suggesting the total disband of the institution. This is in spite of the enormous contribution the organization have provided to the country allowing it to become the most developed state in the Pacific Island Countries.

This research elaborates on the rationales upon why the RFMF was raised initially given the minimal to non-existence of external threats to the nation's sovereignty. It also highlights the activities that the RFMF is engaged in enabling the advancement of most development projects within Fiji's societies which would have been costly for government or non-government organisations to singly handled.

Fiji's status in the global arena has been furthered by RFMF's sacrifice in war torn countries projecting peace as United Nations peacekeepers in UN Peacekeeping Operations. With that and the paradigm shift on security issues after the 9/11 attack, requires the RFMF to be poised to counter contemporary security challenges unique to small island states with vast ocean borders.

The RFMF therefore needs to rebuild, convert and enhance its capabilities to suit the continuously changing security environment in order to provide that conducive secure environment in which the country can strive upon in its quest to provide sustainable development to its dear citizens.